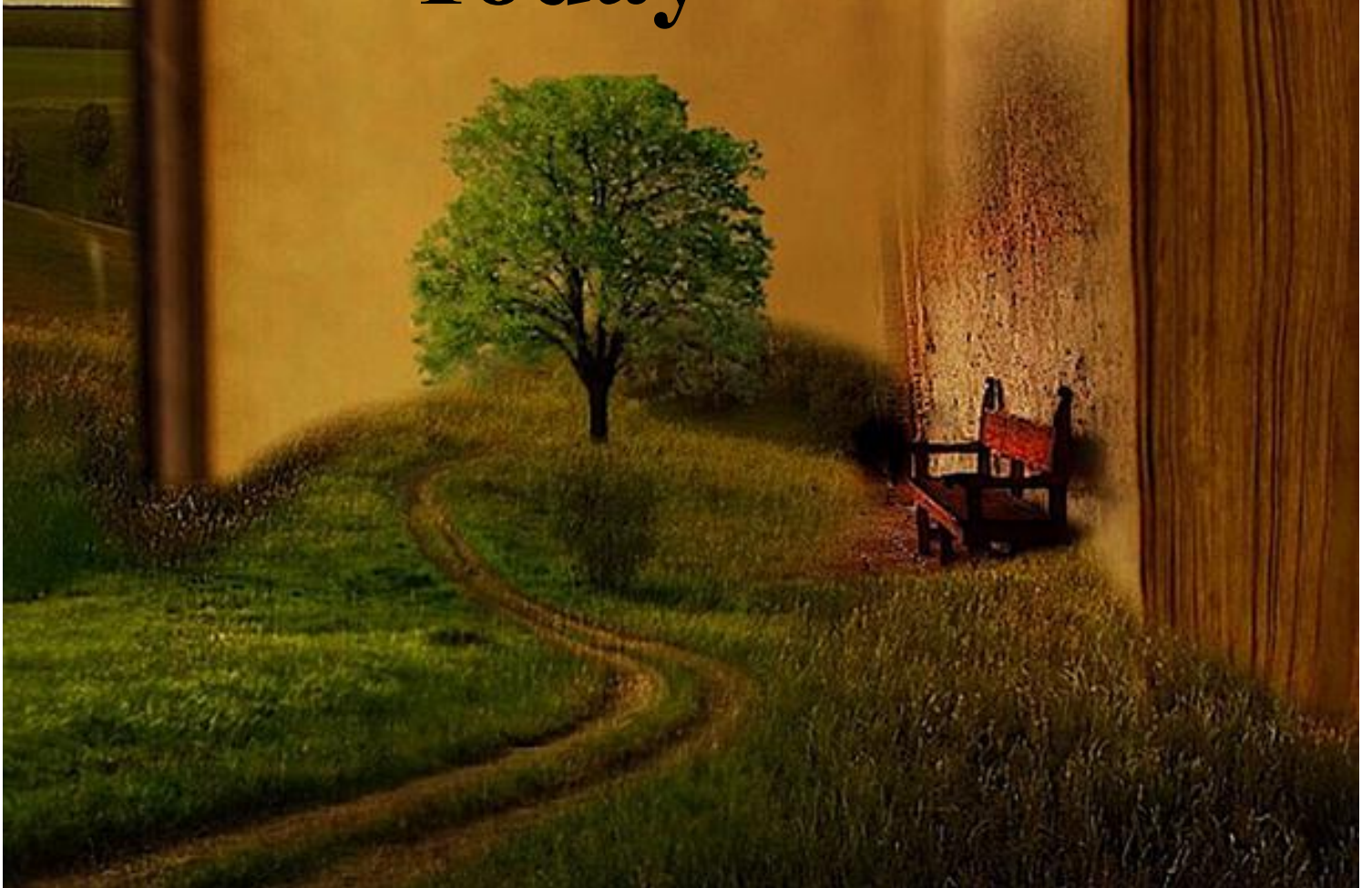


New Christian Growth Series

Topical Study:

Jesus is Alive Today





Instructions:

1. Please fill in the blanks in these lessons and the review booklet, using a King James Version of the Bible.
2. When you are finished, keep this lesson book and **return the completed review booklet** by U.S. mail or e-mail to:

Plowman's Academy

575 US Highway 250 OR plowman@mapministry.org

Greenwich, OH 44837

3. When we receive your review booklet, we will grade it, send it back to you, and send the next course in this volume.
4. When you have completed all 12 books in this course, we will send you a certificate.

Plowman's Academy was started to provide the opportunity for teens and adults to study God's Word more deeply, imitate Jesus more closely, and be more sensitive and obedient to God's Holy Spirit—all through the means of correspondence (communication by letters or mail) courses. Jesus taught us that when we set out to follow Him, we ought to do so with no regrets, no second thoughts, and no turning back. We welcome you to join us as we aim to turn from sin, surrender to God, seek Him until He rains righteousness upon us, and then follow Him faithfully and fully forever. Let us look always to Jesus and live always for eternity, for Jesus Christ is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

Thank you for joining us. An academy is a place of study or training in a specific subject or skill. At Plowman's Academy, the subject is Jesus. Put your hand to the plow and do not look back.



And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

~Luke 9:62

Giving Credit and Appreciation to Ray Witmer

Ray Witmer, author of this Bible study curriculum, has given us permission to use his studies taken from the Word of God.

We are very grateful and appreciate Brother Ray's heart for God and his willingness to let us use his resources to spread God's Word among this generation of people.

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

~Hosea 10:12

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INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR BIBLE LESSONS

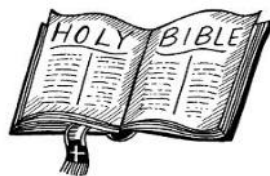
- A. The Bible verses used in this study are taken from the King James Version of the Bible, translated out of the original tongues with the former translation diligently compared and revised.
- B. Before doing each lesson, take time to ask God to open your understanding and show you the truth.
- C. For the best results, do only one lesson each day. Meditate on each day's lesson (there are four weeks of lessons per book).
- D. Keep in mind that these lessons are based on what the Bible says and not on man's opinion.
- E. These lessons are designed to help you to know the truth, to know the Lord in a personal way, and to trust what the Bible says and teaches you.
- F. Remember, it is not what you, I, or any preacher says, but what the Bible says.
- G. You must learn to stand on what the Bible says to "study to show yourself approved unto God, workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)
- H. Who wrote the Bible? (2 Peter 1:21).
- I. All Scripture is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16).
- J. Regardless of what man says, the believer (Christian) has direct access to the throne of God and is responsible directly to God. This access is through Jesus Christ and Him only (1 Timothy 2:5).
- K. These studies are to help you have peace of mind (Isaiah 26:3-4).
- L. These studies will help you know if you are going to heaven or hell (Romans 10:13).
- M. These lessons will help you with assurance and security; these are not the same. The securing of the believer is God's work. It is a part of God's great work of salvation depending solely upon His infinite grace. Assurance is the believer's acceptance of the security provided for him in Christ. It is the result of the human soul resting in what God has promised in His Word to accomplish. This is why it is important to know what the Bible says (1 John 5:11-13).



