

*Dynamic
Christian
Living*

»Important Note to Students and Teachers

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Have a fantastic year!

For His glory,

The Positive Action Family



Dynamic Christian Living

Dynamic Christian Living: Essentials for Believers

Written by Frank Hamrick

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Preface

Each of us begins life with so many needs—nutrition, love, and care. It's easy to see why many New Testament Scriptures compare our spiritual growth with the physical. As Christians, we depend entirely on God to flourish and serve.

In John 3, Christ describes the baptism of the Spirit as a second birth.

In 1 Peter 2:2, the apostle encourages believers to seek God's grace and truth like a newborn seeks a mother's milk.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16–19, Paul challenges believers to abide continually in God's grace, praying and giving thanks without ceasing.

In Mark 16:15, Christ commands His disciples to share His truth and love with others.

And in 1 Corinthians 10:31, Paul notes that God's grace should inform everything that we do. Even as we eat and drink, we can choose to reflect or reject God's light.

As you work through this study, we pray that God would work in each of your hearts. Our faith doesn't rest on our ability to recite facts or to do good works—however helpful that can be—but rather, we seek a close relationship with God. Through His grace, and His grace alone, we can explore and enjoy the new life we have in Him.

In This Study

»Notes from the Teacher’s Lesson

Included is a brief outline that your teacher should cover in class. As you listen to your teacher, fill in the blanks provided, and look up the Scripture references in your Bible.

»Student Work

Each chapter in this study includes some reading and exercises that you will likely complete by yourself outside of class. As you read and analyze passages from Scripture, you will record your findings and thoughts in the blanks provided. These exercises should increase your understanding of the material covered by your teacher. As you complete this work, be sure to note any questions you might have for your teacher—or any topics you might like to study further.

»Application Activities

Your teacher may assign some of the extra activities listed at the end of each chapter. These include reading assignments and short writing projects that will encourage you to examine your beliefs in light of Scripture.

»Testing and Evaluation

Your teacher will explain testing policies and expectations for your class. Quiz and test questions may relate to your student exercises, the teacher’s lesson, or both. Your teacher may also ask you to memorize passages of Scripture that relate to each lesson.

Scripture Memorization Report Sheet

WEEK	SCRIPTURE	DUE DATE	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
1	John 3:18		
2	Ephesians 2:8–9		
3	Acts 16:30–31		
4	REVIEW		
5	2 Timothy 3:16–17		
6	2 Peter 1:21		
7	Hebrews 1:1–2		
8	REVIEW		
9	Psalms 119:9, 11		
10	Psalms 1:2		
11	Psalms 19:9–10		
12	REVIEW		
13	John 14:13		
14	1 John 1:9		
15	Ephesians 6:18		
16	REVIEW		
17	2 Chronicles 7:14		
18	Matthew 6:9–11		
19	Matthew 6:12–13		
20	REVIEW		
21	Romans 3:10–12, 23		
22	Romans 5:8; 6:23		
23	REVIEW		
24	John 3:16		
25	Romans 10:9		
26	1 Corinthians 15:3–4		
27	REVIEW		
28	2 Corinthians 3:18		
29	Matthew 6:33		
30	Titus 2:11–12		
31	REVIEW		
32	Proverbs 3:5–6		
33	1 Corinthians 13:4–6		
34	Ephesians 4:15–16		
35	REVIEW		



Birth

SALVATION

Birth is the first step to growth. A baby leaves the familiar comfort of the womb where she is kept safe, warm, and fed, and rushes into a world full of strange sensations. Although unpleasant and disruptive, birth is necessary for every infant to flourish and enjoy life to the fullest.

The Bible refers to salvation as the “new birth.” When we receive salvation, we begin a new, abundant spiritual life (John 10:10). We pass from eternal condemnation and spiritual death to the confident hope of eternal life (1 John 3:14). Our new life in Christ gives us a desire for God (Col. 3:1–2) and evidences itself in love and obedience to Him (1 John 3:7). Only in Christ can we escape sin’s bondage and flourish spiritually.



LESSON 1

What's Salvation All About? (Part 1)

Teacher's Lesson

» What Is Salvation?

- *To save* literally means “to or .

» Why Does God Offer Salvation?

- God cares about our
 - of sin
 - Guilty and
 - Sick, , and weak
- God cares about His
 - Christ's incarnation
 - Christ's on the cross
 - » A demonstration of God's
 - » A demonstration of God's
 - Christ's

» How Does God Provide Salvation?

- A for the prisoners of sin (Heb. 2:14–15)
- A for the condemned (1 Pet. 2:24)
- A for the sick (Luke 4:18–21)
- Our response: (Acts 16:31)

» What Are the Results of Salvation?

- instead of imprisonment
 - Freedom from sin's
 - Freedom from sin's
 - Freedom from sin's
- instead of weakness
 - Power to live righteously
 - Power to resist the temptation to sin
 - Power not to fear death

Word Power

- » **Salvation**—deliverance from the penalty and power of sin
- » **Incarnation**—Christ becoming fully human
- » **Regeneration**—the “new birth”; the act by which God gives us new, spiritual life
- » **Repentance**—the act of changing one’s mind, thought, purpose, and views regarding a matter
- » **Faith**—belief; confident trust
- » **Condemnation**—a sentence to punishment for a crime
- » **Substitute**—one who takes the place of another

Student Work

To help us understand what salvation is all about, we will spend the first two lessons studying seven major terms that are associated with salvation—three in this lesson and four in the next lesson.

» Repentance

The word *repent* means to change one's mind, thought, purpose, and views regarding a matter. It means turning away from one direction so that you can begin to move in the opposite direction.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:8–10. In his greeting to the Thessalonians, Paul commends these believers for their testimony. Their conversion was divided into a distinct *before* and *after*.

- To whom did the Thessalonians turn (v. 9)?
- From what did they turn (v. 9)?
- What activities did turning to Christ include (vv. 9–10)?
- Which came first, turning *to* or turning *from*?

Notice that turning *to* Christ is necessary in order to really turn *from* sin. A person may turn *from* sin without turning *to* the Lord. This isn't true repentance; it's reformation. Many people make an attempt to clean up their lives, but in doing so, never accept the Lord. They may seem to make some progress by modifying their behavior, but without Christ, their hearts are still locked in the grip of sin.

However, if a person turns *to* Christ, then he or she will turn *from* sin by necessity. Christ will not tolerate sin. We can't hold onto our sin while accepting Jesus. So the emphasis of biblical repentance is not on turning *from* sin as much as it is on turning *to* Christ.

Hymn writer Helen Lemmel reflects this idea in her hymn, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.”

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
in the light of His glory and grace.*

When we see our sin the way God sees it and accept Christ, then we will stop pursuing sin.

Repentance Evokes Emotion

Repentance isn't just cold, intellectual assent to facts. It affects our whole person.

Read 2 Corinthians 7:9–10.

- How does a realistic view of sin make us feel?
- But experiencing regret or feeling sorry about our sin doesn't necessarily mean that we have repented. What does God intend these feelings to prompt us toward?

Repentance Is God's Will

Read 2 Peter 3:8–10. God's timing is not our timing. Because He created time and controls it, He's not bound to it like we humans are. We may question why Christ has not yet returned to Earth, but the answer is that He has His own timing.

- What reason does Peter give for Christ waiting to return (v. 9)?
- What does God not desire (v. 9)?
- According to Acts 17:30, what does God command to all people?

- In Luke 13:1–5, what does Christ say will happen to those who won't repent?

Repentance Is Given by God

Read 2 Timothy 2:24–26. When we share the gospel, we shouldn't have an argumentative attitude. Instead, we should try to teach with love and gentleness.

- Who gives repentance?
- To what does godly repentance lead?
- According to Romans 2:4, what is the purpose of God's goodness to us?

» Faith

According to Acts 20:21, faith is required for repentance. God commands us to repent, and He leads us to repent. Yet we must respond by choosing to believe Him. Faith for repentance includes accepting the truth of Christ, and choosing to rely on Him completely. Without faith, there can be no true repentance.

Read the following verses and record the results of exercising faith.

- Acts 26:18, Romans 6:22—
- Romans 5:1—
- Galatians 3:26—
- 1 Peter 1:5—

»Regeneration

Through regeneration, God gives us a new, divine life.

Read John 3:3. Christ tells Nicodemus that no one can see God's kingdom without regeneration.

- According to this verse, how is regeneration described?

How is regeneration described in the following verses?

- John 5:24—

- 2 Corinthians 5:17—

Who regenerates us, according to the following verses?

- John 1:12–13—

- John 3:6–7—

What does God use to regenerate us?

- James 1:18—

- 1 Peter 1:23—



LESSON 2

What's Salvation All About? (Part 2)

Teacher's Lesson

» The Necessity of Salvation

- God is , but people are
- God lives in , but sinners must go to
- God people, but people naturally God

» The Definition of Salvation

- (John 3:3)—“rebirth”
- (1 Pet. 1:18–19)—“to buy back or regain something”
 - The price of redemption: Christ’s death
 - The result of redemption: no longer slaves to sin
- (Heb. 9:22)—“a reduction; a cancellation of a debt”
- (Acts 13:38–39)—“a declaration of righteousness”
 - The forgiveness of sin

- The imputation of righteousness
 - » *Impute* means “to something to a person”
 - (2 Cor. 5:18)—“restoration to friendship or harmony”
-
-

Word Power

- » **Righteousness**—holiness; God’s moral standard
 - » **Regeneration**—rebirth; the act by which God gives us new, spiritual life
 - » **Redemption**—the act of buying back or regaining
 - » **Remission**—a reduction; a cancellation of a debt
 - » **Justification**—a declaration of righteousness
 - » **Imputation**—the act of crediting something to a person
 - » **Reconciliation**—restoration to friendship or harmony
-
-

Student Work

In our last lesson, we studied three terms associated with salvation. Using your own words, define them.

- Repentance:
- Faith:
- Regeneration:

In this lesson, we will study four additional terms related to salvation.

»Redemption

Redemption means “to purchase or buy back.” In 1 Peter 1:18–19, this word means “to set free by the payment of a ransom.” It calls to mind a person in the first century who might buy a slave and then set that slave free.

- According to Titus 2:13–14, from what did Christ redeem us?
- Since Christ has bought us back from sin, should we continue to sin?
- Why did He redeem us?

Christ purchased us for Himself. We belong to Him. Because He owns us, sin no longer rules us.

Think About It

- Are you redeemed?
- What did Christ do in order to redeem us?

- In what ways does your life reflect Christ’s ownership?

The Price of Redemption

- According to Galatians 3:13, from what are we redeemed?

Christ removed the curse by becoming a curse for us. He took our place.

The Result of Redemption

- According to 1 Corinthians 6:19–20, what do we become after redemption?

- Who owns your body?

- Why does He own it?

- What should we do since we have been purchased by God?

» Remission

Remission means “to put away or to do away with.” In salvation, it means that God has canceled, or forgiven, our sin debt.

Read Luke 24:44–48. After Christ’s resurrection, He appeared to His disciples and gave them His final message before He ascended back into heaven. He was the living proof that He had fulfilled the prophetic words spoken before His death.

- Why can the message of forgiveness be preached?

- For whom is this message of repentance?

Preaching repentance to all nations, however, is more than a “responsibility.” It is a great privilege! We should be so thrilled and excited about this glorious Savior that we would want the whole world to know about Him.

How Is Our Sin Remitted?

In Acts 2:38, Peter preached to the Jews and explained how they might receive forgiveness for sin.

- What did Peter say they must do?

And in Acts 10:43, Peter states that, in order to receive forgiveness, the Gentiles must believe in Christ.

- What does God's law require for remission (Heb. 9:22)?

- Whose blood do you think this verse is talking about?

- According to Hebrews 10:14, 17–18, how many times must a sacrifice be offered for our sin?

» Justification

To justify means “to declare one innocent or righteous.” Only a judge can legally declare someone just. Because it is God whom we sin against, only He can pardon us.

How Are We Justified?

How are we justified according to the following verses?

- Galatians 2:16—

- Romans 3:24; Titus 3:7—

- Romans 5:1—

- Romans 5:9—

God makes justification possible through Christ's sacrifice, and we apply it to ourselves personally by accepting Christ through faith.

The Results of Justification

What are the blessed results of justification according to the following verses?

- Romans 5:1—

- Titus 3:7—

The Cost of Justification

- According to Romans 3:24, how much does justification cost us? Why?

»Reconciliation

Reconciliation means “to restore friendship and harmony.” To reconcile means to make peace with an enemy. Before salvation, we are enemies of God.

The Need for Reconciliation

- According to Romans 8:5–8, why are people at odds with God?

The Means of Reconciliation

Read Colossians 1:19–22. Christ is preeminent because He is God. As God, He is able to reconcile us to the Father through His sacrificial death.

- According to this passage, into what kind of people does God make us through reconciliation?

So we see that reconciliation—like justification and remission—is something that God does by His grace. We cannot do anything to change our state before God. The only way we can be saved is through faith in Christ, who died on the cross and shed His precious blood to redeem, justify, and reconcile us.

» Summary

Complete the following.

- Through God's justification, I have been declared

- Through God's redemption, I have been
- by His blood.

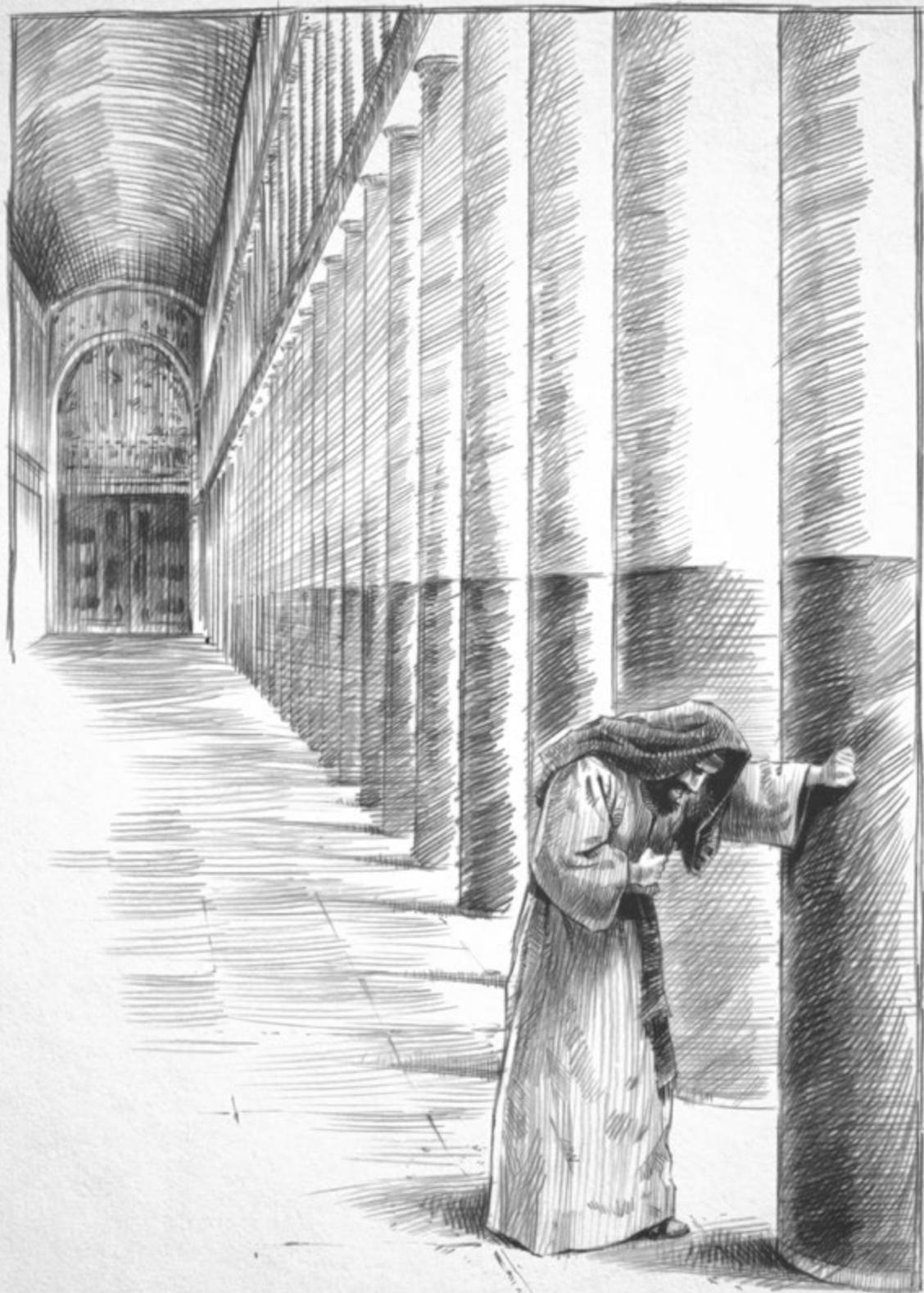
- Through God's regeneration, I have been

- Through God's reconciliation, I have

- Through God's remission, my sins have been

God does these things when I repent of my sin through faith.

- Have you trusted Christ alone to save you from your sins?



LESSON 3

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Teacher's Lesson

» The Importance of the Question

- The condition of humanity
 - The unsaved
 - » No or understanding
 - » and contaminated
 - The saved
 - »
 - » Understand things
 - »
- The condition of humanity
 - The unsaved spend eternity in
(Mark 9:46)
 - » Eternally
 - » Physically

Luke 16:19–31—The man in hell has . . .
 - The saved spend eternity in (John 14:2)

» The Answer to the Question

- Wrong answers

- Be
- the church
- Do good
- your life

- The right answer

(Acts 16:31)—“to confidently trust”

- » About Jesus

- Lord—Christ is our
- Jesus—means, “Jehovah ”
- Christ—means, “ One”
- Jesus again (1 Cor. 15:17–22)

- » About myself

- I am a (Rom. 5:18)
- I can because Jesus died and rose again (Rom. 5:20–21)

Word Power

- » **Saved**—the state of having accepted and believed Jesus Christ
- » **Unsaved**—the state of not having accepted and believed Jesus Christ
- » **Baptism**—a visual aid that signifies identification as Christ’s follower; commanded by Christ
- » **Belief**—faith; confident trust in something or someone

Student Work

Read Acts 16:25–31. Paul cast a demon out of a girl, and as a result, her owners accused Paul and Silas of disturbing the peace and had them thrown into prison. Despite their unjust imprisonment, they worshiped God and shared the gospel. Their actions and words sparked the interest of the jailer.

- In verse 30, the jailer asked Paul and Silas, “What must I do to be saved?”
- How did they answer?

»What Does Not Save a Person?

- According to Ephesians 2:8–9, by what means does salvation come to us?

- Salvation is not by (v. 9).

- What is the reason that we can’t earn our own salvation (v. 9)?

- Because we can do nothing but depend wholly on Christ, who gets the credit for our salvation?

So ultimately, salvation is not about our benefit, but about God’s glory.

But what about doing good things? Can’t we glorify God *and* receive salvation by being a good person?

Read Acts 10:1–2, 34–43. Up to this point, Peter and the apostles had focused on preaching the gospel exclusively to the Jews. But God sent a message to Peter to emphasize that the gospel is for Jew and Gentile alike (v. 28). Afterward, Peter paid a visit to Cornelius, a Gentile, and preached the gospel to him and his household. God used his visit to prompt the inclusion of the Gentiles into the church.

- What was Cornelius’ rank?

A *centurion* was a Roman army officer in charge of about one hundred soldiers.

- How does verse 2 describe this man's attitude toward God?

- Despite his piety, what did Cornelius still need to do to be saved (see Peter's words in Acts 10:43)?

Even though Cornelius had a reputation for fearing God—a good attitude to have—he still needed to accept Christ by faith for salvation.

»What Does Save a Person?

Read Romans 10:9. This verse fleshes out what we are doing when we place our faith in Christ.

- We believe—that is, accept as truth and apply personally—that Jesus died for our sin and rose again for our justification. This isn't merely intellectual acknowledgement. Belief in this truth will change us, thereby creating a personal impact on our lives.
- In addition, we are willing to communicate to others that Jesus is Lord—that is, our new Master. He has the ultimate authority over our life, and we are ultimately accountable to Him.
- Both belief and declaration of that belief need to be present in our faith. If we believe, then we will have a desire to publicly demonstrate that we now belong to Christ.
- The last phrase of Romans 10:9 promises what happens when we trust Christ as our Lord and Savior. What does it say will happen when you confess and believe? You will be saved.

Think About It

- Have you done this?

- Why or why not?

» The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

In Luke 18, Jesus relates a story with an important truth.

Read Luke 18:9–17. In this passage, Jesus contrasts two people.

A *Pharisee* was a member of a Jewish religious sect. In Jesus' time, Pharisees had a reputation for their displays of piety. Some, like Nicodemus, had genuine interest in Christ's message.

Tax collectors, or *publicans*, collected tribute for the Roman government, who occupied Israel during this time. They were despised by the Romans for being Jewish, and they were detested by the Jews for serving Rome. They were known for their dishonesty, greed, and immoral lifestyle. Matthew, one of the Twelve Apostles, was a tax collector before he followed Jesus.

- What were these two men doing in the Temple?

- What was the Pharisee's attitude toward himself?

- How did the tax collector describe himself?

- Which one did Jesus say was justified by God?

Faith for salvation requires that we view ourselves realistically—as sinners in dire need of salvation. Not only do we come to God empty-handed, but we also approach Him as a defeated rebel seeking His mercy. We must entirely depend on His grace for our salvation. If we do, He promises to save us.



LESSON 4

Assurance of Salvation

Teacher's Lesson

» Wrong Bases for Assurance of Salvation

- or
- Our

» The Right Basis for Assurance of Salvation

- Spiritual growth takes
- Proof of
 - We obey God because we God (1 John 2:3–5)
 - We obey because we God (1 John 5:2–3)
- Proof of
 - Do not love the (1 John 2:15)
 - Love other (1 John 3:14)
 - Love God (1 John 4:8, 20–21)
- Proof of
 - Jesus became (1 John 4:2–3)
 - Jesus is the Christ (1 John 5:1)
 - Jesus is the (1 John 5:10)

Word Power

- » **Believe**—to confidently trust something or someone
- » **Assurance**—confidence of salvation based on God’s truth
- » **Obedience**—submission to God’s will as evidenced by our attitude and actions
- » **World**—term used to refer to the sinful world system, beliefs, and values that reject God and His truth

Student Work

In addition to the proofs of obedience, love, and belief, God gives us still more ways that we can confidently know that we belong to Him.

» Proof of the Holy Spirit’s Work

If we are saved, then we will experience the Holy Spirit’s work in our life.

Read 1 John 4:13.

- How do we know that we abide in God?

- When the Holy Spirit begins to live within us at salvation, He also convicts us when we sin. This doesn’t mean that we will never sin as Christians, but it *does* mean that we won’t live in habitual sin. Why?

Read Galatians 5:16–25.

- List the works of the flesh (vv. 19–21).

- List the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22–23).

Is your life characterized by the sins of the flesh? Or is the Holy Spirit cultivating a new nature in you that is contrary to your natural, sinful nature?

»Proof of Service

God gives us another metric whereby we can gauge if we are born again.

Read James 2:14–26. The works or deeds that James mentions here are not a way to earn our salvation, since we are saved by grace (Eph. 2:8–9). Our service is merely an indication that we have genuine faith.

- Is belief in God’s existence enough of a foundation for assurance of salvation (v. 19)?
- Who else believes in God’s existence?
- Are they saved?
- How did Abraham demonstrate his faith in God (v. 21; cf. Gen. 22)?

- How did Rahab demonstrate her faith in God (v. 25; cf. Joshua 2)?

- What does James call the sort of faith that doesn’t evidence itself through service to God (v. 25)?

Think About It

Does your faith in Jesus change the way you live? How does it impact the way you treat other people? How do you respond to people in need?

The assurance of your salvation is not based on what you do or don't do, but what you desire and don't desire. Believers will never perfectly keep God's commandments, live a perfectly righteous life, or perfectly love each other. We are all imperfect beings.

But if we are truly saved, we will have a desire to know and obey God's Word. We will have a desire to live a righteous life—even when we sin—and we will experience spiritual fellowship with believers that we won't be able to experience with the unsaved.

- Do you know whether or not you are saved? Yes No
- How do you know?



EL'S BEING
KINDNESS & GOD
IF ONE HAD

ISRAEL'S AID

LOOK AT THIS POINT
JOURNEY FOR ISRAEL'S

RAIN IN THE RAINY SEASON?
IN?

THIS IN ISRAEL, ETC
S GOOD

Growth

SCRIPTURE

Growth is a sign of life. When a new baby is born, she loudly notifies everyone in the household of her desires for food. Similarly, every baby Christian desires food after his or her “new birth.” That hunger should continue throughout the entire Christian life. First Peter 2:2 tells us that God’s Word is the food we must crave. When we fill our hunger with the Word of God, we grow spiritually. The amount of Bible that the Christian “eats” determines how much he or she will grow. And, when a Christian matures spiritually, he or she will begin to feed others and teach them God’s truth (Prov. 10:21).



God's Inspired Word

Teacher's Lesson

»How We Got Our Bible

- Inspiration
- Organization
- Compilation
- Preservation

»What Is Inspiration?

