

# **CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP**

Growing in Our  
Relationship with God and Man

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A discipleship course of 14 lessons written  
for Arabic-speakers from Muslim  
backgrounds.

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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a new relationship with God. Because you have chosen to believe in Jesus Christ as the way to salvation and asked him to be your Lord and Savior, God has granted new life to you.

Read John 3:16.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (NIV)*

This “eternal life” is not just for after death, it began at the moment you believed and gave your life to Christ. You can live in “heaven on earth” because of the newfound hope, peace and joy God grants you as His child. Jesus says: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10.10).

God created man that he might live in relationship with the Creator. He walked with Adam in the Garden and had fellowship with him. He made man to have dominion over the living creatures. However, Adam and Eve mistrusted God and were led into sin by the Devil (Genesis 3). When sin entered into mankind, the relationship between man and God was broken. Sinful man could no longer be in the presence of a Holy God. However, God never stopped reaching out to man to restore that perfect fellowship. It was for this reason that

Christ came—to save man from sin and restore man’s relationship to the Creator.

When sin entered humanity, not only was man’s relationship with God broken but also his relationship with his fellow human being was damaged. For this reason, we see in our world today family problems, divorce, child abuse, murder, wars, etc. As new creations in Christ, we become his ambassadors to a broken world; we are his peacemakers and bearers of Good News. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to seek reconciliation in our own broken relationships, love our neighbor, and be at peace with God and man.

Through this study, you will gain deeper insight in how to strengthen the relationships in your life—first with God, then with man. The more you learn about God and his Word, the better able you will be to worship and serve Him. The more you grow in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ, the better able you will be to reflect that in your relationships with others.

# RELATING TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST

## **What God Wants Us to Know About Himself**

God is One and cannot be separated, yet He has chosen to reveal himself to man in three ways: Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit. As we understand more about God's character, we can better relate to Him.

### **1. God the Father**

God refers to Himself as a father (see 2 Samuel 7:14), because, as the originator of all human spirits, he has desired from the beginning to have a relationship with man. The Father-child relationship is easy for limited man to understand, though our Heavenly Father goes way beyond our limited understanding.

When Jesus walked on this earth, He too referred to God as "Father".

Read Matthew 6.9, John 6.44-46, 10.30, 14.6-9 and 2 Corinthians 6.14-18.

What does the word "father" mean to you?

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In what way could you relate to God as your Father?

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God loves mankind and has longed to be in perfect fellowship with his children. Read Exodus 19.5-6, Deuteronomy 4.29-40, 7.6-16, and Isaiah 40.21-31.

What do these passages tell you about who God is?

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What are some of the words used to describe Him?

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How does God want to relate to us?

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## 2. Jesus Christ: Son of God/Son of Man

Read Philippians 2.1-11.

How do these verses describe Jesus?

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The Gospel of John is a great resource in learning more about who Jesus is. Take the time this week to read the entire gospel and note the various ways Jesus describes himself.

### **Understanding the word “son”.**

When Jesus is described as the “Son of God” in the Bible, the word “ibn” is used, not “waled”. Instead of meaning a literal, physical “son” coming from the union of a man and a woman, “ibn” denotes Jesus as being “from” God. It is much in the same way a man might call himself “the son of Cairo” or the “son of Tunis”. In calling Jesus the “Son of God,” we are able to see the closeness of their relationship.

Read John 3.16-18; 5.16-23; 10.22-40; 14.6-14.

How do these verses describe the relationship between Jesus and the Father?

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Jesus also referred to himself as “the Son of Man”.

Not only did Jesus come from God but also as you read in Philippians 2, he took on the form of a man with all its limitations on his divinity. Why did he do this? So that as “representative man” he might show us how we too can have that perfect relationship with the Father.

Read John 12.20-36; 3.13-14; Matthew 16.13-28; Hebrews 2.5-13; 4.14-16.

What do these verses say about the Son of Man?

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Why was Jesus’ becoming a man so important?

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Did Jesus' incarnation lessen his divinity?

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Read John 1.1-18: Jesus as the Word of God.

What does this passage say about the Word/Jesus?

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Can you pick the two verses that indicate his divinity and humanity?

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**Other ways Jesus referred to himself.**

Read the following verses and make a list of the things Jesus said about himself. What do they mean to you?

John 6.35\_\_\_\_\_

John 8.12, 14, 16, 18, 23, 38, 49, 58\_\_\_\_\_

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John 10.7, 11, 36\_\_\_\_\_

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John 11.25\_\_\_\_\_

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John 12.26, 32\_\_\_\_\_

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John 13.13\_\_\_\_\_

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John 14.2, 6, 10, 12\_\_\_\_\_

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John 15.1\_\_\_\_\_

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John 16.28\_\_\_\_\_

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John 17.14, 24\_\_\_\_\_

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John 18.5, 37\_\_\_\_\_

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John 19.28\_\_\_\_\_

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John 20.21\_\_\_\_\_

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### **3. The Holy Spirit: God's presence indwells in the believer**

Jesus told his followers that he would send the Spirit, the Counselor, who would guide them in all Truth. (Read John 16.7-16). The book of Acts describes how the Spirit

first came on the believers during the feast of Pentecost. (Acts 2.1-21).

The Holy Spirit comes into the life of a person the moment he believes in Jesus and accepts him as Lord and Savior. The Spirit is the deposit and guarantee of our faith.

Read 2 Corinthians 5.5-10; Ephesians 1.13-14.

What do these verses tell us about the role of the Spirit?

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The Spirit empowers the believer to share the Gospel with others and to follow Christ's teachings. Read Galatians 5.16-26. What are the fruits of the Spirit?

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How do we live by the Spirit? (See also 2 Peter 1.3-8).

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The Spirit also helps us in our communication with God. Read Romans 8.22-27. How does He help us?

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As we have examined the personhood of God, we can see how God the Father desires to be in relationship with his children and has made the way possible through the coming of His Son Jesus.

As a person accepts the plan of God for salvation and relationship with the Father through Christ, the Holy Spirit allows the new believer to daily be in communication and relation to the Holy One. This is the Trinity.

# RELATING TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST

## **Who am I as a New Creation in Christ?**

Since birth, you have had an old nature. When you accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, you were “born again” and given a new nature. Though through the new nature you have all the power and ability to live a life pleasing to God, unfortunately the old nature is still around always wanting to get you to exalt self and quench the desire to live for Christ.

Read 2 Corinthians 5.17; Galatians 2.20 and 5.16-18.

Who is it that enables us to live according to the new nature?

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Because you now have two natures at work, you must constantly choose which you will follow.

Read 2 Peter 1.3-11.

What is the assurance that we have as followers of Christ according to verse 3?

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New life in Christ is not just a one-time event that allows us to then be passive in our relationship with God. What does verse four say about why we are given such promises?

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Make a list of the attributes of an active follower of Christ (v.5-9) and mark those that in your life need more effort to exercise on your part.

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Notice that the list begins in Faith and ends in Love—the “root” and “fruit” of Christian ethical behavior. Remember! These attributes are already available to you! It is up to you to put them into practice.

What is the purpose of exercising such attributes?

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Read another good passage, which helps you to understand who you are now as a follower of Christ. Romans 8.1-17.

When only one nature ruled our body, we were enslaved to sin and its evil desires. We were virtually helpless to do good. Now, however, we are set free from the law of sin and death and we are able to choose good over evil.

Make two columns: one entitled “the sinful nature” and the other “the new nature”. List under each one what Romans 8.1-17 has to say about our two natures.

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Colossians 3.1-17 also illustrates the choices we are now free to make because we now have God’s Spirit living in us.

What should we do in relation to the old nature (v.5-10)?

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How can you do this? \_\_\_\_\_

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What should we do in relation to the new nature (v.12-17)?

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What have you done this week to live for Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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As you study these passages what have you learned about who you are in Christ?

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# RELATING TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST

## **What is Prayer?**

When I have a relationship with another person, the best way I can maintain the relationship is to stay in communication with him or her. In our relationship with God, we communicate through prayer. As with an earthly father, we relate to God both in private and public. There are things that we share with God in prayer in the privacy of our inner room. However, as we gather with other believers, we also corporately lift prayers before His Throne.

How has your prayer life changed since you accepted Christ as Savior?

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### **1. Personal/Private Prayer**

It is important to have time alone with God in prayer. There are issues that we can share only with our Heavenly Father. There are decisions that need to be made in life that require divine intervention and intense time in prayer. Jesus often went to a quiet place to be alone in prayer to God. We too must find that quiet place

either in our homes or outside in which we can pour out our hearts to God.

