

BIBLICALLY BASED,
ETERNITY FOCUSED.

YEAR 1

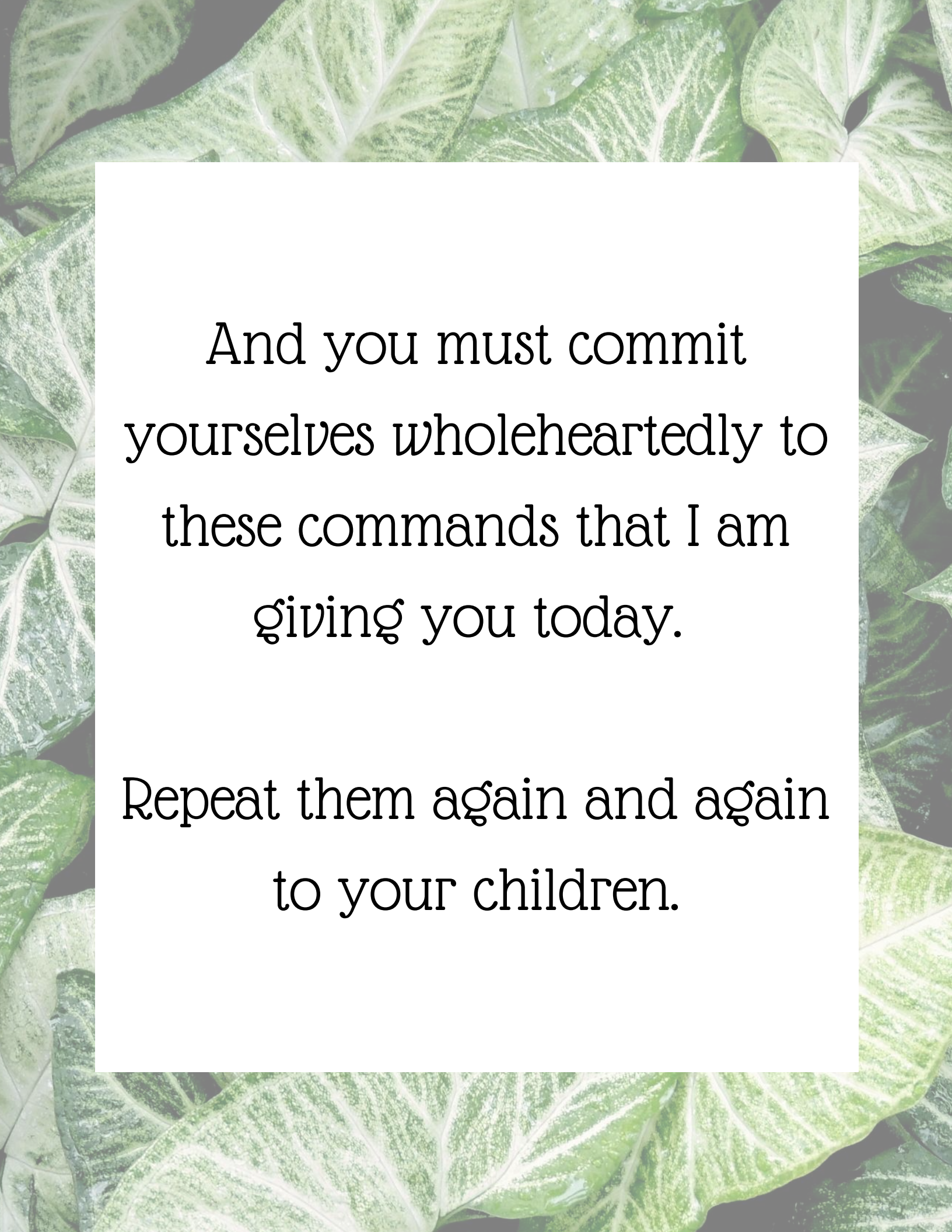
|| TEENS - MONTH 3 ||

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Heavenly Minded

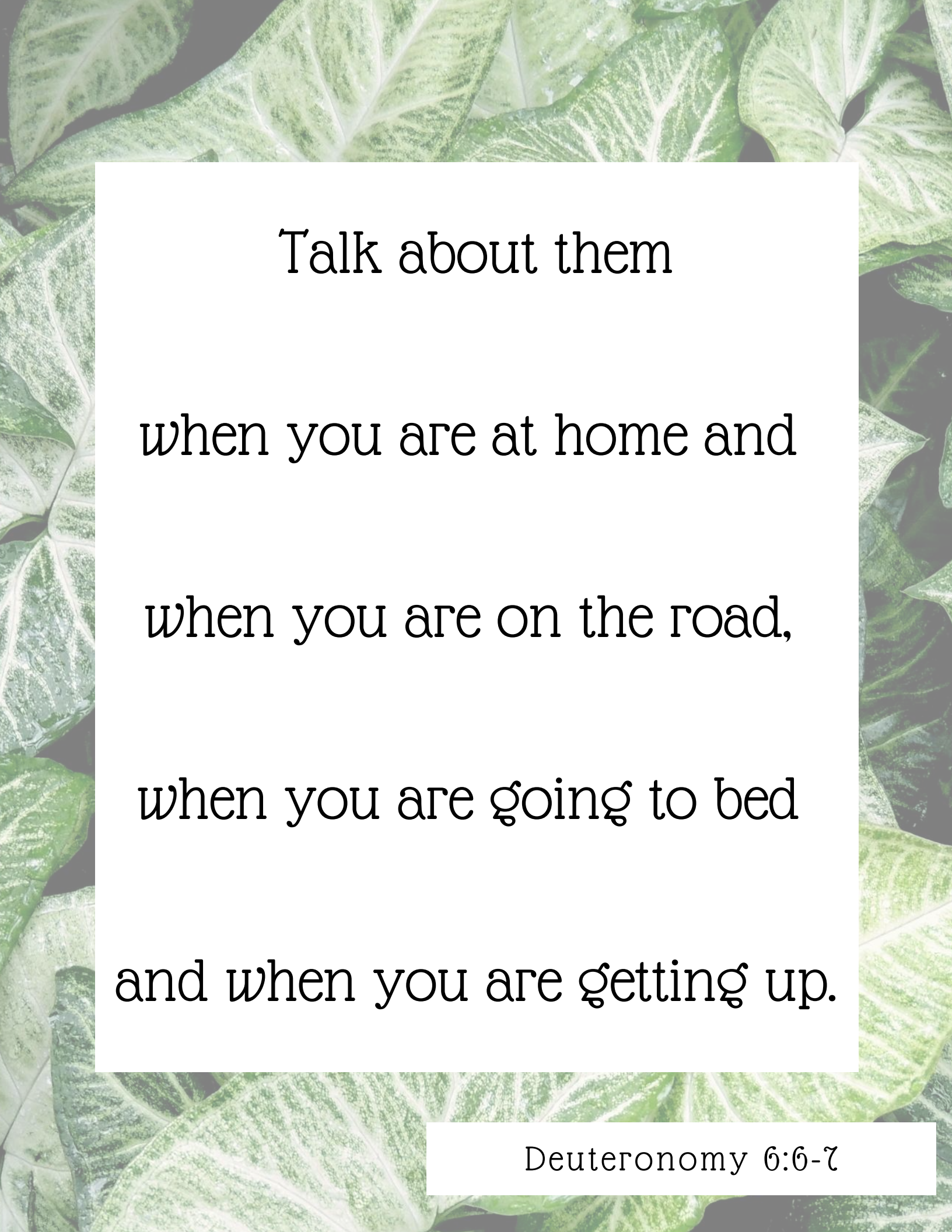
H O M E S C H O O L





And you must commit
yourselves wholeheartedly to
these commands that I am
giving you today.

Repeat them again and again
to your children.



Talk about them
when you are at home and
when you are on the road,
when you are going to bed
and when you are getting up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

WEEK NINE

SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT:

BIBLE // 3 CHAPTERS

MONDAY

Genesis & Psalm 33 - John 5

TUESDAY

Genesis & Psalm 34 - John 6

WEDNESDAY

Genesis & Psalm 35 - John 7

THURSDAY

Genesis & Psalm 36 - John 8

FRIDAY // Review Day

Catch up // Psalms 33-36

READING // 20-30 MINS

MONDAY

Family: Farmer Boy p.252

TUESDAY

Family: Farmer Boy p.275

WEDNESDAY

Family: Farmer Boy p.285

THURSDAY

Family: Farmer Boy p.299

FRIDAY

Catch Up as Needed

WRITING // 10-15 MINS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MATH DRILLS // 10-15

MINS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEEK NINE // FAMILY FOCUS

Monday

Nature In Action:
Nature Walk &
Thinking About Me

Bible: Heaven for
Kids p.54-58,
complete the PDF,
Bible Times &
Manners

Tuesday

Writer's Tea Time:
Brave Writer
Writer's Blitz -
Day 1

Baking: Pumpkin
Bread

Wednesday

Crafting In Action:
Home Skills

Math: Complete the
math lesson.

Thursday

Watch & Learn:
Pick from a
suggested video to
watch together and
discuss.

History: Bible in
World History p.41-
46

Friday

Gaming In Action:
Play games!

Child-Led Interest:
Encourage and
help to follow
their own
interests!

PRAYER REQUESTS

NOTES

WEEK TEN

SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT:

BIBLE // 3 CHAPTERS

MONDAY

Genesis & Psalm 37 - John 9

TUESDAY

Genesis & Psalm 38 - John 10

WEDNESDAY

Genesis & Psalm 39 - John 11

THURSDAY

Genesis & Psalm 40 - John 12

FRIDAY // Review Day

Catch up // Psalms 37-40

READING // 20-30 MINS

MONDAY

Family: Farmer Boy p.305

TUESDAY

Family: Farmer Boy p.312

WEDNESDAY

Family: Farmer Boy p.329

THURSDAY

Family: Farmer Boy p.344

FRIDAY

Family: Farmer Boy p.362

WRITING // 10-15 MINS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MATH DRILLS // 10-15

MINS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEEK TEN // FAMILY FOCUS

Monday

Nature In Action:
Nature Walk &
Thinking About Me

Bible: Heaven for
Kids p.59-62,
complete the PDF,
Bible Customs &
Manners

Tuesday

Writer's Tea Time:
Writer's Blitz - Day
2

Baking:
Marshmallow
Popcorn Bars

Wednesday

Crafting In Action:
Home Skills

Math: Complete the
math lesson.

Thursday

Watch & Learn:
Pick from a
suggested video to
watch together and
discuss.

History: The Bible
in World History p.
46-49

Friday

Gaming In Action:
Play games!

Child-Led Interest:
Encourage and
help to follow
their own
interests!

PRAYER REQUESTS

NOTES

WEEK ELEVEN

SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT:

BIBLE // 3 CHAPTERS

MONDAY

Genesis & Psalm 41 - John 13

TUESDAY

Genesis & Psalm 42 - John 14

WEDNESDAY

Genesis & Psalm 43 - John 15

THURSDAY

Genesis & Psalm 44 - John 16

FRIDAY // Review Day

Catch up // Psalms 41-44

READING // 20-30 MINS

MONDAY

Family: Little House p.1

TUESDAY

Family: Little House p.16

WEDNESDAY

Family: Little House p.28

THURSDAY

Family: Little House p.138

FRIDAY

Catch Up as Needed

WRITING // 10-15 MINS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MATH DRILLS // 10-15

MINS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEEK ELEVEN // FAMILY FOCUS

Monday

Nature In Action:
Nature Walk &
Thinking About Me

Bible: Heaven for
Kids p.63-67,
complete the PDF,
Bible Customs &
Manners

Tuesday

Writer's Tea Time:
Writer's Blitz - Day
3

Baking: Decadent
Truffles

Wednesday

Crafting In Action:
Home Skills

Math: Complete the
math lesson.

Thursday

Watch & Learn:
Pick from a
suggested video to
watch together and
discuss.

History: The Bible
in World History p.
49-58

Friday

Gaming In Action:
Play games!

Child-Led Interest:
Encourage and
help to follow
their own
interests!

PRAYER REQUESTS

NOTES

WEEK TWELVE

SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT:

BIBLE // 3 CHAPTERS

MONDAY

Genesis & Psalm 45 - John 17

TUESDAY

Genesis & Psalm 46 - John 18

WEDNESDAY

Genesis & Psalm 47 - John 19

THURSDAY

Genesis & Psalm 48 - John 20

FRIDAY // Review Day

Catch up // John 21

READING // 20-30 MINS

MONDAY

Family: Little House p.52

TUESDAY

Family: Little House p.71

WEDNESDAY

Family: Little House p.80

THURSDAY

Family: Little House p.99

FRIDAY

Catch Up as Needed

WRITING // 10-15 MINS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MATH DRILLS // 10-15

MINS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEEK TWELVE // FAMILY FOCUS

Monday

Nature In Action:
Nature Walk &
Thinking About Me

Bible: Heaven for
Kids p.68-74,
complete the PDF,
Bible Customs &
Manners

Tuesday

Writer's Tea Time:
Writer's Blitz - Day
4

Baking: Blueberry
Tea Cake

Wednesday

Crafting In Action:
Home Skills

Math: Complete the
math lesson.

Thursday

Watch & Learn:
Pick from a
suggested video to
watch together and
discuss.

History: The Bible
in World History
p. 59-66

Friday

Gaming In Action:
Play games!

Child-Led Interest:
Encourage and
help to follow
their own
interests!

PRAYER REQUESTS

NOTES

DAY 41 // WEEK 9

Genesis 33 // Jacob & Esau Make Peace

Do you remember back in Chapter 32, Jacob made peace with his father-in-law, Laban, then was terrified of facing his brother, Esau, and then he even wrestled with God (*YKES!*) and his name was changed from *Jacob* to *Israel*. It's interesting that even though Esau welcomed his brother warmly- Jacob, or Israel, was still wary of his brother. Do you think it was wise of him to play it safe, or should he have accepted his brother's openness?

Verse 20 shares where Jacob built an altar for the Lord and named it El-Elohe-Israel. Let's learn more about that:

el-e-lo'-he-iz'-ra-el, el-el'-o-he-iz'-ra-el (el 'elohe yisrael, translated "God, the God of Israel" in the American Revised Version, margin and the King James Version margin):

Found only in [Genesis 33:20](#) as the name given to the altar erected at Shechem by Jacob, henceforth, known as Israel, on the parcel of ground purchased by him from the inhabitants of Shechem, his first encampment of length and importance since the return to Palestine from Paddan-aram and the eventful night at Peniel ([Genesis 32:30](#)). Dillmann well suggests that "altar" (or "pillar") be supplied, reading thus:

"called it the altar of El, the God of Israel." The peculiar phrase is best and most readily understood in its close connection with the struggle at Peniel, recorded in [Genesis 32](#). Being victorious in that struggle, Jacob received the new name "Israel"; and to his first altar in Palestine he gave that name of God which appeared in his own new name, further explaining it by the appositive phrase "Elohe-Israel." Thus, his altar was called, or dedicated to, "El, the God of Israel."

--Edward Mack

Why were altars so important? We've seen multiple times now about the building of an altar for a monumental occasion. Understanding the requirements of service to God, of seeking atonement for our sins, for living for God before the sacrifice of the Messiah, Jesus, helps us to understand the real depth and importance of Christ's death.

Psalm 33 // What is *worship*?

Reading Psalm 33 shows what TRUE worship is. Many of us may think that “worship” is just a type of music we sing before the sermon on Sunday. But is that true, Biblical worship? Or is it something different, something more? Let’s look to Got Questions for this:

Question: “What is true worship?”

Answer: The apostle Paul described true worship perfectly in Romans 12:1-2: “I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable, or well pleasing and perfect.”

This passage contains all the elements of true worship. First, there is the motivation to worship: “the mercies of God.” God’s mercies are everything He has given us that we don’t deserve: eternal love, eternal grace, the Holy Spirit, everlasting peace, eternal joy, saving faith, comfort, strength, wisdom, hope, patience, kindness, honor, glory, righteousness, security, eternal life, forgiveness, reconciliation, justification, sanctification, freedom, intercession and much more. The knowledge and understanding of these incredible gifts motivate us to pour forth praise and thanksgiving—in other words, worship!

Also in the passage is a description of the manner of our worship: “present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice.”

Presenting our bodies means giving to God all of ourselves. The reference to our bodies here means all our human faculties, all of our humanness—our hearts, minds, hands, thoughts, attitudes—are to be presented to God. In other words, we are to give up control of these things and turn them over to Him, just as a literal sacrifice was given totally to God on the altar. But how? Again, the passage is clear: “by the renewing of your mind.” **We renew our minds daily by cleansing them of the world’s “wisdom” and replacing it with true wisdom that comes from God.** We worship Him with our renewed and cleansed minds, not with our emotions. Emotions are wonderful things, but unless they are shaped by a mind saturated in Truth, they can be destructive, out-of-control forces. Where the mind goes, the will follows, and so do the emotions. First Corinthians 2:16 tells us we have “the mind of Christ,” not the emotions of Christ.

There is only one way to renew our minds, and that is by the Word of God. It is the truth, the knowledge of the Word of God, which is to say the knowledge of the mercies of God, and we’re back where we began. To know the truth, to believe the truth, to hold convictions about the truth, and to love the truth will naturally result in

true spiritual worship. It is conviction followed by affection, affection that is a response to truth, not to any external stimuli, including music. Music as such has nothing to do with worship. Music can't produce worship, although it certainly can produce emotion. Music is not the origin of worship, but it can be the expression of it. Do not look to music to induce your worship; look to music as simply an expression of that which is induced by a heart that is rapt by the mercies of God, obedient to His commands.

True worship is God-centered worship. People tend to get caught up in where they should worship, what music they should sing in worship, and how their worship looks to other people. **Focusing on these things misses the point.** Jesus tells us that true worshipers will worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). This means we worship from the heart and the way God has designed. Worship can include praying, reading God's Word with an open heart, singing, participating in communion, and serving others. It is not limited to one act, but is done properly when the heart and attitude of the person are in the right place.

It's also important to know that worship is reserved only for God. Only He is worthy and not any of His servants (Revelation 19:10). We are not to worship saints, prophets, statues, angels, any false gods, or Mary, the mother of Jesus. We also should not be worshiping for the expectation of something in return, such as a

miraculous healing. Worship is done for God—because He deserves it—and for His pleasure alone. Worship can be public praise to God (Psalm 22:22; 35:18) in a congregational setting, where we can proclaim through prayer and praise our adoration and thankfulness to Him and what He has done for us. True worship is felt inwardly and then is expressed through our actions. "Worshiping" out of obligation is displeasing to God and is completely in vain. He can see through all the hypocrisy, and He hates it. He demonstrates this in Amos 5:21-24 as He talks about coming judgment. Another example is the story of Cain and Abel, the first sons of Adam and Eve. They both brought gift offerings to the Lord, but God was only pleased with Abel's. Cain brought the gift out of obligation; Abel brought his finest lambs from his flock. He brought out of faith and admiration for God.

True worship is not confined to what we do in church or open praise (although these things are both good, and we are told in the Bible to do them). True worship is the acknowledgment of God and all His power and glory in everything we do. The highest form of praise and worship is obedience to Him and His Word. To do this, we must know God; we cannot be ignorant of Him (Acts 17:23). Worship is to glorify and exalt God—to show our loyalty and admiration to our Father.

Pick at least 3 verses of chapter 33 & have your parent/teacher dictate them to you - Correct as needed

John 5 // Jesus & the Sabbath

First in John Chapter 5 we see Jesus have an interesting interaction with a man in verse 7. The man had no one to put him in the pool when it bubbles up? What does that mean? Is it possible that there were healing waters that could have saved this poor man? Did he truly need Jesus to heal him, or just someone to get him to the pool?

Question: "What happened at the Pool of Bethesda?"

Answer: The Pool of Bethesda was "in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate" (John 5:2), which places it north of the temple, near Fort Antonia. John gives the additional detail that the pool was "surrounded by five covered colonnades." During Jesus' time, the Pool of Bethesda lay outside the city walls. It was at this pool that Jesus performed a miracle showing that He is greater than any human malady and that superstition and religious folklore are foolish and feeble substitutes for faith in God.

The Pool of Bethesda was used in ancient times to provide water for the temple. The mention of the "Upper Pool" in 2 Kings 18:17 may be a reference to the Pool of Bethesda. Sometime during the Hasmonean Period, an additional pool was added to the original one.

The name of the pool, "Bethesda," is Aramaic. It means "House of Mercy." John tells us that "a great number of disabled people used to lie [there]—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed" (John 5:3). The covered colonnades would have provided

shade for the disabled who gathered there, but there was another reason for the popularity of the Pool of Bethesda. Legend had it that an angel would come down into the pool and "stir up the water." The first person into the pool after the stirring of the water "was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted" (John 5:4, NAS). The Bible does not teach that this actually happened—John 5:4 is not included in most modern translations because it is unlikely to be original to the text—rather, the superstitious belief probably arose because of the pool's association with the nearby temple.

On the day that Jesus visited the Pool of Bethesda, there was a man there who "had been an invalid for thirty-eight years" (John 5:5). Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed. The man replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me" (verse 7). Obviously, the man believed the urban legend about the stirring of the water. He blamed the fact that he was never healed on his tardiness in getting into the water. Jesus swept aside all superstition and bypassed altogether the need

for magic water with one command: “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk” ([John 5:8](#)). The man was instantly cured, and “he picked up his mat and walked” (verse 9). **The man did not need quicker reflexes or beneficent angels or enchanted water. The man needed Jesus.**

Amazingly, not everyone was happy about the man’s miraculous healing. The day Jesus healed the man at the poolside happened to be a Sabbath. As the man left Bethesda, the Jewish leaders saw him carrying his mat, and they stopped him: “It is the Sabbath,” they said. “The law forbids you to carry your mat” (John 5:10). The man told them that he was simply obeying orders: “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk’” (verse 11). The Jews inquired who would so brazenly promote Law-breaking, but “the man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd” (verse 13).

The reaction of the Jewish leaders shows that, no matter how much proof God provides, there will be some people who refuse to see the truth. Jesus was a bona fide Miracle Worker, but the religious leaders couldn’t see the miracle. All they could see was that someone had violated a rule. The issue was not the breaking of God’s command, for Jesus fulfilled the Law and was completely subject to it (Matthew 5:17). The only thing being broken was a pharisaical *interpretation* of one of God’s laws. So, a blessing meant to

increase faith only increased the blindness of those who refused to acknowledge the blessing.

The postscript to the story reveals that the man who was *physically* healed still needed some *spiritual* healing. “Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, ‘See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you’” (John 5:14). Jesus’ words are a rebuke of an unnamed sin—the man was living contrary to God’s will somehow— and a warning of “something worse.” What could be worse than thirty-eight years of paralysis? How about an eternity in hell (see Mark 9:47)?

Now that the man knew who Jesus was, he returned to the Jewish leaders and told them “it was Jesus who had made him well” (John 5:15). It is likely that the man did this in praise of Jesus, to magnify the glory due His name, and also from a sense of obligation—he had been asked a question and felt he should respond with the answer, once he had it. Little did he anticipate the reaction the leaders would have: “So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him” (verse 16).

The Pool of Bethesda was the focus of a local legend about healing, but Jesus showed that faith in legends and superstition is misplaced. In contrast, faith in Jesus Christ—the

One who can heal with a simple word, the Savior who can forgive any sin, the true Master of the “House of Mercy”—is never misplaced.

So now we see the Pharisees upset with Jesus over all of this happening on the Sabbath. What is the Sabbath?

According to [Exodus 20:8–11](#), the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, on which we are to rest, in remembrance that God created the universe in six days and then “rested” on the seventh day.

This is a big topic that many adults will argue until they’re blue in the face-- while we need to search the scriptures to weigh absolutely everything in our life, let’s remember these scriptures: Romans 14:5 & 1 Timothy 6:4

Question: “What does it mean to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy?”

Answer: The fourth of the ten commandments is “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8, ESV). Following the command are statements defining the Sabbath as “the seventh day” (verse 10), dedicating it to “the Lord your God” (verse 10), forbidding all work in it, applying it to everyone in Israel, and citing the basis for it: “For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy” (verse 11).

The Israelites under the Mosaic Law were to keep in mind that no work could be done on the seventh day of the week. If we parse the command, we can get a better picture of what it says:

Remember. This is the only command of the ten that starts with the word *remember*. This could mean that the Sabbath command had been given earlier—in fact, God had decreed a Sabbath rest in Exodus 16:22–30. Or the word *remember* could simply mean “keep this command in mind” with no reference to an earlier directive. Regardless, the word is emphatic; the children of Israel were not to grow lax in their observation of this command.

The Sabbath day. The word *Sabbath* comes from a Hebrew word meaning “day of rest.” The Bible specifies that this day of rest is the seventh day of the week, what we would call “Saturday,” or in the Israelite mindset, sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday. God set the pattern for the Sabbath rest in Genesis 2:2, ceasing from His work of creation on the seventh day. God’s action (or, rather, His inaction) in Genesis 2

foreshadowed the Law's command in Exodus 20:8.

To keep it holy. This four-word phrase in English is only one word in Hebrew. It means "consecrate," "set apart," or "sanctify." The Israelites were to make a distinction between the seventh day and the rest of the week. The Sabbath was different. It was to be dedicated to the Lord. The priests were to double the daily sacrifices on the Sabbath (Numbers 28:9–10), marking the day with increased sacred activity. The rest of the Israelites were to mark the day with decreased activity—no work at all—in honor of the Lord. The penalty for desecrating the Sabbath with work was death (Exodus 31:14; Numbers 15:32–36).

Keeping of the Sabbath was a sign of the covenant between Israel and the Lord: "You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come" (Exodus 31:13). As Israel kept the Sabbath set apart, they were reminded that they were also being set apart: "So you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy" (verse 13). Believers today, being under the New Covenant, are not bound to keep the sign of the Old Covenant.

An examination of New Testament passages shows us four important points: 1) Whenever Christ appears in His resurrected form and the day is mentioned, it is always the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1, 9, 10; Mark 16:9; Luke 24:1, 13, 15; John 20:19, 26). 2) The

only times the Sabbath is mentioned from Acts through Revelation, the occasion is Jewish evangelism, and the setting is usually a synagogue (Acts chapters 13–18). Paul wrote, "To the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews" (1 Corinthians 9:20). Paul did not go to the synagogue to fellowship with and edify the saints, but to convict and save the lost. 3) After Paul states, "From now on I will go to the Gentiles" (Acts 18:6), the Sabbath is never again mentioned. And 4) instead of suggesting adherence to the Sabbath day, the remainder of the New Testament implies the opposite (including the one exception to point 3, above, found in Colossians 2:16).

Looking more closely at point 4 above will reveal that there is no obligation for the New Testament believer to keep the Sabbath, and will also show that the idea of a Sunday "Christian Sabbath" is also unscriptural. As discussed above, there is one time the Sabbath is mentioned after Paul began to focus on the Gentiles, "Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ" (Colossians 2:16–17). The Jewish Sabbath was abolished at the cross where Christ "canceled the written code, with its regulations" (Colossians 2:14).

This idea is repeated more than once in the New Testament: “One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord” (Romans 14:5–6a). “But now that you know God — or rather are known by God — how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years” (Galatians 4:9–10).

Jesus is Lord even of the Sabbath. What does this mean? Another way to express the idea is to say Jesus is in charge of the Sabbath. He is God in human form, and He created the Sabbath day. As the One who wrote the law, Jesus certainly has oversight over how the law is to be enforced. The Pharisees had lifted their own rules to the level of God’s, placing onerous burdens on people, and they ended up rebuking the Lawgiver Himself.

Jesus is also the Lord of the Sabbath in that the Sabbath pointed to the rest Jesus provides. Jesus became our rest when He did all the work necessary for our salvation (Hebrews 4). He fulfilled the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 5:17). “Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes” (Romans 10:4). We rest, spiritually, in Him; He has secured our eternal blessing.

As believers, set free in Christ, we are not judged by whether or not we keep the Sabbath day (Colossians 2:16). Instead, we follow the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus Christ. We find our rest in Him, and seven days a week are filled with worship of Him.

So, looking at all of these scriptures-how do you feel about the Sabbath?

Share some thoughts here and discuss as a family. We look to scripture and prayer to help us in ALL things!

NATURE IN ACTION // BIBLE

For the next few months you can still use Mondays as your time to go on a Nature Walk- observe the changes in the months, journal about them, draw pictures of what you see, look up the new plants you notice, watch the birds, etc... It's always wonderful to spend time observing God's creation! We will also start working through a series from Middletown Bible Church called, 'Who Am I?'

Who Am I?

Who am I and what am I?

Am I an animal? a vegetable? a mineral? a person?

A **person** is one who has a body, bones, blood, a brain—along with many other things.

Do you have a body? Bodies come in different sizes and shapes (short, tall, skinny, fat), but do you have one?

Do you have bones? Can you feel any of them? Do you have a skull? Can you feel your skull?

In your skull, do you have a brain? Animals have brains also. Has God given you a better brain than your pet dog or your pet cat or your pet turtle?

Do you have blood? Can you see some of your veins on your arms or hands? Do you have a heart? Do you know where it is located? Can you feel it thumping?

Do you have muscles? Do you know the names of any of them (biceps, triceps, etc.)? If you raise your hand in class or pick up your pencil, are you using muscles?

Do you have nerves? If you pinch yourself, does it hurt? If you bite your tongue, do you feel pain?

The body is a wonderful thing. David once said, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." (Psalm 139:14 ESV). And yet, as you think about your body, **are you more than just a body?** Do you have a soul (see Matthew 10:28; Mark 8:36)? Is there a real **person** who lives in your body? If you lost an arm or a leg in an accident, would you still be the same person? If a doctor had to remove one of your lungs, would you still be the same person? If you were blind, would you still be the same person?

As a **person**, do you have a **will**? Do you make choices and decisions? Suppose your teacher tells you to hold up a piece of paper, and you obey. Why did you do this? Did someone else force you to do it or did you choose to do it

yourself? Do you ever choose **not** to do certain things? Have you made a decision to receive Christ as your personal Saviour? Have you made a decision to reject Christ as your personal Saviour?

As a **person**, do you have **emotions** (feelings)? Are there times when you feel sad, mad, or glad? Are there times when you laugh and times when you cry? Could you stand before your family and keep a straight face and not smile even though all of your family members would be making funny faces at you? Have you ever felt embarrassed? What has been your most embarrassing moment?

As a **person**, do you have an **intellect** (the ability to think and reason and use your mind)? What is 20 minus 2 divided by 9? _____ How did you get this answer? Could a horse figure that out? If a car can travel 30 miles with one gallon of gas, how many gallons would be needed to travel to a place 45 miles away? _____ Did you have to think to get this answer? What man never had a father and never had a mother (Genesis chapters 1 and 2)? _____ When this man was one day old did he look like a baby or did he look like a full grown man? _____ To answer these questions you must use your intellect!

Where Are You?

We have thought about who we are and what kind of person we are. Now we want to think about where we are in time. We also want to think about where we have been and where we are going.

Think about a baby. What is a baby like? How does a baby act? How does a baby spend his time? Were you a baby?

Think about a four or five year old. What is this young child like? Do you have brothers or sisters of this age? How do they act? Were you four years old once?

Think about someone in first, second or third grade. What is this person like? How do they act? What do they enjoy doing? Not too long ago, were you in this age group?

Think of your own age group. What are you like?

Think of teenagers. What are they like? What are some things that they enjoy doing? Do you have brothers or sisters who are teens? Will you be a teenager?

Think of young adults. Do you know people who are going to college? What are they like? How do they spend their time? Do you know of other young adults who have jobs? Will you be a young adult?

Think of older adults like your parents. What are they like? What do they enjoy doing? How do they spend their time? Think of elderly people like your grandparents. What are they like? What do they enjoy doing? How do they spend their time? Will you be older and old like them?