- Definition—“” (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - Revelation—divine of truth
 - Inspiration—divine of truth

Inspiration means that God directed the writing of Scripture so that, while it retains the writers' style, the end result was the accurate, trustworthy, authoritative Word of God.

- Illumination—spiritual of truth
- Its description
 - Plenary— or
 - Verbal—the actual

- Infallible— [] to be wrong
- Inerrant—without []

» What Does God Claim About His Words?

- Divine [] (2 Tim. 3:16)
- Divine [] (John 12:48)

» Why Did God Give Us the Bible?

- To [] Himself and His will to people
- Three truths we learn only in the Bible
 - God is [], but we are entirely sinful (Isa. 64:6)
 - We cannot [] ourselves (Rom. 5:6)
 - We can only be saved by [] in Jesus' completed sacrifice (Acts 4:12)

Word Power

- » **Bible**—the collection of books inspired by God
- » **Revelation**—God's communication of His character and work
- » **Inspiration**—the act whereby God, through the Holy Spirit, supernaturally directed the writers of the Bible
- » **Illumination**—the act whereby God guides believers' minds to understand spiritual truth
- » **Infallible**—completely dependable and incapable of failing in its purpose
- » **Inerrant**—free from error
- » **Plenary Inspiration**—the doctrine that the entire Bible is inspired
- » **Verbal Inspiration**—the doctrine that every word and detail of the Bible is inspired, not simply its ideas

Student Work

» Inspiration

In the teacher's lesson, we discussed how the Bible originated. God revealed His truth to the writers of Scripture through the Holy Spirit, so that their writing was completely reliable and without error.

In these exercises, we'll look at what God has to say about the Bible. If we cannot accept God's testimony about His revealed truth, then we cannot accept His word on anything else.

What does the Bible claim to be? As you will see, the Bible makes two specific claims for itself. First, the Bible claims to be inspired by God. That is, it is God's word to man. Second, the Bible claims to possess God's authority. That is, it has the right to tell us how to live, and it is the standard by which we should measure our lives.

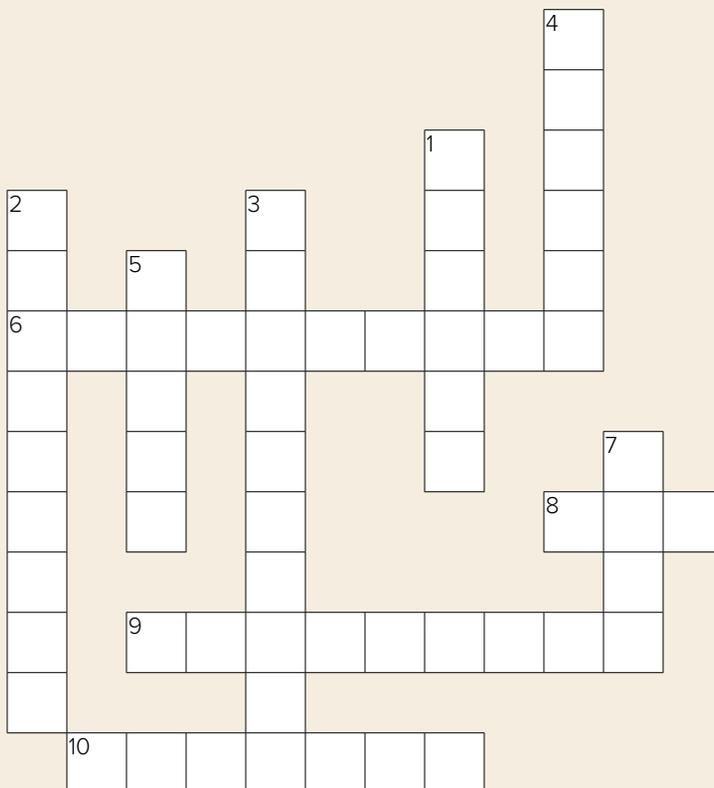
Use the following clues to fill in the crossword. These verses teach the two truths about the Bible that you just read about.

Down

1. The opening verses of Isaiah record the ___ of Isaiah (Isa. 1:1).
2. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, all ___ is inspired—that is, breathed out—by God.
3. According to 2 Peter 1:21, who guided and protected the writers of Scripture?
4. According to Isaiah 55:11, God’s Word will not ___ to Him empty, or void.
5. Proverbs 30:5 says that ___ word of God is pure.

Across

6. In Galatians 1:12, Paul says that he received the gospel through a ___ from Jesus Christ.
7. According to 1 Corinthians 14:37, Paul’s writings were actually commandments from the ___.
8. According to Exodus 20:1, who spoke the Ten Commandments?
9. According to 1 Thessalonians 2:13, the Thessalonians received Paul’s words as the ___.
10. Jesus said in John 12:48 that His Word would judge those who reject Him and His Word in the ___.



»What Is Inspiration?

The word *inspired* means, “God-breathed.” In 2 Timothy 3:16, this word means that God Himself breathed the Scriptures into the hearts and minds of the writers of the Bible.

There are three ideas concerning the inspiration of the Bible.

- Only some of Scripture is inspired.
- None of Scripture is inspired.
- All of Scripture is inspired.
- According to 2 Timothy 3:16, which statement is true?

- According to this verse, in what four areas does Scripture benefit us?

- Doctrine or teaching—what is right
- Reproof or rebuking—what is wrong
- Correction—how to make it right
- Instruction or training in righteousness—how to keep it right

»Who Wrote the Bible?

Human Authorship

- There were about 40 human authors who wrote the Bible. According to 2 Peter 1:21, they wrote as what happened?

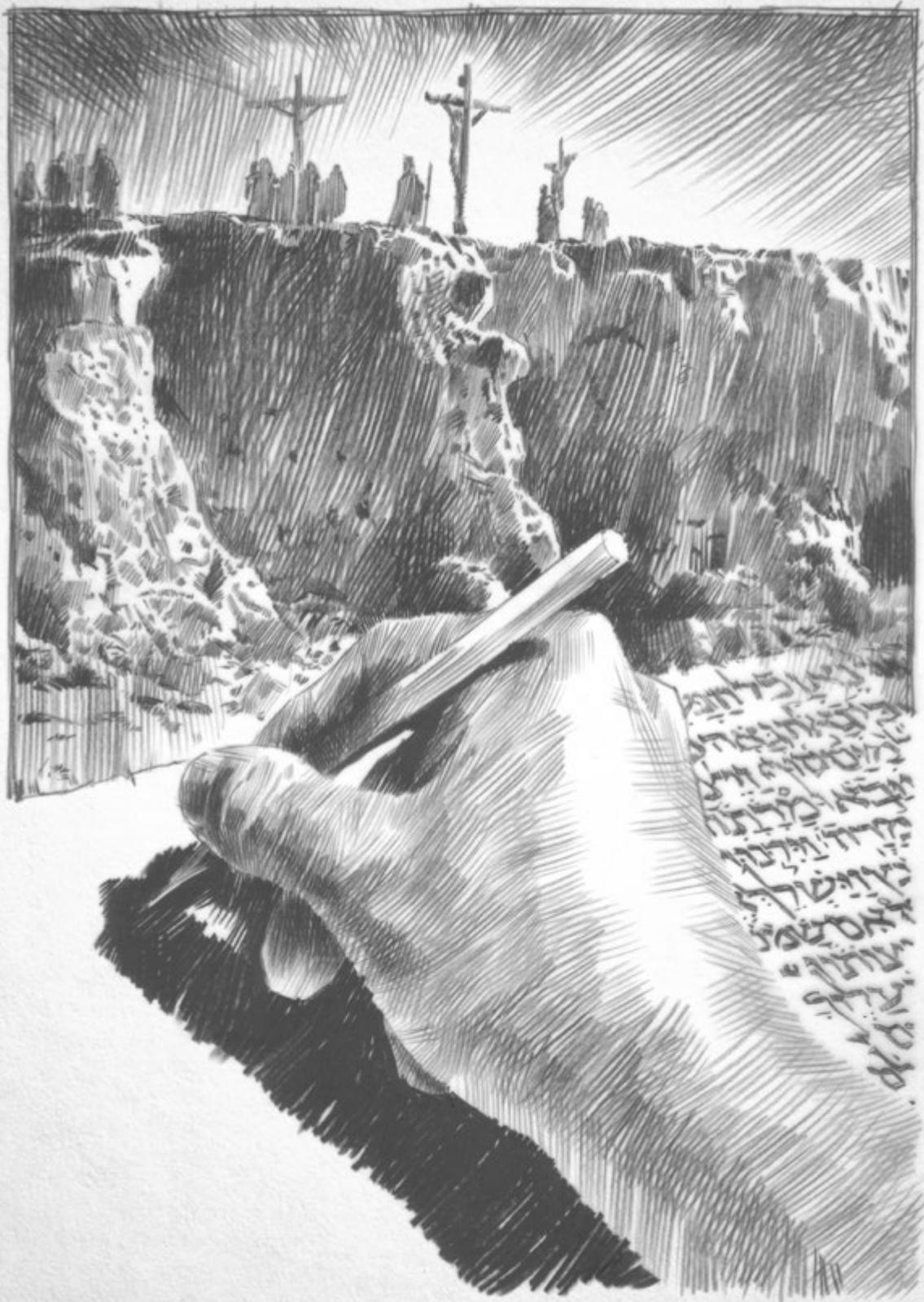
Divine Authorship

- According to 1 Peter 1:10–12, about what did the Old Testament prophets prophesy?

- According to this passage, did the prophets understand everything about what they were writing? Yes No
- Write the phrase from this passage that proves your answer (see 1 Peter 1:10b).

- According to Acts 1:16, who wrote the messianic prophecies in Psalms? Give both the human and the divine author.

- According to Acts 28:25, who wrote the Book of Isaiah? Give both the human and the divine author.



LESSON 6

Signs of Inspiration

Teacher's Lesson

» The Testimony of []

- Christ [] the inspiration of the Old Testament
 - He referred to its [] nature
 - He referred to its [] accuracy
 - He believed that He [] Old Testament teachings
- Christ [] the inspiration of the New Testament
 - The [] (John 14:26)
 - The [] (John 14:26; 16:13)
 - [] (John 16:13)

» The Self-Testimony of []

- The unique [] of Scripture
- The amazing [] of Scripture
- The remarkable [] of Scripture
- The fulfilled [] of Scripture
 - Over 300 Messianic prophecies fulfilled in Christ
 - Twenty prophecies fulfilled in one 24-hour day
- The powerful [] of Scripture

Word Power

- » **Prophecy**—a God-given declaration of truth (preaching); foretelling the future (prediction)
- » **Preservation**—the doctrine that God has kept His Word from being lost or destroyed
- » **Testimony**—a personal account

Student Work

» God's Trustworthy Word

Read 2 Peter 1:16–21. Peter states that God's Word is trustworthy and unchanging. Peter was an eyewitness of Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration, and he also heard the voice of the Lord identify Jesus Christ as His own beloved Son (cf. Matt. 17:1–13). Though Peter confirmed these events by firsthand observation, he states that God's Word is confirmed even more fully (v. 19). Much of God's truth was confirmed by fulfilled prophecy.

The Bible contains over 1,000 predictions of future events, and every one of them that relate to events up to the present time has been fulfilled. Let's look at a few specific prophecies.

Read Micah 5:2. This verse makes a remarkable prediction about Christ.

- Write out the prediction in your own words.

Micah 5:2 was written about 750 years before Christ's birth. Looking at the account of Mary and Joseph, it seems almost coincidental that they arrived in Bethlehem just in time for Jesus' birth (cf. Luke 2:1–7). But God arranged a confluence of various factors in a way that could never be mistaken for coincidence.

- Who told Micah where Christ would be born?

No mere human could have made 1,000 predictions about the future with a 100% success rate. Only God, in His sovereignty and omniscience, could have done so. This unnatural accuracy points to the divine inspiration of the Bible.

- Match the following list of Old Testament prophecies with the New Testament passages in the following chart. In the right-hand column, write down the prophecy.

Psalm 22:1	Psalm 22:18	Isaiah 7:14	Zechariah 11:12–13
Psalm 22:15	Psalm 34:20	Micah 5:2	Zechariah 12:10

Passage	Prophecy
N.T. – Luke 2:4–7	
O.T. –	
N.T. – John 19:37	
O.T. –	
N.T. – Matthew 27:3–10	
O.T. –	
N.T. – Matthew 27:35	
O.T. –	

Passage	Prophecy
N.T. – Mark 15:34	
O.T. –	
N.T. – John 19:28–29	
O.T. –	
N.T. – John 19:31–33	
O.T. –	
N.T. – Matthew 1:20–23	
O.T. –	

Some people argue that the prophecies in the Bible only *seem* to have been fulfilled, because they were actually written *after* the event happened. How would a Christian respond to this objection?

The following are important points to remember:

- Age tests show that many manuscripts containing the prophecies preceded the fulfillments.
- Many of the prophecies are specific and unusual, so it is unlikely that the events they refer to happened naturally. For example, the fact that none of Christ’s bones were broken on the cross is unusual, as it was customary for Roman soldiers to break the legs of victims on the cross to hasten their deaths.
- Ultimately, we believe God’s Word by faith. Our faith is certainly informed and reasonable, but we can’t rely wholly on visible evidence for our beliefs. Everyone—even the most skeptical rationalist—must accept certain truths in faith.

»Life Transformation

Perhaps one of the greatest testaments to the divine nature of the Word is the transformative effect it has on people.

- What does God's Word say it has the power to do (1 Pet. 1:22–23)?

God has used His Word to completely change thousands of lives in a way that no one else could.

»Project

In this lesson, we have been discussing why the inspiration of the Bible is important. Write a two-page paper about this topic.

In your paper, discuss and answer the following questions:

- Why is the divine inspiration of the Bible significant?
- Does evidence exist that points to the Bible's inspiration?
- What would be different if it were not inspired?
- What effects are felt when people do not believe the Bible's inspiration?
What effects are felt when people do believe the Bible's inspiration?
- How does believing the inspiration of the Bible affect your life?



One Book or Many Books?

Teacher's Lesson

» The Bible— Book

- The Bible's (Heb. 1:1–2)
 - Records over 1,500 years of God speaking to people
 - Written using three languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek
 - Employs different literary genres
 - Refers to a variety of places and cultures
- The Bible's
Only one Author— God

» The Bible— Books

- Old Testament
 - Threefold arrangement (Bible)
 - » The Law (*Torah*)
 - » The Prophets (*Nebiim*)
 - » The Writings (*Ketubim*)

- Fourfold arrangement (Septuagint and [] Bibles)
 - » The Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy)
 - » The historical books (Joshua through Esther)
 - » The poetic books (Job through the Song of Solomon)
 - » The prophetic books (Isaiah through Malachi)
- New Testament
 - The [] (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
 - The [] book (Acts)
 - The [] (Romans through Jude)
 - The [] book (Revelation)

» Two []

- Meaning of *testament*—[]
- Meaning of *covenant*—a legal [] between two parties
- Two functions of the law
 - To reveal our [] for the promised Messiah
 - To set Israel [] from other nations
- God's promise to Abraham
 - To bless the entire earth through Abraham (Gen. 22:17–18)
 - Fulfilled by the Messiah (Gal. 3:14)
- The Importance of the Old Testament
 - It points to []
 - It provides [] of faith and of rebellion
 - It [] us about God

Word Power

- » **Covenant**—a legal agreement between two individuals or groups
- » **Testament**—a covenant or agreement; used as the name for the two halves of the Bible (the Old Testament and the New Testament)
- » **Torah**—the first five books of the Bible, written by Moses; also known as “the Pentateuch” and “the Law”
- » **Nebiim**—the prophetic books of the Old Testament
- » **Ketubim**—a collection of 13 Old Testament books containing the poetic books, the “five scrolls,” and the historic books
- » **Megilloth**—contains five books of the Old Testament which were read aloud at various Jewish festivals; also known as the “five scrolls”
- » **Old Covenant**—the agreement recorded in the Old Testament that God made with the nation of Israel, identifying them as His people
- » **New Covenant**—the new agreement recorded in the New Testament that God has made with all who repent and believe on Jesus Christ, who has fulfilled all of the covenant’s demands
- » **Gospels**—meaning “good news”; the name given to the four books of the New Testament which portray the person and work of Jesus Christ
- » **Epistles**—letters of the New Testament written to explain and apply the truth about Jesus Christ to Christian living

Student Work

Complete the following statements about the Bible:

- It is a collection of books divided into the Old and New Testaments.
- There are books in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

These sacred writings are called the Bible. The word *Bible* comes from the Greek word *biblia*, meaning “books.”

- What does Daniel 10:21 call the Bible?

- The Bible is also called a two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). Why do you think God used this term to refer to the Bible?

» The Plan of the Bible

The Bible's Beginning

- The Bible begins with God. Write out Genesis 1:1.

The Bible's End

- The Bible ends with God's grace to us. Write out Revelation 22:21.

The Bible's Message

The Bible is a message from God to humanity, in which He reveals His glory and His offer of grace to us. The Bible also instructs the believer in practicing what he or she has learned in it.

- Write out 2 Timothy 3:16–17 in your own words.

The Bible is all about God. It reveals His glory and grace, from the beginning of time to its end. And God receives glory from us when we learn and obey His commands.

»The Bible's Central Figure

- Christ is the central figure of the Bible. What does John 5:39 say that the Scriptures do concerning Christ?

- According to Acts 10:43, of what do the prophets all write?

- According to Acts 18:28, what do the Scriptures teach about Jesus?

Christ means “anointed one,” referring to the truth that God chose Him to be our Rescuer.

- According to Luke 24:26 and 1 Peter 1:10–11, what two things do the Old Testament Scriptures teach about Jesus Christ?

- According to 1 Corinthians 15:3–4, what do the Scriptures teach about Christ?

- In your own words, what is the story of the Bible?

»The Bible’s Central Message

The Bible Was Written to Reveal the Glory of God

Sadly, we often read God’s Word and see everything *but* the glory of God. This is because we have a wrong mindset when we approach the Bible. We think that the Bible is merely God’s book of instructions for us. We believe the Bible is primarily a manual for our life.

This view misses the main purpose and blinds us to the greater glories and truths of God’s Word. God’s Word is not about us, but about *Him*. It is the self-revelation of His glory and grace. This is why it begins and ends with God.

In John 5:39, Jesus admonished the Jewish leaders of His day who believed that their knowledge and obedience of God’s laws would save them. They trusted in their own effort rather than accepting Christ’s message in faith.

Christ reminded them that the Scriptures pointed to Him, the only true means of salvation. But the Pharisees treated the Bible merely as a manual for living rather than as a revelation of Jesus Christ.

In 2 Corinthians 3:18, Paul reminds the Corinthian believers that God would transform them as they meditated on His glory revealed in the Scriptures.

- Name three things the Bible teaches about God’s glory.

The Bible Was Written to Reveal the Grace of God

The Bible closes with a benediction of God’s grace (Rev. 22:21). Grace is the undeserved favor and blessing that God chooses to show to us.

»Project

Between Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22:21, we find two major themes—God’s glory and His grace. God’s glory is evident in His grace—especially in the gift of His Son as a sacrificial payment for sin. Nowhere in all the annals of

history exists a greater demonstration of the glory and grace of God than Jesus' death and resurrection.

- Give three evidences of God's grace from the Bible.





How Was Our Bible Compiled?

Teacher's Lesson

» The Apocrypha

- Means “” or “”
- Described as 15 books written during the last century before Christ
- The question of its inspiration
 - Not included in Hebrew Bible
 - Contains historical errors and unverified stories
 - Never quoted by Christ and the apostles
 - Conflicts doctrinally with Scripture
 - Rejected by the early church leaders

» The Canon

- Refers to the list of books
- Canonicity does not determine
- Its development
 - The Old Testament canon
 - » The

- » The
- » Scriptural (Luke 11:51, 24:44)
- The New Testament canon
 - » Apostolic
 - » Widespread
 - » Biblical
 - » authority

» Adding to or Subtracting from God's Word

- We add to God's Word by it
- We take from God's Word by it

Word Power

- » **Apocrypha**—books written during the period between the Old and New Testaments which are not inspired by God and not accepted into the canon
- » **Septuagint**—Greek translation of the Old Testament; this translation was used by Jesus and many others during the first century
- » **Apostolic**—related to the apostles or having their authority or approval
- » **Providence**—God's guidance of all things in nature and human history according to His will

Student Work

We have surveyed some of the reasons why we believe the Bible is inspired. It's one thing to say that we believe the Bible is inspired; it's another to actually *live out* what we believe about the Bible. Let's examine three ways that the inspiration of the Bible should impact our lives.

»We Should Delight in God's Word

First, we demonstrate our belief in the Bible's inspiration by delighting in God's Word.

- **Read Psalm 1:1–2** and write it out in your own words.

The word *delight* in verse 2 is the translation of a Hebrew word that means “to desire a valuable object.” Do you view God's Word as a great treasure? Do you love its pages because they reveal God Himself?

Do you delight in studying God in the Word? Do you look forward to learning about Him? God says that the person with this attitude is blessed and will prosper with the Lord's blessing.

»We Should Devour God's Word

Second, we show that we believe the Bible's inspiration by investing time and effort into learning it.

- **Read Jeremiah 15:16** and write it out in your own words.

- **Read Psalm 19:7–10.** How does the psalmist describe the desirability of God's Word (v. 10)?

We should consume God's Word as eagerly as we crave our favorite food. How hungry are you for this fantastic book about our fantastic God? Think of it. The Bible is a special message from the God of the universe. We should read, study, memorize, and devour it with the same zeal that we would have

for a delicious feast after a long, exhausting day. The Bible supplies our spiritual nourishment.

To use a different illustration, when archaeologists find a piece of rock with words written on it, they spend hours painstakingly removing it. They carefully photograph it as it was found before extricating it from the ground. Then they take a fine brush and meticulously brush away the sand and dirt. Next, they document it again using regular photography, as well as infrared photography. Finally, scholars around the world spend hundreds of hours poring over every letter and detail. It may only be an ancient receipt or bill of sale, but to historians, it is a priceless treasure.

In the Bible, we have something a million times more valuable. It is the authentic Word of the Creator of the universe in our hands. What do we do with it? Do you listen attentively when people teach it? Do you devour the Word of God?

»We Should Declare God's Word

Third, we show our belief in the Bible's inspiration by sharing God's Word.

- **Read Psalm 96:3** and write it out in your own words.

God's Word is too precious to hoard just for ourselves. Remember the illustration of the archaeologist? The purpose of archaeology is to share historical knowledge with others. People carefully study ancient treasures to share their findings, often through a book or paper.

When we begin to appreciate the Bible's value, we will have a desire to share it with others, as well.

If you are not sharing the gospel with others, don't start by simply deciding to try harder. Instead, begin by asking God to increase your faith and love for His Word. Only when we have the right focus will we faithfully fulfill God's command.

Share the good news, but don't do it because you have to. Share the gospel because you love God and His Word so much! This is exactly how Paul himself operated in his ministry.

- **Read 2 Corinthians 4:13.** What were the two “steps” or the sequence in Paul’s ministry according to this verse?

1.

2.



Can We Trust the Bible?

Teacher's Lesson

»Where Are the Original Manuscripts?

- We do not have the originals because the material on which they were written has disintegrated.
 - *Ostraca*—shards of stone or clay
 - Parchment—dried animal skin
 - Papyrus—a fibrous sheet made from plants
- If we had the original manuscripts, we might be tempted to them (2 Kings 18:4).

»Can I Trust the Copies of the Original Manuscripts?

- Scribal

Scribes counted every word, and if they made one mistake, they would start over.
- Manuscript

Old Testament – “In one chapter of 166 words (Isa. 53), there is only one word (three letters) in question after a thousand years of transmission.” (Norman L. Geisler and William E. Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible*)

Complete the following chart comparing Homer's *Illiad* to the New Testament:

	Homer's <i>Illiad</i>	New Testament
Written	900 BC	
Manuscript copies	643	
Lines	15,600	
Lines in doubt	764	
% lines in doubt	4.9%	

- acknowledgment (Matt. 22:31–32, 45; John 10:34–35; Gal. 3:16)

» Can I Trust My Bible?

- Books referred to by the aren't necessarily
- Because God desires to with us, He will His message
- God created and our ability to

Word Power

- » **Preservation**—the doctrine that God keeps His Word from being lost or destroyed
- » **Original manuscripts**—the original documents penned by the biblical authors
- » **Manuscripts**—hand-written, old documents, specifically those which contain part or all of the Scriptures

- » **Transmission**—the process of copying and passing down biblical manuscripts through history
- » **Scribe**—a person who hand-copied and studied the Old Testament Scriptures

Student Work

If we believe that Scripture is divinely inspired, then we must accept its truth and authority in our lives.

- What did Jesus say about the authority of Scripture (John 10:35)?

- What did Jesus say about the authority of His own words (Matt. 24:35)?

- According to John 20:31, why was John's Gospel written?

God's Word is authoritative because God has the ultimate authority over us.

» **The Basis for God's Authority**

Read the following passages and write what each one reveals about God.

