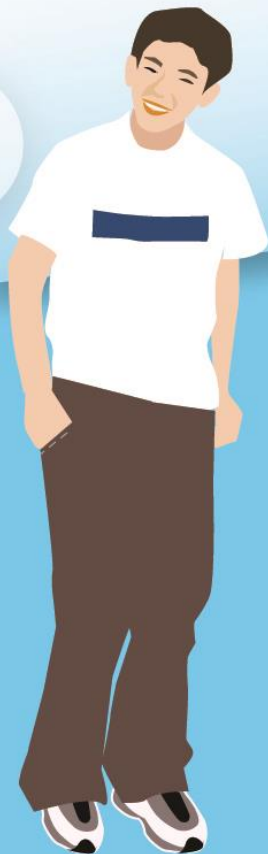


# THE GROWTH OF FAITH



5th Grade

Chicago CBF



Core Bible Studies

The Growth of Faith: Core Bible Studies for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Chicago Children's Bible Fellowship 2018  
Written by Len Austria & Tim McEathron

Cover art by Deborah Lim 2008

This book may be reproduced  
This book is not for sale or rent  
Do not alter and redistribute the contents  
without express permission from Chicago CBF

# A Note on using these materials

---

I would personally like to thank you for your decision to guide young children to know Christ. As you look through these materials, you will find a teacher page that breaks down the 3 main points of the lesson. You will also find copies of the lessons which are numbered and include: An Introduction, Questions, and room for the children to write a small reflection on how they put God's word to practice. There are 46 lessons in this book which covers an entire year's worth of Bible study among the Gospels and Epistles. Ultimately, it is to your superb judgment on how the lessons are paced throughout the year. Feel free to make copies or ask questions about the materials that have been prepared for you. And as always, stay blessed, be prayerful, and have fun serving God!



## PRAYING AND BELIEVING

*“But the angel said to him: ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.’”*

Luke 1:1-25;67-80

Key Verse 1:13

**W**hat kinds of **prayers** has God answered for you or others you know? Are there **prayers** you’re still waiting to have answered? What do you think about prayer?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verses 5-6. Who were Zechariah and Elizabeth? Read verse 7. What was their family problem?

---



---

Read verse 11. What happened as Zechariah was burning incense in the temple? Read verses 13-17. What good news did the angel bring?

---



---

Read verse 18. Why didn’t Zechariah believe the angel? **Have you ever asked God for something but gave up or asked God for something but didn’t think it would happen? Why?**

---



---

Read 19-20. What was the consequence of not believing? Read 59-61. Why did Zechariah and Elizabeth decide to call him John? Read 63-64. What happened when Zechariah obeyed God by faith?

---



---

**What is prayer? Do you pray? Why is it so bad to doubt when we pray? What do you learn about prayer?**

---



---

be used greatly by God

### HOW TO HAVE GREAT FAITH!

*“But the angel said to him: ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.’”*

#### HOW I PUT GOD’S WORD INTO PRACTICE

##### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

##### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

##### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
 What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
 What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

##### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

be used greatly by God

**PRAYING AND BELIEVING**

*"But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.'"*

Teachers Sheet  
Luke 1:1-25;67-80  
Key Verse 1:13

**What to Focus On:**

- ✓ How to be "upright" in God's eyes, why Zechariah and Elizabeth were considered as "upright"
- ✓ Characteristics of John the Baptist
- ✓ Zechariah's faith leads him to sing songs of joy





**MARY'S GOOD DECISION**

*"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."*

Luke 1:26-38  
Key Verse 1:38

**H**ave you ever **shared** your favorite toy, game, Gameboy, ect? Was it easy to **give it away**? How did you feel when you saw them **walking away** with it?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verses 26-27. Who was Mary? Read 28-29. How did the angel greet her, and why was she troubled at his greeting?

---

---

**Why did Mary find favor with God? Why does God use weak sinners like us to do his most important work?**

---

---

---

Read verses 31-33. What did the angel tell Mary about the son she would bear? Read verses 34-37. How would Jesus be born?

---

---

---

Read verse 38. What was Mary's decision of faith? What would it cost her? (Look at verse 27)

---

---

---

**How could she decide to obey God even though it might cost her everything she wanted? Can you make a good decision to obey God no matter what?**

---

---

---

### MARY'S GOOD DECISION

*"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

**MARY'S GOOD DECISION**

*"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."*

Teachers Sheet

Luke 1:26-38

Key Verse 1:38

**What to Focus On:**

- ✓ Only reference to Jesus as child/teenager
- ✓ Jesus' desire to learn about spiritual things
- ✓ Having a better attitude and desire as we study God's word



## FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE!

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

Luke 2:41-52  
Key Verse 2:52

**W**hat do you get really **addicted** to? What do you have a hard time to **stop doing**? Does it happen a lot that your parents have to **take something away** to get you to **stop** playing it?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verses 41-42. Why were Jesus and his parents in Jerusalem? Read verse 43-45. When did Jesus' parents notice that Jesus was not with them?

---



---

Read verse 46. Where did they find him? Read verse 47. Why were people amazed at him?

---



---

Read verse 48. How did his mother rebuke him? What was Jesus' response to his mother? What does it mean?

---



---

**Do you love to spend time with God through Bible reading, Bible study, prayer, singing or serving? Did you ever get so into Bible study that you couldn't stop like Jesus? How can you?**

---



---

Read verse 52. How did Jesus grow when he was a young boy? **What will happen to you if you spend time with God through lots of Bible study like Jesus?**

---



---

## FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE!

*"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."*

### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

## FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE!

*"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."*

Luke 2:41-52  
Key Verse 2:52

**Opening Activity: Write down 5 questions you have about faith, Jesus, God or the Bible.** We should always be asking questions. Questions show that we are learning the Bible. The Bible is so totally opposite of everything that the world teaches us, that if we don't have questions there must be something totally off, we must be asleep in Bible study, or we just don't care. How can you begin to teach yourself the Bible? You must ask yourself questions and then pray and look for the answers, ask those wiser than you, talk to your parents, wonder, doubt, seek and find.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Ⓢ Why did they celebrate the Passover? How often did Jesus' parents celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem? What does this show about them?
- Because of the great dispersion of the Jews observance of festivals like this were not common among all Jews; so we see the piety of this family. It also was only required that males come not women, therefore we see that the attendance of the whole family is significant in that we can see the willingness and desire of Mary to come to God and offer.
- When a Jewish boy was three years old he was given the tasselled garment directed by the Law (Numbers 15:38-41; Deuteronomy 22:12). At five he usually began to learn portions of the Law, under his mother's direction; these were passages written on scrolls, such as the shema or creed of Deuteronomy 6:4, the Hallel Psalms (Psalm 114, 118, 136). When the boy was thirteen years old he wore, for the first time, the phylacteries, which the Jew always put on at the recital of the daily prayer. In the well-known and most ancient 'Maxims of the Fathers' ('Pirke Avoth'), we read that, at the age of ten, a boy was to commence the study of the Mishna (the Mishna was a compilation of traditional interpretations of the Law); at eighteen he was to be instructed in the Gemara (the Gemara was a vast collection of interpretations of the Mishna. The Mishna and Gemara together make up the Talmud. The Mishna may roughly be termed the text, the Gemara the commentary, of the Talmud).
- At the age of 12 Jewish boys have their bar-mitzvah, they are now of age and are under the Law and therefore must come and observe it like anyone else.
- Ⓢ When did Jesus' parents notice that Jesus was not with them? Where did they find him?
- Joseph and Mary stayed to the end of the feast which was 7 days. It was not necessary for them to stay the entire time, which shows the kind of devout family to which Jesus belonged. It was not by accident that Jesus was placed in this family. No one can fake being a real believer, if you are fake, you'll burn out; no, they were the real deal and God recognizes and rewards those who earnestly seek him. He says to those who seek me with all their heart they will see me—how much more literal it was for them!
- Jesus is not being disobedient to them. It is not an example for children to disobey their parents when the cause seems good. Rather, Jesus was with his 'Father', obeying him, and spending time with him. In this way it superceeded his submission to his 'father'

- Ⓢ Where was he and what was he doing? Why were people amazed at him?
  - Jesus was in the temple in the place where the doctors of the Law kept their schools. He was listening to their instruction, posing questions, and answering their questions with such wisdom that they were amazed.
    - Young people should seek to learn the Bible with passion, seeking out the truth and asking questions, curious and eager to learn. 2 Ti 2:15, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” Or “Study diligently...”
  
- Ⓢ Why were his parents surprised? How and why did his mother rebuke him? What was Jesus’ response to his mother? What does this mean?
  - We couldn’t find you.
  - I had to be about my Father’s business.
  
- Ⓢ What was Jesus’ attitude in Bible study like? What does this show about his inner desires?
  - For three days Jesus stayed studying the Bible. He did this on his own because he really wanted it.
  - He was like “No Mom...I want to study the Bible a little longer...c’mon.”
  - Mt 7:7-8, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Mt 5:8, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Rev 3:20, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” Jer 29:13, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Dt 4:29, “But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.”
  
- Ⓢ Is Jesus being a rebellious teenager? How is he different? Why is it important to learn about God in this way?
  - God must first. We must put God and loving God above all things in our life.
  
- Ⓢ How do you learn about God? Why is it a good idea to follow Jesus’ example? What will happen when you do?
  - For Testimony: What kind, how much Bible study do you have, what kind of Bible study and why. What do you like about the Bible? What do you think about it.



## REPENT AND FOLLOW JESUS!

"...during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness."

Luke 3:1-20  
Key Verses 3:2

**D**id you ever have a **bad habit** that was **hard to stop**? Why are bad habits so easy to start and so **hard to stop**? What did you do to **overcome**?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who was John? (Read 1:13-17 again) What was the world like in John's time? Read verses 3-4. How did John prepare the people for Jesus?

---



---

Read verse 8. What does 'repentance' or 'repent' mean? How does repenting 'produce fruit'? **How can we produce fruit?**

---



---

Read verses 10-14. What did he tell each group of people to do? **What do you think he would tell you to do?**

---



---

**Why did John preach about repentance when no one wants to ever repent? Why is this important?**

---



---



---

Read verse 17. What will happen to those who refuse to repent?

---



---



---

### REPENT AND FOLLOW JESUS!

*"...during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

##### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

**REPENT AND FOLLOW JESUS!**

*"...during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness."*

Teachers Sheet

Luke 3:1-20

Key Verses 3:2

**What to Focus On:**

- ✓ Who is John “the Baptist?”
  
- ✓ What “repentance” simply means. What “believe” means
  
- ✓ The importance of telling others about Jesus



## DEFEAT THE DEVIL WITH THE BIBLE

*"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone."'"*

Luke 4:1-13  
Key Verse 4:4

**W**hat is really **tempting** for you? Is it a **food**? A **game**? A **TV show**? An **electronic device**? Have you ever tried to **resist**? What does that **feel** like? Were you **successful**?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verses 1 and 2. Where did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus and why (look at Hebrews 4:15)? Who is "the devil"? **How do you think Jesus felt at the end of 40 days? When does the devil attack us?**

---



---



---

Read verse 3. What did the devil tempt Jesus to do? **Are you ever tempted to only think about what you want?** Read verse 4. How did he overcome the devil's temptation?

---



---



---

Read verses 5-7. How did the devil tempt Jesus a second time? **How would you have felt if you were given the chance to be king of the world?** Read verse 8. How did Jesus overcome the devil's temptation a second time?

---



---



---

Read verses 9-11. How did the devil tempt Jesus the last time? Read verse 12. How did Jesus overcome the devil's final temptation? **How did Jesus easily make the devil run away? What are some practical ways we can be ready to face the devil and win the victory (see Psalm 119:9,11)?**

---



---



---

# DEFEAT THE DEVIL WITH THE BIBLE

*"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone."'"*

## HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
 What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
 What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

**DEFEAT THE DEVIL WITH THE BIBLE**

*"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone."'"*

Teacher Sheet

Luke 4:1-13

Key Verse 4:4

- ❖ We live in a society that actually encourages us to give in to temptation: “if it feels good do it”, “the only way to overcome temptation is to give in to it”, etc. Even some Christians act like sin is not really a big deal to God which begs the question: why did Jesus have to die on the cross if it wasn’t serious? The fact is that sin is very serious, it’s immediate effects in Genesis 3 were shame, then fear, then broken relationships between God and each other eventually leading to death and in chapter 4 murder. So, just as the first teaching session between God and man was focused on how to defeat temptation, so like Cain, we must learn how to overcome and some practical steps to take. This is a great opportunity to share your own story and the age-appropriate temptations you faced and how you overcame them.
- ❖ We can draw a lot of parallels between Jesus and Adam and Eve in the garden and even Cain. As Adam failed sitting in the beautiful garden with an easy life, Jesus had to overcome where he failed and he did so in the wilderness! Yet, Jesus doesn’t just overcome but shows us the pattern for doing so. As Eve’s downfall was her poor attitude toward God’s word (and towards God), so success in defeating the devil comes from a right attitude about it.
- ❖ Defeating the devil on our own is impossible. Like Eve in the garden, we will eventually be tricked and turned around. Thank God, that he has given us a sword by which we may defeat the devil, we don’t need to rely on our own strength but learn to use the sword.
- ❖ Practically, we need to memorize the Bible so we have it ready when temptation comes. We need to be studying it often so we understand how to apply it. We need to be repenting before the word, especially in testimonies that aren’t general but personal, so that our hearts are soft and receptive to God’s leading. We need to identify what tempts us and have a plan to face it. Preceding the temptation was a lot of prayer. We also need to pray to hear what God is saying today and change our desires.





## JESUS CALLS PETER TO BE HIS DISCIPLE

*"Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.'"*

Luke 5:1-11

Key Verse: 5:10b

**A**re you good at following **instructions**? Can you **assemble** things, complete the **recipe**, finish the **project** by yourself or do you need **help**? Do you do it your **own way** or do you like to follow the **instructions** exactly?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 1. What was Jesus doing by the Lake of Gennesaret one morning? Read verses 2-3. Why did he get into Simon's boat?

---



---



---

Read verse 4. After teaching the crowd, what did Jesus ask Simon to do? Read verse 5. **Did Jesus' command make sense?** What did Peter do?

---



---



---

**What do the words "Because you say so" teach us about obeying Jesus' words?** Read verses 6 and 7. What happened when Simon obeyed Jesus? **What is your attitude toward Jesus' words—do you obey when it makes sense to you, or simply because Jesus says so?**

---



---



---

Read verse 8-10. What did Peter realize about Jesus? Read verse 10. What new job did Jesus give to Peter? Read verse 11. Did Peter obey? **How about you, do you do what you want or are you doing what Jesus wants because he said so?**

---



---



---

## JESUS CALLS PETER TO BE HIS DISCIPLE

*"Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.'"*

### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

**SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:**

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER TOPICS:**

---

**JESUS CALLS PETER TO BE HIS DISCIPLE**

*"Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.'"*

Teacher Sheet  
Luke 5:1-11  
Key Verse: 5:10b

- ❖ In everything Jesus is looking to help us grow in faith. Therefore, often he asks us to do something that makes no sense (think Joshua and Jericho, Gideon and his little army armed with trumpets, lamps and jars). But simple humble obedience grows us in faith. It is not about us it is about God and what he can do. When we trust in him miracles happen and understanding comes later.
- ❖ “Because you say so” is the only way we can obey the Bible. Kids don’t like “because I said so”. They obey when it makes sense, when they like it or see some benefit, etc. We obey Jesus’ words even when they are hard, even when we don’t like it, even when it doesn’t seem to make sense, simply because God said so. It means our faith and trust and obedience is in the person of God. I love and trust God and know that whatever he tells me, whatever he wants is always best and for my ultimate good, and so I obey. Period. I don’t do it out of duty but out of that love relationship I have with God.
- ❖ Peter showed his absolute trust and obedience to Jesus when he obeyed becoming a fisher of men leaving everything behind. When Jesus told him to stop everything he was doing and take a new career and life direction, he totally stopped everything and followed. Are we as willing? Or are we basically obeying ourselves and still trying to be Christians on the side. Obeying God’s word is also about lining my life up with God’s direction not mine.



## JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH LEPROSY

*"Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' And immediately the leprosy left him."*

Luke 5:12-16

Key Verse: 5:13

**W**hat's the grossest thing you ever touched? Why was it so hard to touch? Why don't you like to touch gross stuff? Why did you?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 12. How does Luke describe the man who met Jesus in one of the towns? What is leprosy? How does it affect him physically? our relationships with others? What is the final result?

---



---



---

How is leprosy similar to sin? How does sin affect us? our relationships with others? What is the final result of sin?

---



---



---

Read verse 12 again. What did the leper beg Jesus? What did he believe? Read verse 13. Why did Jesus touch the leper? How did he show his compassion and power? Read verse 14. How did Jesus help him be restored to society?

---



---



---

What do we and our classmates covered in sin need to do? How does Jesus feel about us even though we may seem really gross and no good? How can you beg Jesus for cleansing for you and your friends?

