

# HOLDING TO THE TRUTH

8th Grade

Chicago CBF



Developmental Bible Studies for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Holding to the Truth: Developmental Bible Studies for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Chicago Children's Bible Fellowship 2018  
Written by Len Austria, Joe Grady and Tim McEathron,

Cover art by Deborah Lim 2008

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# A Note on using these materials

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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!





## Jesus Is God

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

John 1:1-14  
Key Verse: 1:14

**W**hat are some things you've heard classmates say about Jesus, who do they think he is? What about on TV, movies, internet, books?

### Discussion Questions

Read verses 1 and 2. Who is "the Word"? Who is Jesus?

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Read verse 4. What is the life that Jesus has? ***What are the kinds of things that people live for? Why is eternal life better, like a guiding light for all people?***

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Read verses 3 and 10. Who made all things? Read verse 11. How did people treat Jesus? Read verses 12-13. What does God promise those who receive Jesus? ***How would this be a great comfort to the fatherless, those from broken families, and everyone? What about you?***

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Read verse 14. ***What did Jesus give up to come to earth?*** What is grace? What is truth?

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***Why is it so important that Jesus is equally full of both grace and truth?***

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***Application: Based on all we learned about Jesus which part is most meaningful to you?***

## JESUS IS GOD

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

### How I put Gods Word into Practice

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

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**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?**

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**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?*

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**PRAYER TOPICS:**

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## JESUS IS GOD

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

Teacher Sheet  
John 1:1-14  
Key Verse: 1:14

- ❖ Rather than getting into deep philosophical discussions on the meaning of the “The Word”, “light of life”, etc. Discuss what these things practically mean to their life and what that means to them personally.
- ❖ Jesus came offering eternal life and that became the guiding light for all people. Generally people don’t know what to live for and wander around in darkness misunderstanding, running into others, full of fear but eternal life is a clear goal for all people to go towards.
- ❖ Jesus’ promise that all who believe in him become children of God can be incredibly meaningful to those from broken homes but approach it sensitively.
- ❖ Jesus is not only the legalistic, holy God full of truth, he is also full of grace but he is also not just the friendly popular modern version of God who only emphasizes grace he is also full of truth and his first message was “repent”. We must have a balanced view of who God is.





## We Have Found the Messiah

*"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"*

John 1:29-51  
Key Verse: 1:29

**D**o you have both **friends** and **acquaintances** (people you just talk to when you're around them but don't hang out with)? Which do you have more of? What is the **difference** between them? Did any **acquaintance** ever become a **friend**?

### Discussion Questions

Read verse 29. What is the meaning of a sacrificial lamb in the Bible? (see Leviticus 4:32-35) **What does it mean that Jesus is God's Lamb?** Read verses 30-34. What was John the Baptist's confession about Jesus? Why?

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Read verses 35-37&40. Who were the first followers of Jesus? Read verse 41b. What did they believe after just one day with Jesus? What does Messiah or Christ mean? Read verses 41-42. What did Andrew do?

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Read verse 43. Why did Philip follow when Jesus called? Read verse 45. What did he confess? What did he do? Read verses 46-48. How did Nathanael become a believer? Read verse 49. What did he confess?

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**When you consider the testimonies of John, Andrew, Philip and Nathanael, what should be the goal of Bible study?**

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***Application: What is your confession? Who can you find and tell?***

## We Have Found the Messiah

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### How I put God's Word into Practice

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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We need to meet Jesus personally

## We Have Found the Messiah

*"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"*

Teacher Sheet  
John 1:29-51  
Key Verse: 1:29

- ❖ The goal of Bible study, is not to learn morality and be a better person—though this is certainly very excellent, pleases God and makes us like him—but the goal of Bible study is to know Jesus and meet him personally as our Messiah.
- ❖ We need to spend personal time with Jesus until we have a confession like John, Andrew, Philip and Nathaniel. We can do this especially through reading the Bible which is God's chosen way of revealing himself to the world.
- ❖ Each of us should meet Jesus confess him as our Messiah and then tell others around us. This is not a duty but we will really want to tell others when we meet him. So it should be our goal more than anything to really meet Jesus and know him as our Lord, Messiah and best friend forever.





## Pray with Faith and Obedience

*"What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him."*

John 2:1-12  
Key Verse: 2:11

**W**hat kind of things do you **pray** about? Did it ever take a **long time** to get an **answer**? Did you ever **pray** and it became clear that God's **answer** was **"no"**? How do you **respond** when things don't go **your way**?

### Discussion Questions

Read verses 1 and 2. Where did Jesus and his disciples go? Read verse 3. What problem was there at the wedding and what did Mary do? **How is this like prayer? Do you feel like you can ask Jesus anything?**

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Read verse 4. How did Jesus answer? Read verse 5. When it seemed like Jesus said 'no' to her request how did Mary respond? **How do you respond to seemingly unanswered prayers?**

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Read verses 6-7. What did Jesus tell the servants to do? Why would this have been hard? Read verse 8. Why did they obey? Read verses 9 and 10. What happened to the water? Read verse 11. What was the effect of this "sign"? **Why did Jesus bless a joyful wedding as his first sign?**

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What is faith? **Why would faith without obedience be wrong? What did you personally learn about prayer?**

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***Application: When you pray in faith, are you ready to obey?***

## Pray with Faith and Obedience

*"What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him."*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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Faith and obedience cannot be separated

## Pray with Faith and Obedience

*"What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him."*

Teacher Sheet  
John 2:1-25  
Key Verse: 2:11

- ❖ There are two focuses in this passage: the sign by which Jesus revealed his glory and the request of Mary which is a pattern for thinking about prayer. This study focuses on prayer.
- ❖ Through Mary we see that she simply offered up her request even though it seemed like a small matter. She came to Jesus with any kind of request without fear of rejection, in the same way we must know that God our Father wants us to freely come to him with anything we are troubled about. When it seemed like she was rejected, she didn't get mad or discouraged but acted in faith talking to the servants. This follows Jesus' teaching that whatever we ask for in prayer believe you have received it and it will be yours. Then the miracle happened where there was faith and obedience. Jesus always works through faith. So, prayer is not offering up a vague hope and then sitting back on the couch and complaining that it's not falling into our lap fast enough, but is an act of faith requiring our involvement from beginning to end.
- ❖ When we pray we must be ready to obey. Prayer is a two way street, not only making requests but receiving commands from Jesus also. Kids don't like when the answer is "no" but in obedience we have to be ready for this answer as well.





## Jesus Says, "You Must Be Born Again"

*"In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'"*

John 3:1-21  
Key Verse: 3:3

**H**ave you ever had an experience where you **felt** or **heard** or **saw God**? Maybe in a **dream** or while **writing, reading, or singing**? What was it like? Do you want to be able to have **more experiences** like this?

### Discussion Questions

Read verse 1. Who was Nicodemus? Read verses 2-3. How did Jesus reveal Nicodemus' real question? **What does it mean to see the kingdom of God, do you want to?**

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Read verse 3 again. What does it mean to be born again? (see 1Pe 1:3,4) How can we be born again? Read verse 5. What is "water" and "Spirit"? **Why do we need both?**

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Read verses 4 and 9. Why couldn't Nicodemus understand? Read verses 14 and Numbers 21:4-9. What is sin? What is the consequence of sin? (see Romans 6:23a) Read verse 15. **What did Jesus do for sinful people dying in their sins and why?**

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Read verse 16. What would you expect God to do to our sinful world deserving punishment? What surprising thing did he do instead? What is God's promise? **What do we learn about his love?**

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Read verses 18-20. Why don't people accept God's love?

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***Application: What do you want to do with the gift of God's love and his Son and the promise of eternal life?***

## Jesus Says, "You Must Be Born Again"

*"In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'"*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?**

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**APPLICATION:**

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**PRAYER TOPICS:**

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## Jesus Says, "You Must Be Born Again"

*"In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'"*

Teacher Sheet

John 3:1-21

Key Verse: 3:3

- ❖ Nicodemus is like our kids, knowing all the facts but not connecting the dots, not being able to see the kingdom of God. When people cannot see God they just keep religion, dogmatically and they have no joy or hope. We cannot just try harder or “do more” we need the transforming work of the Spirit to become spiritual people, we must be born again.
- ❖ In order to be born again we must repent (water) and be baptized with the Holy Spirit. This happens when we believe in Jesus from our hearts. A good acronym is A-B-C: **A**ccept that I am a sinner, **B**elieve that Jesus died to take away my sins, **C**ommit my life to him as my Lord to do whatever he commands.
- ❖ If we have been born again through accepting God’s gracious love and gift of his Son and eternal life, then we must live as reborn people. We must consider how we accept the truth and what we will do it—may we be those who walk in the light.





## Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

*"Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'"*

John 4:1-26  
Key Verse: 4:10

**W**hat can't you **live** without? What do you find your **mind** drifting to often or spend most of your free time **thinking** about? Do you have an **obsession** with anything—an **intense** hobby or **love** for something?

### Discussion Questions

Read verses 4-7. Who did Jesus meet by the well in Sychar? How did Jesus try to make friends with her? Read verse 9. Why did she answer in such a mean way? (see 17-18, 20)

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Read verse 10. What did Jesus offer her? What is "the gift of God"? Read verses 13-14. What are "living water" and "well water"? **What do you thirst for?**

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Read verse 15. Why did the woman change so suddenly? Read verses 16-18. What was her thirst and was it ever satisfied?

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Read verses 19-24. What was her real problem and the real problem of all people drinking from "the well"? **What is worship?** (see Deuteronomy 6:5, 1 Corinthians 10:31, John 4:23)

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**What happens when we worship something in this world?** Read verses 25-26. **What are we made to worship—the only one worthy of our intense love and service?**

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***Application: What do you worship? How can you make Jesus your only object of worship in this world?***

## Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

"Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'"

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### APPLICATION:

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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## Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

*"Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'"*

Teacher Sheet

John 4:1-26

Key Verse: 4:10

- ❖ We live in a society that thrives on creating thirsts for kids that cannot satisfy them and in fact make them want more. So it makes sense that our kids have a very misplaced idea of love, worship and devotion. If video games were satisfying one would be enough, one hour would be long enough, we wouldn't be filled with a feeling of boredom after playing all day, whereas spending good time with friends leaves us feeling much more content. If a boyfriend or girlfriend could satisfy there wouldn't be so much constant breakup and skyrocketing divorce. There is a black hole in our heart of infinite mass that eats everything and can never be filled unless it is filled with the infinite God.
- ❖ Jesus the "gift of God" the "living water" is the only thing that can satisfy us. Practically, this means that we must have a friendship with Jesus and slowly our desires for other unhealthy things will diminish. Kids understand the joy and satisfaction of a friendship so we need to emphasize friendship rather than Lordship which in their minds is authoritarian and has a negative connotation. Jesus wants to be our BFF and as we do this through real talking in prayer, real time sitting together through reading, and writing and actually living out our faith this very real friendship grows.
- ❖ Ultimately nothing in this world is worth our intense love and worship, because only God loved us so much that he gave his only Son, only Jesus loved us so much that he died. Anything we love in this world will always leave us feeling empty but loving Jesus in fact fills us with life and joy.





## Open Your Eyes and Look at the Fields!

*"Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."*

John 4:27-42

Key Verse: 4:35

**D**id you ever buy or try something because you **heard** someone **tell** you how cool or tasty, or whatever it was? Was it **good**? Did you ever **influence** others to try something?

### Discussion Questions

Review verse 1-26. Read verse 28. What is the meaning of the woman leaving her jar behind? Read verse 29. What was her testimony? How did the people react?

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Read verses 31-34. Why didn't Jesus want to eat? What was he hungry for?

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Read verses 35-38. How does Jesus see all the unbelieving kids around us? What did Jesus want his disciples to do? **How does Jesus want us to view the people around us? What should we do?**

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Read verses 39-40. Why did the whole town come to Jesus? Read verses 41-42. What did they believe after meeting Jesus personally?

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**If one simple testimony could save an entire town, do you think you can participate in introducing classmates to Jesus?**

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***Application: What are some testimonies you could share about what Jesus has done for you?***

## Open Your Eyes And Look At The Fields!

*"Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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## Open Your Eyes and Look At the Fields!