As we think about where we have been and where we are right now and where we are going, it helps us to see our movement and our growth in time.

Growing Up!

How did you get from birth to age four? Was it a big struggle to grow into a four-year-old? What major problems did you face back then? How did you get from age four to age seven? How did you manage to do that? Was it a struggle? What great problems did you face in growing up to age seven? How did you get from age seven to where you are now? How did you do it?

Let's look ahead. How are you going to go from where you are now to being a teenager? How are you going to go from a teen to a young adult? How are you going to go from a young adult to an older adult?

In all of this God has a purpose and a plan. God knows all about being born and living and growing. This is His plan for people (see Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). It's God's will for you to grow up and move on in life. God wanted you to be born and He wanted you to be a four year old and He wanted you to be a seven year old and He wants you to be the age you are right now! And God has a purpose and a plan for the rest of your life. As you go from one year to the next, God loves you and cares about each day and each step you take. God is involved in every birthday you have! God is involved in every day of your life.

Can you go forward and grow up to be all that God wants you to be and

all that you should be? The answer is yes, and here are the reasons:

1) You have come this far already! God has brought you to this place in time. You are a **person** and God's normal process for **all** persons is that they grow up. Even unsaved people must grow up and become older and go down the road of time.

2) You can trust God for His design and plan as you look ahead to each new day. You can walk with God and trust Him and let Him take you down the road of time. He's the great S_____ (Psalm 23:1) who can meet your needs as you go down life's road and He is the God who is able to direct your S_____ (Psalm 37:23). As you go through your childhood and through your teen years, you do not have to walk alone. The Lord Himself is there! He's even there before you get there! See Philippians 1:6 and John 10:4.

An Example To Learn From

There is a rare childhood disease called progeria. This is an unusual genetic disease that produces rapid aging in children. It makes a child grow old much faster than normal. This means that an eight year old boy would be tiny, wrinkled and bald like an old man. How would you like to look like a very old person at age eight? Usually people with this disease do not live very long.

A girl named Meg had the disease. When she was 26 years old she looked very old, but she was alive and happy. Her desire was to meet with younger people who had the same disease and encourage them. Here's what she wanted to tell them when she saw them:

"Hi. I'm Meg. I'm here. I'm 26. I've been very happy and you can be too!"

Heaven for Kids: Read pages 54-57 and complete the coordinating portion in the PDF (downloaded separately).

She wanted to give hope and happiness to others who had the same disease!

Here is a girl who had a growing up experience that was very different from yours. For her, to live one year was like living ten years. But what did she do? Did she give up? Did she commit suicide? Did she decide to be miserable all her life? Did she look in the mirror every day and feel sorry for herself? No! She decided to grow and live and be happy!

If Meg can face life in such a way, should not we be able to? If she is able to face each new day, should not we be able to do the same?

For how many years did the woman in Luke 8:43 have a physical problem? _____ What about the man in John 5:5? _____ Read Acts 3:2 and 4:22. How long was this man crippled? _____ These three people had to go down the road of time also.

As we think about these unusual physical problems and diseases, should we not **thank our God** for the health we have- even if it's not perfect? Should we not thank Him that we can be alive and happy at whatever age we are, no matter what problems we might face.

BIBLE CUSTOMS & MANNERS

Music And Sports

Music and sports are enjoyed by young and old alike. Many young people learn how to play a musical instrument (either through their school or through a private instructor). Others have had a part in a school or church choir. Almost every town has some kind of athletic program. Gym classes include athletic instruction, and there are school opportunities for sports involvement. There are also town leagues where young people can participate in various sports such as soccer, basketball, football and baseball. In this chapter we will learn that music and sports also had an important place in the lives of people who lived long ago.

Music

What would music have been like in a day before there were any pianos or guitars? Often when we hear music today, it comes through a radio or DVD player or some other kind of digital format. In Bible times none of these electrical devices had yet been invented.

Music and musical instruments appear early in the Bible, even in the book of Genesis. Can you find a verse in Genesis chapter 4 which tells of a

man who used two musical instruments? Verse _____

In Old Testament times, music was a form of celebration. When something tremendous and wonderful happens, do you ever feel like shouting and singing? What great thing did God do for the children of Israel in Exodus chapter 14?

After God did this, do you think the people wanted to celebrate? _____

In Exodus 15 and verse 1 we learn that Moses S_____ a S_____. Also in Exodus 15:20 we learn that Miriam (the sister of Moses) and other women took musical instruments and danced and sang. Who did they sing to (Exodus 15:21)? _____
Why did they sing and dance (Exodus 15:21)?

"for He has _____
_____."

Another great celebration is recorded in 1 Samuel 18:6. What had David just done to Goliath the Philistine (1 Samuel 17:50)? Was this a good reason to celebrate and rejoice?

_____ How did the women celebrate this great victory (see 1 Samuel 18:6)? Did they sing? _____ Did they dance? _____ Did they play musical instruments? _____

Did you know that someday there will be a celebration and a time of rejoicing that will never end? In Revelation 14:2-3 we see a heavenly scene. Is there any singing? _____ Are there any musical instruments? _____ Throughout eternity believers will have a great celebration (circle each one that is true):

1. Because of how wonderful man is
2. Because of how great God is
3. Because of what the Lord Jesus did on the cross
4. Because the Boston Red Sox (or whatever your favorite team might be) won the World Series
5. Because of who God is and what God has done

If you do not have a very good singing voice now, do you think God will provide you with a better voice when you are in your new body (if you are a believer)? _____ Musicians always practice before putting on their best performances. When is the best time for believers to practice for the great heavenly celebration?

The one person who probably did more for music than anyone else in the history of the world was DAVID. When King Saul wanted a man who could play well, what man was chosen

for the job (1 Samuel 16:17-19)? _____

What instrument did he play (1 Samuel 16:23)? _____ Actually this word "harp" does not really describe the large instrument that we call a harp today. David's harp was actually a LYRE (a much smaller stringed instrument which could be carried around easily). David's lyre probably had ten strings.

Not only was David a skilled musician, but he was also a skilled composer. Look at the beginning of some of the Psalms (in the middle of the Bible). Who wrote most of these beautiful Psalms? _____ The book of Psalms is actually a HYMN BOOK. The Psalms were put to music and sung. The singing was usually accompanied by a musical instrument. The Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples sang from this songbook, as we are told in Matthew 26:30 (the hymn that they sang was probably from Psalms 113-118).

In Bible times, there were three kinds of instruments just as there are today. There were stringed instruments (like David's lyre), there were percussion instruments (like cymbals, bells, timbrels) and there were wind instruments (like a flute, pipe or trumpet). Read Psalm 150, the last Psalm. Does God want us to praise Him with different kinds of instruments? _____

Music carries a powerful message. Background music is used in movies and on television programs to create

a mood. A scary scene is even more frightening because of the background music that is chosen. If the same scary scene is shown and if the musical sound effects are changed to something that is cheery and festive, then the scene would not seem nearly as scary. Music can create different moods and can strongly influence our feelings. If the producer of a movie wants to move his audience to tears, he uses a certain kind of music. If he wants the audience to feel good about a major war victory, then he chooses another kind of music. If he wants to keep his audience in suspense, then he chooses a kind of music that will keep people on the edge of their seats. Music can influence us in many ways.

When God's people worship God, they must remember that God is HOLY. He deserves our reverence and respect because of how great He is. The worship service should be GOD-CENTERED, and not man-centered. The music should be that which creates a mood of reverence and respect for the greatness of our HOLY GOD. (Psalm 111:9) "Be _____, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

The Bible also speaks about people DANCING. We have already seen that certain women danced during times of great celebration. Dancing was an expression of joy. Sometimes people are so excited and so filled with gladness that they actually leap for joy and begin moving their body in a rhythmic way. Who do we find

dancing in 2 Samuel 6:14? Was he filled with gladness (verse 12)? _____ Did he shout (verse 15)? _____ Did he leap (verse 16)? _____

When the Bible talks about DANCING it is never talking about the kind of dancing people do today (as when a man and woman dance together as a couple). If you want to see the kind of dancing that people did in Bible times, watch the crowd at a football game right after the home team wins the game in the final seconds of play. Do you think you will see people leaping and shouting and dancing around?

When we sing (especially in church), how important are the words? Does God want us to understand what we are singing (1 Corinthians 14:15)? _____ When we sing, who should we sing to (Exodus 15:1)? _____

Think about the music that you hear on the radio. What kind of words do you hear? Are they words that will help you to become a better person? Are the words of the song encouraging you to think in the right way? Is the music uplifting and inspiring and soothing to your heart so that you can think clearly and act rightly? The song that Moses sang contained words which told how great God is (see Exodus 15:11). Think of some of the bad music that is found on the radio. Would you want to sing these songs someday in heaven when you are in the presence of Jesus? _____

What about the people who sing most of the popular songs that are heard on the radio. Are these people able to say, "The LORD is my song!" (see Exodus 15:2)? Are these people who love the Lord and who want to worship God? Is the music similar to what you might hear at a song service in church or is it similar to what you might hear in a dark jungle of Africa and in other parts of the world where there are tribal societies? In Ecclesiastes 7:5 we learn that it is better to hear the rebuke of the wise (hear a wise man tell you what you are doing wrong) than to hear the _____ of _____.

Think also of the dances of today. Do people go to these dances to celebrate how great God is? Are the people who attend these dances all excited about the great things that the Lord Jesus has done for them when He died on the cross? What kind of music is usually played at these dances? What kind of words are usually sung? What kind of songs does God want to fill the believer's heart with (Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19)?

God wants every believer to be a musical instrument that will play for Him! To do this, we must be in tune with God and in a right relationship with God. Just as David's lyre did just what David wanted it to do, and it played just what David wanted it to play, so also God wants to use us as His instrument. Are you willing to let

God use you (use your hands, feet, eyes, ears, brain, lips and every other part of you)? See Romans 6:13.

Can a guitar be used for the Lord? Can a guitar be used in the wrong way? Can a piano be used for the glory of God? An organ? A trumpet? Can these instruments be used in wrong ways? Can a person's voice and hands and feet be used for the Lord? Can these things be used in the wrong ways?

The living God lives in the heart and in the soul of every person who is a believer (Revelation 3:20; John 1:12; John 14:17; Romans 8:9). The living God uses **His Word, the Bible** to instruct us and to teach us. As one plays the piano and follows the sheet music, so the believer follows God's Word the Bible.

Sports

Could you imagine living in a world where there was no baseball, no tennis, no basketball, no football, no bowling, no hockey and no volleyball? What would life have been like without any World Series or Super Bowl?

As we read the Bible, we learn that the Jewish people were not very involved with sports and athletics. The Jews were very skilled at ARCHERY (see 1 Samuel 20:20-22) and at throwing stones from a sling (see Judges 20:16 and 1 Samuel 17:50), but these were

things the men did to prepare themselves for hunting or for warfare. Fishing and hunting, considered sports today, were necessary means of livelihood in Bible times. Back then people were skilled in these areas so that they could survive, not so that they could win a fishing derby or a hunting contest.

Though the Jewish people were not very involved in sports and athletic games, the Greek people were. The most famous of the Greek games were the Olympic games (and as you know, the Olympics are still held today). The Olympic games were held every four years at Olympia in honor of the god ZEUS. The events included running (both short and long distances), discus throwing, leaping, spear-throwing, wrestling and boxing. Thus the Olympic games were very similar to track and field events that we have today.

Every sport has certain rules that must be followed and the athlete must follow the rulebook. What RULEBOOK does the Christian athlete need to follow (2 Timothy 3:16-17)?

Prizes were given to the winners of the athletic events. At the Olympics it became a custom to give the winners a wreath made from the leaves of what was considered to be the sacred wild olive tree. This wreath was known as a "crown." Today we usually present a ribbon or medal or trophy to the winner of an athletic contest. In New

Testament times they presented this victory crown or wreath. Since the wreath was made of leaves, it would soon wither and fade. What is different about the crown which God will give to His faithful servants who have run the race of life well (1 Corinthians 9:25 and 1 Peter 5:4)?

There was another kind of amusement which the Romans really enjoyed. These were called the Roman gladiatorial shows. Today some people think that sports like football and boxing are too rough and that there are too many injuries that take place as bodies smash together and as men tackle each other and as boxers punch each other in the head until one is knocked out. But these sports are nothing compared to the Roman gladiatorial shows.

The Romans put condemned criminals and especially Christians in the middle of a large amphitheater before a huge crowd (somewhat like the crowds that gather to watch football games today). They would then release lions, bears, elephants or tigers and watch the poor victims be torn to pieces by the animals. Many of God's faithful believers met their death in this way. Should we be thankful today for the freedom to worship God as Christians without the fear of such brutal and cruel treatment from the government? _____ Also in the amphitheater or arena they would have gladiators

fight each other to the death. It was either kill or be killed.

In 1 Timothy 4:8 Paul talks about exercising the body. Physical exercise is useful and profitable. It might help a person to feel better and sleep better. It might help a person to gain strength and to lose weight. But bodily exercise is only profitable in this life. Sooner or later, what is going to happen to our bodies?

Think of the greatest athlete who is playing some sport today. Will he still

be playing 20 years from now? _____
 Will his body get older and weaker? _____
 Will he die someday? _____

There is another kind of exercise that is profitable and useful not only for this life but also for the life to come. What kind of exercise is this

(1 Timothy 4:7-8)?

Let us consider the care and exercise that we give to our body and compare it with the care and exercise that we give to our soul:

<i>PHYSICAL EXERCISE FOR THE BODY</i>	<i>GODLY EXERCISE FOR THE SOUL</i>
---	--

1) I exercise (sit-ups and pushups and running) to strengthen my body.	1) What are some things I can do to strengthen my soul and make me a stronger person? _____ _____ _____
2) I wash and I take baths and showers to keep my body clean.	2) What do I need to do to keep soul clean? What should I do about the sin that stains my life? _____ _____ _____

<p>3) I eat the right kinds of food to give my body the nourishment and the energy it needs.</p>	<p>3) What kind of spiritual food should I eat to give my soul the nourishment and health that it needs?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>4) I try to avoid eating junk food because it is not very good for me.</p>	<p>4) What are some things that I should not feed my soul with if want to be strong and healthy on the inside?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>5) When I have health problems I go to a doctor who knows how to help me.</p>	<p>5) When I have spiritual problems who should I go to for help?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Share 5 points you learned from today's Bible Customs & Manners study:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

DAY 42 // WEEK 9

Genesis 34 // The Danger of Intermarriage

Parent Discretion Required!

Question: "Who was Dinah in the Bible?"

Answer: Dinah was the daughter born to Jacob from his first wife, Leah (Genesis 30:21). When Jacob returned to his homeland after working for his father-in-law, Laban, for over 20 years, he settled in a place called Shechem. Dinah was a young woman at this time.

Genesis 34 gives the account of Dinah's venture into the city to visit the women there. When Shechem, the son of the city ruler, saw her, he raped her. Verse 3 says that he was drawn to her and wanted her for a wife. Shechem appealed to his father, Hamor, to get her for him.

When Dinah's brothers heard that their sister had been defiled, they were furious. Hamor, ruler of the city of Shechem, went to speak with Jacob about getting Dinah for his son. Shechem himself offered a great sum: "I will give you whatever you ask. Make the price for the bride and the gift I am to bring as great as you like, and I'll pay whatever you ask me" (Genesis 34:11-12). The Bible does not record Jacob's reaction but follows the story of his sons. They intentionally deceived Hamor and Shechem, pretending to work out a deal with them. Jacob's sons told the

ruler of Shechem that they could not give their sister to a man who was not circumcised—but if Shechem and all the men of the city would be circumcised as the Israelites were, they could intermarry from then on (verses 13-17).

Shechem was so taken with Dinah that he and his father agreed to this. Because Jacob's household was so wealthy and large, the men of Shechem thought it would be to their benefit to incorporate this family. So everyone agreed to be circumcised. Genesis 34:25-26 say, "Three days later, while all of them were still in pain, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male. They put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword and took Dinah from Shechem's house and left." Then the other brothers looted the city, carrying away everything, including their women and children (verses 27-29).

When Jacob learned what his sons had done, he was horrified. He knew when word got out to the nations around them, they would be in trouble (Genesis 34:30). His sons replied that they had vindicated the men who treated their sister like a prostitute (verse 31). The next few

chapters of Genesis record Jacob moving his family, at God's instruction (Genesis 35:1), to new lands. Nothing more is heard of Dinah in the Bible.

This topic brings to question the next topic-- does the Bible recommend and teach us to take justice into our own hands?

Question: "Should a Christian be a vigilante?"

Answer: A vigilante is a person who takes it upon himself to enforce laws or to provide justice in situations where no justice seems possible. Vigilantes operate without proper legal authority, and they often depend on their own notions of right and wrong with no concern for what is truly just. Vigilantes skip due process, sometimes with the belief that law enforcement is inadequate or unavailable and that their intervention is necessary to maintain a peaceful existence. The irony is that, as a vigilante seeks to bring lawbreakers to justice, he becomes a lawbreaker himself.

Many popular super heroes of fiction such as Spider-man, Batman, and the Punisher are really nothing more than flamboyant vigilantes. Because they fight crime and bring otherwise untouchable villains to justice, they are lauded as heroes; their popularity shows that a sense of justice runs

deep in the human psyche. We crave justice.

The Bible contains examples of vigilantes at work. Notably, Simeon and Levi avenged the rape of their sister, Dinah, by killing all the men in the city where the rapist lived (Genesis 34). Phineas could be considered a vigilante when he defended the Lord's honor and put an end to the immorality and idolatry running rampant in the Israelites' camp (Numbers 25). The Mosaic Law stipulated the limitations placed on vigilantes ("avengers of blood") and provided the accused with the right to a trial before the assembly (Numbers 35). During the time of the judges, before the monarchy was established in Israel, "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6, ESV), and men like Samson practiced vigilantism. Later, Absalom, acting as a vigilante, murdered his half-brother Amnon (2 Samuel 13). It should be noted that the Bible's inclusion of historical accounts of the deeds of vigilantes does not constitute blanket approval of vigilantism.

Vigilantes were common during the years of Western expansion along the American frontier. Law and order was often slow in reaching the outposts of civilization. In the absence of reliable law enforcement, justice—or what was perceived as justice—was often meted out by citizens who, for good or ill, took the law into their own hands. After the Civil War, vigilante groups such as the Ku Klux Klan used

violence and intimidation tactics to resist new laws that freed the slaves. In more modern times, vigilantes have attacked logging sites, abortion clinics, and other focal points of controversy in a belief that they follow a higher law than what is stated in the U.S. legal code.

There are some cases where intervening in an active crime situation is the only right choice. For example, a man sees an old woman being mugged. The Bible's commands to defend the weak require that the man come to the old woman's rescue (Psalm 82:3). But does that command extend beyond reactive defense to include proactive vigilantism?

The heart of most acts of vigilantism is contrary to Scripture. Vigilantes act outside the purview of the law, which is problematic for Christians. Also, vigilantism often gives way to mob rule, and the out-of-control actions of a lynch mob hardly if ever lead to true justice.

"The authorities that exist have been established by God" (Romans 13:1). The authority in free countries is the law, which even a nation's leaders and judges must obey. In most cases, to bypass due process is to flout the law. It is the government's duty "to bring punishment on the wrongdoer" (Romans 13:4; cf. 1 Peter 2:14); it is the Christian's duty "to submit to the authorities" (Romans 13:5; cf. 1 Peter 2:13). Christians should be exemplary in their law-abiding behavior. Except in rare situations, there is no need to

resort to vigilantism. There are better ways to resolve perceived injustice. The Christian is obligated to "show proper respect to everyone, . . . fear God, honor the emperor" (1 Peter 2:17), and he prays "for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:2).

Discuss as a family and handle as you feel is fitting - some chapters are tough and require much prayer for discernment and direction as we teach our children.

Psalm 34 // Wisdom & Thanksgiving

Our NLT Illustrated Study Bible notes this for chapter 34 of the Psalms:

This wisdom psalm includes a thanksgiving psalm (34:1-7) that celebrates the Lord's care for and protection of godly sufferers. It also includes an invitation to wisdom (34:8-14) and an exposition of wisdom concerning the Lord's care for the needy and the suffering of the wicked (34:15-22).

This is an amazing Psalm- a great one to memorize and recite often! There is one thing we ARE promised in this life as followers of Christ- do you know what it is? Let's read this article, these scriptures and discuss the realities spoken here:

The Bible actually promises us persecution and suffering for our faith. The world is in rebellion against

God. It hates God, and when he came as a man in the person of Jesus Christ, the world responded by murdering him. Jesus promised us that the world would treat us the way it treated him (John 15:20, ESV).

The first followers of Jesus consistently experienced suffering for the sake of Jesus, in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1), Galatia (Gal. 3:4), Philippi (Phil. 1:29), Thessalonica (1 Thess. 2:14), and Asia Minor (1 Peter 4:12), along with the recipients of the letter to the Hebrews (Heb. 10:32). Paul went through horrible suffering (2 Cor. 11:23–29), as did the other apostles (Acts 5–8). Paul was quite explicit in saying this was to be expected by everyone who follows Jesus (2 Tim. 3:12, ESV). In the Bible, suffering and opposition are a normal part of the normal Christian life.

The comfortable experience of Christians in the West has actually been an anomaly in this regard. Because of the Christian heritage of Western civilization, combined with democratic freedoms and historic rule of law, Western Christians have largely been left alone for their faith. Even today, as Western nations become increasingly post-Christian (and even anti-Christian), the opposition experienced by most Christians goes little beyond mockery. However, there are signs that this protected status may be changing. If it continues to do so, it will simply put Western Christians in the same boat as their brothers and sisters all over the world.

Today, in Islamic, Hindu, and Communist parts of the world, being a follower of Jesus means, at best, losing your job and being rejected by your family. At worst, it can mean imprisonment, beating, and even death. These things are being experienced all over the world right now by our brothers and sisters in Jesus.

People who have been given a realistic sense of what it means to follow Jesus, and who have counted the cost, will make much steadier disciples.

How to Prepare for the Reality of Suffering as a Christian

Here are three points that can prepare you for such a fate:

1. First, Christian workers need to examine their own hearts, searching for any sense of entitlement. As Paul advised Timothy, they need to be prepared to “share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God” (2 Tim. 1:8, ESV). They will do this, not by cultivating stoicism or asceticism, but by concentrating long and hard on “the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:8, ESV), who is better, more valuable, and more delightful

- than anything we lose by following him.
2. We need to share the gospel the way Jesus did, by making the cost of discipleship clear (Luke 9:57-62). People who have been given a realistic sense of what it means to follow Jesus, and who have counted the cost, will make much steadier disciples. And lest we fear that such a sobering presentation of the gospel will keep people from being saved, we need to realize two things. First, we are offering Jesus, not a cozy life, and Jesus really is better than all of the good things of this world combined. Second, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that draws people to Jesus, not our attractive packaging of the message.
 3. We need to include the subject of suffering well in our immediate follow-up with new believers.
 - Followers of Jesus should not be surprised or caught off guard by suffering (1 Peter 4:12).
 - They need to endure suffering without compromising their integrity (2 Tim. 4:5; 1 Peter 2:19).
 - They must love their persecutors and pray for their welfare (Matt. 5:43-47).
 - They are to renounce any intention to take revenge (Rom. 12:14-21).

- They are to trust God in the middle of their suffering and respond by proactively doing good (1 Peter 4:19).
- They are to use their experiences of suffering as a basis for comforting others who suffer (2 Cor. 1:3-7).
- They are to fix their eyes on Jesus (Heb. 12:1-3).
- And they are commanded to rejoice. "Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings" (1 Peter 4:13).

As followers of Jesus, we do not rejoice in suffering because we enjoy pain, but because Jesus is so worthy in our eyes and hearts that we delight in being identified with him. All suffering is temporary. It isn't worth comparing with the glory that awaits us (2 Cor. 4:16). In that place of glory, all pain and suffering will be gone forever (Rev. 21:4).

(By Zane Pratt of imb.org)

Discuss this- how does a life like you're offered help your walk with Jesus? How can this type of culture hinder your walk? Have you ever thought of that? Remember the story of the rich man - it is very difficult to have much in this world and still live for the Lord. It is very easy to become caught up in the world when our life is focused on the treasures in this world vs. focusing on the treasure in Heaven that Jesus is preparing for us all. This isn't to say that we aren't

allowed to have or enjoy anything in this life, but it's your heart and your focus/priorities.

Have your teacher dictate Psalm 34:20-22 to you. Review and correct as needed.

Bonus points: Where do you see a hint of Jesus in those verses?

John 6 // Jesus & Passover

This is another area where understanding all the things of the Old Testament is so important as we learn and understand the things in the New Testament- this is ONE complete story! All of these special Holy Days that we'll be learning about in Leviticus were all to point TOWARDS the Messiah! Jesus! They were *FOR* him and fulfilled *BY* him! With the story of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection we'll see all of the spring events fulfilled- where all the fall feasts are the ones we look forward to seeing fulfilled when Jesus returns!

Each story in chapter 6 uses the setting of the Passover event (which we'll study later this year!) to communicate a deeper meaning. Let me share a few notes of interest:

V. 1-15: Jesus feeding the 5,000 reminds us of Exodus 16. Go look that up if you're not familiar. Just as God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness after they escaped from slavery in Egypt (when Moses parted

the Red Sea and led them out for 40 years) so God provided again in this example of Jesus feeding thousands from 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.

V. 5: Just like the concern for provisions and food in Exodus 15:22 - 16:3, we see Jesus ask here "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?"

V. 11: Just like Exodus 16:35, the people (5,000 men PLUS the women and children!) had PLENTY to eat! They were fed to a comfortable full state by this miraculous provision of food.

V. 14: When they saw him do this, because these Jews knew all about Moses and the promises made through the Prophets (see Deuteronomy 18:15-22) the people knew that Jesus was the prophet they were expecting!

V. 15: The people then were ready for the Messiah to take over and become king- but Jesus knew this is not how it was to be. So he left the scene, as we see him do often. The Old Testament tells of something like TWO Messiahs- one is a suffering servant, and the other a righteous ruler. The Jews were ready for the righteous ruler but didn't understand that first he must come as the suffering servant.

V. 19: Now with a storm risen up the disciples see something MUCH more fearsome than a bad storm-- Jesus walking ON the water! This act recalled Moses, who led Israel

through the water in Exodus 14. Also, see Psalm 77:19-20.

V. 20: The "I AM" statement- this name Jesus used here is the name God revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai in Exodus Exodus 3:14.

V. 21: You may have heard of "teleporting" before, yet Jesus has already been here working miracles like that. IMMEDIATELY they were there. Neat, huh?

V. 26-59: The Jews would have been reading the scriptures of Exodus in preparation for the Passover event during their synagogue services.

V. 27: Jesus is explaining to them that the work he is there to do is much deeper- it is the heart, the soul and

the things that are ETERNAL. It's not merely just the physical stuff we see around us now.

V. 30-33: These show us that they still refused to understand. Jesus fed them, just as God provided the manna from Heaven during Moses' time in the wilderness with the Jews- now Jesus (who is fully God and fully man) again provided not only physical bread, but the bread of life that we receive once we accept him as God's son and the source of our salvation.

V. 70: What do we notice here? We see that Jesus is speaking of Judas, but he already knew what Judas would do!

Writer's Tea Time // Baking

Writing Blitz!

We are going to spend the next 8 weeks doing the Brave Writer "7 Day Writing Blitz!" Parents, go to this site: <https://go.bravewriter.com/writing-blitz> and sign up to receive your free instruction packet. We are going to take each day from the packet and use those activities on our Writer's Tea Time day- and through the week! Today is Day 1! (The daily [weekly] activities are included here- adapt as needed for your children- but download the free PDF from the link above for all the info from Brave Writer!)

Pumpkin Bread

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, spooned into measuring cup and leveled-off
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1-1/2 sticks (3/4 cup) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 15-oz can 100% organic pumpkin

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 325°F and set an oven rack in the middle position. Generously grease two 8 x 4-inch loaf pans with butter and dust with flour (alternatively, use a baking spray with flour in it, such as Pam with Flour or Baker's Joy).
2. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, salt, baking soda, baking powder, cloves, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Whisk until well combined; set aside.
3. In a large bowl of an electric mixer, beat the butter and sugar on medium speed until just blended. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Continue beating until very light and fluffy, a few minutes. Beat in the pumpkin. The mixture might look grainy and curdled at this point -- that's okay.
4. Add the flour mixture and mix on low speed until combined.
5. Turn the batter into the prepared pans, dividing evenly, and bake for 65 – 75 minutes, or until a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean. Let the loaves cool in the pans for about 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely

DAY 43 // WEEK 9

Genesis 35 // Jacob's Return

We see a few milestones (large markers during the course of one's life) in Chapter 35. We see Jacob called by the Lord to move to _____, we see Jacob instruct his family to purify themselves & remove all idols of the false gods they were worshiping, and then we see deaths and births. An interesting note is in Verse _____ God renames Jacob! Just like we saw with Abram & Sarai becoming Abraham and Sarah. But why does this keep happening?

Question: "Why is Jacob called Jacob and Israel alternately in the book of Genesis?"

Answer: Among those individuals renamed in the Old Testament under various circumstances, God Himself renamed only a few. These are Abram (Genesis 17:5), Sarai (Genesis 17:15), and Jacob (Genesis 32:28; 35:9-10), who became known as Abraham, Sarah, and Israel, respectively. The names *Jacob* and *Israel* are used alternately throughout Scripture in reference to the second son of Isaac.

Jacob's birth name, *Jacob*, means "supplanter, deceiver"; it was given to him because, when Jacob was born as the second of a set of twins, "his hand [was] grasping [his twin's] heel" (Genesis 25:26). True to his name, Jacob grew up as a conniver, deceiver, and cheat, and he eventually supplanted his brother's position as heir to the birthright.

After Jacob's struggle with the Lord at Peniel, the Lord gave Jacob a new name: *Israel*. And God gave the

reason: "Because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome" (Genesis 32:28). Later, God appears to Jacob/Israel again in Bethel, reaffirms the name change, and gives him the same covenant that Abraham had received (Genesis 35:9-12). Thus the "heel-catcher" became "one who struggles with God." It was before he met with God in Bethel that Jacob purposefully put away his idols and purified himself (verse 2).

After the name change, some passages in Genesis refer to Jacob as "Jacob" (Genesis 33:1; 34:7; 35:15; 37:1) and others as "Israel" (Genesis 35:21; 37:3; 43:6; 46:1). Some have suggested that the name *Jacob* represents his old nature and *Israel* his new. That is, he is called "Jacob" when functioning in his carnal old nature, but he is called "Israel" when he is acting out of his new nature. There could be limited merit in this suggestion in some passages, and it would parallel the Christian's experience as presented in Ephesians 4:22-24.

In the end, however, it is best not to make too much of the Jacob/Israel distinction, since some passages include both *Jacob* and *Israel* within the same immediate context (e.g., Genesis 37:1-3). Also, there are several psalms that use both names side by side: "Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!" (Psalm 53:6) and "He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel" (Psalm 78:5). The parallelism of the poetry identifies the names *Jacob* and *Israel* as synonymous, and both names can represent the nation as well as the individual.

Do you know what the meaning of your name is? Where did your name come from? Look up the meaning and origin of your name and write them out.

Name: _____

Meaning: _____

Do you feel that meaning is accurate to the person you are and your character/nature?

What do you think you could change your name to, is that meaning more fitting?

Psalm 35 // A Psalm of David

Do you know very much about King David? We talk about him often in scripture because he is a key character- but not because he was perfect. We see here in Psalm 35 that he had struggles, he had a great deal of "bad times" in his life!