**TAKE TIME TO READ BELOW
BEFORE DOING THIS LESSON**

Meditate on the Scriptures of This Lesson and
Ask Yourself These Questions:

1. What do these verses teach me about God and myself?
2. Is there an example here to follow or avoid?
3. Is there a command, a promise, or a warning that I need to apply?
4. What action do I need to take to align my life with this truth?



The Bible is the Word of God

LESSON 1

NO HOPE WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

In today's lesson, you will see the Bible challenging people in the Corinthian church, who denied a foundational truth of the faith. Some Christians in the church rejected the idea that believers would one day experience a bodily resurrection. Because they assumed there was no life beyond this earthly one, they sought as much pleasure as they could with no thought about eternity. "Death is the end, so live it up while you can," was their way of thinking.

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that _____ died for our _____ according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He _____ the third day according to the scriptures: And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, He was _____ of above _____ brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, He was seen of James; then of _____ the _____. And last of all He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time" (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

Throughout the centuries, many individuals have embraced this short-sighted philosophy. The Bible rebukes this belief today just as it did then; to deny the truth of resurrection means that one's faith is worthless.

"Now if Christ be preached that He _____ from the _____, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no _____ of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if _____ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have _____ of _____ that He _____: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your _____" (1 Corinthians 15:12-17).

If Christ had remained in the grave 2,000 years ago, He would have been nothing more than a traveling preacher. This religion that we call Christianity would have died with Him because believers would have nothing in which to place their hope. But Jesus did triumph over the grave—we have eyewitnesses, testimonies, and the assurance of the Holy Spirit to confirm it.

"If in _____ we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is _____ from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept [have died]. For since by man came death, by man came also the _____ of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made _____. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are _____ at His coming" (1 Corinthians 15:19-23).

Your motto should be: "Live for the glory of the risen Lord."

Do you believe that Jesus is alive today? If so, upon what do you base your belief?

Today's Bible reading is 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

LESSON 2

JESUS' RESURRECTION DOES MATTER

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Believing that the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead is essential for Christians. Merely recognizing that He died for your sins is not enough; you must accept His resurrection in order to receive eternal life. Christ paid your debt, but His sacrifice on the cross means nothing if He possesses no power over the grave. In vanquishing evil and death, the Lord made your salvation possible.

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy _____, and in thy _____: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt _____ with thy mouth the _____, and shalt _____ in thine _____ that God hath _____ from the dead, thou shalt be _____” (Romans 10:8-9).

Jesus' resurrection proved that He was able to remove sin and its penalty. Assuming that Christ remained dead would mean accepting the opposite—that believers are still in sin. The inevitable end of a sinful life is death. Consequently, a person who denies Christ's eternal nature has nothing but an empty future to look forward to.

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth _____ is made unto _____. For the Scripture saith, _____ on _____ shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall _____ the _____ of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:10-13).

Instead of enjoying Christian liberty and anticipating a home in heaven, those who reject the resurrection are slaves to the present with no real hope or meaning in life. Careers, family, and good works can offer brief pleasure, but not the kind of joy that comes from knowing that you are right with the Lord and working in His will.

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have _____? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have _____? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be _____? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring _____ of _____!” (Romans 10:14-15).

The resurrection is not a denominational issue or point for theological debate. Either you believe Christ rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, or you do not. If you reject His victory over the grave, you deny yourself a place in eternity; but if you accept the truth, the Bible assures you that you will be saved.

Do you believe that Christ rose from the dead? _____

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 10.

LESSON 3

A FAITH WORTH PRACTICING

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

A person's attitude about the resurrection is important any time of the year, and not just at Easter. If you are going to accept or reject a scriptural truth, you should understand how that principle impacts not only your faith, but also your witness.

"Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have _____ of God that He raised up Christ: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if _____ be not _____, your faith is _____; ye are yet in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:15-17).

The greatest implication of claiming that Jesus remained in the grave is that you are left with no hope of salvation. This in turn makes telling others about the Lord pointless. Jesus is the One who brings life-giving force to the Gospel message. Without Him, sharing the Word would have as much effect on someone as reciting, "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

"Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have _____ in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ _____ from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came _____, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in _____ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:18-22).

Further, if the Father didn't resurrect the Son, then He must also be dishonest about the eternal nature of believers. How could you ever hope to be "absent from the body and...at home with the Lord" upon death, if the blameless Son Himself did not receive such treatment?

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the _____, and to be _____ with the _____. Wherefore we _____, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him. For we must all appear before the _____ of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be _____ or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:8-10).

Without Christ's resurrection, you have no saving Lord, no powerful Word, no hope of eternity, and a dead faith. A wise believer studies the Bible, and therefore recognizes how God's salvation plan fits together from Genesis to Revelation.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a _____ creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath _____ us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in _____, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

The only legitimate basis for eternal hope is accepting Jesus Christ's sacrifice for your transgressions and believing that He conquered sin and death and rose again.

Today's Bible reading is 2 Corinthians chapter 5.

LESSON 4

SHARING IN THE RESURRECTION

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Thanks to Jesus Christ's victory over the grave, every believer can anticipate eternal life with God. Your share in the resurrection also means that you will one day take part in Jesus' return and His future reign.

“But every man in his own order: _____ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming. Then cometh the end, when He shall have _____ up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must _____, till He hath put all enemies under His feet” (1 Corinthians 15:23-25).

A popular but very wrong theology says that deceased saints experience “soul sleep” and remain in the grave until Christ returns. The truth is, however, that when the trumpet blows, Jesus will bring with Him those souls who have already entered heaven, including every single believer who has died since Adam. Graves will open, and bodies will be gloriously transformed as they rise to meet their spirit selves in the air. Finally, the faithful who remain alive will ascend to join Jesus and the saintly host.

“But I would not have you to be _____, brethren, concerning them which are asleep [dead], that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we _____ that _____ and _____ again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the _____ of the _____, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall _____ from _____ with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be _____ together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be _____ the _____” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).

