



FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST

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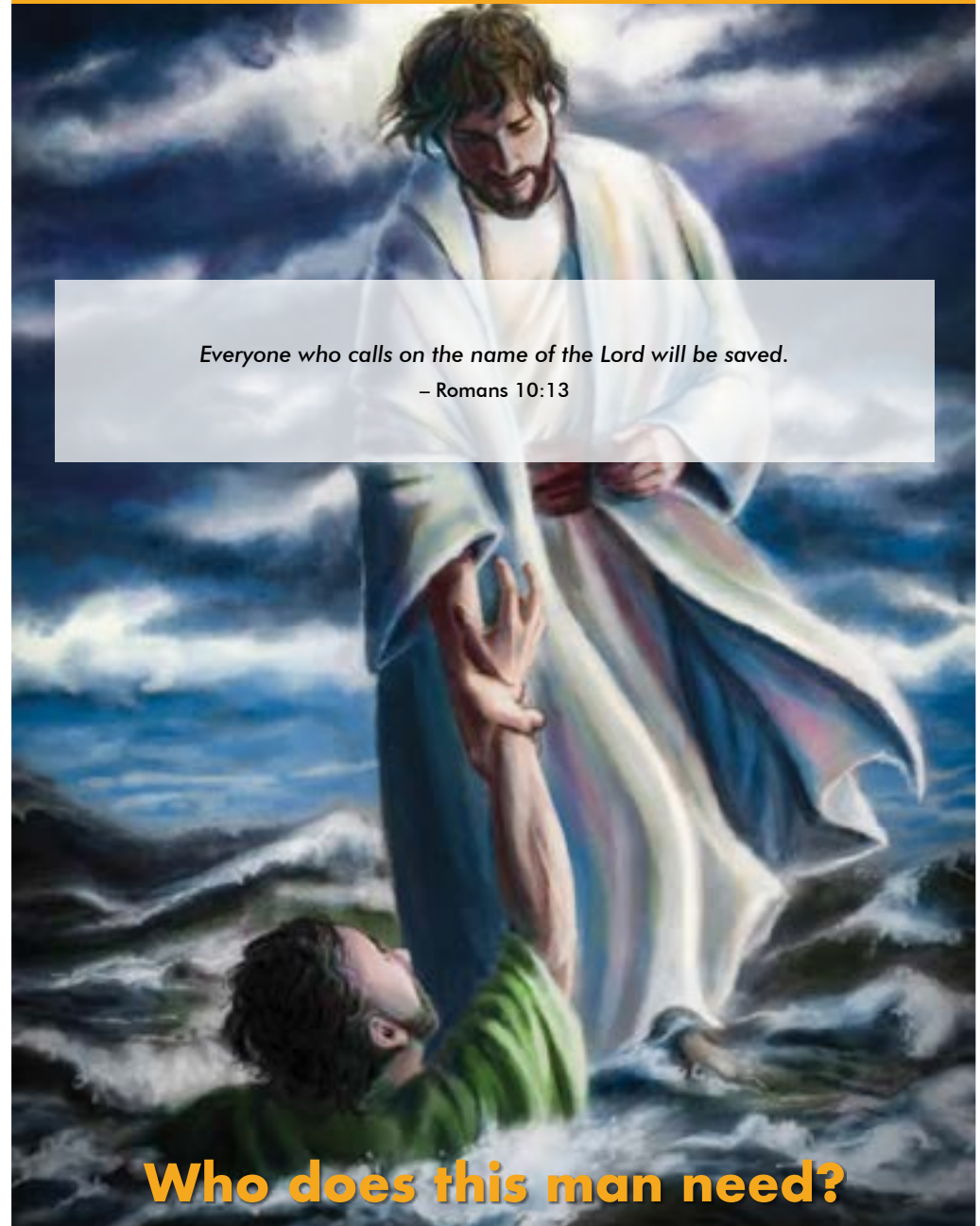
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1 JESUS CHRIST SURELY SAVED ME!