---



---



---

# JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH LEPROSY

*"Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' And immediately the leprosy left him."*

## HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

## JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH LEPROSY

*"Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' And immediately the leprosy left him."*

Teachers Sheet

Luke 5:12-16

Key Verse: 5:13

- ❖ Leprosy taken from the Latin word *lepra*, is a chronic infection caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*. The body responds by trying to wall off the infection into nodules which causes extreme deformation of the skin and loss of pain in the nervous system. The nodules form also in the lungs and eyes, causing difficulty breathing and loss of eyesight. Because they cannot feel pain, when they injure their extremities or get wounds on their skin that they cannot feel, these become infected to the point that parts of their body even begin to fall off. It eventually results in a total shut down of the body and death. Leprosy is very contagious and was for many years incurable. Now it is possible to cure it after 6 months of multidrug therapy to kill the bacteria.
- ❖ Lepers in Jesus' day were required by the law of Moses to live outside the camp—generally in leper communities—to cover their faces, and never to go near healthy people, if anyone came near them, they must yell out “unclean!” So, they were totally cut off from society, their friends, family, no one was allowed to go near them or they would be unclean, this was to prevent the spread of the disease among all the people. More than that, it was often thought to be the result of some sin because God used it as a punishment in a number of cases for people's sin.
- ❖ Sin is similar to leprosy because it attacks our whole being. It deforms us so that even though we try to hide our sin it is visible in the way we act, talk and even look. It numbs us so that the first time sin feels really bad but later we don't feel anything. It spreads and gets progressively worse so that a small sin eventually takes over our life and we need to do it more and more and move to worse and worse sins, until sin completely defines who we are. “Desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is full grown brings forth death” (James 1:15).
- ❖ Jesus was willing. Most were horrified by leprosy—anyone would be it is a terrifying and disgusting disease—but Jesus was willing. It was against the law for Jesus to touch him but he did out of his compassion. What would make others unclean did not have any effect on Jesus. In his compassion, he did not only want to wave his hand and heal from a distance, but showed incredible care for the man to touch him. No one ever wanted to touch him but Jesus wanted to touch him. Jesus didn't only care for his disease but helped him to be restored to society so the man could live a normal life. Of course, when he showed everyone, how could he not tell them about Jesus and everyone was amazed at Jesus' power and compassion.
- ❖ We often try to hide our sin. We think that if anyone really saw how diseased I am they would not want to be near me or touch me, especially not God who must hate me for what I do. But in reality, Jesus is willing. He wants to touch each of us and our friends, no matter how gross their sin is, it doesn't bother Jesus at all. The cure to our sin problems and those of our friends is to come to Jesus, if we can just bring them to Jesus everything will be cured. So, we must do whatever it takes to bring them to Jesus, we must overcome excuses and stop making our own excuses and just come as dirty and gross as we are to Jesus who isn't grossed out by us and be made clean.





**BE A NEW WINESKIN CHRISTIAN!***"No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins."*Luke 5:33-39  
Key Verse: 5:38

**D**id you ever stubbornly believe something that you found out was not correct? Or are there certain things that you are stubborn about and won't change your mind about?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verse 33. Who criticized Jesus and his disciples and about what? Why were they like this? Read verses 34-35. What did Jesus teach about himself and his ministry?

---

---

---

Read verse 36. Why can't a new patch be put on an old garment? Read verses 37-38. Why can't new wine be put into old wineskins?

---

---

---

What does the new wine represent? What do the old wineskins represent? What does a new wineskin represent?

---

---

---

Who are the old wineskins in this passage? Who are the new? Why are the old wineskins so stiff and inflexible? How can we be like new wineskins? What should be our attitude when we receive the dynamic, expanding, life-changing word of God?

---

---

---

## BE A NEW WINESKIN CHRISTIAN!

*"No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins."*

### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

NEW WINESKIN PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEARNING MINDS

**BE A NEW WINESKIN CHRISTIAN!**

*"No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins."*

Luke 5:33-39  
Key Verse: 5:38

- ❖ We need to be clear that fasting is good and there is nothing wrong with fasting. But the Pharisees only did rituals without really seeking God. It is like our kids coming to church, going through the motions, writing testimony, etc. but only to please their teachers and not God. It is even possible for them to do religious rituals and look down on those who don't do them as if these rituals are what makes them holy, rather than the blood of Jesus alone. Jesus said that the nature of his ministry is joy because of our relationship to Jesus. This is what religion was always supposed to be, but the Pharisees made it about rules and rituals and not about God—we must be careful not to do the same.
- ❖ The new and the old absolutely do not mix. Judaism and Christianity do not mix. Christianity is not Judaism 2.0. It is a completely new start. We cannot be Christians and still try to live in the Old Covenant: keep the rules and you will be blessed, fail and you will be condemned.
- ❖ The New Covenant—we are saved by grace alone—is so dynamically different that someone stuck in the old way will burst trying to accept it. Jesus' teaching is this new wine and only those who are willing to expand and accept it can receive it. The problem of the Pharisees is that beginning from John the Baptist they were unwilling to repent, change and grow—they were old and rigid, incapable of change.
- ❖ So, as Jesus' followers, we must guard against becoming stubborn, fixed, comfy, or we can become like them. The Holy Spirit is dynamic and always expanding, growing, changing and we must be willing to grow and expand as well. The Spirit has no barriers to doing ministry and we must be willing to change. Jesus can help all kinds of people to come to repentance, we must be willing to embrace all kinds of people. Christians are called to love all people, we must be willing to enlarge our heart and cast out our prejudices and biases. In every way we must soften our hearts through much repentance so that we can do whatever God's word and the Spirit's leading tells us and then we can hold the new wine.



**BE A RELATIVE OF JESUS!**

“He replied, ‘My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.’”

Luke 8:16-21  
Key Verse: 8:21

Is there any book you read more than once? Many times? What is it about that book that you like? Are you an expert at it?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verses 16-17. Where do people usually keep lamps? Where is it silly to put a lamp? What does the lamp represent?

---

---

---

Read verse 17 again. What happens when a light shines in a room? In our heart? In the world?

---

---

---

Read verse 18. What does “consider carefully” mean? How can we put our lamp on a stand? (Think about our attitudes in Bible study)

---

---

---

Read verses 19-20. Why did Jesus’ mother and brothers come to him? Why could they not get near? Read verse 21. What did Jesus tell to those who informed him that his family was looking for him? What is the attitude of Jesus’ family members in Bible study? How can you put God’s word to practice this week, and be a light to others? What must you do?

---

---

---

**BE A RELATIVE OF JESUS!**

“He replied, ‘My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.’”

**HOW I PUT GOD’S WORD INTO PRACTICE**

**SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:**

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER TOPICS:**

---

**BE A RELATIVE OF JESUS!**

“He replied, ‘My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.’”

Teachers Sheet

Luke 8:16-21

Key Verse: 8:21

**What to Focus On:**

- ✓ Considering God’s word carefully
  
- ✓ How listening to and practicing God’s word makes us his relatives
  
- ✓ How to be a good family member to God and to your family in the world





**HAVE THE RIGHT VIEW OF JESUS**

*“As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.”*

Luke 9:28-36  
Key Verse: 9:29

**D**id you ever discover a special ability of one of your teachers or parents (like they are an author or professional dancer or musician)? Did it change the way you view them? How? Why?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verse 28. Where did Jesus go? Who did he take with him? What do you think Jesus was praying about (see 9:22)?

---



---



---

Read verse 29. While Jesus was praying, what happened to him? Why did Jesus change into this image? Why do you think the disciples needed to see him like this?

---



---



---

Read verses 30-31. Who came to speak with Jesus? What did they talk about? Read verses 32-33. What did Peter want to do? Why was this wrong? Read verses 34-35. What did God say to them? What does this show about Peter and all people's life problem? Why don't people listen to Jesus properly?

---



---



---

What is your image of Jesus in your mind? How should seeing Jesus in his true image change the way we worship? How should it change the way we study the Bible?

---



---



---

### HAVE THE RIGHT VIEW OF JESUS

*“As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.”*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

**HAVE THE RIGHT VIEW OF JESUS**

*“As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.”*

Teacher Sheet

Luke 9:28-36

Key Verse: 9:29

- ❖ This passage marks part of the turn in the gospel from Jesus healing and preaching, success and popularity to the events leading to his death. From 9:22 Jesus told his disciples what would happen to him. Though they did not understand what it meant, from this point on Jesus’ mindset and direction have changed. For this purpose he needed to pray. He prayed with Moses and Elijah, two suffering servants who followed God’s will at great personal cost. In this way Jesus was strengthened as a man to follow the will of God.
- ❖ As he prayed Jesus was transfigured into his original image. It was necessary for the disciples to understand who Jesus was. Though Peter had just confessed that Jesus is the Christ, he did not really understand that this meant he is God’s Son. He imagined that it meant he was a very powerful human. They couldn’t really imagine the scope of who Jesus was and so they couldn’t accept this death or what he really came to do.
- ❖ Jesus had gone up on the mountain to gain strength to go to the cross but Peter wanted to stay on the mountain forever. Always the disciples were looking for a human Messiah and for human glory. God appeared to them and told them to listen to Jesus. The problem of all mankind is that they don’t really listen to Jesus because they have a wrong image of him.
- ❖ How we view Jesus is everything. We must see him in his glory shining like lightning, radiating power and majesty. This image transforms the way we worship, pray and listen to his words. We need a sense of awe and holy reverence so that we may come to worship service with a right attitude. Jesus is not just our buddy, some guy who we can joke around with and talk during service, half listen to the message, etc, but he is almighty God before whom we should tremble and listen with respect and awe. He is so glorious that he deserves all the praise and devotion we can give with all our heart. Having this image of Jesus also dispels all kinds of dark images, doubts, fears, sins, and sadness from our hearts.



**WHY WE MUST BE THANKFUL**

*"Rejoice always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

If you added up all the things you said this year, would there be more complaining or more positive comments? Why is this?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verse 16. How can we always be "joyful?" What kinds of joy are there in the world? What kind of joy was Paul talking about here?

---



---



---

Read verse 17. What does it mean to "pray continually?" What kind of prayer is this? What happens when we do so?

---



---



---

Read verse 18. Why should we give thanks in ALL circumstances (All the time no matter what)? What happens when we do not thank God?

---



---



---

What if something bad happens to us, can we be thankful? How were the Pilgrims thankful? What were they thankful for?

---



---



---

Why is it important to thank God? What are you thankful for this thanksgiving?

---



---



---

### WHY WE MUST BE THANKFUL

*"Rejoice always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

**SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?**

---

---

---

**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?**

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:**

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER TOPICS:**

---

---

#### 10 THINGS I AM THANKFUL FOR

- |          |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____  | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____  | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____  | 9. _____ |
|          | 10. _____ |          |

**WHY WE MUST BE THANKFUL**

*“Rejoice always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

Teachers Sheet  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- ❖ Why should we be “joyful” always? (What is Joy [as opposed to happy feelings] and what do we always have to be Joyful about?)
- ❖ Why should we always “pray?” (Pray for what? And why non-stop?)
- ❖ How can we “give thanks” always? (Good times and Bad regardless of our circumstances)





## THE GOOD SAMARITAN

*"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'"*

Luke 10:25-37  
Key Verse: 10:28

**D**id you ever help a stranger or someone you just met? Why did you do it? How did it make you feel? Did a stranger ever help you? How did you feel?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 25. What did the expert in the law ask Jesus? Read 26-28. If you look at Jesus' question and the man's answer, and then Jesus final comment in 28, what do you think was the man's problem? Read verse 29. What was the man's second question?

---



---



---



---

Read verse 30. In the parable, what happened to the man going from Jerusalem to Jericho? Read verses 31-32. Who were the first two people to see the wounded man? What did they do and what did they have in common? What do you think was their excuse for not helping?

---



---



---



---

Read verse 33. Why did the Samaritan stop when he saw the man? Read verses 34-35. How did the Samaritan help the injured man? What did he lose in time, money and effort to help this man? What were the dangers involved?

---



---



---



---

Why did Jesus make a Samaritan the hero of the story? What can we learn from him about helping others? How was he different from the religious leaders? Read verses 36-37. What did Jesus teach the expert in the law about loving our neighbor? How can you and I "go and do likewise"?

---



---



---



---

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN

*“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’ Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”*

### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

#### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

#### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN

*"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'"*

Luke 10:25-37

Key Verse: 10:28

- ❖ It seems clear that this was a man who knew many things but didn't practice. What Jesus focuses on in this passage, is about doing what God says through action. It is a real problem for young Christians to get filled full of knowledge and think that by that knowledge, they are righteous, even though they don't really act like what the Bible says. Young people need to understand that being right with God is about what you do, not what you know. It isn't school it is life.
- ❖ Those who should be the best based on their great knowledge and "holy" lifestyle proved that they did not really care to follow God, to really obey, to really love their neighbor. All their knowledge made them most worried about keeping legalistic rules and they didn't care at all about people, while God cares most about people and least about rules. The more we know God the more we should grow in compassion for our neighbor, love for God and obedience to do what God says. Bible study should not be about learning facts but truly seeking God and doing what he says. Bible study should lead us to a relationship with God and a changed life.
- ❖ The Samaritan is chosen as the hero of the story because implicit in the expert's question is the idea, "only Jews who I like are my neighbor." However, a despised

Samaritan loves his neighbor as himself, with no bias. He endangers himself with whoever robbed the man, spends his own time and money because that is what he would hope someone would do for him. The religious leaders loved finding loopholes in the law and making excuses why they didn't need to obey or not really fully doing what the Bible says but the Samaritan shows us the way to simply do what God says. He wasn't a super educated Pharisee who knew all the laws, he just did what was right and loving and in that way kept all of God's law.

- ❖ Our kids think that they can't have a mission because they are too young and inexperienced, they don't know all the Bible and have too many sins. But in reality, they can simply obey what they know and be loving, kind, helpful people in their schools. When they treat others as they want to be treated, not having a bias against anyone, they testify about Jesus more powerfully than any sermon. It is not Bible knowledge that moves people's hearts, but the genuinely changed lives of God's people. Our kids should not be Bible experts but God's love experts.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*"He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come."*

Luke 11:1-13  
Key Verse: 11:2

**W**hat is the biggest thing you ever asked your parents for? Did you get it? What was the silliest thing? The smallest?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why was prayer important to Jesus? (1) What request did one disciple make of Jesus? Why were they suddenly interested in prayer? What did Jesus teach them? (Memorize verses 2-4.)

---



---



---

What did it mean to Jesus to call God "Father"? (2) What does it mean to you that you can call God "Father"? Why must we hallow (respect) God's name in prayer? How do people dishonor God's name?

---



---



---

Why do we pray "your kingdom come" before "give me, give me, give me"? (See footnote 11:2) Why should God's mission always be our first prayer topic? Is Jesus' prayer mainly self-centered (selfish) or God-centered?

---



---



---

Why pray for "daily" bread (all our "daily" needs)? Why is forgiveness so necessary? Why pray for forgiveness every day? How can we forgive others? (Mt 18:21-35) Why do we need to pray about temptation? (1Pe 5:8)

---



---



---

What is the point of the parable Jesus told? (5-8) What must we do if we want blessings from God? (9-10) What does God the good Father want to give us? (11-13)

---



---



---

pray for his kingdom to come

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*"He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

pray for his kingdom to come

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*"He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come."*

Luke 11:1-13  
Key Verse: 11:2

**What to Focus On:**

- ✓ Prayer should be focused on God, God's will, God's mission, and God's kingdom more than I, my, me
- ✓ Prayer is a time to come to God, talk with God, think about and get centered in God, not to rattle off our wishlist
- ✓ Prayer doesn't need to be complicated or long, God knows what we need before we pray, therefore pray simply and honestly

pray for his kingdom to come





## FILL UP ON JESUS

*"But if I drive out demons by the finger of God,  
then the kingdom of God has come upon you."*

Luke 11:14-26  
Key Verse: 11:20

**D**id you ever experience that you were super into something, but then a new interest made you completely forget the first thing you were into? (like you liked one game but forgot it when you played a new one) Why did you forget it?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did Jesus take time to do at the beginning of this passage? What did some doubters say? What did Jesus teach about the finger of God?

---



---



---

Who is the strong man in Jesus' parable? (21-23) Who is the stronger man? What does Jesus teach us about his power over sin and demons? Who is the strong man we should turn to when we find sin we cannot overcome and habits we can't break in us?

---



---



---

What is our natural way of trying to overcome our sins and bad habits? What happens when we get rid of all the sinful things we enjoyed before and don't fill up that empty space? Why can nothing in this world fill up the empty space in us? (John 4:13)

---



---



---

What must we fill up on? How can we fill ourselves with Jesus? What do we learn about how to overcome sin and bad habits?

---



---



---



---

**FILL UP ON JESUS**

*“But if I drive out demons by the finger of God,  
then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”*

**HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE****SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:**

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER TOPICS:**

---

---

**WE TRY TO “CLEAN OURSELVES UP” INSTEAD OF FILLING UP ON JESUS**

**FILL UP ON JESUS**

*"But if I drive out demons by the finger of God,  
then the kingdom of God has come upon you."*

Teacher Sheet  
Luke 11:14-26  
Key Verse: 11:20

**What to Focus On:**

- ✓ Jesus is the only one with power to overcome demons. Self-help only manages the problem at best but it doesn't solve it.
- ✓ If we try to clean ourselves up by our own effort, we will just end up going to a new addiction to fill that craving, it doesn't solve the root problem.
- ✓ "Cleaning ourselves up" is ultimately useless, we need to change the way we live to be centered on Jesus, we need to actually live a Christian lifestyle for sin to diminish in us.



## GOD'S BEST GIFT TO US

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

In this verse, Isaiah talks about the birth of Jesus. He shows how much God loves us, and how he gave us his son. He talks about how important Jesus is to the world, and Jesus is to our lives. How important is Jesus to you? Why is he the BEST gift that anyone could ever give to a person? How is Jesus YOUR best gift? Let's think about these questions as we study this passage. May Jesus come into your hearts this Christmas time!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does it mean that Jesus was "born" or "given" to us? How was Jesus born? How does Jesus' birth show God's love for all people? How does Jesus' birth show God's love for YOU?

---



---



---

What is a "government?" What does it mean that the government will be on his shoulders? (Mt 2:2) What does this show about him?

---



---



---

What does the word "counselor" mean? (Jn 4) Why is Jesus the wonderful counselor? Why do people need a counselor? Do you?