If you pass from this life before Christ comes to earth again, you will not sleep in a casket. You will immediately be with Him!

One problem believers sometimes face is tunnel vision. If you become focused on your personal problems and needs, you can forget who you are in Christ and what He has in store for you. This world with all its troubles will pass away. Then, you will revel in your new position as a heaven-bound saint and a partaker in the return and reign of Christ.

Take notice of this promise in Scripture:

“We are _____, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be _____ with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Today's Bible reading is 1 Thessalonians chapter 4.

LESSON 5

WALKING WITH JESUS IN A STORM

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

It was the middle of the night, there were high winds, crashing waves, low visibility, and only a small boat on the Sea of Galilee. For the disciples, the situation had reached crisis proportions, and Jesus was not with them; He was on the mountainside praying. The disciples were all alone.

“And straightway He [Jesus] constrained his disciples to get into the _____, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while He sent away the people. And when He had sent them away, He departed into a mountain to _____” (Mark 6:45-46).

Hidden by the storm, perhaps the disciples thought that Jesus had forgotten them. However, He knew exactly where the disciples were and what they were experiencing. Though you can't see Jesus, He is omniscient and knows where you are at every moment. No darkness or trial can hide you; you are always seen, known, and understood!

“And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the _____, and He [Jesus] alone on the land. And He saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night He cometh unto them, _____ upon the _____, and would have passed by them” (Mark 6:47-48).

Leaving His place of prayer, Jesus sought out the disciples, and He will do the same for you. However, the disciples did not recognize Him because He went to them by walking on the water. Jesus often does not come the way you might expect. Your preconceived idea of how He works can cause you to wonder where He is or fail to recognize His nearness.

“But when they saw Him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a _____, and cried out: For they all saw Him, and were troubled. And immediately He talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be _____” (Mark 6:49-50).

Experiencing Jesus' presence in hard times can teach you precious truths. During an earlier rough sea adventure, the disciples observed both Jesus' trust in God and His authority over nature.

“And when He [Jesus] was entered into a ship, His disciples _____ Him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He _____. And His disciples came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, Lord, _____: we perish. And He saith unto them, _____ are ye _____, O ye of _____? Then He arose, and _____ the winds and the sea; and there was a great _____” (Matthew 8:23-26).

When turmoil hits, ask for spiritual eyes to discern the Lord's presence. Then, you must listen for His voice and obey.

“My sheep hear my _____, and I _____, and they follow me” (John 10:27).

Today's Bible reading is Mark chapter 6.

LESSON 6

JESUS—TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Jesus is often referred to with titles such as Savior, Messiah, Christ, and High Priest. The most important and accurate description of Jesus, though, is one that we may not understand: Jesus is God.

“In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word _____. The same was in the _____ with God. All things were _____ by _____; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In _____ was _____; and the life was the _____ of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not” (John 1:1-5).

You may say “Jesus is Lord,” but what exactly does that mean? If Jesus were not alive today and fully God, then it would be blasphemous to ascribe total lordship and sovereignty to Him. However, the Bible clearly shows that Jesus is, in fact, wholly God.

“I and my _____ are _____” (John 10:30).

Jesus Himself spoke of the complete unity and harmony that He shared with the Father. He asserts, “I and the Father are one” in the Scripture verse above.

“Then said the Jews unto Him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, _____” (John 8:57-58).

Jesus shocked the Jews by claiming to have seen Abraham. When they asked Him to explain Himself, He replied, “Before Abraham was born, I am.” “I AM” is the divine name that the Father used to communicate with Moses; by using this expression, Jesus claimed to be God.

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the _____, even the _____ of _____, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with Me from the _____” (John 15:26-27).

Finally, Jesus shows that He is part of the Trinity. He explains the unified purpose with which the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit function.

If you trust in God's Holy Word, then you must recognize that Jesus is fully God. Praise Him today for His sacrificial love for you.

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 8.

LESSON 7

HOW THE RESURRECTION AFFECTED THE DISCIPLES

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:
and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

What did it feel like for the disciples when Jesus died? They left everything for this Man, followed Him for three years, and built all their hopes and dreams on His ideas. Then, all of a sudden (according to their perspective), He was gone.

“In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the _____ of the _____ descended from heaven, and came and _____ the _____ from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like _____, and his raiment _____ as _____” (Matthew 28:1-3).

The disciples had heard all the incredible things Jesus said: He told them He “was” even before Abraham lived, He said that He and the Father were one, and He declared He was the only way to God. He had told them such amazing things, but now there he was, hanging on a cross, dead. How could this be?

“And for fear of him the keepers did _____, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, _____ ye: for I know that ye seek _____, which was _____. He is not here: for _____ is _____, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:4-6).

The disciples were confused, scared, mournful, and completely distraught. Only one thing could have turned them around. Only one thing could have breathed new life into their downtrodden spirits. Praise God that one vital thing came in the cry of an excited friend running toward them, shouting, “He’s alive! He’s alive!”

“And go quickly, and tell His disciples that _____ is _____ from the _____; and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye _____: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with _____ and _____; and did run to bring His disciples word” (Matthew 28:7-8).

For mankind, death had always been the final word or the inescapable end. By achieving victory over death, Jesus proved He was who He claimed to be. By demonstrating His power over man’s greatest fear, He showed Himself to be mankind’s greatest Friend, Savior, and Lord. Jesus is alive today!

Do you believe Jesus is alive today? Please explain why you believe this:

If Jesus is alive today, please tell us what He is doing for you now:

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 28.

LESSON 8

OUR VERY BEST FRIEND

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:
and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Have you ever longed for someone to understand and accept you just as you are? Do you desire a friendship that is built on unconditional trust and acceptance? Friends can bring great joy to your life, but they can also cause misunderstanding and feelings of rejection and disappointment.

“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your _____ might be _____. This is My commandment, That ye _____, as _____ have loved _____. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his _____ for his friends. Ye are my _____, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:11-14).

Jesus is a Friend who will never disappoint, reject, or misunderstand you. He is alive today, and He will never leave you. Your dearest friend on earth is a mere shadow compared to Jesus Christ.

Do you think of Jesus as your Friend? He is your Savior and Lord, but if you will allow Him, He will also be the best Friend you could ever desire to have.

“Henceforth I call you not _____; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you _____; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have _____ unto _____. Ye have not chosen Me, but _____ have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you. These things I _____ you, that ye _____” (John 15:15-17).