1 Corinthians 15:3-4

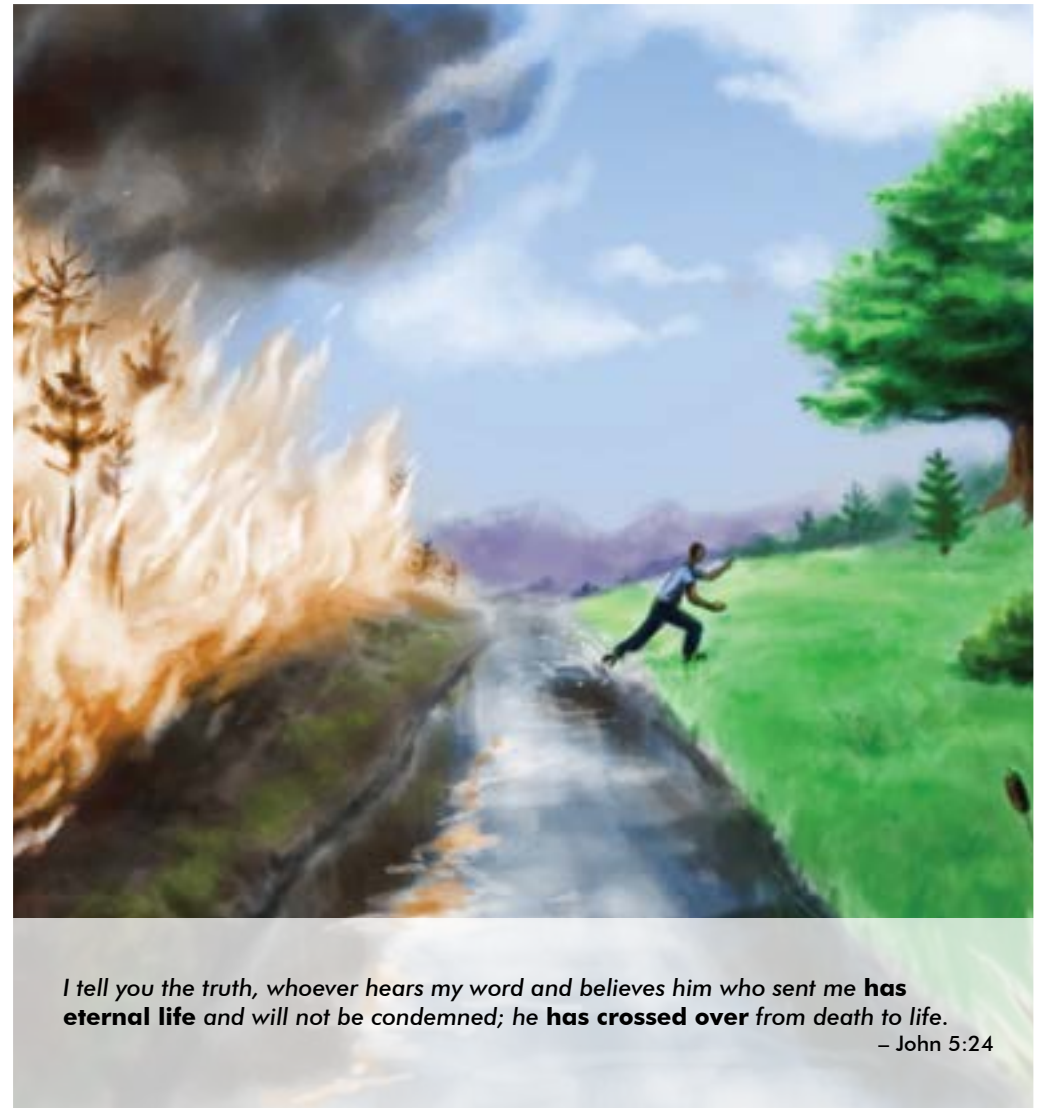
- **Why did Jesus die? What does it mean to "die for our sins"?**

John 19:30

- **What did Jesus mean when he said on the cross, "It is finished."?**

Acts 16:30-31

- **What does it mean to "Believe in the Lord Jesus?"**



John 5:24

- **What must a person do to receive eternal life?**
- **Discuss the importance of "has eternal life" vs. "will have eternal life" and "has crossed over" vs "will cross over."**



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me is greater than all, no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

– John 10:27-29

John 10:27-29

- **Who tries to snatch believers from Jesus? Why not?**
- **What can Satan do and what can't he do to believers?**
- **Describe how knowing this truth makes you feel about your salvation.**



He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus

– Philippians 1:6

Philippians 1:6

- **What does this verse promise us God will do?**



Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

– Psalm 116:15

Psalm 116:15

- **How does God see your death? Describe how that makes you feel.**

BE CAREFUL!