*"Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."*

Teacher Sheet  
John 4:27-42  
Key Verse: 4:35

- ❖ We need to have hope for all the people around us. Once people have truly tasted Jesus, they can leave behind their jar and the well of the world and become powerful evangelists. The Samaritan woman and the Samaritans in general seemed like the last and least likely people to accept the gospel but it was possible when someone just made friends and offered Jesus. Our kids need to get out of putting people into categories “good,” “bad,” “possible to be Christian,” “impossible” and just make friends with hope.
- ❖ It doesn't take a theology degree to share about Jesus. The woman just simply shared what Jesus had done and a whole town was introduced to Jesus. Our personal testimony is our greatest tool in sharing the gospel. Our kids have a lot of testimonies they can share, more than they realize. Not everyone may be gifted and called to teach the Bible and disciple others but everyone is called to simply share what God has done for them and this can have a huge impact.
- ❖ Our kids can't stop talking about what excites them and what they like but become totally silent on the subject of Jesus. It is because they want always affirmation from their peers and Jesus only brings rejection. So, they should learn to simply share what Jesus has done for them, how he makes them feel, etc. People can't reject our testimony and may become interested in this Jesus who is real to them.





## The Authority of the Son

*“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”*

John 5:16-30

Key Verse: 24

**H**ow do you feel about **authority**? Do you naturally feel **comforted** when someone is there who is **in charge**, do you like to **challenge** them, or do you like to try to **take charge**? How do you feel about God’s **authority**?

### Discussion Questions

Read verses 16-18. What was the Jewish leaders attitude toward Jesus and why?

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Read verses 21-23. What two powers, or authority, has the Father God given to Jesus? **What should be our attitude toward his authority?**

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Read verse 24. How can we have eternal life? **What does “whoever hears my words...” teach us about our attitude toward Bible study?**

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What does “crossed over from death...” teach us about our life in this world? What does it mean to “cross over...to life” even as we live in this world?

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Read 23b, 25, and 28-30. **Why is not accepting Jesus a serious matter? What have you observed is kids’ attitude about Jesus?**

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***Application: How can you set a good example of hearing and believing and respecting Jesus’ authority?***

## The Authority of the Son

*“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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## The Authority of the Son

*“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”*

Teacher Sheet

John 5:16-30

Key Verse: 24

- ❖ Kids either feel comforted or rebellious toward authority, so the word carries a lot of weight. We need to establish how Jesus’ authority is different than worldly authority. Everything Jesus does is from God and is for our best good because he loves us. God uses his authority to save us, and take us from death to life even as we live in this world.
- ❖ Even though he is so loving and kind, this doesn’t mean we can treat him like our “buddy”. Jesus is the Judge. He has the authority to throw us down into hell, this is no light matter. Jesus says that we must hear his words; therefore, in Bible study we must believe that these are not just stories or ancient dead words or like a book report for school but the words of life that can save me from condemnation and hell. Believing them is not a matter of just saying “I believe” it means we practically live them out in our life, let them guide our decisions, and let them give us our direction. Secondly, he said believe him who sent me; this means that ultimately Bible study must lead us into a relationship with God.
- ❖ It is this relationship with God that makes us “cross over” from the dead life of this world to the eternal, overflowing life to the full that Jesus gives. Therefore, we must live this relationship out, putting his words into practice in our daily life. We must live joyfully as those who are no longer part of this world but have eternal life.





## Bring What You Have to Jesus

*“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’”*

John 6:1-21

Key Verse: 6:5

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see, while Hebrews 11:6 says that without faith it is impossible to please God. Sometimes faith can seem like believing in the impossible. But in today’s passage, we see that Jesus isn’t looking for us to do the impossible, he is looking for us to bring what we have to him by faith and he will do the impossible. Through this passage, we want to learn to not doubt, but bring what we have to Jesus by faith because of what he can do.

### Discussion Questions

Where did this event take place? (1) Why had the crowd followed Jesus? (2)

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What did Jesus ask Philip? (5) How was this a test for Philip? How did Philip answer? (7) Did Philip understand Jesus what Jesus really wanted?

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Why did Philip doubt it was possible? ***Why do we put limits on what God can do?***

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What did Andrew do and say? (9) Compare Andrew’s attitude and way of thinking with Philip.

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How does this event reveal God’s love and power?

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***Application: What is the work God has given you to do? How must you do this work?***

## Bring What You Have to Jesus

*"When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, 'Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?'"*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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## Bring What You Have to Jesus

*“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’”*

Teachers Sheet

John 6:1-21

Key Verse: 6:5

- ❖ We cannot limit God by seeing the world only by what is possible and not possible for us. We must see the world from God’s viewpoint, anything is possible for God. Then we find many opportunities instead of thinking why we can’t.
- ❖ Faith doesn’t need to be great. Even children’s simple faith is enough. Like the child’s lunchbox we must bring the simple thing we have to Jesus and he will do the rest.
- ❖ Each of us has something simple that we can bring to Jesus. God has given each of us a work to do and God’s work must be done by faith not by our smarts or ability. With faith actually any job can be done. (Php 4:13)





## Jesus, the Bread of Life

*"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'"*

John 6:22-40  
Key Verse: 6:35

**H**ave you ever worked really hard to get some thing/gift/privilege? How long did the satisfaction last? What became of the thing you worked hard for?

### Discussion Questions

Why was the crowd looking for from Jesus? (15,26) How had their attitude toward Jesus changed? (2,26)

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What is "food that spoils"? **Why is it foolish to work only for this food?** What is the "food that endures to eternal life"? What is the work God requires? (29) **What does us teach about the way we should prioritize our time, work, and goals?**

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Why did they ask for a sign when Jesus had just done a miracle the day before? (30) Who did they give as an example to try to get food from Jesus? Who actually gives bread from heaven? (Mt 6:11)

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What is the true bread from heaven? (33) What was Jesus' response to their request for bread? (35) What does Jesus promise to those who come to him and believe in him? **How can we really eat this bread? Why do we really need Jesus most?**

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What blocked them from being able to accept Jesus? (36) What did God want for them? (37-40)

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**Application: How can you find your real satisfaction in Jesus?**

## Jesus, the Bread of Life

*"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'"*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### 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?*

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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## Jesus, the Bread of Life

*"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'"*

Teachers Sheet

John 6:22-40

Key Verse: 6:35

- ❖ We cannot think of God in terms of what he can give us. We cannot try to control God through our prayer topics or complain when we don't get what we want. Before God we are dust and ashes who deserve nothing, yet in his love God wants to give us every good thing.
- ❖ We must feed our souls like we feed our bodies. Our soul needs the "food that endures to eternal life" that is Jesus (Jn 6:53). We eat of Jesus through a relationship with him especially through his word.
- ❖ What we are eating is what we want most and what we give our most attention to.





## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

*“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so the work of God might be displayed in his life.”*

John 9:1-12

Key Verse: 3

**W**hat is the worst thing that ever happened to you? Looking back how did it affect you or shape you into the person that you are today? Considering that, would you go back and change that event if you could?

### Discussion Questions

Who did Jesus see and what did the disciples ask? (1-2) Why did they think that sin was the reason that the man had been born blind? What did Jesus say about the man’s problem? (3)

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**How can a bad thing in our life become an opportunity for God to be glorified? How can we apply this teaching to our life? What should we think when trouble comes to our life?**

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When should we do God’s work according to Jesus? (4) What was Jesus’ lifestyle?

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What did Jesus use to heal the man? (6) Why do you think Jesus used mud that the man could feel which Jesus rubbed on with his own fingers?

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What did he tell him to do? (7a) Did the man obey? (7b) Why are faith and obedience always necessary for God to work? **What can we learn about God’s work in this world?**

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***Application: What bad thing in your life could be an opportunity for God’s glory? How can you obey God’s work in your life?***

*the hardest time is the best time*

## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

*“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so the work of God might be displayed in his life.”*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### 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?*

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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the hardest time is the best time

## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

*“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so the work of God might be displayed in his life.”*

Teachers Sheet

John 9:1-12

Key Verse: 3

- ❖ When we have faith, we cannot be a victim of our circumstances or wallow in self-pity, every situation is an opportunity to grow and an opportunity for God to be glorified. Faith to challenge anything must be our attitude toward any bad situation.
- ❖ God’s work is always going on. God tirelessly fights for the souls of all mankind. We must see God’s heart to save a lost world and be part of it
- ❖ God’s work is not like work of this world, it is not based on what is possible or logical. God’s work is based on faith. Faith shows that we believe God exists and that he is God Almighty.

*the hardest time is the best time*





## Why We Must Be Thankful

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

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**W**hat is the biggest thing you ever did to say thanks to someone? Why were you so thankful? What was their response? How did it make you feel?

### 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?**

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

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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?**

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

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

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***Application: List your thanksgiving topics as many as you can think of. Especially find as many complaining topics as you can and find a way to give thanks for them from God’s perspective by faith.***

## Why We Must Be Thankful

*“Be joyful 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?

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### 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?*

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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Giving thanks is the secret to real happiness and joy

## Why We Must Be Thankful

*“Be joyful 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)





## One Thing I Know

*“Whether he is a sinner or not, I do not know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see.”*

John 9:13-41  
Key Verse: 9:25

**H**ave you ever felt threatened? How did it feel? Were you pressured to lie to get out of it? How did you deal with the situation? What did you learn?

### Discussion Questions

What was the problem with Jesus healing the blind man? (13-14) What did the Pharisees think about this amazing and joyful miracle of God? (15-16a) Why were the Pharisees divided? (16)

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What should have been their clear and obvious reaction to this event and to Jesus? How did they react instead? (18a)

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Who did the Pharisees ask next when they didn't get the answers they wanted? (18b) How did they answer? (19-21) Why didn't they defend their son and tell the obvious truth? (22-23)

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What did the Pharisees want the man to say? (24) What was his clear testimony? (25) What did they ask him again in frustration? (26) How did the man teach them the clear and obvious truth?

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**Think about the difference between this man versus his parents and the Pharisees. Why were the Pharisees, in fact, the truly blind people in this passage?**

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**Application: What is the “one thing” that you know about Jesus? How can you hold onto it no matter what?**

## One Thing I Know

*“Whether he is a sinner or not, I do not know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see.”*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### APPLICATION:

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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## One Thing I Know

*“Whether he is a sinner or not, I do not know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see.”*

Teachers Sheet

John 9:13-41

Key Verse: 9:25

- ❖ Suppressing the truth (Rom 1:18-23). Sinful people purposely suppress the truth of God so they can continue to live in their comfortable lie and continue to sin. The truth about God is obvious because God has made it obvious. The Pharisees could not see the truth because they were determined to follow their fixed idea. No one can see Jesus until they repent of their sin and follow God’s leading on their life.
- ❖ The Parents are representative of our kids who do not want to be “kicked out of the synagogue” that is rejected by their peers. For the sake of not being kicked out of the friend community they avoided telling the truth and even rejected their precious son.
- ❖ We must boldly and courageously testify to the clear truth of what God has done in our life. Each of us must have a testimony of what God has done and tell others no matter the consequences, then God will come and touch our spirit and open the eyes of all those who listen to us.
- ❖ We may not know many things about the Bible and that’s ok at this age, but we each know “one thing”. The world is trying to silence Jesus and his followers, say the Bible isn’t true, and convince us that God is dead but we each know the “one thing” that God has done in our life by his grace, that is the greatest evidence we can have of the truth and we must hold onto that and testify about it often so we may not be consumed by the world and its lies.





## Jesus the Good Shepherd

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

John 10:1-21  
Key Verse: 10:11

**H**ave you ever had to care for a baby/sibling/child/animal? What was it like? Did you get paid? Do you think you did a good job? Would you have done it again or done it for free?

### Discussion Questions

Why would a person sneak into the sheep pen rather than going through the gate? (1-2) What does it mean that Jesus entered by the gate? (8:29,55; 9:33; Ezekiel 34:15,23-24)

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According to this passage what are the 5 ways to identify the true shepherd? (2-5)

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**Verse 3 says, "he calls his own sheep by name," and verse 4 says, "the sheep know his voice," why is this so meaningful? Why is it so important that he leads the sheep rather than pushing them?** (4)

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What does it mean that Jesus is the gate? (7) **What might be some false gates?** (8,10)

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How does Jesus the good shepherd show that he loves the sheep? (11) How is the hired hand different from the shepherd? **Does this make you want to follow Jesus? Why?**

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**Application: How can we learn to trust and follow Jesus as our Good Shepherd?**

## Jesus the Good Shepherd

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?**

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**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?*

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**PRAYER TOPICS:**

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Only Jesus laid down his life

## Jesus the Good Shepherd

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

Teachers Sheet  
John 10:1-21  
Key Verse: 10:11

- ❖ The good shepherd unlike the hired hand or the thief, cares about the sheep. He knows them by name. Not just knows their name, but in the Jewish understanding of name, knows everything about them, their character and who they are to the core. A shepherd must get to know their sheep. Then sheep recognize their shepherd and love him. It is not them but Jesus they see behind their shepherd.
- ❖ Shepherds must go ahead of their sheep not push their sheep or say "do what I say, not what I do."
- ❖ Ultimately no one can be a shepherd for another, but only lead them to the true shepherd Jesus. Only Jesus died to save all people because only Jesus loves that much. We are all Jesus' sheep and he is the only true shepherd working through all the little shepherds who accept him into their hearts and let him work through them.