Where do you have time alone with God? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Prayer is a two-way process. I talk to God giving him my reverence and sharing with Him my needs, and God talks back, revealing His will to us in various ways. He can communicate to us through His Word, through a vision or dream; through the Holy Spirit's prompting or through another believer and the circumstances around us.

However, it is important to know that God will never speak to us a message that is contrary to His Word or His character. If we are confused or unsure about what we are hearing, then we should not act. God will always speak to us clearly and in accordance with His Word.

Jesus's disciples asked him how to pray, and in response Jesus gave them a model prayer, an example of how we as believers can talk to our Heavenly Father.

Read Matthew 6.5-13.

What does Jesus say about how we should pray before he gives the actual prayer?

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## 2. Public Prayer

An important aspect of gathering with other believers in Christ is prayer. Is posture important during times of prayer? The Bible describes various ways that people have positioned themselves in prayer to God. There does not seem to be a mandatory position. What is important is the posture of the heart—the attitude of the person praying.

Read Luke 18.9-14.

What was it that gained the favor of God from the prayers of these two men?

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Philippians 4.5-6 reminds us that we should not be anxious about the things that face us in life, but that we should bring our needs and concerns to God in prayer. Prayer can be divided into four general parts:

**ADORATION:** Praising God for who He is and giving honor to His Name.

**CONFESSION:** Knowing who God is should remind us that we remain sinful creatures in his sight. As the Holy Spirit convicts, we should confess our sins to God, asking him to forgive us and renew our hearts and minds.

**THANKSGIVING:** As our souls are refreshed, we can give thanks to God for his salvation, forgiveness, and other blessings in our life.

**SUPPLICATION:** Though God already knows our needs, in sharing them with Him in prayer, we are demonstrating our dependency on Him and giving him control over our lives. Supplication also includes intercession for others—praying for the lost and for those in need.

Read the following passages and write which aspect(s) of prayer they include:

Philippians 1.9-11 \_\_\_\_\_

John 17.20-26 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 1.46-55 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 26.39-42 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 136 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 100 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 86.11 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 5.1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 51 \_\_\_\_\_

I Thessalonians 5.17 tells us to pray continually. As when I want to talk to a friend, I call him whenever I can or have a need. There is no set time for prayer. As a believer in Christ, I am to always be in an attitude of prayer. I can talk to God throughout my day, praising him, thanking Him, confessing to Him, or lifting a need to him. God is always available and desires our constant communication with Him.





# RELATING TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST

## **Spending Time in the Word: How to Study the Bible**

In order to know God in a deeper way and learn how to follow his commands, we must spend time not only reading but studying and memorizing His Word. There is a saying about the Bible: It is shallow enough for a child to wade in and deep enough for an elephant to sink in. God's Word is a treasure for his children. The more we read it and study it, the more He reveals of Himself, His will, and its Truth. God's Spirit in us illuminates His Word to our hearts and minds helping us to understand its riches.

Read 2 Timothy 3.16-17.

What is the Bible useful for? To what goal?

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It is important to have a systematic approach to studying the Bible. There are several ways to begin. It is good to read through the entire Bible in order to have a full picture of God's redemptive work with Man. You will find attached a handout for doing a yearlong reading of the entire Bible. You will, however, gain a deeper understanding of God's Word if you study a book, subject,

person, or passage for a longer period. There are several aspects to going deeper in God's Word:

1. Read it
2. Meditate on it. (Psalm 1.2). This can include thinking about the passage during the day; writing down verses that touched you; writing down the main message you found in the text.
3. Memorize it. (Psalm 119.11). Have a goal of memorizing a certain number of verses each week.
4. Obey it. (Matthew 7.24-29; James 1.22). Apply what you have studied to your life.

### **Sample Bible Study**

Read Matthew 7.24-29.

Title for the passage: \_\_\_\_\_

Best verse to memorize: \_\_\_\_\_

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What does it say? (Write the passage in your own words):

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Is there a promise from God to believe and claim?

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Are there commands to obey, now?

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How can I apply the passage to my life? (What does it say to me?)

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Does it bring a sin to surface for which I need to ask forgiveness?

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**See Supplement A for a guide to reading the Bible in one year.**

# RELATING TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST

## Having a Daily Quiet Time with God

In order to really get to know someone, you have to spend time alone with him/her. Our growth as believers will be in exact proportion to how much time we spend alone with God.

John 15.1-5 reminds us of the importance of remaining in Christ. Why is this so necessary?

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We have already studied about the two important aspects of a quiet time, but let's see how we can practically make this work in our lives.

1. Set aside a specific time in your day when you can daily be alone with God. This may mean getting up earlier, or stopping another activity. Ask God to help you decide when is the best time.

When is the best time for you? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you have to do to make a consistent time with the Lord each day? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Find a special place where you can have quiet and be alone. If there is no such place in your house, perhaps a park or coffee shop will do.

Where can you meet with God?\_\_\_\_\_

3. Begin with prayer. We have already talked about how to pray, but it might be helpful if you begin a prayer journal. In writing down your requests and the responses, you can then see how God is answering and working in your life. It also helps us to pray consistently, especially for the lost. Make sure you take time to listen to God and not only do all the talking!
4. Spend time reading and studying God's word. Keep a notebook with you in order to record your thoughts and lessons learned through study. (See attached sheets for various models of Bible studies).
5. End with prayer, thanking God for the lessons learned and asking his help in applying them to your life today.

**BE CONSISTENT!** Developing the habit of a daily quiet time with God will change your life as you grow closer in fellowship with Him.

EXPECT INTERRUPTIONS! Satan will not be happy you want to spend time with God and will make an effort to frustrate your ability to do so. Plan around interruptions and be aware of Satan's attacks but do not be discouraged by them—Keep meeting with God despite all!

Begin today having a quiet time with God!

**[See the Bible Study Examples in Supplement B](#)**

# RELATING TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST

## **Worshipping God in Community**

### Joining with Other Followers of Christ to Praise the Lord and Study His Word

Your new relationship with God does not take place or continue in isolation. As you heard about Christ from another of his followers, so do you grow in your knowledge of Him in fellowship with His Body, the Church.

Read Matthew 18.20. Christ is in our midst where two or three are gathered in His Name. This is the Church.

We will talk more about the Church in a later lesson, but as we look at how we get to know God and relate to Him through Christ, we must talk about one of the main purposes of the Church.

Read Acts 2.46-47; Colossians 3.15-17; Hebrews 13.15-16; Ephesians 5.19-20.

What do these verses say about what believers should do when they gather?

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Believers are to worship God together, singing praises to him and giving him the honor due His Name. When I worship God with other believers, I am encouraged in my own faith and make God happy as He sees His children come together.

As with prayer, the posture of the spirit in worship is more important than the posture of the body. We can worship standing, sitting, kneeling, or on our faces. The posture of prayer in public worship that many take is either standing or sitting with closed eyes in order to concentrate on God without interruptions. However, the important thing is not our posture, but our being able to focus on God without distraction and to have the proper attitude as we pray or worship Him with other believers.

Read Ephesians 4.11-13; Acts 2.42; 1 Corinthians 14.26.  
For what purpose is the Word shared?

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Why does it really make a difference to be in the Body?

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God will use other believers to teach me more about himself and His Word. Being in fellowship with other followers of Christ will strengthen my relationship with God and better equip me to share His Word with others.

As Hebrews 10.25 says: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another all the more...”

Find at least two or three other believers with whom you can meet regularly for worship and Bible study. Arrange together a place to meet, perhaps a house or place of business. Plan to meet regularly and consistently. Include other believers from the area as the number grows.

# RELATING TO OTHERS THROUGH CHRIST

## **How Do I Deal with Old Relationships?**

Becoming a new creation in Christ does not only affect your relationship to God, but it also should affect your relationship to your fellow man. I say “should” because there are two factors in the equation:

1. Remaining in Christ: The more I spend time with the Lord the more I will be like Him (though never becoming Him or a copy for Him) and thus the more people see the effect of His work in my life.
2. Actively choosing to relate to my fellow man as God’s Word directs me.

Both of these factors are an act of the will. While God “wills” it, I am the one who makes it happen in my life.

When I choose to follow Christ and begin a new life in Him, I do not automatically stop living among and relating to the people I knew before I was born again. However, as I do seek to apply Christ’s teachings to my life, two things will happen.

1. My attitude toward and treatment of them will change.
2. Their attitude and treatment of me will change.

Has this happened in your life? \_ How? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read 2 Corinthians 5.14-21.