We will read all about them and study them all through the next few years of school- but I want you to list 5 things that you think you learned about King David and his life after reading today's Psalm. (If you know a lot about his life, share events that he could be referring to from the verses we read today.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

John 7 // Jesus and Sukkot

Just like John 6 walked us through Jesus and some of his works during a Jewish Holy Day- now we will see the same for the time of the fall feast Sukkot- or the Festival of Shelters/Booths!

This Holy Day is celebrated in the fall- it is the last of the 7 appointed times. Passover is the first, with Sukkot being the last. First and last- interesting for the Apostle John to share them like this.

This festival is very exciting! It's one of my favorite to celebrate and look forward to! Read Zechariah 14:16-21. DO you understand what that is saying?

YES! This period the prophet Zechariah is talking about is the future that we all have to look

forward to! After the rapture of the church (when those who are alive and remain on Earth will be *caught up* to be with the Lord), the great tribulation, and then the **RETURN** of Jesus (and all believers with Him) - Jesus will rule and reign here on the Earth for 1,000 years (often called the Millennial Reign) and we will **LITERALLY** celebrate this festival of Sukkot IN JERUSALEM, WITH JESUS! How amazing is that?!

Now let's look at John 7 and see what we can learn about Jesus and His fulfillment in regards to this Holy Day celebration.

V. 2: Leviticus 23:33-44 describe this Holy Day. All men were required to come to the Temple, this was 6 months after Passover, and the focus of this week long festival was that all Jews lived in little temporary shelters (like open tents) as a time of remembering the 40 years spent in the wilderness with Moses before they entered into the Holy Land.

V. 3-5: Jesus' brothers are reminding him of the fact that he HAS to go to the Temple- but their words aren't very kind because at this point they still did not believe in him as the Messiah.

V. 15: Jesus was not trained by a Rabbi, like was the custom of that time. Who trained Jesus in the ways of the Lord? God the Father of course! Compare that to Paul in Acts 22:3.)

V. 17: Those who TRULY want to do the will of God receive and accept Jesus and His teachings. Those who focus on the world, however, are **not** receptive of Christ.

V. 30: We see multiple times through the gospels that they religious leaders *wanted* to arrest Jesus but were unable to. In every situation, who is truly in control? God the Father. So the perfect timing and order of all events will not happen of our own doing in some way that God is not prepared for- he is sovereign over every single thing.

V. 37-38: A water ceremony was held each day during Sukkot. These ceremonies were accompanied with prayer for God to send rain in the late autumn. (Remember- there were no grocery stores and fast food! All people were VERY dependent upon good harvests from healthy & full crops to supply enough food for them and their livestock.) On the final day of Sukkot, called 'the great day', they reached the climax- the build up - the HIGH point, of the whole event. The ceremony was repeated seven times where they poured water out onto the altar and the Levites (the tribe from which the priests came from) sang Isaiah 12:3. But who is the source of the **LIVING WATER**? Jesus, of course! He was giving everyone there an open invitation to accept HIM as the Messiah and then receive eternal life!

V. 41-42, 52: The people here were so caught up in what they *thought* they

understood to even see clearly that Jesus was the true fulfillment of all the prophecies! What are the odds that one man could even attempt to fulfill all of these things?! That would be impossible! Especially when all of these prophecies below written about where the Messiah would come from were TRULY fulfilled by Jesus!

The prophet Micah said in chapter 5 verse 2 that the Messiah would come from **Bethlehem**- which is also the hometown of King David.

But...

In Isaiah 9:1-7 it talks of the Messiah being in **Galilee**.

But...

Hosea 11:1 says that "out of **Egypt** I called my son" - We know that after the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream when Jesus was a small child they fled to Egypt where they lived, and Jesus was raised, until the angel reappeared and told them to return to Israel.

We can see how this **ONE** Messiah has his roots from these **THREE** places. He was born in Bethlehem, he then grew up for a period of time in Egypt, and then lived his life in Galilee (therefore being called a Galileean).

Now Jesus couldn't have planned that out if he was just a normal human and not God at all, and certainly Hosea, Isaiah and Micah had no control over those things they

wrote long before Jesus was born. Isn't it amazing to see how God works?! He knew every step, every piece of the puzzle that would come together perfectly. We can look through the books from the prophets and see all these puzzle pieces of God's total story and piece them together bit by bit.

Copywrite (or have a parent dictate) Isaiah 12 to you today. What do you think it means when it says "in that day"? What day? When is this happening? Is this something in the past that has already happened, or something we have to look forward to? (The end of the chapter gives us a huge clue- is the _____ One of _____ living literally among us today?)

CRAFTING IN ACTION // MATH

Last month we worked on really assessing what we own, why we own it, and clearing out the excess to give to those truly in need. This should be an ongoing process in which you start to think about the stuff that you bring into your home (Do you REALLY need this? Is this the best use of your resources and time?) and being open and giving to let stuff also flow back OUT of your home and to a neighbor in need! (Even if it's the local thrift store that will help that neighbor in need attain it.)

This month I want to work on skills- crafting with our hands- that have a place in the real world that we'll use in our life. Think about the things we need to know how to do- run household appliances (oven, dishwasher, washer & dryer, etc...), change a light bulb, fix a toilet, paint a room, change a lock, change the oil or a flat tire on the car, checkout at the store, find the correct clothes, make a budget and stick to it, make your bed, clean the house, build a fire, clean the gutters, make something from scratch, sew or knit- the list goes on and on.

Pick 4 specific tasks/skills and list them out- Each Wednesday spend some time as a family learning how to work on one of these. Ask for help, Youtube instructional videos, etc... but add to the list of skills that your kids can all work with their hands and properly complete. These things will come in handy more than you know, and what a blessing you can be to your family- and others- with this knowledge and workmanship!

Skill #1: _____

Skill #2: _____

Skill #3: _____

Skill #4: _____

Complete the math lesson on the following pages- visit our website if you need to access a different level.

DAY 44 // WEEK 9

Genesis 36 // Esau's Descendants

We saw at the end of Chapter 35 where Jacob's sons were listed- these 12 sons will be VERY important in passages to come. But today we're seeing the account of Esau's children and the lines that come from him.

There are a few neat things to notice here (besides a bunch of really odd names we probably can't say correctly), but one is that we see Esau's children were born IN the land of Canaan, while Jacob's were born outside of the land and then were brought back into it. We see this type of imagery in many places throughout scripture.

Another name for Esau is Edom- you will see, quite often, the term 'Edomites' used as they were most usually coming up against the Israelites. Just like the rocky relationship from the womb with Israel (Jacob) and Esau- we see that continue on through the generations with the Israelites and the Edomites.

We see that 13 of Esau's descendants had positions of power and were leaders of various clans. This gives us some insight into the power and leadership that Esau had- one Biblical commentary notes him as a "grand overlord of many tribes".

Meanwhile, Jacob was still waiting on the fulfillment of his promises and was living as a foreigner, like his father.

Psalm 36 // A Psalm of David to the servant of the Lord

Psalm 36 is a very deep Psalm. Verses 1-4 even, oh how we see that everywhere in the world today! Verses 5-6 are still sung in songs written in these modern times.

Have your teacher dictate verses 9-10 to you. Correct any mistakes when you're done and then write it on a postcard or something you can keep out to be reminded of often.

'Give justice to those with honest hearts' - do you have an honest heart? Recite these verses over and over so that you remember them- think of them as you go about your days and let that be a reminder to you as you make decisions and choose your actions and words.

John 8 // "I AM he"

We cover a few things in this chapter so let's break them down by section with these resources from Middletown Bible Church.

A Woman Caught in Adultery:

****Parents, Use discernment as you see fitting.**

The Guilty One

One day as Jesus was teaching in the temple, the Jewish leaders brought to Him a woman who had been caught in the act of _____ (John 8:3). This means that she had sexual relations with someone who was not her husband. Did these Jews know for sure that this woman was guilty of adultery or did they just think that she might be guilty (John 8:4)?

Was this woman guilty of breaking one of the 10 Commandments (see Exodus 20:12-16)?

According to the law of Moses what should be done to a person who is found guilty of adultery (see John 8:5; Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22,24)?

Guilty lawbreakers deserve DEATH!

These Jews were trying to trap Jesus (John 8:6). They were after Him! They wanted to lead Him into a trap that He could not get out of! Here is how the trap worked: If Jesus said, "She should *not* be stoned," then He would be going against and contradicting the law of Moses. On

the other hand, if Jesus said, "She should be stoned," then He would lose favor with the people because they considered Jesus to be a friend of sinners (compare Matthew 11:19). *Note:* He might also be accused of promoting a policy contrary to Rome because only Rome could execute the death sentence. This is why the Jews could not put Christ to death themselves. Rome had to do it (see John 18:31).

These Jews thought they finally had Christ caught! But as we shall soon see, they fell right into their own trap!

The Guilty Ones

The Jews were eagerly awaiting Christ's answer so that they could accuse Him. After making them wait a few moments (John 8:6) Jesus finally gave His answer. What did He tell those who had brought this woman (see John 8:7)?

- a. "She should be stoned."
- b. "She should not be stoned."
- c. "She did not do anything worthy of death."

d. Jesus told them who should throw the first stone.

According to Jesus, who should throw the first stone (John 8:7)?

Was the first stone ever thrown (John 8:8-9)? _____ Were any of these people "without sin"? _____ They were ALL sinners and they all knew it! And because of their sin they were *all* worthy of death! Instead of looking at this sinful woman, Jesus made these Jews look at their own lives. **People can often see sin in the lives of others but they are blind to the sin in their own life.** Sins are like headlights on a car--those of others always seem more glaring than our own.

It is true that this woman was a lawbreaker, but so were the men who caught her and brought her to Jesus. In John 7:19 this is what Jesus told the Jews: "none of you _____ the law." Who is the only perfect and righteous Person (John 7:18)?

Jesus, the Light of the World:

Angered Because He Claimed to be the Light of the World

Can you find the verse in John chapter 8 (near the first part of the chapter) where Jesus claims to be the

According to Romans 3:10, how many righteous people are there? _____ How many are there that do good and sin not (Romans 3:12)? _____ How many GUILTY ONES are there in God's sight (Romans 3:19)?

Are these guilty ones worthy of death (Romans 1:32)? _____ How many have sinned (Romans 3:23)? _____ Why did Jesus Christ come into the world (1 Timothy 1:15)?

Finally after the accusers had all left, Jesus was alone with the woman. Did the Lord Jesus accuse and condemn this guilty woman (John 8:10-11)? _____ Did Jesus come into the world to condemn or to save (John 3:17)? _____ Did Jesus tell this woman to go and *sin some more* (John 8:11)? _____ Instead He said, "Go, and sin _____ (John 8:11).

LIGHT OF THE WORLD? Verse _____ This verse teaches that there are two groups of people in the world:

1. those who walk in D_____

2. those who follow Jesus and who have the _____ of _____

Did the Pharisees believe that Jesus was speaking the truth when He claimed to be the LIGHT OF THE WORLD (John 8:13)? _____ Jesus bore witness of Himself (He pointed to Himself and told people who He really was), but Who else bore witness of Him (John 8:18)?

_____ Did the Pharisees know the Father (John 8:19)? _____ Did they know the Son (John 8:19)? _____

John 8:12 is one of the great "I AM" verses in the Gospel of John. We

The Unbelieving People are Warned:

Angered Because He Said They Would Die in Their Sins

In John 8:21 Jesus repeats the puzzling statement that He had made in John 7:33-34. Jesus was going to go back to heaven to be with His Father and He said, "where I go, you _____ come" (John 8:21). Instead of going to heaven, Jesus said, "You shall die in your _____ (John 8:21). It is a terrible and frightful thing to think about people dying when they are UNSAVED and UNDER GOD'S WRATH. Sin is the very thing that SEPARATES people from God (Isaiah 59:2), and

have already looked at another "I AM" verse found in John 6:35. As we continue through the Gospel of John we will come across others (for example, John 10:9; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1). The words "I AM" were very important to the Jews. In the Old Testament the LORD (Jehovah) revealed Himself to Moses in a very special way. What Name did God give to Himself (Exodus 3:13-14)? _____

The God of the Old Testament (JEHOVAH) was known as the great "I AM"! This will help us later to understand Jesus' words in John 8:58!

when people die in their sins they will be separated from God FOREVER!

The Jews did not understand what Jesus meant when He said, "Where I go, you cannot come" (John 8:22). They did not think that He was talking about committing suicide ("Will He kill Himself?") but they did not know what He meant. They were in the dark (compare John 8:12). They did not understand Jesus' words about heaven because they were "from below"--John 8:23. They were part of the devil's world system and thus they were BLINDED to spiritual truth (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

There is hope for those who are BLIND. There is hope for those who are IN THEIR SINS. But if these people refuse to do one thing then there is no hope at all. What is the one thing that a person must do so that he will not die in his sins (John 8:24)? _____
Jesus said, "if you don't believe that I AM . . ." A person must believe that

Jesus is the great I AM (compare Exodus 3:14).

What a person believes about Jesus Christ is very important!. WHO DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST REALLY IS? This question is so important that it makes the difference between heaven and hell!

1) What will happen to those who do not believe (John 8:24)?

2) What will happen to those who "believe" (Acts 10:43)?

Jesus & Abraham: True Freedom:

Angered Because He Told Them They Were Slaves

In John 8:30 we are told that many of the Jews _____ in Him. Did Jesus get all excited about this new group of believers? Did He say, "This is wonderful! Look at all the new followers I now have!?" No, Jesus did not receive these believers with open arms. Instead He carefully told them what is required in order to be a true follower and a true disciple of Himself: "You are truly my _____ if you remain _____ to my teachings" (John 8:31). TRUE DISCIPLES are those who CONTINUE in Jesus' Word. These are the ones who will know the truth

and these are the ones that will be set free (John 8:32).

It is possible for a person to believe for only a short time. We learn about such people in Luke 8:13. Did these people receive the word with joy? _____ Did they believe? _____ But they only believed for a _____ and later when things got rough and tough they fall _____. Their faith was not the kind of faith that CONTINUED. God wants people to "continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it" (Colossians 1:23) and to keep trusting Jesus Christ to the very end (Hebrews 3:6,14)! TEMPORARY FAITH is no good! God is looking for a FAITH THAT LASTS!

When Jesus spoke about being FREE the Jews thought that they were already free (John 8:32-33). They were puzzled, "Why do we need to be made free if we are already free? Certainly we are not slaves!"

Once again these people were in the dark! They failed to understand the terrible slavery and bondage that they were in: "everyone who _____ is the slave of _____" (John 8:34). Who is the **only One** that can set a person free from the slavery of sin (John 8:36)?

Every person in the world is a SLAVE. Every person is either a *SLAVE OF SIN* or a **SLAVE OF JESUS CHRIST**. Before a person is saved he is a servant or slave of _____ (Romans 6:17). When a person is saved he is set free from sin and he becomes a servant or slave to _____ (Romans 6:22). What **MASTER** do you serve? Do you serve *SIN, SELF and SATAN* or do you serve **THE SAVIOUR**? The person who is really FREE is the person who is free from sin and free to serve the Saviour!

Angered Because He Told Them Who Their Real Father Was

The Jews were very proud of the fact that Abraham was their father (John 8:33). Abraham was the father of the Jews and they knew that they had physically descended from him. Jesus knew that too. (John 8:37). He knew that they were Abraham's

physical children, but He also knew that they were not Abraham's spiritual children.

There is a saying which says, "LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON." This means that the child bears the resemblance of the father. These Jews claimed that Abraham was their father but they were acting quite **UNLIKE** Abraham. Jesus told them, "If you were Abraham's _____, you would do the works of Abraham" (John 8:39).

In what way did these Jews act (John 8:40)? What were they trying to do to Jesus?

Did Abraham ever act in this way (John 8:40)? _____ In Genesis 18 we learn about the time when 3 men visited Abraham (one of them was the **LORD Jesus Christ** in His pre-incarnate form and the other two were angels). How did Abraham treat these special visitors? Did he try to kill them or did he treat them very well (Genesis 18:1-8)?

Jesus said to these unbelieving Jews, "You are imitating your _____ father" (John 8:41). These Jews thought that _____ was their Father (John 8:41). But Jesus told them that if God were really their Father then what would be true (John 8:42)?

They would _____

WHO WAS THEIR REAL SPIRITUAL FATHER (John 8:44)?
_____ God's Word teaches us that there are two groups of people in the world: 1) the children of _____ 2) the children of the _____ (see 1 John 3:10).

What are two things that you learn about the devil in John 8:44?

_____ In what ways did these Jews resemble their spiritual Father?

One of the biggest problems these Jews had was the problem of UNBELIEF (see John 8:24,45,46). This was another great difference between them and Abraham. The Bible tells us that "Abraham _____ God" (Genesis 15:6) but these Jews did not! Instead they believed the devil's lies!

In John 8:46 Jesus gave a mighty challenge to His enemies: "Which of you accuses Me of sin?" In other words, "Which of you can find Me guilty of sin?" This was something that none of His enemies could do! Jesus could convict His enemies of sin (John 8:7-9) but they could not convict Him of sin! He lived a perfect life and Himself said, "for I always do what pleases Him" (John 8:29).

The only SINLESS Man who ever lived stood before these Jews

and spoke the TRUTH to them, but did they BELIEVE (John 8:46)? _____ If God were really their Father then they _____ would _____ hear _____ (John 8:47) but because God was not their Father they did not hear and they did not believe.

If a person does not love Jesus Christ (John 8:42) and does not hear and believe God's Word (John 8:47), then he is not a child of God. Are you a child of God? How does a person become a child of God (John 1:12)?

Angered Because He Claimed to be Greater Than Abraham

In John 8:48 the Jews attacked Jesus with wicked words and they said two terrible things about Him:

1) They called Him a S_____ The Jews hated the Samaritans and this was one of the worst things a person could be called. To a Jew there was no greater insult than to be called a SAMARITAN!

2) They said He had a devil or a demon. They thus accused Him of being DEMON POSSESSED! Was this true (John 8:49)? _____ Do people ever call you names or insult you with words or say cruel things about you? Remember, Jesus Christ has experienced this very same thing! He knows what we go through (Hebrews 4:15-16)!

In John 8:51 Jesus made another statement that puzzled the Jews: If a person does what Jesus Christ says HE WILL NEVER DIE (compare John 11:26)! How can this be? Death means SEPARATION. When an unsaved person dies he is separated from God because of his sins. Jesus was saying that a believer will never be separated from God. The believer has ETERNAL LIFE and this life will never be taken away.

Again the Jews did not understand what Jesus meant (John 8:52). They knew that Abraham was dead and that the prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, etc.) were dead. "All of these great men are dead but Jesus is talking about somebody who NEVER DIES. Is He claiming to be greater than Abraham and all the prophets?" (Compare John 8:53--"Are you _____ than our father Abraham?").

They asked a good question and Jesus wanted to show them that He was indeed GREATER than Abraham! Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it and was glad" (John 8:56). This statement startled the Jews. They could hardly believe their ears! They thought, "Was Jesus saying that He had actually seen Abraham?" (John 8:57). Abraham lived on earth about 2,000 years before Christ came to this world. When Jesus spoke these words He was only about 30+ years old and the Jews were correct when they said, "You aren't even _____ years old" (John 8:57). But they

needed to understand that the life of Jesus did not begin when He was born in Bethlehem! That is when He became a MAN, but as God He existed long before Bethlehem. As a man he was only about 33 years old, but as God He was the ETERNAL ONE who had no beginning! He was the eternal Son of God.

What would you do today if someone came up to you and claimed to be over 2,000 years old? You would probably think that he was joking or else that he was crazy! And yet, this is exactly what Jesus claimed: "BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, _____" (John 8:58). He could have said, "BEFORE ADAM WAS, I AM!" He could have said, "BEFORE THE WORLD EVER WAS, I AM." Compare John 17:5,24. He is the great eternal God! He is the great I AM (Exodus 3:14)!

What did the Jews think of this remarkable claim (John 8:59)?

Were they able to do to Jesus what they wanted to do (John 8:59 and compare Luke 4:28-30)? _____
HAVE YOU PUT YOUR FAITH AND TRUST IN THIS GREAT ETERNAL GOD? Those who have not done this are in trouble (John 8:24)!

WATCH & LEARN // HISTORY

Let everyone in the family choose a “watch & learn” video! It can be on YouTube, Amazon, etc... - the only rule is that you must be LEARNING something from the video! But let everyone take a turn sharing something of interest. Parents- watch and discuss! The kid(s) can pick something and then you can too.

Share with one another what you’ve learned (that you didn’t already know) after each person’s turn!

Read pages 41-46 (stop at “From One Man Comes a Nation”) of The Bible in World History. We’re going over the fall of man when Adam & Eve sinned and the Tower of Babel. You’ve already read these Biblical accounts- so this should be a great refresher and time to open up these discussions again.

Are we so far off than these people? Do you think you would have done something different? Do you choose sin over obedience ever? What makes you so different than these people we’re learning about?

Discuss these points as you read, look up photos and videos of any topics of interest as you read through these pages.

DAY 45 // WEEK 9

"There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die is a process of learning."

J Krishnamurti

Fridays are our unschool days! Take the day to catch up on any work you need to- then let's pursue things you're interested in! (Or maybe even go on a learning trip as a family!)

If you don't have an email address, ask your parents to set one up for you. (Only email people that your parents have approved- family, friends or online pen pals.) You'll use this for school purposes and practice with different writing activities. Every Friday email your parents 5-7 points that you enjoyed & really learned from this week. Also send any points that were a struggle for you.

DAY 46 // WEEK 10

Genesis 37 // Joseph's Dreams & Departure

We learn about a man named Joseph today. He was the beloved son of Jacob and his favorite wife, _____.

There is SO much that we can learn from this- it's a very important piece to a much bigger picture. You may start to notice some similarities between Joseph and who else? Yes- Jesus! There are MANY parallels between their lives. Joseph's life story affords many valuable lessons and applications; yet there is also a prophetic aspect to the account that foreshadows the Messiah himself. There are many fascinating parallels (more than 100) between Joseph, beloved son of Jacob, and Jesus, the Son of God who would arrive on the stage of human history centuries later. Here are just a representative few- be sure to pull up each noted scripture reference:

(Compliments of JewsForJesus.org)

PARALLEL	JOSEPH	JESUS
BELOVED OF HIS FATHER	Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children (Gen. 37:3a).	This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matt. 3:17b).
ENVIED AND HATED WITHOUT A CAUSE	And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more they...hated him... (Gen 37:4).	...the chief priests had delivered him for envy (Mark 15:10). They hated me without a cause (John 15:25b).

A ROOT OUT OF
DRY GROUND

...he was the son of his
[Jacob's] old age (Gen.
37:3b).

...he [Messiah] shall grow up
before him...like a root out
of a dry ground (Isa. 53:2a).

HE FORETOLD
THAT ONE DAY
HE WOULD
RULE

... your sheaves stood...and
made obeisance to my
sheaf (Gen. 37:7).

...ye [shall] see the Son of
Man sitting on the right
hand of power, and coming
in the clouds of heaven
(Matt. 26:64b).

ACCUSED OF
BEING A
DREAMER
(BESIDE
HIMSELF,
DELUDED)

And they said to one
another, Behold, this
dreamer cometh (Gen. 37:19).

...they said, He is beside
himself (Mark 3:21b).

SENT BY THE
FATHER TO
SEEK THE
BROTHERS'
WELFARE

Go...see whether it be well
with thy brethren (Gen.
37:14a).

I will send my beloved son...
(Luke 20:13b).

WENT
WILLINGLY AND
SOUGHT TILL
HE FOUND
THEM

And Joseph went after his
brethren, and found them...
(Gen. 37:17b).

...Lo, I come, to do thy will, O
God (Heb. 10:9b). He came
unto his own... (John 1:11a).

REJECTED AND
CONDEMNED
TO DIE

they conspired against him to slay him (Gen. 37:18b).

We will not have this man to reign over us (Luke 19:14b). But they cried, saying, Crucify him! Crucify him! (Luke 23:21).

STRIPPED OF
HIS CLOTHING

...they stripped Joseph out of his coat...that was on him (Gen 37:23b).

And they stripped him (Matt. 27:28a).

THROWN INTO
A PIT (ALONE,
FORSAKEN)

And they took him, and cast him into a pit (Gen. 37:24a).

so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matt. 12:40b).

SOLD FOR
SILVER INTO
THE HANDS OF
GENTILES

...they sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites twenty pieces of silver; and they brought Joseph into Egypt (Gen. 37:28b).

and they bargained with him [Judas] for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15b).

RAISED FROM
THE PIT

...and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit (Gen. 37:28a).

...he rose again the third day according to the scriptures (1 Cor. 15:4b).

Psalm 37 // True Wisdom

Psalm 37 comes with an abundance of wisdom that we can all learn from- let's look through these verses and note the lessons we can learn here. For each line, please discuss and write down what you understand from these scriptures.

1-2:

3:

4:

5:

6:

7:

8-11:

12-13:

14-15:

16-17:

18-22:

23-24:

25-26:

27-29:

30-33:

34:

35-36:

37-38:

39-40:

John 9 // Jesus Brings Light to the Blind

A BLIND MAN IS HEALED

The Healing Miracle

How long had this man been blind (John 9:1)? _____ Read John 9:2-3. Why was this man blind? Was it his parents' fault? _____ Was it his own fault? _____ God had a wonderful purpose in allowing this man to be blind from birth (John 9:3). Perhaps you have a physical problem or difficulty. Perhaps you have even had this from birth, Instead of complaining about it or feeling sorry for yourself, you need to remember that God has a plan and purpose for everything. He makes no mistakes! Instead of blaming everyone for our problems, let's thank God that He can do a great work in our lives no matter who we are or what we are like!

The interesting way in which Jesus healed this blind man is described in John 9:6-7. On what day did this miracle take place (John 9:14)?

The Healed Man's Testimony

The neighbors of this man could hardly believe the change that had taken place (John 9:8). The blind beggar could now see! Some were so amazed that they figured that it must not be the same man (John 9:9). Did the blind man tell them exactly what had happened (John 9:10-12)? _____ Did he tell the same story to the Pharisees (John 9:15)? _____

This miracle then caused a division among the people (even as we saw in John chapter 7). Read John 9:16 and notice the two differing opinions about Jesus:

1. Some thought that He must not be of _____ because He did not keep the _____ . To find out what Jesus thought about the Jews' foolish ideas about the Sabbath Day, read Mark 3:1-5.
2. Others said, "How can a man that is a _____ do such _____"

They then turned to the blind man and asked him what he thought (John 9:17). He believed that Jesus must be a good man: "He is a _____ (John 9:17).

The unbelieving Jews then checked with the man's parents to see if this miracle had really taken place. What did they learn (John 9:18-21)?
_____ What would happen to any person who said that Jesus was the Christ or the Messiah (John 9:22)?

The Jews again called the blind man and they told him exactly what they wanted him to say: "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a _____" (John 9:24). They wanted the blind man to agree with them that Jesus was a SINNER! They should have said, "WE ARE THE SINNERS AND JESUS IS THE SAVIOUR!"

The blind man's testimony is found in John 9:25: "I WAS _____ NOW I _____" Once I was blind but now I can see! Could the Jews deny this testimony? _____ Could they argue against it? _____ We never need to argue with people to convince them that Jesus is the true Saviour. All we need to do is **SHOW THEM A CHANGED LIFE!** This is something that they cannot deny!

An unbeliever once came to a miner's town to give a lecture. The night he spoke he noticed the presence of a most intent listener. The man was still wearing his rough, grimy miner's garments, and the massive frame and scarcely concealed muscles bespoke a man of unusual physical strength. The unbeliever ended his message by saying, "Now I'm sure that I have convinced all of you that Christianity is a myth and that Jesus Christ is not God." The atheist had hardly finished speaking when the miner rose slowly to his feet. "Sir," he said, "I'm only a working man and I don't know your fancy word 'myth,' but these people know me! They know that until three years ago I was the toughest man in town. I had a miserable home. I neglected my wife and children. I cursed, swore, drank and whoever withstood me soon felt my fist. Then someone came along and told me of the love of God to poor sinners. He gave me a glimpse of Christ Jesus dying on Calvary's Cross for lost wretches like me. I believed those things that you now deny. I have been a changed man as all these people know." How can you argue against a changed life? The unbeliever had nothing to say to the miner!

Did the blind man think that Jesus was a sinner (John 9:30-32)? _____ Did the blind man think that Jesus was "of God" (John 9:33)? _____ Because the blind man sided with Jesus, what did the Jews do to him? Did they cast him out of the synagogue (John 9:34 and compare verse 22)? _____

The Need For Spiritual Sight

Who found the man who had been cast out (John 9:35)? _____ This man had been CAST OUT by men, but he needed to know that those who come to Jesus will never be C_____ O_____ (John 6:37). Jesus knew that this blind

man needed to understand that He was more than just a Prophet (see verse 17).
Who did Jesus claim to be (John 9:35-37)? _____
Did the blind man believe this (John 9:38)? _____

Read carefully the words Jesus spoke in John 9:39. As we read John chapter 9 we discover that this blind man could see very well, not only physically but also spiritually. He saw who Jesus Christ really was and he believed in his heart! On the other hand, the unbelieving Jews could not see very well at all! They were blinded to who Jesus Christ really was and they were blind to their own spiritual condition (their sinfulness before God). What do you think is the worst kind of blindness: physical or spiritual? _____

Which would you rather be: a blind man who knows Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour or an unsaved man who has excellent vision and does not even need glasses? _____

Did the unbelieving Jews REMAIN in the darkness of sin or did they come to the LIGHT OF THE WORLD (John 9:41)? _____

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound;

That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now am found,

WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE!"

--John Newton

NATURE IN ACTION // BIBLE

Enjoy a Nature Walk & Study as your weather might allow (cold days can still be good for a hike) and enjoy learning through this Body Science Unit.

Looking in the Mirror

Every part of the body is for a purpose and has a function.

Are people's eyes different? Do they come in different colors? Are people's noses different? Do they come in different sizes and shapes? Is every face different? Is your face different from every other face? Do people have different kinds of hair? Does hair come in different colors? Do some people have curly hair and other people have straight hair? Is everyone's height the same? Is everyone's weight the same?

Everyone is different and nobody is the same! What would happen if we all looked exactly the same? As you would walk down the street, everyone would look exactly like everyone else! Can you think of any problems that would cause?

What if all of the cans in the grocery store looked the same. What problems would this cause? How would you know what to buy? Every can needs to have its own **name** (peas, corn, beans, tuna fish, etc.) and every can needs to have its own **label** so that we know what is on the inside. Is the Lord Jesus Christ living in your

heart? If He is, then you need to **put a label on yourself just as the label is on the can**. In this way others will know that Jesus is **in you**: "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9). If Jesus is really **your Lord**, then other people should know about this. What would happen if all the believers stopped **confessing**? That would be like all of the cans in the grocery store taking off their labels! We would say to the cans, "We do not know what is in you!" People could say to believers, "We do not know who is in you!"

The same God who has made every snowflake different is the same God who has made every person different. No two people are alike. Some people might look alike (such as identical twins), but every person is different from every other person. Have you ever noticed differences between two people who are identical twins?

Every person is very unique and special. When you were born there may have been five or ten other babies who were born in the same hospital at about the same time you were. As your parents were about to leave the hospital, do you think they said something like this: "Nurse, all of

these babies look about the same. Just give us one of them. Any one will do!" No, there is only one baby that these parents want! That baby is very special to them and the other babies are very special to their parents.

God has created each one of us differently, and we are very special to Him! If you were to see a flock of sheep, they might all look alike to you. But to the shepherd each sheep is different. He knows his sheep very well and he is able to tell them apart. When we become a believer, we do not become lost in a crowd. Every believer is special to God. God is the Good Shepherd who knows each of His sheep by name: "He calls His own sheep by _____" (John 10:3).