## It is All for God's Glory

*"When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."*

John 11:1-16  
Key Verse 11:4

**H**ave you ever had a fear of death? Did you ever have a scary situation that made you think you would die? How did you feel? Did you ever think about heaven at such times or think about Jesus?

### Discussion Questions

What was Jesus' relationship with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha? (5, Lk 10:38-41) **Why do you think Jesus stayed where he was two more days when he heard Lazarus was sick (6)?**

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How is Jesus' view of the world different from most people (4)? **Why is looking at the world from this point of view the best? What is God's goal in allowing bad things to happen (4,15)?**

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How was Jesus' view of death different from the disciples (11)? How did Martha and Mary respond to Jesus' arrival and how did they greet him (20-21,29-32)? How did their greeting show both confidence in Jesus and also disappointment?

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How did Jesus comfort Martha (23)? What did she think it meant (24)? What does Jesus mean by "I AM the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (25-26)? **What is the hope of all Christians in death? "Do you believe this?" (26b)**

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What did Jesus do (33-44)? **Why do you think he wept?** What did Jesus want to teach the disciples and Mary and Martha's family (42)? **Why is it comforting to know that in Jesus we have life and will never die?**

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***Application: How can you practically have hope in the resurrection? How can this hope help you to live for the glory of God?***

Those who believe in Jesus will never die

### It is All for God's Glory

*"When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."*

#### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?**

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**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?*

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**PRAYER TOPICS:**

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Those who believe in Jesus will never die

## It is All for God's Glory

*"When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."*

Teachers Sheet  
John 11:1-16  
Key Verse 11:4

- ❖ How can we see problems in our life as being for a purpose, that in fact everything in life is an opportunity for us to glorify God—a test that we either ace for God's glory or fail miserably through complaining, bitterness and human effort
- ❖ What is the purpose for which God made you and gave you the situation, gifts, flaws and place in life only you have? How can we change our thinking from being angry about who we are to seeing God's great purpose in it all
- ❖ What does it mean that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Jesus' very nature is life and those who have Jesus experience life to the full now and forever.





## 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

**W**hat is the best Christmas gift you ever got? How long had you wanted it? How long did the excitement last after getting it? Do you still have it?

### 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?**

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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?

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

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

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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?**

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***Application: Consider which of these names of Jesus speaks most to you and consider how you can praise God for that this Christmas?***

### 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?**

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**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?**

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**APPLICATION:**

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

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

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**PRAYER TOPICS:**

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## 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."*

Teachers Sheet  
Isaiah 9:6

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

He gave us his son





## A Decision that Pleases 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 New Year's resolutions that you failed at? How long did it take? Are there any you kept? Do you like making resolutions?

### Discussion Questions

Read verses 1-2. Why do you think God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to take over God's people Israel? (Deuteronomy 6:5, 10-12) **Why is it important to be faithful to God in our lives?**

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Read verses 3-5. How did King Nebuchadnezzar use some of Jerusalem's young men? How were they qualified to be part of his kingdom? What were they trained for? What kinds of good things (benefits) did they receive?

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Read verses 6-8. Who were the young men chosen from Judah? Why did the king change their names? What did Daniel decide to do? **Why would it be hard for Daniel to keep this decision?**

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Read verses 9-16. What is a 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? What are the best decisions we can make?**

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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?**

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**Application:** Choose one key verse as your prayer to make a decision before God and live for him?

his decision to please God with his life



## A Decision that Pleases 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 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?

his decision to please God with his life





## Mary Pours Out Her Love for Jesus

*"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial."*

John 12:1-11  
Key Verse 12:7

**W**hat is the nicest thing you ever did for someone? How did it feel? Why did you do it? How did they react? Did it impact you to do more nice things for others?

### Discussion Questions

After Lazarus was raised from the dead, what did the family do for Jesus (1-2)? Why?

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What did Mary do for Jesus while he was at the dinner table (3)? **Why? How much did Mary love Jesus? What has God done for you to show you that he loves you? How have you expressed your love to Jesus?**

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How did Judas feel about Mary's act of love (4-5)? Why did he think like this (6)?

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How did Jesus include Mary's act in the fulfillment of the gospel (7-8)? How does Jesus see the beautiful things we do to love him? **Why is it necessary to love Jesus most?**

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**Application:** *How can you pour out your love for Jesus this week? What have you sacrificed to love Jesus most?*

*Have you ever poured out your love onto God?*

## Mary Pours Out Her Love for Jesus

*"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial."*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### APPLICATION:

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What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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*Have you ever poured out your love onto God?*

## Mary Pours Out Her Love for Jesus

*"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial."*

Teachers Sheet  
John 12:1-11  
Key Verse 12:7

- ❖ Mary's love came from her thanksgiving to Jesus. She offered her treasured possession for Jesus.
- ❖ We must appreciate God's love that has been given to us. Remember how God loved us first and reciprocate. We offer our best. We offer our lives to God.
- ❖ Pouring out our love on to Jesus like Mary in our daily life. Give tangible examples to help kids understand how to offer to God their best.

*Have you ever poured out your love onto God?*





## Follow Jesus' Good Example

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

John 13:1-15,34-35

Key Verse 13:15

Jesus devoted his life to teaching and preaching the kingdom of God so all people can be saved. Not only this, he would also give his own life on the cross, so that we could be forgiven of our sins. This is Jesus' love and the best example of love. However, in daily life sometimes we look at others sins. We have no patience for others or their sins and we condemn them. Jesus taught us here that once he's washed us, we must learn to wash (love) each other. Let's learn to follow Jesus' example.

### Discussion Questions

What did Jesus know about the future of his life (1)? What does it mean that Jesus loved them to the end? **Why was this important to show them?**

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How did Jesus demonstrate his love here (4-5)? What did Peter say when Jesus came to him (6-8a)? Why? What does washing feet represent (8b-9)? What does taking a bath represent (10)? **How was washing their dirty feet love?**

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What was Jesus teaching through what he did (12-15)? What does he want us to do (14-15)? **How can we practically follow Jesus' example toward others?**

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**How should we react when we see others sins (dirty feet)? Why must disciples treat each other like this?**

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Read verse 34. **How did Jesus love you? How can you love others like that?** Read verse 35. How does Jesus say Christians will be recognized by the world? **How can loving others lead them to Jesus?**

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***Application: How can you become a more loving person? How can you show you are Jesus' disciple this week?***

wash each other from daily sins without criticism

## Follow Jesus' Good Example

*"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### 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?*

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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wash each other from daily sins without criticism

## Follow Jesus' Good Example

*"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."*

Teachers Sheet  
John 13:1-17  
Key Verse 13:15

- ❖ How Jesus loved his disciples and all sinners humbling himself to the level of a servant. He didn't cringe at their dirty feet but gladly washed them. He set the example.
- ❖ How we must love others, and bear with others' weaknesses, washing each other without criticism because we all have daily sin problems.
- ❖ How the church must be an image of the grace and love that Jesus showed the world. The church should be a reflection of heaven and God's grace.
- ❖ Why is love the number one characteristic of a Christian? What should be the number one focus of our spiritual life? Give positive examples of how loving others can lead them to Jesus.
- ❖ The importance of loving and bearing with unbearable people. Show kids how they can love their classmates and friends in the name of Jesus.

*wash each other from daily sins without criticism*





## Jesus is the Only Way

*"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me."*

John 14:1-14  
Key Verse 14:6

**H**ave you ever tried to do something your own way only to find out that it wouldn't work and you would have to start over? How did it feel? What did you do? What did you learn through the experience?

### Discussion Questions

Why were the disciples' hearts troubled (1)? **According to verse 1b, what is the secret of being free from trouble and worry?**

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What did Jesus mean by his "Father's house" (2-3; Mk 1:15) What great comfort and promise did Jesus give to them and us? How did Jesus open the way to his "Father's house" for us? (3)

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What is the way to get to heaven (4-7)? **Why is Jesus the only way to God?** What does it mean that "no one comes to the Father except through me"?

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Why is Jesus "the truth?" (Jn 8:31-32) Why is Jesus "the life?" (Jn 5:24) What did Jesus teach Philip about how he is (9-10)?

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**Based on these facts, why is it important to follow Jesus in your daily life? Why is it critical to tell others?**

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***Application: What do you need to do this week to follow the way God has made? How do the words "no one comes to the Father except through me" motivate you to tell others about Jesus?***

## Jesus is the Only Way

*"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me."*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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## Jesus is the Only Way

*"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Teachers Sheet  
John 14:1-14  
Key Verse 14:6

- ❖ Worry about the future, death, and persecution are natural but when we have faith in Jesus, we have eternal perspective that helps us to overcome everything. Ultimately we have nothing to worry about because Jesus has prepared a place for us. The worst thing that can happen to us in the world is to die but in an eternal perspective that is an upgrade to a far better life. The question is if we can have faith.
- ❖ Jesus died on the cross to open the way for us to the Father's house. He has a place prepared for us a "room" or "mansion" in another translation. We have great hope in heaven because of what Jesus has done and we have no need to worry about death.
- ❖ Jesus is the only way to the Father, we must follow him. We need to know Jesus, then we can know and see God. Explain why Jesus is only way.
- ❖ What is more this motivates us to share the gospel with others. Those in other religions or who think they will get to heaven through living a good life are mistaken: there is no other way. This should motivate us to share Jesus the only way with others.





## A Right Relationship with Jesus

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

John 15:1-17  
Key Verse 15:5

In our lives, we have many relationships. Some are very close, like with our family and friends. Other relationships are not close at all. Through relationships we build trust, love, and hope with one another. Without relationships, we would not be able to tolerate life. Just like there are relationships in the world, there is also a relationship with God. Our relationship with God is the most important because, it is a matter of being fruitful or unfruitful, joyful or miserable, and life or death. Let's learn what kind of relationship God wants us to have with him, so that we can be fruitful and have joy.

### Discussion Questions

Read verse 1. What is the relationship between the vine and the branches in a grape vine (find a diagram of a vine)? What does it mean that Jesus is our "true vine"?

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Read verses 1-2. Who is the gardener? What does the gardener want from the branches? What does the gardener do to unfruitful branches and what does it mean? What does he do to fruitful branches and why?

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Read verses 4-5. How can we bear the fruit that God wants? What does it mean to "remain in Jesus"? What are some ways that we can remain in him? (see 7,9,10,12,14,17)

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Read verses 5-6. Why are unfruitful branches unfruitful? What happens to the person who does not remain in Jesus?

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Read verses 9-17. What are the primary fruits that God is looking for from his disciples?

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**Application: How can you remain in Jesus and bear fruit this week?**

*it is a matter of being fruitful or unfruitful, joy or misery, life or death*

## A Right Relationship with Jesus

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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*it is a matter of being fruitful or unfruitful, joy or misery, life or death*

## A Right Relationship with Jesus

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

Teachers Sheet  
John 15:1-17  
Key Verse 15:5

- ❖ There are many sources of “life” pleasure, fun, success but none of them really last, they leave us more hungry. It is because these are not “true vines” they are imitation sources, they don’t give life, they take it. Only Jesus can give us true life, where we feel happy and satisfied and don’t want the things of the world anymore.
- ❖ What does it look like to be connected to Jesus and have a relationship with him? The passage explains that we remain in his word, in his love, in his commands, and love one another. The primary fruit that God is looking for is love and obedience, by this we show the world we are his disciples. The one who is truly a believer will always be connected to Jesus and will bear fruit very naturally. Therefore fruit in the life of a Christian is the sign that they are a genuine believer. Jesus said that it is by their fruit that you will recognize a believer (Mt 7:16).
- ❖ Lack of fruit, no growth, no change, is a sign that we are not a real believer. Why do we sometimes disconnect ourselves from God? Why do we try to be so independent? If a person is not in Jesus the vine their life will wither and dry up and worse God will throw them into the fire of hell.

*it is a matter of being fruitful or unfruitful, joy or misery, life or death*





## The Counselor will Guide Us

*"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes,  
he will guide you into all truth."*

John 16:1-16  
Key Verse 16:13a

**D**id you ever go to the school counselor? Or go to someone for advice when you needed help, like a shepherd or a mentor, teacher? How did they help you? How did it feel?

### Discussion Questions

Read verses 1-4. What did Jesus predict about the future? Why did Jesus tell them these things?

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Read verses 5-7. Where was Jesus going? Why is it good for the disciples that Jesus leave?