How are we to see others now? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the message we are to give the world?

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If you were to take one person from your pre-Christian life and look at them through Christ's eyes, how would you see them? Would this affect your relationship with them?

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One of the primary relationships we have in our life is with our parents. What does Exodus 20.12 say about that relationship?

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As you look at your parents, can you honestly say that you “honor” them? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to you?

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Though we are to honor our parents, they are not to take a place of honor above that of God in our lives. Nor is anyone else for that matter.

Read Matthew 10.21-39.

What does this passage say might happen in our family as a result of our following Christ?

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Why do you think Christ asks us to love him more than our family?

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Is this hard for you? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Which relationship in our life lasts for eternity?

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Read 1 Corinthians 7.12-16.

What does this passage say about our relationship with an unbelieving spouse?

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What is our ultimate goal as believers in Christ in relation to others?

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If your response is to see them come to know Christ as you do, then should that not also be our prayer for an unbelieving spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

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It is important to note that this passage is talking about an unbelieving spouse whom you married before becoming a follower of Christ. The Bible is very clear that as a single believer you are not to marry an unbeliever (2 Corinthians 6.14).

Read 1 Corinthians 7.17-21.

Paul is writing that, though inwardly we change because of Christ, our circumstances of life do not. However, though I remain in the same circumstances, my attitude toward those circumstances and toward the people who surround me will change. I now see the world through the eyes of Christ.

What does this mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reread 2 Corinthians 5.16-18.

What is the circumstance of your life right now? You need to answer this question and those following very truthfully. It is between you and God alone. You do not have to let anyone else see this paper, but you must answer the questions for your own benefit and growth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a bad relationship with your parents? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you married to an unbeliever? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you involved sexually with someone outside of marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Now that you are a follower of Christ, what is your new attitude toward that situation? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# RELATING TO OTHERS THROUGH CHRIST

## **What is the Body of Christ—the Church?**

From the moment you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, you not only began a new relationship with God but you also became a member of His family—the Church. What is the Church? The church is made up of all who follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and have been baptized in His Name.

Just as a baby must have family members to care for it in order to survive, if you are to grow into a healthy and mature disciple of Christ, you need your spiritual family around you.

Read 1 Corinthians 12.12-27.

Why is the Church described in terms of a body?

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How is the concept of being part of the Body of Christ different from what we know from the world?

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Read 1 Peter 2.4-12 and Ephesians 2.19-22.

How am I described here as part of the Church?

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What is the result of our living for Christ as part of His Body?

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When Jesus walked on this earth, his disciples remained gathered around him soaking up his teaching and followed him as he modeled how we are to live in obedience to God. After his ascension to heaven, these same disciples proclaimed Christ's message to the world. As people came to faith in Christ, they too began to naturally gather together.

Do I need to go to a certain place to be with the Body?  
Why? Why not?

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What is more important—the Body of believers or the place of worship?

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Read Acts 2.42-47; 4.32-37.

For what purposes did Christ’s followers gather?

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There are many passages in the New Testament that give instructions to believers as to how they are to relate to one another as the Body of Christ. Read the following verses and make a list of the things that will bring Glory to God if believers put them into practice in the life of the Church.

1 Thessalonians 5.11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5.13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 6.2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5.21 \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 12.10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12.16 \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 15.7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 5.17-42.

What was the reaction of Jesus' opponents when they saw the people gather on his behalf?

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Read Romans 12.1-5. Take time to mediate on these verses. What is the "pattern of this world?"

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Is there some way in which I am still conformed to it?

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What is required of me to be able to submit myself as a member of Christ's Body? (v.3)

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What does it mean to you to be a part of the Body of Christ?

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# RELATING TO OTHERS THROUGH CHRIST

## **Where Do I Fit in the Body? What are My Spiritual Gifts?**

Each member of the Body of Christ has a role to play toward the goal of building each other up and encouraging one another's faith. You too have a part in the body, and God has given you unique gifts that you can use to serve and encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Read 1 Peter 4.10-11.

What should we use our gifts for?

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To what goal?

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Ephesians 4.14-16 also speaks of the purpose of exercising our gifts. What is it?

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According to 1 Corinthians 12.11 and 1 Peter 4.10, God gives each believer one or more gifts upon salvation. It is

the responsibility of the believer to discover his/her gift(s) and then put them to use in ministry within the Body.

Read the following passages and make a list of the spiritual gifts mentioned in each. Write a description of the gift. Put a question mark by those you do not understand.

1 Corinthians 12.1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 12.1-8 \_\_\_\_\_

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Ephesians 4.11-13 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discover Your Spiritual Gift:**

1. Is there any unconfessed sin in your life that could hinder the Holy Spirit from speaking to you about your gifts? Confess any sins now to God so that you will be able to have clear communication with Him. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. In prayer, ask God to reveal to you the spiritual gift(s) he has given you. After you pray, if you sense from God a certain gifting, write it down.

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3. Look at your life since you have accepted Christ. Is there an area where you see God's blessing as you serve others or minister in His Name? Is there something that brings you great satisfaction or joy when you do it? Describe that ministry. \_\_\_\_\_

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# RELATING TO OTHERS THROUGH CHRIST

## **Am I Building Up or Tearing Down? The Gift of Encouragement**

As we looked at the Body of Christ and the purpose of spiritual gifts, what stood out to you as the ultimate aim in relation to your fellow believers?

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Read the following verses: 1 Corinthians 12.7; 1 Corinthians 14.12,26; Romans 14.19; Ephesians 4.12, 16. What do they all agree on?

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How does Ephesians 4.29 differ from what we see in the world today?

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Read Hebrews 3.13.

What prevents our hearts from being hardened by sin's deceitfulness?

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The word "encourage" means: 1. "To give courage, hope or confidence to; embolden; hearten. 2. To give support to; to be favorable to; foster; help."

What does it mean to you when someone encourages you?

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Have you ever been encouraged? By whom?

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Does the world we live in today offer encouragement?\_\_

Why not?\_\_\_\_\_

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Why is it so important to give and receive encouragement as a child of God?

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Are you giving encouragement to others within the Body?

Why/Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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How? \_\_\_\_\_

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One of the easiest ways for Satan to tear down a believer and even the church is to get others to discourage and not encourage. When I say a discouraging word to another believer or even withhold an encouraging one that should be given, I am doing harm to the spiritual life of that brother or sister.

Encouragement has to be sincere or people will recognize it as phony. I need to take the time to look at the other person's life and to see what is important to them (a new suit, a clean house, a job well done, etc.) and then to compliment them on it.

## How can I give encouragement?

- Praise them for a job well done or for an act of service given in love.
- Give a compliment about a personal area of their life.
- I can encourage another believer just by wanting to spend time with them.
- I can encourage by offering to help out when I know they are tired or need a hand.
- I can encourage by simply saying “thank you” for an act of kindness or a duty performed.

Just like with the spiritual gifts, being a person of encouragement takes humility and a desire to serve others. If I put myself first, I can never be an encouragement in the Body of Christ.

In order for us to be true encouragers, we have to put behind us all pride and prejudice.

Read Acts 10.1-35.

What did the Lord have to teach Peter before he was ready to meet Cornelius?

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The ability to encourage can also drastically change for the good your relationship with the lost around you. Because it is not “natural” to encourage others in this world, people will immediately be drawn to ask what



# RELATING TO OTHERS THROUGH CHRIST

## **How do my Actions Reflect on my Witness, Character and Walk with Christ?**

If a person claims he has a car but never shows it to anyone, it is doubtful he had the car in the first place. It is the same with faith in Christ. If I claim to follow Christ but never live by his teachings, it is doubtful that I had the faith in the first place. Faith does not come in a vacuum—it requires something of us.

Faith in Jesus Christ as the source of salvation produces a change in us, not only for the future, but also for today. The book of James talks about the relationship between faith and deeds.

Read James 2.14-26.

Why is faith without deeds no faith at all?

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Why should faith in Christ produce good works in us?

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Read 1 John 2.3-11.

Obedience to the Word of God is the ultimate sign of a life given over to Him. Jesus, as the Word of God in the Flesh, is our perfect model of a life given to the Father. We know from Scripture (Acts 10.38) that Jesus went about doing good. Ask yourself this question: How much do I walk as He walked?

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If we are Christians, we claim to abide in Him; we should seek to live as Jesus lived.