- Colossians 1:16—

- Colossians 1:18—

- Psalm 147:5—

- Mark 10:45—

»God Is Our Final Authority

On the Solution to Our Sin

- Some people say that we are simply a product of our environment—that is, things like poverty, illiteracy, prejudice, environment, poor housing, and unequal opportunity are responsible for all of our problems.
- Are the problems listed above outward or inward?
- So if this is true, then what would be the solution to all of our problems?
- Does the Bible say that our problems are inward or outward (Matt. 15:18–20)?
- According to these verses, where does sin originate?
- Since the Bible is correct, then what's the answer to our problems?

On How We Should Live

- Many people think they can live however they want. As Christians, do we have the right to do whatever we please? Yes No
- Why or why not (1 Cor. 6:19–20)?

According to the following verses, how is a Christian to live?

- Ephesians 6:11—
- James 1:22—
- 1 John 1:7—

On what basis will God judge us?

- John 12:48—
- Romans 2:2—
- Romans 2:16—



LESSON 10

Pictures of the Bible (Part 1)

Teacher's Lesson

» A

- It our heart condition
 - It prompts us to
 - It us
- It reflects Christ's transforming (2 Cor. 3:12–18)
The Holy Spirit gives spiritual understanding

»

- God us by His Word
 - God is (Ps. 12:6)
 - The Word must be (Ps. 119:9)
- It life, growth, and reproduction (Ps. 1:2–3)

Christians produce fruit

» (John 15:1–17)

» (Matt. 28:19)

» **A**

- Maker and owner— (Eph. 6:17)
 - The nature of the Sword (Heb. 4:12)
 - It is
 - It is
 - » God's words create
 - » God's words truth about sin
 - It is
 - The functions of the Sword
 - To help us sin
 - To us of our sin
-
-

Word Power

- » **Blessed**—the state of goodness being directed to a person
 - » **Delight**—To respond to something with joy and pleasure
 - » **Meditate**—to reflect on
-
-

Student Work

» The Bible Is Like a Mirror

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 and James 1:22–25. Both of these passages compare the Bible to a mirror.

The first passage speaks of the mirror as revealing the glory of God, while the second passage speaks of the mirror as revealing the sinfulness of man.

Both are true. When we look into God's Word, we see both the glory of God and our own sin.

It Reveals God's Glory (2 Cor. 3:18)

In previous lessons, we have seen that the Bible begins and ends with God's grace (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 22:21). God created the world and everything in it out of His own goodness, and He continues to give us His goodness freely. In doing so, He glorifies Himself through us.

- Why are we saved (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14)?

- Why did God create the nation of Israel (Isa. 43:7)?

- Why does God do anything (Isa. 48:11)?

- Who did the Psalmist seek in the Word (Ps. 119:9–10)?

- What did Paul say we were to behold in the Word (2 Cor. 3:18)?

It Exposes Our Sin (James 1:22–25)

- According to Hebrews 4:12, the Word reveals our thoughts and intentions or attitudes. The Word reveals our secret sins.
- Why do people have no desire to read the Word (John 3:19–20)?

Look at yourself in light of Ephesians 5:1–21.

- Name three ways God tells you to walk in this passage.

- Name six things we should avoid according to verses 1–7.

- List all the things we are commanded not to do in verses 17–18.

- How many of these are you doing?

- List all the things we are commanded to do in verses 8–21.

- How many of these are true of you?

» The Bible Is Like Water

Read Ephesians 5:25–27. Paul states that marriage is a picture of Christ’s relationship to the church.

- What does God use to sanctify and cleanse the church (v. 26)?

- How were Christ’s disciples “cleansed” (John 15:3)?

- What keeps the way of a young person pure (Ps. 119:9)?

- What does it mean to guard or take heed in this verse?

- What does God say is a way to guard against sin (Ps. 119:11)?

- How can we do this?

» The Bible Is Like a Sword

The Word is a sword (Heb. 4:12) that both pierces and protects us.

- What does 2 Timothy 2:15 say concerning this? Write this verse out in your own words.

- How did God use the “sword” of Peter’s sermon (Acts 2:36–37)?

- What were the results of Peter’s use of this sword (Acts 2:41)?

- What were the results of Stephen’s use of this sword (Acts 7:51–60)?

- According to Ephesians 6:17, what is God’s Word called?

- So what’s the key to using God’s Word effectively?

- What does this teach us about how we use the Word when we share the gospel?



LESSON 11

Pictures of the Bible (Part 2)

Teacher's Lesson

» A

- God's Word in the darkness (2 Cor. 4:3–6)
- God's Word the believer (Ps. 119:105)

»

- God's Word has great (Ps. 119:72; 127–8)
- God's Word is (Ps. 119:140; Prov. 30:5)

»

- God's Word (Jer. 20:7–9)
- God's Word (Jer. 5:14; 23:29)

»

- The nature of the seed (1 Pet. 1:23–25)
 - It
 - It comes from a living

- It new life
 - It has a
 - How the seed works (Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23)
 - On the roadside—the heart
 - On the stony ground—the heart
 - On the thorny ground—the heart
 - On the good ground—the heart
 - Planting the seed (1 Cor. 3:5–9)
 - the seed (Rom. 10:14)
 - the seed (Acts 18:24–27)
 - the seed (1 Cor. 1:30–31)
-
-

Word Power

- » **Zeal**—passionate enthusiasm
 - » **Parable**—a story that illustrates a spiritual truth
 - » **Cultivate**—to encourage growth
 - » **Propagation**—the process of plant reproduction
-
-

Student Work

- What three pictures of the Bible did we study in our last lesson?

In this lesson, we studied four additional pictures of the Bible.

»The Bible Is Like a Light

Psalms 119:105, 130 and Proverbs 6:23 compare God's Word to a light. It guides the believer and shines forth its truth in a world darkened by sin.

- **Read 2 Corinthians 4:3–4.** What does the Bible mean when it says that the gospel is hidden to the lost?

- What is the best thing we can do to open the eyes of the unsaved and bring them to Christ? (Ps. 119:130; 2 Cor. 4:3–6)?

If we have been saved, we should walk in the light (1 John 1:7). That means to let God's Word be our constant guide for every step we take.

Read Psalm 37:23.

- When does God order our steps?

- Can a person who never reads God's Word know God's will?
Yes No

»The Bible Is Like Gold

Read Psalm 19:10 and 119:72.

- What can earthly riches not do (Ps. 49:6–9; 1 Pet. 1:18–19)?

- What happens to wealthy people and to their wealth (Ps. 49:10)?

- When are riches useless (Prov. 11:4)?

- What riches *will* endure forever (Eph. 2:5–7)?

Think About It

- How precious is God's Word to you? Answer the following:
 1. I study God's Word
(a) every day (b) some days (c) seldom (d) never.
 2. I (a) love (b) like (c) dislike (d) don't care about hearing God's Word preached.
 3. I spend at least (a) 5 (b) 10 (c) 15 (d) 30 minutes in God's Word each day.
 4. I memorize portions from God's Word at least (a) once a day (b) once a week (c) once a month (d) once a year.
 5. I think about truths from God's Word
(a) every day (b) most days (c) some days (d) never.
 6. I share God's Word, or lessons I have learned from it, in my conversations with others at least
(a) once a week (b) once a month
(c) once every six months (d) once a year.
- In light of your answers, how precious is God's Word to you?

»The Bible Is Like Fire

Read Jeremiah 20:7–9.

- How did Jeremiah feel (v. 7)?

Jeremiah was done preaching and witnessing, so he vowed never again to open his mouth for God.

- Did he stick to his vow? Yes No

- How did he feel in verse 9?

- So what made the difference?

- How do you think you can stay “on fire” with zeal to share God’s Word?

A fire needs heat, fuel, and oxygen to keep burning; without any one of these things, it will die. If we don’t continually take in God’s Word, we will have no desire to share it with others.

Sharing the Bible without studying it makes our evangelism cold and fruitless. Bible study without evangelism will make our Christian life dry and self-focused.

Think About It

- Do you share God’s good news? Yes No
- Do you study the Word daily? Yes No
- Are you eager to share God’s Word, or apathetic?

- List three practical ways that you can renew your zeal for God’s Word.

»The Bible Is Like Seed

Read the parable of the four soils in Luke 8:4–15.

- In this picture, who is the sower?

- What is the seed?

- What act is pictured in sowing the seed?

- Name four places that the seed is sown.

- Who are those described as hard pathway hearers?

- Who are those described as shallow (stony) ground hearers?

- Who are those described as thorny ground hearers?

- Who are those described as good ground hearers?

We learn four lessons from this parable.

1. There will be no reaping without sowing, which is evangelism.
2. We should sow everywhere—on all types of ground.
3. The seed, not our presentation, does the work. But we should prepare hearts with the warmth of our love and the tears of our compassion (Ps. 126:6).
4. People will respond to God's Word in different ways.



LESSON 12

What Should We Do with the Word?

Teacher's Lesson

» the Word

- To receive a
- To grow in understanding of
 -
 - Mysteries
 - and preaching

» the Word

- To more about God (John 5:39)
- To in godliness (2 Tim. 2:15–16)
- To discern truth from error—like the Berean Christians (Acts 17:11)
 - Their —they were eager
 - Their —they searched the Word every day
 - Their —they desired to learn the truth

- To what you believe (1 Pet. 3:15)
- To sin (Ps. 119:9–10)

» the Word

- Out of love for the (John 14:23–24)
- Out of love for the (Ps. 119:163–168)

» the Word (Matt. 4:23)

Word Power

- » **Bereans**—the believers in Berea who evaluated Paul’s teaching by studying the Scriptures (the Old Testament)
 - » **Doctrine**—biblical truths essential to the Christian faith
 - » **Studying**—intensive, methodical examination of the Bible with the goal of understanding and remembering its truths
-
-

Student Work

Many Christians have a desire to know the Word but never get around to really digging for its treasures. Why? Because they don’t know how.

How many times have you sat down to study God’s Word, but after a few minutes you felt discouraged because you weren’t getting anywhere? Perhaps you didn’t understand what you were reading, or didn’t know the meanings of certain words. Or perhaps the sheer size of the Bible intimidated you, so you had trouble even starting.

The challenges to Bible study are real, but the treasure of learning about God makes them worth the struggle. The following lesson should help you get started in the right direction. There is a secret to effective, manageable Bible study.

»Have a Plan

We must have a definite plan of study. If you were to pick up a book—any book—and read pages 4, 35, 2, and 60 in that order, would it make much sense to you? Yes No

- Why not?

This is often the way we read God’s Word. We do not have a plan or system. We approach it sporadically and read it out of context, and then we give up because we think it doesn’t make sense.

Topical Study

Pick a theme to research in the Bible. Using a topical Bible index or concordance, find related passages and note what each passage teaches about that topic.

- For example, take the word *justified*. Read the following verses and note at least five things about justification: Romans 3:20; 5:1, 9; Galatians 2:16; 3:11.

Book Study

When studying a book, or even a chapter, of the Bible, break it down and note the following:

1. Find the main idea of the book as a whole and of each chapter within it.
2. Outline the book as a whole according to how you think the book develops.
3. Find and underline the key verse in the book.

4. List what the book teaches about Christ.
5. List the ways the book applies to your life.

»Focus on God

Here is the key to all Bible study. The Bible is written to reveal the glory and grace of God. If you do not specifically look for His glory and grace in each passage you read, you will miss the main point of the passage.

Consider what the passage reveals about God.

- What does God do in this passage?
- What does this passage reveal about God's character?
- What does this passage teach about how God acts (what He approves of or disapproves of, how He responds in certain situations, etc.)?

Consider what the passage reveals about Christ and the gospel.

- How does this passage communicate the good news of God's grace?
- What does this passage reveal about Christ—that is, His action and attributes?
- How is Christ pictured or alluded to in Old Testament passages?

»Ask a Question

We must not only have a plan, but we must also have a question in mind every time we read God's Word. What follows are 11 questions necessary to have in mind every time you study the Word.

Read John 13:36–14:6 and answer the following questions as you read.

1. Who is speaking?

2. To whom was the passage written or spoken?

3. Under what circumstances were these words uttered?

4. What is the main idea of the passage?

5. What does the passage teach concerning Christ or the Godhead?

6. What does the passage teach about the grace of God?

7. What is your favorite verse in this passage?

8. Is there an example for you to follow? If so, what is it?

9. Is there a promise for you to claim? If so, what is it?

10. Is there a sin for you to confess? If so, what is it?

11. Is there an error for you to avoid? If so, what is it?

To give you more practice in Bible study, complete the following plan for the study of the book of 2 Timothy:

General Information

- Name of the book:
- Author:
- Intended audience:
- Main idea or theme:

- Key verses: 2:3–4

- What does the book teach about Christ or the Godhead?

- What does the book teach about the grace of God?

- How I can apply this book to my life?

Book Outline

1. Greeting (1:1–2)
2. Exhortation (1:3–18)
 - A. To share in suffering for the gospel (v. 8)
 - B. To guard the message of the gospel (vv. 13–14)
3. Pictures of perseverance (2:1–13)
 - A. A soldier (vv. 3–4)
 - B. An athlete (v. 5)
 - C. A farmer (v. 6)
4. Conflict in the church (2:14–26)
5. Apostasy in the last days (3:1–9)
6. Reminder of exhortation (3:10–4:8)
7. Personal instructions (4:9–18)
8. Final greetings (4:19–22)

Chapter Analysis

Chapter 1

- Main idea: Exhortation to continue in Christ and to guard His message
- Key verse:
- What it teaches concerning Christ:

Chapter 2

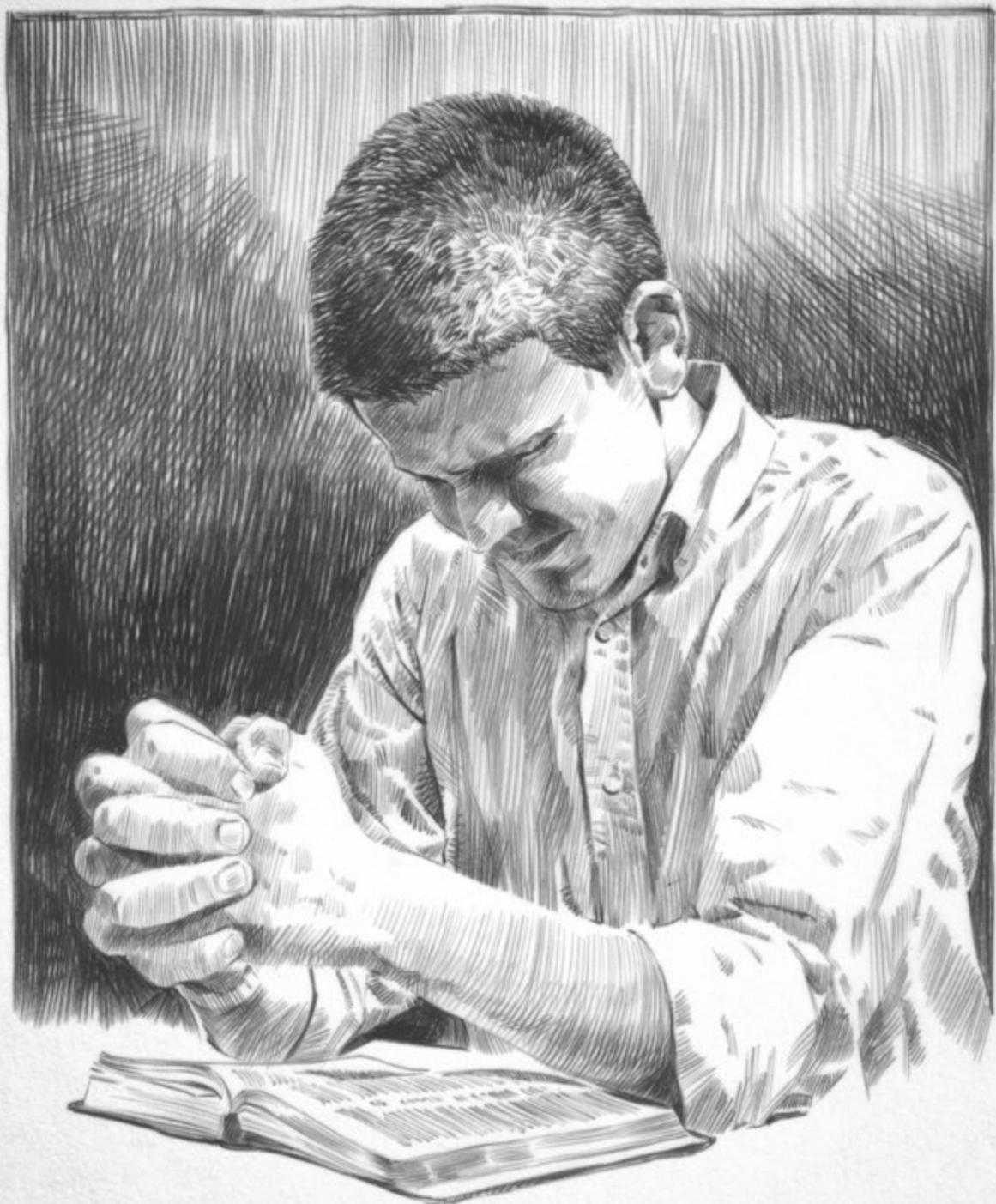
- Main idea:
- Key verse:
- What it teaches concerning Christ:

Chapter 3

- Main idea:
- Key verse:
- What it teaches concerning Christ:

Chapter 4

- Main idea:
- Key verse:
- What it teaches concerning Christ:



Breath

PRAYER

Just as breathing is necessary for the continuation of life, prayer is necessary for Christian growth. Real prayer originates with God (Rom. 8:26), just as our breath does (Gen. 2:7). Prayer is a natural, ongoing communication between Christians and God (1 Thess. 5:17). Through prayer, God grants power and strength (Eph. 3:14–20) as well as preservation from temptation (Matt. 26:41; Luke 11:4). When we do sin, we can request God’s forgiveness through prayer (1 John 1:9). Prayer is the breathing out of the soul to God.



What Is Prayer?

Teacher's Lesson

» The Nature of Prayer

- prayer
 - Prayer is
 - Prayer is for the
 - Prayer is directed to the (Matt. 6:9; Luke 11:2)
 - Prayer is made in the name of the (John 14:13–14)
 - Prayer is made in the power of the (Eph. 6:18)
- Quick

» The Contents of Prayer

- - Giving and to God
 - Examples
 - » Psalm 43
 - » Isaiah 6:1–6

-
- Acknowledging our before God
- God will grant forgiveness (1 John 1:9)

Sins of the . . .		
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-
- The act of expressing gratitude to God for His and
- Philippians 4:6

-
- The act of asking God for specific and

- » For leaders (Heb. 13:17–18; 1 Tim. 5:17)
- » For leaders (1 Tim. 2:1–2)
- » For your (Matt. 5:43–48)
- » For the (1 Tim. 2:1–4)
- » For personal
 - Wisdom (James 1:5)
 - Physical needs (Matt. 6:25–34)
 - Safety (Dan. 6:20–24)

Word Power

- » **Adoration**—the act of giving honor and praise to God
- » **Confession**—the act of acknowledging our sin before God
- » **Thanksgiving**—the act of expressing gratitude to God for His blessings and benefits
- » **Supplication**—the act of asking God for specific needs and desires
- » **Worship**—to give praise, adoration, glory, and gratitude

Student Work

This is the beginning of the third section in our study of the basics of the Christian life. First, we studied about the new birth. Next, we studied about growing in the Word. Now we begin a series of studies on the vital function of breathing—which in the spiritual life is prayer.

» What Is Prayer?

- Which of the following statements is the most accurate definition of prayer?

- Prayer is asking God for things.
- Prayer is our protection from trouble.
- Prayer is worshipful communication with God.
- Prayer is the best way to ease your conscience.
- Prayer makes up for our sins.

Prayer is two-way communication. Picture it as a telephone conversation. What kind of conversation would it be if only one party did all the talking, and all he ever did was ask for things?

Throughout Scripture, God's people offer His own words back to Him in prayer. David, Solomon, Nehemiah, Joel, Jonah, Mary, Jesus, and the early

Christians all used Scripture in their prayers to God (cf. Neh. 1:8; Jonah 4:2; Matt. 27:46; and Acts 4:24–30).

When we read the Bible, God speaks to us. And when we pray, we respond to God. Prayer is two-way communication.

- What was the writer's attitude about prayer in Psalm 85:8?

Prayer is more than just saying a few words to God. It is more than a ritual. It is an integral part of our relationship to God.

- Read the following verses and place them beside the statement or statements to which they apply. Verses may be used more than once.

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| A. Nehemiah 1:4 | F. Matthew 6:11 | K. James 5:16 |
| B. Nehemiah 1:5 | G. John 14:13–14 | L. 1 John 1:9 |
| C. Nehemiah 1:6 | H. John 15:16 | M. Ephesians 6:18 |
| D. Nehemiah 1:8–9 | I. John 16:23 | N. Romans 8:26–27 |
| E. Matthew 6:9 | J. Hebrews 4:16 | |

1. Prayer is addressed to the Father.
2. Prayer is made in the name of the Son.
3. Prayer involves asking God for our needs.
4. Prayer involves the worship of God.
5. Prayer involves confession of sin.
6. Prayer involves claiming the promises of God.
7. We pray through the Holy Spirit.

- Which of the previous statements are true about your prayers?

»Who Can Pray?

- What do each of the following verses say about who cannot communicate with God?
 - Psalm 66:18—
 - Proverbs 28:9—
 - Isaiah 59:2—
- John 9:31—
- According to James 5:16 and 1 Peter 3:12, what kind of person can pray?

»Why Pray?

Job says that the wicked view prayer simply as a way to get something from God (Job 21:15). If we pray only for our own benefit, then we're not praying the way God intends—or for the right reason.

Read each of the following verses and write what it teaches about prayer.

- 1 Samuel 12:23—
- Luke 18:1—
- James 4:2-3—

- Psalm 63:1-4—
- John 14:13—

Is Prayer Ever Wrong?

Some people might say that it's useless to pray, or that it's wrong to ask God for things. Listed below are five objections to prayer. Using the following verses, answer each objection in your own words and write in the reference or references that best apply to each objection.

Psalm 139:1-4	1 John 5:14-15	Matthew 6:5-8
Matthew 7:7-11	Psalm 106:44-46	John 14:13-14

- “God controls everything and knows what will happen. So, there is no point in praying. Your prayers don't change anything.”

- “God is too distant to be interested in me.”

- “God doesn't change—He is immutable. He will not change His view of me, so why pray?”

- “God knows everything, so prayer is not necessary. He already knows what we need before we ask Him.”



»Prayer List Project

On a separate sheet of paper, make a prayer list using what you have learned in your lessons this week.

- Begin with a list of things for which you can give adoration to God.
- Note any sins you need to confess to God.
- Next make a list of things you can thank God for providing.
- Finally, make a list of people and things for which you should pray. Take some time to go to the Lord in prayer about the items on your lists.



The Importance of Prayer

Teacher's Lesson

- » Prayer Was Important Work to the (Acts 6:1–4)
- » Prayer Was a Top Priority to (Luke 6:12)
- » Prayer Is Part of Christ's Present (Heb. 7:25)
- » Prayer Brings to Believers (Isa. 56:7)
 - The joy of experiencing God's
 - The joy of a closer with God
 - The joy of God's and
- » Prayer Was a Key to Many of the Bible's Greatest
 - Elijah, through prayer, stopped the rain for over three years (James 5:17).
 - Through prayer, Samson received the ability to pull down the pillars of the temple of Dagon and destroy the Philistines (Judg. 16:28–30).

- Through prayer, Jonah was released from the fish (Jon. 2:1–10).
- Miriam, Moses' sister, received healing from leprosy because of Moses' prayer (Num. 12:13–15).
- Christ spent time in prayer before His arrest and crucifixion (Luke 22:39–46).
- Christ prayed all night before choosing His apostles (Luke 6:12–13).
- Prayer preceded the Holy Spirit coming to the early church (Acts 4:31).

» Prayer Sustained God's

- Martin Luther
- Mary Slessor
- George Whitfield
- Hudson Taylor

» Prayer Promotes Spiritual

- Exposes (Ps. 51:2; 139:23–24)
- Gives (Eph. 1:16–17; James 1:5)
- Helps to overcome (Luke 21:34–36)
- Gives spiritual strength and (Eph. 3:14–19)

Word Power

- » **Joy**—the delight that God gives His children
- » **Intercede**—to act as an intermediary, or a go-between

Student Work

»Prayer Is Important to Christ

Certainly any Christian would admit that prayer is important. But we often view it as an obligation, rather than a life-sustaining necessity.

The life of Christ demonstrates that prayer should be as vital and natural as breathing. Note the times that Christ prayed.

- Matthew 14:23—
- Mark 1:35—
- Luke 6:12—

Christ Spoke About Prayer

What did Christ say about prayer in the following verses?

- Luke 21:36—
- Matthew 21:22—

Christ Made Prayer Possible

Read Hebrews 9:11–12 and 10:11–14. The writer of this book contrasts the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant regarding how people approached God. The key difference is the work of Jesus Christ.

- Before Christ's sacrifice, what was the only way that people could approach God?

- Could people approach God directly, or did they have to go through a priest (10:11)?

- How often did these sacrifices have to be made (10:11)?

- How many sacrifices did Christ make (10:14)?

- How long does Christ's sacrifice last (10:14)?

Read Hebrews 10:19–22 and answer the following questions.