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What 3 things does the Holy Spirit rebuke the world of? Why is this important?

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What is the 'Holy Spirit' exactly? Why do we need the Holy Spirit to be with us? Have you ever experienced the 'Holy Spirit' working in you or in a person?

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Read verses 13. Why is the Holy Spirit called "the Spirit of truth"? What is the second major work of the Holy Spirit revealed here? What can you learn about the importance of having the Holy Spirit in your life? How can you have the Holy Spirit?

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**Application:** How can you respond to the Holy Spirit's work in your life this week? What do you believe the Spirit has been trying to help you to realize and overcome?

# The Counselor will Guide Us

*"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes,  
he will guide you into all truth."*

## How I put God's Word into Practice

### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

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### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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### APPLICATION:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?  
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?  
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### PRAYER TOPICS:

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## The Counselor will Guide Us

*"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes,  
he will guide you into all truth."*

Teachers Sheet

John 16:1-16

Key Verse 16:13a

- ❖ The Holy Spirit is somewhat mysterious and may not be really defined in children's minds, so this is a good chance to discuss the work and role of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit never appears as a person, but his work is seen everywhere. In John 3 Jesus described it like the wind, which we cannot see but the effects of which can be seen all around us. So it is with the Holy Spirit. Whenever a person feels the pull to believe, to repent, to do some good thing, feels inspired in a good way, is moved to do the right thing, overcomes temptation, is prompted to pray, receives an answer from God, is prompted to read or accept a verse, feels called to a mission field, is prompted to talk to a person about Jesus or just comfort or help them, understands a passage of scripture, finds words to say when witnessing to others, finds words to say when preaching or defending their faith, finds love for an enemy, forgives miraculously, finds faith in an impossible situation and a multitude of other situations all these are the work of the Holy Spirit. He cannot be seen but he is literally everywhere in the life of faith. What is more having the Spirit is the sign that we are a true believer (Eph 1:13). The Spirit of God in us is all the power of God living inside our little body, therefore it is impossible for a true believer not to change. Hence there is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). The Spirit literally gives us a new birth as a new spiritual person (Jn3:3,4, Ro 8:15). For all these reasons and more the Holy Spirit is called the Advocate that is Helper and he IS a help indeed.
- ❖ However the Holy Spirit is not just a helper for man, he is holy. The Spirit's purpose is to convict the world that they are wrong about sin, righteousness and judgment. One of the first big things the Holy Spirit does is to convict us of all our sins, make us stop believing we are good enough and see our great need for Christ so we may stop sinning and not be judged. A true believer will not have an ongoing pattern of sin in their life because they will repent, following the leading of the Spirit and will live a new life growing beyond sin to doing good works which the Spirit will lead us into. What is more the Holy Spirit leads us to all truth. He helps us to understand the Bible, apply it to our lives and teach others. We can always distinguish the Holy Spirit from just some emotion or other spirit because it will always lead us to God's word and never be in opposition to it.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit comes upon all those who believe that Jesus died and rose again. That is why Jesus had to die and cleanse us to make us a temple for his Spirit to come.





## The Power and Importance of Prayer

*"After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you."*

John 17:1-26  
Key Verse 17:1

**W**hat is the deepest conversation that you ever had with a friend? How did it feel to connect with someone that deeply? Do you like to talk to your friends, or have heart to heart talks with those close to you? How does it feel?

### Discussion Questions

Read verse 1a. What had Jesus been talking about just before he prayed? Read verses 1b-5. What was Jesus' life purpose and hope?

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Why did God grant him authority? (2) What is eternal life? What was the work God gave Jesus to do, the work that he completed? Why was it important for Jesus to pray about these things?

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Read verses 6-10. What two things did Jesus do to raise disciples? What did the disciples do?

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Read verses 11-19. Where was Jesus going? What were his prayer topics for his disciples? What was Jesus' plan for them? Why was it important to pray for his disciples?

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From this passage, what can we learn about the Power and Importance of Prayer?

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**Application:** *How often do you pray? What do you pray about? Why must you pray more often?*

## The Power and Importance of Prayer

*"After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you."*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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grow in our relationship with him

## The Power and Importance of Prayer

*"After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you."*

Teachers Sheet  
John 17:1-26  
Key Verse 17:1

- ❖ How did Jesus glorify God. How did Jesus' death show the world the love and mercy of God. How did Jesus give eternal life through this.
- ❖ We must pray to be sanctified (made holy) by God's word and preach the gospel to all people.
- ❖ We have a responsibility to pray for our friends, our church and all people that all may know God and believe in Jesus.





## Jesus Testifies to the Truth

*“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, ‘You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.’”*

John 18:28-19:16

Key Verse: 18:37

**D**id you ever believe something to be true and then later found out it was a lie? Did you ever believe things when you were little that now you know are not true? Why do we tell these untrue things?

### Discussion Questions

Read verses 28-32 What had been going on during the night? What did Pilate ask the Jews? Why did the Jews insist that Jesus be tried by Pilate?

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Read verses 33-37. What did Pilate ask Jesus? How did Jesus respond? What did Jesus teach Pilate about his kingdom? (36-37) What does this mean?

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Read verse 38. Why did Pilate ask, “What is truth?” How does Jesus stand on the side of truth?

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Read verses 39-40. How did Pilate seek a compromise solution to this dilemma? Why did he fail?

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Read 19:1-5. What should Pilate have done to Jesus? Read verses 8-11. Why was Pilate afraid? What did Jesus teach Pilate about himself? How did the Jewish leaders defeat Pilate’s last effort to release Jesus?

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**Application:** How can you stand for God’s truth this week regardless of the cost? What are the ways that you have avoided the truth to please others that you must repent of?

## Jesus Testifies to the Truth

*“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”*

### How I put God’s Word into Practice

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Teachers Sheet  
John 18:28-19:16  
Key Verse: 18:37

- ❖ The nature of truth in a world pressing Christians to not be exclusive and to embrace all beliefs as equal.
- ❖ What does it mean to stand on the side of truth, to stand up for the truth in a world that denies there is one absolute truth.
- ❖ Jesus' love for the world to be tried in our place and to stand on the side of truth even though it meant his death. How Jesus was a shepherd to the end and followed God's will to be tried and sentenced for our sins.





## Jesus Died and was Buried for Us

*"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."  
With that he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."*

John 19:28-42  
Key Verse 19:30

**W**hat is the best feeling of finishing that you ever had? (A project, a game, a book, science fair?) Have you ever finished a bad habit and never returned to it, or finished a bad relationship? How does it feel?

### Discussion Questions

Read verses 28-29. What did Jesus ask for after he knew that he did everything he was called to do? What does this show about putting God's mission first? How do you put God first in your life?

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Read verse 30. After he received the drink, what did Jesus say and why? What does "It is finished" mean to God and to us? Why is this a great thing for all of mankind?

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Read verses 31-37. Why did the soldiers break the legs of the other men, but not Jesus? What did they do to Jesus instead? What is the purpose of John's testimony? (Jn 20:31)

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Read verses 38-42. Who buried Jesus? From reading verses 38-42, what do you know about them? How have they changed by Jesus' death on the cross? How does Jesus' death change us?

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Why did Jesus have to die and be buried? How does Jesus' burial prepare us for his resurrection? How does Jesus' death give us hope and meaning to our lives?

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**Application:** *What sin do you need to be finished with this week through faith in Jesus' death for you?*



## Jesus Died and was Buried for Us

*“When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.”  
With that he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”*

John 19:28-42  
Key Verse 19:30

- ❖ The meaning of “It is finished”
- ❖ What Jesus’ death means (to Jesus)
- ❖ What Jesus’ death means to us

Jesus finished his mission





## The Risen Jesus

*“Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”*

John 20:1-31  
Key Verse 20:17b

In the last passage, the disciples saw Jesus suffer and die. Later he was buried. Having faith in Jesus death saves us from the power of sin and death. But believing that Jesus rose from the dead gives us new life. God not only wants us to be forgiven, but he wants to give us a new life in him. Let’s learn what it means to have faith in the risen Jesus, and have new life from God!

### Discussion Questions

Which woman does John (the author) focus on at the beginning of this passage? How did she care for Jesus? What did she find when she arrived at the tomb?

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How did Peter and John react when they got to the tomb of Jesus? What did these things mean? Why didn’t they understand what they saw?

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Read verses 10-13. What did Mary do? Why was she crying? When Jesus spoke to her, how did she answer him? When did she recognize him? What mission did Jesus give to Mary?

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Read verses 17-20. What were the disciples like before Mary came? How did they respond to what Mary said? When did they become joyful? What was Jesus’ Mission for them? (21-22)

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What was wrong with Thomas? How did Jesus help him? Why must you believe in the Risen Christ? What does the Bible promise to those who have not seen Jesus but believe in him? (Verses 30-31)

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***Application: How can Jesus’ resurrection give you the hope and power to get up and do something this week, overcome, stop sitting around, stop being sad and challenge the impossible?***



## The Risen Jesus

*"Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"*

Teachers Sheet  
John 20:1-31  
Key Verse 20:17b

- ❖ How Jesus helped Mary
- ❖ How Jesus helped his disciples
- ❖ Jesus' Resurrection transforms people (How?)





## Do YOU Love Jesus?

*“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”*

John 21:1-25  
Key Verse 21:15

**W**hat are the top things that you love? How do you show your love for them? Why do you love those things and how do they love you back?

### Discussion Questions

Read verses 1-7 What were the disciples like after Jesus’ death? Have you ever been “down” about something? How did Jesus restore their spirit?

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Read verses 8-14. Instead of rebuking them, what did Jesus do in order to serve them? Why do you think so? (Heb 13:8; Rev 3:20b) What does it show about God’s love?

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Read verses 15-17. What did Jesus ask Peter 3 times? Why? How did Peter answer? What does it mean to love God? (Pr 1:7) How is Peter’s love relationship with Jesus restored through this event?

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What did Jesus tell Peter to do? How can you practically “feed Jesus’ sheep?”

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Read verses 18-19. What was Peter’s life as a sheep? As a follower of Jesus, why is it necessary to follow God? Can you live as a Christian without following Jesus? How do you follow Jesus?

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**Application:** *What sheep or lambs do you think God is calling you to feed? How can you live your life to love Jesus?*

## Do YOU Love Jesus?

*“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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## Do YOU Love Jesus?

*“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”*

Teachers Sheet  
John 21:1-25  
Key Verse 21:15

- ❖ Jesus’ love in restoring Peter and disciples spirit
- ❖ How to show love to God
- ❖ God has a purpose for each person’s life





## Growing to Spiritual Maturity

*"We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."*

Hebrews 5:11-6:20

Key Verse: 6:12

In Christianity today, Jesus' amazing love, endless grace and acceptance of any kind of sinner is emphasized so much and Jesus' judgment is very much downplayed to a point that we have an unbalanced or unrealistic idea about God. God is love, that is true, to a level we can't even imagine but God is also just and righteous and holy to a point we cannot even imagine. What is more, all people on earth were made for God's pleasure, not to live however they want selfishly. What God wants from us—and what we actually want most—is that we bear fruit. Jesus said, this is the fruit that comes from repentance. If however we only produce the fruit of sin, like thorns and thistles, thinking God is endlessly forgiving, we are in danger of curse and the fire of hell. Let's not treat Jesus' sacrifice in some cheap way but produce good fruit as mature Christians out of love for Jesus.

### Discussion Questions

What are some differences between an infant and a mature person? What does the author compare spiritual teaching to? (12-14) What 3 things are mentioned that show our maturity? (5:14) What do you think of when you think of a spiritually mature person?

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What 6 things are basic elementary teachings or spiritual milk? (6:1-2) Think about each one; how are these things like sweet milk that is easy to digest? Why must we move on to solid food?

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What happens to the person who accepts Jesus and then totally denies him to join with unbelievers ("fall away")? (6) What should happen naturally to a well nourished Christian? (7) What is the danger for those who do not bear fruit? (8; Read also Mt 3:8-10, Mt 7:19-21, Jn 15:1-8) Think about it: if you bought a fruit tree and it bore no fruit even after many years of labor, what would you do with it?

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How can we ensure that we will produce fruit? (9) What 4 qualities are mentioned of a person who bears fruit? (10-11) What must we guard against? (12) What is the solution to not becoming spiritually lazy?

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How can we be absolutely sure of our hope in Jesus? (13-20) How is this an anchor for our soul? (19) What happens to our life when we are anchored in Jesus? (See also Ps 1:1-6, Mt 7:24-27) How can you bear fruit and be a mature Christian?