The old command that is referred to in 1 John is “love one another.” The new command that Jesus gives is “love one another as I have loved you.” We now have an example to follow in how we are to love our brothers in Christ, and not only do we have the example but Jesus empowers us to be able to follow Him in love for others. Therefore, I cannot say I live for Christ if I hate my brother. My actions have a direct relationship to my faith.

Read James 1.22-25.

What is the benefit to me for putting God’s word into practice?

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As you study the following passages on living the transformed life, remember that as you put what you read into practice, God's blessings will come to you.

One of the best passages on living the transformed life is found in Matthew 5. Read verses 17-48.

What is different in what Jesus says we should do from what the law says?

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Are his words hard to follow? \_\_\_\_\_

What would happen if you chose to live by Christ's teaching here?

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Would people notice a difference in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12.9-13.14 is a practical guide to living the transformed life.

What things mentioned are easy for you to live by right now?

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Which are more difficult?

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Which, if any, do you see as impossible?

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Reflect on the last verse: “Clothe yourselves with Jesus Christ”. If you imagine yourself clothed with Christ, would any of these good deeds be impossible?

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The concept of “clothing yourself” is mentioned again in Colossians 3.1-4.1.

Who embodied the virtues listed in 3.12?

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Therefore, if we again clothe ourselves with Christ, we are able to practically exhibit his nature in our relationships.

What is the opening assumption in verse one of chapter three?

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As a result of that, the rest of the chapter tells us how our faith should be worked out in practical terms. How are you doing at “riding yourself” of the evil actions of your old nature?

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Are there some that still have hold on your life? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

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If so, confess these before God right now and strive to replace them with actions becoming your new nature.

What are the immediate relationships affected by our new life in Christ?

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As you examine your life in light of the passages you have studied, how would you rate yourself as a follower of Christ actively living your faith?

I'm no different  
from the world

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

People know  
by my actions  
I follow Christ

As a result of this evaluation, what changes do you need to make in my life so that others might “see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven?”

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Is there anything that hinders you from living by God’s Word? \_\_\_\_\_

Confess that now to God and ask Him for the strength to overcome that barrier in order to be wholly obedient to Him.

# RELATING TO OTHERS THROUGH CHRIST

## **When Conflicts Arise**

Conflict is inevitable in life. You experienced it before you chose to follow Christ and you will experience it more afterwards. The way we choose to deal with conflict will be one of the strongest demonstrations to our faith (or lack thereof) in Christ.

What is conflict? A conflict is a difference of opinion between two people in which both insist that their position is the right one. Therefore, both take the view that the other person is wrong because he/she does not agree with them.

### **1. Dealing with conflicts left over from our past.**

As we talked about earlier, beginning a new life with Christ does not erase our past or simply “just make it all better”. Sometimes we carry with us some heavy burdens that we must bring before God in order to know how to wisely deal with them. Conflicts are many times included.

The world cries out today: “It’s my right!” As a result of those “rights”, we have more conflicts, lawsuits, and wars than we have ever seen. However, as followers of Christ we die to self: “I am crucified with Christ...” (Galatians 2.20). “If anyone would come after me, he must deny

himself...” (Matt. 16.24). “What good is it to gain the whole world yet forfeit one’s soul?” (Matt. 16.26). I give up my right to self as I give Christ complete reign in my life.

What does this mean in practical terms?

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For Christ it meant laying down his life for the fallen human race. For me, it means giving up my “selfish rights” in order for Christ to be glorified in me.

Are there any conflicts with people hanging over from your past? \_\_\_\_\_

Does it involve a “claiming of rights?” \_\_\_\_\_

How do you view that conflict in light of your new life in Christ?

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What do you think God would have you do to see it come to a peaceful end where he would receive the glory? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is he asking you to give up your rights? \_\_\_\_\_

How can you be a peacemaker? \_\_\_\_\_

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Until you successfully deal with conflicts from your past, you will not have the complete freedom to move on in your new life. The more you try to hide a lingering conflict, the more it comes to haunt you.

Make a list of any old conflicts. \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayerfully ask God how he would have you resolve these. Thank him for his help in releasing you from these heavy burdens. Read Matthew 11.28-30.

## **2. Dealing with conflicts with fellow believers.**

God created each of us uniquely. We are a diverse people. That is why the church is described as a body. We are not all eyes or feet. Each of us is different and plays a unique role in the life of the church. Recognition of this fact will be an important step in reducing the conflicts we have with other believers.

Reread 1 Corinthians 12.12-31.

Why is it important that the Church be made up of different members?

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How can Christ be glorified as a result of our differences?

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As you read through the letters of the Apostle Paul to the churches, as well as many of the other letters, there is much written about the need for unity and harmony as believers in Christ.

Read the following verses: Romans 14.13; Galatians 5.15,26; Colossians 3.9, 13; James 4.11; 5.9, 16.

What is obvious from these verses?

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So, conflict was there in the early church as well, and the writers of the epistles spent a lot of time trying to get

believers to “build one another up”, “submit to one another”; “pray for each other”—to actively strive to live at peace with each other so that the Church would grow and Christ be glorified.

However, it is important to know that you should not agree if you don't. Do not, for the sake of peace and unity, try to be so agreeable that you lose your integrity in the process. As you look in the Bible, you see that even Moses, Jesus and Paul were not always known for being agreeable. Peace does not come at any price. Disagreement can be healthy and is sometimes necessary.

If we have not given one another permission to test our ideas, any disagreement can feel like a personal attack. We must learn to cultivate healthy disagreement within the Body. We learn and grow from each other as we listen to differing views on an issue.

It is not usually the issue itself that causes conflict within the Body, most likely there are unseen motives and underlying misbeliefs that bring friction between believers.

Read 2 Timothy 2.24-26.

Who is the ultimate source of conflicts within the Body?

Why is it important to remember this fact? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Luke 22.14-27.

What were the motives behind the argument among the disciples?

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Read Genesis 13.1-9.

What were the underlying beliefs behind Abram's generosity and peaceful spirit?

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How did this prevent conflict between himself and Lot?

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We also find in the New Testament how we can bring resolution to a conflict. There are various kinds of conflict between believers, so let's examine the different solutions for each one.

a. Difference of opinion: Read Acts 15.36-41.

How did Paul and Barnabas resolve their disagreement?

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Did their actions harm the ministry in any way? \_\_\_\_\_

Where reputations slandered because of the disagreement?

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What does this say to you about differences of opinion between believers?

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b. Judgement of another believer's behavior: Read Romans 14.1-15.9; 1 Corinthians 8; Matthew 7.1-6.

If someone judges my behavior as improper for a Christian, how should I respond?

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Is it my place to judge another believer? \_\_\_\_\_

On what do I base my judgement about his behavior? \_\_\_\_\_

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Can I refrain from a certain action or behavior for the sake of my younger brother in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

c. If a fellow brother in Christ sins against you:  
Read Matthew 18.15-20.

Jesus' words are very clear about the steps we should take when a brother sins against us. What are the four steps to reconciliation?

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What is the aim of going to this brother? \_\_\_\_\_

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If your attitude is not one of desiring reconciliation, do you think your visit with the brother will have the same effect?

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What should you do before you even think to confront your brother about the issue? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Matthew 18.21-35.

How does this passage affect your attitude toward the brother who has wronged you?

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How does Christ's method of solving conflict differ from that of the world?

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If our ultimate aim is to bring glory to God through our words and actions, how will the way we solve conflicts affect this goal? \_\_\_\_\_

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When faced with a conflict between yourself and another believer, ask yourself these questions as you seek God's wisdom:

1. Is the problem hurting the reputation of God?
2. Is it hurting the other person's relationship with us?
3. Is the problem hurting others?
4. Is it hurting himself?

Meditate on Hebrews 12.14.

# RELATING TO OTHERS THROUGH CHRIST

## **Relating to the World**

The Christian is a citizen of two worlds. While it would be nice to only have to relate to other believers, we live in the midst of a lost and dying world. The way we live, what we say and how we react to the circumstances and people around us all serve to give testimony to the lost as to our relationship with God.

Read John 17.13-19.

Why was it important for Jesus to pray these words to the Father while He was still in the world?

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What does it mean that we, as believers, are not of the world?\_\_\_\_\_

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Does this change your feelings about being in the world and relating to it?\_\_\_\_\_

Read John 17.20-26.

What is it that draws the world to faith in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does this lead you to rethink any of your relationships with other believers? \_\_\_\_\_

Which relationship brings the greatest testimony to the world on behalf of Christ—our relationship with God or with our fellow believers? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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The world is not drawn to Christ by our “spirituality” but by how we relate to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our best example for relating to the world is found in Jesus himself. Look at the following passages and note how Jesus treated and talked to those “of the world”.