- ...of thinking that when you sin, you have lost your salvation.
- ...of the falsehood that when other people don't forgive your sins, then God hasn't forgiven your sins.
- ...of doubting if your sins are forgiven because you don't feel like they have been.

START READING YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY.

2

FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST

Whoever serves me must follow me.

– John 12:26

How do you follow Jesus Christ?

LEAVE... by dying



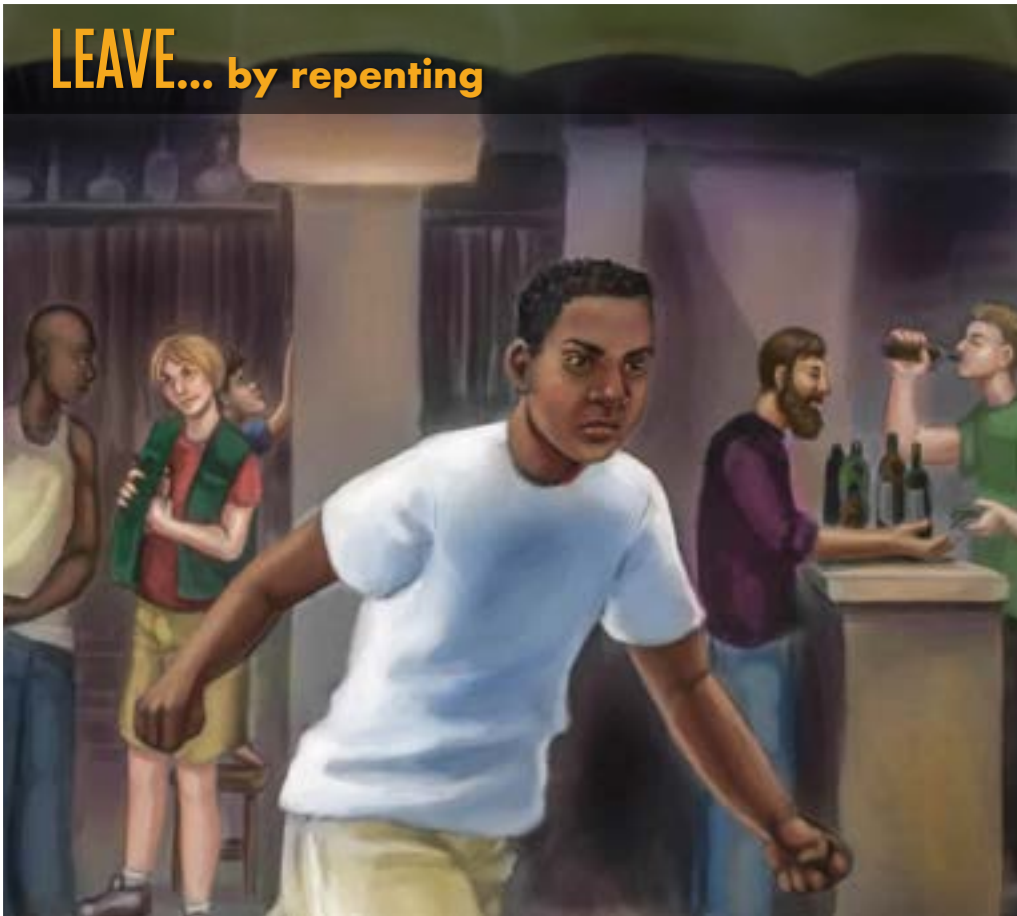
Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

– Colossians 3:5

Colossians 3:5

- **What is the difference between “putting to death” a sin and “taking it prisoner?”**

LEAVE... by repenting



Turn away from ungodliness

He must turn from evil and...

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but...

- **Think of two ways to show you have repented from a sin.**



Turn toward righteous living

...do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.