I'm special to Jesus,

There's no one else like me.

I wouldn't trade places with anyone
else,

I'm special, you see.

God has prepared a task

He wants me to do.

I'm special. I'm special to my Lord.

(by Ron Hamilton)

Do people all wear the same clothes? Do people wear different clothes with different colors and different styles? Is there anyone else in your family or neighborhood who is wearing **exactly** the same clothes that you are? Do boys dress differently than girls (see Deuteronomy 22:5)? Do boys wear their hair differently than girls (see 1 Corinthians 11:14-15)? Today there are some boys who look and dress like girls and there are some girls who look and dress like boys (and the same is true for men and women). Is this pleasing to God? _____ How did God make us (circle the correct answer, but first read Genesis 1:27):

1. God created them **unisex** (one sex)
2. God created them **male and female** (two sexes)

Let's **look, dress, and act** the way God made us!

Can you think of any place where all the men wear the same clothes? Do policemen all wear the same clothes? Why? Do soldiers all wear the same clothes? Why? (We do not want to shoot our own men!) Do players on the same football team all wear the same clothes? Why? (We do not want to tackle the wrong man.)

Believers should all wear the same clothes also. We should all put on the garments of love, the garments of kindness, the garments of forgiveness, etc. (see Colossians 3:12-14). Should all believers wear the

some kind of armour (Ephesians 6:11-17)? _____

Even though soldiers all dress alike and wear the same uniform, every soldier is a special individual and every soldier is given a special number (identification number). He is the only soldier that has this number. Football players have the same uniform, but do they each have a different number? Would it be confusing to the fans if two players on the same team each had the same number? _____

Every person is different, but every person is an individual person. There are many things that we share in common with other people. We each have a heart. We each have a brain. We each have a soul. We all live on the same planet. We all breathe air. Can you think of other things that we share in common with all people? Every snowflake is different and no two are exactly alike. But can you think of something that every snowflake shares in common with every other snowflake?

What Do You Know?

As you look at yourself in the mirror you need to ask yourself, "What does this person know?"

There are many things that you know. You know your own name:

(first - middle - last)

You know your age: You are _____ years old. You know where you live:

(Street Address)

(City/Town)

(Zip Code)

You know who lives in your house with you. You know what grade you are in (Grade ____). You know how to add: $5 + 4 = \underline{\quad}$. You know how to subtract: $88 - 7 = \underline{\quad}$. You know how to read because you have been reading these notes!

There are some things that we all know. For example, probably everyone in your family knows who the President of the United States is. Probably everyone knows how many states are in the United States. Probably everyone knows who was the first man that God created.

There are some things that no one in the class knows except you. Can you think of something that you know

that probably no one else knows in your family? For example, someone might have a stamp collection and he might know certain things about stamps that no one else has learned. Someone else might like to study birds and this person might know things about birds that no one else is aware of.

There are some things that no one knows except God. Who is the only One who knows the day of our death? _____ God knows our hearts. He knows all about us. He knows what we think. He knows all about what will happen tomorrow and next week and next year. How we need to trust Him every day!

What Do You Feel?

As you look at yourself in the mirror, you need to ask yourself, "What does this person feel?"

Do you know the warmth of people that care?

Do you know the burden of despair (when you start feeling down and start losing hope)?

Do you know what it is to get very excited about something?

Do you know the fire of anger or the chill of fear?

Can you think of a time when someone really cared for you in a special way? Can you think of a time when you were down in the depths of despair? Can you think of a time when you were very excited about something? Can you think of a time when you became very angry about something? Can you think of a time when you were frozen with fear?

Why do you feel these ways (mad, sad, glad, joyful, fearful, tearful, etc.)? When such a feeling comes over you, what can **you** do about it? There are some things you can do and there are some things God must do. Suppose your father were driving on an icy highway with heavy traffic in the middle of a winter storm. In such a situation a person might become afraid of getting into an accident. There are some things that your father can do (drive carefully, drive slowly, pull over and get off the road, etc.). There are some things that only God can do (protect you and give you a safe trip according to His will).

An important fact is that our thoughts stir up our emotions. We must guard our thinking, and make sure we are looking at events around us as God would have us to. In 2 Corinthians 10:5 we are told to "capture the rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ." We are to control our thinking instead of letting it control us! Remember, it's not

events themselves that cause emotions; it's the way we think about them. One person might fall down and hurt his knee and really cry and scream. Another person might fall down in the same way and get right up and see the blood but not cry at all. Everyone is different, and everyone reacts differently.

What Do You Need?

As you look at yourself in the mirror, you might ask yourself, "What does this person need?" As you think about your needs you will learn that the living God has all that you need. Even if no one else could help you, He can!

1) I Need Certain Things to Live.

I need **food** to eat, **air** to breathe and **clothing** to wear. I need **sleep** and I need **shelter** (a roof over my head). I need **protection** from danger. Can you think of anything else that a person really needs to live and survive?

Sometimes we might not feel that we get everything we need. We might wish we could have certain foods or clothes. We might want to live in a better house. But compared to most of the people in the world, we would probably be considered rich!

Does the Heavenly Father know what your needs are (Matthew 6:32)? ____ Is He able to feed you (Matthew 6:26)?

____ Is He able to clothe you (Matthew 6:28-30)? ____ If we put the Lord first in our lives, will He see to it that our needs are met (Matthew 6:33)? ____ If we give God His rightful place (by putting Him first), He will be sure to take care of us!

2) I Need to be Loved and I Need to Love.

As a person I need to be loved and I need to love. But sometimes I might feel sorry for myself and say something like this: "No one loves me and I don't love anybody."

Everyone has a need to be cared for. What would you think about a tiny baby bird that was not cared for by the mother bird? What would you think about a kitten that was abandoned by its mother? People need that tender loving care and attention too.

David once said, "Even if my _____ and _____ abandon me, the Lord will hold me close." (Psalm 27:10). "God so loved the world" (John 3:16). Does that include you? ____ Because He loves, I can love: "We love _____, because He first _____ us" (1 John 4:19). We should love God, and who else should we love (1 John 3:14-16)?

3) I Need an Opportunity to be an Individual Person.

I need to be me! God never asked me to be someone else. He asked me to be me!

As a person I need to be both independent and dependent.

1) **Independent**--as an independent person I must be myself! I can't be another person. I must live my own life and I must make my own decisions and I must stand on my own ground. I must make my own decision to be saved (my parents cannot make this decision for me). No one else can believe on Christ for me. Once I am saved, I must work out my own salvation (no one else can work it out for me--see Philippians 2:12). In the future I must stand before Christ as an individual. I will not be lost in the crowd because "every one of us shall give account of himself (not somebody else) to God" (Romans 14:12).

2) **Dependent**--as a dependent person I need help! Without Christ I can do _____(John 15:5). No man is an island to live all by himself. We live in a world filled with people (a society) and we need other people and other people need us. We depend on other people and they depend on us. Can you think of how people need each other and depend upon each other? (when it comes to food, clothing, transportation, electricity, etc.) But most of all, we depend on the Lord.

4) I Need a Sense of Importance and Value.

As a person I need to be valued and appreciated. Sometimes we might feel very unimportant. We might feel that we are of no value to anybody, but this is not true. God thinks that we are valuable enough and important enough for Him to die for us! God paid a great price to save us! (Usually when we go to the store we do not pay a great price for something unless we think it is valuable). Did Jesus want us to know that we are valuable to God (Matthew 10:29-31)? _____ God says that believers are "His inheritance" (Ephesians 1:18). This means that we are very precious and valuable to Him!

5) I Need Freedom to Grow, Learn, Create, and Develop.

As a person, I need to grow and develop. To grow up I must change. I cannot stay the same. There is only one Person who does not need to grow and who does not need to change. Who is this Person (Malachi 3:6)? _____

We must remember that growing takes time. The body is growing all the time, but how long does it take for us to grow 14 inches? Our physical appearance is changing all the time, but the change is so slow that we do not even notice it. But as we look back at our own pictures taken one year ago and two years ago and five

years ago, we see that we really have changed.

We also must remember that our body is changing physically. As a person grows older the body changes in different ways. For example, as boys get into the 7th or 8th grade their voices may begin to change (and usually become lower). Girls have physical changes also. These changes sometimes make us happy and sometimes they make us sad. Sometimes these physical changes can make a person moody or restless or even rebellious. Why is this so? These changes are taking place **in me** and certain things are happening to my body. How do I feel about these changes? Sometimes I might feel unsure or insecure about them. I may not understand what is happening to me or I may not like what is happening to me. I may not know what to do about it. I may feel self conscious about it. I may feel that everyone thinks my low voice is funny. I am realizing that I am too old to be a baby and too young to be a teen.

In Christ I can find the freedom that I need to grow up and to be everything that I should and can be (Ephesians 4:13-15). Jesus said that He can make a person **free indeed** (John 8:36).

God has answered all of my needs! He has what I need!

"As for me, since I am poor and needy,
let the Lord keep me in his thoughts.

You are my helper and my savior.

O my God, do not delay." (Psalm 40:17).

Is just **one** sheep important to the shepherd (Luke 15:3-7)? ____ Is just one person important to God, the Great Shepherd? ____ Are you important to God? ____

Heaven for Kids: Read pages 59 - the top of 63 and complete the coordinating portion in the PDF (downloaded separately).

BIBLE CUSTOMS & MANNERS

Farming

Today in our country, most farming is done by the use of modern machinery. Very little is done by man or by animal. In Bible times farming was not done by sitting on a tractor. It was done by hand and sometimes with the help of a beast.

To understand farming in Palestine, we need to know something about the climate and seasons of this land. Rain or water is an essential part of successful farming. It would be very unusual for us to go several months without any rain at all. But for those living in Palestine, this happens almost every year. During this dry and hot season (the summer months) there is hardly any rain. During the other half of the year rain does fall and it is colder. This is the wet season. The following chart shows the different seasons in relationship to farming in Palestine:

Remember, winter in Palestine is not nearly as cold as winter in New England. Sometimes it would snow

(Isaiah 1:18), but this did not happen very often.

Rain is certainly a great blessing from the God of heaven (see Deuteronomy 11:11). In Bible times rain was a cause of great rejoicing (Joel 2:23). When is the last time you sat home on a rainy day and thanked God for the blessings of rain? It is true that rain sometimes causes problems--the picnic, ballgame and hike all must be cancelled--but what problems would we soon face if we had no rain?

The God who sends the rain knows what He is doing!

Now let us consider some of the important aspects of farming:

Plowing

The ground must be prepared to receive the seed. In Palestine the summer months are very hot and dry

and the soil becomes almost stone-hard. Before the seed is planted something must be done to soften the soil.

God Himself does the first thing to soften the earth. In the last part of October or the first part of November God sends rain which softens the earth: "You drench the plowed ground with rain, melting the clods and leveling the ridges. You soften the earth with showers and bless its abundant crops." (Psalm 65:10). These are called the *early rains*.

Once God has done His work, then man is ready to do his work of plowing. The farmers always wait for the first or early rains before beginning to plow. Once the rain has come, the hard-working farmer will start plowing. Will the lazy man plow (Proverbs 20:4)? _____ Will he have anything at harvest time? _____

The plow used by the farmer was a very simple instrument. It was a wooden stick with a small metal point. Usually the plow would be pulled by two oxen (bulls) that would be joined together by a yoke:

Whom does
the Lord
Jesus want
us to yoke
up with
(Matthew
11:29-30)?

Those who are yoked up together are on the same team. They labor and work together. They both go in the same direction. The Bible says that believers "are _____ God's workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

As the oxen pull, the farmer has one hand on the _____ (Luke 9:62) and the other hand holds a long wooden rod with a sharp point at one end (this long stick is called a "goad"). The farmer uses the goad to prick the slow-moving oxen and get them moving faster. God was pricking Saul and Saul was kicking and fighting against the goad until finally Saul surrendered (see Acts 9:5). God won and Saul was saved!

As the plow cuts through the ground, it would loosen and break up the soil. The blade of the plow would cut into the ground to a depth of about three or four inches. The soil must be prepared to receive the seed.

The Bible tells us that seed can be compared to the _____ of _____ (Luke 8:11). God wants to plant His seed (God's Word) into the soil of our hearts (see James 1:21). But our hearts must be prepared to receive God's Word!

Think of a dirt road where the soil is packed down and almost as hard as rock. Will seeds take root in this kind of soil? _____ Why does God's Word not take root in the hearts of many men? What is the problem (Ezekiel 3:7; Mark 10:5; 16:14; Romans 2:5)?

God wants a SOFT and TENDER and OPEN and RECEPTIVE HEART.

Did Lydia have a soft and open heart (Acts 16:14)? ____ Did the Berean people have soft hearts (Acts 17:11)? ____ Did Ezra have a soft and tender heart that was ready to receive the seed (Ezra 7:10)? ____ Do you have a soft and broken heart that is ready to receive the seed?

Before the worship service begins on Sunday morning, what can you do to prepare your heart for God's Word? Before you open your Bible at home, what can you do to prepare your heart for God's Word?

When the ground is hard, the seed does not go in. When the heart is hard, the Word does not go in. **How can I tell if my heart is hard?**

not paying attention in Sunday Service

bored with family devotions

Planting or Sowing

To sow means to scatter seed over the ground. After the ground is plowed, the farmer is ready to plant the seed. The farmer would carry the seed in a basket or in a pouch attached to his waist. He would then

take a handful of seed and throw or scatter the seed with a sweeping motion of the hand and arm. The seeds would fall on the prepared soil.

After sowing the seed, the farmer would then plow the field again so that the soil would cover the seed (otherwise the birds would eat the seed). Sometimes the farmer would do this by dragging branches or a log behind a team of oxen.

The most important grains were barley (John 6:9) and especially wheat. These were the main crops.

Every Christian is to be a farmer. Every believer is to sow seed. We are told in Luke 8:11 that the seed is the _____ of _____. We are to take this Word and spread it and scatter it and plant it in God's field. The field is the _____ (see Matthew 13:38). What are some of the ways we can sow the seed of God's Word?

by handing out tracts or Bibles

There are some things that the farmer can do and there are some things that only God can do (see 1 Corinthians 3:6). Can a farmer plant the seed? ____ Can a farmer put water on the plant? ____ Can a farmer make the plant grow? ____ Believers can sow the seed of God's Word, but only God can do the work

of saving a soul and making a believer grow and increase. We need to do our part. Will God do His part?

Dangers To The Crops

There were many things that could ruin a crop. Here are some of the major dangers which often threatened to destroy the harvest:

1. The latter rains would sometimes fail. These rains usually fell in March or April and gave the plants much needed water.
2. The hot easterly wind would sometimes come and scorch the plants. This wind came from the desert and was extremely hot and dry. It would sometimes come in March or April, and if it stayed long it could ruin the crops.
3. Palestine is known for its rocky soil which made farming difficult. There is an Arabic story which goes like this: When Allah (the Arabic or Islam name for God) was creating the world, he entrusted all the stones to two angels, each with one bag full. As the angels were flying over Palestine, one of the bags broke and spilled out on this tiny land, and so half the stones which were intended for the whole world ended up in Palestine!

4. Weeds like tares and thorns would choke the good plants.
5. Birds would eat up the seed that was sown. See Matthew 13:4.
6. Harmful insects would devour the plants. The most harmful pests were worms (cankerworms and palmerworms), caterpillars and locusts. Read Joel 1:4. Do you think much was left after these creatures were finished?
_____ Probably the most dreaded creatures were the locusts (see Deuteronomy 28:42). In just a few days they could devour a whole countryside. These grasshoppers would travel together in immense numbers and this vast army would eat up every plant in its way!

In Matthew 13:4-7 Jesus pointed out three reasons why seed did not bring forth a good harvest. What were these reasons?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

According to Matthew 13:18-22, what are three problems that keep people from having God's Word bring forth much fruit in their lives?

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____

Can you think of other things which keep God's Word from doing its work in our lives?

Harvesting or Reaping

By about the middle of April the grain was ripe and ready to be cut down. To "reap" means to cut down the grain. This was done by using a sharp sickle (a hand sickle). The farmer would hold the stalks in his hand and would cut them off close to the ground with the sickle. The fallen stalks would then be bound into sheaves or bundles.

According to Revelation 14:14, who has a sickle in His hand?

See Revelation 14:15-16. This passage is talking about the time when Jesus Christ will **cut down** the wicked in a terrible judgment. Those who do not receive Christ as **Saviour NOW** must meet Him as **Judge THEN**.

Harvest time was a time of great joy. Can you find two verses in Psalm 126 which show that the time of reaping was a time of great rejoicing?
_____ & _____

Another great spiritual truth that we learn from farming is found in Galatians 6:7: "You will always _____ what you _____"
If a farmer sows no seeds, how much will he reap? _____ If a farmer sows pumpkin seeds, what will

he reap? _____ If a man sows evil, what will he reap? _____ If a man sows good, what will he reap? _____ If a student studies hard, can he expect to reap better grades than if he did not study hard? _____ Can you think of other illustrations or examples of this truth?

Threshing

To "thresh" means to separate the wheat or barley kernels (or grain) from the stalk. The kernels of wheat or barley are used in making bread. The stalk is not used for food.

Threshing was done in two ways. For small quantities the sheaves (bundles) were beaten with a stick (Ruth 2:17) and this would force the grain to separate from the stalk. For large quantities the sheaves would be placed on the ground and oxen would trample on them. These animals would trample out the grain.

Sometimes God crushes the believer with trials and troubles (1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12). Why does God do this? He crushes us, not to destroy us, but to separate the good from the bad. God wants to remove all the worthless things from our lives, just as the farmer wants to remove the worthless stalk from the valuable grain. God wants to bring forth the good and remove the bad!

Winnowing

After threshing, the worthless stalk (called chaff) and the grain are all crushed and are lying together. Winnowing is the method the farmer uses to separate the good from the bad.

The farmer takes a pitchfork or a *shovel* (called a "fan" in the Bible) and uses it to throw the *grain* (valuable part) and *chaff* (worthless part) into the air. The chaff and straw are lighter and are blown away in the wind. The grain or kernels of wheat (or barley) are heavier and they fall to the ground. When the farmer is finished winnowing there is nothing left on the ground but a pile of good kernels. The bad goes and the good remains.

Someday God is going to separate men into two groups (Matt. 3:12):

1. The Wheat--good men (those God wants to keep for Himself)
2. The Chaff--worthless men (those that God must punish and judge)

To which group do you belong? Are you sure? How can you tell if you are a good tree or a bad tree (Matthew 3:10; 7:17-19)?

If the seed of God's Word is growing in the soft soil of your heart, then there will be a great harvest of good fruit (Matthew 13:23)!

DAY 47 // WEEK 10

Genesis 38 // Judah's Family Line

***Parental Discretion Advised!

(Verses 9 & 15+ deals with intimate details- handle as you feel best for you family.)

Yesterday we were introduced to Joseph and his story- but then today we take a turn into Judah's story line. We see the account of his marriage(s), his children and their background- which, let's just face it, isn't very good.

One commentator writes:

The shocking account of Judah's relationship with Tamar, which interrupts the story of Joseph in Egypt, fulfills an important role in Genesis by providing a record of Judah's family line. The chapter concludes with a birth account in which a firstborn twin is pushed aside by his younger brother, Perez. The royal line of David—and therefore of Jesus Christ—will come from Perez. Although this chapter shows Judah at his worst, it also provides the background for the remarkable transformation in his life seen later in Genesis.

Psalm 38 // A Psalm of David, Asking God to remember him.

In this lament the singer lays his troubles before God, fully realizing that those troubles result from his own sin. The psalm describes anguish of body and mind, desertion by friends, and how the singer's folly has made him vulnerable to enemies. (*ESV.org Study Bible*)

Let's look at a few key verses in this Psalm:

V1: *O Lord, don't rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your rage!*

Have you ever gotten yelled at by your parents *while* they were angry with you? One key note for parents to learn is to not discipline their children WHILE they are angry, but once they have collected themselves and can discipline with a level head. Here the Psalmist, David, recognizes that he does indeed deserve the discipline for the sins he committed against the Holy God- but yet he is crying out asking the Lord to respond to him with a calmer response of discipline.

V3-4 *Because of your anger, my whole body is sick; my health is broken because of my sins. My guilt overwhelms me—it is a burden too heavy to bear.*

We see a couple noteworthy points here- YES! Because of our sins, our decisions we make that go against the Lord and His word, CAN lead to sickness and disease. Not that every person dealing with health issues is because of their

sins- we discussed this yesterday in John chapter 9. Why else can someone be afflicted with health issues and disease?

V9 *You know what I long for Lord; you hear my every sigh.*

Do you know that the Lord hears you? That your every sigh is known by him? There is NOTHING in your life that the Lord is unaware of, even if you feel truly alone in a situation. God is the *PERFECT* father- look up Matthew 6:25-34. V 33 Gives us very clear instructions- are you seeking the ways of the Lord above all?

V15 *For I am waiting for you, O Lord. You must answer for me, O Lord my God.*

God's timing is most usually NOT like our timing. There are many times in life that we *just know for sure* that we **must** have something right now. The way *WE* want it. And often... that doesn't happen. It's easy to get angry at God and think he isn't listening, or doesn't care- but those thoughts are foolish and go against all we know about the Lord. Remember- God can see the whole picture- the whole story of your life from birth until death. We can only see the here and now. Trust Him, rely on him, and often- just be still. Be patient. God's got this!

V18 *For I confess my sins; I am deeply sorry for what I've done.*

Let's look to this article from Got Questions about the confessing of our sins:

Question: "Why do we need to confess our sins if they have already been forgiven (1 John 1:9)?"

Answer: The apostle Paul wrote, "To the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding" (Ephesians 1:6-8). This forgiveness is referring to salvation, in which God has taken our sins and removed them from us "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12).

This is the judicial forgiveness that God gives us upon receiving Jesus Christ as Savior. All our past, present, and future sins are forgiven on a judicial basis, meaning that we will not suffer eternal judgment for our sins. We still often suffer consequences of sin while we are here on earth, however, which brings us to the question at hand.

The difference between Ephesians 1:6-8 and 1 John 1:9 is that John is dealing with what we call "relational," or "familial," forgiveness—like that of a father and a son. For example, if a son does something wrong to his

father—falling short of his expectations or rules—the son has hindered his fellowship with his father. He remains the son of his father, but the relationship suffers. Their fellowship will be hindered until the son admits to his father that he has done wrong. It works the same way with God; our fellowship with Him is hindered until we confess our sin. When we confess our sin to God, the fellowship is restored. This is relational forgiveness.

“Positional” forgiveness, or judicial forgiveness, is that which is obtained by every believer in Christ. In our position as members of the body of Christ, we have been forgiven of every sin we have ever committed or ever will commit. The price paid by Christ on the cross has satisfied God’s wrath against sin, and no further sacrifice

or payment is necessary. When Jesus said, “It is finished,” He meant it. Our positional forgiveness was obtained then and there.

Confession of sin will help to keep us from the discipline of the Lord. If we fail to confess sin, the discipline of the Lord is sure to come until we do confess it. As stated previously, our sins are forgiven at salvation (positional forgiveness), but our daily fellowship with God needs to stay in good standing (relational forgiveness). Proper fellowship with God cannot happen with unconfessed sin in our lives. Therefore, we need to confess our sins to God as soon as we are aware that we have sinned, in order to maintain close fellowship with God.

John 10 // Jesus- the Shepherd & the Festival of Dedication

Question: "How is Jesus the 'True Shepherd' in John 10:1-5?"

Answer: By referring to Himself as the True Shepherd, Jesus was invoking imagery that would have been familiar to His hearers. He used the symbols of sheep and their shepherd several times, referring to Himself as not only the “True” Shepherd, but the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), and the Door of the sheep (John 10:7). The three declarations in John 10 present a complete picture of the Lord who is our Shepherd (Psalm 23).

In order to understand what Jesus intended to convey with sheep/shepherd imagery, we must understand the Middle Eastern shepherd of biblical times. His job was a dirty and dangerous one. Many times all the shepherd had to fight off lions and other wild animals was a staff with a crook. He willingly put his life on the line for his flock. At night, he would put the flock in a makeshift pen that had only one way in and out. The shepherd would open the door to the pen, call the sheep by

name, and they would come in and settle safely for the night.

Sheep are skittish animals and “spook” easily. Because they knew the shepherd's voice, they would calm down and follow him and nobody but him. Several flocks can mix together, and when the flocks' true shepherd speaks, they separate and follow him. If a thief comes, the sheep will not follow him because they do not know his voice. At night the shepherd lies down at the gate to the pen, to give his life if necessary to protect his flock. And the thief can only climb in over the fence because the shepherd is guarding the gate. Jesus is the True Shepherd to the sheep (true believers) who are His. We know Him, we recognize His voice, and we follow only Him (John 10:27-28).

What Jesus is saying here ties right into John 14:6: “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me.” Jesus is not only the Good Shepherd who gives His life willingly for His sheep (John 10:11), but He is the also the “gate” or “door” of the sheep (John 10:9). In this metaphor Jesus presents Himself as the One who gives salvation, the One who offers access to heaven. So,

Jesus is the True Shepherd who guards His sheep, the Good Shepherd who gives His life for them, and the Doorway to heaven for the sheep who know Him and are known by Him.

Jesus also says there were many who came before Him pretending to be good shepherds. But, He says, they are thieves and robbers who come in among the flock. He is alluding to the false shepherds of Israel, the Pharisees who did not love the people, nor were they willing to sacrifice for them. These self-appointed and self-righteous false shepherds led the sheep of Israel astray from the true knowledge of the Messiah, clinging to a works-based religion that could not lead to salvation (Ezekiel 34:1-31). These leaders were not the true shepherds of Israel but were like thieves that plundered the flock for their own gain. Sadly, such false shepherds still abound today, more interested in fleecing the flock for their own personal gain, than in feeding and protecting the sheep as true under-shepherds to the True Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In V 22-42 we see Jesus speaking to the people during the celebration of Hanukkah. DO you know much about this festival? I think most of us look at it as the “Jewish Christmas” but that’s not at all what it is. (*Our family LOVES Hanukkah and celebrates it each year, visit our channel to learn more! Search “Heavenly Minded Homeschool on YouTube and we have a playlist of Holy Days related videos*)

Question: "What is the Feast of Dedication?"

Answer: The Feast of Dedication, which was once also called the Feast of the Maccabees, was an eight-day winter festival celebrated by the Jews in the month of December or sometimes late November, depending on when it fell in the lunisolar Jewish calendar. Today, this festival is called Hanukkah or the Festival of Lights.

The history of the Feast of Dedication goes back to the intertestamental period and the Maccabean Revolt. After the Seleucid king Antiochus Epihanes profaned the Jewish temple and forced the Jews to abandon their sacrifices and adopt pagan rituals, a group of Jewish freedom fighters rose up, defied the oppressive pagan regime, and overthrew the Seleucids. The temple in Jerusalem was re-dedicated to God; ever since then, the Feast of Dedication has been celebrated to commemorate this meaningful event in Jewish history.

The original Feast of Dedication involved a miracle, according to rabbinic tradition. When the Jews re-entered the temple they could only find one small, sealed jug of olive oil that had not been profaned or contaminated by the Seleucids. They used this to light the menorah in the temple, and though the oil was only enough to last one day, it miraculously lasted eight days—time for more oil to be made ready. This is

the reason Hanukkah lasts for eight days.

The Bible mentions the Feast of Dedication by name in the Gospel of John. "Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade" (John 10:22-23). This is the scene in which Jesus claims oneness with the Father, for which the unbelieving Jews try to apprehend and stone Him (verses 24-39).

The Feast of Dedication, with its roots in the miracle of the menorah, has always been associated with lights; it is sometimes called the Festival of Lights. Illuminating houses and synagogues is a tradition that was probably carried over from the Feast of Tabernacles. The recitation of Psalm 30:1-12 is also an important part of the Feast of Dedication because of its themes of God-given victory over enemies and the replacement of mourning and sorrow with hope and joy (Psalm 30:5, 11).

Hanukkah, or the Feast of Dedication, is not one of the festivals instituted by God through Moses as part of the Law. That is not to say, however, that the festival is unbiblical or displeasing to God. From Daniel to Jesus' disciples to Jews persecuted under Hitler's power and Christians persecuted in the Orient, both Jews and Christians have a long history of showing extraordinary courage in the face of intense persecution, just as the Jews did during the Seleucid

oppression. The Feast of Dedication is about the darkness of persecution and the light of God that leads His people through the darkness of those figurative nights with a promise of joy in the morning (Psalm 30:5).

Most Jews today do not believe in Jesus Christ as the incarnation of Yahweh. However, the Maccabees were followers of Yahweh, and Jesus' disciples were still Jewish, even

though they believed that the Great I Am had revealed Himself in the person of Jesus (Exodus 3:14; John 8:58). Christianity has its roots in Judaism, and Christians can look to the Feast of Dedication as a celebration of God's protection and the victory He gives His faithful people who are willing to bravely continue to worship Him in the face of persecution.

Have your parent/teacher dictate John 10:14-15. Review, correct and rewrite as needed.

Writer's Tea Time // Baking

Writer's Blitz

Complete "Day 2" for today's activity - then enjoy sitting at the table together as a family, enjoy your tea (cocoa, cider, etc) and baked good while you work on any additional writing projects you enjoy! Journal, write a letter, story, cards, etc.

Marshmallow Popcorn Bars

INGREDIENTS

makes 16 bars

- 7 ounces marshmallows (small or large)

- ½ cup (packed) light brown sugar
- ¼ cup unsalted butter
- 7 cups popped popcorn
- 1 cup white chocolate chips

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place the marshmallows, sugar and butter in a medium-sized saucepan. Heat on a low-to-medium heat until melted, stirring often. It should take about five minutes to melt.
2. Place the popcorn in a large bowl and pour over the marshmallow mixture. Stir together, working quickly, until combined, then stir in three quarters of the white chocolate chips.
3. Transfer the mixture to a 9 x 9-inch baking tin lined with baking parchment. Squash down the mixture until level and leave to set at room temperature for 10-15 minutes.
4. Remove from the tray and cut into squares using a sharp knife. Melt the remaining white chocolate chips in the microwave (in 15 second bursts, stirring between each burst), then drizzle on the popcorn bars. Let the chocolate set and then serve.

DAY 48 // WEEK 10

Genesis 39 // Joseph's Time in Potiphar's House

We see Joseph having much success in his role of serving in Captain Potiphar's house. Why was Joseph successful? _____

We see an unfortunate turn of events though when Potiphar's wife starts inappropriately pursuing Joseph. Proverbs gives many warnings about immoral women. It might seem like the Bible talks about many stories that are a bit awkward to read through, but the reality is that we can learn much from these examples in our lives. For you boys- to always avoid these women (even if it takes a drastic measure like Joseph had to) and for you girls- to never become these immoral women setting traps.

Question: "What can we learn from the account of Potiphar's wife?"

Answer: The story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39 contains some obvious lessons about fidelity in the face of sexual temptation, and there are also some subtler points to be found about the loyal character of God. The story is dramatic: Jacob's son Joseph is in Egypt, where he is Potiphar's servant and the most trusted overseer in his household. Potiphar's wife sees that Joseph "was well-built and handsome, and after a while . . . said, 'Come to bed with me!'" (Genesis 39:6-7).

There is much in the story of Potiphar's wife about resisting sexual temptation. A brash woman overtly tempts a man, pulling on his clothes and saying, "Lie with me." The man flees from her so suddenly that he actually leaves his garment in her hand. Joseph doesn't stand there,

gazing at the woman, considering whether or not he should sleep with her. He immediately gets out of there (see 1 Corinthians 6:18).