- How can we enter the Holy Place—that is, by what means are we permitted to face the Father in prayer (v. 19)?

- How was this new, living way opened up (v. 20)?

Prayer Is Important to God the Father

- Proverbs 15:8 states that the prayer of the upright

- 1 Thessalonians 5:17–18 states that prayer should be

Prayer Is Important for Daily Living

For what or whom should we pray, according to the following verses?

- Matthew 5:44—

- Matthew 9:38—

- Matthew 26:41—

- Mark 11:24 and James 4:3—

- Philippians 4:6—
- 1 Thessalonians 5:25—
- James 5:13–14—

»Project

Interview three Christians who pray regularly. Ask them the following questions, and record a favorite answer or lesson you learned from the interviews on the lines below.

- How and when do they pray?
- What was the most valuable lesson they learned about prayer?
- What was their prayer life like as a teenager?
- What are some answers to prayer that they have seen in the past?



LESSON 15

How to Pray

Teacher's Lesson

» Prayer Is Personal (Heb. 4:14–16)

- A personal
- A personal

» Prayer Should Be and

- A time
- A place

» Prayer Is

Reduce and
distractions

» Prayer Requires

» Prayer Addresses a

- Prayer should not be used to others
- Prayer should not be

- Prayer should not be
- Pray for specific
- Pray for specific
- Prayer should not be

» Prayer Should Be

Word Power

» **Persevere**—to continue, despite obstacles, to the end

Student Work

Answer these questions based on what you have learned in the last few lessons.

- What is prayer?

- Who can pray?

- Why should a person pray?

We've seen *why* prayer is important, so next we'll look at *how* to pray. Prayer, as God intends it, does not come naturally to us. It takes work.

» Prayer Takes Effort

- The disciples recognized that there was a right way and a wrong way to pray. What did they ask Jesus in Luke 11:1?

- What does Romans 8:26 show us about the difficulty of prayer?

Our Prayers Need Help

- According to the two previous verses, who helps us pray?

-

-

Learning to Pray

Read Luke 11:2–4. Beside each of the following points, write the phrase from Christ's prayer that best expresses that element.

- Prayer is made to the Father:

- Prayer involves worship of God:

- Prayer involves asking God for needs:

- Prayer involves confession of sin:

- Matthew 6:9–13 also records Christ's model prayer. For what does Christ pray in verse 10?

- What attitudes do these requests communicate?

We must have these attitudes for our prayer to be effective.

» To Whom Should We Pray?

- Following Christ's example, we should address our prayers to the Father. Find three verses that show prayer being addressed to God the Father.

- Some people pray instead to the deceased or to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Why do you think people do this?

- Does Mary or any other person have more influence over God than a Christian? Yes No
- What does Matthew 12:46–50 say concerning this?

God listens to our prayers based on His mercy, love, and grace for us, not based on any of our own merit. He listens to us the same as He listens to anyone.

- In John 16:26–27, note Jesus' words about His praying to the Father. What do you think this means?

Christ's sacrifice made it possible for us to communicate directly with the Father in prayer. We can follow Christ's example by directing our prayer to the Father, without having to rely on anyone to carry our prayer for us.

»In Whose Name Should We Pray?

- According to John 14:13–14; 15:16; and 16:23, in whose name should we pray?
- What do you think it means to pray in Christ's name?

To pray in Christ's name means more than just tacking on a traditional phrase to the end of our prayers. Just saying these words doesn't mean that we are really praying in Jesus' name.

When we pray in the name of Jesus, we are praying to God the way Jesus would pray. We are asking God for things in a way so that we have Jesus' stamp of approval, so to speak.

Because of this, we can know that God answers our prayers, not because of us, but for the sake of His Son. We approach God on the basis of Jesus Christ and His work on our behalf.

It's good to state that we are praying in Jesus' name as long as we are truly praying the way that Jesus would pray.

»By Whose Power Do We Pray?

- According to Romans 8:26–27, who helps us to pray according to God's will?
- According to Ephesians 2:18, by whom do we have access unto the Father?
- According to Ephesians 6:18, in whom are we to offer all our prayers?

In order to pray by the Holy Spirit, we must surrender our own fleshly desires for His desires.



LESSON 16

Hindrances to Prayer

Teacher's Lesson

»When a Christian Sins

- Sin the Holy Spirit
- Sin breaks with God

»Sins That Hinder Prayer

- Loving or (Matt. 6:19–34)
 - Treasures on earth, or treasures in heaven
 - Serving God or possessions, but not
 - God takes care of His
 - Make God your highest
- Unbelief (James 4:3)
 - Failure to believe God's
 - Failure to believe God's
 - Failure to believe God's

- Lack of (Mark 11:25)
 - What is forgiveness?
 - » When someone wrongs us, it's as if they incur a debt against us.
 - » Forgiveness is a promise that we will not continue to punish someone for the wrong they've committed against us.
 - Forgiveness is not
 - Forgiveness is not
 - Forgiveness is not
 - Forgiveness doesn't remove
- Failure to (James 4:2-3)
- motives (James 4:3)
- Lack of (Prov. 21:13)
- (Prov. 28:9)

Word Power

- » **Hindrance**—an obstacle that prevents something from being accomplished
- » **Fellowship**—enjoyment of the relationship you have with God and other believers
- » **Submission**—the act of yielding the will to God
- » **Compassion**—love and tender care
- » **Omnipresence**—the quality of being present everywhere at once
- » **Omnipotence**—the quality of have all power
- » **Omniscience**—the quality of knowing all things

Student Work

In this lesson, we'll look at some things that will hinder our prayer. Because prayer is so important, we should pay special attention to ridding things that make our prayers ineffective.

» Hindrances to Prayer

Identify the hindrances to answered prayer in the following verses.

1. Proverbs 28:9—
2. Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1–2—
3. Matthew 6:5—
4. Matthew 6:7—
5. Mark 11:25–26—
6. Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6–7—
7. James 4:3; 1 John 5:14—
8. 1 Peter 3:7—

Hindrances Explained

The First Hindrance

- In Proverbs 28:9, to whose law or instruction does this verse refer?

- Where is this law or instruction found?

So if we ignore God's instruction, then our prayers will be detestable to Him. Can you imagine ignoring everything that your friend says to you, only talking to him when you need something? That kind of relationship doesn't last long.

The Second Hindrance

- Why will God not answer a Christian who holds onto sin (cf. Ps. 5:4)?

- How does 1 John 1:9 say we can restore our fellowship with God?

Before you pray, examine your heart to see if you need to confess any sin to God and request His forgiveness.

The Third Hindrance

- According to Matthew 6:5, what does Christ call people who pray to get attention from others?

- How does Jesus say we should pray instead (Matt. 6:6)?

- What does Jesus promise at the end of verse 6?

The Fourth Hindrance

- In Matthew 6:7, what is the reason that people pray with many words?

- Can we really manipulate God into listening to our prayers?

The Fifth Hindrance

Read Matthew 18:32–35. Jesus told the story of a servant who was forgiven by his master for an enormous debt. That servant then refused to forgive a tiny debt owed to him by a fellow servant.

- What did the master say the servant should have done (v. 33)?

The key to showing forgiveness to others is to meditate on how much God has forgiven you.

- **Read Luke 7:47.** Why did the woman love Christ so much?

- What do you think Christ meant when He said those who were forgiven little love little?

Think About It

- Is there anyone you know against whom you are holding a grudge?

Check any of the following statements that reflect your attitude about your family and friends.

I'm angry at my mom or dad.

My family isn't perfect, but I want the best for them.

I think my parents want what is best for me, but they don't honestly know what that is.

I love my sibling(s) and feel thankful for them.

I still remember and resent the time my friend wronged me.

I think my brother(s) and/or sister(s) are brats.

I argue with my mom and/or dad a lot.

I don't have any unresolved conflicts with my friends.

I love my parents, and I want the best for them.

- My honest feelings about my friends and family are . . .

- Will God answer your prayers based on your present attitude toward your parents, siblings, and friends?

The Sixth Hindrance

- What is the basis for our faith (Mark 11:22)?
- According to James 1:6–7, what do you think it means to waver or doubt when you pray?

The Seventh Hindrance

- According to James 4:2–3, what is James warning us not to do with our prayers?

Does God ever answer a request that is against His original will for us? Let's see.

- In Numbers 11:4–9, how did the people feel about the manna?

- What did they want in place of the manna?

- Read Numbers 11:18–22, 31–34. Did they get their request?

Yes No

- What was the result (v. 33)?

- What does Psalm 106:15 say about this event?

- So does God ever answer requests that are not a part of His original will for us? Yes No

- Can something truly be good if God doesn't desire us to have it?

Yes No

We should always request the things that God desires us to have, according to His promises in Scripture. God has promised to meet our needs.

The Eighth Hindrance

- What is the principle of 1 Peter 3:7?

- How does the principle of 1 Peter 3:7 apply to a young person?

- **Read Psalm 51:4.** David wrote this Psalm after he had sinned by committing adultery. Against whom does David say he had sinned—God or other people?

Your relationship with other people will affect your fellowship with God.

- So, if you sin against your parents, you are ultimately sinning against whom?

- How will this sin against your parents affect your prayers and fellowship with God?

» Application

How many of these eight hindrances are in your life? List them below and spend the next few minutes in prayer dealing with these hindrances.



LESSON 17

Prerequisites for Answered Prayer

Teacher's Lesson

» A Proper Relationship

- (John 16:24)
 - Through Christ's
 - By Christ's
- (John 15:7–10)
 - In Christ
 - » Results in
 - » Marks us as
 - In the Word of God

» A Proper Attitude

- (2 Chron. 7:14)
- (Luke 18:1–8)
- (James 5:16)
- (James 1:5–7)

Word Power

- » **Abide**—to remain in dependent fellowship with Christ
 - » **Prerequisite**—a condition that must be met before progressing
 - » **Atonement**—Christ’s sacrifice on the cross to pay for sin and to restore the broken relationship between humanity and God
 - » **Fervency**—passionate, focused devotion
-
-

Student Work

In the last lesson, we looked at some things that should *not* be present in our lives if we want to pray effectively. This lesson focuses on things we *should* have in our lives in order for God to hear and respond to our prayers.

» Prerequisites for Answered Prayer

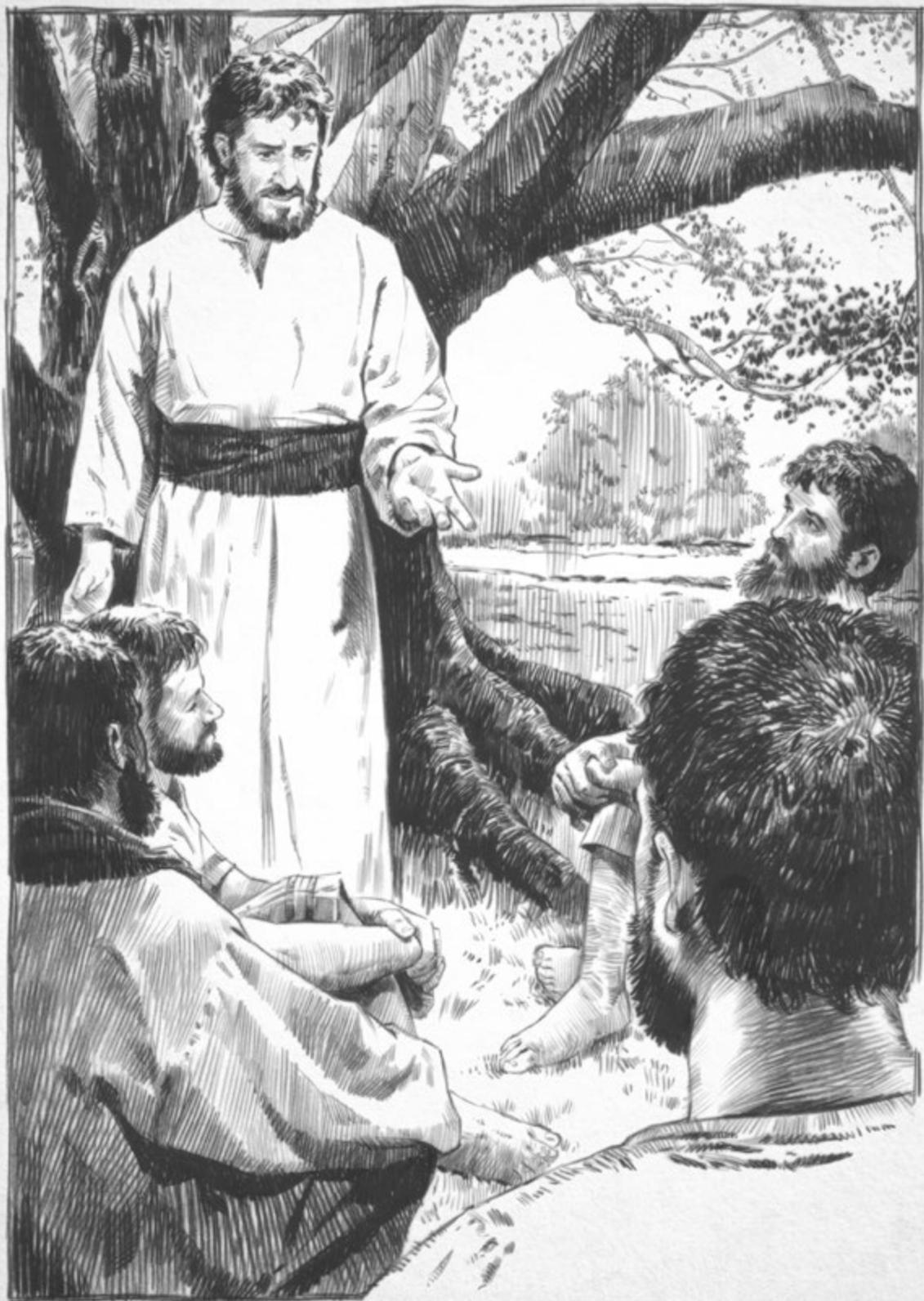
Identify the prerequisites for answered prayer by reading the following verses.

- Hebrews 10:19–22—
- John 14:13—
- John 15:7—
- 2 Chronicles 7:14—
- Luke 18:1—
- Matthew 21:22—
- John 9:31—
- 1 John 3:22—
- 1 John 5:14—

» True or False

Tell whether each of the following statements is true or false. If the statement is false, tell why it is false.

- True | False – God will answer every prayer prayed in faith.
- True | False – God will not answer the prayer of an unsaved person.
- True | False – According to Psalm 66:18, if we have sin in our life, even though we don't know it, our prayer will not be answered.
- True | False – If we obey the Ten Commandments, God will answer all our prayers with “yes,” according to 1 John 3:22.
- True | False – We must meet all the prerequisites previously listed for our prayers to be effective.
- True | False – The most important part of prayer is to get a “yes” from God.
- True | False – If something is truly good for you to have, God will provide it.



Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Teacher's Lesson

» Introduction

- Purpose: To us how to pray
- Structure similar to the
(Exo. 20:1–17)
 - The first part focuses on our relationship to God.
 - The second part focuses on our relationships with others.
- Divisions
 -
 - Petitions concerning
 - » Concerning God's
 - » Concerning God's kingdom
 - » Concerning God's
 - Petitions concerning ourselves
 - » For
 - » For forgiveness
 - » For
 - Doxology

- Lessons

- This prayer is only for
- God places great on prayer
- We need positive on how to pray
- We must guard against when praying
- From beginning to end, prayer focuses on

»Our Father

- What is an invocation?

To invoke means

- “Our Father”—God’s Fatherhood

What this phrase teaches me about God

- » He (Matt. 6:8).
- » He (Exo. 24:12).
- » He (Ps. 103:13).
- » He will never us (Deut. 31:8).
- » He desires (Deut. 12:28; John 15:7–10).

»In Heaven

- God’s and (1 Kings 8:27; Ps. 115:3)
- God is King of all, and His reign lasts forever (Heb. 1:8)

» What Do These Phrases Teach Me About Prayer?

Address God the

- Remember who God is and who you are
- Balance with

Word Power

- » **Adoration**—the act of giving honor and praise to God
- » **Confession**—the act of acknowledging our sin before God
- » **Thanksgiving**—the act of expressing gratitude to God for His blessings and benefits
- » **Supplication**—the act of asking God for specific needs and desires
- » **Invocation**—the act of calling on God in prayer

Student Work

In Lesson 13, we discussed the four major aspects of prayer using the acronym ACTS. Now we'll look at them in greater detail.

» Adoration

Adoration is the act of giving honor and praise to God. It requires attitudes of reverence, worship, and love.

- If adoration is the first part of prayer, what then should we do at the beginning of our prayers?
- Hebrews 13:15 says we should offer what kind of sacrifice continually to God?

Read Mark 10:37, 42–45. The opposite of honoring God is honoring self.

- What did James and John want Jesus to do?

- Why was this a wrong request (vv. 43–45)?

Sometimes we act the same way. Instead of focusing on the greatness of God and praising Him, we only focus on getting what we want.

True prayer focuses on the greatness of God’s attributes—the characteristics of God that describe who He is and what He has done. What attributes of God are evident in the following verses?

- Job 42:1–6—

- Isaiah 6:1–5—

- Daniel 9:3–4—

Imagine you were going to attend a dinner with a powerful world leader. You would carefully select your clothing and get dressed. When meeting diplomats, you’d be careful about your words and behavior.

Shouldn’t we be even more mindful of God’s greatness when we come into His presence? As we prepare to pray, we should take time to meditate on the awe of God’s greatness and majesty.

»Confession

The second step in prayer requires confession of sin. As we see God in all of His greatness, we become aware of our own sinfulness. This attitude causes us to cry out as Job and Isaiah did.

Read Job 42:1–6 and Isaiah 6:1–5. Both Job and Isaiah meditated on the glory and holiness of God. If we grow cold toward God and comfortable toward our sin, it's because we've neglected to remind ourselves of who God is and what He has done for us.

Confession of Sin Honors God

Confessing our sin honors God in the following ways:

- It honors His omniscience because we admit that we cannot hide anything from God's knowledge.
- It honors His justice because we recognize that God, in His holiness, must judge sin.
- It honors His holiness because we realize that God hates sin.
- It honors His mercy because we believe that God will forgive sin.

Unconfessed Sin Separates Us from God

- According to Isaiah 59:1–2, why did Isaiah say that the Israelites' prayers were not being answered?

Confession of Sin Brings Answer to Prayer

In the following verses, who received an immediate answer to prayer after confessing sin?

- Daniel 9:20–23—

- Luke 15:18–20—

» Thanksgiving

In Philippians 4:6, Paul commands us to give thanks as we pray.

- For what did David offer praise to God in 1 Chronicles 16:23–24?

- In Ezra 3:11, what about God did the people praise?

- For what did Jesus thank the Father in John 11:41?

Complete the following lessons about thanksgiving based on the verses given.

- Thanksgiving is one of the reasons God **s** us (2 Cor. 4:15).
- Thanksgiving is part of **w** (Neh. 12:46).
- Thanksgiving is part of God's **w** for our lives (1 Thess. 5:18).
- If we are filled with the **H** **s** , we will give thanks (Eph. 5:18–20).
- We will eternally give thanks in **h** (Rev. 7:9–12).

» Supplication

Supplication is asking God for specific needs and desires.

God Commands Us to Ask

As we've already noted, it's wrong for us to pray just so we can ask God to grant our selfish desires. But that doesn't mean it's wrong to ask for things when we pray. Our prayers should begin with adoration, confession, and thanksgiving, but they should also include supplication.

Which verses in the following chapters contain a command for us to ask God for things in prayer?

- Matthew 7:
- Luke 11:

Which verses in the following chapters contain promises that encourage us to ask God for things in prayer?

- John 15:
- John 16: -

Our Requests Should Be Specific

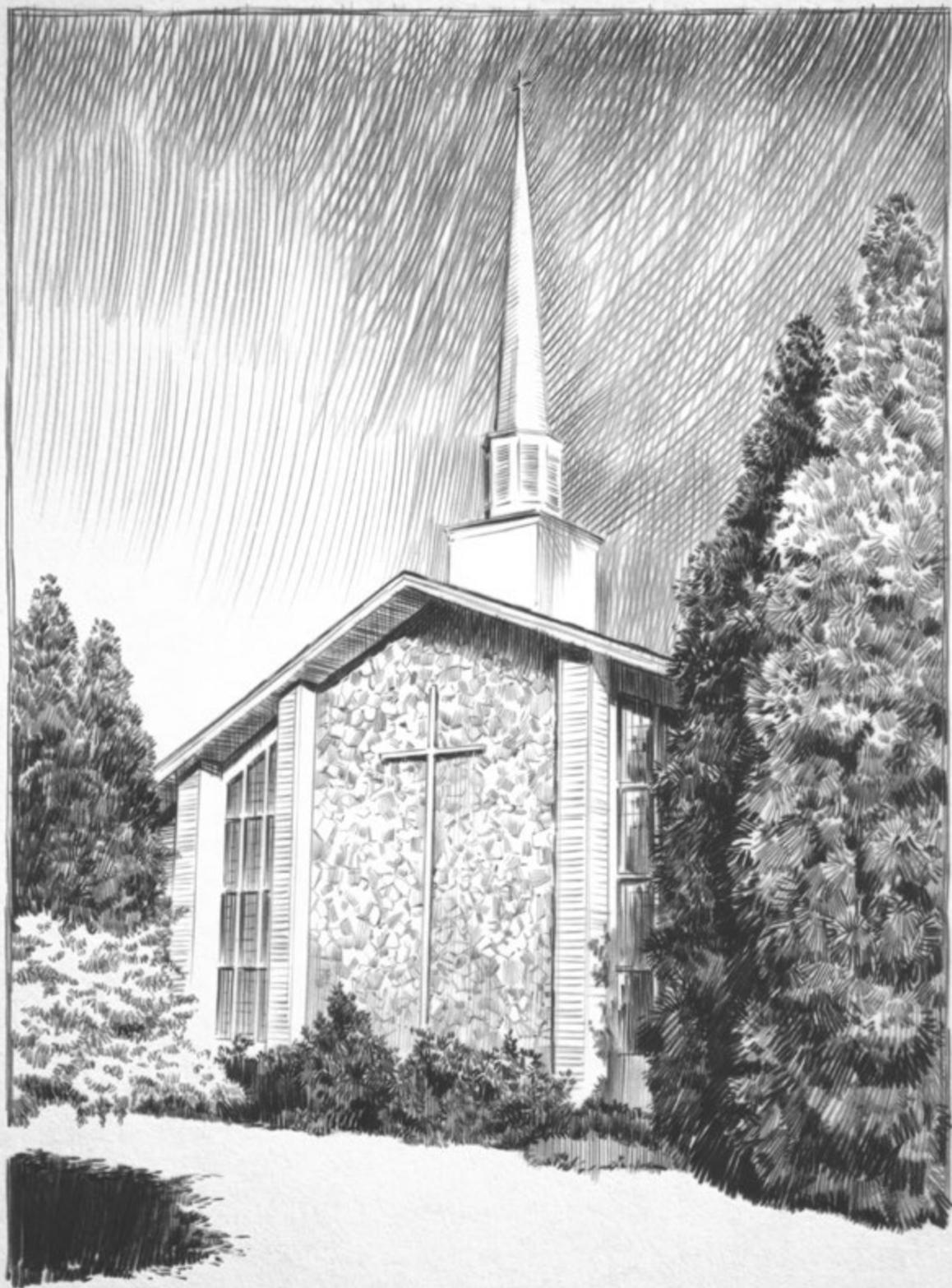
Who prayed in the following passages, and what specific requests did they make?

- Numbers 12:10–13—
- Judges 16:27–30—
- 1 Samuel 1:9–11—
- 1 Kings 3:6–9—
- James 5:17–18—

God Delights in Answering Our Prayers

- According to John 16:26–27, why did Jesus encourage His disciples to pray to the Father?

- How are these verses an encouragement for you to pray and make requests of your Father?



LESSON 19

God's Name, God's Kingdom, God's Will

Teacher's Lesson

»Hallowed Be Your Name

- Hallow—to , , and
- What does it mean to hallow God's "name"?
 - To honor God as He is by His names
 - To honor God in the of His names
- Two lessons from hallowing God's name
 - We must honor and glorify God.
 - We must pray that the honors and glorifies God.
- How can I sanctify God's name?
 - By God in my heart
 - By God in my speech
 - By God with my life

» Your Kingdom Come

- God's kingdom—the [], universal [] of God
 - God's present kingdom—God's rule in believers' []
 - God's future kingdom—Christ's [], [] rule over all
- What does it mean to pray for God's kingdom to come?
 - We pray for the [], [] reign of Christ to come quickly.
 - We pray that all people will [] God's rule.
 - We pray for God to reign in our hearts [] .
- Application
 - I am a [] of Jesus Christ, the King of kings.
 - As a child of God, I have a burden for the whole [] .
 - I have confidence that God [] all things.