---



---



---

What does "Mighty God" mean? (Jn 1:1-3) Everlasting Father? (Heb 13:8) Why is Jesus both? How important is this to you?

---



---



---

Why is Jesus called "Prince of peace?" Why do people need peace (most of all) in their lives? How do people not have peace? Do you have peace?

---



---



---

### GOD'S BEST GIFT TO US

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

**GOD'S BEST GIFT TO US**

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

**What to Focus On:**

- ✓ Why God sent Jesus to us
- ✓ Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
- ✓ Why is Jesus the best gift to us?





## A DECISION THAT PLEASURES GOD

*"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way."*

Daniel 1:8

**W**hat are some tough decisions you had to make this year? What made them difficult? How did you decide?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verses 1-4. Who took over Israel? What did he select some young men of Judah for?

---



---



---

Read verses 5-7. Why did he give them food from his table? Why did the king change their names? ***In what ways has the world tried to tempt you and change your name?***

---



---



---

Read verses 8-16. What did Daniel decide to do? Why would it be hard for Daniel to keep this decision? Why did Daniel's decision please God? ***Why is it important to make decisions that please God in our lives? Did you make good decisions this year, or bad ones?***

---



---



---

Read Verses 17-21. How did God help these four men? ***What will happen when we decide to please God with our lives? How can you start small and make small decisions to please God this new year?***

---



---



---

**A DECISION THAT PLEASURES GOD**

*"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way."*

**HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE**

**SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:**

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER TOPICS:**

---

**A DECISION THAT PLEASURES GOD**

*"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way."*

Teachers Sheet  
Daniel 1:8

**What to Focus On:**

- ✓ What does being faithful mean?
- ✓ What does it mean to make a decision?
- ✓ Why did Daniel's decision please God? What is your decision to God this year?



## FEAR GOD, NOT MEN

*"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."*

Luke 12:1-12

Key Verse: 12:4,5

**W**hat are you afraid of? Why are you afraid of it? Did you ever overcome a fear? How did you overcome?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Look at verse 1. Even though Jesus was very popular, did he care about being popular and doing what people wanted? In contrast, who were the Pharisees most interested in pleasing? Why does he call their hypocrisy yeast? **Why do hypocrites act one way at church (or in front of their parents) and act differently at school?**

---



---



---

Read verses 2-3. What warning did Jesus give us about all the bad things we try to do in secret? Read verse 4. Why don't we need to fear people or fear being made fun of? Read verse 5. Who should we fear? Why (see Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 21:8)?

---



---



---

What does it mean to fear God (see Proverbs 1:7; Ecclesiastes 12:13, 2 Corinthians 7:1)? **Should we care more about what our classmates think about us or what God thinks about us? Why?**

---



---



---

Read verses 6-7. Even though God CAN throw us into Hell, what does Jesus teach about how much he cares about us and how highly he values us? **What is the best reason to please God with our life?**

---



---



---

Read verses 8-9. How can we practice living for God and not fearing people? **Who do you need to overcome the fear of this week?**

---



---



---

### FEAR GOD, NOT MEN

*"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

##### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

**FEAR GOD, NOT MEN**

*"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."*

Teachers Sheet

Luke 12:1-12

Key Verse: 12:4,5

- ❖ When Jesus saw that he was very popular, he didn't care or pay attention to the crowd because he knew that popularity doesn't last, he never entrusted himself to the crowds (Jn 2:23-25). In contrast to Jesus the Pharisees only lived to please themselves and others. Jesus said that they neither loved nor knew God (Jn 5:42, 8:19). So as a result they were hypocrites (that is actors), who only pretended to be believers but did not believe in God in their hearts or do good. Even kids who come to church but do not love God will all become hypocrites, at church acting like good people but at school doing whatever will make others like them. When we live for others opinion, we give them control over us, we aren't free to be who we are or who God is making us to be, we become what others want us to be. So, we need to ask ourselves: Am I afraid of others knowing I'm a Christian? Do I act like a Christian or like everyone else? Do I talk just like others (gossip, bad words, teasing, bad subjects)? Am I the same person all the time or do I change to please others?
- ❖ When we live a double life we do many bad things in secret. We imagine that if no one can see us then we can't get caught but God can see everything. God will loudly declare everything we did. When we are about to do something bad, we should think: "would I want God to show this to everybody one day in heaven?" What is more everything eventually is found out and when it is revealed, it is much, much louder, and we get in much, much more trouble—nothing can remain hidden forever, a double life is very dangerous. We live a double life because we are afraid of what others think of us and we want to do all we can to have many friends. But doing bad things or acting like others to get friends is slavery, because we can never be who we are or who God is making us to be, we have to always be who others want—like a politician trying to get elected. What is more we must think about the consequences of acting like this, one day we will have to appear before Jesus and explain what we did, he has the ability to

throw us down into hell because he will judge all people one day. It may seem more fun and beneficial to act like everyone else but one day we will have to pay for everything we have done. Rev 21:8 says that the first on the list of those who will be thrown into the lake of fire are the cowards. The funny thing is, that Jesus, who loved God very obviously and never hid who he was and didn't care what anyone thought and did all sorts of good for God was one of the most super-popular people in all of history even 2000 years later! So believing we will be more popular if we don't act like Jesus is a lie of Satan—actually kids would all love to have a friend who is a good shepherd like Jesus for them.

- ❖ Fearing God is the beginning of knowing him. It does not mean Jesus wants us to walk around being afraid of God all the time. If our friend told us to throw a baseball through our front window of our home, we wouldn't do it because we are afraid of our parents more than afraid of what a kid thinks about us. But that doesn't mean I'm always afraid of my parents, it means I have a right attitude toward them, that they are the parents and have the ability to punish me when I do wrong and I'm afraid of that punishment as I should be. In that, I have a right relationship with my parents, they are not the same as my friends but they are in authority over me. We love our parents and know that they absolutely love us no matter what we do but at the same time we know that doesn't allow me to do whatever I want, but because they love me, they give me consequences to my action. Fearing God is means I live according to his rules because otherwise there will be consequences but also because I love my parents. In the same way fear should not be our ultimate reason for obeying but because we love God. God also loves us. If he even cares about the birds, how much more does he love and care for us.
- ❖ We can practice living for God and not being afraid of people, by telling others about Jesus, inviting others to church and sharing what we learned, why we love God. By doing so, we gain courage and boldness to share more. As we tell others about the love and goodness of God we believe it more also and appreciate it and grow in it. Sharing is essential to healthy Christianity.



## RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

“But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’”

Luke 13:18-30  
Key Verse: 13:27

**H**ow are you different with your close friends versus your acquaintances? Are there certain things you only do with your close friends? Do you keep secrets? Talk on the phone or text?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verses 18-19. How big is a mustard seed? How big of a plant does it grow into? How is the kingdom of God like a mustard seed and mustard tree?

---



---



---

Read verses 20-21. What is yeast? What happens when you put a very tiny amount of yeast into dough? How is the kingdom of God like yeast?

---



---



---

Read verses 23-24. What did someone ask Jesus on the road and what was his answer? What is the “narrow door” we must enter the kingdom through (see John 10:7)?

---



---



---

Read verses 25-27. Why are some denied entrance to the kingdom even though it seems they try hard to get in? What are the key words in verses 25b & 27 that teach us what is most important to enter the kingdom? What does it mean to “know” Jesus (compare to Mt 7:21-23, 25:11-12)?

---



---



---

***How can you have a personal relationship with Jesus? Why isn’t it enough to just go to church and be around Jesus? Read verse 28. Why MUST you have a relationship with Jesus?***

---



---



---



**RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS**

“But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’”

Teachers Sheet  
Luke 13:18-30  
Key Verse: 13:27

- ❖ The kingdom of God is amazing because it only takes a small seed of experiencing God’s love, accepting even one verse, hearing one message and the kingdom can explode in our heart, transform our life, change the course of our personal history, change our eternal destiny and identity, change us from a useless person to a blessing for others, solve our problems, give us peace and eternal life. Jesus first compares it to the smallest of seeds and then in extreme hyperbole to speck of yeast, but each has explosive power contained in them to grow exponentially. We don’t need a lot just a speck and the kingdom can grow in our life if we let it.
- ❖ However though the kingdom is easy to receive it is not cheap. There is a price for the kingdom, we must enter through the narrow gate. The gate is so narrow that we must throw off all our sinful baggage, old life, worldly desires and habits, worldly dreams and loyalties in order to squeeze through. The door is Jesus who died and was raised to life. Paul says that when we were baptized into Jesus we also died to our old life (Rom 6:4, Gal 2:20) and must now live a new life in Christ. We must make every effort to enter that gate tells us that it will take effort. It isn’t done for us by God, but we must do the work too. In previous generations they referred to it as the slaying of the spirit and it is a necessary step. Many want to wait and enjoy the world before really dying to their sinful nature and following God whole heartedly but God says that unexpectedly they will run out of time and even though they try to enter they will be turned away.
- ❖ We must think about what is the difference between knowing about Jesus and having a relationship with him? Relationship with

Jesus means going through the narrow door that is Jesus himself, in fellowship with Him we live a real Christian lifestyle daily, denying sin and doing what he is doing because he is our friend, we love him and want to be where he is, and acting how he acts and going where he goes. For a real Christian who has really accepted Jesus and loves him with their whole heart this will still be tough but it happens very naturally as we cooperate with what God is doing in our life.

- ❖ We must make “EVERY EFFORT” to seek to truly know Jesus in the sense that we experience him and fellowship with him in our practical daily way of living, talking, thinking, working and even playing (Jer 29:13)

**THE PRODIGAL SON**

*“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”*

Luke 15:11-32

Key Verse: 15:31-32

**W**hat do you love most about your home and family? What are some things that you can always rely on in your family? Have you ever messed up big time and been forgiven by them?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verses 11-13. What did the younger son ask of his father? Why did he ask such thing? Why did his father give him what he wanted? What did the younger son do with his freedom?

---

---

---

Read verses 14-20a. What happened when a famine struck the land? What shows that the younger son hit the bottom? What did he remember and what did he decide to do?

---

---

---

Read verses 20b-24. How did the father welcome his son? What does this teach about God? How and why did he celebrate? How does this reveal the heart of God?

---

---

---

Read verses 25-32. How did the older brother react when he heard the music and dancing and feasting? What did the father say? In what sense was the elder son also a lost son?

---

---

---

### THE PRODIGAL SON

*“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

##### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

**GOD LOVES SINNERS AND WANTS TO RESTORE THEM**

**THE PRODIGAL SON**

*“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”*

Luke 15:11-32

Key Verse: 15:31-32

**What to Focus On:**

- ✓ The results of living a life of unrestrained human freedom
- ✓ How the son remembered “in my father’s house”, all the love and grace of God who is waiting like a father looking to the horizon for his lost children to return
- ✓ How the older son was in fact also lost. God is not waiting to condemn sinners but to lovingly restore them and celebrate their repentance. Self-righteous people are also lost because they don’t know the heart of God





## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME

*"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried."*

Luke 16:19-31

Key Verse: 16:22

**H**ave you ever helped out a kid you didn't know? Given money to the needy or poor? Why did you do it? How did you feel?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 13-15 for background. Why did Jesus tell this parable? Read verse 19. How did the rich man live? Read 20-21. How did Lazarus live? Read verses 22-23. What happened to Lazarus? What happened to the rich man?

---



---



---

Read verse 24. What request did the rich man make? Read verse 25. Why did Abraham refuse?

---



---



---

Read verse 26. How is a person's eternal destiny fixed after death (see also Hebrews 9:27)? Why did Lazarus the beggar go to paradise? Why did the rich man go to hell?

---



---



---

Read verses 27-28. What was the rich man's second request? Read verses 29-31. What did Abraham say we need in order to know the truth, repent and go to heaven (see also 2 Ti 3:15)? Why is this the only way?

---



---



---

**Who is someone in need you can care for this week?**

# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME

*"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried."*

## HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

BY LOVING THOSE IN NEED WE LOVE GOD AND PLEASE GOD

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME

*"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried."*

Teachers Sheet  
Luke 16:19-31  
Key Verse: 16:22

BY LOVING THOSE IN NEED WE LOVE GOD AND PLEASE GOD



## THE POWER OF PRAYER

*"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."*

Luke 18:1-14

Key Verse: 18:1

**D**Id you ever want something very badly but your parents wouldn't get it but you eventually got it because you asked over and over again? Why did your parents give it to you? Did you learn to be persistent in other areas of life?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 1. What was the point of Jesus' parable? Why do people give up instead of praying? Why should they not? (1 Thes 5:16-18)

---



---



---

Read verses 2-5. How does Jesus describe the judge? What does it mean that he did not fear God? Care about people? What effect did this have on him?

---



---



---

What is the prayer topic of the persistent widow? What in her situation might cause her to be so persistent? What does it mean to be persistent? What did the judge decide to do? Why? How is this consistent with his character?

---



---



---

Read verses 6-8. Why does Jesus say, "Listen to the unjust judge"? How is God different from this judge? What does it mean to "cry out to him day and night?" What kind of prayer topics should God's chosen ones have?

---



---



---

### THE POWER OF PRAYER

*“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”*

#### HOW I PUT GOD’S WORD INTO PRACTICE

**SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:**

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER TOPICS:**

---

**PRAY AND DON’T GIVE UP**

## THE POWER OF PRAYER

*“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”*

Teachers Sheet

Luke 18:1-14

Key Verse: 18:1

1. Read verse 1. What was the point of Jesus' parable? Why do people give up instead of praying? Why should they not? (1 Thes 5:16-18)
  - To show the disciples that they should always pray and not give up.
    - Give up: the Greek – to make weary (mentioned 6 times in the NT). Jesus mentioned this for the sake of his weary disciples that they may endure.
  - They don't get an immediate result. Prayer takes time. Spurgeon said that we must pray in humility realizing we are but dust or we will have a tendency to become discouraged or disappointed, or blame God. No confidence that God will answer? Desire to pray is weak? Laziness?
    - (Entitlement) We think prayer is God's obligation. It is part of the benefits package for Christians and God should honor all my prayer requests immediately. When prayer is primarily about getting something from God, then we will harbor bitterness, because God carries out his own plans.
    - Perhaps the context is important, considering the audience: young weak powerless disciples. They were like the widow seeking justice. So justice is the prayer topic more than personal desires.
    - In chapter 17 he talks about the end times, and increasingly there would be injustice in the world but they should not give up.
    - We can also say, that people don't have a clear prayer topic. And no sense of urgency to pray.
  - 1 Th 5:16-18, “Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”
  
2. Read verses 2-5. How does Jesus describe the judge? What does it mean that he did not fear God? Care about people? What effect did this have on him?
  - There was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. He was really heartless, because a poor widow came to him and he dismissed her without any compassion.
  - God's heart is for the widows and orphans, the helpless. Psalm 68:5, “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.” So a judge who had no heart for widows has no fear of God who will repay him and avenge him.
    - Like the atheist. Or young people who totally dismiss older people. People who don't believe in God have nothing to fear, so unless they have some kind of moral compass, they will do anything.
  - To not defend a widow would really drop your approval rating. You should kiss babies and help widows, maybe issue some pardons, like Pilot releasing one prisoner a year. But for the judge to ignore the widow means he is really is proud and detached.
  - To become heartless and self-serving. Finally, he only gave her what she wanted for personal advantage not out of justice or mercy.
    - The contrast between the two is drastic. He has all the power and authority to do whatever he wants. The widow on the other hand has no power to even appear in court. But her power was in persistent requests.

- The word “wear me out” or “weary me” or “attack me,” comes from a Greek term: “She weary me - Ὑπωπιάζει με, Stun me. A metaphor taken from boxers, who bruise each other, and by beating each other about the face blacken the eyes.” Perhaps implies that they were in a contest a fight with each other and she had been beating him down and finally he gave up before she finish him.
3. What is the prayer topic of the persistent widow? What in her situation might cause her to be so persistent? What does it mean to be persistent? What did the judge decide to do? Why? How is this consistent with his character?
    - “Grant me justice against my adversary.” It was not a selfish request or a trivial one, but a matter of survival and necessity. It was a request that she may get justice.
      - We must understand in context, that this is not teaching us how to be pushy in prayer but it is a matter of getting justice.
    - A widow cannot defend herself. A woman cannot appear in court, so unless she can find someone to represent her in court, she has no recourse for justice—it looks hopeless. She has very little options to support herself and so she needs justice to survive.
      - Looking back to verse 1, it seems she should just give up.
    - Push forward even though, there is resistance and difficulty. Don’t give up in the face of discouragement and failure.
    - He decided to grant her decision only because it would benefit him not because it was right.
  4. Read verses 6-8. Why does Jesus say, “Listen to the unjust judge”? How is God different from this judge? What does it mean to “cry out to him day and night?” What kind of prayer topics should God's chosen ones have?
    - It’s a human principle that if this would work for human beings, then isn’t God going to do much more?
    - God doesn’t give in to our prayers out of being exhausted with us, but God loves us and loves justice.
      - There is also a sense that God is carrying out his perfect justice
    - Cry out to him day and night is prayer—continual, persistent, faithful prayer.



**GOD EXALTS THE HUMBLE**

*"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 18:9-14

Key Verse: 14

**D**id you ever experience someone who thought they were really good but got humbled by someone better? How about a person who thought they were no good who were honored?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verse 9. Why did Jesus tell this parable? Why can no one ever be confident of their own righteousness?

---

---

---

Read verse 10. Who went to temple to pray? How are they different from each other? Read verse 11. What did the Pharisee pray? Read verse 12. What did he think made him more righteous than others? Why do people like to compare themselves to others? Can strictly keeping the law make us right with God?