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**Application: In what ways can you practically grow-up spiritually this week?**

produce good fruit as mature Christians out of love for Jesus

# Growing to Spiritual Maturity

*"We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."*

## How I put God's Word into Practice

### SUMMARY: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?

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### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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### 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?*

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### PRAYER TOPICS:

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produce good fruit as mature Christians out of love for Jesus



## Growing to Spiritual Maturity

Teachers Sheet

Hebrews 5:11-6:20

Key Verse: 6:12

1. What are some differences between an infant and a mature person? What does the author compare spiritual teaching to? What 3 things are mentioned that show our maturity? What do you think of when you think of a spiritually mature person?
  - An infant needs help all the time. They are dependent on parents to feed, clothe and give basic things. A mature person is independent. He/she is grown up physically, emotionally and intellectually.
  - The author compared spiritual teaching to still being an infant. They needed the elementary truths of God's word all over again. They didn't mature or grow up in their faith yet.
  - Verse 14; Maturity is described as those who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. They are Christians of sound judgment and discernment, which is something spiritual infants do not have.
  - An example of a spiritually mature person is someone who knows the Word of God well, has spiritual insight/understanding to see things from God's point of view, applies God's word correctly, repents often, comes to God in prayer to lead his/her life, seeks to grow in Christ's image, life led by Spirit.
  
2. What 6 things are basic elementary teachings or spiritual milk? Think about each one; how are these things like sweet milk that is easy to digest? Why must we move on to solid food?
  - The 6 basic elementary teachings (spiritual milk) are repentance, faith in God, instruction about Baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.
  - Repentance is the change of mind that causes one to turn away from sin. Faith in God is turning to God. Instruction about Baptism refers to the different variations/forms of Baptism. Laying on of hands refers to ordaining/blessing and healing the sick. Resurrection of the dead is of all people in the last days. Eternal judgment is the fact of Gods' judgment or the verdict that determines the eternal condition of those judged. These are the basics of Christian belief. They are rather straightforward to understand.
  - We must move on to solid food to grow from converts to disciples. Converts simply accept these truths, but disciples continue to grow in faith until maturity. Only the Lord can give us open minds/hearts to reach spiritual maturity.

*produce good fruit as mature Christians out of love for Jesus*

3. What happens to the person who accepts Jesus and then totally denies him to join with unbelievers (“fall away”)? What should happen naturally to a well nourished Christian? (7) What is the danger for those who do not bear fruit? Read also Mt 3:8-10, Mt 7:19-21, Jn 15:1-8. Think about it: if you bought a fruit tree and it bore no fruit even after many years of labor, what would you do with it?
  - This is a warning to Christians who turn away from Jesus after confessing him as Lord and Savior. They lose their salvation. Also, it is a warning that believers should progress to maturity or experience divine discipline. People are more likely to fall away from their faith in they don’t grow spiritually. This also proves that their faith was not genuine. It’s like crucifying Jesus all over again.
  - A well nourished Christian should be fruitful and receive blessing from God. Fruit is the evidence. What kind of fruit—spiritual descendants, service to God, fruits of the Spirit.
  - The danger for those who do not bear fruit is to be deemed worthless by God and be cursed, burned. Fire is the instrument of divine judgment. **Why is it so important to God to be fruitful?** Produce fruit in keeping with repentance (Mt 3:8-10) The fruit of one’s life reveals their faith. Vine and branch;
  - If the tree didn’t bear fruit, we would probably get rid of it. We would cut it down & use it for firewood.
  
4. How can we ensure that we will produce fruit? What 4 qualities are mentioned of a person who bears fruit? What must we guard against? What is the solution to not becoming spiritually lazy?
  - We can ensure that we will produce fruit by remaining in God’s word through obedience to it. Ask god to work through us through prayer. **Do you have any fruit in your life yet?**
  - 4 qualities include work done in God’s name, loving God, helping others and diligent to the very end. Changed lives and works of love suggest people have been changed. Perseverance in faith is evidence of salvation. The person who falls away in faith at the 1<sup>st</sup> sign of trouble didn’t have genuine faith.
  - We must guard against laziness. Spiritual laziness means to stay like a baby Christian. Not wanting to serve or love others, but only receive service and love. It means to want to stay as a sheep instead of becoming a shepherd for others. Not growing in Christ’s image but regressing or falling away in faith.
  - The solution to not being spiritually lazy is to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. Examples of faithful are in chapter 11: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Red Sea, Rahab... Learn from the spiritually mature person’s example.
  
5. How can we be absolutely sure of our hope in Jesus? How is this an anchor for our soul? What happens to our life when we are anchored in Jesus? See also Ps 1:1-6, Mt 7:24-27. How can you bear fruit and be a mature Christian?
  - We can be sure of our hope in Jesus because we have God’s promise, which is absolutely trustworthy. God’s oath confirms his promise.
  - Our hope in Christ guarantees our safety like an anchor for a boat, which is firm and secure. Believing in Jesus means our salvation is secure. We don’t have to worry about it or trying to attain it.
  - Read through chapter 11. **Who is the most spiritually mature person you know? Explain.**



## Law and Grace

*“(For the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.”*

Hebrews 7-8  
Key Verse: 7:19

These days there are many different ideas about what it means to be a Christian. There are also many who have a lot of wrong ideas about what a Christian is. Many think that Christians are just unhappy, boring people who cry a lot and can't do anything fun. It is not surprising, because many Christians are living without the joy and life Jesus gave them. So what kind of life does Jesus want us to live? What should be the focus of our Christian life? Keeping rules and condemning ourselves has no power, Paul said that it is death; so, Jesus came to give us grace. Let's experience this new life.

### Discussion Questions

Why is the priesthood of Melchizedek greater than that of the Levites? (4-10) How is Christ like Melchizedek? (3) Why was Christ's greater priesthood necessary? (11)

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Why did God give the law through Moses? (Lev 19:2) What did God promise them if they kept the law? (Ex 19:5-6) Why did Christ bring a new covenant with a new hope? What is the huge difference between the new and the old covenant?

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Why are rules and legalism useless for helping us to be perfect? Why is grace so much more powerful? Why is the hope in Christ so much better than the hope in the law? What should be our focus as Christians if it is not keeping rules?

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What 4 reasons are given for the supremacy of Jesus' priesthood? (7:22-28) How is Jesus' sanctuary supreme to the earthly sanctuary? (8:1-6)

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Why is the new covenant so much more powerful than the old? (10-12) What difference does it make that God is with you and in you? Why do we need our sins to be taken away if we want to grow? How does our entire relationship change because Jesus is with us?

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What happened to the old way? (13) What is happening to the new way? What will happen if we try to worship God in the old way of rules and legalism? What will happen if we experience the joy, freedom, love and grace of the new covenant?

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**Application: What are the areas of your life where you have been legalistic and need to experience grace?**

*Keeping rules and condemning ourselves has no power*





## Law and Grace

Teachers Sheet

Hebrews 7-8

Key Verse: 7:19

1. Why is the priesthood of Melchizedek greater than that of the Levites? How is Christ like Melchizedek? Why was Christ's greater priesthood necessary? (11)
  - The priesthood of Melchizedek was greater because he was not only a priest, but also a king. Even Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. He was without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life. He was a foreshadowing of Jesus that anticipates Christ's eternal existence and his unending priesthood.
  - Christ is both a king and priest. He lives forever so will be our high priest forever. God raised him from the dead as a victor over death so he will be our mediator or high priest forever.
  - Perfection could not be achieved through the law. No one could follow or obey the law completely. No one is perfectly able to obey the Law of Moses. All people were sinners without exception. They were in need of a high priest to mediate between them and God. The Levitical priesthood was imperfect.
  
2. Why did God give the law through Moses? (Lev 19:2) What did God promise them if they kept the law? Why did Christ bring a new covenant with a new hope? What is the huge difference between the new and the old covenant?
  - God gave the law through Moses as a covenant with Israel. This was an extension of God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants 600 years earlier. Genesis 17 describes the renewal and expansion of God's covenant with Abraham.
  - God's blessing is contingent upon obedience to his law. Exodus 19:5-6 says, 'Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'
  - Christ brings a new covenant (agreement with God) with a new hope because the old way was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect). The law is holy and good, but it doesn't give us the ability to fulfill its demands or provide atonement for those who break the law.
  - New covenant is based on what Jesus has done on the cross through his suffering, death and resurrection as a way of atonement for our sins. Through Jesus who was the perfect sacrifice, we can confidently approach the holy God. Old Covenant is based on obeying the laws. The problem is that no one is good enough to obey every law (both literally and in the spirit).
  
3. Why are rules and legalism useless for helping us to be perfect? Why is grace so much more powerful? Why is the hope in Christ so much better than the hope in the law? What should be our focus as Christians if it is not keeping rules?
  - Rule and legalism are useless for helping us be perfect because they are guidelines that help us identify our weaknesses. God is holy and wants us to be holy, but since we are unable to keep his laws absolutely, we cannot be holy through our own efforts. As soon as you break 1 law, you're in trouble with God, if you don't have Jesus.
  - God's grace of forgiveness through Jesus is more powerful because it gives us a way to be made holy in the sight of God. We are restored as God's holy children by accepting Jesus. Grace is not based on what we do but what God has already done for us. New covenant gives complete redemption & brings us into the presence of God.
  - Hope in Christ allows us to come near to God. Hope in the law draws us closer to the law.

*Keeping rules and condemning ourselves has no power*

- Our focus as Christians should be holding onto our faith in Jesus and living thankful lives for grace.
4. What 4 reasons are given for the supremacy of Jesus' priesthood? (7:22-28) How is Jesus' sanctuary supreme to the earthly sanctuary? (8:1-6) How is Jesus' covenant supreme to the Mosaic covenant?
    - God gave an oath that Jesus would be a priest forever. Jesus lives forever and has a permanent priesthood. He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Jesus is holy, blameless, pure, set apart and exalted above the heavens. He does not need to offer sacrifices because he already sacrificed himself. He has been made perfect forever.
    - Jesus' sanctuary is in heaven while the earthly sanctuary was in the tabernacle. The tabernacle only symbolizes the way sinners may approach a holy God and find forgiveness.
    - Jesus' covenant is superior because he is guaranteeing that the covenant promises are fulfilled. Jesus is our mediator with God. He speaks on our behalf.
  5. Read verses 10-12. Why is the new covenant so much more powerful than the old? What difference does it make that God is with you and in you? Why do we need our sins to be taken away if we want to grow? How does our entire relationship change because Jesus is with us?
    - If the Old Covenant was working properly, there would be no need to replace it with a New Covenant. The New Covenant is better because Jesus fulfills the requirements of God without additional sacrifices, since he is the sacrifice himself.
    - God's laws will become inner principles that enable his people to do his will, not worrying about the just keeping the laws. God and his people will have an intimate fellowship. God will forgive & forget.
    - We need our sins to be taken away if we want to grow because sin breaks our relationship or closeness with God. Sin takes us farther away from God, not closer.
    - Because Jesus is with us, we can confidently come to God who knows us as his children & listens to our prayers. God forgives us and remembers our sins no more.
  6. What happened to the old way? What is happening to the new way? What will happen if we try to worship God in the old way of rules and legalism? What will happen if we experience the joy, freedom, love and grace of the new covenant?
    - The old way of following the law (old covenant) became obsolete. God found the people could not maintain or keep the law.
    - The new Covenant is replacing the old covenant. Jesus fulfills the law. We are able to have God's laws in our heart.
    - The old way of rules and legalism does not involve Jesus. The laws do not help us obey the laws. Jesus gives us the way to be considered righteous in God's eyes.
    - If we experience the joy, freedom, love and grace of the new covenant, our lives will be changed. We can focus on glorifying God and pleasing him instead of focusing on following every single rule and regulation.



## Faith that Pleases God

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

Hebrew 11:1-7

Key Verse: 11:6

What is faith? Faith is not just wishful thinking or motivational ideas from a self-help book. Faith is not pretending or living in a fantasy world. It is also not hoping while sitting around doing nothing or waiting for God to do everything or becoming a victim and believing we're powerless. Faith is knowing that we have an all-powerful God who is right behind us and then going out and having the faith to challenge anything because we know we can do all things through him who gives us strength (Phil4:13). Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. And without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God. We are not alone and we are not weak, we are children of the King and by faith we can do anything in this world and reap God's rewards eternally.

### Discussion Questions

According to verse 1, what is faith? Why can't it be seen? How is hope related to faith? For what were the ancients commended? (Gen 12:2,3) What was God's hope for this fallen world? What can we learn here about the character of faith?

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What is the foundation of faith in God? How can we know that God created the heavens and the earth by his word? (See Ge 1:1) What difference does it make to have creation faith? What is the alternative?