» Your Will Be Done

- What is God's will?
 - *Will* means, “strong []”
 - We cannot come to know the will of God apart from knowing the Word of God.
- Why should I pray for God's will to be done?
 - We pray that people will [] God's will
 - God uses prayer as a [] to accomplish His will

- How can I pray, “Your will be done”?
 - God uses my sin to me about my need for Him.
 - I must surrender will to do God’s will.
-
-

Word Power

- » **Hallow**—to sanctify, set apart, honor; treat with reverence and respect
 - » **Universal Kingdom**—God’s authoritative rule and reign over all things
 - » **Eschatological Kingdom**—Christ’s end-time rule of heaven and Earth
 - » **Soteriological Kingdom**—God’s rule in the hearts of all believers
-
-

Student Work

» God’s Name

We learned in the teacher’s lesson that it is very important for us to hallow, or honor, God’s name. One way we can do that is to remember the names for God in the Bible, giving Him reverence because of what His names mean.

Read the verses that contain the following names for God. Then write the meaning of each name. These are all compound names for God—names combined either with *el* (the Hebrew word for “god”) or *Jehovah* (the name translated as “the LORD”).

- *El Elyon* (Gen. 14:20):

- *El Roi* (Gen. 16:13–14):

- *El Shaddai* (Gen. 17:1):

- *El Olam* (Gen. 21:33):

- *Jehovah-Jireh* (Gen. 22:14):

- *Jehovah-Rapha* (Exo. 15:26):

- *Jehovah-Nissi* (Exo. 17:15):

- *El Hay* (Josh. 3:10):

- *Jehovah-Shalom* (Judg. 6:24):

- *Jehovah-Raah* (Ps. 23:1):

- *Jehovah-Tsidkenu* (Jer. 23:6):

- *Jehovah-Sabaoth* (Jer. 31:35):

- *Jehovah Shammah* (Eze. 48:35):

» God's Kingdom

In the teacher's lesson, we discussed the three major ways in which the term *kingdom* is used in Scripture. It can refer to God's universal, eschatological, and soteriological kingdoms.

A. God's universal kingdom—His current, sovereign rule over all people, whether or not they recognize it

B. God's eschatological kingdom—At the end of time, God will usher in His perfect reign over all of heaven and Earth.

C. God's soteriological kingdom—God's rule present in the hearts of all believers

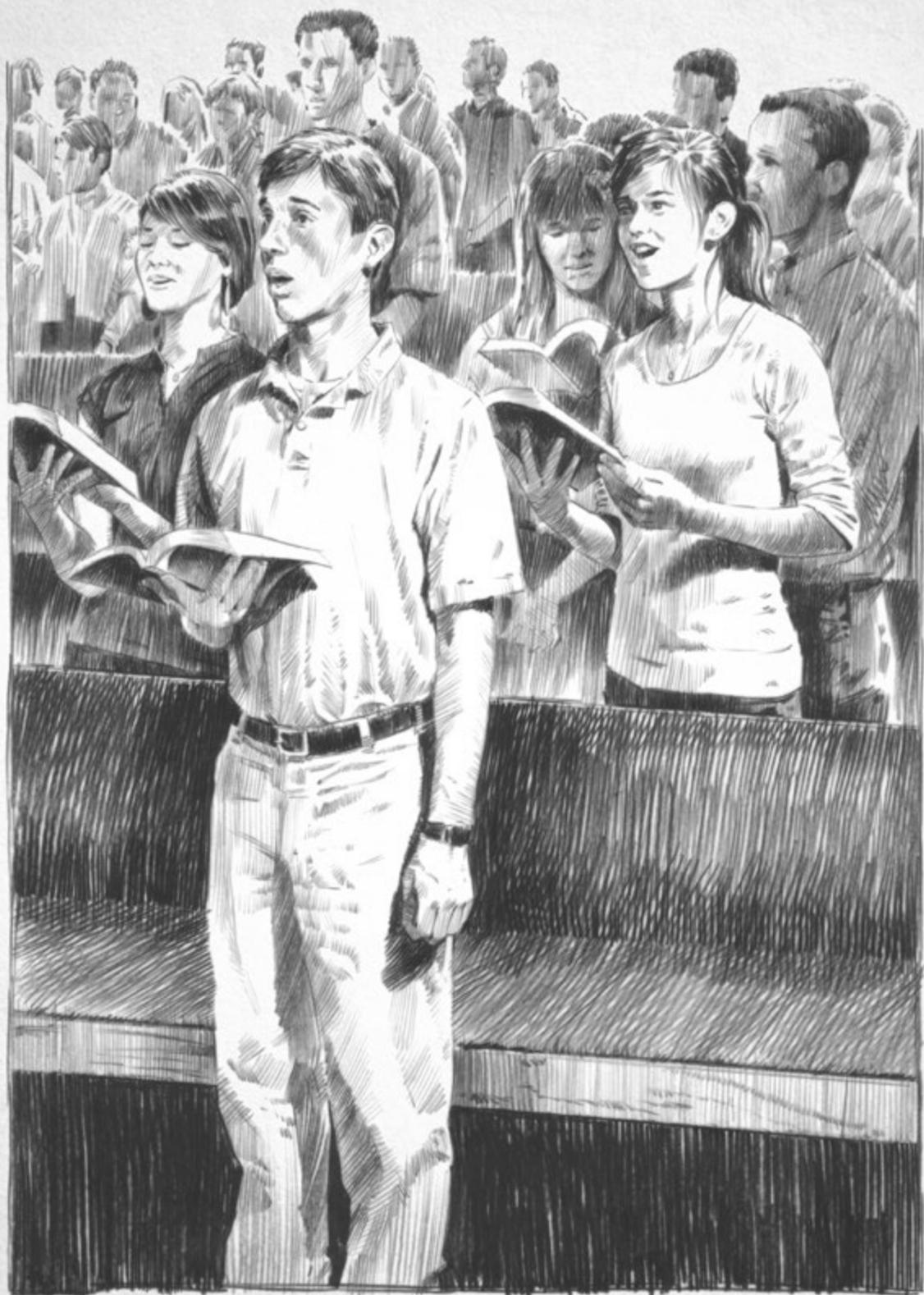
As a review of the differences among these three, write the letter of which aspect of God's kingdom is being referred to in each of the following verses.

- Daniel 7:14
- Psalm 103:19
- John 3:3
- Luke 1:33
- 2 Timothy 4:1
- John 3:5

» God's Will

What insights do the following verses give us into God's will for us?

- John 6:40—
- Colossians 1:9—
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3—
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18—
- 1 Peter 4:1–2—



LESSON 20

Give Us, Forgive Us, Deliver Us

Teacher's Lesson

Petitions	Needs	Focus	Time
Give us our bread.			
Forgive us our debts.			
Deliver us from evil.			

» Give Us Our Bread

- God delights in and prayer
- God cares about our
- God wants us to depend on Him one at a time
- God wants us to pray both for and with

»Forgive Us Our Debts

Why do believers need to ask for forgiveness?

Type of Forgiveness	Effect	Basis	Scripture
<i>Judicial</i>		First-time reliance on Christ's atoning sacrifice	
<i>Familial</i>		Ongoing reliance on Christ's atoning sacrifice	

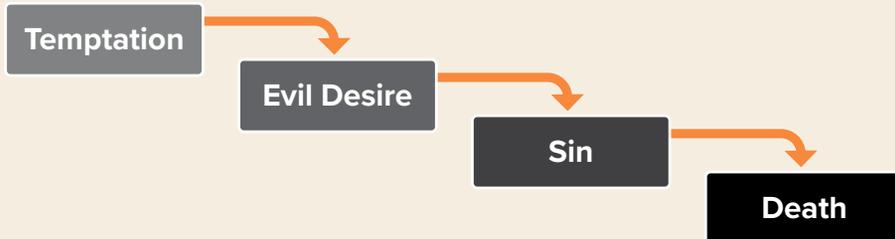
- Judicial forgiveness – At salvation, God removes a Christian's sin debt in a legal sense
- Familial forgiveness – Restores fellowship with God

God does not need to *legally* pardon us every time we sin because He already did so at salvation (cf. John 13:5–11). But as Christians sin, their sin breaks fellowship with God. That fellowship is only restored through God's familial forgiveness.

- Lessons for living
 - We are forgiven in advance through faith in Christ
 - We need forgiveness for daily sins
 - Our forgiveness of demonstrates that we have been forgiven
 - God's full and free forgiveness motivates us to living

» Don't Lead Us into Temptation, but Deliver Us from Evil

- Types of temptations in the Bible
 - of endurance (James 1:2–3)
 - Enticement to (James 1:13–14)



- Responses to temptation
 - during trials (1 Pet. 4:12–13)
 - from sin (2 Tim. 2:22)
 - sin (James 4:7)
- Keys to victory—prayer and the Word of God
- Comforts in temptation
 - The encouragement of the (Heb. 2:18)
 - The from temptation (1 Cor. 10:13)
 - The example of
 - The of salvation
 - The end of (Heb. 2:14)
 - The edification of the sufferers

» The Kingdom, the Power, the Glory

- Referred to as the *Doxology*
 - Not all Bible translations include this phrase
 - A summary of our prayer
 - I surrender my will to God.
 - God has the power to grant my requests and preserve me from sin.
 - All of my prayer focuses on God's glory, not mine.
-
-

Word Power

- » **Temptation**—an enticement to sin; a test of endurance
 - » **Petition**—a request
 - » **Persistence**—unwillingness to give up
 - » **Intercede**—to act as an intermediary, or a go-between
-
-

Student Work

For the past three lessons we have been studying the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus used to teach His disciples how to pray. Christ also taught them about prayer through parables—stories that teach spiritual truths.

In this lesson, we'll study two parables about prayer. First, read the parables for yourself. The first one is in Luke 11:5–10, and the other is in Luke 18:1–8. Second, read the following material, and be prepared to answer questions about it on the quiz.

» Parable of the Persistent Friend

The Story (Luke 11:5–10)

This story features three friends. The first one is the traveler. Instead of seeking refuge in an inn before nightfall to avoid the dangers of traveling at night, he continued his journey until he reached his friend's house—even though it meant traveling until midnight.

The second friend is the host. He has been placed in a very embarrassing situation. According to the customs of his day, whenever guests arrive, he should greet them with hospitality, bringing food and drink. However, his family had eaten all the bread in the house, and fresh bread would not be baked until the next morning.

He felt that the solution to his problem was to rush to the third friend's house and simply ask for the needed loaves of bread. He felt sure that his friend would understand his dilemma and gladly help him out of a tight situation.

The third friend is the neighbor whom the host is asking to supply the bread. Unlike what the second friend expected, the third friend was reluctant to help. From his viewpoint, it would be better for the traveler to go hungry and wait until the morning for food than for him to have to disturb his family in the middle of the night.

The only reason that the third friend eventually gave in to his friend's wish was because of his persistence. The host asked for bread a second time (v. 8).

- What word in v. 8 means persistence?

The neighbor did not feel sorry for the traveler, nor did he honor his friendship with the host. He eventually gave the host all the bread he needed—instead of just the three loaves that were requested originally. The neighbor knew that was the only way he would be able to get rid of his friend who had come at such a late hour. The host simply wouldn't take no for an answer.

The Principle

- What principle did Christ teach in this parable?

When you come into contact with people who have needs that you cannot meet, you intercede to God for them on their behalf. True intercession is not just asking for something one time and then forgetting it. It requires persistent pleading until an answer is given.

What analogy is Christ making in this parable? Is He comparing the Father to the reluctant neighbor, saying that we must beg and persuade Him to answer us? Of course not. God's ears are open to the prayers of His people, and He desires to bless them (Matt. 6:30–33; 1 Pet. 3:12).

Here Christ is teaching us the lesson of persistent petition by contrasting the Father with the reluctant neighbor. Christ reasons that if an unwilling friend responds to such persistence, how much more will our heavenly Father respond to the persistent prayers of His own children?

Christ challenges us to keep asking, and we will receive; keep seeking, and we will find; keep knocking, and the door will open.

» Parable of the Persistent Widow

The Story (Luke 18:1–8)

This story deals with a widow who was being wronged by someone. She was innocent and had a good case against this person, so she decided to take her case before the judge in her city.

Jesus described this judge as someone who did not reverence God, nor cared what people thought of him. At first, the judge refused to help the widow. But she was not discouraged. She continued to present her case again and again because she knew she was right. Finally, the unjust judge gave her justice simply because he no longer wanted to be bothered by this persistent widow.

The Principle

Christ used this story to teach us that we should petition God to do justice when we are being wronged. This parable appears in the context of Christ's teaching on the last days, when God's people will undergo intense and unjust persecution for their faith.

Like the parable of the persistent friend, this parable contrasts the unwilling judge with our willing Father. If a crooked judge does the right thing only through persistent pleading, how much more will our merciful, just Father avenge His children who cry out to Him?

Christ encourages us to continue praying when we are oppressed, and not to give up. Have you ever desired God to work on behalf of His righteousness so much that you pray for it repeatedly? Persistent prayer doesn't mean that you doubt God's ability to answer you. Rather, it's a display of faith that God will do as He has promised if we do what He has commanded. Doubt asks once and then forgets about it, but faith continues to ask until God answers.

- Read the stories of these two parables once again. List three lessons that you see in these parables that will help you in your prayer life.

1.

2.

3.



Communication

WITNESSING

As we grow physically, our understanding and interpretation of life experience grows as well. We naturally communicate those things to others, first by using imperfect sounds as an infant, and later by using refined communication as an adult.

As Christians progress in their spiritual development, they begin to communicate their experiences with others through words, attitudes, and actions. First John 1:3 teaches that the purpose of proclaiming what we've seen and heard is to fellowship with others. Unbelievers may enter into that fellowship, and into fellowship with God, by believing Christ through the testimony of believers (Rom. 10:14–15).



LESSON 21

The Necessity of Witnessing

Teacher's Lesson

» To God

» To Offer for Our Sinful Condition

Sin has completely corrupted people

- Sin corrupts the (Eph. 2:1-3)
- Sin corrupts the (Jer. 17:9)

» To Share the Gospel's

- The gospel's power is
- The gospel's power lives
 - God transforms us into a of the Holy Spirit
 - God transforms us into representatives for
 - God gives us over sin

» **To Demonstrate** (1 John 4:10–11)

- Our love for
- Christ's love in us

» **To** **People of Sin's
Consequences**

- Sin's
- Sin's
 - The darkness of hell (Matt. 8:12; 2 Pet. 2:4)
 - The pain of hell (Matt. 3:12; 5:22; 13:50)
 - The endlessness of hell (2 Thess. 1:9)

Word Power

» **Witness**—to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ by sharing who Christ is and what He means to you

Student Work

This lesson begins the fourth unit of our study on Christian life.

- What are the first three characteristics of life that we've already studied?

This section deals with the important task of sharing Christ with others, telling them what He has done for us, and what He wants to do for them.

»What Is Communication?

To *communicate* means to convey knowledge or information about something. Communication is simply getting a message across to someone.

- John 1:32–34 provides an example of communication in its simplest form. What is it?

- What do Christians have that we should communicate to all (1 Thess. 2:9)?

What do the following verses say we receive through salvation?

- Ephesians 1:7—

- Romans 5:1—

- Hebrews 9:12—

- 1 Peter 1:4—

- Acts 10:43—

»Why Should We Communicate the Gospel?

It Glorifies God

The first and greatest reason believers should witness is because doing so brings glory and honor to the Lord.

While compassion for the lost, or a desire to obey the Lord, often motivates us to witness, these reasons are not the most important ones. Communicating the gospel should be first and foremost the natural result of Holy Spirit filling and a zeal for God to be glorified.

Note the following verses of Scripture that reflect this truth. Read each verse and write its truth using your own words.

- Psalm 51:12–13—

- Romans 1:16–17—

The Gospel's Unique Nature

Another reason believers should witness is because Jesus is the only one who can provide salvation.

- There is only one name given whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).
- In order to believe Jesus, we must first hear about Him (Rom. 10:14).
- There is only one way to escape from judgment (Heb. 2:3; 10:26–27).

The Gospel's Power

- We should communicate the gospel because God powerfully transforms us through it. In your own words, explain what this message can do.
- Through the gospel, Christ . . .
 - Romans 1:16—
 - John 6:63—
 - 2 Corinthians 5:19—

Christ's Command

We should share the gospel because Christ commands us to (Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8). However, if we witness only because we are commanded to, our witnessing will be little more than going through the motions. It will be mere duty without passion.

Future Judgment

We should tell others about Christ because of God's future judgment on sin.

- In 2 Corinthians 5:10–11, why did Paul say he tried to persuade others?

- Who must appear before the judgment seat of Christ?

Christ will judge us based on what we have done, whether good or bad. Paul recognized his responsibility to God for witnessing. He knew he would have to give account to God for sharing the gospel.

- According to 1 Thessalonians 2:4 and 9, did Paul just take it upon himself to witness? Yes No
- What does Paul mean by saying that God had entrusted them with the gospel?

- To whom was Paul responsible for the way he handled the gospel?

- What words of Paul express this?

- How did Paul carry out this responsibility (v. 9)?

Paul had an obligation to share the gospel (Rom. 1:14).

Humanity's Spiritual Condition

Finally, we witness because of humanity's dire spiritual need.

Humanity's Condition Described

Look up the following and state what each says about people's spiritual condition.

- Isaiah 64:6—
- Job 25:6—
- Jeremiah 17:9—
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4—
- Ephesians 2:1—
- Ephesians 2:12—
- Ephesians 4:18—
- Ephesians 4:19—
- Romans 3:10—
- Romans 3:11—
- Romans 3:12—
- John 3:18—
- How many people are in this condition?
 - Romans 3:23—
 - 1 John 5:19—

Evidences of Sin

Note the results of humanity's spiritual condition. Look up the following verses and state in your own words how spiritual bankruptcy affects people's lives.

- Matthew 12:33–37—
- Matthew 15:18–20—
- Ephesians 4:19—
- James 4:1—

Read Romans 1:28–32.

- Are the 23 things listed in this passage the cause or the consequence of our problems?
- What does verse 28 say about this?

Put these verses together and answer the following questions.

- Is our basic problem inward or outward?

The philosophy of humanism states that people don't need God or religion in order to improve the way they live and become better people. Humanity has the potential to perfect itself on its own.

- Is this true, according to God's Word?
- Why or why not?



The Power of the Gospel

Teacher's Lesson

» The Power to

- Declared
 - It is from
 - It in salvation
 - It is available to person who believes
- Illustrated
 - saved at Pentecost (Acts 2:37–41)
 - More added at the Jerusalem Temple (Acts 4:4)

» The Power to

- Declared
 - By Peter (1 Pet. 1:3–5)
 - In Hebrews (Heb. 12:10)
 - By John (John 6:37)
- Illustrated

No one can us from God's protective hands (John 10:28–30).

» The Power to

Declared

A new nature replaces the old (2 Cor. 5:17)

Illustrated

- (Acts 9)
- Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:2)
- The demon-possessed man (Mark 5:1–20)

Word Power

- » **Pentecost**—the Jewish festival of Weeks; marked the Holy Spirit falling upon the Church
- » **Keep**—to protect and preserve
- » **Transform**—a change into something different

Student Work

Note the effectiveness of a gospel witness in the following passages:

- Concerning what did the apostles witness in Acts 4:33?
- What was the theme of the Apostles' preaching in Acts 5:42?
- What was the subject of the communication in Acts 9:20–22?
- Did the disciples give a point-by-point outline on “How to Get Saved” in these passages? Yes No

We often think that witnessing requires telling people that . . .

1. They are sinners.
 2. They must be punished for their sin debt.
 3. Christ died for them to pay that debt.
 4. If they will believe Christ, they will be saved.
- All four of these points are important, but is it possible to witness without going through all these points? Yes No

Witnessing is simply sharing with others who Christ is and what He means to you. You may not have the time or opportunity to fully explain the four points of the gospel, but you can still communicate Christ in the way you interact with and speak to people.

»The Gospel's Power to Transform

God uses the gospel to transform every part of our lives.

It Changes Our Identity

- Ephesians 2:19 says that those in Christ are no longer what?

- According to this verse, of what are we members?

Read Romans 8:14–17 and answer the following questions.

- Paul writes that we have received the Spirit of what (v. 15)?

- What does that make us, in relation to God (v. 15)?

- Ephesians 3:6 says that Gentiles (meaning non-Jews) are what?

When we accept Christ, we enter God's family. Our new identity in Christ brings a spiritual unity that transcends the barriers of race, gender, and position (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11).

It Changes Our Desires

Read Ephesians 4:20–24.

- What are we to put off (v. 22)?

- What are we to put on (v. 24)?

- How is this new nature characterized (v. 24)?

Although our sin nature cannot force us to sin, it will still tempt us to give into its desires, rather than obey the Holy Spirit's desires.

- How do we avoid giving into our flesh's desires (Gal. 5:16–17)?

It Changes Our Purpose

- **Read Ephesians 2:1–5.** Before salvation, how did we live (v. 3)?

- But what did God do for us while we were dead in sins (v. 5)?

Because God saved us all of His own doing, we cannot boast (Eph. 2:8).

- So who do we give all the credit to—ourselves, or God?

- According to Romans 15:8–9, what are the two reasons that Christ came?

- What should our behavior encourage people to do (1 Pet. 2:12)?
- What does Christ say He desires others to do when they see our “light” in Matthew 5:14–15?

It Changes Our Destiny

- What does Paul say will happen if, by the Holy Spirit, we put to death our fleshly deeds in Romans 8:13?
- What is God’s gift, according to Romans 6:23?



How to Witness

Teacher's Lesson

» Overview

1. Create relationships.
2. Communicate what Christ means to you with love and truth.
3. Allow the Holy Spirit to work.
4. Follow up.

» Create Relationships (John 4:6–20)

- We must contact (v. 5)
- With an individual (v. 7)
- With (vv. 7–10)
Paul used the same strategy (Acts 17:22–23)
- In spite of (v. 6)

» Communicate with Love and Truth

- Love and truth are both needed; one without the other is wrong (1 Cor. 13:1–7)
Christ's followers are known by their love (John 13:34–35)

- Share what Jesus to you
 - Christ made the woman aware of a spiritual (John 4:13–26)
 - The woman shared Christ with (vv. 28–30; 39–42)
 - God will give you to witness (2 Cor. 9:8)
-
-

Word Power

- » **Samaritans**—a half-Jewish ethnic group despised by most Jews.
 - » **Grace**—God’s freely-given power that enables us to do His will
-
-

Student Work

» Creating Relationships

Every situation and individual is unique, so you will need to read your environment and adapt in order to communicate Christ effectively. We can’t use a cookie-cutter approach in evangelism, because all people are different and we interact with them in different contexts. Jesus Christ, whom we’re studying in John 4, gave the good news in many different ways during His earthly life. Even the apostle Paul had to ask for prayer that he would have wisdom to know how to present the gospel (Col. 4:3–4; cf. Eph. 6:18–20).

The gospel never changes, but our presentation of it may change. Think of these four parts as basic building blocks, that you can rearrange and use—along with other building blocks found in the Bible—to best communicate the gospel to your unbelieving friend. Let’s look at the first part that Christ models in John 4.

Methods of Evangelism

Read the following passages and write how the gospel was introduced in each.

- John 3:1–2—
- John 4:7–10—
- John 18:20—
- Acts 8:30–31—
- Acts 16:25–30—
- Acts 17:22–23—

»Communicating Christ

After you establish personal contact with someone, you will at some point mention spiritual things. If we are abiding in Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit, then our spiritual life will mingle with every other aspect of our life. We won't be able to help but mention it in day-to-day conversation.

You may have an opportunity to share your own salvation experience right away with your contact, or it may take a while to get to that point. When you do, that person will become aware of his or her own spiritual needs. That person will respond in one of three ways.

- He will grow interested and ask questions, wanting to learn more.
- He will harden her heart, and reject any mention of spiritual things.
- He will be apathetic about spiritual things and put off dealing with them until later.

Whether or not your contact asks questions right away, you can still share Christ and what He means to you personally.

Read the following verses and state what they teach about sharing Christ.

- Acts 4:12—

- Romans 10:17—

- 1 Corinthians 2:1-2—

- So, how do we share Christ with someone?

Now let's personalize these truths.

- State several things that Christ has done for you that you can share with the unsaved. (Be specific. Don't just write things like, "He saved me," or "He gave me new life.")

- Do you ever share this testimony with the unsaved? Yes No

- When was the last time you shared with an unsaved person what Christ means to you?

- What happened when you shared this?

Note Paul's preaching in each of the following texts, and state the theme or major subject of each message and the results.

- **Read Acts 13:14–43.** What is the theme of this passage?

What were the results of his preaching?

- **Read Acts 16:25–36.** What did Paul and Silas do (one of the four parts of witnessing)?

How did the jailer respond?

How did Paul and Silas communicate Christ in this situation?

- **Read Acts 17:19–34.** What is the theme of Paul's message?

How did his hearers respond?

- **Read Acts 22:1–23.** What event does Paul recount here?

How did the people respond?

Sin and Its Penalty

Teacher's Lesson

» Everyone Is a Sinner

- Sin defined
 - Sin is from God.
 - Specifically, it is breaking His commands and disobeying His will.
- Our sin revealed
 - Through God's Word
 - » By God's
 - » By God's
 - Through our moral
- Our sin illustrated

The rich, young man valued riches more than obedience to God (Matt. 19:16–26)
- Personal accountability
 - of us is accountable to God (John 12:44–50)
 - God will each of us (Rev. 20:10–15)

» Sin Has a Penalty

- Condemnation

God's law

- » It gives us of sin (Rom. 5:13)
- » It legally us (Rom. 3:19)
- » It our need for Christ (Gal. 3:19, 24)

- Death

- death
- death

Word Power

- » **Moral relativism**—the philosophy that *right* and *wrong* depend on personal beliefs, not on an absolute standard
- » **Penalty**—a punishment for breaking a law
- » **Accountability**—the act of justifying one's actions to another

Student Work

The four parts of witnessing are . . .