Joseph's wise handling of the situation with Potiphar's wife directly contrasts the foolhardy actions of the simple man in Proverbs. Solomon sees a fool walking toward the house of an adulterous woman (Proverbs 7:8). When the fool drew near, "she took hold of him and kissed him . . . with a brazen face" (verse 13). Rather than run away like Joseph, the foolish man stayed to listen to her: "With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk" (verse 21). And he paid a high price for his foolishness: "All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter" (verse 22). One could argue the Joseph, too, paid a high price—his virtue landed him in prison—but one has only to read the

rest of Genesis to see the blessings God had in store for Joseph.

It is interesting to note that Genesis 39 does not say anything about Joseph's feelings for Potiphar's wife: was he attracted to her? Did he find her beautiful or interesting? How long did they have a perfectly normal and friendly relationship—servant and mistress—before she chose to attempt a seduction? None of this is enumerated. The heart of the issue is this: Potiphar's wife promised happiness and sensual satisfaction, but Joseph saw sin for what it is, refusing to do "this great wickedness" (Genesis 39:9, ESV). Joseph feared God, knowing that all sin is ultimately against Him (see Psalm 51:4). In saying "no" to Potiphar's wife, Joseph showed himself to be wise: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding" (Psalm 111:10).

The incident with Potiphar's wife is bookended by two passages that speak of God's love and blessing to Joseph. Joseph found favor in the eyes of the Egyptians among whom he lived and rose to a position of prominence in the house of Potiphar (Genesis 39:1–6). Joseph's success and position was the direct result of God's blessing (verses 2–3). When Joseph was wrongly accused and sent to prison, God remained faithful. God "showed [Joseph] kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden" (verse 21). Soon, the keeper of the prison had put Joseph in charge of the other prisoners and

trusted him so fully that he no longer paid attention to anything that was under Joseph's control (verses 22–23). Everything Joseph did succeeded because "the Lord was with Joseph" (verse 23).

The story of Potiphar's wife is about loyalty as much as it is about resisting temptation. Potiphar's wife was disloyal to her husband, but Joseph was loyal both to Potiphar and to God. God shows us amazing loyalty and faithfulness. It is part of His character. He is "compassionate and gracious . . . slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness" (Exodus 34:6). "For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does" (Psalm 33:4). Joseph's desire to be faithful and loyal to Potiphar was in response to God's faithfulness to Him; Joseph was reflecting God's character, which is what the godly do. "Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did" (1 John 2:6).

When Potiphar's wife stirred her husband's jealousy and made him throw Joseph in prison unjustly, God was still there, comforting and blessing Joseph. From this we can learn that, even if we are treated unfairly in this life, God will never forsake His servants (Hebrews 13:5).

Psalm 39 // A Psalm of David

What type of tone did you see in this Psalm? It might have sounded a bit...

well- dark and depressing! In V 4 David asks the Lord to remind him of how short and little his life even is. In V 6-7 we see such an important focus though- We can become so busy and so focused on the things of *THIS* world and *THIS* life that our focus is no longer on **CHRIST!** That is where the source of our hope comes from- not from possessions, money, career, dreams, etc... Read Ecclesiasties if you haven't already- it is a great source of wisdom.

Have your parent/teacher dictate Psalm 39:6-7 to you. Correct any mistakes and rewrite as needed.

John 11 // Foreshadowing Jesus' Death & Resurrection

In our Journey through the Gospel of John we have been learning who Jesus Christ really is. So far we have learned that He is...

the God-Man	the Light of the World
the Water of Life	the Door of Salvation
the Bread of Life	the Good Shepherd

In John 11:25 we find another great "I AM" verse which helps us to better understand who Jesus Christ really is:

"I am the _____ and the _____. Anyone who believes in Me will _____, even after dying."

Let us now study the chapter in which this verse is found:

Outline of John Chapter 11

1A. The Sickness and Death of Lazarus (John 11:1-16).

2A. The People Weep and Jesus Groans (John 11:17-38).

3A. Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead (John 11:39-44).

4A. The Enemies of Jesus Make Their Plans (John 11:45-57).

In John chapter 11 we are going to learn about one of the most amazing miracles that Jesus performed. Jesus did something that no one else had ever done in all of human history! A man who had been dead for _____ days (John 11:39) was raised up from the dead! In Old Testament times God worked in special ways through His prophets Elijah and Elisha and these men even raised dead persons (see 1 Kings 17:17-24 for Elijah and 2 Kings 4:1-37; 13:20-21 for Elisha). But these people had not been dead for four days.

The great miracle that we learn about in John chapter 11 was not the only time that Jesus had raised up a person who had died. He had raised the daughter of Jairus, who had been

dead a short time (Luke 8:41-56). He also raised a widow's son who must have been dead no longer than one day (Luke 7:11-16). But the miracle we read about in John chapter 11 was the greatest of the three and it was the miracle that really caused a stir among the Jews (John 11:47-48; 12:9). We are now ready to go to John chapter 11 and see what we can learn:

THE SICKNESS AND DEATH OF LAZARUS

In John 11:1 we learn that Lazarus was S_____. How sick was he? A few days later we learn that Lazarus was _____ (John 11:14). His sickness brought him quickly to the grave.

Lazarus lived in the city of _____ (John 11:1), a city which was nigh (near) to the great city of _____ (John 11:18--a furlong equals about 1/8 of a mile, and thus Bethany was a little less than 2 miles from Jerusalem). Can you find Bethany and Jerusalem on a Bible map?

What were the names of the two sisters of Lazarus (John 11:1)?

We can also read about these two sisters in Luke 10:38-42. In John 11:2 we learn about something that Mary did for Jesus. We will learn more about this in John 12:1-8.

Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus (John 11:3). They

wanted Jesus to come right away and heal their brother. They thought Jesus would do this because of his love for Lazarus. Did Jesus really love Lazarus (John 11:5)? _____ Did Jesus come to Bethany right away (John 11:6)? _____ We need to remember that God does not always do what we want Him to do or what we think He should do! God always does what is best! Does He know what is best or do we? _____

When Jesus heard the news about Lazarus being sick He said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in _____" (John 11:4). What did Jesus mean by this? Was He saying that Lazarus would not die? This could not be what He meant because Jesus knew that Lazarus would die (John 11:14). Jesus was saying that the final end of this sickness would not be death. Lazarus would die, but he would not end up dead! He would end up ALIVE! Here is what Jesus meant:

"This sickness will not lead to death"

If the sickness had led to death, then death would have been the final result:

SICKNESS DEATH
(the final end of the sickness)

"This sickness is for the glory of God"

This sickness would result in death but death would not be its final result:

SICKNESS DEATH LIFE GOD IS GLORIFIED (the final end of the sickness)

God had a purpose for allowing Lazarus to die, just as God had a wonderful purpose in allowing a man to be born blind (see John 9:1-3).

Note: As we think about what Jesus would do for Lazarus, we need to make an important difference. The final resurrection of believers is much different than that which happened to Lazarus. It is true that Lazarus was "raised from the dead" (John 12:9), but this is not the same thing that will happen to believers when they are "raised up at the last day" (John 6:39, 40, 44,54).

Lazarus was REVIVED (given life again). Lazarus was restored to life. Lazarus was really dead (John 11:14) but by the power of God he was given physical life again. But Lazarus was not given a new body that would never die. Even though he was no longer dead and no longer sick, he was still in his same physical body and someday he would die again! What Jesus did for Lazarus was wonderful, but it was only temporary, not permanent.

In the future when Jesus raises up believers He is going to do a permanent work! At the time of the resurrection believers will receive new bodies which will be immortal and incorruptible (1 Corinthians 15:51-54). This means they will have bodies that will never grow old, never become sick and never die! They will have bodies that have been prepared to live and to last for all of eternity! Someday even Lazarus will get a new resurrection body!

Resurrection is something that will happen in the future for ALL MEN (see John 5:28-29). There is a RESURRECTION OF L_____ (John 5:29). These people will live in their new bodies and enjoy fellowship with Christ throughout eternity. There is also a RESURRECTION OF D_____ (John 5:29). These people will be given a new body which will be designed to last forever in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15). They will be separated from God throughout eternity. There will be a good resurrection (for the saved) and a bad resurrection (for the unsaved). Which resurrection will you be part of? The choice is yours!

What God did for Lazarus was something very special. He brought a man from a tomb and restored him to physical life. What God is going to do for you and for every other believer in the future is even more special (see Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and 1 Corinthians chapter 15).

When Jesus heard the news that Lazarus was sick, did He hurry to Bethany right away (John 11:6)? _____ For how long did He stay in the same place where He was (John 11:6)? _____ We need to remember that God is never late! He knows what He is doing and He does all things well. God may not do things as fast as we would want Him to, but He is never late! Because God is never late we need to learn to W_____ (Psalm 27:14).

After these two days Jesus said, "Let us go into _____ again" (John 11:7). Bethany (where Lazarus was) and Jerusalem (where most of Jesus' enemies were) were both located in the region known as Judea. Why were the disciples afraid to return to this region (John 11: 8)?

_____ The disciples remembered what the Jews tried to do in John 10:31-33. He escaped then (John 10:39) but would He escape again?

Jesus answered the disciples and told them that He could walk in safety while it was day (John 11:9-10). He knew that the hour of His death had not yet come. Jesus knew that God had given Him a certain amount of time to do God's will on earth. He knew that His enemies could not shorten this time (John 10:18). He knew that He could not die until His work was done. The same is true for us. When a believer is walking in the light and fulfilling God's plan for his (or

her) life, there is nothing that he (or she) needs to fear. God protects His servants! Do God's servants need to fear what man will do unto them (Psalm 118:6; Psalm 27:1; Hebrews 13:6)? _____

Jesus then told His disciples something which they did not understand: "Our friend Lazarus has _____; but now I will go and _____." (John 11:11). When Jesus said, "Lazarus is sleeping" what did He mean by this (John 11:13)?

_____ What did the disciples think that He meant by this (John 11:12-13)? _____

In John 11:14 Jesus cleared up the confusion. Lazarus was sleeping the sleep of death! When Jesus spoke about awaking him out of his sleep (John 11:11), what do you think He meant?

_____ The Bible often uses the term "sleep" to describe death (see 1 Kings 2:10; Matthew 27:52; Luke 8:52; 1 Corinthians 15:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:14). One example is found in 1 Corinthians 11:30: "That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died." This does not mean that there were some that were weak and

sickly and there were others who took a nap! No, it means that some were sick and some actually DIED!

If you were to go to a funeral home and look at the body of a dead person, the body lying there almost looks like a person sleeping! It looks as if the body is resting. When a person dies their body IS PUT TO REST. But it will not rest forever! Someday something is going to happen to that body!

When a person is SLEEPING we know that he will not keep on sleeping forever! The time will come when he will WAKE UP! The same is true for the body which sleeps or rests in the grave.

The disciples had enough courage to go with Jesus to Bethany, but what did Thomas think might happen (John 11:16)?

Thomas was wrong! It would soon be time for Jesus to die, but it would not be the time for the disciples to die. God had a perfect plan for His beloved Son and God had a perfect plan for each of the disciples.

THE PEOPLE WEEP AND JESUS GROANS

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had already been dead for _____ days (John 11:17). Many Jews had come to try to comfort Martha and Mary (John 11:19).

Which sister came to Jesus first (John 11:20)? _____ Did she think that Jesus could have prevented the death of Lazarus (John 11:21)? _____ Did she think that there was still something that Jesus could do (John 11:22)? _____

Jesus then gave Martha a wonderful promise concerning what He was about to do: "Thy brother shall _____" (John 11:23). Jesus was going to go and wake Lazarus out of his sleep (compare John 11:11)!

Did Martha know that Lazarus would rise again (John 11:24)? _____ Did she think that this would happen right away or did she think this would happen on some future day (John 11:24)?

She knew that at the last day there would be a resurrection just as Daniel the prophet said in Daniel 12:2.

Martha believed that the RESURRECTION was an event that would take place in the distant future. She needed to understand that the RESURRECTION was a Person and that this Person was standing right in front of her! (John 11:25)

The word RESURRECTION means "rising up" or "standing up." When a person dies they "lie down" or they are put to rest in the grave. When a person is raised from the dead they "stand up" even as Lazarus did when he came out of the tomb (John 11:44). Jesus Christ does not

have a problem with the grave and with death. HE IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE! Death is man's great enemy (1 Cor. 15:26) but Jesus Christ has conquered this enemy! Because of her doubts and fears Martha somehow thought that death and the grave were greater than Jesus. She needed to realize that Jesus was greater than death and the grave. Jesus Christ is the "A _____ of L _____" (Acts 3:15).

Jesus said, "I AM THE RESURRECTION!" This is explained in the last part of John 11:25:

"Everyone that believes in Me will live, even after dying."

Physical death is no problem for the person who believes in Jesus Christ! When a believer dies, he does not lose but rather he gains (Philippians 1:21-23)! For the believer physical death is nothing to be feared. It is only the doorway which leads to LIFE (an eternal relationship with the living God)!

Jesus said, "I AM THE LIFE" (John 11:25). This is explained in John 11:26:

"Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever _____"

Jesus said something similar to this in John 8:51. A true believer will never be separated from God! The believer has ETERNAL LIFE. He will

never experience spiritual death (separation from God).

Martha believed that Jesus was the _____ (Messiah), the _____ of God (John 11:27) but she did not really understand what Jesus meant when He said, "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE" (John 11:25). Somehow she thought that the grave was greater than Jesus (see John 11:39-40). But soon she would see "the glory of God" (John 11:40). She would see how great the Son of God really is! The grave is no match for Him!

Martha left and then Mary came to meet Jesus, followed by many of the Jews that had come to mourn with her (John 11:28-31). When Mary met Jesus did she say the same thing that her sister had said (John 11:32 and compare 11:21)? _____ She thought that Jesus could have done something if He had been there when Lazarus was still living. Soon she would learn that Jesus is able to do something even though Lazarus has been dead for 4 days! Death is not greater than Jesus. Jesus is Lord over death!

What was Mary doing and what were the other Jews doing according to John 11:33?

They were WEEPING but Jesus was GROANING!

The word "GROANED" (John 11:33) means that Jesus was "deeply moved in the spirit." This word often refers to a person who is moved with

anger or indignation. Jesus was angry! In a righteous way He was upset and troubled. The Lord was not pleased with the crying and sobbing all around Him. Mary and the Jews that were with her *did not understand!* They did not understand about death. They did not understand about Lazarus. And most of all they did not understand WHO JESUS WAS and WHAT JESUS COULD DO. The AUTHOR OF LIFE was standing right in front of them and they were weeping and wailing because of DEATH!

Jesus asked where the tomb of Lazarus was and they said to Him, "Lord, come and see" (John 11:34). The Bible then tells us that " _____ " (John 11:35). This is the shortest verse in the English Bible (only two words and nine letters)! *[The shortest verse in the Greek New Testament is 1 Thessalonians 5:16--"Rejoice evermore!"]*

Jesus wept, but He was not weeping in the same way that the Jews were (see John 11:33). The word "wept" in John 11:35 is a different word than we find in John 11:33 ("weeping"). In John 11:33 we learn that Mary and the Jews were weeping. This word "weeping" means a loud expression of grief, especially by those who are mourning for the dead. These Jews were weeping and wailing and sobbing because of the death of Lazarus. In John 11:35 the word "wept" does not refer to loud weeping and

wailing. It simply means "to shed tears."

Why did Jesus shed tears? Certainly He was not shedding tears for Lazarus. The death of Lazarus was no problem to Him! Also He knew exactly what was soon going to happen to Lazarus (see John 11:4, 11,23). Jesus was not shedding tears for Lazarus. Rather, He was shedding tears for the mourners of Lazarus! He was grieved that these people did not understand. He was grieved because of their unbelief.

The Jews noticed that Jesus wept and they said, "See how much he _____ him (Lazarus)" (John 11:36). They thought that Jesus was shedding tears because of Lazarus. Read John 11:37. Some of the Jews were saying something like this: "Since Jesus loved Lazarus so much, why didn't He prevent Lazarus from dying? If He could open the eyes of the blind why could He not also keep Lazarus from dying?" Was Jesus pleased by these words (John 11:38)? _____ Once again He was moved with anger because of their unbelief. They did not think that Jesus had any power over death and the grave!

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

Lazarus' grave was in a cave (John 11:38). A stone was placed before the entrance. It was probably similar to the tomb where the body of Jesus was later laid.

Jesus told the people to take away the stone from the entrance of the tomb (John 11:39). Why did Martha not want the stone to be taken away (John 11:39)?

The body of Lazarus had already begun to decompose and rot. But Jesus knew what He was doing, and soon Lazarus would come forth from the tomb without any bad odor at all!

If Martha would only believe what would she see (John 11:40)?

Compare John 11:4 and John 11:25-26. The raising of Lazarus was wonderful occasion for God to make Himself known in a special way.

After they took away the stone Jesus prayed (John 11:41). Did He pray silently to Himself or did He pray out loud so that others could hear Him (John 11:41-42)?

Jesus publicly thanked God for what was about to happen!

After this prayer Jesus cried with a LOUD VOICE and said: "Lazarus, _____!" (John 11:43). Did Lazarus obey the Lord's command (John 11:44)? _____ Jesus was very careful to call Lazarus by name (John 11:43). He could have called forth others from the dead if it had been the Father's will! There will come a

time in the future when _____ that are in the graves shall hear His voice (John 5:28)! And they shall come forth (John 5:29)! Death and the grave are no problem to Jesus!

It must have been quite a sight to see Lazarus come forth from the tomb, still wrapped in his grave clothes (John 11:44)! Bodies were usually wrapped with strips of cloth, with spices sprinkled among the bindings so that the odor would not be too bad. Lazarus must have looked like a WALKING MUMMY! Jesus instructed the people to loose him (set him free by unwrapping him) and let him go (John 11:44).

It is difficult even to imagine the amazement which must have gripped those who saw this miracle! And yet we must realize that there will be a future resurrection of believers which will be far better than that which happened to Lazarus. Lazarus was brought back to life, but the day would come when he would *die again!* How would you like to die twice? But when believers are resurrected they will have new bodies and they will never die again! The following chart shows the difference between what happened to Lazarus and what will happen to believers in the future:

<i>BELIEVERS</i>	<i>LAZARUS</i>
Immortal Bodies Never Subject to Death (1 Corinthians 15:53)	A Mortal Body Subject to Death (John 12:10)
Never to Die Again!	He Must Die a Second Time!
Incorruptible Bodies Never Subject to Corruption or Decay (not subject to wearing down or growing old) 1 Corinthians 15:53	Corruptible Body Subject to Corruption and Decay (the body of Lazarus would wear down and grow old)
Bodies That Are Meant To Last For Eternity (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)	A Body That Is Meant To Go Back to Dust (Genesis 3:19)

Are you trusting the One who is the Resurrection and the Life? Are you depending on the AUTHOR OF LIFE for your eternal salvation? Jesus said, "Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me *shall never die*" (John 11:26)!

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

See JOHN 11:26

CRAFTING IN ACTION // MATH

Last month we worked on really assessing what we own, why we own it, and clearing out the excess to give to those truly in need. This should be an ongoing process in which you start to think about the stuff that you bring into your home (Do you REALLY need this? Is this the best use of your resources and time?) and being open and giving to let stuff also flow back OUT of your home and to a neighbor in need! (Even if it's the local thrift store that will help that neighbor in need attain it.)

This month I want to work on skills- crafting with our hands- that have a place in the real world that we'll use in our life. Think about the things we need to know how to do- run household appliances (oven, dishwasher, washer & dryer, etc...), change a light bulb, fix a toilet, paint a room, change a lock, change the oil or a flat tire on the car, checkout at the store, find the correct clothes, make a budget and stick to it, make your bed, clean the house, build a fire, clean the gutters, make something from scratch, sew or knit- the list goes on and on.

Look back at last week's list, what can you work on today? Each Wednesday spend some time as a family learning how to work on one of these. Ask for help, Youtube instructional videos, etc... but add to the list of skills that your kids can all work with their hands and properly complete. These things will come in handy more than you know, and what a blessing you can be to your family- and others- with this knowledge and workmanship!

Skill we learned: _____

Most challenging part: _____

Most rewarding: _____

Area(s) to work on/improve next time: _____

Complete the math lesson - visit our website if you need to access your level.

DAY 49 // WEEK 10

Genesis 40 // Joseph Interprets Dreams...

Today we read an interesting account of the two prisoner's dreams that Joseph helped interpret for them.

What does he say toward the end of V8? "Interpreting dreams is _____ business"

Many people nowadays believe they can interpret dreams, or that they have different powers with their dreams as far as "connecting" with higher beings or receiving special "revelations". Unfortunately, this type of foolishness has been around since the beginning, and is very dangerous.

Question: "Christian dream interpretation? Are our dreams from God?"

Answer: We strongly believe that a person's dreams and the meaning of those dreams are between the person and God alone. In the past, God spoke to people sometimes in dreams. Examples are Joseph, son of Jacob (Genesis 37:5-10); Joseph, the husband of Mary (Matthew 2:12-22); Solomon (1 Kings 3:5-15); and several others (Daniel 2:1; 7:1; Matthew 27:19). There is also a prophecy of the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28), quoted by the apostle Peter in Acts 2:17, that mentions God using dreams. So God *can* speak through dreams, if He chooses to.

However, we must keep in mind that the Bible is complete, having revealed everything we need to know from now until eternity. This is not to say that God does not work miracles or even speak through dreams today, but anything God says, whether through a dream, vision, impression, or "still small voice," will agree completely with what He has already revealed in His Word. Dreams cannot usurp the authority of Scripture.

If you have a dream and feel that perhaps God gave it to you, prayerfully examine the Word of God and make sure your dream is in agreement with Scripture. If it is, prayerfully consider what God would have you do in response to your dream (James 1:5). In Scripture, whenever anyone experienced a dream from God, God always made the meaning of the dream clear, whether directly to the person, through an angel, or through another messenger (Genesis 40:5-11; Daniel 2:45; 4:19). When God speaks to us, He makes sure His message is clearly understood.

Psalm 40 // A Psalm of David

Today we see a Psalm that is much more uplifting than in recent days. This is a Psalm of thanksgiving—thanking the Lord after the time of

lamenting- of crying out to God. For today's lesson I want you to write out the top three verses that stood out to you in this Psalm:

V ___: _____

V ___: _____

V ___: _____

John 12 // Jesus Anointed at Bethany

In Mark 10:43-45 the Lord Jesus pointed to Himself as the best example of a SERVANT:

" (43) But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister (servant).

(44) And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be _____ of all.

(45) For even the _____ of _____ came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to _____ His life a ransom for many."

Jesus came *not* to be served, but to serve! He came *not* because of what He could GET but because of what He could GIVE! He served us by GIVING His life so that we could live! This same truth is also presented in Philippians 2:8:

"He _____ Himself in obedience to _____, and died a _____ death on the cross."

THE HUMBLE SERVANT IS ANOINTED FOR BURIAL

Once again Jesus returned to Bethany, the town where Lazarus lived (John 12:1). His death on the cross was only about a week away.

Martha, the sister of Lazarus, served supper (John 12:2). There were others who were present for this meal including Mary (Martha's sister), Jesus, the twelve disciples and a man named Simon (see Mark 14:3). What other man was there at the table (John 12:2)? _____ Can you imagine eating a meal with a man who had once been dead and in a tomb for 4 days!

We shall now learn about something very special that Mary did for Jesus. What she did because of her love for Jesus has never been forgotten. It has been written down in three places (John 12:3-8; Matthew 26:6-13 and Mark 14:3-9). Wherever the Bible is preached, men and women will learn about Mary and what she did for Jesus (see Mark 14:9)!

In the New Testament we read about several women who all had the name "MARY." Which Mary anointed the Lord Jesus? We find the answer in John 11:1-2 (and compare John 11:32). This was the Mary who lived in the town of _____ and whose sister's name was _____ and whose brother's name was _____. She is the same Mary that we read about in Luke 10:38-42.

Mary's act of love is described in John 12:3. Mary had a jar of very expensive ointment or perfume. This perfume weighed about 12 ounces or 3/4 of a pound (the word "pound" is the Greek word "litra" which equals about 12 ounces or 3/4 of a pound). What was this perfume? We are told that it was

genuine or pure NARD (this is the meaning of the word "spikenard"). Nard came from a herb grown in the high-pasture-land of the Himalayas, between Tibet and India. Since it could only be obtained from such a remote area and carried all the way to Israel on camel-back, it was very high priced!

Judas thought that this perfume could be sold for _____ pence or denarii (John 12:4-5). That is a great sum of money! We learned about the value of a denarius in our study of John chapter 6. It was the amount of money that an average worker would receive for one day's work (Matthew 20:1-16; a "pence" means one denarius). Three hundred of these silver coins would be the amount that a worker would receive for _____ days of work (probably equal to about a year's wage!). This means that it would take an average worker about one year to earn enough money to buy this amount of nard perfume!

This perfume also had a very strong aroma! We are told that when the jar was broken open the whole "house was _____ with the _____ of the ointment" (John 12:3).

Let us picture in our minds what Mary actually did. Jesus was reclining on a couch by the table. Suddenly Mary breaks the jar which she is holding in her hand, and she pours its sweet-smelling contents over Jesus. According to Matthew and Mark she pours it upon His head (Matthew 26:7 and Mark 14:3) and according to John she anointed His feet (John 12:3). Both statements are true. Matthew and Mark clearly indicate that the perfume was poured over *the body* of Jesus. For example, see Matthew 26:12: "she has poured this perfume on me to prepare

my _____ for burial." Apparently there was enough perfume for the entire body: head, neck, shoulders and even for the feet. The feet are covered with an amount of ointment so abundant that they have to be dried with her _____ (John 12:3).

Was Judas Iscariot thankful that Mary showed her love to Jesus in this way (John 12:4-5)? _____ Judas and some of the other disciples saw this perfume poured all over Jesus and they were thinking, "WHAT A WASTE!" (compare Mark 14:4-5). Judas actually spoke up and he said that the ointment (perfume) should have been sold and the money should have been given to the _____ (John 12:4-5). Did Judas really care about the poor (John 12:6)? _____ Who was the only person that Judas really cared about? _____ Judas was the "treasurer" of the disciples! He carried the money bag and the Bible says that he was a T_____ (John 12:6)! Do you think Jesus knew all about his greedy heart? _____ Mary was so generous but Judas was so greedy!

Did Jesus think that Mary's act was a foolish waste of money (John 12:7-8)? _____ According to the words of Jesus, Mary's act was very significant. She was anointing the body of Jesus for burial. In New Testament times the Jews would often come and anoint a dead body with perfumes and spices. According to Jesus, Mary did this *before* His death because there would be no time later. In fact, when the

women came to the tomb of Jesus to anoint His body (see Mark 16:1) there was no body to anoint (Mark 16:6)! Mary's anointing was the only anointing that His body ever received!

In John 12:8 Jesus was speaking to His disciples. Who would they always have with them? _____ Who would they not always have with them? _____ Jesus was reminding them that there would always be opportunity to help the poor (see Mark 14:7). But the day was soon coming when Jesus would no longer be with them. The opportunity to do something for Jesus was fast slipping away. The time to do something for Him is NOW, and Mary made the most of this opportunity! Jesus is no longer in the world today. If we want to show our love for Him today, what must we do (John 14:15,21-24)?

A great number of people were coming to Bethany. There were two reasons for these crowds:

1) they wanted to see Jesus (John 12:9);

2) they also wanted to see _____ (John 12:9), a man who had once been dead!

The Lord's enemies not only wanted to kill Jesus, but who else did they want to kill (John 12:10-11)?

THE HUMBLE SERVANT ENTERS THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

In John 12:12-19 we learn about an event which has been called THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY or THE ROYAL ENTRY OF CHRIST. All four of the Gospels tell us about this event when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem for the final time

(Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12). Even the Old Testament predicted this event (see Zechariah 9:9).

As you read John 12:12-19, you will notice the public nature of this event. Jesus came **BOLDLY** and **NOISILY** into the city. He even came **DEFIANTLY** because He knew that His enemies were there ready to get Him (see John 11:57). At this point in time the Lord did everything He could to attract attention to Himself! The time had come (compare John 13:1)!

This public policy was quite unlike our Lord's ministry prior to this time. Previously Jesus was very careful to avoid too much publicity and at times He would shy away from crowds. When His enemies tried to get Him He would escape and withdraw (see John 10:39-40 and John 11:53-54). But now He made His way right into the city of Jerusalem in broad daylight with multitudes shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the _____ of Israel, that comes in the name of the Lord" (John 12:13 and compare Psalm 118:25-26). It was as if Jesus wanted as much publicity and advertisement as possible. When it was all done the Lord's enemies were amazed by His popularity and they said, "Behold, the _____ is gone after him" (John 12:19).

The people took "branches of _____ trees" (John 12:13) and they placed them before Jesus as He entered the city. It was customary for people in the East to welcome a King or a Conqueror in such a way.

When Jesus entered the city He came in a very **HUMBLE** way, sitting on a young colt or donkey (John 12:14-15). He did not come into the city riding in some magnificent chariot pulled by powerful horses! His entrance into the city is foretold in Zechariah 9:9. In this verse He is described as One who is "L_____", and riding upon a donkey's colt."

In the future Jesus Christ will come a second time as Israel's King. Will He come in meekness and lowliness or will He come in power and great glory (Matthew 24:30)?

When He comes the second time will He be riding humbly on a donkey or will He be riding victoriously on a white horse as the world's Conqueror and Judge (Revelation 19:11-16)?

Jesus came the first time to be the world's **Saviour**. He will come a second time to be the world's **Judge**. Those who do not receive Him as their Saviour must someday face Him as their Judge.

THE HUMBLE SERVANT TELLS OF HIS COMING DEATH

In earlier chapters in John's Gospel we saw that the Jews were unable to lay their hands on Jesus because "His _____ was not yet _____" (John 7:30 and 8:20 and compare John 2:4). As we read John 12:23 we find these important words: "The _____ is _____, that the Son of man

should be glorified." The time had come! In John 12:24 we see that Jesus was talking about His death.

In John 12:24 the Lord used the illustration of a seed. A grain or kernel of wheat must fall into the _____ and _____. Only in this way can you have fruit (a rich return of wheat). If you keep the kernel of wheat in a glass jar in your kitchen cupboard, will you ever get fruit? Years later the kernel will still be there-- the same as when you put it in. It will be there all alone! But when that kernel is put in the ground "to die" something amazing happens! The hard shell of the seed begins to soften and soon it begins to disintegrate and break open, and out comes LIFE! The kernel is no more, but living wheat has sprung up! Jesus had to die on the cross so that there could be fruit and life! If Jesus had not died, then He would go to heaven ALONE! There would be no Moses or David or Isaiah or Peter or Paul or YOU in heaven! But because Jesus died He made it possible for WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM (believes in WHO HE IS and WHAT HE HAS DONE) to spend eternity with God. Calvary made possible a rich harvest of souls! The humble Servant came to GIVE (sacrifice) His life so that we could have life!

Believers must follow the example of their Lord (John 12:25). The world thinks that receiving is getting and giving is losing. The world thinks that it is more blessed to receive than to give. **But Jesus taught that we must give up something to gain something.** We must lose in order to get. To get to something higher,

something lower must be let go of! If a person lives only for himself he will be in trouble, because "he that loves his life shall _____ it" (John 12:25). If a person denies himself and lives for God and for others, his reward will be great (the last part of John 12:25). We must choose whom we are going to serve. Are we going to serve SELF or the SAVIOUR (John 12:26)?

In John 12:27-28 Jesus prays to His heavenly Father. In His sinless humanity Jesus momentarily shrank from the awful prospect of dying for man's sin and being separated from God (compare Matthew 27:46). In John 12:27 Jesus said, "Father, _____ from this hour." But Jesus knew that this was the very reason He had come to this earth (John 12:27). If He were to be saved from going to the cross then none of us could ever be saved. If He were to keep His life then we would die in our sins. The unsaved criminal on the cross next to Jesus said, "Save _____ and _____" (Luke 23:39). But if Jesus were to come down from the cross and save Himself, would He then be able to save us? _____ Salvation is impossible unless the Saviour pays sin's penalty in full!