Read Luke 7.36-50: Note how he dealt with people from two separate classes at the same gathering.

If you look at the life of Jesus, you will see that he was no respecter of persons. Jesus spent time with the rich and the poor, but I think you will note a special concern and compassion for the poor and suffering of this world.

How much do I walk as He walked or lived in relation to people in general?

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What is my attitude toward and relation to the poor, hungry, handicapped and the underprivileged in general?

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Am I touching them with the love of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Luke 9.51-53; 17.11-16 and John 4.1-42.

Though Jews were very prejudiced against Samaritans, Jesus purposefully chose to travel through the region and to even heal a Samaritan. We may not have many people who physically are lepers in our society, but we do have many who are treated as such. Who are they?

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What should our attitude be toward them as a follower of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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In the John 4 passage, what were the social barriers Jesus broke down to reveal himself as the Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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There is no place in the life, ministry and teaching of Jesus for a “we-they” division. How willing are we to cross any barrier to minister to those in need?

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As Jesus walked on this earth he was always in contact with people. He never hesitated to physically touch a person as he administered healing or blessing. The world today is suffering due to the lack of the physical touch in their lives. When there is no love or encouragement, there is no reason to hug or pat one’s shoulder, to hold their hand or allow them to lean on you when they cry.

What does a touch mean in your society? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Luke 18.15-17; Matthew 19.13-15.

What do you think the touch of Jesus meant in the lives of those children?

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Are you willing to give the touch of Christ to a child or a hurt and lonely individual? \_\_\_\_\_

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What can it do to the life of that person? \_\_\_\_\_

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There are several things that are important to remember as you relate to the world:

1. **Relating to the world is no place for pride.** “I must decrease, that he will increase”. Read Philippians 2.1-11. If my desire is to see men come to Christ, I must humble myself and allow Christ to shine through me. It takes a humble spirit to relate to the world as Christ did. Meekness is not weakness.
2. **Be on guard that you do not become ensnared by the world.** Read Psalm 1.1-3. If I allow myself to “sit” with the sinners, i.e. Begin to live as they do, I have no positive witness. My delight must be in his word that I can maintain a strong witness for him.
3. **Know that living for Christ in the world will bring with it persecution and ridicule.** Read John 15.18-21. Be prepared for it by having God’s word in your heart and be encouraged that Christ has gone before us and suffered more than we could ever suffer (Hebrews 12.2-3).

What has this lesson taught you about how you relate to the world?

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Is there some way you will change as a result? \_\_\_\_\_

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# RELATING TO OTHERS THROUGH CHRIST

## My Witness for Christ

Read 2 Corinthians 5.14-21.

Who are we as followers of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is our ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why is it called a ministry of reconciliation? What are we reconciling? \_\_\_\_\_

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Again, our calling, our mission in life is to urge men to restore their relationship with God through Christ. To tell them that God has made a way possible for them to relate to Him as He originally intended—as Father.

### 1. Why do we witness?

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If I have the cure for cancer and do not share it, I would be a criminal in the eyes of the world. The same is true in relation to Christ. I have the secret for salvation; therefore, I am compelled to share it with others.

Also, we are blessed as we share our faith and lead others into His Kingdom. When I see another person fall in love with Christ, it renews my faith and reminds me of my first days with Him.

The more we witness, the more we live our faith in reality. It is a confirmation of our faith in Christ.

Most importantly, Christ has commanded us to share our faith and make disciples. Read Matthew 28.18-20.

2. **What do I share?** There are six basic principles that should be shared when telling another person how to begin a new life in Christ.
  - a. God is One and created man to worship and love Him. Look at the following verses as you think about his subject: Exodus 20.3-5; Mark 12.29-30; Galatians 5.19-21; Revelation 21.8; Psalm 33.1,4-9; Psalm 91.1-7.

- b. Man was not capable of keeping the laws of God. Matthew 22.34-40; Matthew 5.21-24; Romans 3.23; Matthew 5.43-45.
- c. God is Merciful and loving and wants to forgive, but He cannot go against His nature (Justice). The price had to be paid for man's sin. Sinful man cannot stand in the presence of a holy God. Psalm 103.8-14; Psalm 85.10; Jeremiah 5.7,9; Hosea 11.8-9; James 2.13.
- d. The nature of God is light and holy. Psalm 76.4; Psalm 104.2; Isaiah 2.5; 1 Timothy 6.16; 1 John 1.5; Leviticus 11.44; Psalm 99.5,9; Isaiah 5.16; 1 Peter 1.16; Revelations 4.8.
- e. The necessity for Christ to come and die on the cross in order to pay the price for our sins and allow for God's mercy to have effect. The justice and mercy of God meet in the cross. Romans 3.21-26; Hebrews 9.26.
- f. All we must do is accept this free gift, believing in the work of Christ on the cross as the way of salvation God has provided for man. Acts 2.21; Romans 10.9-10.

### **3. How do I share?**

- a. Use the current topic of conversation to focus the person's mind on Christ.
- b. Share the basics of the Gospel as outlined above.
- c. Use your personal testimony.

Your personal testimony of faith in Christ can have a great impact in the life of another person. No one can reject your testimony, because you have experienced it and it stands on its own merit. Include the following points in your testimony:

- Your life before Christ: What was it like? What is your background? etc.
- How you accepted Christ? How he revealed himself to you?
- Your life since your new birth.

You should develop your testimony in such a way that you will be able to share it in five minutes with another person. Sometimes our time is short, and we don't have much time to share. Make your testimony short and concise so that you can also cover other aspects of the Gospel message.

- d. Ask the person to make a decision. Is there anything hindering him/her from accepting the message that you have shared? Help them work through any hindrances and ask again for a decision if possible.
- e. If they are ready to accept Christ, pray with them the sinner's prayer. They can either pray on their own, once you have explained it, or they can pray repeating after you. Remember Romans 10.9-10.

Sinner's Prayer: "Lord, I am a sinner. In the Bible you say that the death of Christ cleanses us from all sin. I ask Jesus to come and cleanse me of my sin and make me clean in

Him. I accept Jesus as Lord and Savior in my life and want to follow him from this day forward. Thank you, God, for making me your child through Christ. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so that I will follow you to my utmost. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

- f. If they are not ready to accept, leave the door open for another opportunity at a later date either by you or another believer.

### **FOR YOU TO DO:**

1. Take time now to study the verses and six points that are important in sharing the Gospel. Rewrite the points in your own words according to what you have read.
2. Write out your personal testimony using the three points as a guide. Be prepared to share it with a friend this week.
3. Share the Gospel with a non-believer this week and then discuss what happened with another believer.
4. Remember that as you go, you are Christ's ambassador. You may be the only follower of Christ people with whom you come in contact today may ever meet. How will that affect your attitude in sharing and living?

## CONCLUSION

In reality, the conclusion of this study is only the beginning! As life is a growing process, so is your new life in Christ. While you may be at just the beginning stages of your new faith in Him, you have completed a crucial step in the discipleship process. Now the challenge before you is to continue to apply what you have gained from this study and to delve deeper into His Word daily in order to deepen your relationship with God through Christ. As you go deeper with Him, you will strengthen your ties to your fellow man and become a brighter light in this world of darkness.

Though I may not know you by name, I am confident that He does; therefore, I can pray as Paul:

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1.3-6).