---

---

---

Read verse 13. What did the tax collector pray? What did he know about himself? Why should his prayer be our prayer?

---

---

---

Read verse 14. Which man was justified before God? What does this mean? What will God do to the proud? To the humble? What can we learn about our attitude before God in prayer?

---

---

---

### GOD EXALTS THE HUMBLE

*"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."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

##### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

KNOW THAT YOU ARE A SINNER BEFORE GOD

**GOD EXALTS THE HUMBLE**

*"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 18:9-14

Key Verse: 14

- ❖ Those who think they are righteous because of keeping the rules are lowering God's standard. They lower God's standard down to what rules they can keep and then think they are perfect. In fact, God's standard is like trying to jump from Hawaii 2000 miles to LA. Some can only jump several feet, some Olympic jumpers can jump 10 and someone can shoot out of a cannon for 200 feet but when you compare them to the 2000 mile distance each one looks exactly the same, just a small blip on the radar. Truly no one can get near God's standard. Righteousness can only be given to us as a gift, we can never earn it. And after accepting Jesus, we don't need to continue to try to earn his love and favor, it was always only a gift.
- ❖ People like to compare themselves to others because it makes them feel superior but those people are foolish because it is only God's opinion of us that matters. People who think they are better than others are only thinking about themselves all the time.
- ❖ The tax collector is much better than the rule-keeping Pharisee because he compared himself to God's standard, not his own and found that he was a sinner. When we realize we are sinners before an absolutely perfect God, we have a right understanding of God and ourselves. Without such a view of God and ourselves we will never have a right relationship with God (be righteous). However, when we cry out "Lord have mercy on me, a sinner" God is happy to grant us mercy.
- ❖ We should try to keep rules and become good people, but not so that we can feel we're better than others. The goal of Bible study is to know God and the more we do, the more we love him and want to be like him. Therefore, keeping rules and desiring to be right with him is about relationship and not punishment (1Jn4:18). Each of us should have the attitude of this man in prayer.



## GRACE MAKES US GENEROUS

*"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

Luke 19:1-10

Key Verse: 8

**D**id someone ever *unexpectedly* do something really nice for you? How did you **feel**? What did you **do**?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verses 1-4. Who was Zacchaeus? (2) What does it mean to be a chief tax collector? How much did he want to see Jesus? (4) Why did he want to see Jesus?

---



---



---

Read verses 5-6. What did Jesus do when he reached the spot where Zacchaeus was? (5) What does it mean that Jesus invited himself to his house? How did Zacchaeus respond? (6)

---



---



---

Read verse 7. What did the townspeople say? Why did they say that? Did Jesus care about their words?

---



---



---

Read verses 8-10. What did Zacchaeus offer? (8, Exodus 22:4, Lev 6:5) What made him so generous? What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus? (9-10) Why did Zacchaeus receive salvation? What should be our response to Jesus grace (see 11-27)?

---



---



---

### GRACE MAKES US GENEROUS

*"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

GIVE BECAUSE GOD GAVE TO YOU

## GRACE MAKES US GENEROUS

*"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

Luke 19:1-10

Key Verse: 8

GIVE BECAUSE GOD GAVE TO YOU





## THE LORD'S SUPPER

*"In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying,  
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'"*

Luke 22:1-38  
Key Verse: 22:20

**D**o you have celebrations in your family to remember various things (ie Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc)? How do you celebrate these things? How do you remember what others have done?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 1. Why did the Jews celebrate the Passover (Ex 13:3,7-10)? Read verses 2-6. What did Judas do and why? Look at verses 7-16. Why did Jesus prepare the Passover so secretly?

---



---



---

Read verse 19. How did Jesus give new meaning to the breaking of the bread in the meal? How did Jesus become like the broken bread (see Isaiah 53:4-5)?

---



---



---

Read verse 20. What is the new meaning Jesus gave the final cup that he passed around? What is the meaning of Christians eating the Lord's Supper (see John 6:53-56)? What is the meaning of "the new covenant in my blood" (see Jeremiah 31:31-34)?

---



---



---

Read verses 21-24. What did Jesus tell them would happen and what did they do? What did Jesus teach them? How did he prepare them for his death?

---



---



---

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

*"In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying,  
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'"*

### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

REMEMBER WHAT JESUS HAS DONE

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

*"In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying,  
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'"*

Teachers Sheet  
Luke 22:1-38  
Key Verse: 22:20

- ❖ The Passover Meal which started the seven day Feast of Unleavened Bread was a yearly festival to help the people to never forget how God rescued them from slavery in Egypt. It was especially meant to teach children. Many different dishes were set out like salt water to represent tears, horseradish to represent the pain of slavery, sweet apple cobbler to represent salvation, unleavened bread, lamb and several cups (2-4 cups). Children may ask what is the meaning of each of the dishes and then parents explain what God did. Parents asked questions and children must answer also. At this point the Disciples had eaten 2 Passover Meals with Jesus but this time, Jesus gave a new meaning to two of the cups and the bread of the meal. In this way it became a meal not to remember what God had done many years ago but to remember each year what God has and is continually doing for us with hope for the future.
- ❖ Jesus was eagerly awaiting to eat this Passover with his Disciples carefully preparing it and keeping it secret from Judas to protect the location. He wanted to give the core teachings of his ministry to his Disciples which we can find in John's gospel. The focus of Luke's account is to point to the meal itself and the meaning of the new covenant. As Jesus ripped the bread in half in the meal he represented the way his body would be absolutely broken through his punishment and death. It is not just that he died, but that he suffered as much pain as a man could possibly handle he was like broken bread. Isaiah 52:14 says that he was disfigured beyond human likeness. Jesus did this to not just die but be

punished in our place because he took the sins of the whole world and he had to be punished to the full extent for those sins.

- ❖ Jesus poured out the cup to represent his blood which would be poured out. The word “poured out” in Greek means to pour out till there is nothing left—it means my blood that was emptied for you. Jesus did not give some of his blood but absolutely gave every last drop. Jesus poured out every ounce of his life and spirit to give us salvation.
- ❖ Jesus’ pouring out of his blood was for the purpose of establishing a New Covenant. The Old Covenant was the 10 commandments in which those who kept the commands would live and those who broke them would die, but no one received salvation and no one could keep it. Therefore all were only condemned. They tried to make themselves right with God through the blood of animals but this could not really cleanse them, they were no where near God’s standard though they tried very hard. But those who simply accept the New Covenant in Jesus blood are made perfect simply by faith. In this New Covenant, we want to be like Christ and grow continually, it is from our heart (Jer 31:31-34).
- ❖ After this they would betray him, abandon him, and do many things they never believed they were capable of, so in their bravado they tried to talk about how they were each the greatest who would never betray Jesus, but they totally missed the point. Jesus assured them that they didn’t need to do anything special for Jesus to love them, he would confer on them a kingdom, simply because they believed. In this way, he prepared them to know the meaning of his death before it happened and also hope for after his death.

**JESUS SAID “FATHER FORGIVE THEM”**

*Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*

Luke 23:26-56

Key Verse: 23:34a

**H**ave you ever painfully forgiven someone even though they hurt you? How did it feel? Why did you do it?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Who helped Jesus carry his cross and why (26)? What did he say to the wailing women (27-31)? What did Jesus mean? For what should we weep?

---

---

---

How was Jesus executed (32-33)? Why did Jesus suffer like this (Isa 53:4-5, 12; 1Pe 2:24b)? Read verse 34. What did Jesus pray and for whom? Why did he pray like this (34b; Ro 5:8; 2Co 5:18-19; Heb 7:25)?

---

---

---

Who mocked Jesus and how (35-39)? Why did Jesus not save himself? How could one man see Jesus differently and what request did he make (40-42)? How did Jesus bless his faith (43)?

---

---

---

How did Luke describe Jesus' death (44-46)? What is the significance of the torn curtain (Heb 10:19-20)? What is the meaning of Jesus' final words? Who witnessed this (47-49)? What do the centurion's words reveal about Jesus?

---

---

---

Who was Joseph and how did he show his faith (50-54)? What is the meaning of Jesus' burial (Ro 6:4)? Who witnessed Jesus' burial (55-56)?

---

---

---

## JESUS SAID “FATHER FORGIVE THEM”

*Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*

### HOW I PUT GOD’S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

## JESUS SAID “FATHER FORGIVE THEM”

*Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*

Teachers Sheet  
 Luke 23:26-56  
 Key Verse: 23:34a

- Who helped Jesus carry his cross and why (26)? What did he say to the wailing women (27-31)? What did Jesus mean? For what should we weep?
  - Simon of Cyrene helped him to carry his cross. Simon was coming into Jerusalem with his lamb and most likely with his children Alexander and Rufus that they may worship God for the Passover. He was a very devout Jew to make such an incredible journey just to keep the Passover (I wonder how many of us would make such a journey to devote ourselves to God?). Suddenly, he was shocked to finally see the walls of the city in view, only to find the city in a total uproar and then strong hands grabbed him and forced him into the story of Jesus. He was not a spectator, it says that he was on his way in from the country, he was an innocent bystander just entering Jerusalem only to be forced into such a scene. He would have obeyed out of fear, but then he saw Jesus. Here was a man bloodied broken, beyond recognition, but who was pushing forward with such resolve and determination, pressing forward to his death as if he was the lead runner in the last stretch of a grueling triathlon.
    - There is a particularly poignant moment in the movie “The Passion of the Christ.” If I haven’t gotten choked up till that point, this one always gets me. In it, Mary is running through the streets trying to get close to Jesus as he is carrying his cross to Golgotha. She goes down all these little alleys and finally down one narrow passage she has a view of the road as Jesus is passing by alone from the crowds and he stumbles and falls. She has a flashback to when he fell as a child and she runs to scoop him up into her arms. At just that moment, he sees her and using every ounce of strength he has he pushes himself to his feet before she can get there and says with incredible determination, “Look Mother, I make all things new!”

Even though his body couldn’t possibly do any more, he pressed on “just a little more...and I can finish the task I came to this earth to do...” What words can we say to describe how amazingly beautiful Jesus is? Most men being forced to carry their cross to Golgotha surely were filled with horror, trying to run, with wild eyes, looking for any possible way to escape but not Jesus. The way he willingly marched forward with determination to give his life as a sacrifice to God, must have amazed Simon. Here he was thrown into this forced service just fearing for his life, but Jesus would in fact give his life. The look in his eyes must have left a profound impression upon Simon. The blood which was pouring from Jesus that rubbed onto him surely awoke something in his soul. He would have learned who this Jesus was and why he had died in such a way and surely been saved. No one witnessing the death with an open heart could not be moved. (Even one centurion realized it!)

  - Distance from Cyrene to Jerusalem is 1260 Km or 783.2 miles—it is roughly like the distance from here to Pensacola, Florida, but without deserts, thieves and wild animals. In modern travel, it would take 31 hours to travel. But in Jesus’ time, travel from Cyrene to Jerusalem took a month or more, and was potentially dangerous. Jews that traveled that kind of distance took a big risk due to unpredictable weather conditions, desert marauders, wild animals and other perilous circumstances.

- Mark's gospel is so rushed, so devoid of details, but Mark 15:21, he stops to give us the names of these people in such a manner of speaking as to suggest the readers knew them because they were part of the church.
- Jesus was at the end of its strength, the spirit was willing but the flesh was weak. Jesus wanted to go on but it just wasn't possible. Already, Jesus was broken. He had been beaten so badly that he would have surely died from what had already been done to him. And yet he did not give up but pressed on doing what no one could possibly do.
- Tradition says (Cornelius a Lapide) that the cross was fifteen feet long, the transverse limb being eight feet; and that he so carried it that the upper portion rested on his shoulder, while the foot of the cross trailed on the ground. When they saw that he was breaking down under the weight of the cross, they laid it on Simon, that they might the more quickly reach the place of crucifixion. (Pulpit Commentary Mark 15:22). Probably weighing around 300lbs.
  - (i) He never was able to sleep that night.
  - (ii) Paul talks about the mysteries of participating in the sufferings of Christ. When Paul says we are united with Christ in his sufferings this brutal death is what he is talking about.
    - (a) M. Elijah, shared how moving it was even to carry 2x4 cross to calvary.
- Jesus tells the women not to weep for him but for themselves. At the end of his strength he could even say this. That is amazing determination and an indomitable spirit.
- The judgment of God on the wicked will be terrible. So terrible that people will wish a whole mountain would cover them. Hosea 10:8, fulfilled in Revelation 6:16,
  - “For if **people** do these things when the tree is green, what will they do when it is dry?” If people do these things to the innocent one, what will happen to those who provoke the flames as dry wood only fit for fire. Jesus is innocent and not deserving of judgment but what will happen when the Jews attract the fire by their rebellion? This seems to really point to the impending judgment upon Jerusalem by Titus.
    - (i) 1 Peter 4:17, “For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”
  - Psalm 139:7-8, “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.” Amos 9:1-4
    - (i) Perhaps also here he is referring to the impending judgment of God upon Jerusalem specifically which would scatter the church.
      - (a) There is apparently a horrible story during the siege of Titus in which the people were reduced to eating dung and leather, that one mother so desperate killed her own child and ate part of it and the soldiers finding her spread the story and those that heard were filled with horror but also pity thinking themselves capable of it as well. Then it would be more blessed to have never given birth and not be so tempted.
  - Mt 24:21, “For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again.” In fact the Jews have been continually persecuted throughout history because of what they did here.
  - We should weep for our sins that bring about God’s terrible judgment. When God’s judgment comes on the earth for what they did to Jesus and what they did with the salvation he prepared for all people it will be terrible.
    - The parable of the vineyard tells us that killing the Son brings swift judgment.
    - Luke 2:30-31, “For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all nations” God will ask us what we did with this clear salvation.



- Often ask the children what would they do if they lived in this time and by some horrible chance they were the only person on earth. Of course they don't want to go to hell, and so they would have to crucify Jesus or there would be no salvation. With their own hands they would have to nail him to the cross.
  - (i) **In all this we see that Jesus though physically broken was not weak or defeated. He also was not so gentle but warning of what was to come.**
  - (ii) **Considering his attitude of forgiveness, I don't believe he was telling them they will be judged in the end time, but rather that there was an impending judgment upon Jerusalem itself and he was sad to think of what would happen to them.**
  - (iii) **In this Easter season we should not weep for Jesus in sympathy but weep for our sins and weep for the sins of our nation.**
  
- 2. How was Jesus executed (32-33)? Why did Jesus suffer like this (Isa 53:4-5, 12; 1Pe 2:24b)? Read verse 34. What did Jesus pray and for whom? Why did he pray like this (34b; Ro 5:8; 2Co 5:18-19; Heb 7:25)?
  - He was taken to the place where all criminals were horribly executed. He was numbered with the transgressors (Isa 53:12, "he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.") treated as if he were a mere criminal, in fact the worst of criminals crucified between two criminals. Those killed at Golgotha, the place of the skull, were apparently buried there and might be dug up in the course of time and their bones exposed. It was a horrible, infamous place. To be crucified there was to be degraded in the highest degree. It shows us the level to which Jesus degraded himself for us.
    - Mark 15:7, "Barabas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising." But mark calls them "robbers" (15:27, mt 27:38) and Luke criminals.
      - (i) Personally, I cannot suffer even a small insult to my honor. I immediately flare up when I feel I have been disrespected even in the smallest way and if anyone dare disrespect my wife...well it is the only time I've almost gotten into a fist-fight. Jesus allowed himself to be completely stripped down of his pride, position, honor, respect and all the things that naturally we protect as human beings.
      - (ii) To have all of your honor stripped away is a fate worse than death. The Japanese warriors long practiced ritual suicide called seppuku so that they may die with honor. At least if I can die with my good name, and be remembered as a good man, it will be enough. But Jesus was made nothing.
      - (iii) Perhaps like the infamous Alcatraz prison?
  - Luke does not take time to dwell on the meaning of crucifixion, the very word was all too well understood by the people of his time. It was the most painful method of killing a person they could come up with. At least being burned (Polycarp) or buried alive (Jeremiah) or sawed in two (Isaiah) resulted in a quick death after excruciating pain. But crucifixion stretched out the excruciating pain as long as a person could bear it. In the end it was not blood-loss that killed them but slow suffocation under the weight of their body. They were stretched out until their bones were out of joint (Ps 22:14, "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint."). Then nine inch long nails were driven through his hands and feet. He was lifted up between heaven and earth, where the weight of his body pulled against the nails tearing their flesh. They wanted to prop themselves with their feet, but it brought horrible pain from the nail in the feet. It was not meant to kill them, but to make an example. The poles they were lifted onto, could be seen from far away as well as the mound on which they were crucified. It was a spectacle meant to instill fear into the hearts of all who saw because of its extreme brutality.