– 1 Peter 3:11

...must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

– Ephesians 4:28

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

– Ephesians 2:10

LEARN... from what He taught



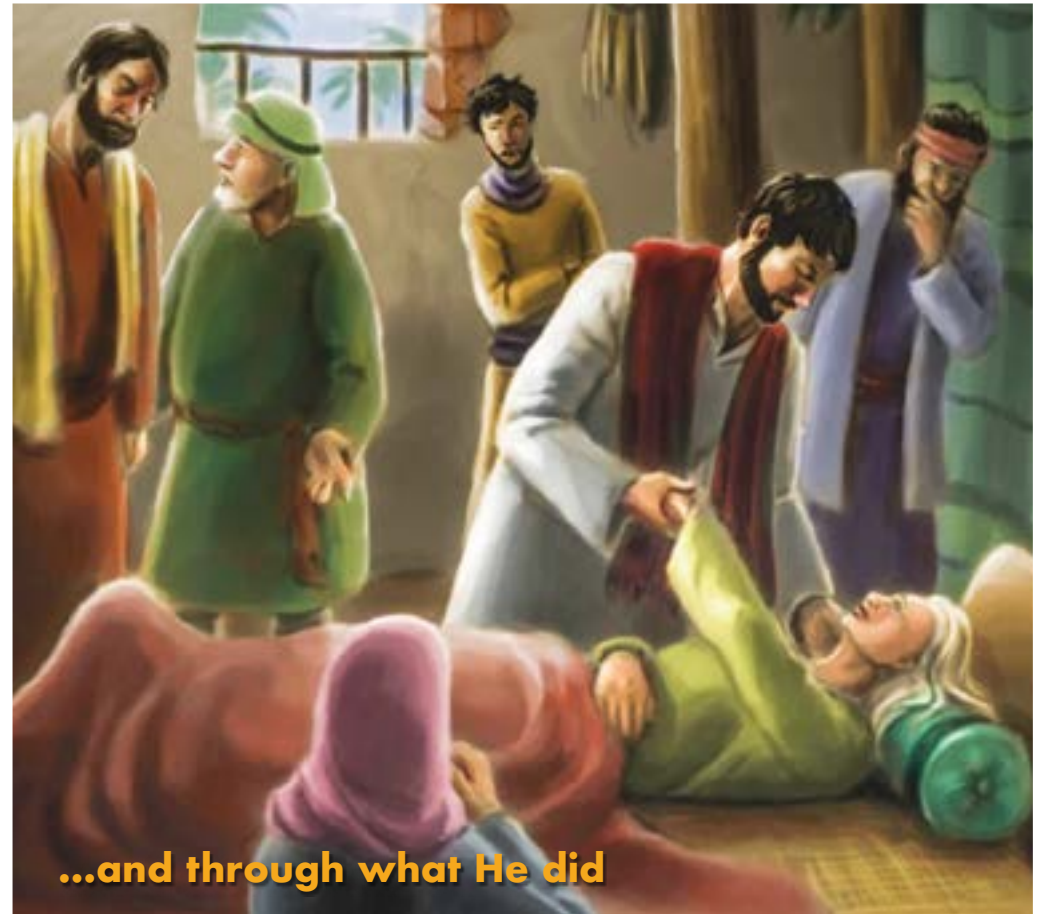
Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

– John 8:31-32

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...

– Matthew 5:43-44

- **What did the disciples learn from listening to Jesus in these teachings?**



...and through what He did

Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait them.

– Mark 1:30

Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

– Matthew 8:26b

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

– John 13:12

- **What did the disciples learn from watching what Jesus did in these situations?**

IMITATE...



Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

– 1 Corinthians 11:1

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

– John 15:12-13

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

– Matthew 20:26-28

- **What does it mean to imitate someone?**

BE CAREFUL!