Jesus takes the initiative in your friendship. His relationship toward you is not based on your worthiness, but on His unchanging love. When you turn to Him, He becomes your Friend unconditionally. He accepts you just as you are. He will never leave you or forsake you.

“Be _____ and of a good _____, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not _____ thee, nor _____ thee.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Joseph M. Scriven wrote a song that you might want to learn. The lyrics of the first verse are: “What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!”

Accept Jesus' friendship, and you will experience the joy of a lasting relationship today.

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 15.

LESSON 9

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:
and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

What difference does it make who Jesus is? Why should I take Him seriously? The answers to these questions will impact your belief system, mold your character, and influence your lifestyle. They will also determine where you spend eternity.

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of Man am? And they said, Some say that Thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He [Jesus] saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the _____, the _____ of the living God” (Matthew 16:13-16).

Jesus testified that He is the Son of God, and that He and the Father are one.

“Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? he that hath seen Me hath seen the _____; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not _____: but the Father that _____ in _____, He doeth the works” (John 14:9-10).

If you desire to know God, then you must draw near to Jesus. Only He reveals the Father.

“Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give _____ a _____ for many” (Matthew 20:28).

Jesus' mission from His Father is focused and concentrated on humankind. Why? To rescue humankind from slavery to sin and to make them ready for their heavenly home, where they will spend eternity.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All _____ is given unto Me in _____ and in _____” (Matthew 28:18).

You are to live in submission to Jesus. Jesus said He didn't come to be served, but to serve. In the same way, those who belong to Jesus are to imitate His life of service. Jesus always did what the Father commanded Him.

“But that the world may know that I _____ the Father; and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so _____ . Arise, let us go hence” (John 14:31).

Jesus' life of obedience shows you the way to please God. Jesus knew exactly why He came, and He did what the Father asked in order to bring glory to God.

“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may _____: As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give _____ to as many as Thou hast given Him” (John 17:1-2).

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 20.

LESSON 10

JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:
and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Why is it that some people face life's hardships with confidence and boldness, while others find themselves plagued with doubts and failure? One reason is that many people have an inadequate view of who Jesus is. Some know Him as the Bread of Life and the Living Water, but how many know Him as their great High Priest?

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, _____ the _____ of _____, let us hold fast our profession" (Hebrews 4:14).

The Bible says that Jesus "had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest."

"Wherefore in all things it behoved Him [Jesus] to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a _____ and _____ high priest in things pertaining to God, to make _____ for the sins of the people. For in that He himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted" (Hebrews 2:17-18).

Then the Bible adds that we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet was without sin. This means that Jesus enters into your life, and He experiences your pain, hurt, and guilt right along with you.

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points _____ like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain _____, and find _____ to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Have you ever been totally misunderstood when you did your best and gave your all? Consider this question: Was anybody more misunderstood on this earth than Jesus? He is personally acquainted with that kind of pain; after all, even His own people rejected Him.

Does Jesus, the sinless One, understand your guilt feelings? Yes. The Bible says that the Father laid all the sins of the world on Him. He bore the guilt of all mankind.

"Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being _____ to _____, should _____ unto _____: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the _____ and _____ of your souls" (1 Peter 2:24-25).

No matter what you are facing, realize that Jesus can identify with your circumstance and can feel what you are feeling.

Today's Bible reading is 1 Peter chapter 2.

LESSON 11

FALLING IN LOVE WITH JESUS

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:
and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

When you fall in love, you want to spend all of your time with the object of your affection, and you are willing to give your full attention to the relationship. Falling in love with Jesus should be no different, but believers often hurry through Bible reading and prayer. The result is a superficial faith kept alive by habit rather than worship. To attain lasting intimacy, you must approach God with a sense of purpose and determination.

“O God, thou art my God; _____ will I _____: my soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see Thy _____ and Thy _____, so as I have seen Thee in the sanctuary. Because Thy _____ is _____ than _____, my lips shall _____ Thee” (Psalm 63:1-3).

King David advised the leaders of Israel to set their hearts and souls on seeking the Lord their God. Believers have a choice and must choose whether to pursue God or chase after idols.

“Now _____ your _____ and your _____ to _____ the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD” (1 Chronicles 22:19).

If you desire intimacy with Him, it is necessary for you to approach the spiritual disciplines purposefully. Before opening the Bible, ask the Lord what He wants to say to you. Pray to understand His ways; He loves answering that plea. Enter these lessons with the intention of learning a new truth from the Lord.

“When I _____ upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the night watches. Because Thou hast been _____, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will I _____. My soul followeth hard after Thee: Thy right hand _____ me. But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth” (Psalm 63:6-9).

Even when you do not feel like putting time into your relationship with Christ, you must determine to do so. A revelation from God will not come every day, but a believer need not despair. Those who diligently seek the Savior experience His presence frequently in their worship.

“Thou wilt keep him in _____, whose mind is stayed on _____: because he trusteth in Thee. _____ ye in the _____ for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is _____” (Isaiah 26:3-4).

Getting to know Jesus brings pure joy into a believer's life. However, you must be willing to offer Him your best time, not just your leftover minutes.

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 63.

LESSON 12

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TRINITY

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:
and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

The Trinity consists of three distinct Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—each fully God, yet together one single Being. The three Persons of the Trinity have the same divine attributes, but they have distinct functions:

- **God the Father**, whose holiness demanded we pay for sin and whose love provided the payment.
- **God the Son**, who willingly sacrificed His sinless life and intercedes from heaven for us.
- **God the Spirit**, who lives as a Helper and Guide within forgiven sinners.

Jesus called Him the “Spirit of truth.” Let’s look more closely at God the Spirit.

“Howbeit when He, the _____ of truth, is come, He will _____ you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come” (John 16:13).

It is the Holy Spirit who helps you understand the Bible, who reveals how the Bible applies to your life, and who works conviction in you.

“But the _____, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall _____ you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).

By bringing to your remembrance all that Jesus has said through the recollection of the Bible, the Holy Spirit guides and encourages you.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you: but if I depart, I will _____ unto you” (John 16:7).

The Holy Spirit is so important that Jesus said, I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; . . . if I go, I will send the Holy Spirit to you.

“He shall glorify Me: for He shall _____ of _____, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the _____ hath are _____: therefore said I, that He shall take of Mine, and shall shew it unto you” (John 16:14-15).

It is the Holy Spirit who interacts with you in your earthly life. He takes no glory for Himself and always seeks to bring attention to Jesus; that is why He seems harder to know, but if you look closely, you will see His loving fingerprints all over your life—just as a potter’s are on the clay—guiding you, challenging you, and transforming you. Explain where each member of the Trinity is today.