- Perhaps also it was a very sensitive issue because many of the Christians had lost family members, friends, relatives, etc.
  - (i) We're insulated from suffering in the US and many countries like Egypt everyone has a friend or relative who has been killed by Muslims.
- Jesus could not suffer just an ordinary death, he could not die quietly, but at every step he had to suffer to the full extent, as much as he possibly could. He had already borne the great physical torment and now came the humiliation, beginning from the guards to this ultimate humiliation, that he may pay the full price for the sins of the world.
  - Isa 53:4-5,12, "Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed... Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."
  - 1 Peter 2:24, "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."
  - "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." For those crucifying him but also for those who had caused his crucifixion. Praying for enemies shows great love. We can maybe fake loving others on the outside but actually we pray for God to curse them...but Jesus prayed for his enemies to be forgiven and not judged like David. In this we learn Jesus' attitude about forgiving our sins: anyone can be forgiven freely, we may hesitate to come to God feeling condemned but at the cross we only see an open invitation, Jesus fully understands us, our desire is not to rebel against God and break his heart and reject him, we are just weak sinners, slaves to Satan.
    - (i) Our deepest identity is as forgiven sinners. If that were our clearest testimony and who we are, then people would respond.
  - Jesus practically kept his own word to love his enemies (luke 6:35).
    - (i) Jesus became an example for those who followed:
      - (a) Acts 7:60 Stephen, "And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep."
      - (b) 1 Peter 2:21-23, "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly."
    - (ii) Though if we take it quite literally, he could be only forgiving the Romans who were clueless as to what was really going on and had no idea what they were really doing. But as clueless as the Romans were so were all, none really knew what they were doing.
    - (iii) However, this forgiveness did not absolve them of what they had done. Peter said in Acts 2:23 "you with the help of wicked men put him to death by nailing him to a cross. 3:2 You killed the author of life."
- Jesus came to save, to forgive. When we become believers there is always this desire in us to make ourselves feel better by comparing ourselves to others and so we compare ourselves to sinners and condemn them but we need to see sinners with God's eyes, they don't know what they are doing.
  - (i) Paul makes the point in Romans, that people know full well what they are doing and suppress the truth so that they can do evil. But Jesus prays "they do not know what they are doing." It's true that people purposely reject the revelation of God they know in their heart but at the same time the rejection of Christ is something people don't really

understand what they are doing. Before knowing Christ I can say that I didn't know what I was doing.

(ii) Ephesians 6:12, our real battle is with the spiritual forces of evil not with flesh and blood.

- Luke 9:56 footnote: For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. John 3:17, For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him."
- Rom 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- 2 Co 5:18-19, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, **not counting people's sins against them**. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."
- Heb 7:25, "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."
- The soldiers cared nothing for the people they killed. Seeing them as criminals, they could remove their humanity and treat them like animals. Beneath the most beautiful and terrible scene in all human history, they were making a mockery of him by gambling for his clothes. (Ps 22:17-18, "All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. 18 They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.") We see the brutality of it, as everything was taken from him and he was shamed to the greatest extent.

(i) We wonder is something going to happen is someone going to save him. In Hollywood this would be the moment of great drama as the rescue came.

3. Who mocked Jesus and how (35-39)? Why did Jesus not save himself? How could one man see Jesus differently and what request did he make (40-42)? How did Jesus bless his faith (43)?

While the people stood watching, the 1) rulers sneered at him, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." Perhaps to the end they were afraid of the people and mocked him to try and convince the people that he was not the Messiah and avoid backlash. 2) He was mocked by the soldiers who also mocked him gambling for his clothes. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "if you are the king of the Jews save yourself." This offer may have been a kind of teasing, offering and then snatching it quickly away. 3) He was mocked by Pilate and his sign "King of the Jews" which was surely an insult to all Jews showing the broken Jesus hung between two criminals as a representative of his people and what he thought of them. It degraded the one thing that Jesus knew about himself that he is the King of kings and tried to remove his identity. But actually it was the proper title. 4) Finally he was mocked by one of the criminals hanging next to him, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" and the other gospels tell us he hurled insults upon him.

(i) In all this we have to see more than just the people at work here it is Satan that condemns and accuses. Ephesians 6:12 again realizing that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of evil, we must see Satan that is behind this.

- Ps 22:6-8, "But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.""

(i) No one wants to have their shame exposed, to be laid bare before everyone. We want to hide our shame and cover our guilt but Jesus was fully exposed and mocked in the way that we deserve to be dragged in front of everyone and exposed and accused.

- Gal 3:13, “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”
  - Heb 13:13, “Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.”
    - (i) **Roman citizens could not be flogged or crucified. It shows us the disgrace associated with it.**
  - Really this was Satan’s final temptation.
    - (i) Jesus experiences even greater isolation from the threefold mockery he receives. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads, “you who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself. The chief priests and the teachers of the law also mocked him among themselves saying “he saved others but he can’t save himself! Let him come down and we will believe.” Finally, even the one man crucified with him heaped insults on him. (Luke 23:39, “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”) However Mark and Matthew both say plural robbers heaped insults on him, so either we assume that they didn’t have the precise facts that Luke after careful examination of perhaps the women at the foot of the cross found.
  - What is ironic is that in their insult, the religious authorities admitted that Jesus saved others. In their mind, they knew they were crucifying a good man because he saved others.
  - The word for those passing by “hurled insults” is blasphemeo, ironically the people were all insulting God, committing blasphemy the very charge for which Christ was dying. How quickly we judge God. While on the other side God patiently and lovingly dies for us.
  - They all hurled their insults and had all their fun with him but moment by moment, Jesus was pouring out his lavish and passionate love for each one. Jesus’ response to each insult was I love you. I love you with each drop of blood, with each nail in my flesh, with each bruise and wound, with each agonizing breath I whisper out “I love you.”
  - At the same terrible moment, the cross is also ultimate judgment for sin. It is God saying, “this is the price for sin, and if you cannot accept my Son even as I express my greatest love for you, then I will soon judge you for the blasphemous words you are speaking.”
    - (i) Matthew 12:32, “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”
  - On the cross, we see in a few verses, that Jesus experienced such loneliness as everyone around him turned on him, insulted him and rejected him.
  - Their taunt is so ironic, “save yourself”. Yet if Jesus did that he could not be the Messiah, he could not be the king. It was in fact his staying on the cross that made him their Messiah, Savior, and Lord.
- If Jesus saved himself, he could not be the Messiah, the King. He would still be God, but he could not do what no one else could do. Only he could be the Messiah. It seems that Satan threw everything he had at him to make him finally say “enough” and give over to pride and indignation and save himself. For so many, this strategy would be enough to make anyone sin, continually being insulted again and again, and mocked and taunted and finally having so many blaspheme and doubt his divinity and treat him as a criminal. For anyone it would be more than their pride could take, especially at the moment of their death where people want to justify themselves and prove they were a good person, when they desperately want to be remembered the right way. Though for many having their pride hurt and honor insulted would be more than they could bear if they had to power, they would fight back. How many Satan has caught with this simple temptation.

- Perhaps, the greatest temptation for Jesus was that he COULD save himself, but he had to stay on the cross. When he was being tried and tortured, enough call 60,000 angels to kill everyone; when he was being falsely accused before Pilate, enough call 60,000 angels to kill everyone; when he was being flogged or beaten for no reason with the soldiers, enough call 60,000 angels to kill everyone; when he was on the cross with every single person around him scream “SAVE YOURSELF! SAVE YOURSELF! SAVE YOURSELF!!” How incredibly trying and tempting it must have been because with a snap of his fingers he could do it. Staying on the cross was not about bearing the suffering, but about denying himself. We know he didn’t want to be there, but he bore it, he did what he must do, not what he wanted to do and in so doing showed us his incredible divinity.
  - Jesus said “whoever wants to save their life will lose it but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.” (Mk 8:35) Jesus himself never asked them to do something that he himself was not willing to do. He is the perfect leader, the perfect king who does not ask us to do but he himself is unable to demonstrate. But he could say follow me and my example, I will lead you by my life perfectly. Who else can say that but Jesus.
  - One of the criminals rebuked the other, “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong. Then he said, “Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
  - “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
    - This is a proof text against the “Weekend in Hell” theory that says Jesus descended into hell for 3 days in his death. Rather, after the moment of death, sin having been fully paid for, Jesus was taken up to paradise and this man was the first fruit of the salvation that Jesus brought.
    - The same Greek word is used in the Sepugint for Eden. It may therefore illude to the restored intimate relationship we can have with God through the cross.
    - This man is a model for us of the new relationship we have with God. We simply ask for forgive
4. How did Luke describe Jesus’ death (44-46)? What is the significance of the torn curtain (Heb 10:19-20)? What is the meaning of Jesus’ final words? Who witnessed this (47-49)? What do the centurion’s words reveal about Jesus?
- Nature reacted to the death of Jesus. Dark clouds blocked out the sun (or eclipse?) at noon the time that it should be brightest, darkness covered the land. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.
  - The torn curtain symbolizes the new relationship we have with Jesus through his death. We are no longer God’s enemies but we are his children. We can come right up to him as if we were Jesus, right into his presence, look into his face and feel his embrace. The cross put to death the old way of relating to God and opened up a new way.
    - Heb 10:19-20, “Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,”
  - “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” It means that Jesus trusted God. Though he had been through so much, though he was abandoned by God as God turned his face from him, as he took the sin of the world upon his shoulders, as God made him take the cup that he wanted to give up, he never doubted that God loved him and God would save him. Bearing the sin of the world, being condemned to the utmost, he could feel that his soul would be plunged into hell, but in the moment of most excruciating spiritual agony, he trusted God.
    - Some people go through what they call a dark night of the soul, feeling that God has left them or they no longer are aware of his presence and feel abandoned. They begin to doubt their

salvation, they wonder if God has forsaken them, but we learn from Jesus that we must entrust our soul to God in faith.

- The centurion and the crowd.
  - The centurion saw all this and exclaimed, “surely this was a righteous man” or “Surely this was the righteous one” the other gospels “surely this was the son of God.” So, the confession was not simply, “wow, he was a good guy after all” but rather he was who he said he was. He saw the divinity of Jesus, not just that he was an innocent man. But clearly he saw that he was innocent.
    - What he saw includes: Jesus’ behavior toward his enemies (v. 34), the words spoken to the repentant criminal (v. 43), the supernatural darkness (v. 44), Jesus’ prayer to God (v. 46), and his giving up his life (v. 46).
    - The people beat their breasts as they went home in repentance and grief.
      - (i) He became obedient to death, because he did not have to die, he is the only one who did not have to die.
      - (ii) Rather than emphasizing the divinity of Christ, Luke culminates in his innocence.
5. Who was Joseph and how did he show his faith (50-54)? What is the meaning of Jesus’ burial (Ro 6:4)? Who witnessed Jesus’ burial (55-56)?
- Most people would not want to be associated with a known criminal, but Joseph went right in to Pilate and asked for his body. Joseph was a member of the council a good and upright man who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and was waiting for the kingdom of God. He took Jesus body and placed it in his own tomb and then prepared spices and perfumes.
  - That Jesus had definitely died. There was no trick, there was no conspiracy but there were witnesses who saw that he was buried and that he was definitely dead. Jesus died for the sins of the world, not just punished to the full extent but died and was buried, the symbol of the finality of it.
    - Romans 6:4, “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
    - Unwittingly, this act of kindness also fulfilled Isa 53:9, “And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.”
  - The women and also guards whom Pilate sent to guard the tomb.

**HE HAS RISEN!***"He is not here; he has risen!"*

Luke 24:1-35

Key Verse: 6a

**D** What was the worst news you ever received? How did it make you feel?  
 What is the best news you ever heard? How did it make you feel?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Who came to Jesus' tomb and why? What evidences of Jesus' resurrection did they witness (2-8)? Read verses 5b-7. What does the message "He has risen!" mean? Why is it important to remember Jesus' words (8)?

---



---



---

How did the women respond to the good news (9-10)? What does the apostles' response tell us about Jesus' resurrection (11)? How was Peter different and why might he have responded this way (12)?

---



---



---

On that same day, how did Jesus appear to two disciples (13-19a)? What had been their hope and why were they disappointed (19b-24)? What do we learn about Jesus who walked with and listened to his disciples?

---



---



---

How did the Risen Jesus rebuke them (25)? How did Jesus help them to understand the Messiah based on the Bible instead of their own idea (26-27)? What Scriptures might he have taught them? When were their spiritual eyes opened (28-32)?

---



---



---

After returning to Jerusalem, what good news did they hear and what good news did they share (33-35)? Why is it important to believe the fact that Jesus has risen based on the Scriptures?

---



---



---

HE HAS RISEN!

"He is not here; he has risen!"

HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

Eight horizontal lines for writing the summary.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

Eight horizontal lines for writing observations.

APPLICATION:

How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?

Thirteen horizontal lines for writing the application.

PRAYER TOPICS:

One horizontal line for writing prayer topics.



## HE HAS RISEN!

*"He is not here; he has risen!"*

Luke 24:1-35

Key Verse: 6a

WE MUST KNOW THE REAL JESUS



## INTRO TO THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*

1 John Intro

Key Verses: 1:7, 2:9-10, 3:16, 4:2, 4:7, 5:5

### VIEWS OF JESUS IN OTHER RELIGIONS

**Jews** believe Jesus was Mary's son, was a teacher (Rabbi), had many disciples, was respected, performed miracles, claimed to be the Messiah and was crucified on the cross. They also acknowledge His followers reported Jesus was raised from the dead.

**Muslims** believe Jesus was born of a virgin, is to be revered and respected, was a prophet, a wise teacher who worked miracles, ascended to heaven, and will come again but as a Muslim because Mohammed was the final prophet.

**Bahá'í** believe Jesus came from God, was a wise teacher who had a divine and human nature, worked miracles, and was crucified and resurrected as an atonement for humanity.

**Hindus** believe Jesus was a holy man, a wise teacher, and is a 'god' among many, many 'gods'.

**Buddhists** believe Jesus was an enlightened man and a wise teacher.

**New Age** believers maintain Jesus was a wise moral teacher.

**Jehovah's Witnesses** believe Jesus was an archangel, a Son of God, the Word of God, God's first creation, Archangel Michael. He came to teach about God, provide a model for right living, and die sacrificially for human sin.

**Mormonism (LDS)** believe Jesus was a man, a son of God, savior, originally one of the spirit beings that all humans used to be. Has a physical body. He came to teach about God, provide a model for living, die sacrificially for sin.

**Unitarian Universalism** believes Jesus was a man, a great teacher, faith-healer, "incarnation of God's love." He came to demonstrate God's love for humanity and teach about justice and compassion. Most do not believe that Jesus resurrected from the dead.

**Gnostics** believe Jesus is a divine being sent from the supreme God, to rescue humanity from the material world by revealing true knowledge. Most Gnostics reject that Christ died at all. The human Jesus was ordinary and did not resurrect.



## INTRO TO THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*

1 John Intro

Key Verses: 1:7, 4:2, 5:5

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (FOCUS VERSE 4:2 & 1:7 & 5:5)

What kinds of things have you heard about Jesus growing up? What kind of things have you heard people say about the Bible or about God?

---



---



---

In a society with so many religions and different ideas, why is it so important for us to know the truth about Jesus? **Why do you think all the religions of the world include Jesus if they don't believe in him?**

---



---



---

What are the truths that we know about Jesus from the study of the Bible? Why must the Bible alone be our basis for understanding who Jesus is?

---



---



---

In John's day Gnosticism was leading many in the church astray. Why would the idea that spirit is good and flesh is evil make men doubt that Jesus came as a man, and finally doubt the love of God? What happens when we doubt God's love? (Rev 2:4; Lk 5:37)

---



---



---

Read verses 1:1-3. Why should we believe what John wrote? Read verses 1:1b-2. What does John tell us about Jesus? Read verses 1:3-4. What is John's purpose in writing?

---



---



---

Application: What difference does it make to you to know that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God? **How can you prove the truth of the gospel in your life?**

---



---



---

### INTRO TO THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

## INTRO TO THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*

Teachers Sheet

1 John Intro

Key Verses: 1:7, 2:9-10, 3:16, 4:2, 4:7, 5:5





**WALK IN THE LIGHT**

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*

1 John 1:5-10

Key Verse 7

**A**re there some activities that you prefer to do in the dark? Do you like the dark or does it make you afraid?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verse 5 What was Jesus' testimony (see John 3:16-22)? Read verse 6. What does it mean to "walk in darkness"? What are some ways that unbelieving people live?

---



---



---

Read verse 7. What does it mean to "walk in the light"? Why must a Christian stop living a dark life and start living God's way?

---



---



---

Read verse 7 again. How does living a Christian life help us all have fellowship? (What does fellowship mean?) What breaks and messes up our fellowship? What is God's promise if we live this way?

---



---



---

Read verses 8, 10. How do some people lie to themselves? Why do they do this? Why shouldn't we be afraid to tell God and others our sin?

---



---



---

### WALK IN THE LIGHT

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

**WALK IN THE LIGHT**

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*

Teachers Sheet

1 John 1:5-10

Key Verse 7

- ❖ Darkness hides us. Always when people are caught in some sin they try to keep it hidden. We know when our children are caught in some sin, because they start becoming secretive, they don't want to talk, they don't want to be with us or others. They begin hiding and doing things in secret or spending time with their friends doing things in secret and pulling away from those things that would help them to overcome. Sin always seeks to separate us from God and others and bring us into darkness.
- ❖ Those in darkness hate the light, because light exposes what we are doing and leaves nothing hidden. When we don't have anything to hide we come into the light and aren't afraid to have our life exposed.
- ❖ Unfortunately, if we have an environment that emphasizes being perfect and keeping the rules, then people may be afraid to admit they are sinners. In this passage, we see the ideal that we live in the light and denounce all dark ways, but the reality in verse 8 is that we are sinners and cannot stop being sinners. Therefore, verse 7 and verse 9 paint a beautiful picture of doing Christian life TOGETHER in a community where we freely confess our sins to each other and no one judges because they are sinners too and freely admit their sins. Verse 8 makes it clear that a person who tries to act like they are perfect ruins Christian fellowship and makes (verse 10) God out to be a liar and acts really like Christ didn't need to die.
- ❖ So this passage is really less about telling children to live a good life and stop doing bad things, and mostly about how to have good Christian fellowship. We must encourage each other to do good and help each other when we fail, confess our sins freely to each other through testimony writing and not judge each other when we fail, but pray for each other. We should not be going around feeling guilty, but confess and accept Jesus' blood that cleanses us so that we may be full of joy. Such love and fellowship is the most beautiful thing in the world, that even outsiders long to have.