More than anything else Jesus wanted God to be glorified: "Father, _____ Your Name" (John 12:28). Was this prayer of Jesus answered (John 12:28)? _____ This is one of those very rare times when God the Father actually spoke from heaven (John 12:28). Did the people really understand what was happening (John 12:29)? _____

As Jesus spoke He continued to tell the people about His coming death. In John 12:32 He said, "And when I am _____ (on the cross) from the earth, I will draw _____ to myself." When He spoke these words, was He speaking about His death (John 12:33)? _____ In John 3:14 we also learned about Jesus being lifted up on the cross.

When the Lord Jesus died, there were two crosses--one on His right hand, and the other on His left (Mark 15:27). The Lord Jesus draws all men to that center cross where they must choose to accept or reject the Crucified Saviour. There are two choices that a person can make, as symbolized by the other two crosses:

"I WILL DRAW ALL MEN TO ME" (John 12:32)

When the Jews heard Jesus talking about His death they were very puzzled (John 12:33-34). "We understood from scripture that _____ would live _____" (John 12:34). In other words, they knew that the Old Testament taught that the Messiah would live and reign FOREVER (see Daniel 7:14,27; Isaiah 9:7 and Psalm 102:26-27). But Jesus, who had just entered Jerusalem as KING (John 12:13), spoke of His death and that He would be LIFTED UP on a cross! If Jesus were really the Messiah, then this would be quite a problem! HOW CAN A DEAD

MESSIAH LIVE AND REIGN FOREVER?
How did God solve this problem (see
Acts 5:30)?

Jesus did not really answer
their question (see John 12:34-36) but
instead He told them to do the most
important thing of all: "Believe in the
_____ " (John 12:36). Who is
the Light (John 12:46)? _____
Those who reject the light end up in
darkness and are blind (John 12:40)!

Is it possible to see many
miracles with your own eyes and still
not believe (John 12:37)? _____ A
person might say, "If only Jesus were
here on earth today! If I could just see
Him performing those miracles then I
would believe on Him!" Is this true?
_____ Remember, multitudes of Jews
witnessed the miracles of Christ and
yet they cried, "CRUCIFY HIM!"

In John 12:39-41 the Apostle
John is quoting from a passage in
the Old Testament found in Isaiah
6:1-10. Notice what John says in John
12:41--"Isaiah was referring to Jesus
when" In other words, John tells us
that the One whom Isaiah saw was
Jesus Christ! According to Isaiah 6:1
who did Isaiah see?

According to Isaiah 6:5 who did Isaiah
see? _____

This great Lord and King was none
other than Jesus Christ (before He
came to earth)!

Did some of the rulers believe
on Jesus (John 12:42)? _____ Did they
confess Him and tell others what they
thought of Jesus (John 12:42)? _____
If they were to boldly and proudly
confess Christ what would happen to
them (John 12:42 and compare John
9:22,34)?

_____ Have you ever confessed Jesus
Christ as your Saviour? Have you
ever told others that you love Him
and that you believe on Him? What
promise does Jesus give to those
who confess Him before men
(Matthew 10:32)?

There is something much
worse than getting thrown out of the
synagogue (see Matthew 10:33)!

Read John 12:44-50. What does
Jesus say about those who believe on
Him and receive His words? What
does Jesus say about those who do
not believe on Him and who reject His
words?

WATCH & LEARN // HISTORY

Let everyone in the family choose a “watch & learn” video! It can be on YouTube, Amazon, etc... - the only rule is that you must be LEARNING something from the video! But let everyone take a turn sharing something of interest. Parents- watch and discuss! The kid(s) can pick something and then you can too. <https://answersingenesis.org/kids/videos/> has a lot to pick from too!

Read pages 46-49 (stop at “Egypt”) of The Bible in World History. Discuss these points as you read, look up photos and videos of any topics of interest as you read through these pages.

DAY 50 // WEEK 10

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."

JAMES 1:5

Fridays are our unschool days! Take the day to catch up on any work you need to—then let's pursue things you're interested in! (Or maybe even go on a learning trip as a family!)

Every Friday email your parents 5-7 points that you enjoyed & really learned from this week. Also send any points that were a struggle for you.

DAY 51 // WEEK 11

Genesis 41 // Pharaoh's Dreams

Let's continue looking at the parallels between Joseph and Jesus in the table below. Here are just a representative few- be sure to pull up each noted scripture reference:

PARALLEL	JOSEPH	JESUS
FORETOLD THE FUTURE ACCURATELY	And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us (Gen. 41:13a).	Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he (John 13:19).
PROVED TO BE A GREAT COUNSELOR	...Forasmuch as God hath shown thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art (Gen. 41:39).	and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor... (Isa. 9:6b).
PROMOTED TO HONOR AND GLORY AND GIVEN A NEW NAME	And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See I have set thee over all the land of Egypt (Gen. 41:41). (See also Gen. 41:45a .)	...God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a new name which is above every name (Phil. 2:9).
ALL PEOPLE COMMANDED TO BOW TO HIM	and they cried before him, Bow the knee (Gen. 41:43b).	That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow (Phil. 2:10a).

PROVIDED FOR
ALL IN NEED

And all the countries
came...to Joseph to buy
grain ([Gen. 41:57a](#)).

...I am the bread of life; he
that cometh to me shall
never hunger ([John 6:35a](#)).

Psalm 41 // A Psalm of David

We see King David referred to as a prophet, see Acts 2:30, and quite often through his Psalms we see Christ! We see David prophesying of Jesus- and he didn't even always know it! Where is somewhere you saw reference to Christ in today's Psalm?

Have your parent/teacher dictate that to you- correct and rewrite as needed.

John 1 // The Passover Meal

THE HUMBLE SERVANT WASHES THE DISCIPLES FEET

As we come to John chapter 13 we find that the hour of Jesus' death was drawing even closer. Jesus knew that He would soon "leave this _____ and return to the _____" (John 13:1). In fact, those things which we will read about in John 13 took place on the very night before Jesus died on the cross. On the very next morning He would be nailed to the cross. On the very next night He would be buried in the tomb!

In this chapter we will also learn several things about Judas the Traitor, the one who betrayed the Lord. Who influenced the heart and mind of Judas to do such a thing (John 13:2)? _____

What did Jesus do on this night that really surprised the disciples (John 13:4-5)? _____

In Bible times the washing of feet was necessary because the roads were very dusty and the people would wear open sandals. At a dinner the host would usually provide water for his guests. Either the guests would wash their own feet or else the host would have servants (SLAVES) do this task. The disciples were amazed to see their Lord and Master stooping down to do such a lowly and humble task. Jesus was taking the servant's place!

Jesus also did this because He wanted to teach the disciples a very important spiritual truth about the Christian life and how to walk in fellowship with the Lord. Did Peter want Jesus to wash his feet (John 13:6-8)? _____ But Jesus gave Peter a strong answer: "If I do not wash you, you will not be _____ to Me" (John 13:8). John 13:8 means "to be having part, to have part with Me, to share, partake of one's work and one's reward" and thus it means "partnership" or "fellowship." Jesus cannot have fellowship with a disciple who has dirty feet! If you want to walk in close fellowship with the Lord, then you need to keep your feet clean!

When Peter heard what Jesus said, he answered, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my _____ and my _____" (John 13:9). Peter quickly went to the other extreme! Now Peter wanted an entire bath--from head to toe! But Jesus reminded Peter that he did not need a bath, he only needed to have his feet washed: "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the _____, to be entirely clean" (John 13:10). In other words, Jesus was saying, "Peter, you have already had your bath and you are completely clean. But you do need to get your feet washed so that you can walk in fellowship with Me and be a partner with Me!"

In Bible times, a person would take a bath, and then they would walk on dusty roads with only sandals on their feet. Upon arriving at their destination, they would still be all

clean, except for their feet. A similar situation may have happened to you at the beach. You may have been rolling around in the sand so that you are covered with sand from head to foot. You then jump in the ocean or the lake to clean off all the sand (this is like a bath). But as you walk to the changing room or bath house your feet get all sandy and you must wash off or wipe off your feet before putting on your shoes.

When a person is saved, he is given a complete salvation bath! God washes the believer and makes him perfectly clean! All of his sins are forgiven (past, present and future). Jesus said, "YOU ARE _____" (John 13:10). There was only one disciple who was not clean (John 13:10-11). What was the name of this UNCLEAN and UNSAVED disciple (John 13:11, and compare verse 2)?

Judas was still in his sins. He had never had his salvation bath. He had never been "born of water" (John 3:5).

Even though believers are saved and forgiven and cleansed, they can still get their feet dirty as they walk in this world as Christians. There are times when believers still sin day by day (1 John 1:8,10). This is why we must _____ our sins (1 John 1:9) so that we keep our feet clean! We do not confess our sins in order to get saved. Peter did not need a bath! God has already saved the believer (cleansed him completely). But believers are to

confess their sins so they can have close fellowship with the Lord. It is necessary for a believer to have clean feet (John 13:8 and compare Isaiah 59:1,2).

Have you had a salvation bath? Have all your sins been forgiven (see Ephesians 1:7 and Acts 10:43)? If you really are a Christian, are you keeping your feet clean day by day? Do you follow what 1 John 1:9 says? It is one thing to know what 1 John 1:9 says but it is another thing to DO what 1 John 1:9 says! Jesus said, "If you _____ these things, _____ God will _____ you for doing them" (John 13:17)!

THE HUMBLE SERVANT PREDICTS HIS BETRAYAL BY JUDAS

Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen to Him. The actions of Judas came as no surprise to Him.

Usually those who eat with us at our table are our friends. But the Lord knew that there was an enemy sitting at His table (see John 13:18). Judas was not for Christ, he was AGAINST Him!

What did Jesus say to the disciples (John 13:21)?

Did the disciples know who the betrayer really was (John 13:22 and compare Matthew 26:21-22)? _____ The disciples did not say, "It must be that scoundrel Judas!" No, Judas had fooled them all! They even trusted him to hold the money bag (John 12:6)!

The Apostle John is known as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." We learn about him in John 13:23

Happy is the believer who confesses his sins and confesses them RIGHT AWAY! Do not let the dirt and sand stay on your feet for very long!

In John 13:12-16 Jesus told His disciples to follow His example. He humbled Himself and served them by washing their feet. They should also humble themselves and serve others. The person who is really GREAT in God's sight is the person who is S_____ of all (Mark 10:44). Can you think of ways that you can serve others this coming week?

(remember, he is also the man who wrote this Gospel!). John was leaning on Jesus' chest. In Bible times people would not sit at the table on chairs as we do today. Instead they would recline (lie back) on couches, resting on their left elbow with the right arm free for eating. Thus they would be lying on their side. The head would be nearest the table and the feet would extend away from the table. The person on one's right would have his head nearest the chest of the person to his left. John was to the right of Jesus.

John, perhaps more than any of the other disciples, knew how to stay close to the Lord. Think of a Shepherd and His sheep. The Shepherd loves all of the sheep, but some sheep stay closer to the Shepherd than others. Some sheep walk right next to the Shepherd. The Shepherd might even reach down and carry one of the lambs in his arms. John was a disciple who

knew how to stay close to the Lord. If we are really sheep (John 10:26-27) then our responsibility during our Christian life is to stay as close to the Shepherd as possible! Don't wander away from Him!

Since John was so close to Jesus, Peter beckoned to John and gave him some kind of a sign. He wanted John to ask Jesus to reveal who the betrayer was. John then asked the _____ question, "Lord, _____" (John 13:25).

In Bible times people did not use silverware such as spoons or forks. Instead they used their hands to eat. They would take a piece of bread and use it to scoop up any food that was partially liquid (such as soup or broth). Jesus took a piece of bread, dipped it and who did He give it to (John 13:26)? _____ This was the sign! Judas was the one!

After Judas received the bread, what happened to him (John 13:27)? _____

It is bad enough to be DEMON POSSESSED but Judas was SATAN POSSESSED! Judas allowed himself to be the devil's instrument and he was about to perform one of the greatest crimes the world has ever known!

The other disciples did not really know why Judas left the room (John 13:27-28). Why did some of them think he left (John 13:29)? _____

_____ Did Jesus know what Judas was going to do? _____

After Judas left Jesus gave His disciples a _____ commandment (John 13:34). The Old Commandment had said, "Love your neighbor as _____" (Leviticus 19:18). The New Commandment also said to love your neighbor or to love one another, but what is different about the new commandment is the part that comes after the word "AS." Jesus told them to "love one another as _____ have _____ you" (John 13:34). They were to love AS CHRIST LOVED!

Suppose the disciples were to ask Jesus this: "Lord, how have you loved us?" Jesus could have answered, "Tomorrow I am going to go to the cross and I will show you the kind of love I have for you!" There is no greater love than CALVARY LOVE! If we really want to learn HOW TO LOVE, we need to look to the cross, because it is there that we really see the love of God (see Romans 5:8 and Ephesians 5:2,25).

It is this kind of love that should be the mark of true Christians (John 13:35)! A person loves with Christ's love when he decides to give of himself for the sake of the other person, seeking to meet that person's real need, regardless of personal cost or sacrifice, wanting only that person's highest and best. This is the kind of love the Saviour showed for us (John 3:16)!

THE HUMBLE SERVANT PREDICTS HIS DENIAL BY PETER

Jesus not only knew all about Judas, He also knew all about Peter! The self-confident Peter was sure that he was ready to follow Jesus anywhere. He even said to Jesus, "I will lay down my _____ for your sake" (John 13:37). Peter meant well, but he did not know how weak he really was. Peter would not only fail to do what he claimed, but he would also deny the Lord _____ times --see John 13:38. Jesus knows our every weakness! He knows we are frail and He knows that we will fail!

As Christians we need to beware of **SELF-CONFIDENCE** because Jesus said, "for _____ from me you can do _____" (John 15:5). We need to have **CHRIST-CONFIDENCE** so that we can say, "I can do _____ through _____ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13)!

Without Him we shall surely fail!

With Him we can't help but succeed!

NATURE IN ACTION // BIBLE

Enjoy a Nature Walk & Study as your weather might allow (cold days can still be good for a hike) and enjoy learning through this Body Science Unit.

Looking at my Family

In the last chapter we looked in the mirror. In this chapter we want to take a close look at our home and our family. Instead of standing in front of the mirror, we will think of ourselves as sitting in our living room looking at our home and family. We also want to take a look at another family that we belong to – **our Church family**.

As you look at family and your home, you need to remember that there is a difference between a house and a home. A house is a place of shelter (large or small, in the city or in the woods). A home is more than bricks and wood and walls and ceilings. It is a place where people belong together because they make up a family.

A HOUSE

A HOME

A HOUSE could be an apartment, an igloo, a tepee, a hut, a shack or something else. It is merely a building or a structure where people live. Often a house will have an address such as "35 Maple Road." A house could cost millions of dollars or it could be built in a very simple way, like a hut in the jungle with dirt floors.

A HOME involves a family. It is the place where members of the family can be together, hopefully in the atmosphere of love. It is the place where family members talk to each other and read to each other and help each other. It involves personal relationships between family members, between parents and children, between brothers and sisters.

We say "Home sweet home," but we would never say "House sweet house"! We might say, "There is no place like home", but we would never say, "There is no place like house!" Anyone can live in a house, but it takes some work to make a house become a home. Are you doing your part?

*Is a Church more than just a **building**? Is a Church more than just something that is made of brick, wood, and cement? In what ways is a Church like a home?*

How many live or stay at your house? _____

Identify them: Mother (first name): _____

Father (first name): _____

Brothers (give first names): _____

Sisters (give first names): _____

Others living in your house: _____

How many are there in your Church family? What towns do they come from? Do you get to see them each week?

There are some young people who have only one parent. There are different reasons for this: sometimes death, sometimes divorce, sometimes desertion (a father or mother **leaving** the family). It is not easy to have only one parent (or no parents), but this is where God is able to help in a very special way. God is a H_____ of the fatherless (Psalm 10:14)! In the Bible we learn of different people who did not have both parents. Did Benjamin ever know his mother (Genesis 35:16-19)? ____ When Joseph was only ____ years old (Genesis 37:2), he was carried away from his father into Egypt (Genesis 37:28,36). Did God take care of him? ____ How often did Samuel see his parents (1 Samuel 2:19)? _____ Those visits were not very often. What

does the Bible tell us about Esther's parents (Esther 2:7)?

In the Church there are young people who are in different situations when it comes to their parents. Some young people have parents who are both saved. Other young people have one parent who is saved and one parent who is not saved. There may be some young people who go to your Church who do not have any saved parents (and perhaps their parents do not even want them to come to Church). Is God able to help in each of these situations?

Each member of the family is a person and yet they all must be together and live together under the same roof. We can compare this to a balancing act at the circus (on a tightrope). Each person is important and each person must stay in balance or else everyone might fall:

Each member of the family has his or her **own special...**

- **needs** (one member of the family might need to be on a special diet because of a physical problem; another member might need a lot of help with school work)
- **interests** (one member might like cooking, another might like art or music, another might like sports and Dad might like to fix things with his tools)
- **rights** (each member of the family has a right to privacy – a time when he or she can be alone by themselves; Dad has the right to decide how the family money will be spent)

- **duties** (sister's duty might be to wash the dishes or sweep the floor; brother's duty might be to take out the trash or empty the waste)
- **desires** (one member might want to take a hike in the woods; another might want to go to the beach)

Yes, every member of the family has his or her **own special needs, interests, rights, duties, desires**, etc. Suppose that every person in your family has three things that really interest him (or her). Now multiply: $3 \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ (number of people in your family) = $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ For example, suppose there are 5 in your family: $3 \times 5 = 15$. Your family has 15 things which are of interest to them! You see, each time we add another person, the number of interests, desires, duties, etc. is multiplied. The number would be multiplied even more if we were to add relatives, neighbors and all the people in your town or city!

Think of the people in your Church. Do they have different needs, interests, rights, duties and desires? Every person in the Church is different and the believers need to learn to stay in balance and learn to live together under the same God and under the same Bible.

There are also practical matters that every family member must be concerned about. There are clothes that need to be washed and ironed. There are meals that need to be cooked and dishes that must be washed. There is shopping that must be done. There is cleaning and housework. There is money to be earned and there are bills to be paid. There are broken things that need to be repaired. There is school for some and work for others. There may be the need to take care of baby brother or sister. How do you help in your home?

Can you think of some practical things that the Church family should think about? Does the Church ever need to be cleaned? Does grass ever need to be cut or does snow ever need to be shoveled? Are there bills that need to be paid? Are there babies that need to be cared for? Are there people that need to be visited? Are there people that need to be invited to come to Church?

The family must be in balance if the family is to go forward in a good and right way (think of the tightrope). One person off balance can make everyone else topple and and perhaps even fall.

If one believer is not right with the Lord, can this hurt the whole Church? Compare 1 Corinthians 12:26. Suppose you had a bad sore throat or a bad stomach ache. Would this hurt your whole body? The same is true with Christ's body, the Church. One sick member (physically, mentally, spiritually) affects the whole body!

Remember, each family fits into the larger number of **families**. Your family is only one family. But how many families

are there in your church? In your town or city? In your state? In your country? In the world? If your family were to

somehow disappear then there would be one less family in your Church, one less family in your town or city, one less family in your country, and one less family in the world. Healthy families are what make a nation and a country strong and a good place to live. When good and healthy families become fewer and fewer, then the city and country we live in gets worse and worse and it is not a very good place to live in. Can you find any family **problems** described in 2 Timothy 3:1-5?

Do strong and healthy families help to make a strong Church? Does a strong Church help to make strong families? Should the leaders of the Church have families that are in balance (see 1 Timothy 3:1-2, 4-5, 12)?_____

Each member of the family **counts** and is very important. Who you are, what you do, and how you do it makes an important difference for good or for bad. **Your** family is important and **your part** in that family is important and has long lasting effects.

Is every member of the Church important? Does every believer count? Does it make a difference who you are, and what you do, and how you do it? Every believer is a member of Christ's body. Think of the members of your body (tongue, liver, heart, fingers, etc.). Are they all important? Are they all needed? Do they all have a part to play to make the body work as it should?

The family should give protection and strength for the children. Why is this so? When we are young we have less strength on the inside to protect us against loneliness, fears, worries and

other problems. In time we learn to grow stronger on the inside. Therefore, it is important for a young person to **belong** to a family where he or she can be protected and strengthened. **Belonging** is important.

*Does the Church give protection and strength for the children of God (the believers)? What do believers need to be protected from? Why do believers need to be strong? What dangers do they face? How important is it for a believer to **belong** to a local Church?*

The family is the place to practice how to get along with people (membership skills): how to share with others, how to take turns (everyone can't use the bathroom at the same time), how to have a right kind of loyalty to other people, how to adjust to other people (how to adjust to their words, ideas, actions and feelings). In this way we can learn the **give and take** of sharing with each other.

Is the Church a good place to practice how to get along with people? Do people always get along well in the Church or are there sometimes problems (see 1 Corinthians 3:3; Galatians 5:15)?

Each member of the family must **care** about each other. The home should be a place of caring and sharing. If we truly care then it makes our good days and bad days much easier for everyone in the family. Our failures are easier to bear and our victories are better to enjoy. **Love still continues** (see 1 Corinthians 13:13 where the word "charity" means "love" and "abideth" means "continues").

Should the Church be a place of caring and sharing? 1 John 3:14 says, We know that we have passed from death unto life because we... (circle the right answer)

1. *...fight with the brethren*
2. *...hate the brethren*
3. *...love the brethren*
4. *...are jealous of the brethren*

We are very close to those we live with. **Closeness** to each other brings comfort but it also brings conflicts. Your Mom brings **comfort** to you when you are sick. You have a **conflict** with your brother when he borrows something from your room which you did not want him to have or which he refuses to return. Sometimes there are hurt feelings. We should **not** be surprised to find that our family life may contain plenty of tears, times when we will not speak, heated quarrels and arguments, and gloomy thoughts of revenge. ("If Mom and Dad won't let me sleep over at my friend's house then I'm going to find some way to punish them!")

Should we always expect things to go smoothly in the Church? If families have conflicts and difficulties, should we not also find these in the Church? The only Church that doesn't have problems is the Church that doesn't have people!

There is much that goes on within a family member. It is contained on the inside. A family member may have difficulties at school or at work. Certain thoughts and feelings might be contained on the inside until the family member comes home. Then it all pours out and overflows (like damned up waters when the dam breaks!). For example, if father had a hard day at work, he may not explode at his boss at work, but he may wrongly explode at someone when he gets home! An older brother or sister may have a hard day at school. They may not explode at their teacher, but they might explode at you when they get home! Those of us who are believers have a big advantage. Why? Instead of exploding, what can we do (Psalm 62:8; 1 Peter 5:7)?

All kinds of people make up the family. **Moms** and **Dads** are different, but this can be for the good. Differences make for a good **balance**. If both **Mom** and **Dad** were good cooks, but neither of them could fix cars, then who would repair the cars? If both **Mom** and **Dad** could fix cars but neither of them could cook, then who would prepare the meals? It is much better if his strengths can help her weaknesses and if her strengths can help his weaknesses. If they both have the same strengths and weaknesses, then this would be a problem (**out of balance**):

The same is true in the Church. What if everyone played the piano, but no one could sing? Could you have a Choir? What if everyone was shy and afraid of meeting people. Who would welcome the visitors?

You have your differences too, along with your brothers and sisters, etc. All of these differences can be of help to the family and make for a stronger family team. Differences may also lead to some strong family discussions and arguments to find out the right thing to do, the right thing to say, the right place to go, etc.

Thus the important balancing act gets more and more difficult and complicated. There are many things that are hard to see and hard to work out.

Those bad times — when I am out of balance — need to be fixed. I must remember the **importance of the family** and the importance of staying in balance and keeping in my position on the tightrope.

"This is me! To take me is to get the good with the bad. I'm not a perfect person, but God can help me to be the person I need to be."

So it is with each one in the family. If they can learn to put up with me then I can learn to put up with them! I must forbear* my family members in love (see Ephesians 4:2)

***Forbear** means to put up with someone even though it may be hard to do; it's like when you get a wound, and you have to put up with it even though it really hurts, and give it time to heal. Sometimes other people wound us and hurt us, but we need to love them anyway and we need to learn to do good to them even if they might do evil to us. See Romans 12:17-21.

Persons are different but differences must be **balanced**. The bad side of me apart from the Lord needs to be replaced with and by **the new** (2 Corinthians 5:17). If I fail to fix things and fail to replace the bad side of me with **the new**, then nothing is left but **despair** (losing hope, a terrible feeling that nothing good can happen to me).

How can these bad things be fixed and repaired? Here are some suggestions that will help:

- Talk things over (have a family chat)
- Think things through (put on your thinking cap!).
- Pray things out (talk to God about the problems).
- Keep everything on the top of the table (don't keep it within you and don't let it bother you forever, but bring it out into the open so that you can see it and so that others that **need to see** it can see it also).
- Encourage the other members of your family to tackle the problem as a team whenever you can. The more you do this the better it will be for all the family.
- Don't forget that **you** play an important role. You have an important part. A Father once said, "I don't know how anyone learns to be an adult without children to teach him!"

How should problems be fixed and repaired in the Church? Can these same suggestions be followed? Have you done wrong to anyone in the Church? Is there any person in the church with whom you need to fix things?

Heaven for Kids: Read pages 63-68 and complete the coordinating portion in the PDF (downloaded separately).

BIBLE CUSTOMS & MANNERS

Trees and Plants

The all-wise Creator knew what He was doing when He covered the world with vegetation (plant life). Look in Genesis chapter 1 and find out on which day plants and trees were created. DAY _____. Why was plant life so important to man and beast (see Genesis 1:29-30 and keep in mind that the word "meat" in these two verses means "food")? _____

Think about the things you ate yesterday (for breakfast, lunch or supper). What kinds of plants or fruits did you eat?

Could you live and survive without eating and breathing? _____. We depend upon plants for food and we even depend upon green plants for the good air that we breathe (green plants and trees fill the air with fresh oxygen supplies through a process called photosynthesis). Even if a person eats mostly steak, milk, bacon and eggs, he still depends upon plants for his food. What kind of food do cattle, pigs and chickens eat? _____ Even the animals we eat depend on plants for survival.

In this chapter we want to think about some of the important trees and plants that are mentioned in the Bible.

TREES

Trees have played an important part in the history of mankind. Was a tree involved in man's ruin and fall (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-6)? _____ Was a tree involved in man's salvation (1 Peter 2:24; Acts 5:30)? _____ Will there be a tree with its fruits in the new earth (Revelation 22:2)? _____

When you think of a fruit tree, what kind of a tree do you think of? An apple tree? An orange tree? A pear tree? A peach tree? If you were living in Bible times and if someone were to ask you this same question, you would probably think of an olive

tree or a fig tree. These were the most important fruit trees for those who lived in Palestine. Let's find out why this was so.

The Olive Tree

God promised that the land of Palestine would be a land of wheat and barley and vines and _____ and pomegranates; a land of _____ and honey" (Deuteronomy 8:8).

The fruit of the olive tree is the olive! Have you ever eaten an olive (either green or black)? The people who lived in Bible times would eat olives too, but the most important part of the olive was the OIL.

Today one of the most valuable things in the world is OIL (not olive oil but fuel oil or petroleum). The richest countries are those countries that have an abundance of oil. In Bible times one of the most valuable things in the world was OIL (not fuel oil but olive oil). Wealthy King Solomon gave King Hiram _____ baths of olive oil (one bath equals about 7½ gallons) -- see 2 Chronicles 2:10.

Usually the olives would be crushed by a stone wheel so that the oil would come out. One olive tree could produce as much as 20 gallons of oil. The olive tree is known for its **longevity** (it can live and bear fruit for a long time). An olive tree can live and bear fruit for centuries. Does God want His children to be fruitful day after day, week after week, year after year (Colossians 1:10; Titus 3:14)? _____

What was olive oil used for and why was it so valuable? Probably the most important use of oil was its use as fuel in lamps. These oil lamps were very important in Bible times. Remember, people did not have electric lights or flashlights in those days. No oil meant no light (see Matthew 25:1-9).

Also, olive oil took the place of butter. Think of all the things you like to spread butter on. If you were living in the days of Peter and Paul, you would use olive oil instead of butter. Olive oil was also used in cooking or frying. Today we might put some butter or animal fat in our frying pan but in Bible times olive oil was used. Of course, olive oil can still be used today for cooking and as a substitute for butter, and many health experts believe it is a very healthy oil.

Olive oil was also used when a person was anointed to an important office (this was usually done by pouring oil over the head of the person who was being anointed). In 1 Kings 19:16 a PROPHET was anointed (Elisha). In Leviticus 8:12 a PRIEST was anointed (Aaron). In 1 Samuel 16:13 a KING was anointed (David).

The Lord Jesus is called THE CHRIST or THE MESSIAH. Both of these words mean "THE ANOINTED ONE." He is the *perfect* PROPHET, PRIEST and KING:

1. ____ PROPHET	A. Hebrews 3:1
2. ____ PRIEST	B. Revelation 19:16
3. ____ KING	C. Matthew 21:11; John 6:14

Did you know that if you are a believer, God has anointed you? The moment a person is saved, God anoints him, not with olive oil, but with HIS HOLY SPIRIT (see 1 John 2:20,27 -- the word "unction" in verse 20 means "anointing" as in verse 27). God has poured out His Spirit upon the believer (Titus 3:5-6 and Romans 5:5). Just as oil was used to light the lamps so that men could see in the dark, so the Holy Spirit provides light so that believers can see and understand the truth.

Before you open your Bible, do you ask God to give you light and teach you and help you to see?

The Fig Tree

The fig tree is one of the first trees mentioned in the Bible. Can you find a verse in Genesis chapter 3 which speaks of the leaves of a fig tree? Verse _____

Figs (usually dried figs) were one of the favorite foods of those living in Palestine. Today we might say our favorite food is pizza or something else, but in Bible times people would probably put figs near the top of their list of favorite foods. The fig tree meant as much to them as the pizza restaurant means to us. See 1 Samuel 25:18 and 30:12.

In Mark 11:12-14 we read about the time when Jesus cursed the fig tree. To understand this we need to know that usually the fruit (figs) began to form on the tree as soon as the leaves would appear. Thus, when people would see the leaves they would expect to see the fruit also. The leaves carried this message: "We are the fig leaves and if you come closer you will see the figs!" But the fig tree Jesus cursed had nothing but _____ (Mark 11:13). It had no fruit! This tree was a hypocrite. It pretended to have fruit but it really did not.

Many people are hypocrites just like that tree. They say that they are Christians and that they love the Lord, but as you look closely at their lives (the way they act and speak) there is no fruit. They say they are believers but they do not act as believers. The Jews living at the time of Jesus hailed Him as their King (Mark 11:9-10) but a few days later they yelled, "C_____ H ____" (Mark 15:13-14). Were they like the fig tree Jesus cursed? If someone were to look closely at your life, would he see fruit or just leaves? Do you just say that you love Jesus or do you also show that you love Jesus?

The Cedar Tree

Not only is the fruit of trees very valuable to man, but also the wood. Even today wood (lumber) is a very important building material. Is there a lumber yard near where you live? How many things in your home are made from wood?

In Bible times the best trees for lumber were cedar trees and the best cedars grew in a forest or mountain range north of Palestine known as LEBANON. What kind of wood did Solomon use when he built the great temple (1 Kings 6:9)? _____ What kind of wood did Solomon use when he built his own house (1 Kings 7:1-2)? _____

These trees were great evergreens and would often reach the height of 120 feet. To those living in this part of the world, the cedar of Lebanon was known as "the king of trees." The Creator made this tree to be strong and tall.