1. Create relationships.
2. Share what Jesus means to you in love and truth.
3. Allow the Holy Spirit to work.
4. Follow up.

This lesson dives into the presentation of the gospel itself. Often a teen will say, “I’ve laid the groundwork by creating a relationship, and I’ve shared

what Christ has done for me. Now my friend wants to trust Christ! What do I do? What do I say?”

There are four basic truths an unsaved person needs to know in order to be saved:

1. I am a sinner.
2. I must pay for my sin.
3. Christ paid the price in my place.
4. I need to believe Christ and accept Him as Savior.

In the teacher’s lesson, we studied the first two truths.

» I Am a Sinner

An unsaved person may come to understand this truth through her own past experiences, or through a conversation with you about Christ. When a person understands her own sinfulness, it’s important that she also understand the solution to the problem—salvation through Jesus Christ.

You can share the following verses when talking with an unsaved person about sin:

- Ecclesiastes 7:20
- Isaiah 53:6
- Jeremiah 17:9
- Romans 3:10–12, 23
- Galatians 3:22

How many of these verses should you share? That depends on how quickly the person sees her need for Christ. Some people may quickly acknowledge their spiritual condition, while others may need time to process this truth. If she understands this point, you may only need to share one or two of these verses.

As you share these passages with an unsaved person, make sure that you keep in mind the following points:

Explain the Passages

When you share Bible verses with an unsaved person, take the time to explain what each verse means.

- For practice, explain the following verses in Romans 3 as if you were talking with a teen named Kyle. Make sure to define any words he might be unfamiliar with.

◦ Verse 10—

◦ Verse 11—

◦ Verse 12—

◦ Verse 23—

Personalize the Passages

When sharing verses about the gospel, it can be helpful to substitute the unsaved person's name for words like "all" or "anyone."

- How would you read Isaiah 53:6 to Kyle?

Evaluate the Person's Understanding

After explaining the meaning of the verses and making them as personal as you know how, ask the teen to explain them back to you.

If he understands them, ask:

“Kyle, do you believe that you've sinned against God?”

Answer: Yes.

“How do you know? Why do you believe that?”

Answer: God’s Word says I am a sinner.

Principles of Good Communication

Give your full attention and consideration.

Make eye contact to show that your conversation partner has your full attention. Don’t get distracted by your surroundings or mobile device. Answer any questions he has, to the best of your ability, and use words with which he is familiar.

Listen actively.

Listening and hearing are two different things. Listening requires that you pay attention, try to understand what the speaker is saying, and give feedback. When the person is finished speaking, repeat the main idea back to him, and ask if you correctly understand what he’s trying to say.

Show that you relate.

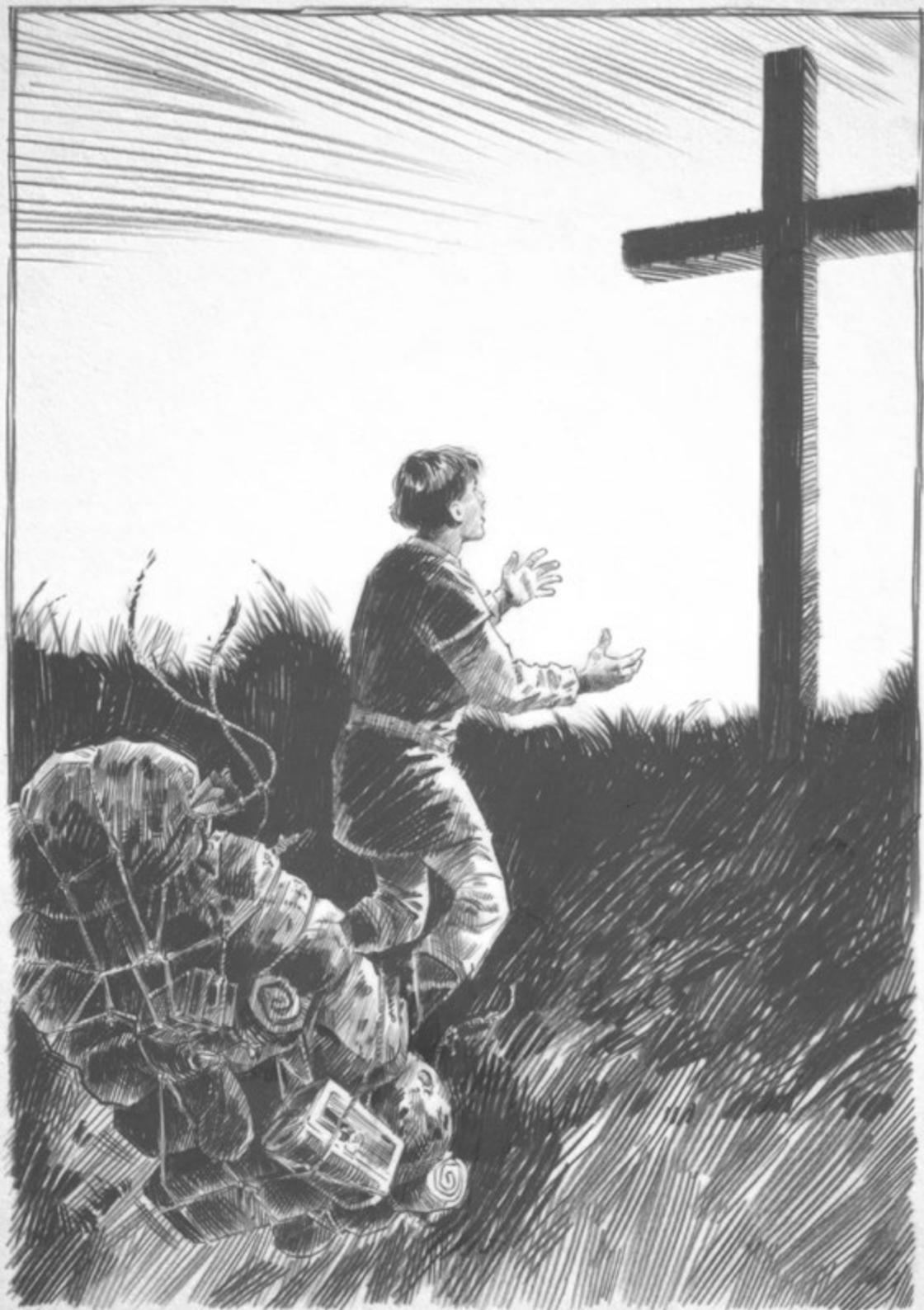
Let the person know that you can relate to her struggles. Agree with her whenever you can, and be ready to concede any valid points she might make. Remember, you are working *with* her, not *against* her. And don’t be afraid to admit when you don’t know the answer to a question.

»Sin Has a Penalty

At this point, Kyle may be thinking, “So I’m a sinner. So what? Everyone else is a sinner too. What’s so bad about that?” It may even be a good idea to verbalize this question.

The answer is that sin has a penalty—condemnation. This takes the form of death, both physical and spiritual (Rom. 6:23; Eze. 18:4), and eternal punishment in hell and the Lake of Fire (Luke 16:23; Rev. 20:15). Sinning against God means that we have to suffer the punishment for sin.

Again, make these two points clear and personal. Be sure the unsaved person understands and accepts these points before going any further.



Trusting Christ as Savior

Teacher's Lesson

» The Four Truths of the Gospel

1. Everyone is a sinner.
2. Sin has a penalty.
3. Christ died for our sin.
4. We must trust Christ for salvation.

» Christ Died for Our Sin

- Christ's death fulfilled God's purpose
 - It was (Gen. 3:14–15; Mark 8:31–33)

False theories about Christ's death and resurrection

- Theory—Jesus never really died. He simply fainted and later revived.
- Theory—The disciples stole Jesus' body and merely claimed that He rose.
- Theory—Jesus rose again only in the sense that His example and teachings live on.
- Theory—Jesus only rose in spirit; His body remained dead.

- It was
 - » Prophecy of (Zech. 11:13)
 - » Prophecy of and (Isa. 53:5)
 - » Prophecy of (Isa. 53:7)
 - » Prophecy of death with the (Isa. 53:9, 12)
 - » Prophecy of hands and feet (Ps. 22:16)
- Christ's death reconciled us to God
 - What He removes from us
 - » He transfers our
 - » He takes away our
 - What He gives to us
 - » He provides (1 Pet. 2:24)
 - » He bestows (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - » He grants (Eph. 2:1, 5)

» We Must Trust Christ for Salvation

- Making the decision

1. **Romans 3:23**—Each of us is a sinner, and each of us is personally accountable for our own sin.

2. **Romans 6:23**—Sin has a penalty—physical and spiritual death—but God offers the free gift of eternal life.

3. **Romans 5:8**—This gift of love is Jesus Christ, who died to pay our sin debt to God.

4. **Romans 10:9–10**—You can receive this gift by believing that Jesus, the Son of God, died and rose again for your sins.

- How can people come to know God?
 - The unsaved have no desire to seek God (Ps. 14:1–3)
 - The unsaved are to spiritual light (2 Cor. 4:3–4)
 - The unsaved cannot spiritual things (Eph. 4:17–20)
- God's work
 - God people to Himself
 - The Holy Spirit of righteousness and judgment

Word Power

- » **Prophecy**—a God-given declaration of truth (preaching); foretelling the future (prediction)
- » **Reconciliation**—restoration to friendship or harmony
- » **Martyr**—someone who gives his or her life for a cause
- » **Substitute**—one who takes the place of another

Student Work

- What are the first two truths you show a person when you share the gospel?

This lesson deals with the third and fourth truths a person must believe for salvation—Christ died on the cross as payment for his sin, and he must trust Christ for salvation.

» Christ Died for Our Sin

- From the Scripture references given, choose four that explicitly state that Christ died for our sin.
 - John 3:16
 - Acts 16:31
 - Romans 5:8
 - Ephesians 2:8
 - Hebrews 9:28
 - 1 Peter 2:24
 - 1 Peter 3:18

- If Christ has already paid the penalty for our sin, what do we have to do in order to be saved?

- We use the word *substitution* to describe Christ's death. How was Christ's death substitutionary?

»I Must Trust Christ for Salvation

Read each verse below and state what it says a person must do to be saved.

- John 1:12—

- Acts 16:31—

- Romans 10:9—

- In your own words, what does it mean to believe Christ?

There are various ways of presenting the sinner with his need. One way is the Romans Road, which uses five verses in the Book of Romans to explain the gospel (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9; 10:13).

Christ's Payment Is Complete

Christ, the sinless One, paid our sin debt by laying down His life. If your debt has been paid, you have only two alternatives: accept or reject the payment.

- If your debt is paid in full, do you have to complete any special work to pay that debt? Yes No

Suppose a man owed \$100 to a store, and someone paid his debt for him. What would be left for the man to do for his debt? He wouldn't need to do anything but accept the payment. But suppose he said, "Oh, thank you for paying my debt! I'll go give the store \$100 to cover my debt."

Such a response wouldn't make sense. But some people think that even though Christ paid our sin debt, they must also pay for it themselves.

- What does Ephesians 2:8–9 say about the payment of our sin debt?

»How Do We Get Someone to Trust Christ?

We don't. The Holy Spirit does. Unfortunately, some people treat soul winning as if it were a manipulation game. They even tell you how to phrase your statements so the person will have to answer "yes." Some show you how to put your hand on a person's shoulder and put pressure on them to bow and trust Christ.

We can't force people to believe something if they choose not to believe it. Don't ever forget that your job is to lovingly present God's truth—humanity's sinfulness, the consequences of sin, and Christ's payment for that sin. Then simply ask the person if he or she would like to trust Christ. Depend on the Holy Spirit to get the job done, and show love and respect no matter how the person responds.

Think About It

- How will these truths affect the way you witness?

»Confirming the Decision

When a person believes the gospel, God says he or she is saved, beginning at that moment and lasting throughout eternity (2 Tim. 1:12; 1 John 5:12–13).

If the unsaved person has understood and accepted the four main points of the gospel, and decides to trust Christ, confirm that decision with him or her.

Ask If He or She Is Saved

If the person answers, "I don't know," share Christ's promise in John 5:24.

- What did Christ promise in John 5:24?

If the person genuinely doesn't understand something, you can ask if there is anything you looked at in the Bible that didn't make sense or wasn't clear. If there was, then go over those passages with him or her again.

Remind the new Christian that salvation is not based on how sincere she might be, or how much faith she has. Instead, salvation is based on the promise of the true and faithful God. Remember, it is not your responsibility to provide assurance of her salvation, because only the Holy Spirit can provide it through the truth of God's Word.



Handling Questions and Objections

Teacher's Lesson

» Questions About Salvation

- “Can I be saved if I have sinned too much?”
 - God shows His love to (Rom. 5:8)
 - God never rejects those who come to Him (John 6:37)
 - God saved the of sinners—Paul (1 Tim. 1:12–17)
- “Why should I give up my sin when I enjoy it?”
 - Earthly pleasures are (Eccles. 2:1–11)
 - God gives satisfaction and joy (Matt. 11:28–30)
- “I’m a good person. Won’t God just accept my sincere effort?”
 - Our efforts cannot God (Ps. 53:1–3)
 - Salvation comes from the (Acts 4:11–12)
- “If God loves people, why would He send them to hell?”
 - God is (Ps. 37:28)
 - God lovingly offers through salvation (Deut. 4:29; Jer. 29:13; Prov. 8:17; Acts 17:26–28)

- “What if I can’t live like a Christian?”
 - We can’t clean up our own lives
 - The new birth isn’t just about (Matt. 15:18–19)
 - God us live for Him (2 Cor. 12:9–10)

» Objections to the Gospel

- “I’m not ready to trust Christ right now, so I’ll do it later.”
 - Life is (Prov. 27:1)
 - Salvation is (Luke 14:15–24)
- “My friends aren’t Christians, and I don’t want to be different from them.”
 - God will you good friends (1 Cor. 12:26–27)
 - God Himself is our (John 15:1–15; Heb. 13:5)
- “Christians are hypocrites.”

Sanctification is a work in

» Right Attitudes for Witnessing

- Have
- Never with an unsaved person
- whenever you get the chance
- Show that you
- Communicate
 - What love looks like (1 Cor. 13:1–8)
 - » Love gives meaning to our words (v. 1)
 - » Love is more powerful than great knowledge (v. 2)

- » Love gives meaning to our actions (v. 3)
- » Love focuses on giving good to others (vv. 4–5)
- Love God to love others (2 Cor. 5:14–15)

Word Power

- » **Hypocrisy**—moral mismatch between one’s talk or beliefs and one’s behavior
- » **Sanctification**—the ongoing process in which God transforms believers to be more like Christ

Student Work

When answering an unsaved person’s questions and objections, the most important thing to remember is that we can’t convince an unsaved person of his or her sin with only our words. God the Holy Spirit works through the truth of Scripture to convict sin. So it’s important to respond with God’s truth so the Holy Spirit can begin to work in the unsaved person’s heart.

Does that mean that we should not argue with the unsaved person? That’s right. Instead, we should let the Word of God and the Holy Spirit do the work. When we hear objections to the gospel, we should not try to argue about how ridiculous the excuses are. Instead, we should lovingly point to God’s truth found in the Bible.

» Matching

Match each question to the Scripture reference of the correct response.

- A.** 1 Peter 5:9–11 **D.** 1 John 1:9
B. Titus 3:5 **E.** 2 Corinthians 5:10
C. 1 John 2:16–17

- “Can I be saved if I have sinned too much?”
 “Why should I give up my sin when I enjoy it?”
 “I’m a good person. Won’t God just accept my sincere effort?”
 “If God loves people, why would He send them to hell?”
 “What if I can’t live like a Christian?”

» Objections to the Gospel

“I’m not ready to trust Christ right now, so I’ll do it later.”

The important thing about this statement is to find out why the unsaved person is reluctant to accept salvation. It may be that he needs time to process what he’s learned before making a decision, or it could be that he doesn’t realize the urgency his own spiritual condition. So first, try to find out why he is putting off salvation.

- According to Mark 1:14–15, what did Jesus say about the kingdom of God?

Sometimes people have a desire to accept Christ and follow Him, but they only want to do it after they’ve taken care of other things in their life. Christ dealt with several situations in which people wanted to follow Him, but not right away.

Read Luke 9:59–62 and answer the following questions.

- What did the first person want to do before following Jesus (v. 59)?

- What did Jesus tell him (v. 60)?

- Why didn't the second person immediately follow Jesus (v. 61)?

- What was Jesus' response (v. 62)?

- What did Jesus mean by this statement?

Becoming a follower of Christ is a serious commitment and shouldn't be taken lightly. Jesus' response is not to turn people away, but rather urge them to follow Him first, and take care of other things after.

“My friends aren't Christians, and I don't want to be different from them.”

Being different than the people around you is hard. But God promises to help us in spite of this difficulty.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:8–10. Paul repeatedly asked the Lord to remove a difficulty from him, but God chose not to remove it.

- What did Paul say was sufficient to help him in his weakness (v. 9)?

- Why did Paul have a positive attitude about this weakness (v. 9)?

Think About It

- What is a major difficulty in your life right now?

- How do you feel about it, knowing that God has promised to give you help regarding this difficulty?

Remember that God gives us a new sort of family in Christ—other Christians become our brothers and sisters. In this new family, we have encouragement and help to live for Christ.

“Christians are hypocrites.”

First, agree with the unsaved person. No Christian has managed to live sinlessly—only Jesus could do that. And often, our behavior shows that we don’t always believe what we say we believe.

While it’s true that many Christians fail in this way, it’s also true that unsaved people are hypocrites. There are also many hypocrites running gas stations and managing grocery stores. Yet we still buy gas and get groceries. It isn’t logical or reasonable to reject the gospel simply because Christians fail to obey God perfectly. And such an excuse certainly won’t stand up before God during judgment.

Always be truthful when dealing with the unsaved. Don’t try to defend the hypocrites in the church. We all know they exist, and you will only prove your own hypocrisy if you try to cover up the truth.

- Does the fact that Christians can be hypocrites excuse someone from being held accountable to God’s holy standard? Yes No

- What good does it do to judge another person? Will it help you? What does Romans 14:12 say about our judgment?

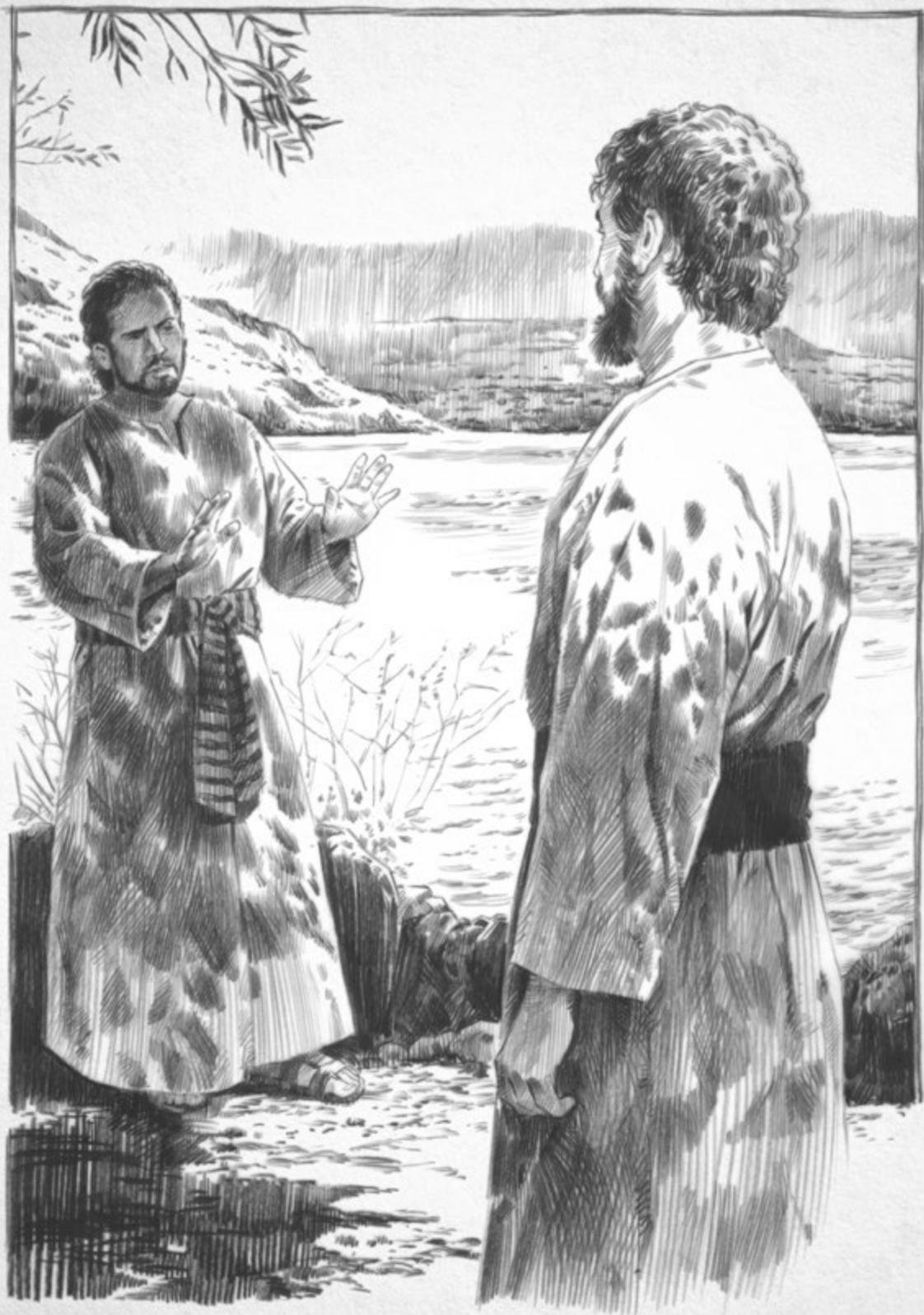
Jesus had some very strong words to say about religious hypocrites (cf. Matt. 23). He condemned them for their attitudes and the harm they caused by misleading others.

Read Matthew 24:48–51. Jesus tells the story of a wicked servant who uses his master’s delayed return as an opportunity to abuse others.

- What happened to this servant and other hypocrites (v. 51)?

Think About It

- How can you use this verse with a person who uses hypocrites as his excuse? See Mark 7:6–9.



Following Up

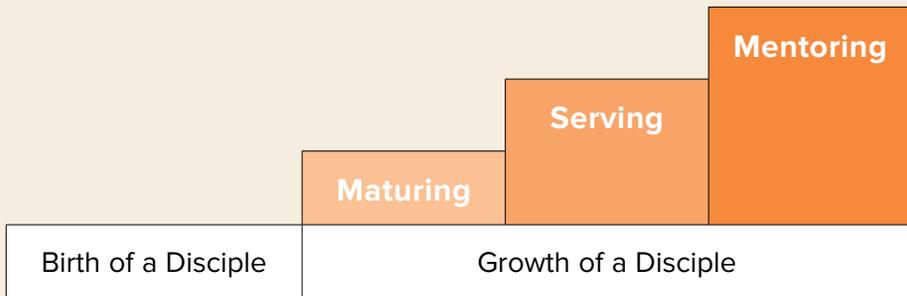
Teacher's Lesson

» The Imperative of Discipleship

- Christ us to make disciples (Matt. 28:16–20)
 - Discipleship is part of new
 - Discipleship requires
- Paul's teaching (Col. 3:12–17; 2 Tim. 2:2)
 - Follow-up requires truth
 - Follow-up love and concern

» The of Discipleship

- To aid spiritual
 - Provide
 - conformity to Christ
- To believers for ministry
- To make disciples



» The of Discipleship

- One-on-one
 - Teach
 - Begin spiritual
 - Support in
- In small groups
- In the church

Word Power

- » **Disciple**—a person who learns from and follows a teacher
- » **Baptism**—a visual aid that signifies identification as Christ's follower; commanded by Christ
- » **Discipleship**—the process of mentoring a fellow believer

Student Work

After you present the gospel, and the person to whom you're talking accepts Christ, it's important that you follow up with him or her.

Answer the following questions.

- List the four parts of witnessing.

- List the four truths a person must know and believe in order to receive salvation.

- What did Jesus state in John 3:3 as a requirement for entering God's kingdom?

- What do you think it means to be "born again"?

A new Christian is like a newborn baby. She is weak and unable to walk, talk, or think properly. She must be strengthened through the right meals, exercise, and nurture.

Newborn Christians need the following five things to grow and strengthen spiritually. Make sure the new Christian knows that doing these things does not change the fact that she is saved and will remain saved forever. They simply help her faith in Christ to grow.

»Focus on Jesus Christ Every Day

- **Read Hebrews 12:1–2.** As a new convert runs the Christian race, on whom should she keep her focus?

- What does Jesus tell us to do in John 15:4–5?