## KEEP GOD'S COMMAND TO LOVE

*"Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."*

1 John 2:1-11  
Key Verses: 2:6

**W**ho is your role model? Is there someone you want to be like or look up to? Why? What do you do to try to be like them?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 1a. What should be a Christian's attitude toward sin? Why is sin so serious? Read verses 1b-2. When we do sin, what does our loving Savior do for us?

---



---



---

Read verse 3. How do we know that we are a real Christian? Why does a believer want to obey God (see John 14:15)? What are his commands? Read verse 4. **Can we believe and do whatever we want?**

---



---



---

Read verse 6. Who is our example of how to live as a Christian? What is the number one thing that Jesus demonstrated (see also 1 John 4:8, and John 13:34)?

---



---



---

Read verse 9. Why can't Christians hate people? Read verse 10-11. **Why is love most important to a Christian life** (see also John 13:35)?

---



---



---

## KEEP GOD'S COMMAND TO LOVE

*“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, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.”*

### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

#### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

**ANYONE WHO HATES A BROTHER OR SISTER IS STILL IN THE DARKNESS**

## KEEP GOD'S COMMAND TO LOVE

*"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, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble."*

Teachers Sheet

1 John 2:1-11

Key Verses: 2:6

- ❖ John doesn't explain and expound this to the level that Paul does, so it seems like he is making contradictory statements "anyone who says they don't sin is a liar", then "don't sin", "when you do sin..." Later he even says that anyone in Christ will not continue to sin and this led some to believe that we can live a sinless life here on this earth, but this is not true. This is simply John's style of writing that both are true and we must struggle with that. When we become believers we should not sin anymore, like God we should have a hatred of sin and do all we can to stop. Yet, we will fail and we will sin and when we do, we can take great comfort, that God does not hate us or abandon us but Jesus is in heaven helping us and covering our sin. However, knowing that should never soften our stance on sinning: "well I can't help it and God forgives me, so it doesn't matter that I sin." This Paul gets into in great detail in Romans 3-6. Because of sin, God butchered his own Son, every sin we commit is a nail in his hand. Sin is very tragic and very serious. So, the reason we do not want to sin as a Christian is two-fold, because we are full of godly sorrow over our sin and because we love God.
- ❖ Therefore a real Christian is recognized by a willingness to obey Christ. This is not forced like the Israelite's obedience, it is from the heart. The word Christian was originally a derogatory term used in Antioch because the believers were so crazy for Christ. We should be following him and doing what he did because we really love him. Christianity is not a religion that we follow on the outside but we want to know more from the Bible so that we can follow more perfectly, because we really love God. A person who does not want to obey God has not surrendered their life to him. They are still their own king and they are lying to themselves if they think they are a Christian. The word Christ means King and Priest; he is the king of our physical and spiritual life. Believing in Jesus could be put like this: "A-B-C" **A**dmit you are a sinner deserving judgement, **B**elieve that Christ paid for your sins on the Cross, **C**ommit your life to him as your King. However, many like to skip "C" and still believe they actually did "A" and "B" but this simply isn't true. His commands are found in the Ten Commandments most especially and the expanded application of them that Jesus gave, but also in the teachings of Jesus like John 13:34. Generally, we can say that a real believer wants to know and keep the whole Bible to the best of his ability. We cannot pick and choose but we take what we like and what we don't and obey it all.
- ❖ Our example is Christ. And his example was to love, because God is love (1 John 4:8). Therefore, the number one attribute of a Christian is love. Jesus laid it out in Matthew 18 when he taught about a servant who had been forgiven an immense debt out of grace and mercy and then refused to forgive the small debt of a fellow servant. Those who have been loved are full of God's love toward others (1 John 4:19,7). And when we find we are angry with another we cannot give into hate, because Jesus commanded us to love, especially to love enemies, to forgive seventy times seven times, to follow him, and so as we've already established, a believer must obey everything in the Bible not just what is easy or they like, this includes loving everyone.

ANYONE WHO HATES A BROTHER OR SISTER IS STILL IN THE DARKNESS





## LOVE GOD, NOT THE WORLD

*“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.”*

1 John 2:12-17

Key Verse: 2:15

**W**hat are some of your most prized possessions? Or what are your hobbies? How much time do you spend with these things? Why do you like them so much?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 12. What does this verse tell us about our identity in Christ? Look at 13b and 14b. What does it mean to “overcome the evil one”? How can we?

---



---



---

Read verse 15. What does it mean to love the world (see also Ephesians 2:2)? What are some of the “things in the world” that steal our heart?

---



---



---

Why can’t we love the world and God at the same time (see also Matthew 6:24)? Read verse 16. What can’t we just do whatever feels good and seems fun (“the lust of the flesh”)? Why can’t we just watch and look at whatever we want (“the lust of the eyes”)? Why can’t we just live to be famous, rich and popular (“the pride of life”)?

---



---



---

Where do all these desires come from? Then what is the opposite way that God the Father wants us to live? Read verse 17. What happens to all the things of the world? What happens to the one who lives God’s way?

---



---



---

### LOVE GOD, NOT THE WORLD

*"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them."*

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

##### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

##### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

THE THINGS OF THE WORLD PULL US AWAY FROM GOD

## LOVE GOD, NOT THE WORLD

*“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.”*

Teachers Sheet

1 John 2:12-17

Key Verse: 2:15

- ❖ The context of this passage is a direct attack on the lifestyle of Gnostics. By saying that the flesh is only evil and beyond cure and the spirit is only good and will be so regardless of how we live, they justified indulging in all sin, even though they claimed to believe in God. John says that anyone who loves the world can't love God. In fact when we become believers we become members of his kingdom and begin to be transformed into a kingdom member, until we are fully glorified on the day that we go to His kingdom.
- ❖ The problem is that people want to live loving the world and enjoying all its pleasures, until one day they die and are forced to start loving Godly things and living like a member of heaven. John says clearly that the Father is not in such a person. The one who loves God, can't imagine living the same way they did before, running after what the world runs after. Their old self was buried with him through baptism and they rose with him to a new life. So ultimately, what people don't get is that Christianity is a lifestyle and not a belief system or a set of religious practices. Loving God and loving a Christian lifestyle cannot be separated and those who still love worldly pleasures and think living as a Christian is boring, have not yet entered into a relationship with Christ and accepted him as their Lord.
- ❖ Have some pictures ready, either on a computer, phone or printouts, of iPhone, Laptop, Guy with big muscles, Girl wearing expensive clothes, Video game system, High grade computer, and other things that kids may really desire. These are all the lusts of this world. We run after these things without thinking because the world tells us they are important. (When iPads first came out, many people ran out and got one but soon said that it wasn't that useful and wondered what they would really do with it, they didn't buy it because they needed it but because the world told them to buy it and they did so without thinking).
- ❖ Mostly our kids want to fit-in and be liked. Jesus told his disciples that if they were of the world, the world would accept them as its own but they are not of the world, they are in the world but not of it. However, many Christians have gotten quite comfy in the world and blended right in. When we enjoy the world just as much as unbelievers we have no real desire to go to heaven, because we have all we want right here. Helping our kids overcome materialism and the lust for the things of the world is essential to helping them to put their hope in heaven and not in the things that are perishing and fading away. It is possible to be liked—Jesus was a people magnet but he was also equally hated because he wouldn't bend on his message and who he was—and still be clear as a Christian if we are a shepherd.
- ❖ The word lust here is not “eros” but all those things that the flesh and eyes strongly desire: flesh - food, physical pleasure, wanting possessions and riches; eyes – internet, videogames, movies, tv, tablets, looking at the opposite sex. The pride of life is the “vain-glory” of life, that is seeking to glorify our own vain self: fame, riches, popularity, to be better than others so that we may take pride in ourselves. It is not wrong to enjoy good food or physical pleasure, to look at movies or own a tablet, to be popular and do such a good job at something that we are famous, but John is warning about the love of these things. That love leads to making them our god and displacing God's right place in our heart. Inevitably we will enjoy all sorts of evil things as a result



**REMAIN IN JESUS**

*“And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.”*

1 John 2:18-29

Key Verse: 28

**H**ave you ever had a friend try to get you to stop doing something? Did you ever feel pressured to do something you didn't want? Or did you ever get tricked into doing something?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verse 18. What is an antichrist? Read verses 22-23. How do we recognize an antichrist? What should be our attitude toward any person or thing that is leading us away from Christ?

---

---

---

Read verse 26. What are antichrists trying to do? What things or people try to pull you away from Christ? Read verses 24, 27 and 28a. How can we protect ourselves?

---

---

---

Read verse 28. What would make us ashamed when Christ comes again (see also Mark 8:38)? Read verses 25 and 28b. When Jesus is your best friend, what can you be absolutely sure of when he comes again?

---

---

---

If Jesus were coming again today would you be worried or excited? What kind of things can you do to make a strong relationship with Jesus and “remain in him”?

---

---

---

## REMAIN IN JESUS

*“And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.”*

### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

ANYTHING THAT PULLS US AWAY FROM JESUS MUST BE CUT OFF

## REMAIN IN JESUS

*“And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.”*

Teacher Sheet

1 John 2:18-29

Key Verse: 28

- ❖ THE Antichrist is a person whom Satan will raise up in the end times and he will be just like Christ in the sense that he will do miracles, be very influential, offer something that looks like salvation but he will be the total opposite of Christ and will be against Christ. He will even lead real Christians astray and cause the whole world to worship Satan.
- ❖ In the same way, antichrists (lower case ‘c’) are anything or anyone that is against Christ and against our Christian life and wants to stop us or trick us to not worship him and instead worship them or some object. Friends can be antichrists, cool teachers with slick words can be antichrists, TV shows (and TV in general) are overwhelmingly anti-Christian, the more we watch the more embarrassed we get about our faith and want to hide it. The internet and chatting can be antichrists, they are full of sarcastic rude comments and general hatred toward Christians without cause or logic and we become cynical and dark. Games are blatantly anti-Christian and offer all sorts of mystical religions and life philosophies that are very attractive to kids and twist their beliefs.
- ❖ Anything that is trying to replace Christ in our life, attacking Christ, trying to pull us away from Christ, must be mercilessly cut off: the game smashed, TV disconnected, internet shut off, friends cut off—period.
- ❖ More than anything we need to remain in Christ. That is spend time talking to him (prayer, testimony), listening to him (Bible study, reading, prayer), working with him, obeying him, just worshipping him (that is loving him intensely) through maybe singing or art or writing or serving or whatever makes you feel you are loving him most, and just living as if he is a real person who is right there who is my best friend. Kids are freaked out by the idea that God is really there or that they can really hear his voice, but without this real living, breathing, relationship what we are teaching is just Phariseeism. Everything we do is not about being busy or doing many things (works) but about having a friendship with Jesus so he is my best friend.
- ❖ When Jesus is my best friend nothing can pull me away from him. What is more if we are best friends, he will definitely take me to be with him when he comes again, he definitely will not punish me or yell at me or do anything me, he will just hug me and take me to be with him with such happiness because we are best friends.

**ANYTHING THAT PULLS US AWAY FROM JESUS MUST BE CUT OFF**





**LIVE LIKE LOVED CHILDREN OF GOD**

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

1 John 3:1-10

Key verse: 1

**W**hat is your family known for? What are some things that characterize your family or that you do well? What makes you proud to be part of your family? Do you ever worry about how your actions reflect on your family?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verse 1. What does it mean that God lavished his love on us? What does it mean to be called “children of God”? Why doesn’t the world appreciate and recognize us as God’s children?

---



---



---

Read verse 2. What does it mean that “we shall be like him”? Read verse 3. How can we show that we are God’s children? Why do we do this?

---



---



---

Read verses 6. If everybody sins and it is impossible to stop, what is John talking about in verse 6? Read verses 6 and 9. Why can’t a Christian keep on purposely sinning without repenting after accepting Christ? What is “God’s seed” inside us?

---



---



---

Read verses 7-8. Why can’t a Christian just believe in their heart and then live however they want? What then do our actions reveal about us? Read verse 10. What should we know about those who keep on sinning? What should they (or we) do?

---



---



---

### LIVE LIKE LOVED CHILDREN OF GOD

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

MAKE YOUR FATHER GOD PROUD AS HIS CHILDREN

## LIVE LIKE LOVED CHILDREN OF GOD

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

Teachers Sheet

1 John 3:1-10

Key verse: 1

- ❖ God in his great love made a way for totally depraved sinners who ran away from him, rejected him, spit in his face and did every manner of evil against him, destroying his world, to be adopted as his children. No one would adopt the human race, they are totally ungrateful, disobedient, unchanging, and selfish. But God sees us with love.
- ❖ When he calls us, he calls us out of the world to be his. This means that we can no longer be like everyone else. This is God’s amazing grace. If we just set a rule “Don’t do this!” “Be more like this!” People feel rebellious and do it more. But God calls us into his family. It is a beautiful family that no human family can compare to. When we are his child, we feel proud even though he world doesn’t appreciate us or give us recognition. And because we are proud to be part of that family, we want to bring honor to our family. We want to act like the members of the heavenly family act and behave as a son of God should. In this we have the perfect example of Jesus, the perfect son. All of this we do out of love and because we realize the amazing grace of God. We were like dirty undesirable orphans and he actually chose us! What a gift! What love the Father has lavished on us!
- ❖ What is more God puts in us his seed, the Holy Spirit that enables us to be better. We begin therefore to hate what is evil and love what is good. We begin to feel like a member of the family and do what they do. We feel like we have a personal trainer inside us that points out what needs to stop and what we should do and we want to follow it.
- ❖ Because of that seed in us growing and changing us, we cannot go on sinning as we did in our unsaved life. Before we were comfy with sinning—everyone else is doing it. But now, it makes us feel dirty and disconnected from God and constantly uncomfortable, like there is a terrible weight on our conscience or a secret we have to get out. We have to change! We cannot keep sinning! The work of the Holy Spirit is therefore the proof of a real believer. One who pretends to believe but has no evidence of it in their life cannot fool anyone—they need to repent and stop pretending.
- ❖ Now that doesn’t mean that when we believe we immediately change and all our bad habits are gone overnight, this passage should not make anyone doubt their salvation and despair. But it means that our attitude must change, we can’t be comfortable with sin anymore and if we are, we should be very worried, it may be good to deeply examine our heart and our confidence and come back to the cross repenting with tears and giving our life to Christ, asking him to break our hard heart that is seared by sin.
- ❖ This passage is clear, we cannot just believe in our mind. Or be a Christian on the inside. Our lifestyle will reveal who we are and by our actions people should know us. We must ask ourselves in light of this passage, would people know what my family is by the way I live? Would they say, “there goes a child of the devil” or “there goes a child of God”. Now some may not have become believers yet, then this passage should be very powerful. Because God loves us so much that he wants us to be his children and when we do he WILL root out of us all the bad habits and things we always wished we could get rid of. He will change us into the image of Jesus who is the coolest guy ever to live! What a great hope!

MAKE YOUR FATHER GOD PROUD AS HIS CHILDREN



## CHILDREN OF GOD WILL LOVE ONE ANOTHER

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.  
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

1 John 3:11-24

Key verse: 16

**H**ave you ever had a teacher or mentor or some kind of adult who influenced you because you felt that they loved you? Why did their love have such a strong effect on you? What happened as a result?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 11. Where did the command in verse 11 come from? Read verse 12. Why did Cain murder his brother (see Genesis 4:6-8)?

---



---



---

Read verse 14. What is one clear way we can know we are a believer? Read verse 15. What does it mean if we hate others?

---



---



---

Read verse 16. What was Jesus' example in loving us? Read verse 17. Why can't love be just an emotion? Read verse 18. How can we practice Jesus' love to those around us?

---



---



---

Read verses 19&22. How does loving others actually bless us? Read verse 23. What are God's two most important commands? Read verse 24. What happens when we obey God's command?

---



---



---

### CHILDREN OF GOD WILL LOVE ONE ANOTHER

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.  
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

## CHILDREN OF GOD WILL LOVE ONE ANOTHER

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.  
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

Teachers sheet

1 John 3:11-24

Key verse: 16

- ❖ This passage covers another point that identifies a real believer from a fake: love. Again, this passage doesn't promote works-based faith or that we are saved by loving others, obeying commands, etc. But rather John is pointing out clear identifiers for recognizing a real believer. As he did in the last passage pointing out that a real believer cannot go on sinning; so also, a real believer will naturally respond to the amazing love and grace they received from Jesus by loving those around him. Now certain people will find this easier based on their natural character being outgoing and introverted people maybe will have a harder time, but one thing is clear, that if we still hate others we are like Cain. For Jesus said that to hate your brother in your heart or mind is the same as wanting to kill him, which is the same as killing him from God's standard.
- ❖ In fact, as we know Christ more and realize more and more what a sinner I am and how much he did for me, we more and more realize how much he loves us and it continually humbles and amazes us. This increasing understanding of his grace makes us feel more and more loving to others because our pride is more and more torn down and we begin to feel we are the same as everyone, and we are just as needy and helpless and we can really understand them—we want to give them what was given to us. Love therefore is the sign of a real Christian in whom God is working continually to reveal himself.
- ❖ Hate on the other hand and selfishness come from pride and are of the devil. One who is growing in these shows he is of the devil and not of God.
- ❖ Love (Biblically speaking) is a verb and not a noun. A mother who says “I love you” but doesn't make breakfast, do the laundry, make a lunch or give money, give a ride to school, and just leaves to work without any care for the children only saying “I love you” isn't loving her children. In fact, no matter how many times she said it, pretty soon the children would feel “you don't really love me.” So, also loving God who we can't see is expressed through loving those we can in practical ways. Jesus told us that whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one in need gave it to him (Mt 10:42). He said that obeying his commands is how we show love to him (Jn 14:15&21). So, when we see another in need it is not a burden, but a chance to show love to Jesus. This frees us to love all sorts of people, even our enemies (verse 13) because we are not loving them only but showing our love to Jesus. It takes our serving and giving and sacrifice to a whole new level. It is not the same as philanthropy—indeed there are philanthropists who seem to do much more good in the world than Christians and give way more money—our giving and serving is our way to love God; whereas, billions given only for humanitarian purposes counts for nothing.
- ❖ So, again Jesus is not saying that we should stop preaching the gospel and start taking care of the homeless. But that when we love him and believe in the love and grace Jesus has given us, a natural consequence will be a desire to love and help those around us.
- ❖ This gives us confidence in our hearts when we feel love growing there and we know that he hears our prayers and nothing is hindering them. Then we know that God will come live in us and the Holy Spirit will all the more grow us in love and holiness.