God’s blessing,

Your Servant in Christ  
October 1999

## Supplement A: Bible Reading Plan

### JANUARY

1. Lk. 1:1-25; Gen. 1-2; Ps. 1
2. Lk. 1:26-56; Gen. 3-5; Ps. 2
3. Lk. 1: 57-80; Gen. 6-7; Ps. 3
4. Lk. 2:1-20; Gen. 8-10; Ps. 4
5. Lk. 2. 21-52; Gen. 11; Ps. 5
6. Lk. 3:1-20; Gen. 12; Ps. 6
7. Lk. 3:21-38; Gen. 13-14; Ps. 7
8. Lk. 4:1-30; Gen. 15; Ps. 8
9. Lk. 4:31-44; Gen. 16; Ps. 9
10. Lk. 5:1-26; Gen. 17; Ps. 10
11. Lk. 5:27-39; Gen. 18; Ps. 11
12. Lk. 6:1-26; Gen. 19; Ps. 12
13. Lk. 6:27-49; Gen. 20; Ps. 13
14. Lk. 7:1-17; Gen. 21; Ps. 14
15. Lk. 7:18-50; Gen. 22; Ps. 15
16. Lk. 8: 1-25; Gen. 23; Ps. 16
17. Lk. 8:26-56; Gen. 24; Ps. 17
18. Lk. 9:1-27; Gen. 25; Ps. 18
19. Lk. 9:28-62; Gen. 26; Ps. 19
20. Lk. 10:1-20; Gen. 27:1-45; Ps. 20
21. Lk. 10:21-42; Gen. 27:46-28:22; Ps. 21
22. Lk. 11:1-28; Gen. 29:1-30; Ps. 22
23. Lk. 11:29-54; Gen. 29:31-30:43; Ps. 23
24. Lk. 12:1-31; Gen. 31; Ps. 24
25. Lk. 12:32-59; Gen. 32-33; Ps. 25
26. Lk. 13:1-17; Gen. 34; Ps. 26
27. Lk. 13:18-35; Gen. 35-36; Ps. 27
28. Lk 14:1-24; Gen. 37; Ps. 28
29. Lk. 14:25-35; Gen. 38; Ps. 29
30. Lk. 15; Gen. 39; Ps. 30
31. Lk. 16; Gen. 40; Ps. 31

## FEBRUARY

1. Lk. 17; Gen. 41; Ps. 32
2. Lk. 18:1-17; Gen. 42; Ps. 33
3. Lk. 18:18-43; Gen. 43; Ps. 34
4. Lk. 19:1-27; Gen. 44; Ps. 35
5. Lk. 19:28-48; Gen. 45:1-46:27; Ps. 36
6. Lk. 20:1-26; Gen. 46:28-47:31; Ps. 37
7. Lk. 20:27-47; Gen. 48; Ps. 38
8. Lk. 21; Gen. 49-50; Ps. 39
9. Lk. 22:1-38; Ex. 1-2; Ps. 40
10. Lk. 22:39-71; Ex. 3-4; Ps. 41
11. Lk. 23:1-25; Ex. 5:1-6:27; Pr. 1
12. Lk. 23:26-56; Ex. 6:38-8:32; Pr. 2
13. Lk. 24:1-12; Ex. 9-10; Pr. 3
14. Lk. 24:13-53; Ex. 11-12; Pr. 4
15. Heb. 1; Ex. 13-14; Pr. 5
16. Heb. 2; Ex. 15; Pr. 6:1-7:5
17. Heb. 3:1-4:13; Ex. 16-17; Pr. 7:6-27
18. Heb. 4:14-6:12; Ex. 18-19; Pr. 8
19. Heb. 6:13-20; Ex. 20-21; Pr. 9
20. Heb. 7; Ex. 22-23; Pr. 10
21. Heb. 8; Ex. 24; Pr. 11
22. Heb. 9:1-22; Ex. 25-27; Pr. 12
23. Heb. 9:23-10:18; Ex. 28-29; Pr. 13
24. Heb. 10:19-39; Ex. 30-32; Pr. 14
25. Heb. 11:1-21; Ex. 33-34; Pr. 15
26. Heb. 11:22-40; Ex. 35-36; Pr. 16
27. Heb. 12; Ex. 37-38; Pr. 17
28. Heb. 13; Ex. 39-40; Pr. 18

## MARCH

1. Mt. 1; Lev. 1-2; Pr. 19
2. Mt. 2; Lev. 3-4; Pr. 20
3. Mt. 3; Lev. 5-6; Pr. 21
4. Mt. 4; Lev. 7-8; Pr. 22
5. Mt. 5:1-20; Lev. 9-10; Pr. 23
6. Mt. 5:21-48; Lev. 11-12; Pr. 24
7. Mt. 6:1-18; Lev. 13; Pr. 25
8. Mt. 6:19-34; Lev. 14; Pr. 26
9. Mt. 7; Lev. 15-16; Pr. 27
10. Mt. 8:1-13; Lev. 17-18; Pr. 28
11. Mt. 8:14-34; Lev. 19; Pr. 29
12. Mt. 9:1-17; Lev. 20-21; Pr. 30
13. Mt. 9:18-38; Lev. 22-23; Pr. 31
14. Mt. 10:1-25; Lev. 24-25; Eccl. 1:1-11
15. Mt. 1:26-42; Lev. 26-27; Eccl. 1:12-2:26
16. Mt. 11:1-19; Num. 1-2; Eccl. 3:1-15
17. Mt. 11:2-30; Num. 3-4; Eccl. 3:16-4:16
18. Mt. 12:1-21; Num. 5-6; Eccl. 5
19. Mt. 12:22-50; Num. 7-8; Eccl. 6
20. Mt. 13:1-23; Num. 9-10; Eccl. 7
21. Mt. 13:24-58; Num. 11-12; Eccl. 8
22. Mt. 14:1-21; Num. 13-14; Eccl. 9:1-12
23. Mt. 14:22-36; Num. 15-16; Eccl. 9:13-10:20
24. Mt. 15:1-20; Num. 17-18; Eccl. 11:1-8
25. Mt. 15:21-39; Num. 19-20; Eccl. 11:9-12:14
26. Mt. 16; Num. 21; Song 1:1-2:7
27. Mt. 17; Num. 22:1-40; Song. 2:8-3:5
28. Mt. 18:1-17; Num. 22:41-23:26; Song. 3:6-5:1
29. Mt. 18:18-35; Num. 23:27-24:25; Song. 5:2-6:3
30. Mt. 19:1-15; Num. 25-27; Song. 6:4-8:4
31. Mt. 19:16-30; Num. 28-29; Song. 8:5-14

## April

1. Mt. 20:1-16; Num. 30-31; Job 1
2. Mt. 20:17-34; Num. 32-34; Job 2
3. Mt. 21:1-27; Num. 35-36; Job 3
4. Mt. 21:28-46; Dt. 1-2; Job 4
5. Mt. 22:1-22; Dt. 3-4; Job 5
6. Mt. 22:23-46; Dt. 5-6; Job 6
7. Mt. 23:1-12; Dt. 7-8; Job 7
8. Mt. 23:13-39; Dt. 9-10; Job 8
9. Mt. 24:1-31; Dt. 11-12; Job 9
10. Mt. 24:32-51; Dt. 13-14; Job 10
11. Mt. 25:1-30; Dt. 15-16; Job 11
12. Mt. 25:31-46; Dt. 17-18; Job 12
13. Mt. 26:1-25; Dt. 19-20; Job 13
14. Mt. 26:26-46; Dt. 21-22; Job 14
15. Mt. 26:47-57; Dt. 23-24; Job 15
16. Mt. 27:1-31; Dt. 25-27; Job 16
17. Mt. 27:32-77; Dt. 28; Job 17
18. Mt. 28; Dt. 29-30; Job 18
19. Acts 1; Dt. 31-32; Job 19
20. Acts 2:1-13; Dt. 33-34; Job 20
21. Acts 2:14-47; Josh. 1-2; Job 21
22. Acts 3; Josh. 3:1-5; Job 22
23. Acts 4:1-22; Josh. 2:5-6:27; Job 23
24. Acts 4:23-37; Josh. 7-8; Job 24
25. Acts 5:1-16; Josh. 9-10; Job 25
26. Acts 5:1-42; Josh 11-12; Job 26
27. Acts 6; Josh. 13-14; Job 27
28. Acts 7:1-22; Josh. 15-17; Job 28
29. Acts 7:23-8:1; Josh. 18-19; Job 29
30. Acts 8:2-25; Josh. 20-21; Job 30

## May

1. Acts 8:26-40; Josh. 22; Job 31
2. Acts 9:1-25; Josh 23-24; Job 32
3. Acts 9:26-43; Jud. 1; Job 33
4. Acts 10:1-33; Jud. 2-3; Job 34
5. Acts 10:34-48; Jud. 4-5; Job 35
6. Acts 11:1-18; Jud. 6; Job 36
7. Acts 11:19-30; Jud. 7-8; Job 37
8. Acts 12; Jud. 9; Job 38
9. Acts 13:1-25; Jud. 10:1-11:33; Job 39
10. Acts 13:26-52; Jud. 11:34-12:15; Job 40
11. Acts 14; Jud. 13; Job 41
12. Acts 15:1-21; Jud. 14-15; Job 42
13. Acts 15:22-41; Jud. 16; Ps. 42
14. Acts 16:1-15; Jud. 17-18; Ps. 43
15. Acts 16:16-40; Jud. 19; Ps. 44
16. Acts 17:1-15; Jud. 20; Ps. 45
17. Acts 17:16-34; Jud. 21; Ps. 46
18. Acts 18; Ruth 1-2; Ps. 47
19. Acts 19:1-20; Ruth 3-4; Ps. 48
20. Acts 19:21-41; 1 Sam. 1:1-2:11; Ps. 49
21. Acts 20:1-16; 1 Sam. 2:12-36; Ps. 50
22. Acts 20:17-38; 1 Sam. 3; Ps. 51
23. Acts 21:1-26; 1 Sam. 4-5; Ps. 52
24. Acts 21:37-22:29; 1 Sam. 6-7; Ps. 53
25. Acts 22:30-23:22; 1 Sam. 8; Ps. 54
26. Acts 23:23-24:9; 1 Sam. 9:1-20:16; Ps. 55
27. Acts 24:10-27; 1 Sam. 10:17-11:15; Ps. 56
28. Acts 25; 1 Sam. 12; Ps. 57
29. Acts 26:1-18; 1 Sam. 13; Ps. 58
30. Acts 26:19-32; 1 Sam. 14; Ps. 59
31. Acts 27:1-12; 1 Sam. 15; Ps. 60