- What happens when we do this (v. 5)?

- Without Christ, what does He say we can do (v. 5)?

The key to living a Christ-filled life is to abide in Him. We do this by filling our minds with God’s truth—found in His Word—and by obeying Him.

»Read God’s Word Every Day

The Bible is the Christian’s food. Just as all people—especially infants—need food for strength, the new Christian must eat spiritual food daily to be spiritually strong. How do the following verses describe the Bible as food?

- Psalm 119:103—

- Isaiah 55:10–11—

- Hebrews 5:12–14—

- 1 Peter 2:2—

One of the best books of the Bible for a new Christian to read is the Gospel of John. This Gospel magnifies the deity of Christ and further explains the salvation He offers.

How much should a new Christian read of the Bible each day? Only as much as she can digest. Christians should read the Bible to understand it, and that means we will take different amounts of time to process it. It’s better to read slowly and learn than to read quickly and forget or get distracted.

»Pray Every Day

As we've already learned, prayer is essential communication with God. Prayer is not just the means of getting what we want from God. As you go through this section on the importance of prayer for a new convert, don't forget to remind the new believer that prayer is personal—it is talking to our Father. It's the overflow and evidence of your relationship with God, not just a duty that you must check off your list every day.

Ephesians 6:18 emphasizes the importance of prayer. Answer the following questions from this verse.

- When should we pray?
- In whom should we pray?
- For whom should we pray?
- With what qualities should we pray?

When this verse talks about staying alert or watchful, the word used here means, "be sleepless." We have a natural tendency to get comfortable and lazy in every area of our lives, including prayer. Prayer is hard work, and God desires us to persevere in it.

But why should a Christian give so much time and attention to talking with God? Notice the following points.

Prayer Is a Means of Grace

Grace is the gift of help that God grants to us. He desires us to ask Him for this help and promises to give it freely when we do.

- For what reason does Hebrews 4:16 say we should come before God in prayer?

Through prayer, God will grant us grace to resist the temptation to sin.

- Read Mark 14:38. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do in this verse?

- Why did He tell them this?

God Desires Us to Make Requests of Him

- According to James 4:1–3, why do some people lack things (v. 2)?

- And why don't those who ask receive (v. 3)?

Many Christians experience spiritual poverty and powerlessness because they neglect to pray.

Prayer Is the Proper Response to Worry

- What does Philippians 4:6–7 promise the praying Christian?

» Tell Others About Salvation

- What did the Samaritan woman do immediately after trusting Christ (John 4:25–30)?

When we think about what Christ has done for us, and who He is, we won't be able to refrain from sharing Him with others.

» Join and Participate in a Local Church

- What does Hebrews 10:24–25 say about how believers should interact with each other?

The new Christian needs the fellowship of mature Christians, and can benefit from learning the Word from Christians who have studied the Scriptures throughout the years.

What are five things you should encourage a new Christian to do?

1. Focus on every day.
2. Read the every day.
3. every day.
4. others about Christ.
5. Join and participate in a .

God Gives Grace to Follow Him

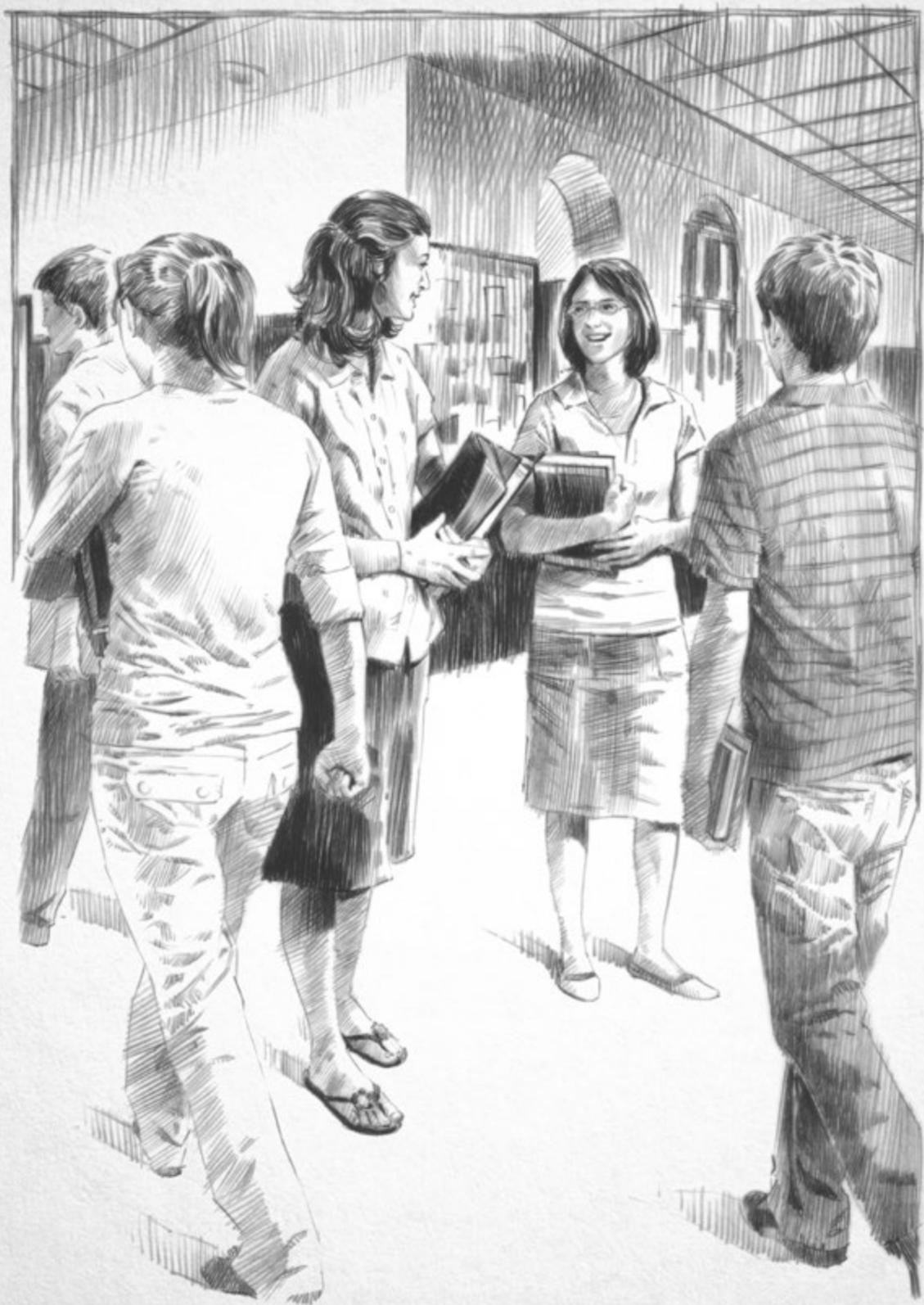
When we are saved, we are freed from the absolute power that our sin nature had over our desires. A new believer needs to know that she is now in Christ, and has the power of Christ dwelling in her through the Holy Spirit. As she abides in Christ, she will begin to produce the fruit of the Spirit. This spiritual fruit will provide some assurance of salvation and Spirit-filling in her life.

Encourage the new believer to spend time reading the Bible. By doing so, she will learn more of her new Lord and more about how she can serve this gracious Master. A true believer will also find assurance from time spent in the Word.

Don't forget to teach her that she can now pray to God any time she wants. She will especially want to pray for power to love and obey God. The new believer will need to be taught to pray for forgiveness whenever she sins. Without knowing this, she may begin to doubt her faith when she fails.

God Desires Believers to Meet Together

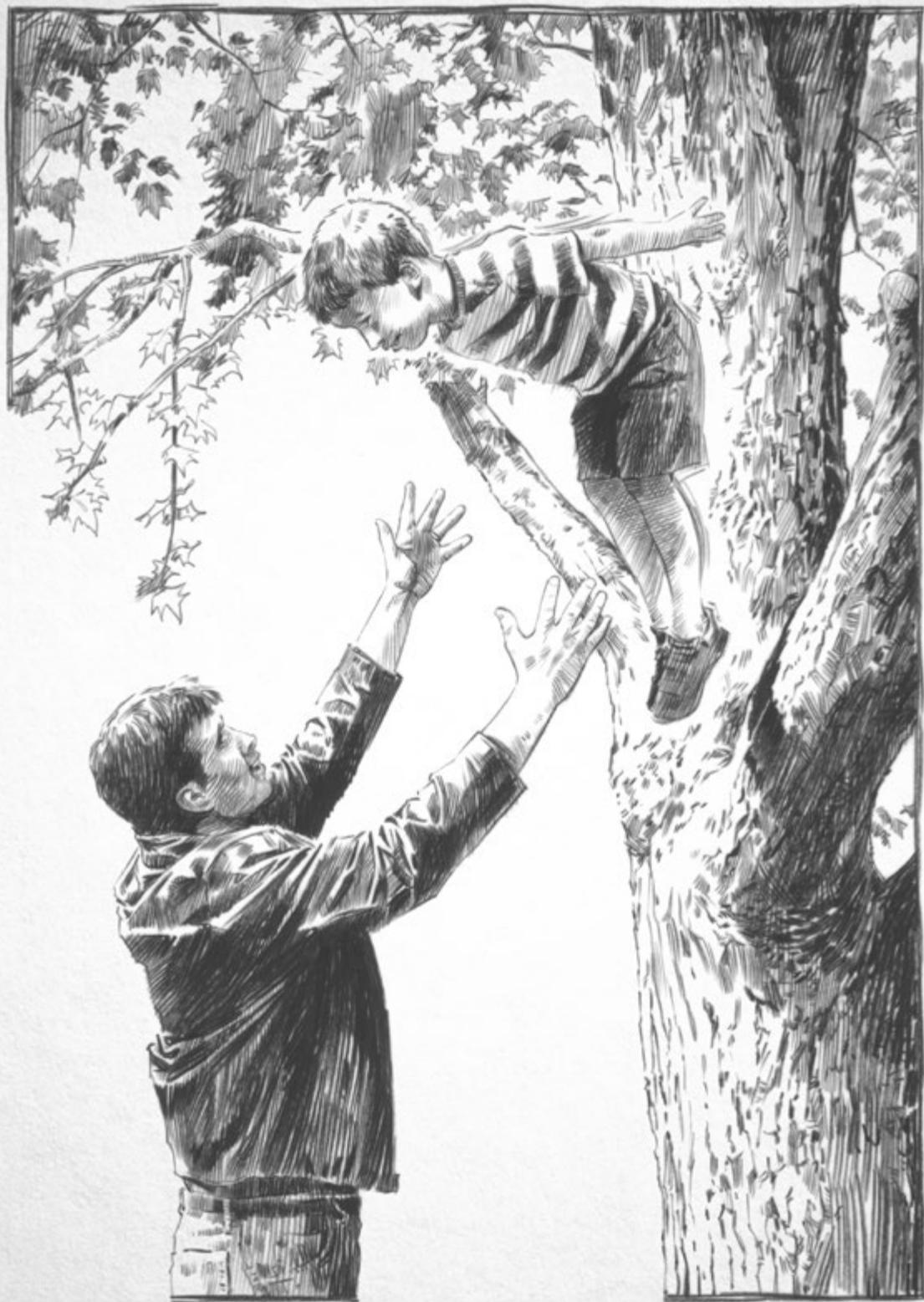
The body of Christ—the church—is one of the tools God uses to encourage believers (Eph. 4:16). By regularly spending time with other, Spirit-filled believers, a new believer will grow in faith.



Behavior

DAILY LIVING

Just as physical activity reveals life and growth, a Christian's daily behavior evidences spiritual life and growth. The Christian allows Christ to shape every activity and thought, and desires to glorify Him whether eating, working, playing, or speaking (1 Cor. 10:31). Our conduct shows that we are alive and growing, that we have constant contact with the very Author of life—God Himself.



The Gospel and Grace

Teacher's Lesson

» The Gospel of Grace

- Grace— or favor that God gives to us
- God sanctifies us by grace
 - Commences at (Rom. 6:13)
 - in the present (Rom. 12:1–2)
 - Concludes in the (1 Thess. 5:23)

» How Does God Sanctify Us?

- Sanctification is a work of the (2 Cor. 3:18)
 - The Spirit of sin
 - The Spirit our obedience
 - The Spirit gives spiritual
- Sanctification is (1 Pet. 1:14–16)

Sanctification is accomplished through the Holy Spirit, but we have certain responsibilities to fulfill in order to allow Him to work in our lives.

If we aren't obeying God, then we are actively hindering His work in our hearts.

» Abuses of Grace

- We cannot our sanctification (Gal. 2:21)
- We cannot use grace as a license to (Rom. 6:12–14)

» The Purpose of Grace

- Grace is God's for us (2 Cor. 12:9)
- Grace requires complete on God

Word Power

- » **Sanctification**—the ongoing process in which God transforms believers to be more like Christ
- » **Sanctify**—to set apart; to purify
- » **Grace**—God's free, supernatural favor or help given to believers

Student Work

Many Christians assume that once they accept God's gift of salvation, the gospel has no more impact on their lives. But that's far from true. Not only does the gospel change our eternal destiny, but it also changes how and why we live in the day-to-day.

As we've studied, salvation comes by grace—that is, it's a gift we could never deserve, one offered freely to us from God. But our sanctification—how God changes us to be more like Him—also happens by grace. We depend entirely

on God for our spiritual transformation. Like a child leaping through the air into his dad's waiting arms, the Christian trusts God to fulfill His Word and rests in His strength.

» Sanctification by Grace

This was a lesson that the Galatian Christians needed to learn. They understood that salvation was not something they could earn or deserve, but they fell into thinking that their sanctification depended on their own efforts. Paul wrote the letter of Galatians to address this problem in the church.

- What did Paul say the Galatian believers were doing in Galatians 1:6–7?

- How had they changed the gospel (Gal 3:3; 4:9)?

- Why did God give the law (Gal. 3:24)?

- What does Paul say we should not do in Galatians 5:1 (Gal. 4:7)?

Imagine that your friend gave you a brand-new car, absolutely free and completely paid off. You know you owe him a lot, but you're completely broke.

Then imagine that, after you had received the car, you kept trying to pay your friend. You don't have any money, so you start selling parts off the car to give him. That would be pretty stupid, right? Not only that, but it would be offensive to try to pay your friend with the same gift he gave you.

In a way, this is what these believers were doing. Through faith, they received Christ's righteousness for justification. But then they were trying to obey the law to earn righteousness.

If we could earn our righteousness for our sanctification, then we could earn it for our salvation, too.

- How would the meaning of Christ's death change if this were the case (2:21)?

»The Spirit Versus the Flesh

Now that Paul has argued that we should *not* do good works to earn righteousness, he goes on to explain why we *should* do good.

- Since we are freed from the need to earn justification, why *should* we do good works, according to Galatians 5:13–14?

- What's the key to living this way, according to Galatians 5:18?

Read Galatians 6:7–9.

- What do we get if we invest in, or live to please, our flesh (v. 8)?

- What do we get if we invest in, or live to please, the Holy Spirit?

If we depend on the Holy Spirit, then we won't abuse the freedom of grace by pleasing our flesh. We won't think, "If God gives me His grace regardless of my works, then I can just sin so I get more grace."

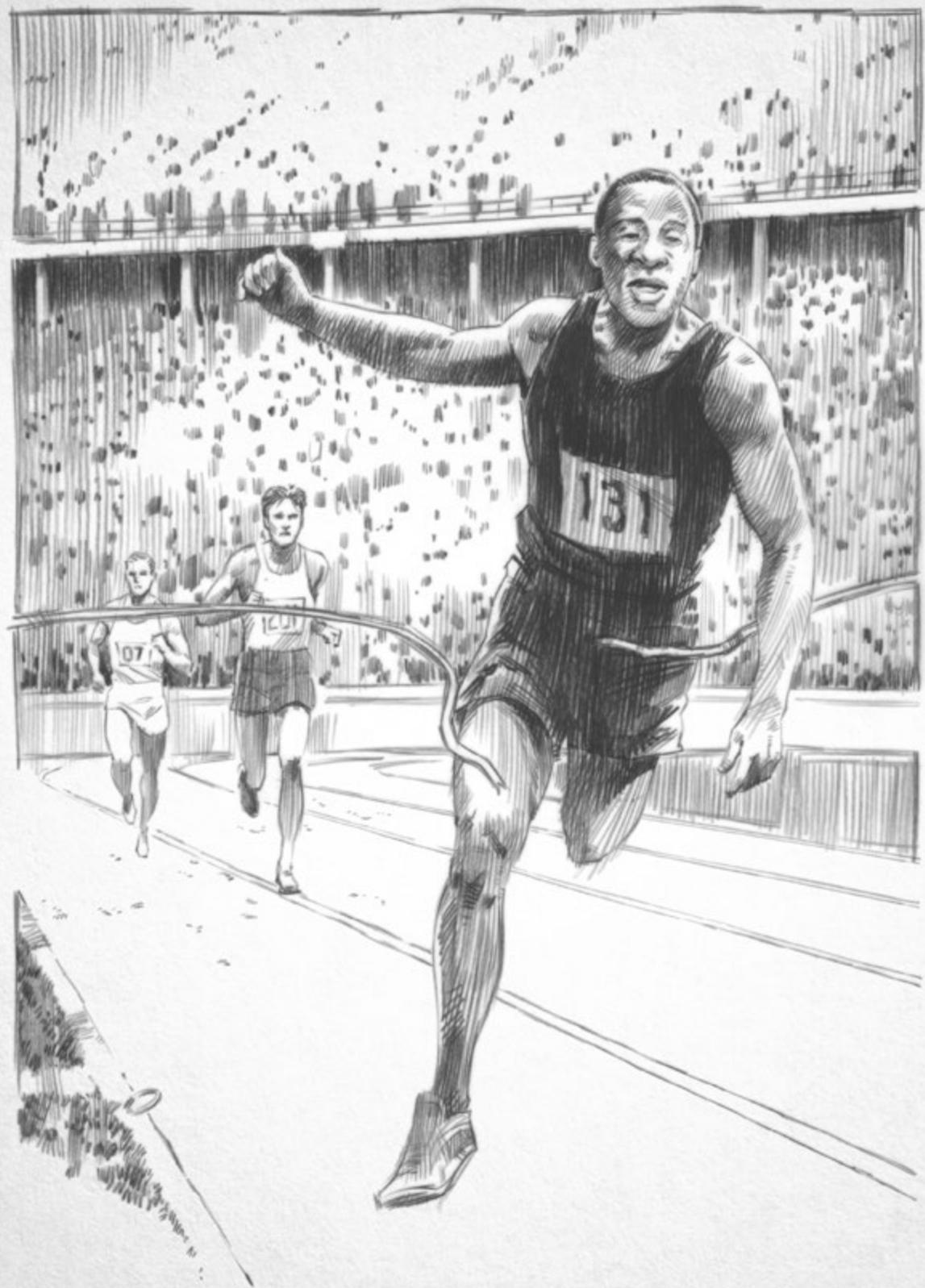
- What is Paul's response to this thought (Rom. 6:1–2)?

Think About It

- What about your life? Is it characterized by a desire to please the Holy Spirit, or your flesh?

- Why do you do good works?





Rules and Principles

Teacher's Lesson

» Principles

- Definition

A principle is a fundamental based on God— His words, work, and character

- Characteristics

- Absolute and (Ps. 119:160)
- applicable (Rom. 2:1–3)
- Found in God's (John 17:17)

» Rules

- What is a rule?

A rule is a specific of a principle.

- rules

- Evident through our
- Evident in God's

- rules

Laws that govern our actions within a community

- Obeying authorities

God commands us to obey authorities placed over us, as long as doing so does not mean we disobey Him.

- Individual rules

Why have rules?

» To live (1 Pet. 3:15)

» To use God's Word as our
(2 Tim. 3:12–15)

» Wrong Motives for Behavior

- To try to God (Rom. 7:18)
- To gain people's (Matt. 6:2)
- To exterminate (Col. 2:23)

» Right Motives for Holy Living

- To God (1 Cor. 10:31)
- To express our to God (John 14:15)
- To make the attractive to others (Titus 2:7–8)

Word Power

- » **Principle**—a fundamental truth based on God's character
- » **Rule**—a law that may or may not be rooted in a moral principle
- » **Civil rule**—a law governing our actions within a community

Student Work

Imagine that you're lining up at the start of a track race. This race has been your focus for the past year, even to the point where you gave up working or hanging out with friends, just so you could focus on your performance.

The starting pistol fires, and you're off. You set a good pace, quickly outdistancing your competition. Finishing your last lap, you spot the finish line and sprint across. You stop, gasping for air, waiting to hear that you've finished first, but your excitement turns to confusion as the judges announce *number 107* as the victor. When you ask why you didn't get first place, they reply, "Oh, we just felt like it."

A situation like this would make you feel angry, disappointed, and bewildered—and rightly so. There wouldn't be a point to all that training and competition if the judges didn't acknowledge and abide by the rules.

God provides rules and authorities as tools to guide us in right living. They act as safeguards against harm and evil, and as metrics to show us how well we're doing. Rules exist as much for you as for other people, ensuring your own protection when someone wrongs you.

» When to Obey Authority

God places authorities in our lives for specific reasons. When these authorities function correctly, they bring glory to God and act as a tool in our sanctification.

- What does Colossians 1:15–16 say about the origin of all authority?

Read Romans 13:1–7. Paul gives instructions on how Christians should live in their community. Showing honor to those who deserve honor is a way of loving them (vv. 7–8).

- Who sets up authorities in our lives (v. 1)?
- What happens to people who resist authorities (v. 2)?

- What does God say is the function of authorities in our lives (v. 4)?

- Do people in authority always do this perfectly?

»When Not to Obey Authority

God allows people to exercise authority in order to uphold righteousness and punish evil. Authorities are tools placed by God in our lives to help us grow, even if they do so imperfectly.

- What happens if an authority punishes us unjustly (1 Pet. 2:21–23)?

Read 1 Peter 3:13–17.

- Under what condition does Peter say we will be blessed (v. 14)?

- Which is better, to suffer for doing evil or for doing good (v. 17)?

Because we live in a sinful world, not all authorities use their power for righteousness. Sin makes a great deal of abuse possible. So there are times when we should not obey an authority if he or she commands something that God has prohibited.

»Portraits of Biblical Submission

Read Acts 4:1–6; 15–18. Peter and John were proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, and about five thousand people were saved as a result. They even healed a lame man in the name of Jesus (cf. Acts 3). But then the religious rulers—the same ones who had pushed for Jesus’ crucifixion—arrested them.

- What did the rulers and scribes command Peter and John (v. 17)?

- What was the apostles' response (v. 19)?

- How did the church respond to this threat (vv. 29 – 31)?

- Did they continue to proclaim God's Word (v. 31)?

Read Exodus 1:15–21. Long after Joseph brought his family to Egypt, the nation of Israel was still growing. But the ruler there oppressed them and enslaved them for fear that the Egyptians would be outnumbered.

- What did the king of Egypt tell the midwives to do (v. 16)?

- What did the midwives do in response (v. 18)?

- What motivated the midwives' response (v. 17)?

- How did God deal with the midwives for their actions (vv. 20–21)?

Think About It

- So what determines whether or not we should obey an authority in our lives? Support your answer.

» The Heart of Disobedience

Read Matthew 23:23–28. Jesus delivered these strong words to the Pharisees, who refused to believe His message.

- Why did the Pharisees tithe (Deut. 14:22)?

- Even though they followed the letter of God’s law, they failed to do what (v. 23)?

- What did Jesus say about their obedience (v. 28)?

Our obedience is worthless unless it’s motivated by the right attitude. We might do all the right things outwardly, but our actions are empty if done without a heart of humble submission to God.

Read Matthew 21:28–32. Jesus used this parable to illustrate the point that the religious Jews—who seemed obedient and righteous—actually refused to obey God and believe Christ.

- How did the first son respond to his father’s command (v. 29)?

- Then what did he do (v. 29)?

- How did the second son respond to his father’s command (v. 30)?

- Did the second son do what he said he would?

- Which of these two sons actually obeyed (v. 31)?

Ideally, we should both accept God’s will for us *and* do it. If we obey God in our actions, we should comply in our hearts, as well.

God warns against rebelling against His commands. When we refuse to obey God, we are really saying that we are wiser than Him. When we disobey God, we essentially put ourselves in His place.

- In Genesis 3:2 – 6, what did God forbid Adam and Eve from doing (v. 3)?

- What exactly did the serpent say to tempt Eve (v. 5)?

Adam and Eve chose to disregard God's truth in favor of their own ambition. We do the same when we ignore God's warnings and rebel against Him.



The First Claim Principle

Teacher's Lesson

» The Principle

- Definition
 - Jesus Christ has claim on the of every person.
 - We can't pursue Jesus *and* something else (Luke 9:62)
- The basis of the principle
 - Christ's
 - » (Rom. 14:7–11)
 - » of life (Col. 1:15–18)
 - Christ's
 - » (Gal. 2:20)
 - » of the new life (Rom. 5:12–21)
 - » Foundation of the (Col. 1:18)

» The Application of the Principle

- Christ owns our
 - Time
 - Money
 - Energy
 - Christ owns our (Rom. 12:2)
 - Our thinking
 - Our desires
 - Christ owns our (1 Cor. 6:18–20)
-
-

Word Power

- » **Rule**—a law that may or may not be rooted in a moral principle
 - » **Moral principle**—a fundamental truth based on God’s character
 - » **Preeminence**—first place
-
-

Student Work

Our priorities say a lot about what we value most. To discover your own priorities, answer the following questions honestly.