LOVE IS NOT AN EMOTION BUT ACTION IN RESPONSE TO JESUS





## DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR

“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God”

1 John 4:1-6

Key verse: 2

**H**ave you ever learned something and believed it was true, only to find out later that it was false? How did that make you feel? Why did you believe it at first? Did that change the way you believed things after that?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verses 1-3. Why is it important to know that there are spirits in the world? What are the two kinds of spirits? What is the work of evil spirits? What is the work of the “Spirit of God” or Holy Spirit?

---



---



---

Read verse 1 again. Why must we “test” everything that people tell us? When we hear some teaching or someone tries to influence us, what should we compare it to, to see if it is true? What should we do with everything in our life that is pulling us away from Jesus and the Bible?

---



---



---

Read verse 4. How do we overcome the work of evil spirits and false teachers? How can we have the Holy Spirit in us?

---



---



---

Read verse 5. Why are false teachers so popular? Read verse 6. What kind of teaching should Christians listen to and what kind should we reject? Why is it so important to know the difference?

---



---



---

## DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR

“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God”

### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAYER TOPICS:

---

LOVE IS NOT AN EMOTION BUT ACTION IN RESPONSE TO JESUS

## DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR

“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God”

1 John 4:1-6

Key verse: 2

- ❖ We live in a time where “tolerance” is forced upon our children. We must in everything weigh if our words are “politically correct” or we should not say them. However, the Gospel is intolerant and not PC so our world wants to get rid of it and influence our children to hate the truth and embrace worldly values. This is not the work of man, it is the work of Satan through the spirit of the Antichrist (Eph 6:12). We must not be naïve as Christians, there is a battle going on for the souls of all people. More than that, there is a daily battle for our hearts. When a Christian embraces a worldly view of life, they become useless to God and slowly opposed to the Bible and its views and eventually opposed to the real Christ of the Bible, instead embracing a fake Christ of their own invention. This is the problem that this passage deals with. While it is important for our children to know grace and embrace their classmates, they cannot do so to the detriment of the truth. If our kids love the world, they will be ashamed of Jesus and the Bible and try to hide it because they know that it disagrees with everything their peers do, in order to blend in and enjoy life they will reject it. However, in so doing they will become slaves and rather than overcoming the world, (verse 4) they are overcome. So, we need to teach them to know and love the Bible and decide to live by it and reject anything that is against it.
- ❖ We live in a world that is in constant battle between God’s Spirit and evil spirits. They battle for our heart and mind. Evil spirits want us to adopt worldly mindset: value iPhones and laptops and Abercrombie, to be selfish and only think about ourself and our image and our popularity, to live only to make money, to follow our heart and do what feels good—we must reject all these demon-inspired teachings, if any teaching or way of thinking is opposite of what the Bible tells us we must reject it. The work of evil spirits is to trick us, ruin our life and damn us to hell. In contrast, the Holy Spirit is working to change us and help us and make us more like Jesus which makes us really happy. The Holy Spirit is working to save all people. The Holy Spirit always wants to glorify God and exalt Jesus.
- ❖ It is important in such an environment that kids develop discernment. There are a lot of evil false teachers out there trying to force all sorts of evil teaching on the open minds of children to make society more open to sin. We must teach them the Bible and teach them to compare what they hear to Bible or at least to question what they are being taught and ask someone who knows the Bible well, if the teaching is correct. They must especially do this for the movies and videos they are watching and the content they read from the internet, what their friends are telling them and what some teachers are forcing them to do and say.
- ❖ When they believe in Jesus from their heart, they can have the Holy Spirit inside of them. The Holy Spirit will do his own work and convict them of false teachings and prompt them about things they need to watch out for, but they must learn to listen to that prompting and not ignore it. Then they can overcome the world and the work of evil spirits.
- ❖ Jesus teaches us to deny ourselves and take up our cross, so of course his message is not popular with the world but is actually the way of life. Any teaching that teaches us to enjoy ourselves and put down the cross is of the world and we should watch out. The message that the world loves to hear is probably not the truth and the one that is tough to hear but true is the truth. We must learn to love the Bible and love Jesus’ cross so we may overcome the world.



**REAL BELIEVERS LOVE OTHERS**

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.  
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”

1 John 4:7-12

Key verse: 7

**W**hat kind of things do you love? How do you know you love it? Did you always love that or have your “loves” changed over the years?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read first part of verse 7. Where does love come from? Is the love that comes from God the same as our love? (For example: Is God’s love the same as you loving Ice Cream? or You loving your friend and next week you don’t love them anymore because you fought?) How is our love different from God’s love?

---



---



---

Read end of verse 7. When we love others the way God loves us what do we show about ourselves (Read also John 13:34-35)? Read verse 8. If we don’t love even though we say we are Christians what do we show about ourselves?

---



---



---

Read verse 9. How did God show us his unselfish love? Read verse 10. What is the definition of real love?

---



---



---

Read verse 11. Since God loved us like this, then how should we love others? Read verse 12. How can everyone see God in us? What are some examples of loving others like this?

---



---



---

## REAL BELIEVERS LOVE OTHERS

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.  
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”

### HOW I PUT GOD’S WORD INTO PRACTICE

#### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### PRAYER TOPICS:

---

LOVE IS NOT AN EMOTION BUT ACTION IN RESPONSE TO JESUS

**REAL BELIEVERS LOVE OTHERS**

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.  
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”

Teachers Sheet

1 John 4:7-12

Key verse: 7

- ❖ What we have to do first in this passage is define what “love” means. Love is a word that is really cheapened by overuse. This is an unfortunate byproduct of our language. In English there is only one word for love, that means love for ice cream and love for a friend and love for our dog and love for our spouse or love for our child but each is extremely different. In Greek love is Agape. It is defined in verses 9-10, which is the best definition we can find. It is that God sent his Son to die for the whole world that didn’t even know him and were his enemies. He did this so that everything everyone did wrong against him would be erased and everyone could live forever, even though they kept on hating him and breaking his rules. He knew how bad we are and would continue to be and gave his life to show us how much he loves us. That is love. Anything else we call love is not really love, it is a kind of affection an emotion that we give to something that gives us pleasure and when it doesn’t give us pleasure anymore we hate it or at least stop loving it.
- ❖ So, when we say that we should love, we are saying we should Agape one another because Agape comes from God. That is we should unselfishly sacrifice for each other no matter what the other did, even especially if the other is my enemy. We love like this to erase whatever the other did to me, just like God—that is when someone wrongs us we show love to erase our anger and replace it with love for that person. We do it to bless others when they don’t deserve it. We do it to get no benefit in return. We do it regardless of how the other person treats us or whether we like them, whether they are weird or cool, rude, bad, or cruel. This kind of love is weird to the world and when we love in this totally weird way the world really notices. But if our love looks like everyone else’s love then they will never see God in us, even if we love just a little more than others. It is not HOW MUCH we love but the KIND OF LOVE we show. Agape love only comes from God, no one else can love like this, even we can’t love like this. It is only possible to give Agape if it is given to us first by God. If we don’t love like this, we need to ask God to help us know him more so that we can give his Agape to others.
- ❖ If we agape like God agapes then we show beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are his because agape only comes from him. But if we say we are believers and never agape, we show we are not really his. People in the world love too—and unfortunately sometimes they are much nicer people and more ‘loving’ people than us...which is to our shame. But their love is not agape, so if we love only like them we are not really God’s children.





## FAITH IN JESUS OVERCOMES THE WORLD

“Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

1 John 5:1-5

Key verse: 5

**W**as there ever a rule you didn't like but later learned the meaning and then kept for yourself? What did you realize about the rule? How did it change your attitude toward being obedient when you realized the truth?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 1. What does it mean to be born of God (See also John 3:3,5)? According to verse 1, what is the only way to be born of God? What is the most important quality that a born again believer will have (See also John 13:35)?

---



---



---

Look at the end of verse 1 again. Why is it so important for us to love other believers in the church? Read verse 2-3a. How does God want us to show him love? And what are God's commands (See John 13:34, Matthew 22:36-40; Matthew 5:43-48)?

---



---



---

Read verses 3b-4a. Why isn't it burdensome to keep these commands when we are born of God? Read verse 4b. How can we overcome the world? What does "the world" mean" and why do we need to overcome it?

---



---



---

Read verse 5. What is the only way we can overcome the world and love like God?

---



---



---

## FAITH IN JESUS OVERCOMES THE WORLD

“Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

**SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:**

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER TOPICS:**

---

## IT'S ABOUT LOVE NOT FEAR

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

Teachers Sheet

1 John 4:13-21

Key verse: 18

- *For the conversation question, an example might be touching fire. You really wanted to touch fire until you actually touched it. From then on you had absolutely no temptation to touch fire and stopped yourself from doing it keeping the rule from your heart. It is similar to the victory we experience by faith in Jesus, a total transformation of the heart, because we can see the truth.*
- ❖ Up to this point John has been helping us to understand the difference between real and false believers, so they could identify false teachers but he hasn't talked much about faith. Now he talks about how the root of love and obedience is faith. When we have faith we can love and obey God by loving others.
- ❖ There is a perfect circle: we love God by obeying his command, his command tells us to love others, so when we love others we are loving God and the more we love God the more we want to love others and the more we love others the more we know God and the more we know him the more we love him and the more we can love others. The beginning point is to decide to obey his command and to love even though we don't feel like it, or when it is impossible to love. It is especially at those times when we decide to be obedient and show agape love to those who we cannot love, that we see God and God transforms our heart and our ability to love more and more.
- ❖ “everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.” Should not be taken to mean only Christ, but the meaning here is better translated “children” because the phrase is not exclusive to one and only child. The meaning is that when we love God we will love other believers who have been adopted into God's family as if they are our true brothers and sisters.
- ❖ Jesus tells us in Jn 3 that we must be born of the spirit. As God is spirit so his children are spirit. When we live in the flesh, we are like Esau whom God hated. Rather we must live according to the spirit to truly be from God.
- ❖ Jesus says in Jn 14:15,21 say that obeying God is the way to love him. So obedience to the commands of God is not our salvation but is our expression of love, just as works are not our faith but the expression of it (James 2:17). So if we do not ever obey or do acts of faith then we clearly do not have love or faith. Before we can love others we must love God. If we don't love God then we are only loving people humanly out of our human strength. Such love is limited and cannot really embrace all people. Rather first we must give and fully receive God's love and then we are overflowing with love for others. When we are born of God we undergo a fundamental change in who we are. What is more, the Spirit is a shield against the devil and we want to follow the leading of our Spirit, Gal 5:22-23. Romans 8:7 says, “The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.” Unless we are born of God we cannot accept God's commands and we cannot agape others. But when we are transformed through new birth in the Spirit, it becomes increasingly possible the more we know God and thereby overcome the world.

- ❖ To love everyone, especially those we don't want to love may seem very burdensome as a rule, but for those who believe it is not a rule, we want to love others and show God's love—it is a joy and privilege. It is because we don't live by rules but by faith in God and we overcome.
- ❖ When we have faith we are no longer attached to the world because we are living by our spirit and we want to please God not please others or ourself most. When we put God in His rightful place as the center of the universe deposing ourself from the throne there, then the world doesn't hold sway over us. What is more our hope is changed. If we only have hope for this life then the various things that happen to us here are of very great importance. But if our hope is in heaven our life here is merely a passage and the temporary enjoyments and obstacles we face are nothing compared to what we shall later receive. When we receive Jesus we are saved from the fate of the world and the attacks of the prince of this world. We are fully purchased and redeemed to heaven.
- ❖ Jesus is the only one who purchased us with his blood to redeem us out of the world. He is the only one that defeated sin and death and can therefore give us power to overcome. Our kids classmates who believe in Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism or the like, are slaves of this world and do what this world does. So, they cannot overcome the world. Jesus is the only way.

## FAITH IN JESUS OVERCOMES THE WORLD

*“Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”*

1 John 5:1-5

Key verse: 5

**W**as there ever a rule you didn't like but later learned the meaning and then kept for yourself? What did you realize about the rule? How did it change your attitude toward being obedient when you realized the truth?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 1. What does it mean to be born of God (See also John 3:3,5)? According to verse 1, what is the only way to be born of God? What is the most important quality that a born again believer will have (See also John 13:35)?

---



---



---

Look at the end of verse 1 again. Why is it so important for us to love other believers in the church? Read verse 2-3a. How does God want us to show him love? And what are God's commands (See John 13:34, Matthew 22:36-40; Matthew 5:43-48)?

---



---



---

Read verses 3b-4a. Why isn't it burdensome to keep these commands when we are born of God? Read verse 4b. How can we overcome the world? What does "the world" mean" and why do we need to overcome it?

---



---



---

Read verse 5. What is the only way we can overcome the world and love like God?

---



---



---

**FAITH IN JESUS OVERCOMES THE WORLD**

“Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

**HOW I PUT GOD’S WORD INTO PRACTICE****SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:**

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?*

*What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?*

*What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER TOPICS:**

---

**GOD TOLD US TO LOVE HIM BY LOVING OTHERS**

## IT'S ABOUT LOVE NOT FEAR

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

Teachers Sheet

1 John 4:13-21

Key verse: 18

- *For the conversation question, an example might be touching fire. You really wanted to touch fire until you actually touched it. From then on you had absolutely no temptation to touch fire and stopped yourself from doing it keeping the rule from your heart. It is similar to the victory we experience by faith in Jesus, a total transformation of the heart, because we can see the truth.*
- ❖ Up to this point John has been helping us to understand the difference between real and false believers, so they could identify false teachers but he hasn't talked much about faith. Now he talks about how the root of love and obedience is faith. When we have faith we can love and obey God by loving others.
- ❖ There is a perfect circle: we love God by obeying his command, his command tells us to love others, so when we love others we are loving God and the more we love God the more we want to love others and the more we love others the more we know God and the more we know him the more we love him and the more we can love others. The beginning point is to decide to obey his command and to love even though we don't feel like it, or when it is impossible to love. It is especially at those times when we decide to be obedient and show agape love to those who we cannot love, that we see God and God transforms our heart and our ability to love more and more.
- ❖ “everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.” Should not be taken to mean only Christ, but the meaning here is better translated “children” because the phrase is not exclusive to one and only child. The meaning is that when we love God we will love other believers who have been adopted into God's family as if they are our true brothers and sisters.
- ❖ Jesus tells us in Jn 3 that we must be born of the spirit. As God is spirit so his children are spirit. When we live in the flesh, we are like Esau whom God hated. Rather we must live according to the spirit to truly be from God.
- ❖ Jesus says in Jn 14:15,21 say that obeying God is the way to love him. So obedience to the commands of God is not our salvation but is our expression of love, just as works are not our faith but the expression of it (James 2:17). So if we do not ever obey or do acts of faith then we clearly do not have love or faith. Before we can love others we must love God. If we don't love God then we are only loving people humanly out of our human strength. Such love is limited and cannot really embrace all people. Rather first we must give and fully receive God's love and then we are overflowing with love for others. When we are born of God we undergo a fundamental change in who we are. What is more, the Spirit is a shield against the devil and we want to follow the leading of our Spirit, Gal 5:22-23. Romans 8:7 says, “The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.” Unless we are born of God we cannot accept God's commands and we cannot agape others. But when we are transformed through new birth in the Spirit, it becomes increasingly possible the more we know God and thereby overcome the world.

- ❖ To love everyone, especially those we don't want to love may seem very burdensome as a rule, but for those who believe it is not a rule, we want to love others and show God's love—it is a joy and privilege. It is because we don't live by rules but by faith in God and we overcome.
- ❖ When we have faith we are no longer attached to the world because we are living by our spirit and we want to please God not please others or ourself most. When we put God in His rightful place as the center of the universe deposing ourself from the throne there, then the world doesn't hold sway over us. What is more our hope is changed. If we only have hope for this life then the various things that happen to us here are of very great importance. But if our hope is in heaven our life here is merely a passage and the temporary enjoyments and obstacles we face are nothing compared to what we shall later receive. When we receive Jesus we are saved from the fate of the world and the attacks of the prince of this world. We are fully purchased and redeemed to heaven.
- ❖ Jesus is the only one who purchased us with his blood to redeem us out of the world. He is the only one that defeated sin and death and can therefore give us power to overcome. Our kids classmates who believe in Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism or the like, are slaves of this world and do what this world does. So, they cannot overcome the world. Jesus is the only way.



**BELIEVE IN JESUS AND HAVE LIFE**

*"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."*

1 John 5:6-12

Key verse: 12

**D**id you ever have to try and persuade someone who didn't believe you? How did you try to convince them? Were you successful? What made them finally believe you?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verse 6. What does it mean that Jesus came by water (see Mark 1:9-11)? What does it mean that he came by the blood? What does the blood of Jesus do to the life of a believer that shows he is real?

---

---

---

How does the Spirit testify (John 1:32-34)? What does the Spirit do inside a believer that shows us he is real?

---

---

---

Read verse 9. How has God testified about Jesus so we will believe (see John 5:39-40 also John 1:34)?  
Read verse 10. Why is it so serious to believe that Jesus is God's Son?