## June

1. Acts 27:13-44; 1 Sam. 16; Ps. 61
2. Acts 28:1-15; 1 Sam. 17:1-45; Ps. 62
3. Acts 28:16-31; 1 Sam. 17:55-18:30; Ps. 63
4. Rom. 1:1-15; 1 Sam. 19; Ps. 64
5. Rom. 1:16-32; 1 Sam. 20; Ps. 65
6. Rom. 2:1-3:8; 1 Sam. 21-22; Ps. 66
7. Rom. 3:9-31; 1 Sam. 23-24; Ps. 67
8. Rom. 4; 1 Sam. 25; Ps. 68
9. Rom. 5; 1 Sam. 26; Ps. 69
10. Rom. 6; 1 Sam. 27-28; Ps. 70
11. Rom. 7; 1 Sam. 29-31; Ps. 71
12. Rom. 8; 2 Sam. 1; Ps. 72
13. Rom. 9:1-29; 2 Sam. 2:1-3:1; Dan. 1
14. Rom. 9:30-10:21; 2 Sam. 3:2-39; Dan. 2:1-23
15. Rom. 11:1-24; 2 Sam. 4-5; Dan. 2:24-49
16. Rom. 11:25-36; 2 Sam. 6; Dan. 3
17. Rom. 12; 2 Sam. 7-8; Dan. 4
18. Rom. 13; 2 Sam. 9-10; Dan. 5
19. Rom. 14; 2 Sam. 11-12; Dan. 6
20. Rom. 15:1-13; 2 Sam. 13; Dan. 7
21. Rom. 15:14-33; 2 Sam. 14; Dan. 8
22. Rom. 16; 2 Sam. 15; Dan. 9
23. Mk. 1:1-20; 2 Sam. 16; Dan. 10:1-11:2
24. Mk. 1:21-45; 2 Sam. 17; Dan. 11:3-20
25. Mk. 2; 2 Sam. 18; Dan. 11:21-45
26. Mk. 3:1-19; 2 Sam. 19; Dan. 12
27. Mk. 3:20-35; 2 Sam. 20-21; Hosea 1:1-2:1
28. Mk. 4:1-20; 2 Sam. 22; Hosea 2:2-23
29. Mk. 4:21-41; 2 Sam. 23; Hosea 3
30. Mk. 5:1-20; 2 Sam. 24; Hosea 4:1-10

## July

1. Mk. 5:21-43; 1 Kings 1; Hosea 4:11-5:3
2. Mk. 6:1-29; 1 Kings 2; Hosea 5:4-15
3. Mk. 6:30-56; 1 Kings 3; Hosea 6:1-7:2
4. Mk. 7:1-13; 1 Kings 4-5; Hosea 7:3-16
5. Mk. 7:14-37; 1 Kings 6; Hosea 8
6. Mk. 8:1-21; 1 Kings 7; Hosea 9:1-16
7. Mk. 8:22-9:1; 1 Kings 8; Hosea 9:17-10:15
8. Mk. 9:2-50; 1 Kings 9; Hosea 11:1-11
9. Mk. 10:1-31; 1 Kings 10; Hosea 11:12-12:14
10. Mk. 10:32-52; 1 Kings 11; Hosea 13
11. Mk. 11:1-14; 1 Kings 12:1-31; Hosea 14
12. Mk. 11:15-33; 1 Kings 12:32-13:34; Joel 1
13. Mk. 12:1-27; 1 Kings 14; Joel 2:1-11
14. Mk. 12:28-44; 1 Kings 15:1-32; Joel 2:12-23
15. Mk. 13:1-13; 1 Kings 15:33-16:34; Joel 3
16. Mk. 13:14-37; 1 Kings 17; Amos 1
17. Mk. 14:1-31; 1 Kings 18; Amos 2:1-3:2
18. Mk. 14:32-72; 1 Kings 19; Amos 3:3-4:3
19. Mk. 15:1-20; 1 Kings 20; Amos 4:4-13
20. Mk. 15:21-47; 1 Kings 21; Amos 5
21. Mk. 16; 1 Kings 22; Amos 6
22. 1 Cor. 1:1-17; 2 Kings 1-2; Amos 7
23. 1 Cor. 1:18-31; 2 Kings 3; Amos 8
24. 1 Cor. 2; 2 Kings 4; Amos 9
25. 1 Cor. 3; 2 Kings 5; Obadiah
26. 1 Cor. 4; 2 Kings 6:1-7:2; Jonah 1
27. 1 Cor. 5; 2 Kings 7:3-20; Jonah 2
28. 1 Cor. 6; 2 Kings 8; Jonah 3
29. 1 Cor. 7:1-23; 2 Kings 9; Jonah 4
30. 1 Cor. 7:25-40; 2 Kings 10; Micah 1
31. 1 Cor. 8; 2 Kings 11; Micah 2

## August

1. 1 Cor. 9; 2 Kings 12-13; Micah 3
2. 1 Cor. 10; 2 Kings 14; Micah 4:1-5:1
3. 1 Cor. 11:1-16; 2 Kings 15-16; Micah 5:2-15
4. 1 Cor. 11:17-34; 2 Kings 17; Micah 6
5. 1 Cor. 12; 2 Kings 18; Micah 7
6. 1 Cor. 13; 2 Kings 19; Nahum 1
7. 1 Cor. 14:1-25; 2 Kings 20-21; Nahum 2
8. 1 Cor. 14:26-40; 2 Kings 22:1-23:34; Nahum 3
9. 1 Cor. 15:1-34; 2 Kings 23:35-24:20; Hab. 1
10. 1 Cor. 15:35-58; 2 Kings 25; Hab. 2
11. 1 Cor. 16; 1 Chr. 1-2; Hab. 3
12. 2 Cor. 1:1-2:4; 1 Chr. 3-4; Zep. 1
13. 2 Cor. 2:5-3:18; 1 Chr. 5-6; Zep. 2
14. 2 Cor. 4:1-5:10; 1 Chr. 7-8; Zep. 3
15. 2 Cor. 5:11-6:13; 1 Chr. 9; Hag. 1-2
16. 2 Cor. 6:14-7:16; 1 Chr. 10-11; Zach. 1
17. 2 Cor. 8; 1 Chr. 12; Zach. 2
18. 2 Cor. 9; 1 Chr. 13-14; Zach. 3
19. 2 Cor. 10; 1 Chr. 15:1-16:7; Zach. 4
20. 2 Cor. 11; 1 Chr. 16:8-43; Zach. 5
21. 2 Cor. 13; 1 Chr. 17; Zach. 6
22. 2 Cor. 13; 1 Chr. 18-19; Zach. 7
23. John 1:1-18; 1 Chr. 20:1-22:1; Zach. 8
24. John 1:19-34; 1 Chr. 22:2-23; Zach. 9
25. John 1:35-51; 1 Chr. 24; Zach. 10
26. John 2; 1 Chr. 25-26; Zach. 11
27. John 3:1-21; 1 Chr. 27-28; Zach. 12
28. John 3:22-36; 1 Chr. 29; Zach. 13
29. John 4:1-26; 2 Chr. 1:1-2:16; Zach. 14
30. John 4:27-42; 2 Chr. 2:17-5:1; Mal. 1:1-2:9
31. John 4:43-54; 2 Chr. 5:2-14; Mal. 2:10-16