- **When you fellowship with other Christians you will see church members and leaders who do not want to change their lives for Christ. They sin freely. Do not follow their example. Jesus commands us to be holy in everything. Do what Jesus Christ commands even if no one else does!**

3

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

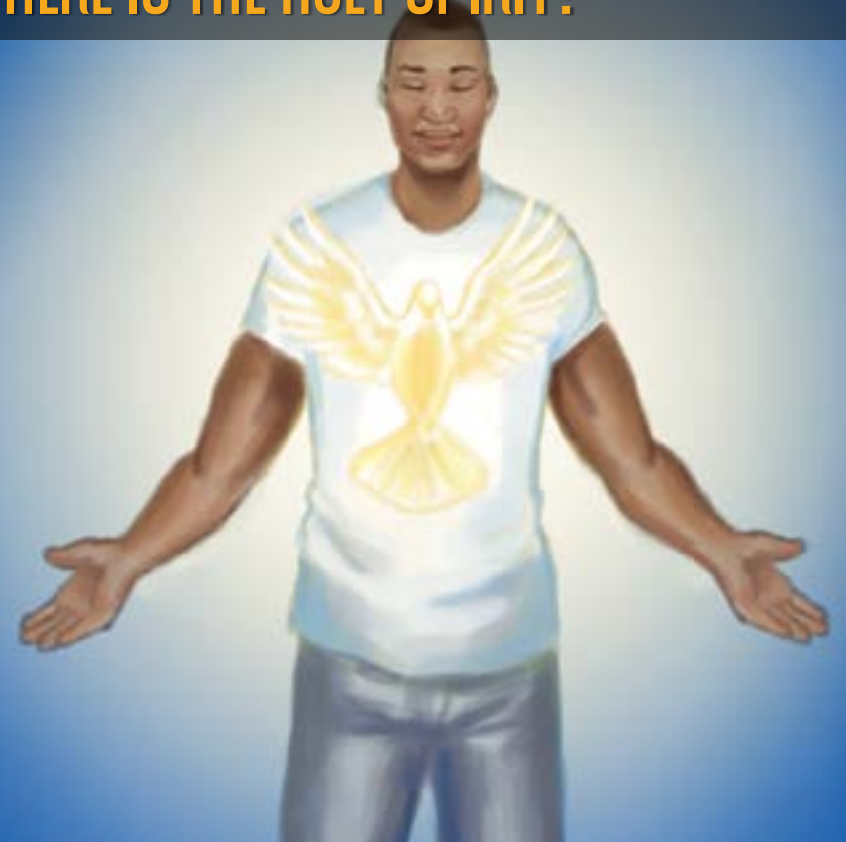


But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

– John 15:26

Who is the Holy Spirit?

WHERE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?



Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

– 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- **Where is the Holy Spirit?**
- **Since you have such a close connection to the Holy Spirit how should that change your daily living?**

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US



But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

– John 14:26

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

– Romans 8:14-16

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

– Acts 1:8

...because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

– Romans 5:5

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

– Romans 8:26

■ How does the Holy Spirit work for us?

- From John 14?
- From Acts 1?
- From Romans 8?

■ What else does the Holy Spirit do for us?

- From Romans 5?
- From Romans 8?

■ In the way the Holy Spirit ministers, does He use spiritual or physical force?

■ Give examples of how to respond to each of his actions to us.

RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT



For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

– Romans 8:13

Romans 8:13

- **How are the misdeeds of the body put to death?**
- **How much is the Holy Spirit doing it and how much are you?**

Listen to the Spirit

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

– Revelation 2:7

Walk by the Holy Spirit

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

– Galatians 5:15

Be filled with the Holy Spirit

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

– Ephesians 5:18

DO NOT GRIEVE OR RESIST THE HOLY SPIRIT



And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

– Ephesians 4:30-32

“You stiff-necked people!... You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

– Acts 7:51

- **What do we do that grieves the Holy Spirit? Why does this grieve Him?**
- **I thought God is all powerful. How is it possible to resist the Holy Spirit?**

ENJOYING LIFE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

– Galatians 5:22-23

Galatians 5:22-23

- **Discuss the differences of how the world gets love, joy, etc. and how Christians can?**

BE CAREFUL!

- ...of people saying you must speak in tongues as a sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ...of people focusing their attention on signs and miracles as being the main focus of the Christian life.
- ...of people who deny any supernatural activity of the Spirit.

4

MATURING THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD



Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

– 2 Peter 1:20-21

Who wrote the Bible?