Today’s Bible reading is John chapter 16.

LESSON 13

THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:
and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Praying in Jesus' name states both your relationship with Christ and your right, through Him, to approach the Father directly.

“Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the _____ in _____: or else believe Me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that _____ on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (John 14:11-12).

Association with the Savior – What makes it possible for you to approach God through prayer is your relationship with Jesus. At salvation, you went from being foreigners and aliens to being children of God.

“Now therefore ye are no more _____ and _____, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the _____ of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief _____;” (Ephesians 2:19-20).

Your Creator has become your heavenly Father. He hears your requests because you have been made family through the redemptive work of His Son. The presence of Christ's Spirit within you proves that you are one of His own.

Access to the Father – Jesus' death opened the way for you to have immediate, unhindered admittance to the Father's presence. When Jesus finished His work in making the final priestly sacrifice, the veil in the temple, that had closed off the Holy of Holies from man was torn in two.

“And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the _____ of the _____ was _____ in _____ from the top to the bottom” (Mark 15:37-38).

This symbolized the spiritual truth that access to God was now open to all who believe. Through the Holy Spirit, you have the right to talk to God directly without a human intermediary.

“And whatsoever ye shall ask _____, that will I do, that the Father may be _____ in the Son. If ye shall ask _____ in My name, I will do it. If ye love Me, _____ my _____” (John 14:13-15).

Because of Jesus Christ, your sins are paid for, you are in a new family relationship, and you have unhindered access to the Father. Please stop right now and give thanks to God for the incredible privilege of prayer!

Today's Bible reading is Mark chapter 15.

LESSON 14

JESUS, OUR LIFE PRESERVER

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Picture a muddy river, overflowing with rain and rushing rapidly over rocks. You have fallen into that dirty water and cannot fight the current for long. Your head goes under once, then twice, and both times you come up sputtering after swallowing some of the filth; a third dunking might kill you. Suddenly, from the shore, someone throws a life preserver, which floats toward your chest. Will you grab it?

“For God so _____ the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that _____ in Him should not perish, but have _____” (John 3:16).

The answer seems obvious. Of course you would grab the life preserver! But too often, people drowning in the world's fast-moving current refuse to grab onto the spiritual life preserver—Jesus Christ. He died on the cross for all of humanity, but individuals have a responsibility in salvation. A person must recognize his or her own helplessness and acknowledge his or her need for Christ. That means the new Christian must accept Jesus' sacrifice as true and personal, believing that there is no other way to be rescued.

“For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be _____. He that believeth on Him is _____: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:17-18).

It isn't necessary to understand everything about faith and the Bible in order to be saved; God will ensure that His children learn whatever they need from the Holy Spirit. However, it is critical to realize that you cannot save yourself.

“And this is the condemnation, that _____ is come into the world, and men loved _____ rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth _____ cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God” (John 3:19-21).

Can you point to a time in your life when you turned from self and sin and to Jesus alone for salvation?

God is offering you a life preserver and is waiting to pull you to eternal safety. The choice is yours. Will you choose Christ and live? Will you ask Him now to save you if you haven't already?

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 3.

LESSON 15

JESUS RELATES TO MAN

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

There is no higher privilege than this: Jesus wants to have a personal relationship with you. Some people get the idea that the Lord is some distant deity who is busy with other problems. Others believe that He is a vaporous being that created mankind and then cut them loose. The truth is, however, that Jesus deeply desires the friendship of His followers.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man _____ his _____ for his friends. Ye are My _____, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for _____ that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto _____” (John 15:13-15).

If the Lord's purpose in creating mankind had been simply to get something done, He would have fashioned you like a robot with no initiative or free will. Instead, you are uniquely designed to receive your Father's love and to choose whether or not you will love Him in return. God cares for His creation and wants to share an intimate relationship with every single one of the human beings He creates.

“Ye have not chosen Me, but _____ have chosen _____, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth _____, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you. These things I command you, that ye _____” (John 15:16-17).

Jesus Christ poured His life into twelve men that he called to be His disciples. Modern believers tend to focus on Jesus' miracles and preaching, overlooking the fact that He spent every day with the disciples. Jesus' priority was to teach and prepare the twelve so that when He returned to the Father, they could continue reaching the world with the Gospel. You are the spiritual descendants of the Lord's disciples, and God pours Himself into you just as He did with them. He imparts His Spirit to you as your closest Companion and Comforter.

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me _____ it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not _____ the _____, but I have _____ out of the world, therefore the world hateth you” (John 15:18-19).

Make yourself available to the Lord, and He will be closer to you than a brother, loving you and showing you His will.

What is your relationship with God like?

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 15.

LESSON 16

JESUS, VIRGIN BORN—DOES IT MATTER?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

There are times when you need to be reminded of who Jesus is. There are also times when you need to be reminded of what He deserves: your best. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ serves as a constant reminder of what God deserves from His children.

“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was _____ from _____ unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a _____ espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was _____. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: _____ art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was _____ at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be” (Luke 1:26-29).

God never does anything halfway or poorly. Every word from the mouth of God is perfect. Every action He takes from His throne is the best. Every path He places before you is excellent.

“And the angel said unto her, _____, Mary: for thou hast found _____ with God. And, behold, thou shalt _____ in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name _____” (Luke 1:30-31).

When God sent His unblemished Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die for the sins of the world, He sent Him through Mary, a virgin woman.

“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I _____ a _____? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the _____ of the _____ shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:34-35).

Along with demonstrating the awesome power of God, the virgin birth of Christ shows that God's character is consistent with His words. God never fails to deliver on His promises to you. God has already given you His best through His perfect Son, Jesus Christ.

Do you believe that Jesus was born of a virgin? _____

Why do you think it was so significant and important for Jesus to be born of a virgin?

Today's Bible reading is Luke chapter 1.

LESSON 17

MAKING JESUS KNOWN

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

There are three questions that everyone needs to know how to answer correctly: Who is the one true God? What is He like? Is it possible to have a personal relationship with Him? Throughout the history of mankind, countless people from every nation have been haunted by these questions; do you know the answers to them?

“Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars’ hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too _____. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To the _____ . Whom therefore ye _____ worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the _____ and _____ therein, seeing that He is Lord of _____ and _____, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;” (Acts 17:22-24).

Today, Christians must continue to share about Jesus because it is God’s will that every single person have the correct answer to the three questions at the beginning of this lesson.

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be _____, and to come unto the _____ of the truth. For there is _____, and one _____ between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who _____ a _____ for _____, to be testified in due time” (1 Timothy 2:3-6).