God wants every believer to grow strong and tall, but this growth does not happen overnight. A mushroom may grow overnight but is a mushroom strong and tall? ____ Will a mushroom be around for a long time? ____ Does a cedar tree grow to a height of 120 feet in one year? ____

Real growth takes time! You cannot go from the sixth grade to the seventh grade in one week or one month. Spiritual growth takes time too. If a believer stays healthy he will grow slowly and gradually. He will slowly but steadily become stronger and stronger. How many years of growth did Moses need in the wilderness before he was ready to be the man God could use to bring the people out of Egypt (Acts 7:30)? _____ After these years, Moses was no mushroom; he was like a mighty cedar! Are you growing spiritually? Are you growing slowly but surely? Are you making upward progress? Are you a stronger believer now than you were a year ago?

PLANTS

The Vine

The grape vine was one of the most important plants in Bible times. When there are many grape-vines located in one place it is called a VINEYARD (see Isaiah 5:1-2 and Matthew 21:33). Often a vineyard was located on a hillside.

Southern Palestine is a favorite place for vineyards. Some of the grapes grow to be very large. It has been reported that one kind of grape grown in the vicinity of Hebron (in Southern Palestine) develops fruit so that one bunch may weigh more than 20 pounds. This reminds us of the large bunch of grapes described in Numbers 13:23. How many men carried this cluster of grapes? _____

A vineyard requires much care and attention. What will happen to the vineyard of a lazy man (Proverbs 24:30-31)? _____ A good farmer will prune the vineyard before springtime. This means he will cut off every branch that is sickly or feeble. The sap will then be able to flow into the healthy branches so that they will produce better fruit. The farmer prunes because he wants more fruit. Jesus spoke about pruning in John 15:2. God wants believers to bring forth M _____ fruit (John 15:2 and M _____ fruit (John 15:8). What kind of fruit does God want believers to bear?

John 15:12 – L _____

John 15:11 – J _____

See Galatians 5:22

John 14:27 – P _____

What did people do with grapes? The fresh ripe grapes were eaten and enjoyed as one of the favorite foods in Bible lands. Do you enjoy fresh grapes? Sun dried grapes were also eaten and these were called raisins (see 1 Samuel 25:18). Do you enjoy raisins? They are good for you--packed with IRON, although they are also very sweet. The juice was pressed out of grapes and made a delicious drink. Do you enjoy grape juice?

Pressing the juice out of grapes was usually done by having people tread or step on the grapes with their bare feet. Sometimes a whole family (men, women and children) would work together doing this. The place where this is done was called a winepress and the color of the juice was "blood-red."

Someday God will step on the grapes when He judges and punishes wicked men (Isaiah 63:3; Revelation 19:13,15). This terrible winepress is described in Revelation 14:18-20. This winepress will not be filled with grape juice but it will be filled with human blood (verse 20). This does not mean that God will literally step on wicked people and squeeze out their blood. This is a figurative way to describe the awesome judgment that will fall upon those who reject Christ at the end of the age, resulting in much bloodshed. Those who reject Christ as their Saviour must someday meet Him as their Judge. What a terrible day that will be!

When grape juice sits around for awhile it begins to change. This is called fermentation. The sugar in the grape juice changes into alcohol and the Bible calls this WINE. Too much wine will make a person DRUNK and the person who gets drunk is not W_____ (Proverbs 20:1). God says, "Be not _____ with _____ wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

Can you think of three serious problems that drunkenness causes in our society today?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Can you think of three reasons why you should not drink alcoholic beverages (such as wine or beer)?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Papyrus Plant

The Papyrus plant is a water plant that grows abundantly in the land of Egypt. This plant was very important to people who lived in ancient times because paper was made from the fibers of this plant. In fact our word PAPER comes from the word *PAPYRUS*.

The paper made from this plant was a pale yellow color. Rolls of paper would be made from 10 to 30 feet long and the rolls would be about nine and a half inches high. Ancient books did not look like the books we see in the library today. This kind of book is called a scroll (consisting of paper that is rolled up). This was the kind of book Jesus read from as in Luke 4:17. How do you think Jesus opened and closed the book (Luke 4:17,20)? _____

Flowers Of The Field

People living in Bible times did not have flower gardens like we do today. They merely had fields to farm and to grow their crops in. Also they did not usually have plants in their houses (they did not have large windows for the sun to come in). There were, however, beautiful wild flowers that grew in the fields.

Jesus mentioned these wild flowers in Matthew 6:28-30. King Solomon must have been dressed in a beautiful robe. Does God give even more beautiful garments and colors to the flowers? _____ Which are more valuable to God--flowers which are here today and gone tomorrow or people who have eternal souls? _____ If God takes care of flowers and clothes them, will He also take care of us? _____ Should we worry? _____

Some flowers have a pleasing and wonderful smell and other plants stink. (Have you ever smelled SKUNK CABBAGE?) God wants the believer to send forth a sweet and pleasing odor or smell (2 Corinthians 2:14-15 – **savour** means **odor** or **smell**).

Have you ever been in a place where the room was filled with cigarette smoke? Later after you leave that place your clothes and your hair still smell like cigarette smoke. People can tell where you have been because the smell remains on you.

The believer should give forth a spiritual fragrance. As we spend time with God (in prayer and Bible reading) we pick up a heavenly smell. After we leave our time of devotions that smell should still be with us [this smell is called "the *savour* (odor, aroma) of His (God's) knowledge" -- 2 Corinthians 2:14]. People should be able to tell where we have been. They should know that we have been in God's presence. Could the unsaved Jews tell where Peter and John had been (Acts 4:13)? _____ Where had they been? _____

What kind of odor is your life sending forth? Are you like a flower for the Lord with a pleasing aroma? Don't be a spiritual SKUNK!

DAY 52 // WEEK 11

Genesis 42 // Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

Let's continue to look at these similarities between Joseph & Jesus. When you look at a list of the details, sometimes it's hard to discern whether we are talking about Joseph or Jesus. This is not because Joseph was Jesus's favorite Bible hero he wanted to emulate. It is because God is sovereign, and he has been laying the tracks for the glory of Christ throughout redemptive history. *(Erik Raymond)*

PARALLEL	JOSEPH	JESUS
HIS PEOPLE DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM	And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him (Gen. 42:8).	...Have I been such a long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me...? (John 14:9a). But their minds were blinded (2 Cor. 3:14a).
HIS BROTHERS WERE TROUBLED WHEN THEY MET HIM	...be not grieved nor angry with yourselves (Gen. 45:5a).	They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn...and shall be in bitterness... (Zech. 12:10b).
ALLOWED HIS BROTHERS TO SUFFER A PERIOD OF TRIBULATION	Read Gen. 42:6-44:34.	it is even the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7b). For then shall be great tribulation (Matt. 24:21a).

Psalm 42 // A Psalm of the Descendants of Korah

The descendants of Korah were members of of Levitical choir that David appointed to serve as Temple singers. Their ancestor Korah was the apostate who had rebelled against Moses and was swallowed up by the earth! See Exodus 6:24 & Numbers 16.

Have your parent/teacher dictate Psalm 42:8 to you - Correct as needed.

John 14 // Jesus- the Way to the Father

In John Chapters 14-16 we find Jesus farewell words to His disciples. Again and again He told them that He would be leaving them and that He would be going away (see John 14:2,3,18,28,29; 16:5, 7,16,28). In fact, on this very night Jesus would be arrested and taken away from His disciples (see John 18). On the very next morning He would be put on the cross. Therefore, in John Chapters 14-16 we are reading the LAST WORDS that Jesus spoke to His disciples before He went to the cross.

GOING AWAY BUT COMING AGAIN!

Read John 13:33. Had Jesus already told the disciples that He was going away and that He would only be with them a little longer? _____ The disciples were troubled at the thought of Jesus leaving them (compare John 14:1). These men had been with the Lord for about 3½ years (compare John 14:9). They knew that the Lord's enemies were seeking to kill Him and they were concerned that even their own lives might be in danger (see John 11:7-8,16; 13:37). They did not understand all that was about to happen, but they got the message that somehow they would soon be separated from their Master and they would no longer be with

Him. Because of this their hearts were troubled.

Jesus told His disciples that He would be going away. He also told them where He was going! He was going to His F _____ H _____ (John 14:2). In this verse we learn about the eternal home which God has prepared in heaven for those who love Him. The word "mansions" means "dwelling places" or "abiding places." In John 14:2, does Jesus describe heaven as a real place? _____ Why did Jesus go there (John 14:2)?

Remember, on His way to heaven Jesus stopped first at the cross! If Jesus had not died on the cross, would it have been possible for us to have a place in heaven (compare 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21)? _____

It is very difficult to say "Goodbye" to a loved one if you know you will never see this person again. But if you know that this person will someday return, it is much easier to see him (or her) leave! Did Jesus promise that He would return (John 14:3)? _____ Although He would go away, the disciples were comforted to hear that He would come _____ (John 14:3)! Jesus promised to come and take them to heaven! Did He tell them **WHEN** He would come again? _____ His

coming again is **CERTAIN** because He said "I _____ come again" (John 14:3). The time of His coming is **UNCERTAIN** because He did not reveal this to us.

The coming of Jesus Christ for His believers to take them to the Father's house in heaven is a very important event. Sometimes it is called the **RAPTURE** (the "catching up" or taking up of believers) and we learn more about this event in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-53. It is important to realize that Jesus did not promise to return and take all men to heaven. The promise of His coming again is only for those who **B_____** (John 14:1)! Is His promise *for you*? _____

THE WAY TO GOD

Jesus was telling His disciples about heaven and the way to get to heaven. Did Thomas understand what Jesus was saying (John 14: 4-5)? _____ Jesus answered his question by making another great statement beginning with the words **I AM**:

I AM	(See JOHN 14:6)
------	-----------------

THE_____	Jesus is the way or the road to heaven! If a man tries to get to God any other way, will he be successful? _____ Jesus is the ONLY WAY. All other ways are false ways. All other roads are DEAD END streets!
THE_____	Jesus is the truth! He is absolute reality! He never misleads or deceives anyone. If a person ignores or rejects Jesus Christ then they will never know the truth.
THE_____	In Him is Life (John 1:4). "He that hath the Son hath _____" (1 John 5:12). Eternal life is found in Jesus Christ and in no one else. Jesus has made it possible for us to know God and enjoy God forever!

There are people today who say that there are many roads to God. They say that if men are sincere it does not matter which path they travel--in the end they will all reach the same destination. They will all arrive in heaven at last. One speaker even described a beautiful palace standing in a delightful garden. There were many roads that led to this castle from all directions. On these roads multitudes of people traveled. Many climbed over difficult mountain trails; others followed less rocky paths; some, with songs and laughter, traversed smooth and flower-bordered ways. But *all finally arrived* at the palace gates! This may be a pretty picture, but is it a true picture of how to get to God? _____ Jesus said, "no one can come to the _____ except through _____" (John 14:6). **Jesus is the only way to God!** There are actually two

roads that men are walking on--a wrong road and a right road (see Matthew 7:13-14). Which road are you on?

If a person truly knows Christ, then who else do they know (John 14:7)?

_____ The best way to get to know the Father is to get to know the Son! Philip did not really understand what Jesus was saying. He said, "Lord, _____ us the _____ and we will be satisfied" (John 14:8). Circle the answer that best describes what Jesus told Philip in John 14:9:

- a. Philip, I am not going to show you the Father.
- b. Philip, tomorrow you will see a great heavenly vision and a blazing light.

This is when you will be shown the Father!

c. Philip, you have **already** been shown the Father!

d. Philip, you cannot see the Father because He is invisible!

Jesus Christ is the One who REVEALS and MAKES KNOWN God the Father. Jesus said, "He that has _____ Me has seen the _____ (John 14:9). No mere man could ever make such a statement! Jesus was saying this: "If you really want to see God then look at Me and get to know Me! I am the One who makes the invisible God

visible" (compare John 1:18). In Colossians 1:15 we learn that Jesus Christ is the _____ of the invisible God. Here is an illustration: None of us have ever seen George Washington because he died long before we were even born. But we can see the IMAGE of George Washington on our coins and on our dollar bills and in this way we have some idea of what he looks like. Jesus Christ is the IMAGE of God. As we look at the IMAGE we can learn what God is really like. Jesus Christ perfectly reflected God the Father just as an IMAGE in a mirror reflects the person who is standing before it!

"Greater Works Than These"?

Read the amazing promise that Christ gave to His disciples in John 14:12. What did Jesus mean by these words?

The works that Jesus performed during His public ministry were fantastically great. Diseases were banished; demons were cast out; dead men arose; wine, bread, and fishes were created, and mighty storms were instantly calmed. But it must be recognized that each of these miracles was **intentionally superficial and temporary in quality!** In other words, no one was permanently helped by any of them, nor were men's deepest needs met by such works of power! Creating food for one occasion did not automatically supply the need for later occasions. And with regard to bodily ailments, every diseased, crippled, leprous person Jesus ever healed finally died anyway. This was true of every one of them! And poor Lazarus! It is true that Jesus raised him from the dead, instantly and completely, with no convalescence needed. But later on he died again! Would you like to die twice? (Dr. John C. Whitcomb, *Does God Want Christians to Perform Miracles Today?*, p. 11)

Jesus said, "greater works than these shall you do because I go unto the Father." What can be greater than the miracles of Christ? After the Lord Jesus returned to heaven, Peter preached God's powerful Word (about a crucified and risen Saviour) to thousands of Jews. God did a great work and about 3,000 people were saved and their sins were forgiven in one day (Acts 2:41). A tremendous miracle in the invisible-spiritual realm had taken place - the miracle of regeneration. This miracle met man's basic need **permanently and eternally!**

WHICH ARE GREATER?

The Miracles of Healing, Feeding the Multitudes, Casting out Demons, Raising the Dead, etc.	The Miracles of Salvation, the Forgiveness of Sins, the New Birth, Freedom from Sin, etc.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required God's working & power. 2. Took place in the physical realm. 3. God's working on man's body. 4. Helped man temporarily. 5. FINAL RESULT: Physical Death 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required God's working & power. 2. Took place in the spiritual realm. 3. God's working on man's heart. 4. Helped man permanently. 5. FINAL RESULT: Eternal Life

Read John 6:13-15, 26-27. Which kind of miracle did the Jews really want?

For the last 2,000 years the spiritual miracle of salvation has been repeated again and again as God has been adding to His Church daily (Acts 2:47). Has this "greater" miracle taken place in your life? If so, have you been telling others about the crucified and risen Saviour, so that they might trust in Him and experience this miracle as well?

We're just nobodies telling everybody about Somebody who can powerfully and miraculously and permanently and eternally save ANYBODY!

Jesus Christ is the way to God! It is only through Him that a person can get to heaven (John 14:6). It is only through Him that a person can get to know what God the Father is really like (John 14:9). And it is only through Him that a person can come to the Father RIGHT NOW! Did you know that the believer can come to God RIGHT NOW! A believer can come right into the very presence of God at any time day or night! This is made possible through PRAYER, and Jesus spoke of this in John 14:13-14.

Notice that in John 14:13-14 Jesus says that those who pray to the Father must ASK IN MY _____. This means that the only reason we can pray is

because of Jesus' Name (who He is and what He has done for us). When we pray, "in Jesus' Name" this is not some kind of magical formula that we tack on to the end of our prayers. These words should remind us that we are coming to God the Father through Jesus Christ and that we are expecting God to answer our prayers not because of us but because of His Son! The believer's attitude should be this: "I'm expecting God to be God and to answer this prayer--not because I'm anything but because Christ is everything; not because I deserve anything, but because God is gracious to me because of what Jesus did for me on the cross. If anything that I have asked is not what Christ wants, then I do not want it either."

It is a great privilege to be able to come to God through Christ in prayer. An ordinary person is not usually able to talk to the President of the United States. They would not let him get past the White House gates! The believer is able to come into the Presence of Someone far greater than the President of the United States! And we can come at any time in any place!

HOW TO LOVE GOD

Jesus said, "If you love me . . .

(John 14:15 and circle the correct answer)

a. . . . sing the hymn
"My Jesus I Love Thee"

b. . . . tell others that
you love Me

c. . . . keep My
commandments

d. . . . live any way you
want to live

OBEDIENCE is the only real way we can show our love for the Saviour. Suppose a little girl says, "Mommy, I love you!" but she does not straighten up her room, sweep the floor and make her bed as Mommy had told

her to do. Is this girl putting action behind her words? _____ Is she really showing love to her mother? _____ Obedience is **LOVE IN ACTION!** If we really love Jesus we will do what He tells us to do!

According to John 14:21, who is the person who loves Jesus?

If a person really loves Jesus, what will he do (John 14:23)?

In John 14:24 Jesus talks about the person who does not love Jesus: "He that loves me _____ keepeth not my _____." There is only one way to show that we really love Jesus. We must obey His Word and do what He tells us to do!

In the Old Testament we find the very same thing. LOVING GOD and KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDS are like twins. They are always found together. For example, see Exodus 20:6-"And showing mercy unto thousands of them that _____ Me, and _____ My _____." See

also Deuteronomy 5:10; 7:9; 10:12; 11:1; 13:3-4; 30:16; 30:20; etc. It is not enough to **say** "I LOVE YOU." It is not enough to **sing** "MY JESUS I LOVE THEE." We must **show** that we love God by our obedience.

THE COMING COMFORTER

Jesus was going away. Because of this the disciples were filled with sorrow (John 16:6), but the Lord had good news for them! Even though He was leaving, another Person was coming who would be with them forever! Jesus called this Person the C_____ (John 14:16). "Cheer up disciples! I am leaving but the Comforter is coming!" One will go but Another will come!

The word Comforter means "one called alongside to help, a Helper, a Comforter, One who helps and encourages." In John 14:26 we learn WHO this Comforter is: "But the _____, who is the _____." For several years Jesus Himself had been the constant Companion of the disciples. He was right there at their side to help them and encourage them and comfort them and teach them. Finally, however, Jesus told the disciples that He would be leaving them. The disciples must have thought, "Our Companion and our Friend and our Helper will no longer be with us. We will be left alone!" But Jesus had good news for these disciples! Another Companion and another Comforter would come to be with them! Jesus would leave them, but Someone just like Jesus would come to be with them! How long would the Comforter stay with the disciples (John 14:16)? _____

Throughout these three chapters (John 14-16) Jesus speaks of the **coming Comforter** again and again. Can you find the verses where the Comforter is mentioned?

John 14, Verse _____

John 14, Verse _____

John 15, Verse _____

John 16, Verse _____

When the Comforter (Holy Spirit) comes, where will He live (see the last 5 words in John 14:17)? _____ Will the world (unsaved people) be able to receive the Holy Spirit (John 14:17)? _____ The only ones who receive the Holy Spirit are those who _____ on Jesus Christ (John 7:37-39)!

When would the Holy Spirit be given? When would the Comforter come? When would the Father send the Spirit (John 14:26)? Jesus said, "AT THAT DAY ye shall know that I am in my Father and ye _____ Me and I _____ you" (John 14:20). When would THIS DAY come?

Jesus spoke these words on the evening before He went to the cross. After His crucifixion He rose again on the third day. After His resurrection He was seen by His followers for a period of _____ days (Acts 1:3) and then He was _____ up into heaven (see Acts 1:9). Before He returned to heaven Jesus told His disciples to WAIT for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4 and Luke 24:49). This was the promise that the Father would send the Holy Spirit. Finally, 10 days after Jesus was taken up into heaven and 50 days after the resurrection, the Holy Spirit came! You can read about this great event in Acts chapter 2. The Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost. The COMFORTER came to be with the disciples FOREVER! God the Holy Spirit lives in the heart of every believer (1 Corinthians 6:19 and Romans 8:9)!

Writer's Tea Time // Baking

Writer's Blitz

Continue with the Brave Writer 'Writer's Blitz' doing Day 3 today!

Decadent Truffles

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (8 oz) package of cream cheese, softened
- 3 cups of powdered sugar
- 3 cups of semisweet chocolate chips, melted
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until well blended. Stir in melted chocolate and vanilla until no streaks remain. Refrigerate for about 1 hour. Shape into 1 inch balls.
2. Roll truffles in ground walnuts (or any ground nuts), cocoa, coconut, confectioners' sugar, candy sprinkles, etc.
3. Enjoy! These make great gifts to neighbors, offices & more!

DAY 53 // WEEK 11

Genesis 43 // The Brothers Return to Egypt

We see Benjamin come back into focus in today's chapter- let's look through this write up by Got Questions as we understand the role of Jacob's youngest son.

Question: "Who was Benjamin in the Bible?"

Answer: Benjamin was a son of Jacob and head of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Benjamin was the twelfth-born and youngest son in Jacob's family. He was born to Jacob's wife Rachel, making Benjamin the full brother of Joseph. His story is found in Genesis chapters 35–49. It is here that we learn of his birth (Genesis 35); his relationship to his father and brothers (Genesis 37, 42–45); his relationship with Joseph (Genesis 43–45); his children (Genesis 46); and the blessing he received from his father (Genesis 46:21).

Jacob had two wives, Rachel and Leah. He loved Rachel with such fervor that he worked for her dad for seven years to earn the right to marry her (Genesis 29:18), seven years that "seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her" (Genesis 29:20). This love helps us to understand Jacob's affection for Benjamin, born to his beloved Rachel. Rachel had great difficulty in giving birth to Benjamin. Her midwife told her that she was having another son. Rachel died in childbirth, but, as she was dying, she named her son

Ben-Oni, which means "Son of My Trouble." Jacob renamed him Benjamin, "Son of My Right Hand" (Genesis 35:18).

Benjamin was not part of the conspiracy concocted by his ten older brothers to kill their brother Joseph. Later, when the brothers had to travel to Egypt to seek food during a famine, Jacob's love for his youngest son compelled him to keep Benjamin home "because he was afraid that harm might come to him" (Genesis 42:4). The other brothers traveled to Egypt and met with the governor of Egypt (Joseph, whom his brothers did not recognize). Joseph tested his brothers by accusing them of spying and demanding that they prove their honesty by bringing Benjamin back with them: "You will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here" (Genesis 42:15). Joseph shut them all in prison for three days and then released all but Simeon. The others returned home with the grain they had purchased—and the money that Joseph had secretly returned to them (verse 25).

Back in Canaan, Jacob laments his predicament: "You have deprived me

of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!" (Genesis 42:36). For a while, Jacob refused to allow Benjamin to make the trip back to Egypt (verse 38). He later relented when they ran out of grain and Judah promised to personally guarantee Benjamin's safe return (Genesis 43:8-9).

Upon arriving in Egypt, the brothers presented themselves to Joseph, who was still unrecognized by them. Joseph, as he greeted the brothers this second time, "looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, [and] he asked, 'Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?' And he said, 'God be gracious to you, my son.' Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep" (Genesis 43:29-30).

Joseph showed favor to Benjamin by preparing five times more food and drink for him than for his brothers when they gathered for dinner (Genesis 43:34). When it came time for the children of Israel to return to their father, Joseph used Benjamin as the means of further testing them. Joseph placed a silver cup in Benjamin's bag along with the money for the grain (Genesis 44:1-2). Joseph let his brothers set out on their journey and then sent a steward after them to feign outrage over the fact that they possessed stolen property. The brothers proclaimed their innocence, but, sure enough, the

silver cup was found in Benjamin's possession; the brothers tore their garments in grief (verses 3-13). As punishment for their "crime," Joseph demanded that Benjamin remain in Egypt. But Judah—the same brother who had suggested years earlier that Joseph be sold into slavery—pleads with Joseph, saying, "Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father" (Genesis 44:33-34). So, the brothers passed the test; they demonstrated a true change of heart from the time when they had mistreated Joseph.

Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers: "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that . . . God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God" (Genesis 45:4-8). Joseph then instructed his brothers to bring their father and all they possessed to Egypt, and he "he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping" (verse 14).

Years later in Egypt, as Jacob prepared to die, he blessed Benjamin, saying, "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he devours the prey,

in the evening he divides the plunder" (Genesis 49:27). The tribe of Benjamin became famous for their skill in battle and warlike nature. We learn more about Benjamin and the tribe of Benjamin throughout the books of Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, and Judges. Descendants of Benjamin include Ehud, one of the judges; Saul, Israel's first king; Queen Esther; and the apostle Paul.

Psalm 43 // The Light of the Messiah

Let's look closer at V3:

Send out your light and your truth;
let them be my guide;
let them lead me to your holy mountain,
to the places where you live.

Two very prominent Jewish Rabbi's, Sforno and Rashi, note on V3 that this is a reference to the Messiah-Jesus!

Unfortunately, the Jewish people today are still in a state of unbelief that Moshiah, the Messiah, HAS come-- and is returning soon! But-- that will all change. The time of 'Jacob's Trouble' is coming- and God will return to dealing with His people, and all of the unbelieving world.

V3 says, "Send out your LIGHT and your TRUTH"

What could that be referring to? Who is the LIGHT? Who is the TRUTH?

"Let them be my guide" and "Let them lead me to your holy mountain"

What is our guide? What leads us to God?

Have your parent/teacher dictate Psalm 43:3 to you. Correct any mistakes and rewrite as needed.

John 15 // Jesus, the True Vine of Israel

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

As we come to John chapter 15 we find another important verse which starts with the words "I AM." In John 15:1 Jesus said, "I **AM** the _____ and My Father is the gardener." Jesus was speaking these words to His disciples. He wanted them to know that He was the VINE. Who did Jesus say the BRANCHES were (John 15:5)?

Jesus wanted to teach His disciples the importance of staying close to Him. A branch must be connected to its vine or else it will WITHER (John 15:6). All of the life juices flow from the vine into the branches, but this happens only if the branches are connected to the vine. If the branch is not connected to the vine, it will be disconnected

from the source of LIFE and there will be no fruit.

Consider an apple tree. What happens if a person cuts off a branch from an apple tree in the early summer? By the time apple season comes around (autumn), will there be any apples on this branch? _____ But if this branch had stayed on the tree it would have received the life of that tree and many apples would have grown on this branch. It would have been a fruitful branch!

Jesus is the Vine (tree) and believers are the branches! If we are to bring forth FRUIT, what must we do (John 15:4-5)?

_____ How many grapes can a branch produce if it is not connected to the grapevine? _____ How much can a believer do without Christ (John 15:5)? _____ We need to stay closely connected to Jesus Christ!

God wants His believers to be FRUITFUL! He wants M_____ fruit (John 15:2) and He wants M_____ fruit (John 15:8). What kind of fruit was Jesus talking about? Was He talking about apples or grapes or watermelons? In Galatians 5:22 we are told that the _____ of the Spirit is 1)_____ 2)_____ 3)_____ (just write down the first three). In John 15:9-10 what fruit is being considered? _____ In John 15:11 and John 16:20,22 what fruit is being considered? _____ In John 14:27 and 16:33 what fruit is

being considered? _____ Is this the same kind of fruit that we read about in Galatians 5:22? _____ The Comforter was sent to produce this kind of fruit in believers! Let us now consider the fruit of the Spirit which is LOVE:

THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

Jesus gave His disciples a very important command in John 15:12: "This is my _____, that you keep on _____ one another, as I have loved you." We have already studied this command in John 13:34-35 (see Chapter 9 of these notes). In John 15:13 Jesus describes the greatest kind of human love: "No one has greater _____ than a person that lays down his life for his _____."

Let us now consider two examples of this kind of love:

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY (AP) --Four year old Stevie Oliver was riding his bike along the quiet residential street and didn't notice the car. Frank Dohrmann, known to the kids on the block as "Grandpa," did--and gave his life to save his young FRIEND.

"He heard the neighbors holler, 'Stevie, Stevie, Stevie.' He knew Stevie was coming across the street," said Stevie's mother, Cynthia.

Dohrmann, 83, said neighbors who viewed the incident, rushed off his porch and pushed Stevie out of the path of the oncoming car. There was a squeal of brakes. "All I could think was that Stevie got run over," said Mrs. Oliver. "Then I saw his little white head. I

was afraid to turn around and look. I thought it was one of the (neighborhood) kids." Instead, it was "Grandpa" Dohrmann who had been hit. He died a few minutes later. (HARTFORD COURANT, 8/21/78)

"Grandpa" Dohrmann laid down his life for little Stevie. It was love that sent him into that street! Jesus said, "Greater love has no man than this!"

On January 13, 1982 an airplane (Air Florida Flight 90) crashed and plunged into the icy waters of the Potomac River. Most of the passengers sank into the icy river. Only the broken off tail section remained afloat. Four people--two men and two women--clung to the jagged metal. Another man was treading water nearby. Soon another woman burst out of the water and she joined the others. Treading water, these five dazed survivors, held on. Some had broken arms, others broken legs. The lungs of two had been collapsed by the impact of the crash. The roar of the U.S. Park Police helicopter was heard about 15 or 20 minutes after the crash.

The helicopter crew first dropped a lifeline to Bert Hamilton who was treading water about 10 feet from the tail. He took it and was carried a hundred yards to the Virginia shore. The helicopter crew returned and aimed the line at a balding man named Arland Williams. He caught it, but instead of wrapping it around himself, he passed the line to flight attendant Kelly Duncan. She took the line and held tight as she was carried safely to shore.

Again the helicopter returned. Again they aimed the line at Williams. Once more he caught it and again he passed it on, this time to Joe Stiley the most severely injured survivor. He slipped it around himself and then grabbed Priscilla Tirado who clung to him. Just before the helicopter moved off, Patricia Felch grabbed a second life line. Exhausted, in shock and pain, Stiley felt his hold on Priscilla slipping, and Patricia could feel herself losing her grip on her lifeline. As the chopper carried them toward shore, the women fell back into the icy water.

The chopper returned to drop a line to Priscilla Tirado as she struggled to stay afloat. She caught it but her strength was gone. She was about to go under when a courageous onlooker, Lenny Skutnik, plunged into the freezing river to bring her to shore.

The helicopter came in low over Patricia Felch, almost touching the ice. Gene Windsor clutched the barely conscious woman and held on to her as she was carried to safety.

It was now 29 minutes since the crash, 10 minutes since the helicopter's first trip--and William's turn had come at last. The chopper turned once more toward the sinking tail, its two-man crew eager to meet that man in the water. They strained for signs of the hero who had saved two lives, but the balding man was gone. Later, telling his wife about it, Officer Gene Windsor wept. "He could have gone on the first trip," pilot Usher said, "but he put everyone else ahead of himself. Everyone." (from THE READER'S DIGEST, 1982).

GREATER LOVE HAS NO MAN THAN THIS!

Many other true stories could be given of men and women who have laid down their lives for others. Because of love, they sacrificed and gave their own lives so that others could live. This kind of love is GREAT, but the love that sent Jesus to the cross is even GREATER. The greatest love a man can ever have is to lay down his life for his friend (compare Romans 5:7), but Christ did something far greater than this. Jesus laid down His life for those who were His ENEMIES!

In Romans chapter 5 we learn what we once were:

Romans 5:6 says that we were U_____

Romans 5:8 says that we were S_____

Romans 5:10 says that we were E_____ (of God)

Jesus did not lay down His life for His friends, He laid down His life for UNGODLY SINNERS who were HIS ENEMIES! See Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates His _____ toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ _____ for _____" We might call this CALVARY LOVE, and it is the greatest love of all!

And because Jesus died for us and took care of the problem of SIN, Jesus no longer calls us His ENEMIES, but He calls us His _____ (John 15:15)! Those who were once at war with God can now be at peace with God (Romans 5:1,10-11)!

Jesus tells His disciples to love others with this same kind of love (John 15:12,17)! How can we love others in this way? It is impossible apart from the Holy Spirit! But remember, the fruit of the Spirit is L_____ (Galatians 5:22). Without Christ we cannot do it (John 15:5) but with Him we can!