BENEFITS OF STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD



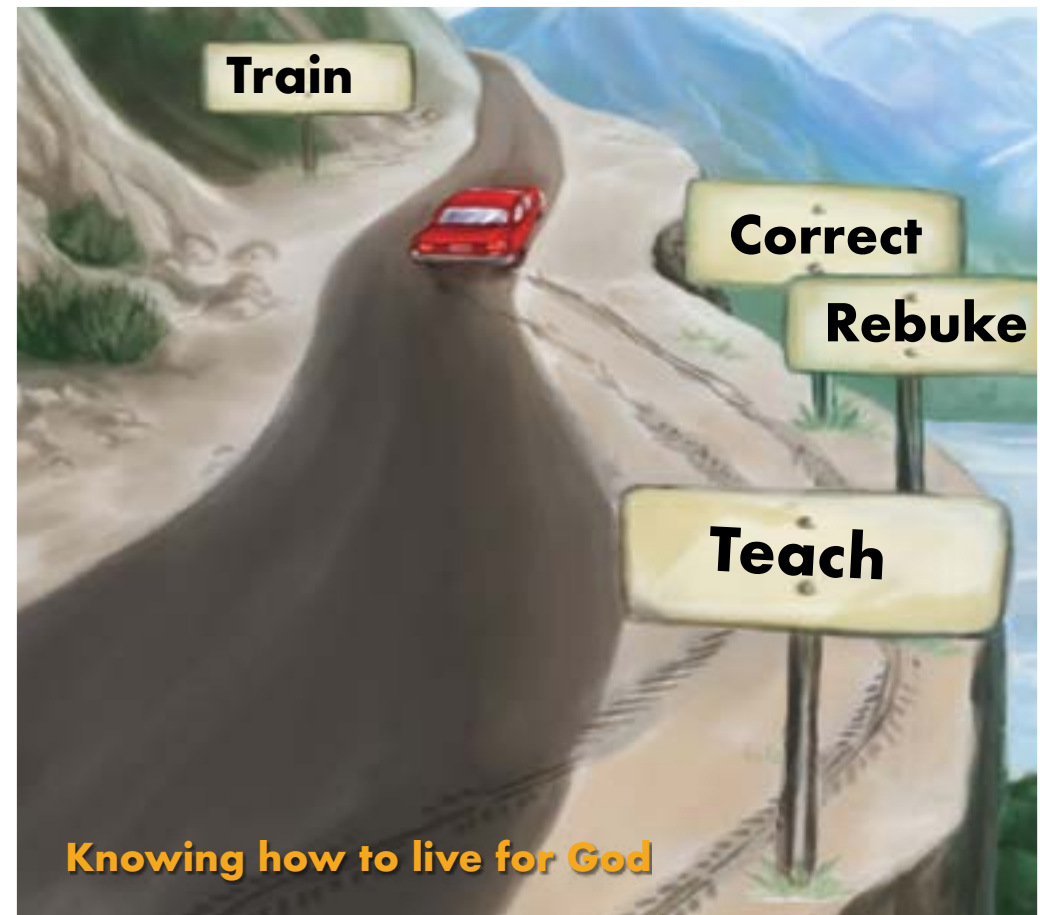
Knowing who God is

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

– Ephesians 1:17

Ephesians 1:17

- How can we grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ?
- Discuss: I have my own thoughts about God. I can just add them to what the Bible says about Him and Jesus.



Knowing how to live for God

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

– 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- What 4 things can the Bible do for you in your Christian life?
- What is the goal?