## September

1. John 5:1-18; 2 Chr. 6; Mal. 2:17-3:18
2. John 5:19-47; 2 Chr. 7; Mal. 4
3. John 6:1-24; 2 Chr. 8; Ps. 73
4. John 6:25-59; 2 Chr. 9; Ps. 74
5. John 6:60-71; 2 Chr. 10-11; Ps. 75
6. John 7:1-24; 2 Chr. 12-13; Ps. 76
7. John 7:25-52; 2 Chr. 14-15; Ps. 77
8. John 8:1-20; 2 Chr. 16-17; Ps. 78
9. John 8:21-48; 2 Chr. 18; Ps. 78:21-32
10. John 8:48-59; 2 Chr. 19; Ps. 78:38-55
11. John 9:1-23; 2 Chr. 20:1-21:1; Ps. 78:56-72
12. John 9:24-41; 2 Chr. 21:2-22:12; Ps. 79
13. John 10:1-21; 2 Chr. 23; Ps. 80
14. John 10:22-42; 2 Chr. 24; Ps. 81
15. John 11:1-127; 2 Chr. 25; Ps. 82
16. John 11:28-57; 2 Chr. 26; Ps. 83
17. John 12:1-26; 2 Chr. 27-28; Ps. 84
18. John 12:27-50; 2 Chr. 29; Ps. 85
19. John 13:1-20; 2 Chr. 30; Ps. 86
20. John 13:21-38; 2 Chr. 31; Ps. 87
21. John 14:1-14; 2 Chr. 32; Ps. 88
22. John 14:15-31; 2 Chr. 33; Ps. 89:1-18
23. John 15:1-16:4; 2 Chr. 34; Ps. 89:19-37
24. John 16:4-33; 2 Chr. 35; Ps. 89:38-52
25. John 17; 2 Chr. 36; Ps. 90
26. John 18:1-18; Ezra 1-2; Ps. 91
27. John 18:19-37; Ezra 3-4; Ps. 92
28. John 18:38-19:18; Ezra 5-6; Ps. 93
29. John 19: 19-42; Ezra 7-8; Ps. 94
30. John 20:1-18; Ezra 9-10; Ps. 95

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1. John 20:19-31; Nah. 1-2; Ps. 96
2. John 21; Nah. 3; Ps. 97
3. 1 John 1; Nah. 4; Ps. 98
4. 1 John 2; Nah. 5:1-7; Ps. 99
5. 1 John 3; Nah. 7:4-8; Ps. 100
6. 1 John 4; Nah. 8:13-9:37; Ps. 101
7. 1 John 5; Nah. 9:38-10:39; Ps. 102
8. 2 John; Nah. 11; Ps. 103
9. 3 John; Nah. 12; Ps. 104:1-23
10. Jude; Nah. 13; Ps. 104:24-35
11. Rev. 1; Es. 1; Ps. 105:1-25
12. Rev. 2; Es. 2; Ps. 105:26-45
13. Rev. 3; Es. 3-4; Ps. 106:1-23
14. Rev. 4; Es. 5:1-6:13; Ps. 106:24-48
15. Rev. 5; Es. 6:14-8:17; Ps. 107:1-22
16. Rev. 6; Es. 9-10; Ps. 107:23-43
17. Rev. 7; Is. 1-2; Ps. 108
18. Rev. 8; Es. 3-4; Ps. 109:1-19
19. Rev. 9; Is. 5-6; Ps. 109:20-31
20. Rev. 10; Is. 7-8; Ps. 110
21. Rev. 11; Is. 9-10; Ps. 111
22. Rev. 12; Is. 11-13; Ps. 112
23. Rev. 13; Is. 14-17; Ps. 113
24. Rev. 14; Is. 17-19; Ps. 114
25. Rev. 15; Is. 20-22; Ps. 115
26. Rev. 16; Is. 23-24; Ps. 116
27. Rev. 17; Is. 25-26; Ps. 117
28. Rev. 18; Is. 27-28; Ps. 118
29. Rev. 19; Is. 29-30; Ps. 119:1-32
30. Rev. 20; Is. 31-33; Ps. 119:33-64
31. Rev. 21-22; Is. 34-35; Ps. 119:65-96

## November

1. 1 Thess. 1; Is. 36-37; Ps. 119:97-120
2. 1 Thess. 2:1-16; Is. 38-39; Ps. 119:121-144
3. 1 Thess. 2:17-3:13; Jer. 1-2; Ps. 119:145-176
4. 1 Thess. 4; Jer. 3-4; Ps. 120
5. 1 Thess. 5; Jer. 5-6; Ps. 121
6. 2 Thess. 1; Jer. 7-8; Ps. 122
7. 2 Thess. 2; Jer. 9-10; Ps. 123
8. 2 Thess. 3; Jer. 11-12; Ps. 124
9. 1 Tim. 1; Jer. 13-14; Ps. 125
10. 1 Tim. 2; Jer. 15-16; Ps. 126
11. 1 Tim. 3; Jer. 17-18; Ps. 127
12. 1 Tim. 4; Jer. 19-20; Ps. 128
13. 1 Tim. 5:1-20; Jer. 21-22; Ps. 129
14. 1 Tim. 5:21-6:21; Jer. 23-24; Ps. 130
15. 2 Tim. 1; Jer. 25-26; Ps. 131
16. 2 Tim. 2; Jer. 27-28; Ps. 132
17. 2 Tim. 3; Jer. 29-30; Ps. 133
18. 2 Tim. 4; Jer. 31-32; Ps. 134
19. Titus 1; Jer. 33-34; Ps. 135
20. Titus 2; Jer. 35-36; Ps. 136
21. Titus 3; Jer. 37-38; Ps. 137
22. Philemon; Jer. 39-40; Ps. 138
23. James 1; Jer. 41-42; Ps. 139
24. James 2; Jer. 43-44; Ps. 140
25. James 3; Jer. 45-46; Ps. 141
26. James 4; Jer. 47-48; Ps. 142
27. James 5; Jer. 49-50; Ps. 143
28. 1 Pet. 1; Jer. 51-52; Ps. 144
29. 1 Pet. 2; Lam. 1-2; Ps. 145
30. 1 Pet. 3; Lam. 3-4; Ps. 146

## December

1. 1 Pet. 4; Lam. 5; Ps. 147
2. 1 Pet. 5; Ez. 1; Ps. 148
3. 2 Pet. 1; Ez. 2-3; Ps. 149
4. 2 Pet. 2; Ez. 4-5; Ps. 150
5. 2 Pet. 3; Ez. 6-7; Is. 40
6. Gal. 1; Ez. 8-9; Is. 41
7. Gal. 2; Ez. 10-11; Is. 42
8. Gal. 3:1-20; Ez. 12-13; Is. 43
9. Gal. 3:21-4:20; Ez. 14-15; Is. 44
10. Gal. 4:21-31; Ez. 16; Is. 45
11. Gal. 5:1-15; Ez. 17; Is. 46
12. Gal. 5:16-26; Ez. 18; Is. 47
13. Gal. 6; Ez. 19; Is. 48
14. Eph. 1; Ez. 20; Is. 49
15. Eph. 2; Ez. 21-22; Is. 50
16. Eph. 3; Ez/ 23' Os/ 51
17. Eph. 4:1-16; Ez. 24; Is. 52
18. Eph. 4:17-32; Ez. 25-26; Is. 53
19. Eph. 5:1-20; Ez. 27-28; Is. 54
20. Eph. 5:21-33; Ez. 29-30; Is. 55
21. Eph. 6; Ez. 31-32; Is. 56
22. Phil. 1:1-11; Ez. 33; Is. 57
23. Phil. 1:12-30; Ez. 34; Is. 58
24. Phil. 2:1-11; Ez. 35-36; Is. 59
25. Phil. 2:12-30; Ez. 37; Is. 60
26. Phil. 3; Ez. 38-39; Is. 61
27. Phil. 4; Ez. 40-41; Is. 62
28. Col. 1:1-32; Ez. 42-43; Is. 63
29. Col. 1:24-2:19; Ez. 44-45; Is. 64
30. Col. 2:20-3:17; Ez. 46-47; Is. 65
31. Col. 3:18-4:28; Ez. 48; Is. 66











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Which verses answer these questions: What? Why? How?  
When? Where? or Who?

**WHAT**

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**WHY**

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**HOW**

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**WHEN**

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**WHERE OR WHO**

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Meaning of the Word: \_\_\_\_\_

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Write the most important verse in your own words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Write the negative things in the life of this person.

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How was his/her relationship with the Lord?

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Summarize the person's most outstanding quality.

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Choose one idea or example from the life of this person that you want to apply in your life.

Write the truth: \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you like this idea or example? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is God leading you to do to make this truth a living part of your life?

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