Imagine that you are walking into church Sunday morning and must sit before a giant statue of bronze or gold. You might sing a few songs, then take up an offering to lay at the foot of the statue. After singing several additional melodies, you return to your house. What would you carry home with you? What assurance could you claim? There could be no joy, peace, or assurance in this life or the life to come because you bowed down to something that is lifeless and unable to hear you.

“That they should _____ the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us: For _____ we _____, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also His _____. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto _____, or silver, or stone, graven by art and _____” (Acts 17:27-29).

You, as a believer, know the true God. There is a world full of people who long to know Jesus. Find a way to share your peace and joy with someone else today.

Today's Bible reading is Acts chapter 17.

LESSON 18

JESUS—WE CAN TRUST HIM

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

You must be careful whom you trust in this world. People make promises they cannot keep, break confidences on a whim, and come out with statements that are untrue. There is Someone, however, who keeps every promise, refuses to break a confidence, and never lies—the almighty Son of God, Jesus.

“Fret not thyself because of _____, neither be thou _____ against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be _____ like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the _____, and _____; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed” (Psalm 37:1-3).

You serve a faithful Father. Throughout the Bible, God guarantees to His children that He will pardon their sins, supply all their needs, protect them, answer their prayers, and be with them.

“If we _____ our _____, He is faithful and just to _____ us our sins, and to _____ us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

“But my God shall _____ all your _____ according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

“He that _____ in the secret place of the most High shall _____ under the shadow of the _____. I will say of the LORD, He is my _____ and my _____: my God; in Him will I trust” (Psalm 91:1-2).

“Be strong and of a good courage, _____, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not _____ thee, nor forsake thee” (Deuteronomy 31:6).

With so many divine guarantees, a promise can be applied to every aspect of your life. Spending time recalling Jesus' faithfulness in fulfilling His promises is an important exercise for believers because it builds trust.

“_____ thyself also in the LORD: and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. _____ thy way unto the LORD; _____ also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:4-5).

The Lord's character is perfectly consistent with trust. Because of His love, He commits to fulfilling His promises to every generation of believers. You can trust God to do all He says He will do and so much more. He will never fail you.

“Rest in the LORD, and _____ for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from _____, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall _____ the _____” (Psalm 37:7-9).

Jesus demonstrated at the cross and continues to prove on a daily basis that He loves you, and that you can trust Him.

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 37.

LESSON 19

WHEN WE SEEK JESUS

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Stop for a moment and try to clear your mind. Ask Jesus to help you focus on your time alone with Him. Now, ask yourself this question with the intention of being completely honest: What am I seeking most in life?

“Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. And he did that which was _____ in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left. For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to _____ after the God of _____ his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images” (2 Chronicles 34:1-4).

The majority of people in the world are seeking things that they will never be able to hold onto once this lifetime is over. However, true fulfillment comes only through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and that is eternal. It helps to remember that seeking the Lord involves a strong desire to do the following:

Find out what He is like – Examining God’s Word in depth will give you the best understanding of who Jesus is and how He deals with His creation.

Fellowship with Him more intimately – Seeking Jesus means spending quality time alone with Him regularly. Rushing through your daily quiet time is like taking a perfume bath every day instead of washing with soap and water; before long, the inadequate results will be evident.

Follow Him more closely – The more time you spend in God’s Word, the better you will know Jesus. The more you allow the Holy Spirit to work His Word in your heart, the more you will want to obey and please your heavenly Father.

Faithfully claim His promises, and trust Him to fulfill them – The only way you can claim Jesus’ life-changing promises is if you know them.

You will have to dig into God’s Word and practice the previous four points before you can succeed.

“But his _____ is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate _____ and _____. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his _____ in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall _____” (Psalm 1:2-3).

Will you set aside a special time each day when you can be alone with Jesus? _____

Today’s Bible reading is Psalm chapter 1.

LESSON 20

WHEN WE SEEK GOD

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

You will find God when you seek Him with all your heart; that is a biblical promise. The question is, however, What is the proper approach to seeking God?

“But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find Him if thou seek Him with all thy _____ and with all thy _____. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou _____ to the LORD thy God, and shalt be _____ unto His voice;” (Deuteronomy 4:29-30).

First, you must exhibit certain attitudes. The Bible implores you to pursue God, not just wholeheartedly, but also diligently, continually, confidently, and humbly; these are prerequisites to learning all you can about Him and embarking upon a course with the greatest spiritual growth.

“...(For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) He will not _____ thee, neither destroy thee, nor _____ the covenant of thy fathers which He swore unto them” (Deuteronomy 4:31).

In addition to those attitudes, there are also certain actions that you must take. Step one after salvation is to get into His Word, studying and meditating upon it with a receptive heart. You must also pray. God's Word is the primary way He speaks to you, and prayer is the primary way you speak to Him.

“For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and _____ from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it?” (Deuteronomy 4:32).

The next step is to consider how God is operating in your circumstances. Rather than having a pity party during a difficult time, think back on God's patterns of faithfulness to you in the past. Then, you will begin to grasp how He works even during times of adversity in your life. Also, being alert to recognize His involvement in the lives of other believers can enrich your understanding of His ways.

“Know therefore this day, and _____ it in thine _____, that the LORD He is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else. Thou shalt keep therefore His statutes, and His _____, which I command thee this day that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God _____ thee, for ever” (Deuteronomy 4:39-40).

God wants you to seek Him. He will reward sincere searchers with understanding as well as increased capacity to love and serve Him. Remember, however, that all roads must lead through the Bible. That is, God will never use circumstances or people to lead you to do anything contrary to His Word.

Today's Bible reading is Deuteronomy chapter 4.

LESSON 21

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

This week's Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Life demands proof. Sometimes it seems as though no matter what you say, people simply will not believe you without some definite verification. Did you know that you already have evidence to back up the most important news in the world? That important news is the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the proof is your own personal testimony.

“Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before my _____ which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I _____ before My Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33).

Every single believer has an irrefutable account of how Christ saved him from sin. It is disheartening when people downplay their faith story as boring or ordinary. How could this story ever be ordinary? This is not some narrative about how you spent your day; you are talking about a supernatural event! This is the chronicle of how almighty God entered your heart. This news is far from boring.

“And fear not them which kill the _____, but are not able to kill the _____: but rather fear Him which is able to _____ both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very _____ of your head are all _____. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more _____ than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:28-31).