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Why was Abel's sacrifice better than Cain's? Why did God commend Abel as righteous? How does he still speak to us even though he is dead? Compare to Genesis 5:24. How did Enoch please God?

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What warning did Noah receive? How did he show his faith in God and his word? (See Ge 6:1-13) In what respect did Noah's faith condemn the world? Notice that all these people lived before the Law of Moses was given. What does this tell us about how to be righteous before God? (7b)

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How can we have faith that pleases God? What does it mean to believe that God exists? What does it mean to believe that he rewards those who seek him? How can we earnestly seek God?

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**Application: What areas of your life do you need to learn to have faith in the unseen? How can you practically walk with God like these fathers of faith?**

Faith is not just wishful thinking

## Faith that Pleases God

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

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?**

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**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?*

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**PRAYER TOPICS:**

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Faith is not just wishful thinking



## Faith that Pleases God

Teachers Sheet  
 Hebrew 11:1-7  
 Key Verse: 11:6

1. According to verse 1, what is faith? Why can't it be seen? How is hope related to faith? For what were the ancients commended? (Gen 12:2,3) What was God's hope for this fallen world? What can we learn here about the character of faith?
  - Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Being confident in what we believe.
  - Faith is not something tangible or physical. It can't be seen. 2 Cor 4:18 says, 'So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.'
  - Faith is being sure of what we hope for. We do not see it, but believe in it. Persevere in our faith.
  - The ancients were commended for their faith. The ancients refers to heroes (ancestors) of faith. Gen 12:2-3 say, 'I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'
  - God's hope for this fallen world was for people to turn back to him in repentance. God wanted to bless the world, but because of sin it has become fallen or corrupted.
  - Our faith or belief is internal. It resides within us. Our faith is revealed also through our way of life.
  
2. What is the foundation of faith in God? How can we know that God created the heavens and the earth by his word? (See Ge 1:1) What can we learn from the ancients? What difference does it make to have creation faith? What is the alternative?
  - The foundation of faith in God is the belief that the universe was formed at God's command. It is that God created the universe. He is the author of life. The universe is not just a cosmic, random event.
  - Gen 1:1 says, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' It says so in the Bible, which is written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Moses wrote Genesis. You will face a big battle on this topic of Intelligent Design (God as Creator) vs. Big Bang Theory (No God). Non-believers may say that why does God have to be the one who started everything. It could happen from different chemicals interacting. They will also attack on using a Bible as a reference instead of an independent, unbiased source. This is faith to believe in what you cannot physically prove.
  - The ancients were commended for their faith.
  - To have creation faith means to believe that God created the universe at his command. If God is the creator, then he is the owner. If God is the owner, that includes our life. If we belong to God, we live for him and his purpose, not our own. We live to please and give glory to God, not ourselves.
  - Without creation faith, someone believes that their life is solely theirs and they live only for themselves.

*Faith is not just wishful thinking*

3. Why was Abel's sacrifice better than Cain's? Why did God commend Abel as righteous? How does he still speak to us even though he is dead? Compare Genesis 5:24. How did Enoch please God?
  - Abel's sacrifice was better than Cain's because he offered fat portions of some of the firstborn of his flock. Abel believed God provided for him so he gave the best portion back to God. Cain's offering was more out of obligation or because he was supposed to. Abel had faith in God and gave a better offering.
  - God commended Abel as righteous because he made an offering by his faith in God.
  - By faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. This means we are still reading about Abel even now, thousands of years later. His actions are still teaching and speaking to us.
  - Enoch was commended as one who pleased God. Gen 5:24 says, 'Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.' He walked in the presence of God means his life was pleasing to God. To walk with God means to live in a way that glorifies and pleases God.
  
4. What warning did Noah receive? How did he show his faith in God and his word? (See Ge 6:1-13) In what respect did Noah's faith condemn the world? What does it mean to become an heir of righteousness?
  - Noah received a warning of the flood and God's upcoming judgment on man's wickedness. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. (Gen 6:9b)
  - Noah showed his faith in God and his word by doing everything just as God had commanded him. He obeyed God although it took faith to believe what God said would come true.
  - When the flood came, God's word was proved true, Noah's faith was vindicated and the world's unbelief was judged. Noah expressed complete trust in God and his word.
  - To become an heir (recipient) of righteousness is by faith. By holding onto our faith in God and his word, we are considered righteous by God.
  
5. How can we have faith that pleases God? What does it mean to believe that God exists? What does it mean to believe that he rewards those who seek him? How can we earnestly seek God?
  - We can have faith that pleases God by completing trusting in God and in God's word. Also, when we can't see something yet, but believe God will do something, this is faith pleasing to God.
  - The object of our faith is God. If we are seeking to know God more, he will reward us.
  - We earnestly seek God by making him the center of our life instead of something else.



## The Faith of Abraham

*“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”*

Hebrews 11:8-22

Key Verse: 11:8

Abraham is often called the father of faith. Why is this? When we look at Abraham’s life in many ways he set the example and pattern for his descendants, the Israelites, to have faith before God. But what is the faith that Abraham showed? Abraham didn’t accomplish any really great deeds in his life or evangelize a nation or even take over Canaan, so what is the great faith that Abraham had and how can we learn from him. From the life of Abraham we learn to trust in God and do something. From him we learn to walk in faith and not in human reason, in this way we can please God. From his descendants we learn to never lose our hope but to live our life heavenward with a sure hope in God Almighty.

### Discussion Questions

Read verse 8-10. (Compare Ge 12:1-3,7) What did God call Abraham to do? How did Abraham show his faith in God? How did his faith in God’s promise affect his life in the promised land?

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Read verses 11-12. To what promise does verse 11 refer? What did Abraham believe about God? How did God bless his faith? (12)

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Read verses 13-16. What did Abraham and his descendants have in common? What could they see with the eyes of faith? How could they live victoriously as aliens and strangers? What does it mean that God was not ashamed to be called their God?

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Read verses 17-22. How did God test Abraham? How did Abraham reveal his love for God? What characterized Isaac’s faith? How did he bear God’s blessing and pass his faith on to his descendants? Read verse 21. How did Jacob pass on the blessing? How did Joseph pass on God’s blessing?

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What can we learn from Abraham’s descendants about living a life of faith?

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**Application:** *What is an area of your life where God wants you to have faith but you’ve been afraid to step out?*

*live our life heavenward with a sure hope in God Almighty*

## The Faith of Abraham

*“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### 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?*

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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live our life heavenward with a sure hope in God Almighty



## The Faith of Abraham

Teachers Sheet  
Hebrews 11:8-22  
Key Verse: 11:8

1. Read verse 8-10. (Compare Ge 12:1-3,7) What did God call Abraham to do? How did Abraham show his faith in God? How did his faith in God's promise affect his life in the promised land?

  - God called Abraham to go to a place he would later receive (Canaan) as his inheritance. Gen 12:1-3 says, 'The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing, I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.' Gen 12:7 says, 'The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land.'" So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.'
  - He showed his faith when he **obeyed and went**, even though he did not know where he was going. He made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country. His faith was expressed in obedience.
  - He lived in tents. He was ready to move whenever God told him. He didn't want to settle down in 1 place, but was always ready to go. This was a temporary stop for him. He looked forward to the city built by God, the new Jerusalem. **Has your family ever had to move suddenly?**
2. Read verses 11-12. To what promise does verse 11 refer? What did Abraham believe about God? How did God bless his faith? (12)

  - Gen 18:10-15...God promised to give her a son in 1 year although she didn't believe it at first. She had doubt but believed God could do anything. Gen 15:5-6...
  - Abraham believed God could give him descendants. He believed God's promises were true. He believed God could do the impossible.
  - God blessed his faith by giving him descendants as numerous as stars in the sky and sand on the seashore. All who belong to Christ are Abraham's descendants. He is the father of all who believe. Abraham believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.
3. Read verses 13-16. What did Abraham and his descendants have in common? What could they see with the eyes of faith? How could they live victoriously as aliens and strangers? What does it mean that God was not ashamed to be called their God?

  - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all lived as strangers in a foreign land and lived in tents. They must have had language and cultural barriers to deal with. They were heirs of the same promise of God. They believed in God's promise made with Abraham. They were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw and welcomed them from a distance. They longed to go to heaven.
  - Isaac inherited the promise of God as did Jacob. Although they were living humbly as strangers in a foreign land, they trusted in God and lived by faith throughout their lifetime. Outwardly, they were in a difficult situation but they could see past present reality. They had spiritual insight and vision to see what God would do. Their true home would be the kingdom of God.
  - They lived victoriously as strangers by trusting in God and his promises. They held onto their faith in God despite hardships and suffering. They had to struggle with language, culture each day. They lived in tents.

*live our life heavenward with a sure hope in God Almighty*

- Mark 8:38; God was pleased by their faith in him. He was not ashamed to be their God because they lived by faith and trust in him.
- 4. Read verses 17-22. How did God test Abraham? How did Abraham reveal his love for God? What characterized Isaac's faith? How did he bear God's blessing and pass his faith on to his descendants? Read verse 21. How did Jacob pass on the blessing? How did Joseph pass on God's blessing?
  - God tested Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham finally got what he wanted the most and then God asks him to give Isaac up. Why? God wanted to know who was first in his heart. Was it him or Isaac? Abraham passed the test by his willingness to give Isaac up. **Can you give up your favorite thing to God? Do you love God the most?**
  - Abraham revealed that he loved God the most. He trusted that God who gave life to his son could also raise him from the dead.
  - Isaac believed that God would continue his promise through Jacob and Esau. Isaac is a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation. He followed Abraham's footsteps. He didn't complain about living in a tent. He didn't have any bitterness toward parents or God. He didn't have a victim's mentality. He passed the blessing to his offspring. Isaac is a role model for 2<sup>nd</sup> gens.
  - Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff. Gen 47:31; Joseph spoke of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. Examples whose faith didn't fade at the end of their life.
- 5. What can we learn from Abraham's descendants about living a life of faith?
  - Living a life of faith means to hold onto one's faith until the end. It means to have spiritual insight because there may be difficulties now, but the future will be blessed and rewarded by God.



## The Eyes of Faith

*“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.”*

Hebrews 11:23-28

Key Verse: 11:24-25

In life, sometimes it is easy to become consumed only with what we can see. Sometimes the difficulty of our life beats us down until we have no hope. Sometimes people choose what they can hold over what great things God has in store for them. But from this passage we see that no matter what our situation or circumstances, God can work. The only question is whether we can “see” it or not. God’s blessing is always there ready to be poured out for His purpose but if we cannot “see” it with eyes of faith it cannot be ours. Christians must not be victims but victors through the power of God that is ours through the eyes of faith.

### Discussion Questions

What was life like for the Israelites in Moses’ time and what was Pharaoh’s edict? What did Moses’ parents see by faith? Why weren’t they afraid of the King’s edict? How did God save Moses? Why should believers never be victims?

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After Moses grew up, what decision did he make? What did he give up? (Ac 7:21,22.) What do we learn about Moses’ values? What was life like for Moses after this? What did he lose and what did he gain?

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How could Moses fearlessly start a new humble life as a shepherd when Pharaoh tried to take his life? What could he see with faith? At the time of the Exodus, how did Moses challenge and protect his people? What did Moses believe?

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Why was the Exodus such an important event in God’s history? What were the Israelites like at that time? What was God’s great purpose for them? (Ex 19:4-6) How did God use Moses’ decision of faith? What can we learn from him?

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**Application: What things do you maybe need to give up seeking so that you can seek God only like Moses?**

Christians must not be victims but victors

## The Eyes of Faith

*“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.”*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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**OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?**

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**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?*

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**PRAYER TOPICS:**

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Christians must not be victims but victors



## The Eyes of Faith

Teachers Sheet  
 Hebrews 11:23-28  
 Key Verse: 11:24-25

1. What was life like for the Israelites in Moses' time and what was Pharaoh's edict? What did Moses' parents see by faith? Why weren't they afraid of the King's edict? How did God save Moses? Why should believers never be victims?
  - In Moses' time, life for the Israelites was difficult since they were living as slaves. They were oppressed by having forced labor. They lived in Egypt 430 years. Over time, the number of Israelites grew so the king of Egypt wanted to kill all newborn boys at birth. This way he could control their population. Exodus 1:22b says, '...Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.'
  - Moses' parents saw that he was no ordinary child. There was something special about him that God could use.
  - They weren't afraid of the King's edict because they trusted God. They had faith God would use Moses so they defied the king's edict.
  - God saved Moses by using his parents to hide him for 3 months. Then, when he was placed in a basket and placed along the Nile, Pharaoh's daughter found him. His own rescue or deliverance could be a foreshadowing of the deliverance of the Israelites led by Moses.
  - Moses' life started in a rough situation, but God protected him and would use him to deliver his people from Egypt. Believers should place their trust in God and depend on him, not be victims of their bad situation. **Have you ever felt sorry for yourself or had a victim's mentality?**
  
2. After Moses grew up, what decision did he make? What did he give up? (Ac 7:21,22.) What do we learn about Moses' values? What was life like for Moses after this? What did he lose and what did he gain?
  - He refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God. He wanted to keep his identity as an Israelite. He was proud of his heritage.
  - He gave up the honor, luxury and prestige of Egypt's royal family. He chose not to enjoy the pleasures of sin. Acts 7:21-22 say, 'When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.' He received the best education.
  - Moses did not value position, wealth or fame. He would rather be with his people suffering with them.
  - His life was more difficult after this. He had to flee Egypt and go to Midian after he killed an Egyptian. Pharaoh was trying to have him killed. He stayed there for 40 years.
  - He lost his access to the treasures and lifestyle of an Egyptian prince. Now, he faced disgrace and difficulty. He gained his reward from God by holding onto his faith in God.