THE TRUTHS IN THE BIBLE ARE RELIABLE



I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

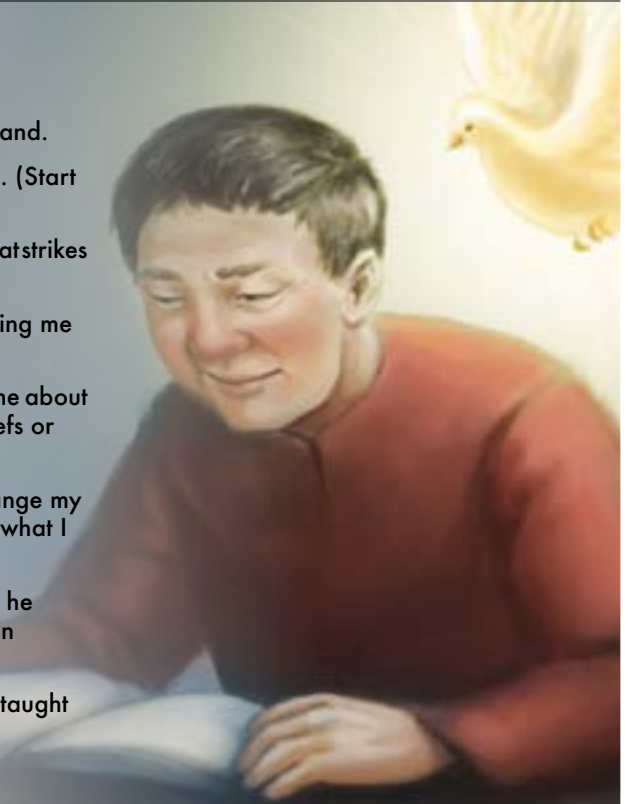
– Luke 6:47-48

Luke 6:47-48

- **How is living by the truths of the Bible like building a house on solid ground?**
- **Discuss: If I live like the Bible says in everything, I will live a boring, unenjoyable life.**

AN EXAMPLE OF A TIME STUDYING THE BIBLE

1. Find a quiet, lonely place.
2. Ask God to help you understand.
3. Choose a section in the Bible. (Start with one of the gospels.)
4. Read the verses once. Note what strikes you. Then read them again.
5. What is the Holy Spirit teaching me about who God/Jesus is?
6. What is this section teaching me about how I should correct my beliefs or actions?
7. How should I specifically change my life today or this week, from what I learned?
8. Pray—thanking God for what he taught, and ask for His help in changing your life.
9. Share with others what God taught you.



For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

– Ezra 7:10

Ezra 7:10

- **Why is it important to do all three things in order?**

BE CAREFUL!

- Some people can try and prove anything they want in **ONE** verse. Go back to the Bible and read the whole paragraph to understand correctly what verses mean.
- Some people know a lot of truths in the Bible, but don't live the Bible. Knowing is important, but not as important as living a life pleasing to God.
- Some people use the Bible wrongly as an idol.

5 COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

*Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled...
I was pouring out my soul to the Lord."*

– 1 Samuel 1:15



Describe how Hannah prayed

WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOD

I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.

– 1 Corinthians 14:14-15

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

– Ephesians 5:18-19

- **How can we communicate with God?**
- **Can God know what our heart is singing?**
- **Are there any other ways you can communicate with God?**

PRAYING IN JESUS NAME

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

– John 14:13-14

- **What does it mean to pray “in Jesus name?”**

BENEFITS OF COMMUNICATION



Builds our relationship with God

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

– James 4:8

We may receive help for others and for ourselves

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

– Matthew 7:7

Strengthens us spiritually

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.

– Matthew 26:41

- **How does prayer develop our relationship with God?**
- **Why is asking God important? Do I need to ask God in order to receive?**
- **How does prayer strengthen us? The disciples didn’t pray, then what happened?**

APPROACHING GOD IN PRAYER



Faith

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

– Hebrews 11:6

Humility

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

– Luke 18:10-14

Sincerity

"These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

– Isaiah 29:13

Confidence

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

– Hebrews 4:16

- **What are some ways that can help you come to God in humility?**
- **Why shouldn't I just pray memorized prayers over and over again?**
- **What does the Isaiah verse say must be connected to your lips? Why?**
- **What does impossible mean and how does that show its importance in prayer?**
- **Comment on the statement: I can please God by telling him my request –nothing else matters.**

AN EXAMPLE OF A TIME OF PRAYER

1. Find a lonely place (like Jesus did).
2. Remember your presence before God.
3. Is there something you need to confess?
4. Is there something you should thank Him for?
5. What are your requests?



6. What do you want for others?
7. Believe God for everything.
8. Leave it to His grace and will to act.

BE CAREFUL!

- ...of praying from a lists of requests or people to God. The important thing to God is that you pray from a caring heart.
- ...of making long, wordy prayers so that others will respect you. (Remember Hannah's prayer.)