Moreover, no one can ever discount your testimony. It is your own story and the truthful telling of how God has worked in your life. A testimony is similar to a fingerprint, in that no two are the same. Regardless of the details, no one can ever deny your personal experience. Even if some people do not believe in the power of Christ, they cannot refute what He has done in your life.

“Behold, I send you forth as _____ in the midst of _____: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But _____ of _____: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for _____, for a _____ against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall _____: for it shall be _____ in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the _____ of your _____ which speaketh in you” (Matthew 10:16-20).

God gave you a special gift with your unique testimony. Are you sharing that gift with others?

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 10.

LESSON 22

THE BIBLE TELLS IT LIKE IT IS

This week's Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Have you ever considered the sheer power in your simple testimony? The Bible tells a wonderful story of a blind man whom Jesus healed. If the story ended with the man opening his eyes and praising God, it would certainly be powerful. However, John carries the account a bit further; as a result, you can witness the events that happened next.

“When He [Jesus] had thus spoken, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and He _____ the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went his way therefore, and washed, and came _____” (John 9:6-7).

The Jewish authorities did not know what to make of this miraculous healing. They had all the facts before them: a man they knew was born blind could now see, the crowd overheard his interaction with Jesus, and the man's parents provided proof of identity. Yet, they refused to believe what was clear to so many; they challenged the man's testimony.

“Then again called they the man that was _____, and said unto him, Give _____ the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. He answered and said, whether He be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was _____, now I _____” (John 9:24-25).

In this way, the religious authorities voiced their disbelief: “We know that this man [Jesus] is a sinner.” The Pharisees incorrectly through Jesus to be a sinner because He did not observe their Sabbath traditions; therefore they assumed Jesus would be unable to perform miracles. The response of the healed blind man was brilliant in its simplicity: “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

“The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence He is, and yet He hath _____. Now we know that God heareth not _____.: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any _____ opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of _____, He could do nothing. They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they _____ him _____” (John 9:30-34).

No matter what else was said, the man knew that the Pharisees could not refute the basic fact that the blind man had been healed; the Bible shows that the authorities lost their tempers because they could not argue their way around that fact. In the same way, people simply cannot argue against the truth of your experience with Jesus. Rejoice that the Lord has given you such a powerful weapon in the midst of so great a spiritual battlefield.

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 9.

LESSON 23

THE HEART OF THE CROSS

This week's Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

“Could God not have come up with a better idea for salvation than the cross?” This question is sometimes posed during debates regarding the purpose for the brutal punishment that Jesus endured at Golgotha on the cross.

“He is _____ and _____ of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised and we _____ Him not. Surely He hath _____ our _____, and _____ our _____: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted” (Isaiah 53:3-4).

Apart from your human understanding and in His infinite wisdom, God had a perfect plan for the cross. The circumstances of the day were never out of His control or in conflict with His will.

“But He was wounded for _____, He was bruised for _____: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have _____; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:5-6).

The cross revealed who God is and what He is like—compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth.

“And the LORD passed before him, and proclaimed, the LORD, the LORD God, _____ and _____, _____, and _____ in goodness and truth,” (Exodus 34:6).

The cross exposed Satan for what he is, and at the same time, took away his power. The cross invalidated the need for a physical payment for sin for those who would accept Christ's ultimate sacrifice made for us all. Finally, the cross unveiled a new covenant relationship with God, which gives all people the opportunity to experience eternity through Jesus Christ.

“Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was _____ in _____ from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,” (Matthew 27:50-52).

This act signified the beginning of a new type of access to God through Jesus Christ, our Intercessor.

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 27.

LESSON 24

JESUS IS IN CONTROL

This week's Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Oftentimes in the Bible, Jesus is portrayed in ways that are easy to understand. Perhaps the most touching and poignant representation of Jesus is found in Psalm 23. In this passage, the Bible describes Jesus as a Shepherd.

“The LORD is my _____; I shall not want. He [Jesus] maketh me to lie down in _____: He leadeth me beside the still waters” (Psalm 23:1-2).

In ancient times, shepherds had special relationships with their flocks. They spent each day with their animals, guiding their paths, protecting them from danger, and corralling those who went astray. To the sheep, the shepherd was a constant companion to the extent that the sheep actually grew to recognize the shepherd's voice, and therefore, eventually responded only to his call.

“He _____ my _____: He leadeth me in the paths of _____ for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will _____: for Thou art _____; Thy rod and Thy staff they _____ me” (Psalm 23:3-4).

In Psalm 23, the Bible acknowledges a sinner's position as a wandering sheep under the direction of the Great Shepherd. As such, he rejoices that he can become a part of the Lord's “flock,” and that Jesus is such a gracious, loving Guide.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup _____. Surely goodness and mercy shall _____ me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever” (Psalm 23:5-6).

Because of the assurance of Jesus' protection and guidance, the Bible is able to boldly exclaim, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me.” This is truly a remarkable statement because it reveals that God was aware that you would face hard times, and yet, you are able to rest in the confidence that Jesus will safely see you through the ordeal. Just as a shepherd knows his flock, God knows you. Thank Him today for allowing you to “graze” in the “pasture” of His blessing.

Where do you think that Jesus is leading you?

Will you try to hide Psalm 23 in your heart? _____

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 23.

LESSON 25

WHY CALL ME ‘LORD’?

This week’s Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Speaking to a group of followers, Jesus asked a pointed question: “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ and do not do what I say?” Using His illustration, you can see four key truths:

Profession without performance is pretense. If, on Sunday, you say you love Christ but show no signs of a Spirit-led life all week, you are living a lie; there is no other way to say it.

Profession followed by performance has a price. Most people just wander through life without any real focus, giving their attention to the loudest voice or brightest star. In contrast, living intently and passionately for Christ is rarely easy. Making wise choices may require extra effort, but the reward is well worth it.

Profession followed by performance will prevail. Everyone on earth faces trials. Sometimes there is one devastating storm after another. However, if you build your life on the strong foundation of Jesus, reading His Word and applying His truth in your life, then you will be able to stand firm when the waves crash against you.

Profession without performance results in ruin. While the “easy way” of the world may seem more enjoyable at times, it results in living with no foundation; when trouble comes, such a life simply crumbles. That is a far cry from the victory and strength Jesus wants you to experience.

“And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and _____ the things which I say? Whosoever _____ to Me, and _____ My sayings, and _____ them, I will shew you to whom he is like:” (Luke 6:46-47).

“He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a _____: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not _____ it: for it was founded upon a rock” (Luke 6:48).

“But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a _____ built an house upon the _____; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great” (Luke 6:49).

Do your actions reflect your faith? Explain:

Be a wise builder. Construct your house on the strong foundation of Christ, and let your performance match your profession.