3. How could Moses fearlessly start a new humble life as a shepherd when Pharaoh tried to take his life? What could he see with faith? At the time of the Exodus, how did Moses challenge and protect his people? What did Moses believe?
  - Moses could fearlessly start a new humble life as a shepherd because he made a decision to accept disgrace. He also trusted God would protect and provide for him. He persevered.
  - He could see or look forward to God rescuing his people from slavery in Egypt. Although it looked impossible, he held onto his faith in God.
  - Exodus 14:13-14 says, ‘...Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.’ He wanted them to not be fearful, but stand firm in their faith. The Lord would deliver or rescue them. Moses believed what God said was true. He would deliver them.
  
4. Why was the Exodus such an important event in God’s history? What were the Israelites like at that time? What was God’s great purpose for them? (Ex 19:4-6) How did God use Moses’ decision of faith? What can we learn from him?
  - The Exodus was such an important event in God’s history because he showed compassion and mercy on his suffering people. He heard their cries to him. He remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God showed his faithfulness to his chosen people. He kept his promise.
  - The Israelites were slaves for a long time, so they had a slave-like mentality. They were lacking practical faith in God. Their lives consisted of working, eating and sleeping. It was a physical life without spiritual.
  - God’s purpose for them was to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. He wanted them to be great and a people set apart for him.
  - God used Moses’ decision to accept God’s calling as a leader. He would lead his people to freedom.
  - Moses valued his faith in God more than earthly treasures or pleasures. He held onto his faith and accepted his role in God’s plan. **Do you value faith in God more than money, a good job, popularity?**



## The Heroes

*“By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.”*

Hebrews 11:29-40

Key Verse: 11:29

There are many different kinds of faith. Faith does not need to be in great quantities, God can move mountains with only a mustard seed of faith. God can also use any kind of person to do his work, God even used a donkey once to rebuke a prophet and used oxen to save his own ark for himself. In God, anything is possible if we are willing to believe in him and to submit ourselves to his plan.

### Discussion Questions

What did the people say when they were trapped between the sea and Pharaoh’s army? What did Moses do? How did God save the Israelites? Why does God sometimes put us in impossible situations in life?

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When Joshua entered Canaan, what was the first city he had to conquer? Why was Jericho one of the hardest to conquer in all Canaan? What was God’s plan for victory? How did this train the people for conquering the entire land? What must we do by faith when something seems impossible to beat?

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Who was Rahab? What did she believe? What was her act of faith? How did her faith make the defeat of Jericho and possible? How must we submit all our human connections to God by faith?

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What were the times of the judges like? What kind of people did God use as judges? What was God teaching the people through them? Why are David, Samuel and the prophets included? What is the most important character trait in us in God’s eyes? What kind of people does God want to use?

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What is the faith of people who endure persecution for God? For what were all the heroes of faith commended? What was the promise which they believed? By faith what is our only real hope?

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**Application: How do you think God can use you during your school days to be a history maker?**

*God can also use any kind of person to do his work*

## The Heroes

*"By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned."*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### 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?*

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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God can also use any kind of person to do his work



## The Heroes

Teachers Sheet  
 Hebrews 11:29-40  
 Key Verse: 11:29

**1. What did the people say when they were trapped between the sea and Pharaoh's army? What did Moses do? How did God save the Israelites? Why does God sometimes put us in impossible situations in life?**

- Exodus 14:10-12 says, 'As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, "Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians." It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert.' They thought they would die so they complained to Moses.
- Moses said do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring. When people became emotional, Moses reassured them to stand firm in faith and trust God.
- God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites to pass through safely. They crossed as on dry land by faith.
- God sometimes puts us in an impossible situation in life to test or refine our faith. If we never face a test of faith, then we don't really know how strong our faith is. God allows us to face trials and temptations to help our faith grow. **Have you ever had a really difficult or impossible situation?**

**2. When Joshua entered Canaan, what was the first city he had to conquer? Why was Jericho one of the hardest to conquer in all Canaan? What was God's plan for victory? How did this train the people for conquering the entire land? What must we do by faith when something seems impossible to beat?**

- The first city Joshua had to conquer was Jericho. Jericho is symbolic for something impossible to overcome.
- Jericho was the hardest to conquer because of its double walls, which were about 65 feet high and slanted on a 35 degree angle so they were difficult to climb.
- God's plan for victory was to march around the city once with all armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in. Joshua 6;
- They learned to follow God's way or plan for victory. They trusted/accepted what God said as truth.
- When something seems impossible we should come to God, accept his will and trust him completely. For instance, it may seem impossible to stop sinning, but we can pray to God to take away our desire for this sin.

*God can also use any kind of person to do his work*

**3. Who was Rahab? What did she believe? What was her act of faith? How did her faith make the defeat of Jericho and possible? How must we submit all our human connections to God by faith?**

- Rahab was a prostitute and resident of Jericho.
- She believed God had already given the land of Canaan to the Israelites including Jericho.
- She welcomed the men who came to spy on Jericho. James 2:25 says, 'In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?' In return, she asked for kindness to her family.
- Her faith to hide the men and help them escape gave the spies the chance to share the information they gathered. This was useful to attack the city.
- Humanly, she was a betrayer. Here, she put God first above her people. It may have seemed that she was selfish to save her family, but God used her for his purpose. She chose God over her nation. Put God ahead of your human relationships such as your friends. Fear God more than others.

**4. What were the times of the judges like? What kind of people did God use as judges? What was God teaching the people through them? Why are David, Samuel and the prophets included? What is the most important character trait in us in God's eyes? What kind of people does God want to use?**

- The time of judges was after Joshua's death. In Canaan, Israel quickly forgot the acts of God that had given them birth and had established them in the land. They lost sight as their identity as God's people. They settled down and attached themselves to Canaan's people, morals, gods and religious beliefs.
- Judges included Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon and Samson. They were courageous to fight against and challenge the culture. They led Israel during dark spiritual times. Judges 21:25 says 'In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.' They had departed from the covenant standards of conduct found in the law. Without the spiritual leader, Israel was getting worse.
- God was teaching the people through them to come back to God. They abandoned God and were absorbed into the Canaanite culture.
- David is included for his great conquests. He was described as a man after God's own heart.
- The most important character trait in God's eyes is the ability to overcome through faith in God.
- God wants to use those who are faithful to him, responsible and carry out his will.

**5. What is the faith of people who endure persecution for God? For what were all the heroes of faith commended? What was the promise which they believed? By faith what is our only real hope?**

- Those who endure persecution are faithful to God. Their faith is great. Many are not rescued, but endure persecution throughout their lives. Their reward in the kingdom of God.
- They were all commended for their faith. God was pleased and glorified through their faith.
- They believed in God's promised blessing for being faithful.
- Our only real hope is to have everlasting life with Jesus in his kingdom. We are redeemed through Jesus. **Do you think you can remain faithful to God throughout your life or will you fall away from God?**

*God can also use any kind of person to do his work*



## Run Like a Winner!

*“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Hebrews 12:1-6

Key Verse: 12:2

Life is a race. Whether we like it or not, we all must struggle through life and there are winners and losers in this struggle. Some call life a “rat race” like the meaningless mazes lab rats are put into. But in the life of faith we are not racing for nothing, we are racing toward the Kingdom of God our prize. If we want to be the champion, we must learn how to run well, run light, run with perseverance, run without distraction and run with a winning attitude. Let’s not be lazy spectators but let’s start running and never stop until we receive our great reward in heaven and the eternal praise of Jesus.

### Discussion Questions

Who are the runners in the race of life? Who are spectators? What makes a good runner? Who are the cloud of witnesses? How do they help? What can hinder a runner? What must we do with these things?

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What is the race marked out for us? What is the starting line? The finishing point? What does it mean to run with perseverance? How can we?

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Why is Jesus the best running coach for us? What happens to a runner if they don’t fix their eyes on the goal? What can distract a runner in the race of life? How can we “fix our eyes” on and “consider” Jesus?

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What makes us lose heart? How tough must a runner be? What should we do when the race gets hard? How can we overcome discouragement? What do we learn about living as a Christian?

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**Application: Assess your life have you been running or sitting? How can you run the race of faith beginning even this week or run better?**

## Run Like a Winner!

*“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### 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?*

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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## Run Like a Winner!

Teachers Sheet  
 Hebrews 12:1-6  
 Key Verse: 12:2

**1. Who are the runners in the race of life? Who are spectators? What makes a good runner? Who are the cloud of witnesses? How do they help? What can hinder a runner? What must we do with these things?**

- The runners in the race of life are Christians or believers in Christ. Christian life is like a long distance race rather than a short sprint. It requires faithfulness, strength, perseverance and endurance.
- Spectators are non-believers. They are not running in the race of faith toward the kingdom of God. They are not pursuing the kingdom of God.
- A good runner is well trained, strong, fit and able to overcome fatigue. Run with perseverance means to keep going, not giving up.
- We are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses uses the image of an athletic contest in a great stadium. The witnesses are the heroes of the past who have just been mentioned. They are not spectators but inspiring examples.
- They encourage the runners to keep going since they already went through and completed the race of life by keeping their faith to the end.
- Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. Sin slows us when we run the race of faith. When a runner is hindered or entangled by something, his/her speed is reduced and will get tired more quickly. To run freely in this race, we need to remove sin. Throw it out of our life forcefully by coming to Jesus in repentance.

**2. What is the race marked out for us? What is the starting line? The finishing point? What does it mean to run with perseverance? How can we?**

- The race marked out for us is the life of faith. The path to the kingdom of God is clearly marked in the Bible, which instructs us how to live. We are called to love God and love others. We should stay on the course by remaining faithful.
- The starting line is when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. When we become a Christian.
- The finish line is the kingdom of God where we will live in eternity with God.
- To run with perseverance means to not give up at the first sign of trouble or fatigue. It means to not fall away from our faith, but to remain faithful. We can do so by relying on Jesus and depending on God. Sometimes, we feel weak and want to stop running the race of faith, but God can strengthen us.



**3. Why is Jesus the best running coach for us? What happens to a runner if they don't fix their eyes on the goal? What can distract a runner in the race of life? How can we "fix our eyes" on and "consider" Jesus?**

- Jesus is the best running coach because he successfully completed his race. He held strong to the end. He understands what we are going through. Jesus went ahead of all believers. He is the best model of faith. He suffered more than we are asked to suffer. Jesus is a great encouragement for us when we are weary and tempted to stop. As the author, he showed us how to be faithful. He was to his mission. As perfecter, he was perfectly faithful.
- If a runner doesn't fix his/her eyes on the goal, he/she will not finish the race. Without fixing on the goal, a runner loses desire and strength to continue on.
- Sin is the biggest distraction in our life of faith. The desire to sin inhibits us from being faithful.
- To fix our eyes on Jesus means to recognize what Jesus went through first for us. He went through so much more pain on the cross and shame than we do. He endured everything for us. When we feel life walking away from our faith, we should look to Jesus and remember what he has done. We are only called to remain faithful to him.