---

---

---

Read verse 12. What is the only way to have eternal life? Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Why?

---

---

---



## BELIEVE IN JESUS AND HAVE LIFE

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

Teachers Sheet

1 John 5:6-12

Key verse: 12

- ❖ This passage as is the case in much of 1 John closely resembles John’s Gospel, particularly John 5:30-47. The point is that John is not testifying about Jesus by himself—though his testimony as an eyewitness is certainly very powerful. In the Jewish law testimony had to be validated by at least two witnesses, so he supplies them and the greatest one is God, whose testimony cannot be false. The witnesses in John 5 were different than here: water, blood, Spirit and God himself testify. God is the same and by God we also include the Bible as John 5 does. But it seems to focus more in the witnesses that we can experience inside of us when we believe the blood and the Spirit and the water which is the starting place for all Christians when we repent and believe we receive the Spirit.
- ❖ Jesus came by water and the blood as we also come into Christ. Water is the water of baptism. When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit descended on him like a dove and God said “This is my Son whom I love.” Jesus also shed his blood on the cross. When we repent at the time of baptism (though baptism doesn’t need to be the first step, rather repentance which baptism symbolizes) we receive the blood of Jesus that cleanses us of all sin. We feel the difference in our heart as a weight is lifted off and we know our sins are gone and we are freed from the rule of Satan, sin and death. This amazing experience in the heart of a believer, cannot really be described, it is a spiritual thing that cannot be seen in this world but we know it when we believe and it is proof to us that Jesus is the Son of God.
- ❖ God himself also testifies about Jesus. He testifies directly at Jesus baptism and on the mountain of transfiguration. But he also testifies in the whole Bible. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for studying the Bible but not coming to him. The whole Bible points to Jesus and clearly tells us what he has done, will do and is doing. Therefore, we should trust what the Bible says about Jesus and believe it in our heart. The Bible has always been God’s chosen way to reveal himself to his people, from the time God sat down with Moses in the tent of meeting and instructed him to write the Pentateuch to the time that Jesus opened the minds of the Disciples after his resurrection to understand all scripture and write down what they saw and heard, God has always chosen to reveal himself through scripture. The Bible is not man-made, it is not mythology, it is not stories, it is the most trustworthy factual history of the world and all things, it is truth and it is the revelation of God himself. We don’t need to wait for some amazing physical experience of Jesus or for him to appear to us, we simply need to trust God’s testimony in his word and believe by faith.
- ❖ We live in a pluralistic society and our kids are friends with kids from many religions and backgrounds so the last verse is really an uncomfortable truth but we must be clear: If we have Jesus we have life but if we do not have Jesus we do not have life. Or as John the Baptist put it “anyone who does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” Jesus is the only way. If we teach this clearly, then eventually our children will reach a point that they see they need to tell their perishing friends lest they go to hell. But if we are unclear on this point, they will never feel the pressing need to tell others. Jesus is the only way and unless every believes in him they will go to hell. Then let’s not doubt and make excuses, let’s believe the many witnesses and believe and tell others.



## HOW TO LIVE AS BELIEVERS

“If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life.”

1 John 5:13-21

Key verse: 13

**D**id someone ever make fun of your weakness or mistake? How did it feel? Why do people like to do that? Did that experience change how you treat others?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verses 12-13. If we believe Jesus is the Son of God and confess him as our Lord, what do we know for sure that we have? Can anything take that away from us?

---



---



---

Read verses 14-15. What special privilege is given to us when we pray? What does it mean to “ask according to God’s will”? The more we know God and pray to God, how does our prayer and our desires change?

---



---



---

Read verse 16. What is the best way we can help our brothers and sisters in the church? What do kids usually do when they see someone’s weakness, sin problem or bad habit? How is praying for them related to Jesus’ command to love one another?

---



---



---

Read verse 18. How does God protect those who believe in him? Read verse 19. How should we view ourselves and our classmates? Read verse 20. How has God equipped us to help them? Read verse 21. Why do we need to watch out for idols in our heart?

---



---



---

### HOW TO LIVE AS BELIEVERS

“If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life.”

#### HOW I PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE

**SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS PASSAGE?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:**

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER TOPICS:**

---

## HOW TO LIVE HIS BELIEVERS

“If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life.”

Teachers Sheet

1 John 5:13-21

Key verse: 13

- ❖ The end of the book of 1 John, is called in the subtitle, “Concluding Affirmations” and it is an appropriate title. He pauses in challenging us in how we should live the Christian life and switches to encouragement for those of us who have confidence that we are believers. We can know that we have eternal life, that God hears our prayer which we can then use to pray for each other in the church, God protects us from the devil, and he gives us understanding to know him better. These should be an encouragement to children to be believers because of the many spiritual gifts given to us.
- ❖ First of all, if we believe and confess Jesus as our Lord, we can be certain that we have eternal life. We often doubt it because of our weaknesses and sins, but God does not change his mind like us, it is certain that we are saved and nothing can take that away from us. With that certainty and comfort we can really live our life for God without worrying.
- ❖ We can then approach God with confidence (Hebrews 4:12) because we are not his servants or subjects but his dear children. As a father listens to all the requests of his children, so God hears all our prayers and is always happy to listen to us. In the same way over time, children learn what they should and shouldn’t ask their parents for, because they begin to understand what is good and bad and appropriate and inappropriate, beneficial and harmful, they get a sense of their parents will and learn to ask according to it. So, the more we know God, to a much higher degree, the Spirit helps us to change our desires to God’s desires and our prayers to the will of God. The will of God is not selfish but it is what will bring glory to his name and salvation. To pray in his will, is to first of all seek God and not oneself, such a prayer we can be certain God will answer. At the same time, God wants to bless us with what we need (Matthew 6) and give us the desires of our hearts (Ps 37). However, he will not give us what is bad for us (James 4:1-3) so again we need to understand his will, sometimes understanding that we may ask for one thing and instead he gives us what is better or what we really desired behind what we asked for, he always knows what is best.
- ❖ Especially, we need to pray for each other in the church, that God may forgive their sin. So often, when we see others weakness, we take advantage of it to make fun of them, criticize them and feel superior. But we are to pray for them. It means that we recognize we are sinners too and we need help, so we help others. We wouldn’t want to be made fun of when we are weak, so don’t do it to others. We wish someone would help us when we make mistakes so help others. Pointing fingers at each other and criticizing is useless, we must love each other as God loves us. There is however a sin that leads to death and that is apostasy, to reject Jesus as the Son of God and call the work of the Spirit evil, and the persistent rebellious sin that John has warned about through this letter, hating each other in the church and other things that John says believers should not be doing, we should not pray that God would forgive such sins but that the person may have repentance—he’s not saying don’t pray for such people but rather, don’t pray for God to forgive rather pray they may repent.
- ❖ John reminds us how our attitude toward sin must change when we become a believer. By the power of the Spirit, our desires change and God protects us from the evil one—of course by our

stubborn will, we can choose to reject that help and follow our own way, but the result for a real believer will be a constant conflict and spiritual discomfort as the Spirit presses us to repent. We must therefore see the world as being under the control of the devil, and we as children of God under the control of the Spirit. Then we have to remember that our unsaved classmates are in a very bad situation and that they can be dangerous to us. We must therefore pray for them and try to help them to come to Jesus not thinking they are ok as they are. God has equipped us with understanding so that we can know him better and help others to know him better. Believing in God and accepting his Spirit is the beginning point of knowing God and without the Spirit's help we cannot know him.

- ❖ Finally, John concludes that we should keep ourselves from idols. It is an odd final remark, but a very real problem for us. We may not think we have little statues, so it doesn't apply to us. But worship is to give our love and time, devotion and attention to something and very often something else takes that first place. Without our mouth we say we worship God only but in fact our schedule, our desire, our thought world reveals that many other things are God in our life. If God is our last thought when we wake up in the morning, he is never in our thoughts as we sleep, if we never turn to him in our free time, if we think spending time in church is boring and we have no personal devotional life, we cannot really say that God is our god, something else has taken that place. So, we can be a believer and yet our whole spiritual life can be hijacked by false gods that lead us astray and steal the love and devotion that is only supposed to be for God alone, and worst of all they give us nothing in return. We must reject all things that take the place of God in our life. This is especially on point with this letter, because the purpose was to help the people not to follow false teachers telling them to worship something other than Jesus. We must keep ourselves from serving, obeying, worshipping anything or anyone other than God and his Son Jesus Christ.



## WALKING IN THE TRUTH

"It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us."

2 John 1-13

Key verse: 4

**D**id you ever discover that someone lied to you in a big way? How did it feel to be lied to? How did it change your relationship with that person? Did that experience make you a more honest person as a result?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read verse 1. Who did John write this letter to? Read verses 1-2. Who or what is "the truth" that he keeps referring to mean—I love in "the truth", we all know "the truth", "the truth" lives in us (see John 14:6, John 17:17, John 1:1,14)? In a world full of so many lies, why is it so important to know Jesus and his word is truth?

---



---



---

Read verse 4. What gave John great joy (see also 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)? What does it mean to "walk in the truth" (Psalm 86:11, Gal 5:16)? Why isn't it enough to just know the truth without walking in it?

---



---



---

Read verse 6. How does God want us to show him love? Read verse 5-6. Especially how does God want us to walk in truth? Why is love most important?

---



---



---

Read verses 7-8. What should be our attitude toward those who try to teach us something against the Bible and against Jesus or even against other brothers and sisters in the church (see 2 Corinthians 6:14-15)?

---



---



---



## WALKING IN THE TRUTH

"It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us."

Teachers Sheet

2 John 1-13

Key verse: 4

- ❖ According to the ESV Study Bible commentary, it is very unlikely that John was writing this to an actual woman and her children, as it would therefore not make sense for the church to reproduce and distribute the letter. Also, John telling a fellow female Christian that she and he should “love one another” seems unlikely, but if he’s addressing a congregation that was having trouble loving each other it makes far more sense. So also, in verse 13, chosen sister parallels elect lady in verse 1, referring to John’s home church which was most likely Ephesus at the time of this writing between 85-95AD.
- ❖ Jesus himself is truth (Jn 14:6), and God’s word is truth (John 17:17), Jesus is God’s word become flesh, full of grace and truth, (Jn 1:1,14). John really emphasizes truth here because he is about to talk about the untruth of false disciples. The Bible is what reveals God to us and Jesus also reveals God to us. Jesus is truth and the Bible which reveals God to us is truth. That is, it is the sum of all knowledge and wisdom, and everything was made by God and through God, he is what is absolute and true. Just as your reflection in a mirror is not you, it is not true, it is a reflection, a representation, so everything in this universe is created but it is not the Creator, he is what is real. Whatever we think or reason or decide, it is just our idea but God is truth. Those who follow Jesus are following the truth.
- ❖ There are so many ideas these days about how to live, how to spend your time and money, what to think, how to talk but only God’s way is truth. There are so many lies about what our body should look like, what kind of clothes we should wear, what will make us popular but it is all lies meant to get our money. God’s truth is always what is for our good, it always leads us in the way that will turn out best for us. The greatest truth is that God is holy and we are sinners who deserve death, but God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son to die for us that we may have eternal life. That God is love and loves us, is the greatest truth we can ever know and we can give our whole life in devotion to this truth.
- ❖ Before we would lend our money or our favorite toy to someone, we would be absolutely sure we could trust them. Before we believe someone’s promise we must know we can trust them. But when we know we can trust them, we easily give them our money, possessions, trust them to keep their promises and even devote our life to them. Knowing Jesus is truth is everything. We can trust him with everything, even our whole life because he promised to bring us to be with him in heaven.
- ❖ So also, we can absolutely trust the Bible and all of Jesus’ commands. When we know for certain that these things are true, then we can live according to them. God told us that this is the absolute best way to live and will bring us the greatest happiness and blessing. If we know that he is truth and all he says is the highest truth above anything the world tell us, then no matter what the world says is going to be fun and life-giving, we instead believe what God tells us through the Bible. Walking in God’s truth means you believe that he is telling the truth and you don’t believe the lies of the world, and it gives him great joy to know that his children trust him and believe in him.

- ❖ In the Jewish understanding, to know something means that you practice it. If you do not practice it you do not know it. We consider knowing the facts of something in theory, knowing it, but in actuality we only know it partially and in fact don't really know anything. The great example is of the Great Blondon who pushed a wheelbarrow across the Niagra falls. After he asked if the crowd believed he could do it again and they shouted "YES!" Then he asked one individual if he believed he could do it again and he shouted "YES!" but then he said "then get in the wheelbarrow!" But the man would not because he didn't really believe. So in the same way, just knowing is only half of the story, we must walk in it or really we don't know anything.
- ❖ God has a love language and he specifically tells us that the way he wants to be loved is through obedience. We may prefer to love him through singing or keeping rules, or just having fun in church, but he says he wants to be loved through obeying his commands. The greatest command is to love God and love one another. Love should be the most important characteristic of a Christian.
- ❖ He finally tell us that we should not welcome false teachers, for that would be supporting their evil work. Of course we should love our enemies and unbelievers, but here he is telling us to watch out for wolves in sheep's clothing as Jesus himself warned. We should not welcome those who are teaching false teachings about Jesus, who are saying evil things about our brothers and sisters in the church, or our leaders or about the Spirit's work. Such people should be rebuked and brought to repentance and that type of evil behavior should not be tolerated. We are to love our enemies but we cannot let false teaching and bitter roots grow up and poison the body and harm many others. We must protect young sheep by rebuking such people.

**REAL BELIEVERS TREAT EACH OTHER AS FRIENDS**

"We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people  
so that we may work together for the truth."

3 John 1-14

Key verse: 8

**H**ow do you help when you have guests over? Do you like serving guests?  
What is the best way you ever served a guest at your house?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read verse 1. Who did John write this letter to? 1-2, 5a 11a, 13b. What did he always call Gaius and his fellow believers? What does it teach us about how we should see fellow believers in the church?

---



---



---

Read verses 3-4. What gave John great joy? Read verses 5-6. What had Gaius done that made John so happy? Why is it so important to show hospitality to fellow believers?

---



---



---

Read verse 7. Who were the believers that Gaius welcomed and loved? Read verse 8. How can we participate in world mission like Gaius?

---



---



---

Read verses 9-10. How was Diotrephes treating fellow believers? How was he disrespecting his elders (John and the Apostles)? What happens when people in the church won't welcome others and gossip and say mean things about others?

---



---



---



## REAL BELIEVERS TREAT EACH OTHER AS FRIENDS

"We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth."

Teachers Sheet

3 John 1-14

Key verse: 8

- ❖ While it cannot be confirmed, it seems a likely hypothesis that the reason 1,2,3 John are so well preserved is because they were part of a packet of letters delivered by Demetrius (3 John 12). As such 1 John would have been a sermon, 2 John a letter to the whole church and 3 John a personal letter to Gaius the head of that church. The fact that 3 John is written to a person named Gaius makes an even stronger case for 2 John being addressed not to person but to the church as the "chosen lady". The idea of these letters being part of one package would also explain why 1 John has no personal greetings, neither introduction of the author, nor greetings to the church in the conclusion. It is not clear who Gaius was, but it seems clear as the recipient of the letter that he is the head of one church, who was faced with the problem of a troublemaker Diotrephes. John therefore commends Gaius on his steadfastness in the face of opposition. We must continue "walking in the truth" when we face problems in doing ministry.
- ❖ John calls Gaius his dear friend 4 times in the letter and calls the other believers friends as well. John really lived out Jesus' command to "love one another". There is always a compassionate tone in his writing, calling the believers his dear children, his beloved, his friends. Sometimes we see others in the church as our burden, our problem, our competition, or fellow worker bees but we are actually to be friends. This changes the way we work and the way we treat each other. If we are to be friends, then it is less important to get tasks done than it is to develop relationships. We shouldn't view others in the church as just classmates but each one is our dear friend, and we have to do our best to make friends with everyone in the church.
- ❖ It's possible that Diotrephes was creating a division in the church or at least stirring up lots of trouble and so for Gaius to welcome the traveling missionaries into their church and show them love and hospitality was very meaningful and sacrificial. When we face trouble, we have to be faithful to walk in the truth. No matter what others in the church may say or how our other church friends may influence us, we must follow what the truth—that is the Bible—says. Nothing must ever be more influential to us than God's word.
- ❖ By showing hospitality to fellow believers, we can help to encourage them and prosper God's work. Even more, we can participate in world mission, simply by welcoming missionaries into our home. By loving them, making friends with them, giving them some encouraging word, listening to their struggles, and praying with them and committing to pray for them, we do much to strengthen them and they can go back to their mission field refreshed. Even though we may not be able to go into all the world yet, we can do much to participate right from home.
- ❖ Diotrephes seems to be a leader in Gaius' church, who seemed to have such a following that he was able to put people out of the church and control other believers from welcoming believers associated with John. It could be that the division was racial between Jews and Gentiles or one of the early heresies that discounted the authority of the Apostles. In either case, John is clear that even leaders in the church who act like cruel dictators are not believers (11). Yet they can cause a lot of trouble. It is not the people on the outside who cause the most trouble but those on the inside who pretend to look like believers but are actually wolves in sheep's clothing. Diotrephes' problem was that he wanted attention and power and used his position in the

WE SHOULD ALL BE FRIENDS IN THE CHURCH

church to get it and used his controversy to get more. Not only was he mean to other believers, unwelcoming, and controlling, but he also disrespected the elders. We must therefore remember to never get too proud but continue to walk in the truth, or when we become a leader we can be a real troublemaker and pain to others. We must remember that it is not about what we accomplish but it is always about the grace of God. We don't need to push and crush others and become the best, we need to make friends and be humble and let love be what we are really excellent at and known for.