6 THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS



Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

— John 1:12-13



**What has happened to you
in relation to God
and other believers?**

THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST



And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

– Colossians 1:18

So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

– Romans 12:5

- **List the blessings and responsibilities you have with an earthly family and compare them to the responsibilities you have with your spiritual family.**
- **Comment on this statement. "Last week a large storm came and the church collapsed."**

GOD GAVE EACH OF US SPIRITUAL GIFTS



Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

– 1 Corinthians 12:7

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

– Romans 12:6-8

1 Corinthians 12:7

- **What has God done for each one of us? Why?**

Romans 12:6-8

- **What are some examples of gifts?**
- **How can I know what my gift is?**

AS A FAMILY, WE NEED EACH OTHER



Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

– Galatians 6:2

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

– Ephesians 4:32

Galatians 6:2

- **What does it mean to carry each other's burdens?**
- **Is needing other brothers and sisters in Christ a shameful sign of weakness?**

1 Thessalonians 5:11

- **What are some important ways to encourage others?**

LOVING ONE ANOTHER IS THE HEART OF THE CHURCH



A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

– John 13:34-35

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light.

– 1 John 2:9

- **Describe how Jesus' love for us shows us how to love one another.**
- **What does the world understand from seeing our love for other Christians?**
- **Comment on this: I should love unbelievers more because they are not saved.**

BE CAREFUL!

- ...of thinking the church is the building. The Church is the family of believers.
- ...of thinking you don't need other believers, and stop getting together with them.
- ...of thinking a church needs to be perfect for you to go.

7 LIVING DAILY IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness

– 2 Peter 1:3



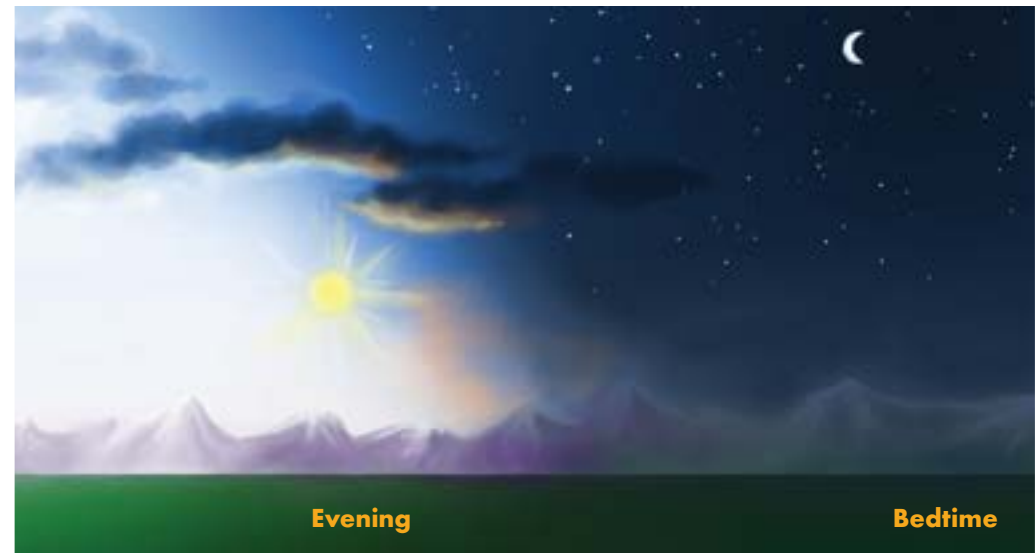
1. List and draw the challenges to your faith.

- **What are the challenges?** (To do something or not to do something)
- **When does each one happen?** (Draw at what time)
- **How difficult is each one?** (Draw how high)
- **How long does each one last?** (Draw how wide)



2. How can the resources God gave you, help you to overcome each challenge to your faith?

- **Your relationship with Jesus Christ**
- **Your faith in God**
- **Your knowing that your sins are forgiven and that you have eternal life**
- **Knowing that you need to follow Jesus, by putting to death the old person, learning from Jesus, and imitating him**
- **Having the Holy Spirit within you**
- **Reading the Word of God**
- **Relating to God in prayer**
- **Fellowshipping with your brothers and sisters in the Lord**



Interacting with the resources



Faith

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

– Hebrews 11:6

Actions

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them –yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

– 1 Corinthians 15:10

Hebrews 11:6

- **How do you please God?**
- **What do you need to believe?**

1 Corinthians 15:10

- **How did Paul respond to the grace of God given him?**
- **What is your role in the use of the resources which are available?**