- What are you looking forward to doing in your free time?

- What disappoints you most?

- What are you planning on buying with your money?

- If you were suddenly given a lot of money, what would you do with it?

On an average day, how many hours do you spend . . .

Browsing the Internet	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Watching TV	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Studying the Bible	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Talking to God	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Helping someone	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Reading for fun	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Playing games	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Talking with friends	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Think About It

- How would your answers be different if, before you did any activity, you asked God what He wanted you to do with your time, money, and energy?

» Idols

- In your own words, define “idol.”

- According to Exodus 20:3–4, what does God command us not to do?

- **Read Deuteronomy 4:23–24.** What does it mean in this passage that God is “jealous”?

We might not make physical objects and pray to them today, but we can just as easily commit the sin of idolatry. If we desire or depend on anything more than God, then we are committing idolatry.

- What did Christ say in Luke 4:8 (cf. Deut. 6:13–15)?

»A Servant of Christ

Jesus Christ owns all of our resources because He is our Master and King. In the epistles, the writers often refer to themselves as “servants” of Jesus Christ. The word used here is the Greek word *doulos*, which means, “slave.” At the time the New Testament was written, slaves existed completely for the will of their masters. A slave could not decide what to do, when to eat or sleep, how to spend money, where to go, or whom to marry without his or her master’s say.

What makes it possible for us to submit to Christ’s ownership this way?

Read Philippians 2:3–8. Paul emphasizes Jesus Christ’s humble submission to God’s will.

- What does Paul warn against in verse 3?

- What should we have, that Christ also had (vv. 5, 8)?

- According to verse 7, what did Christ do?

Christ set aside all the perfection and riches of heaven to take on a human nature. Though still fully God, He limited Himself in order to fulfill God's plan and reach out to us.

- Where did Christ's obedience eventually take Him (v. 8)?

- According to 2 Corinthians 5:14–15, why did Christ die?

Paul addressed both slaves and the freed of his time in 1 Corinthians 7:22–23. He explains that people who were legally bound to service had new freedom in Jesus Christ. And those who were free in a legal sense were actually bond slaves in Jesus Christ.

- From what does Jesus Christ free us (Rom. 6:18)?

- How should you respond to Jesus as your Master or Boss?



Living by Biblical Principles

Teacher's Lesson

» Principle of

- God's
Illustrated by the most holy place in the Tabernacle

- God's
Highlights our sin

- Application:
 - God desires me to live
 - » God's approval matters most
 - » God's approval lasts for
 - God desires me to live

» Principle of and

- We live in the world, but we are not it
- Application: Follow Christ's example of outreach
 - In our
Show love to unbelievers, but don't engage in sin.

- In our []

A close partnership—such as marriage or a business relationship—between a believer and an unbeliever will produce conflicting priorities and goals.

» Principle of Right []

- Subject every thought to []
- [] how God thinks
- Application: Learn how and what God thinks by reading His Word

» Principle of the [] Believer

- We have [] in Christ
 - Use your freedom to [] others
 - [] your freedom to help weaker Christians
- Application:
 - Don't [] other believers
 - Don't [] over opinions

Word Power

» **Holiness**—God's moral purity and unique nature

Student Work

In Psalm 1, we see a person faced with two choices: to pursue the way of the wicked, or to pursue the way that God reveals in His Word. This person chooses to delight in God's law and absorb His truth. In turn, God establishes this person and blesses him with fruitfulness. As you learn and apply biblical principles to your life, God will establish you and give you spiritual success, as well.

In the teacher's lesson, we looked at four different biblical principles and how they might apply to our lives. In the following exercises, we'll explore three more principles and their impact on our thinking.

» The Principle of Fleeing Temptation

In Galatians 6:1, Paul warns believers to guard themselves against temptation.

- On what attribute of God is this principle based (James 1:13)?

As long as we still have a sin nature and live in a sinful world, we will face the temptation to sin.

- What's the source of temptation to sin, according to James 1:14–15?

- What does sin ultimately bring (v. 15)?

In order to resist temptation, we have to start before the temptation ever arises. We can't just hope for the best—we have to plan and prepare our response ahead of time. This means deciding, right now, what we will focus on and how we will try to prevent giving into temptation.

Read Psalm 101:2–4. What did David decide in each of the following verses?

- Verse 2—

- Verse 3—

- Verse 4—

- Write Romans 13:14 in your own words.

Think About It

How will you apply this principle to . . .

- Entertainment?

- Substances you ingest?

- Places you go?

- Friends you hang out with?

» Principle of Sexual Discipline

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8.

- God's will is for us is . . .

- Verse 3—

- Verse 4—

- Verse 6—

- What consequence does this sin bring (v. 6)?

- What does Matthew 15:19 say is the source of sexual immorality?

God gifted humanity with a sexual nature, and He also explained the appropriate context for sexual activity—marriage.

- According to 1 Corinthians 7:1–3, on whom should we focus our sexual desire?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:13–20.

- Is our body meant for sexual immorality (v. 13)?

- Against whom do we sin when we commit sexual sin (v. 18)?

- Why should we honor God with our bodies (vv. 19–20)?

Our sexuality helps us express *intimacy* with our spouse. Close together, a husband and wife are “one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). They can know and love each other in a way they would not with anyone else.

Unity in marriage represents our spiritual unity with Christ (Eph. 5:31–32). We should not disrespect this gift by joining someone else in sin. Since our bodies serve as temples for the Holy Spirit, we must not use our sexuality in sinful, harmful, or demeaning ways (1 Cor. 6:15–20).

» Principle of Identification

Read Matthew 5:13–16 and answer the following.

- To what does Christ compare us in verse 13?
- What happens to salt when it loses its flavor (v. 13)?

Salt really stands out—just add twice the amount called for in a recipe, and you’ll be able to tell it’s there. In the same way, Christians are to stand out from the world. But when we blend in, we lose our distinction, thereby failing to fulfill God’s purpose for leaving us in the world.

- What does Jesus say we are in verse 14?
- What is the purpose of light (v. 15)?
- Is a light useful if it is hidden? Yes No
- What does Jesus say is the purpose for “shining our light” (v. 16)?

Like a light, Christians exist in part to clarify and illumine. In doing so, we bring glory to God as we draw people’s focus to Him by our speech and behavior.



Finding God's Will

Teacher's Lesson

» God's Will

- God has control over
- Example: Christ coming to Earth

» God's Will

- Based on His
- He desires us to do right and reject wrong

» God's Will

- God's specific desires for every person
- Discerning God's individual will
 - (2 Pet. 3:9)
 - by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:5-8)
 - spiritually (1 Thess. 4:1-8)
 - Surrendered to God's (James 4:7)

» Tools for Making Decisions

-
- Scriptural
- Wise
-

» Making the Decision

Not every decision is morally or

» Are Bad Things Part of God's Will?

- They increase our on Him
- They us
- They God's power

Word Power

- » **Sovereign**—supreme; concerning universal rule
- » **Magnify**—to emphasize or enlarge

Student Work

God doesn't just tell us to do right without showing us what is right. He offers several ways for us to determine what we should do and what decisions to make.

We'll look at several questions that you should ask yourself whenever you are in doubt about a decision. They fall under the following categories:

1. How will my decision affect God?
2. How will my decision affect other people?
3. How will my decision affect me?

»How Will My Decision Affect God?

- Does this in any way bring dishonor to Christ or to His name (Col. 3:17)?
- Will the Holy Spirit be grieved if I do this (Eph. 4:25–32)?
- Does God explicitly command me not to do this in His Word (Jer. 7:23)?
- Has God stated that this is part of His will for my life in His Word (Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 5:18)?
- Is this something Christ would do (1 John 2:6)?

Read Genesis 3:1–6, 22–24.

- What do you think Eve wanted?

- Did she receive a clear command against this (v. 3)?

- What were the consequences (vv. 16–19, 22–24)?

»How Will My Decision Affect Others?

- Will my decision negatively influence the conscience of a weaker believer (1 Cor. 8:12)?
- Will this cause another person to sin (Rom. 14:13)?
- How will my decision reflect the gospel to the unsaved (Titus 2:7–8)?
- Has an authority in my life forbidden me from doing this (Rom. 13:1)?
- Will my decision harm or bring shame to my parents (Prov. 19:26)?
- In making this decision, will I treat others the way I would want someone to treat me (Luke 6:31)?

Read Galatians 2:11–16. God made it clear to Peter that He accepted the faith of non-Jews (Acts 10:9–16; 34–35). Yet some Jews still discriminated against Gentile Christians, who did not observe Jewish laws or customs.

- What did Peter do (v. 12)?

- Who else followed Peter's example (v. 13)?

- How did Paul respond to Peter's actions (v. 14)?

The conflict here was more than a cultural misunderstanding, though. It distorted the gospel of grace.

- Why was it so important for Paul to correct Peter for his actions (vv. 14, 16)?

»How Will My Decision Affect Me?

- Will this break my fellowship with God (1 John 1:6)?
- Will this harm my body (1 Cor. 6:13, 19–20)?
- Will this cause me to neglect my relationship with God (Deut. 30:17)?
- Does this hinder my service for God, even though it may not be sinful (Heb. 12:1)?

Sometimes we have the opportunities to either accept or waive our rights for the glory of God.

Read Luke 4:28–30.

- What did the people try to do (v. 29)?

- Why did they want to do this (v. 28)?

- What did Jesus do (v. 30)?

Jesus came to Earth to lay down His life, but He did not allow people to take His life before the appointed time. Christ preserved His life on numerous occasions before the cross, and He cared for His physical body by eating and sleeping.

Think About It

- What is a big decision that you are facing right now?

How will your decision affect . . .

- God?

- Others?

- You?



Friendship

Teacher's Lesson

» Friendship Defined

- The relationship we have with a chosen companion
- Types of friends
 -
 - friends
 - friends
 - friends

» The Importance of Friends

- They spiritual growth
- They help us God's goodness
- They show and
- They give

» Bad Friends

- (Prov. 16:29)
- (Prov. 22:24–25)
- (Eph. 5:18)

- - They regard wisdom and instruction with hate and disgust (Prov. 1:7; 12:15).
 - They mock that which is good and godly (Prov. 14:9).
- (Prov. 20:19)
 - Make fun of spiritual things
 - Criticize others unnecessarily
 - Show contempt for those who are different or weak
 - Betray trust and share secrets
 - Create drama and division for no good reason

» Good Friends

Those who reflect the way treats us

» Friendship Success

- Display love (1 John 3:14–17)
 - Love is
 - Love is
 - Love is
 - Love is
 - Love is
- Share truth (Eph. 4:15)
 -
 -
 - Exchange

Word Power

- » **Friend**—a chosen companion whose company one enjoys
 - » **Friendship**—the relationship we have with a friend
-
-

Student Work

In the teacher's lesson, we looked at types of friends, and how to make friendship succeed. In this lesson, we'll look at more characteristics of right and wrong friends.

» Characteristics of Right Friends

Look up the following verses and write the principle found in each.

- **Example:** Ecclesiastes 4:9–12—Two people are better than one because they can help each other.
- Proverbs 11:14—
- Proverbs 13:20—
- Proverbs 17:17—
- Proverbs 27:17—
- Proverbs 27:9—
- Proverbs 27:6—

» Characteristics of Wrong Friends

- 1 Corinthians 15:33—
- Proverbs 22:24–25—
- Proverbs 16:28—
- Proverbs 17:9—
- Job 6:14—
- Job 42:7—
- Psalm 1:4–6—
- Proverbs 19:4, 6—
- Proverbs 19:27, 29—

Think About It

- What are some specific ways that you can be a better friend?

- Are your friends the right kind, or the wrong kind?

- What changes do you need to make regarding who you spend time with the most?



LESSON 34

The Church

Teacher's Lesson

» What Is the Church?

- The
The church made up of believers
- The
A gathering of believers

» The Origin of the Church

- Christ is the
- Christ is the

» The Nature of the Church

- A (1 Cor. 12:12–17)
 - The body is made of (Rom. 12:4–5)
 - The body has a (Eph. 4:15)
 - » The head provides to the body (Col. 1:18)
 - » The head and cares for the body (Eph. 5:29)

- A (2 Cor. 11:2)
 - Christ is with the church (Eph. 5:31–32)
 - Christ for the church (Eph. 5:25–27)
- A
 - One (Eph. 2:19)

» The Work of the Church

- Purpose of the church
 - To God by helping believers grow more like Christ
- Functions of the church
 - Gifts of (Rom. 12:3–8)
 - »
 - »
 - » Used to serve other
 -
 -
 - Corporate
 - and
 - Ordinances
 - »
 - » The
 -
 - and

» Threats to the Church

- Spiritual
- False
-

» The Outlook for the Church

- Even the gates of hell will not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18)
- Just as the gospel has endured to the present day, so the church will continue to endure by God's grace.

Word Power

- » **Universal church**—all believers
- » **The assembly**—a local gathering of believers
- » **Worship**—to give God praise, adoration, glory, and gratitude
- » **Ordinances**—communal observances in the assembly established by Christ

Student Work

Although faced with opposition at every turn, the believers in Acts demonstrated Christ's intended functions of the church.

Read Acts 2:42–47.

- What functions of the church did these believers carry out together?

»Bible Study

Read Acts 18:24–26.

- How is Apollos described (vv. 24–25)?

- Who helped and taught Apollos (v. 26)?

- What specifically did they do for him (v. 26)?

»Prayer and Worship

Read Acts 4:24–31.

- For what did these believers pray (v. 29)?

- What prompted them to pray this (Acts 4:1–3)?

- What happened after their prayer (v. 31)?

»Fellowship and Support

Read Acts 9:36–42.

- Who had a reputation for good works (v. 36)?

- How had she ministered to people (v. 39)?

»Ordinances

Read Acts 19:1–5.

- What did the believers do in verse 5?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:20, 23–28.

- About what did Paul instruct the Corinthian believers in this passage?

- What are believers to do regarding this ordinance (vv. 24–25)?

- What does the bread represent (v. 24)?

- What does the cup represent (v. 25)?

- What are we to do before taking this ordinance (v. 28)?

»Giving

Read Acts 11:27–30.

- What did the believers do (v. 29)?

- Why did they do this (v. 28)?

Read Philippians 4:14–18.

- What did Paul say this church did for him (v. 16)?

Read Acts 4:34–5:11.

- Why were people selling and giving away land and possessions (vv. 34–35)?

- What did Ananias and his wife do (Acts 5:1–2)?

The problem was not that Ananias and Sapphira used their resources for their own needs, but rather that they weren't honest about the amount they were donating. They lied about what they kept back in order to make themselves look better.

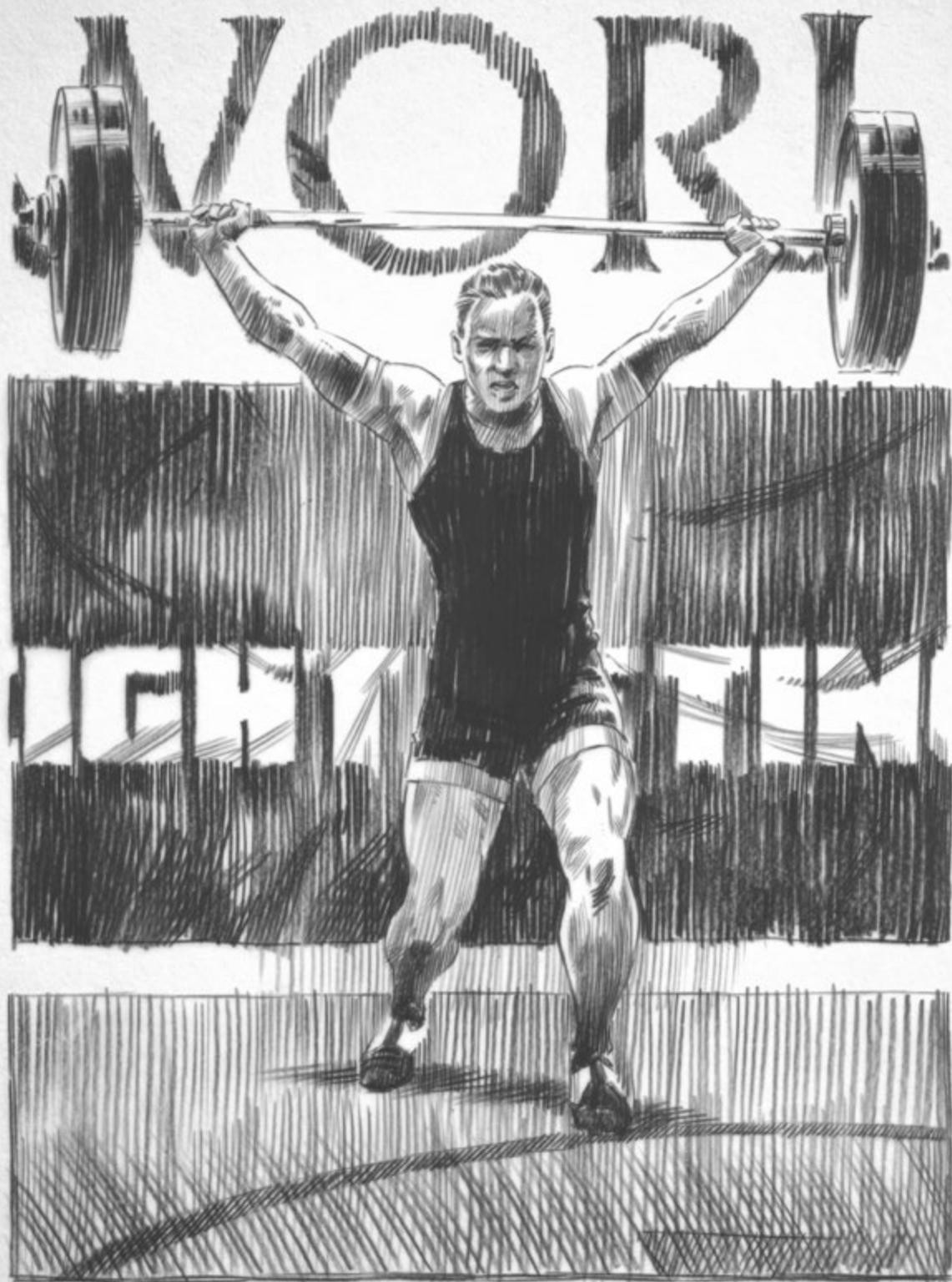
- To whom did Ananias and Sapphira really lie (v. 4)?

» Evangelism and Outreach

Read Acts 5:27–32.

- What did the High Priest tell the apostles not to do (v. 28)?

- What was Peter's response (v. 29)?



Spiritual Disciplines

Teacher's Lesson

» Why Discipline Ourselves Spiritually?

It helps us grow to be more like Christ (Eph. 4:20–24; Heb. 12:11).

» Who Does the Growing?

- While we have responsibilities to obey God and learn about Him, is the one who sanctifies us.
- To be effective, spiritual disciplines must be . . .
 -
 -
 -

» Spiritual Disciplines

- - Preaching and Teaching
 - Reading
 - Research
 - Singing

-
-
-
-
-
- and
 - Service
 - Encouragement
 - »
 - » Show
 - » Show that you
 - » —speak words that promote spiritual growth

» **Balancing** and

- We can give to others only as much as we are being filled
- Two dangers
 - Refusal to serve others at all
 - The belief that other people deserve *all* of your time and resources and that you deserve none or very little

Word Power

- » **Discipline**—a training tool for our benefit
- » **Edify**—to speak words that promote spiritual growth

Student Work

Discipline is hard work, but we can only see improvement through action. If we want to get stronger physically, we have to push ourselves and do things that aren't comfortable. We won't build any muscle by just sitting all the time and eating anything we want.

And if we want to further our goal of becoming like Christ, we have to engage in spiritual exercise. God uses this exercise to train us, making us stronger in Him.

If you're not doing any spiritual disciplines, pick three to start. Don't take too much at once—better to be consistent with one than forgetful with three. If you're already practicing several spiritual disciplines, review what you're doing and think of new ways to approach those disciplines. For example, if you are already reading the Bible, get a chronological Bible to help you learn about its historical timeline. If you pray regularly, find a friend with whom you can meet once or twice a week to pray together.

Also be sure to set a goal, or a set of goals, for each discipline. That way you can track the progress you make, and challenge yourself to persevere. Perhaps in praying, your goal might be to keep a record of answered prayer for a year. Remember, these goals aren't a way to measure your progress toward becoming like Christ. They are simply a form of self-encouragement.

»My Plan for Spiritual Disciplines

Activity:

Time of Day: Number of Days per Week:

Goal:

Activity:

Time of Day: Number of Days per Week:

Goal:

Activity:

Time of Day: Number of Days per Week:

Goal:

»Review

We have finally come to the end of our study of the basics of dynamic Christian living.

You may be surprised at how much you have learned this year. To check up on how much you remember, work through the following multiple-choice statements. Choose the best answer to complete each statement. Try to answer all the questions without looking back in your book. How much will you remember?

1. The word that means “to rescue or set free” is
(a) **redeem** (b) **save** (c) **reconcile**.
2. The “new birth” whereby we gain a new, spiritual life is called
(a) **regeneration** (b) **remission** (c) **justification**.
3. The act of being declared righteous by God is
(a) **redemption** (b) **remission** (c) **justification**.
4. The correct answer to the question, “What must I do to be saved?” is
(a) **be baptized**
(b) **believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**
(c) **join the church**.

5. The correct order for the four steps that gave us our Bible is
(a) inspiration, organization, collection, preservation
(b) organization, collection, inspiration, preservation
(c) collection, inspiration, organization, preservation.
6. Jesus fulfilled over (a) 30 (b) 100 (c) 300 Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.
7. The first five books of the Hebrew Bible is the section known as the (a) prophets (b) law (c) writings.
8. The list of divinely inspired books in our Bible is called the (a) Canon (b) Apocrypha (c) Septuagint.
9. The ancient book with the largest quantity of manuscript evidence is (a) Homer's Iliad (b) the Old Testament (c) the New Testament.
10. The picture of the Bible that reminds us that it sustains life, growth, and reproduction is (a) a mirror (b) a light (c) water.
11. The picture of the Bible that reminds us that it purifies the heart and destroys sin is (a) fire (b) a hammer (c) seed.
12. The people in Acts 17 who did not accept what Paul said without studying the Scriptures for themselves were the (a) Thessalonians (b) Bereans (c) Romans.
13. The aspect of prayer by which we offer our requests to God is called (a) confession (b) adoration (c) supplication.
14. The apostles regarded (a) feeding the hungry (b) taking care of the widows (c) prayer as an important work.
15. According to Matthew 6:6, if we pray in secret, God will
(a) listen to our prayers
(b) reward us openly
(c) keep others from knowing what our requests are.
16. The hindrance to prayer referred to in Psalm 66:18 is the presence of (a) sin (b) doubt (c) apathy.

17. According to John 15, believers are to abide in
(a) Christ
(b) the Word of God
(c) Christ and the Word of God.
18. The purpose of the Lord's Prayer is to
(a) teach us how to pray
(b) show us how Christ prayed
(c) show us how the disciples prayed.
19. When we "hallow" God's name, we are
(a) talking about Him with other people
(b) treating it with respect
(c) calling upon Him for our needs.
20. The petition concerning ourselves in the Lord's Prayer that focuses on our physical needs is
(a) give us our bread
(b) forgive us our debts
(c) deliver us from evil.
21. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19, after we are saved we become
(a) the temple of the Holy Spirit
(b) ambassadors for Christ
(c) children of God.
22. The first step in witnessing is
(a) following up
(b) creating relationships
(c) communicating what Christ means to me.
23. The verse that tells us that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe is Romans (a) 1:16 (b) 3:23 (c) 10:9.
24. Christ died
(a) as our substitute (b) on accident (c) as a martyr.
25. The first truth of the gospel is that
(a) Jesus paid our sin debt
(b) sin has a penalty
(c) everyone is a sinner.

26. One response to the objection, “I have sinned too much,” is by reminding the person
(a) salvation is valuable
(b) God saved the chief of sinners
(c) God will be our Friend.
27. Discipleship involves
(a) witnessing (b) mentoring (c) repentance.
28. We depend on God’s grace for
(a) salvation
(b) sanctification
(c) both salvation and sanctification.
29. A fundamental truth based on God’s character, work, and words is called a (a) principle (b) rule (c) parable.
30. The specific application of a principle is called a
(a) standard (b) rule (c) discipline.
31. The principle that says we should use our freedom in Christ to serve others is the
(a) Principle of Fleeing Temptation
(b) First Claim Principle
(c) Principle of Light and Darkness.
32. Christ coming to earth to die for our sin is an example of God’s (a) moral will (b) sovereign will (c) individual will.
33. The right kind of friends
(a) encourage our spiritual growth
(b) always agree with us
(c) defend us when we do wrong.
34. God compares the church to a (a) ship (b) tomb (c) body.
35. Spiritual disciplines aid our
(a) salvation (b) sanctification (c) communication.