**4. What makes us lose heart? How tough must a runner be? What should we do when the race gets hard? How can we overcome discouragement? What do we learn about living as a Christian?**

- Do not lose heart when the Lord disciplines or rebukes you. Some people lose heart at this time. Suffering and persecution for Jesus should be seen as corrective and instructive training for our spiritual development as God's children. When we have hard times, we should see it as God correcting us or training us to improve or refine our faith. The Lord disciplines those he loves. God wants to correct our faults.
- A runner has to be really tough because our natural body when it gets tired wants to stop running. Similarly, our sinful nature wants us to stop being faithful and indulge in sin pleasure. A runner after getting tired gets a 2<sup>nd</sup> wind that helps him continue on.
- When the race gets hard, often we want to quit or stop. When the life of faith gets hard, some want to give up their belief in God and just live a normal life thinking they will be happier. This is false.
- We can overcome discouragement by looking to Jesus and trusting God. As a child of God, he loves us and wants the best. God also wants us to grow spiritually tough and strong to withstand temptation.
- Living as a Christian is like a long distance race. We have to keep going to the finish line, the kingdom of God. Along the way, we get tired and want to stop believing, but God encourages us to keep going through Jesus. As runners of life, we should get in good shape spiritually through knowing God's word, growing in a close relationship with him through prayer and accepting difficult times as training from God.



## No Pain, No Gain

*“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”*

Hebrews 12:4-29

Key Verse: 12:11

Sometimes we have a kind of fantasy view of life: we think that life is just smooth sailing, full of adventure and blessing and fun and we are never supposed to suffer. So when suffering or problems come we make a big moan and complain to everyone and have a tantrum. But when we have a right view of life, we must have a right view of the hard times as well. If life is a race, a battle, as we learned last time, then hardships are just added obstacles that we should jump over at full speed. We must know that in life, without pain we will never grow and we will be babies forever. So, we must seek out pain in order to get the gain.

### Discussion Questions

How are we to regard hardships? Why does God discipline us? What should be our attitude toward parental discipline? Toward God’s discipline? Why?

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What is God’s purpose in disciplining us? What does this teach us about the “pain and gain” of discipline? What must we do when we hit the hard part of the race?

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What does the holiness we gain from discipline do for us? Why is Esau the best example of one who lost God’s blessing by avoiding discipline? How do you feel later on when you miss an opportunity because you didn’t want to struggle with a test or a sport or a problem?

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Why do people trade God’s great blessing for something much less on earth? What will be the great blessing to those who endured all pain and struggle on earth to gain holiness? What will happen to all those who didn’t listen to God speaking to them through discipline?

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***Application: In what area of your life has God possibly been disciplining you? What can you do to repent and live the way he wants?***

*without pain we will never grow*

## No Pain, No Gain

*"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### 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?*

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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without pain we will never grow



## No Pain, No Gain

Teachers Sheet  
 Hebrews 12:4-29  
 Key Verse: 12:11

1. **How are we to regard hardships? Why does God discipline us? What should be our attitude toward parental discipline? Toward God's discipline? Why?**
  - We are to regard hardships as God's discipline.
  - God disciplines his children, those he considers his sons. God disciplines us for our good, that we may become holy children of God.
  - We should respect parents when they discipline us. Children should not complain or grumble, but accept it. Of course, discipline is painful in the short term, but bears fruit over the long term. Plus, parents have much more experience to draw from and lead children on the right path. If parents don't discipline, children become disobedient. Parents discipline out of their love, not because they have nothing better to do. Parents who don't discipline are considered enablers of undisciplined kids.
  - Our attitude toward God's discipline should be acceptance. We know God disciplines because he loves us and wants us to improve on something. God's discipline produces righteousness and peace for those who were trained by God. If we never have any hardships, we don't have chances to grow in faith.
  
2. **What is God's purpose in disciplining us? What does this teach us about the "pain and gain" of discipline? What must we do when we hit the hard part of the race?**
  - God's purpose is to grow in holiness, righteousness and peace. God's discipline is evidence that we are God's children. When received, discipline is beneficial.
  - No painful discipline, no gain in faith, holiness and righteousness. No cross, no crown.
  - We should endure or persevere in the race of faith. We should not give up, but continue on.
  
3. **What does the holiness we gain from discipline do for us? Why is Esau the best example of one who lost God's blessing by avoiding discipline? How do you feel later on when you miss an opportunity because you didn't want to struggle with a test or a sport or a problem?**
  - The holiness we gain from discipline allows us to see the Lord. Verse 14b says, '...without holiness no one will see the Lord.' 1 Peter 1:15-16 says, 'But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."' To enter God's presence, we should be holy. We are considered holy only by receiving forgiveness through Jesus' blood. To be holy is to be set apart—separated from sin and impurity, and set apart to God.
  - Esau lost God's blessing. Verse 16b says, '...or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.' He didn't value his birthright. He valued food more. Later, he wanted to inherit his father's blessing, but was rejected. Some people may contemplate compromising their faith in order to gain relief from persecution or hardships. Some want temporary ease in this world may try to trade their spiritual birthright.
  - When we avoid an opportunity, it feels like temporary relief but in the long run it is better to go through it. When I was growing as a Bible student, often I didn't feel like writing testimony and later giving messages. It is usually painful to go through message training (re-writing), but the fruit is spiritual growth.

*without pain we will never grow*

4. **Why do people trade God's great blessing for something much less on earth? What will be the great blessing to those who endured all pain and struggle on earth to gain holiness? What will happen to all those who didn't listen to God speaking to them through discipline?**
- People trade God's blessing for something that looks easier or temporary relief from a problem. They turn away from their faith in God or compromise.
  - The great blessing to those who endured all pain and struggle on earth to gain holiness is the kingdom of God. Verse 23; Firstborn suggests their privileged position as heirs together with Christ
  - Those who didn't listen to God speaking to them through discipline will not inherit the kingdom of God. They will not grow as holy children of God and cannot enter his presence.

*without pain we will never grow*



## Look, He is Coming

*“Look, he is coming with the clouds,’ and ‘every eye will see him, even those who pierced him’; and all peoples on earth ‘will mourn because of him.’ So shall it be! Amen.”*

Revelation 1:1-8

Key Verse: 1:7

Many people know of Jesus our Savior who saves us from the power of sin and death. Jesus is love, Jesus is mercy. It is true. But it is not all of who Jesus is. Here we look at the second coming of Christ, when he will come not as Savior but as Judge in great power and glory. John quotes Zechariah, “and all peoples on earth ‘will mourn because of him.” In light of Jesus’ second coming we must consider who Jesus is fully and how we must, therefore, live our lives.

### Discussion Questions

Who wrote Revelation? (1) What does revelation mean? (2) What was the author’s purpose in writing this letter? (1,3)

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Who is the letter addressed to? (4) How is Jesus described in verses 4b-5?

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How does sin enslave us? What is God's purpose in freeing us from sin? (6)

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Compare Jesus' first and second coming. (7)

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What does it mean that the Lord God is the Alpha and Omega? (8) How should we live in light of Jesus' return?

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**Application: How can you prepare for Jesus’ second coming practically in your life?**

*Jesus will come again not as Savior but as Judge*

## Look, He is Coming

*“Look, he is coming with the clouds,’ and ‘every eye will see him, even those who pierced him’; and all peoples on earth ‘will mourn because of him.’ So shall it be! Amen.”*

### How I put God's Word into Practice

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

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#### OBSERVATION: WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT GOD?

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#### 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?*

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#### PRAYER TOPICS:

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*Jesus will come again not as Savior but as Judge*

## Look, He is Coming

Teachers Sheet  
Revelation 1:1-8  
Key Verse: 7

1. Who wrote Revelation? (1) What does revelation mean? (2)
  - From the letter, we know the person who wrote the contents, was named John. The evidence against John the Apostle being the author is minimal, largely based on grammatical and writing style differences with the John's Gospel. The book of Revelation is a letter revealed to a man named John, who was on the Island of Patmos, off the coast of Asia Minor. He was persecuted because of his testimony of Jesus Christ.
  - Revelation means an act of revealing or communicating divine truth. It is something revealed by God to humans. It is an enlightening or astonishing disclosure. It is a prophecy proclaiming the word of God such as a command, instruction, history or prediction.
  
2. Who is the letter addressed to? (4) How is Jesus described in verses 4b-5?
  - The letter was written to seven churches located in the mainland cities of; Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. They were located about 50 miles apart, roughly forming a circle.
  - Jesus is who is, who was and who is to come. Jesus was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1) Jesus always existed from in the beginning. Also, Jesus is the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Jesus is a faithful witness who preached about the kingdom of God. He witnessed to God's mercy and love by his coming. He was the first-born (the first to die and be raised to life and not die again) from the dead. Jesus is the king of kings and lord of lords.
  
3. How does sin enslave us? What is God's purpose in freeing us from sin? (6)
  - Sin enslaves people by keeping them in sin. While in sin, people are not free to worship God. Sin leads people farther and farther away from God. People are trapped in the life of sin.
  - God's purpose in freeing us is to make us a kingdom and priests to serve God. This should sound familiar. God calls us and frees us from sin so that we may serve him as a kingdom of priests. We learned previously the job of priests is to lead people to Christ, care about (offer sacrifices) and pray for others.
  
4. Compare Jesus' first and second coming. (7)
  - The first time Jesus came: he arrived as a humble baby in a manger without any great acknowledgement or notice. He lived poor and humbly.
  - The second coming will be unmistakable. He will come with the clouds and every eye will see him. There will be no doubts it is him. He will come with power and great glory.
  
5. How was Jesus the Alpha and Omega? (8) How should we live in light of Jesus' return?
  - Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. God is the beginning and the end. He sovereignly rules over all human history. Jesus applied the same title to himself. This term is used 9 times in Revelation. Jesus is God so he can use the same title.
  - We should live with the expectation of Jesus returning at any time. Since we don't know when, we should live a life of being prepared, alert and ready. We should be doing what God wants, which is to live as priestly people, doing God's work.

*Jesus will come again not as Savior but as Judge*





## Christ and His Churches

*"I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."*

Revelation 1:9-20

Key Verse: 1:18

The Christ of the Gospels is seen as a humble and lowly servant, who lived with no place to lie his head, whom Isaiah said was "like a root out of dry ground...He had...nothing in his appearance that we should desire him." He was killed and put in the grave. It would seem foolish to follow a man and especially such a lowly man. However, this is only the way Jesus chose to appear as a man. Today we see Jesus as he truly is. The splendor and mystery of the fullness of his majesty is beyond our understanding. May we know Jesus who holds the keys of death and Hades and have the life that is in Him alone.

### Discussion Questions

How did John introduce himself to the 7 churches? Where was John and why was he there?

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How did the messenger get John's attention? What were the instructions for John to follow?

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Who was standing among the 7 golden lamp stands? Describe and interpret his appearance— clothing, hair, eyes, feet, face and voice.

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Think about Jesus who is the 'First and Last, 'the Living One' and who holds the 'keys of death and Hades.' What mission did he give John?

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**Application: What mission has God given you? How does this powerful image of Jesus motivate you to serve him in awe and righteousness?**

we see Jesus as he truly is





## Christ and His Churches

Teachers Sheet

Revelation 1:9-20

Key Verse 18

1. How did John introduce himself to the 7 churches? Where was John and why was he there?
  - John described himself as 'your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus.' John thought of the believers in the 7 churches as his family in Christ. They also were his companions, friends, or co-workers in spreading the gospel. 3 major themes in Revelation are suffering, kingdom and patient endurance.
  - John was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. Patmos was a small, rocky island about 50 miles southwest of Ephesus, which is off the coast of modern Turkey. Patmos was probably used strictly as a jail, like Alcatraz. He was there for preaching the word of God and sharing his testimony of Jesus.
  
2. How did the messenger get John's attention? What were the instructions for John to follow?
  - Behind John, a loud voice like a trumpet said: The messenger spoke loudly. It was unmistakable. John was in the Spirit when he heard the voice.
  - 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the 7 churches...' John was given the task to write down what he saw and send it to the 7 churches, probably to encourage them.
  
3. Who was standing among the 7 golden lamp stands? Describe and interpret his appearance-- clothing, hair, eyes, feet, face and voice.
  - Among the 7 golden lamp stands was someone 'like a son of man.'
    - He was dressed like a priest in a full-length robe. This is a reference to Jesus as high priest. He had a golden sash.
    - His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow. This suggests wisdom and dignity.
    - His eyes were like a blazing fire. This suggests penetrating insight.
    - His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace. This suggests power.
    - His voice was like the sound of rushing waters. This suggests his words were powerful and active.
    - His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. This suggests he was full of light and life.
  
4. Think about Jesus who is the 'First and Last, 'the Living One' and who holds the 'keys of death and Hades.' What mission did he give John?
  - Jesus is the First and the Last because he is God who was in the beginning and will be in the end. He is the source of life. He rules over human history as Creator.
  - The Living One refers to the living God. This is in contrast to the dead gods of paganism. Christ possesses life in his very nature.
  - "The keys of death and Hades," refers to his absolute control over the domain of the devil. Jesus holds the power to send people to heaven and hell, he has all authority and dominion.
  - He gave John the mission to write what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. **\*\*What mission has God given you?\***

*we see Jesus as he truly is*