Today’s Bible reading is Luke chapter 6.

LESSON 26

THE COMING OF JESUS

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Since creation, God was orchestrating world affairs to set the stage for the arrival of His Son. In the meantime, He used prophecy to keep people's hopes alive for a fresh beginning and a new relationship with Him.

“But when the fulness of the time was come, _____ sent forth His _____, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were _____ the _____, that we might receive the _____ of _____. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the _____ of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an _____ of God through Christ” (Galatians 4:4-7).

So many messianic predictions are recorded in the Old Testament that the likelihood of one man fulfilling them all was slim. However, Jesus Christ's birth, life, and death happened exactly as the prophets had foretold.

Isaiah predicted the circumstances of Christ's birth.

“Therefore the LORD Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name _____ [God with us]” (Isaiah 7:14).

Micah predicted that the Jewish people would one day have a leader who would come from the tiny town of Bethlehem.

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall _____ unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from _____” (Micah 5:2).

The timing of the Messiah's arrival was revealed to Daniel, who recorded the timeline in his writings. Note that in the following verse, “seven weeks” actually means “seven years,” just as in Genesis 29:27.

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem unto the _____ the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times” (Daniel 9:25).

A careful comparison of Jesus' life with prophecies of the Bible leads to but one conclusion: Jesus is the promised Messiah, who brings every willing person into a new covenant relationship with the Father.

Those who have received Jesus as Savior have an unbreakable covenant relationship with God. If you are saved, you have the promise of what?

Today's Bible reading is Galatians chapter 4.

LESSON 27

THE PURPOSE OF JESUS' COMING

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

If believers are living under grace, why is the Old Testament, or the Law, still part of the Bible? The reason it still exists is that the life and death of Jesus Christ fulfilled God's Law, and the Old Testament is needed to show that. Also, we can learn much from the Old Testament about right and wrong, morality, judgment, and so much more. All of the Bible is profitable for us.

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to _____. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall _____ and _____ them, the same shall be called _____ in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17-19).

First, Jesus was personally obedient. The Pharisees accused Jesus of disobeying some of their man-made additions to the legal code, but He flawlessly followed Mosaic Law as given by God; this is an important distinction, since Jesus could not be called a holy and blameless sacrifice unless He was totally submissive to the Father.

“But of the tree of the _____ of _____ and _____, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely _____” (Genesis 2:17).

Secondly, Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice. The Law clearly stated that death is the penalty for sin, but that one who was perfect in keeping the Law could receive the punishment in place of another who had sinned; this is exactly what Jesus Christ did for every believer. Through His death, Christ fulfilled God's lawful requirement.

“But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his _____” (Matthew 5:28).

Thirdly, Christ amplified God's moral law. Through His example and teaching, Jesus explained that the moral law was more than just a set of rules to follow; the Father's commands are guiding principles for a successful life. For example, the Israelites avoided adulterous acts in order to keep the seventh commandment, but in the Bible, the Lord said that someone who lusts after another person has already committed adultery in his heart. Old Testament reading is essential for all believers today. You cannot truly understand the story of Jesus Christ until you become familiar with the Law He came to fulfill.

Can you tell us why Jesus had to come and die?

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 5.

LESSON 28

REVIEW (PART ONE)

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Multiple Choice

Read each question carefully, then mark the correct answer. There is only one correct answer to each question. The questions are based on Scripture and the lessons in this book.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. You have no hope of heaven:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Without the resurrectionb) Because you are humanc) If you do not go to church <p>2. You shall confess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) That you are a sinnerb) With thy mouth the Lord Jesusc) That the Scriptures are true <p>3. To be absent from the body is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) To be deadb) To be in the spiritc) To be present with the Lord <p>4. Without Christ's resurrection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) You are nothingb) There is no hope of eternityc) There is no life on earth <p>5. For the Lord Himself shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Be waiting in heavenb) Descend from heaven with a shoutc) Watch for us to come to Him <p>6. Jesus constrained his disciples to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Get into the shipb) Go fishingc) Go for a walk | <p>7. In the beginning was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The earth and waterb) The Wordc) Man <p>8. Jesus said, I and My Father are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Always in agreementb) Onec) Most powerful <p>9. The angel from heaven:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Rolled back the stoneb) Came to help peoplec) Came to help the disciples <p>10. Greater love hath no man than to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Lay down his life for his friendsb) To be rich and share his wealth with othersc) Help others when they have needs <p>11. Be strong and of good:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Will toward othersb) Works toward othersc) Courage <p>12. Jesus said, He that has seen Me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Will see Me in heavenb) Has seen the Fatherc) Will never die |
|--|---|

Today's Bible reading is Hebrews chapter 13.

LESSON 29

REVIEW (PART TWO)

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 13:6

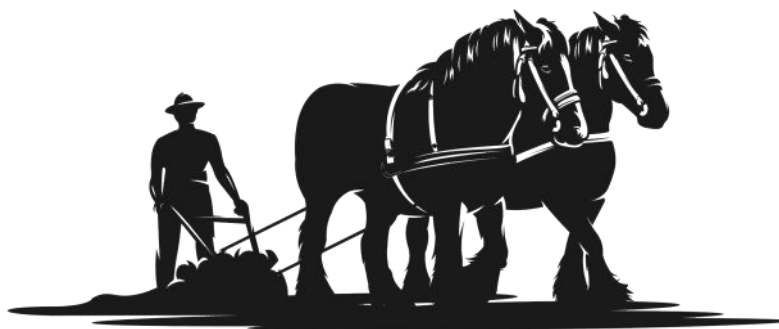
So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

True or False

Read each statement below carefully, then enter "true" or "false" in the blank. The statements are based on Scripture and the lessons in this book.

1. Jesus bore our sins on His body on the cross. _____
2. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee. _____
3. The Spirit of truth is come but will not guide you. _____
4. The Holy Ghost will teach you all things. _____
5. The Holy Spirit is the chief corner stone. _____
6. Jesus cried with a loud voice on the cross. _____
7. God gave His only Son. _____
8. Ye have not chosen Jesus, but Jesus has chosen you. _____
9. If the world loves you, you know that it loves Jesus too. _____
10. Jesus was born from a married woman named Mary. _____
11. God would have all men to be saved. _____
12. Jesus will not fail you or forsake you. _____
13. You shouldn't fear those who kill the body but not the soul. _____
14. Behold, God sends you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. _____
15. Jesus was despised and rejected of men. _____

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 10.



PLOWMAN'S ACADEMY

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