THE BELIEVER AND THE WORLD

Jesus Christ was never popular with the world. As we have studied through John's Gospel we have seen again and again how people rejected Christ and rejected His teaching and refused to come to Him and refused to believe on Him (see John 3:19-20; 5:40). He had many enemies everywhere He went. Finally the world showed its hatred for Christ by arresting Him and mocking Him and nailing Him to a cross. That is what the world thinks of the One who came to save them!

As long as Jesus was in the world, He was the target of the world's hatred. Although the disciples were with Jesus, they did not need to worry

too much because the shots were being fired primarily at Jesus and not at them. The devil and those who belong to the devil (John 8:44) were out to get God's Son!

But when Jesus went back to heaven the situation changed. Jesus was now gone! The world could no longer fire their shots at Jesus. The devil could no longer attack the Son of God directly. With Jesus gone, the shots would now be fired at Jesus' followers who were still in the world. Jesus wanted to warn His disciples about how the world would treat them!

How would the world treat the disciples (John 15:18-19)?
_____ If they persecuted Jesus, would they also persecute those who follow Jesus (John 15:20)? _____ Those who really love the Lord should not be surprised to be treated in the same way that Jesus was treated! In 1 John 3:13 we read, "Don't be amazed brothers if they _____ you." If they hated Jesus, why should they love you? If they treated Jesus poorly, why should they treat you well?

CRAFTING IN ACTION // MATH

We're continuing to work on life skills- crafting with our hands- that have a place in the real world that we'll use in our life. Think about the things we need to know how to do- run household appliances (oven, dishwasher, washer & dryer, etc...), change a light bulb, fix a toilet, paint a room, change a lock, change the oil or a flat tire on the car, checkout at the store, find the correct clothes, make a budget and stick to it, make your bed, clean the house, build a fire, clean the gutters, make something from scratch, sew or knit- the list goes on and on.

Look back at your list, what can you work on today? Each Wednesday spend some time as a family learning how to work on one of these. Ask for help, Youtube instructional videos, etc... but add to the list of skills that your kids can all work with their hands and properly complete. These things will come in handy more than you know, and what a blessing you can be to your family- and others- with this knowledge and workmanship!

Skill we learned: _____

Most challenging part: _____

Most rewarding: _____

Area(s) to work on/improve next time: _____

Complete the math lesson - visit our website if you need to access your level.

DAY 54 // WEEK 11

Genesis 44 // Joseph Silver Cup...

In V 5 & 15 we see an interesting detail where it says that Joseph needs this cup to "tell the future". What does this mean here?

Question: "What kind of divination did Joseph do in Genesis 44:5, 15?"

Answer: In Genesis 44, Joseph tests his brothers (who have not recognized him) by returning their money in each sack of grain they had purchased. In Benjamin's sack, he places his special silver cup. After the brothers leave for home, Joseph sends his steward after them to confront them over the "theft" of the cup. The steward was to say to them, "Why have you repaid evil for good? Is it not from this that my lord drinks, and by this that he practices divination? You have done evil in doing this" (verses 4-5). In verse 15, Joseph accuses his brothers in person, saying, "What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that a man like me can indeed practice divination?" Joseph's claim to have knowledge by divination seems to conflict with the Bible's condemnation of divination as evil (Deuteronomy 18:10; 1 Samuel 15:23). Here are some points to consider:

First, it is clear that Joseph's use of the "divining cup" is part of his test for his brothers. He planted evidence that would link them to a serious crime. Since the cup was part of a setup, it may have not been used in divination at all. There is no indication in the passage that Joseph actually used the cup for divination. Instead, Joseph may have *claimed* he used it to divine matters in order to raise the stakes

and incite more fear in his brothers' hearts.

Second, divination was common in ancient Middle Eastern cultures, especially among its leaders. In fact, Laban once said to Jacob, "I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you" (Genesis 30:27). Jacob's sons would have at least been aware of the practice and known what divination was, whether or not Joseph actually used the cup for that purpose. Divination in the Egyptian court would have been common, and a reference to it would have seemed natural to Joseph's brothers.

Third, it is possible, though unlikely, this is one of the few cases in which God permitted the use of objects to discern His will. Other examples include the casting of lots (Leviticus 16:7-10), the priest's use of the Urim and Thummim (Numbers 27:21), and Gideon's use of the fleece (Judges 6:36-40). If Joseph did practice divination with the silver cup, it was not divination in the pagan sense but seeking God's will through a particular method.

The most likely scenario is that Joseph owned a silver divination cup as did all Egyptian nobility at that time. The context is not clear that Joseph ever used this cup in divination. As part of his plan to test his brothers, he placed

something small yet valuable in Benjamin's grain sack. A silver cup was a perfect object in this case, as it held great financial and spiritual value in Egypt. The reaction of Joseph's brothers reveals their concern: "They tore their clothes" (Genesis 44:13). Judah also said, "How can we clear ourselves? God has found out the guilt of your servants; behold, we are my lord's servants" (Genesis 44:16). Joseph's test worked. His brothers were immediately convicted of their sin against Joseph and attributed their current misfortune to God's hand of justice.

Another consideration is that Joseph had no need to use a cup for divination. God had enabled him to have prophetic dreams himself and to interpret the dreams of others. Joseph found his success in God without the use of props. After revealing his identity to his brothers and forgiving the wrong they had done him, Joseph sent them back to their father with this report: "God has made me lord of all Egypt" (Genesis 45:9).

Psalm 44 // A Psalm of the Descendants of Korah

We do not know who wrote Psalm 44. We do not know when they wrote it. When we read the psalm, two things are clear:

- someone had hurt the Jews
- the Jews had done nothing wrong.

We do not know when this happened. Perhaps it was when David was king, or up to 500 years after.

What Psalm 44 means...

The psalm is in 3 parts. Verses 1-8 tell us what God did for the Jews when they came into their country. It was not the Jews that won the land for them, but God. His hand (verses 2 and 3) and his arm (verse 3) mean "what God did". (Some Christians say that God's hand is "the *Holy Spirit" and his arm is Jesus.) The "light on your face" (verse 3) means "the good way that God looked at people so that he did good things for them". The enemies of the Jews were the people that lived in the land before they did.

But in verses 9 to 22 we read that something bad has happened.

The Jews had done nothing wrong, but their enemies had done bad things to them. This often happens to Christian people. Why does God let it happen? He does it to make his people strong. Sheep were animals that people killed for the meat. "Thrown us into other countries" means "put us in countries where we did not live before". The *covenant in verse 17 is what God agreed to do if his people obeyed him. Here, in verses 17-22, the people are saying that they kept their part of the *covenant, but God did not keep his. In other words, they obeyed God, but he did not care for them. We often feel *like this. When it happens we must remember that:

· God lets it happen to make us strong

· we must go on believing in God.

It happened to Jesus, and we must be *like him!

In verses 23 - 26 the person that wrote the psalm prays. He asks God to wake up and send help! Whatever happens, we must always ask God to send help!

Something to do

Listen to the news on the radio or watch it on the television. When you hear about or see bad things happening to people, pray for them. If they are God's people, pray harder! It does not mean that they are bad people, but it does mean that God is wanting to make them stronger.

John 16 // Coming Persecution

The world's hatred for Christ's disciples would express itself in persecution. Jesus wanted His disciples to know about the difficulties they would face. He wanted to tell them these things before they ever happened (see John 16:4). Jesus never misled people into thinking that the Christian life was a life of ease. We should be careful about this also. We should never say to someone: "If you become a Christian then everything in life will go well for you and you will hardly ever have any problems or troubles." The Lord never said this! What are two things that Jesus predicted would happen to His followers (John 16:2)?

Why would these people do such things (John 16:3)?

JESUS GOES BUT THE COMFORTER COMES

When Jesus announced that He would be going away (John 16:5), were the disciples GLAD, SAD or MAD (John 16:6)? _____ They were filled with sorrow, but this is because they did not understand. They did not understand that it was to their ADVANTAGE that Jesus go away (John 16:7). Jesus must GO AWAY so that the _____ can come (John 16:7). This verse also tells us that Jesus Christ would SEND this Holy Spirit. Who else sent the Comforter (John 14:26)? _____ (**Note:** In Church History there was a great argument about whether the Father or the Son sent the Holy Spirit. The answer is simple: BOTH).

When the Holy Spirit comes He will have a ministry not only to believers but also to the world: "And when He comes (on the day of Pentecost), He will convict the world of 1) _____ and of 2) _____ and of 3) _____ (John 16:8). The word "reprove" in some translations means "convict" and it refers to a person who is brought before a court and proved to be guilty. The Holy Spirit came to earth on the day of Pentecost (Acts chapter 2), lived in the hearts of believers and convicted the world of three things:

1) **SIN**--What great sin is mentioned in John 16:9?

- a. murder
- b. stealing
- c. unbelief (rejection of Jesus Christ)
- d. lying.

The more people see Christ living in the believers by the power of the Holy Spirit, the more they will have to face up to this important question: AM I GOING TO BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST AS THESE PEOPLE HAVE DONE OR AM I GOING TO REJECT JESUS CHRIST?

2) **RIGHTEOUSNESS**-- Can people see the righteous Christ today (John 16:10)? _____ Jesus Christ is in heaven and cannot be seen. But Christ's body (the Church, which is made up of all true believers) is on the earth and can be seen by men! As the Holy Spirit works in our lives we will live more and more in a RIGHTEOUS way (living right, thinking right, acting right, speaking right and being right--see Titus 2:12) and the unsaved people around us will begin to realize how UNRIGHTEOUS they are! No man is righteous in himself (Romans 3:10). The righteousness that every man needs is found only in Jesus Christ!

3) **JUDGMENT**-- According to John 16:11, who was judged when Jesus died on the cross? _____ Satan was proven to be guilty at Calvary. His execution and punishment is yet future (Matthew 25: 41). Those who reject Jesus Christ will end up in hell with the devil (Matthew 25:41). Believers need to live in such a way that the unsaved will see that there is a real Saviour who can rescue men from a real hell! God's genuine heart's desire for all men is that they might be S_____ and come to a full knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4 and see 2 Peter 3:9). In contrast to this is the devil who does not want people to B_____ and be S_____ (Luke 8:12).

Remember, if you are a saved person the Holy Spirit wants to use your life in proving and convincing other people that they are guilty and need to be saved too! Every believer ought to be able to say these three things:

SIN: "I was once an unbeliever and my great sin was my personal rejection of Jesus Christ. But now I am a believer in Jesus Christ!"

RIGHTEOUSNESS: "I once had no righteousness of my own, but now I am dressed in the perfect righteousness of Christ. God made Him to be sin for me that I might be the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21)."

JUDGMENT: "I was once a hell-deserving sinner but Jesus Christ rescued me and saved me from the wrath to come. I once stood with Satan against God, but now I am a child of God and I will not share in the devil's final destiny (Matthew 25:41). Even though I deserve the lake of fire, by God's amazing grace I have been saved!"

Jesus had many things to say to His disciples, but were they ready to hear these things at this time (John 16:12)? ____ They did not even understand about the death and resurrection of Christ! There were many important truths that they would have to be given later. Who would guide them into the truth that they needed to know (John 16:13)? _____ It was through the ministry of the Holy Spirit that the 27 Books of the New Testament were eventually written and these Books contain all the truth that the Church needs to know!

What is the Holy Spirit's most important job or ministry (John 16:13-14)?

- a. to draw attention to Himself
- b. to glorify Christ
- c. to get people to speak in tongues
- d. to heal people of their diseases

The Holy Spirit wants Jesus Christ to get all the attention!

FAREWELL WORDS

Jesus spoke again of His soon departure (John 16:16), but did the disciples understand His words (John 16:17-18)? ____ Once again Jesus needed to comfort His disciples. He told them that there would be a time of great weeping and sorrow but this would be followed by a time of great joy (John 16:20-22). At the crucifixion and burial of Christ the disciples would weep and lament and be sorrowful, but the world would _____ (John 16:20). The world will finally think that they have gotten rid of Jesus Christ! But their rejoicing would not last for very long! Soon the disciples would rejoice at the RESURRECTION of Christ! Soon thereafter the whole world would hear the news that the Saviour is alive

(compare Acts 4:1-2). The sorrow that the disciples would have would not last for long, but would the JOY last for long (John 16:22)? _____

Jesus had already predicted that Judas would betray Him and that Peter would deny Him (John 13). In John 16:32 Jesus predicted that all of the disciples would leave Him and be S_____. Did this really happen (Matthew 26:31,56)? _____

In John 16:33 Jesus told His disciples exactly what to expect in the world: "In the world you shall have _____ (pressure, trouble, difficulty)." Believers are in enemy territory and Jesus never said it would be easy! But believers are not only in the world but they are also IN CHRIST, and Jesus said, "in Me you might have _____" (John 16:33). PEACE in the middle of TROUBLE! PEACE in the midst of life's violent storms! The disciples can have peace in the midst of a troubled world! Jesus has won the victory! He has overcome the world!

Are you an overcomer and a victor? See 1 John 5:4-5.

WATCH & LEARN // HISTORY

Let everyone in the family choose a “watch & learn” video! It can be on YouTube, Amazon, etc... - the only rule is that you must be LEARNING something from the video! But let everyone take a turn sharing something of interest. Parents- watch and discuss! The kid(s) can pick something and then you can too.

Read pages 49-59 (stop at “The Bronze Age”) of The Bible in World History. Discuss these points as you read, look up photos and videos of any topics of interest as you read through these pages. Ancient Egypt is one of the most popular areas of ancient history to learn about.

Especially with reading about Joseph- there is much to see of this. Look at this article from truthwatchers.com:

As archaeologists continue to dig deeper they have repeatedly dug up evidence that confirms the Bible. In a previous article we had documented “Evidence for Joseph in Egypt”¹⁾ and since then there has been more evidence piling up from Egypt further substantiating the biblical account.

Many secular archaeologists have overlooked this evidence as they have focused on an erroneous interpretation of history, placing the events of the Joseph account at the wrong time. Charles Aling explained, “If the Biblical numbers are taken literally and at face value, the probable kings during the enslavement and subsequent rise to power of Joseph would have been Sesostris II (1897-1878 BC) and Sesostris III (1878-1843 BC). This argument than rests on how one interprets [1 Kings 6:1](#), a verse which dates the Exodus 480 years before the fourth [year] of Solomon, ca. 966.”²⁾ Though we will leave the argument for the dating problem for a later post, here are a few reasons the later date for Joseph cannot be accurate.

- Egyptologist attempt to date the events of Joseph in the Hyksos period which they date (ca. 1664-1555 BC), but this is wrong for the following reasons:
- “Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian” ([Genesis 39:1](#)); Hyksos retained the term Pharaoh when they ruled in Egypt, but it is unlikely they would have had an Egyptian such as Potiphar as their “captain of the guard.”
- Joseph was first brought before the Pharaoh, he was shaved ([Genesis 41:14](#)) which was an Egyptian custom; the Hyksos were Syro-Palestinian.
- When Joseph rose to prominence in Egypt, he ruled “over all the land of Egypt” ([Genesis 41:41](#)); but the Hyksos only ruled of the northern part

Archaeology also supports this earlier date. “Egyptian tomb painting depicting a caravan of Asiatics, very much like Jacob and his family, entering Egypt in the sixth year of Sesostris II.”³

Timothy Berry chronographs, “When seventeen-years-old Joseph entered Egypt in 1899, Egypt was still in its Twelfth Dynasty and Pharaoh Amenemhat II (1929-1895 BC) was in his final years. We do not know how many years Joseph spent in Potiphar’s house, but we know that he was in prison for over two years ([Gen. 41:1](#)) and that when he finally stood before Pharaoh (perhaps Sesostris II) as an interpreter of dreams he was thirty years of age ([[Gen.](#)] 41:46).”⁴

Part of the debate over the date of this account revolves around what the name of the city Joseph lived in was during the time he lived there. The Bible records, “And Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee:

the land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell...And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded." ([Genesis 47:5-6,11](#)) Timothy Mahoney explained in an interview with Drew Zahn:

Mainstream archaeologists would say that if the Exodus ever happened, it happened at the time of Rameses, because of the biblical text that said the Israelites were building the city of Rameses. Yet when people understood Rameses lived around 1250 B.C., they didn't find evidence for this type of story in that time period.

But other archaeologists said to look deeper... Beneath the city of Rameses, was another city, much older, called Avaris. And that city was filled with Semitic people. It started very small, just as the Bible says, and over time it grew into one of the largest cities of that time. And that is where we find, I think, the early Israelites. That's the pattern that matches the story of the Bible. It's not at the time of Rameses, but it's at the location of Rameses.⁵⁾

[Exodus 1:7](#) tells how the Israelite multiplied greatly so they obviously would need a large city to dwell in. Josephus, the first century Jewish historian, quoting an Egyptian priest named Manetho who comments about Avaris, “a place that contained ten thousand acres...”⁶⁾ Ancient Egyptians are well known for perverting history, as is seen in Manethos account of the exodus. Josephus later quoting Manetho relates his account of a man he calls Osarsiph who led a revolt against Egypt, “but that when he was gone over to these people, his name was changed, and he was called Moses.”⁷⁾ This revolt was waged, according to Manethos twisted view, by shepherds from Jerusalem that joined with Moses at Avaris. Josephus expanding on Manethos report, records:

Manetho adds also, that “this priest sent to Jerusalem to invite that people to come to his assistance, and promised to give them Avaris; for that it had belonged to the forefathers of those that were coming from Jerusalem, and that when they were come, they made a war immediately against the king, and got possession of all Egypt.”⁸⁾

As the archaeologists have dug beyond the city of Ramses they have discovered this city Avaris. Manfred Bietak leading this excavation denies that it is the city of the Bible even though the name Avaris is connected to the Jewish settlement by the ancient historians as quoted above. Simcha Jacobovici discussed what the meaning of the name may be:

Prof Manfred Bietak has been digging at Tell el-Dab’a in Egypt for over 40 years. He has identified it as “Avaris”, the ancient Hyksos capital. Avaris is smack dab in the middle of the area the Bible calls “Goshen” i.e., the area that the Israelites lived in prior to the Exodus. The word “Avaris” means nothing in Egyptian. But, in the Torah, Joseph is repeatedly called a “Hebrew”; “Ivri” in the Hebrew language. He is also repeatedly and curiously called “Ha Ish”; “The Man”. In other words, the word “Avaris” may very well be related to Joseph, the “Ish Ivri”, or the “Hebrew Man” ([Genesis 39:14](#)). All this is lost in

translation when Joseph is simply called a “Hebrew”. Put differently, the so-called Hyksos capital seems to be named after Joseph the “Ish Ivri” i.e., Avar-Ish.⁹⁾

Manethos is recorded as having said, “but with regard to a certain theologic notion was called Avaris...”¹⁰⁾ and later, “Now this city, according to the ancient theology, was Typho’s city.”¹¹⁾ Typho seems to be connected through ancient pagan myths as recorded from Aristotle , who briefly states, “in the Tyro the discovery by means of the boat.”¹²⁾ This statement of Aristotle’s is footnoted by the editor’s comment, “A play by Sophocles. Tyro’s twins by Poseidon, who appeared to her in the guise of the river Enipeus, were exposed in a little boat or ark, like Moses in the bulrushes, and this led to their identification.”¹³⁾ Apparently the theological meaning of Avaris has some sort of connection with Moses being pulled out of the river by Pharaoh’s daughter ([Exodus 2:1-6](#)). Both these ancient names are connected to Hebrew men from this city.

Gary Byers relates the excavations of Avaris. “Recent excavations in the eastern Nile delta may have actually identified the location of Joseph’s residence in retirement and even his tomb. At a site known as Tell el-Daba today, The Rameses of the Old Testament, extensive excavations have been carried out under the director of Manfred Bietak of the Austrian Archaeological Institute, Cairo, since 1966... The site has evidence for Asiatic as early as the mid-12 Dynasty (mid-19th century BC), the general period when Jacob enter Egypt. It was an unfortified rural settlement, although numerous enclosure walls probably kept animals.”¹⁴⁾ Interestingly, it was because Jacob and his family were shepherds, that when they was introduced to the Pharaoh, they were given the land of Goshen to stay ([Genesis 46:33-34; 47:1-4](#)). “And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation? that ye shall say, Thy servants’ trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.” Manethos also

repeatedly mentions walls but made the suggestion that they were fortified walls for the rebellious army led by Moses.

“But what is most interesting about this find is the cemetery located in the palace garden, and particularly one of the tombs in it. All of the other graves (there are approximately 12 altogether) seem to date to a slightly later period, perhaps the early years of Dynasty 13, and were on the basis of their orientation, definitely not part of the original palace-garden complex. But the largest and most impressive tomb of the lot, consisting of a single brick chamber with a small chapel in front of it, was oriented to the structures of stratum E (early-to-middle 12th Dynasty) (Bietak 1990: 61).”¹⁵⁾

The largest tomb shaped as a pyramid has drawn significant attention.

“Between 1986 and 1988, Prof. Bietak found the remains of a monumental statue that seems to have belonged to a non-Egyptian ruler of Avaris. Although only fragments remain, the archeologists estimate the original size of the seated figure to be 2 meters high and 1.5 meters in depth i.e., about one and a half times life size. Over the statue’s right shoulder you can still see his “throw stick” i.e., the symbol of his rule. On the back – remarkably, as with the Biblical Joseph – you can still see evidence that this ruler was wearing a striped garment, made up of at least three colors: black, red and white. He was found in a tomb.”¹⁶⁾

The Babylonian Talmud records the debates of rabbis over where Joseph was buried. “Rabbi Natan says: Joseph was buried in the crypt [*kabbarnit*] of kings.”¹⁷⁾ The Bible mentions Joseph had a special coat of many colors. “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat

of many colours" ([Genesis 37:3](#)). This statue discovered in the pyramid shaped tomb has been reconstructed with computer graphics to reveal what it once looked like.

Gary Byers coincides:

A cemetery with artifacts that connected it to the houses was also excavated in the open space to the southwest. One of the tombs was monumental in construction and totally unique in finds. Inside were found stone fragments of a colossal statute of a man who was clearly Asiatic, based on the yellow painted skin, the red-painted mushroom-shaped hairstyle and throwstick on his right shoulder (the hieroglyph for foreigner)...

While the other tombs nearby had intact skeletons, the only finds in the monumental tomb were fragments of an inscribed limestone sarcophagus and a few bone fragments. The body was gone![18](#))

This also concurs with the Bible's account. "And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt" ([Genesis 50:24-26](#)). This explains why the most important tomb in the yard of the palace is the only one missing a skeleton. The Babylonian Talmud states, "It states further in the mishna: Who, to us, had a greater burial than Joseph, as it was none other than Moses who involved himself in transporting his coffin."¹⁹ Scripture tells us that Moses took the bones of Joseph ([Exodus 13:11](#)) but he never entered the promise land so he could not have reburied the bones of Joseph. John Elder identifies where the missing skeleton is. "In the last verses of Genesis it is told how Joseph adjured his relatives to take his bones back to Canaan whenever God should restore them to their original home, and in [Joshua 24:32](#) it is told how his body was indeed brought to Palestine and buried at Shechem. For centuries there was a tomb at Shechem revered as the tomb of Joseph. A few years ago the tomb was opened. It was found to contain a body mummified according to the Egyptian custom, and in the tomb, among other things, was a sword of the kind worn by Egyptian officials."²⁰

For more on this evidence see Timothy Mahoney excellent documentary "Patterns of Evidence" (2014).

DAY 55 // WEEK 11

*“Get wisdom; develop good judgment.
Don’t forget my words or turn away from them.*

*Don’t turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you.
Love her, and she will guard you.*

*Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do!
And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.*

*If you prize wisdom, she will make you great.
Embrace her, and she will honor you.*

*She will place a lovely wreath on your head;
she will present you with a beautiful crown.”*

PROVERBS 4:5-9

Fridays are our unschool days! Take the day to catch up on any work you need to—then let’s pursue things you’re interested in! (Or maybe even go on a learning trip as a family!)

Every Friday email your parents 5-7 points that you enjoyed & really learned from this week. Also send any points that were a struggle for you.

DAY 56 // WEEK 12

Genesis 45 // Joseph Reveals his Identity & God's Plan

Main Point: God's grace is available to everyone.

Key Verse: God's saving grace has appeared to all people. - Titus 2:11

Last week, something amazing happened! We saw a BIG change in Joseph's brothers!

Joseph had a test for his brothers when they returned to Egypt and brought their youngest brother, Benjamin, with them. Joseph purposely treated Benjamin better than all the others. He gave Benjamin five times more food than his brothers. Then, when they were heading home, Joseph had his servant hide a special silver cup in Benjamin's sack. The servant went after them and accused Benjamin of stealing the cup. He said Benjamin would have to become his slave. But the brothers would not allow it. They would not leave Egypt without Benjamin. Judah even begged to take Benjamin's place as Joseph's slave.

Years before, these brothers gladly sold their little brother into slavery, but now they would do anything to save their brother. Given the chance to repeat their sin, they went the opposite way. These men had a true change of heart. Who can remember the word for this BIG change? (The word starts with "R".) Repentance. Repentance is changing your mind about sin. It is realizing that

your sin is wrong, and turning away from your sin.

Just as Joseph looked for repentance in his brothers, God looks for repentance in us. God rejoices when we repent - when we change our mind and turn away from our sin (Luke 15:10). God longs for every person to repent (2 Peter 2:9). Repentance leads the way to forgiveness from others and a restored relationship with them (Acts 3:19). Today we'll see how the brothers' relationship with Joseph was restored.

Joseph Makes Himself Known

(Genesis 45:1-15)

Remember, the brothers still had NO idea who Joseph really was. Joseph so was filled with joy over his brothers' BIG change that he could hardly hold it in! The Bible says he could no longer control himself! He told all of his royal attendants and servants to leave the room.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers weren't able to answer him. They were too afraid of him. Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." So they did. Then he said, "I am your brother Joseph. I'm the one you sold into Egypt." - Genesis 45:3-4

Can you imagine what his brothers must have been thinking? Everyone give me your most surprised and

amazed look. These men were stunned! Up until this point, they thought he was an Egyptian - and not just any Egyptian - the most powerful Egyptian besides Pharaoh. Up until this moment, he had used an interpreter to speak to them. Imagine their shock when he started speaking to them in their own language! They could hardly believe their ears. But now, as this truth started to sink in, let's imagine the thoughts that went racing through their minds.

On one hand, now that they had realized how wrong they were to sell Joseph into slavery, they would have been thrilled that he was alive and well. Remember, they mentioned several times that they thought Joseph was probably dead (Genesis 42:13, 22). On the other hand, their long lost brother was now the second most powerful man in the world. They had done something terrible to him, and now he had the power to do anything he wanted to take revenge on them. This thought must have terrified them! Let's listen carefully to Joseph's next words:

"But don't be upset. And don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me ahead of you to save many lives.

"For two years now, there hasn't been enough food in the land. And for the next five years, people won't be plowing or gathering crops. But God sent me ahead of you to keep some of you alive on earth. He sent me here to save your lives by an act of mighty power. So then, it wasn't you who sent me here. It was God." - Genesis 45:5-8

Wow! There are so many lessons for us to learn here. Joseph made it clear that he was not going to take revenge on his brothers. Not only did he forgive them, but also he didn't even want them to feel bad for what they had done! This is because Joseph saw with Kingdom eyes. He didn't see his life as just the "here and now." He saw his life the way God saw it - as one part of God's amazing, eternal plan. Here's what I mean: Do you remember God's promises to Joseph's great-grandfather, Abraham? God promised Abraham that he would have as many descendants as there are grains of sand on the seashore (Genesis 22:17). Joseph's brothers were all descendants of Abraham. God allowed Joseph to rise to power in order to keep Abraham's great-grandsons and their children alive during the famine! Without Joseph in this place of power, all of Abraham's descendants would have died. Joseph's amazing life was God's way of keeping His promise! God ALWAYS keeps His promises!

Joseph was thrilled to be used by God in His plan. He begged his brothers to understand God's amazing grace. It was God who had done this amazing thing for their entire family. None of them - not even Joseph - deserved God's promises. But God gave the promise to them out of His grace. By His grace, God saved all of them from dying in the famine.

Application: Ask God to help you see with Kingdom eyes. Ask to see beyond the "here and now." Ask God to use you like a link in the chain of His plan. And at times when you can't see all that

God is doing, ask Him for the faith to trust Him. That's what faith is all about: Faith is being certain of what you can't see (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is trusting that God is doing what is best for you, even when you can't see it with your eyes.

Joseph was very glad to be used to save his family. And he was also excited to be reunited with his brothers. Because of their repentance and Joseph's grace toward them, their relationship was restored. Guess who else Joseph wanted to be reunited with? His father. Joseph wanted to see his father, Jacob! He told his brothers to go home to Canaan and tell Jacob everything that had happened. Joseph warned them that there would be five more years of famine, and they should all move to Egypt so they would have enough food to eat.

"Tell my father about all of the honor that has been given to me in Egypt. Tell him about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

Then Joseph threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and sobbed. Benjamin also hugged him and sobbed. Joseph kissed all of his brothers and sobbed over them. After that, his brothers talked with him. - Genesis 45:13-15

Just think of all the stories Joseph wanted to share with his brothers! He must have told them about Potiphar, prison, the cupbearer, and the baker. He must have told them that God was with him wherever he was, and all about God's perfect timing!

The men hugged each other and cried together. The brothers accepted Joseph's forgiveness, and they were finally free from the guilt they had felt for so long.

Pharaoh Blesses Joseph's Family (Genesis 45:16-24)

The news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come. Pharaoh and all of his officials were pleased. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Here's what I want you to tell your brothers. Say to them, 'Load your animals. Return to the land of Canaan. Bring your father and your families back to me. I'll give you the best land in Egypt. You can enjoy all of the good things in the land.'" - Genesis 45:16-18

Pharaoh even gave Joseph's brothers large carts to make their move easier. This was like an ancient Egyptian moving van! Pharaoh loaded the brothers up with new clothes, silver, and other wonderful supplies. Here is another one of God's promises that came true. God had promised to bless Abraham's descendants. God even used Pharaoh in His great plan. Do you think that being showered with gifts from the richest, most powerful man in the world would be a blessing? Of course! Did these men deserve this all-star treatment? No! It was a free gift. It was grace. It was God keeping His promise to people who did nothing to earn it.

Jacob Hears The Good News (Genesis 45:25-28)

The brothers were heading home to Jacob. What do you think he was doing while his sons were gone these past few weeks? I'm afraid he may have been

pacing the floor with worry. As far as he knew, Joseph was dead and Simeon was in prison. And he feared that something terrible would happen to Benjamin. Perhaps one of his grandchildren came running in to tell him that a large caravan had arrived. Maybe Jacob peeked nervously out of his tent to see how many sons would be coming home to him. To his amazement, eleven sons came before him safe and sound.

They told him, "Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of the whole land of Egypt." Jacob was shocked. He didn't believe them. So they told him everything Joseph had said to them. Jacob saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back. That gave new life to their father Jacob. (He) said, "I believe it now! My son Joseph is still alive. I'll go and see him before I die." - Genesis 45:26-28

Jacob may have been more shocked than anyone to hear that his twelfth son was alive. For the past twenty years, he believed that Joseph had been killed by wild animals.

Comparison

Very often in the Bible, we find a real-life story that holds a spiritual meaning for us. Let's look at Joseph's life story to find the spiritual meaning that applies to you and me. Joseph's relationship with his brothers is a lot like our relationship with God. First of all, just as Joseph's brothers had sinned terribly against Joseph, each one of us has sinned against God (Romans 3:23). The brothers' sin separated them from Joseph. The Bible tells us that our sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2).

When the brothers went back to Joseph, they took gifts to buy what they needed, but Jacob didn't accept the gifts. They could never pay the price for sin they had committed against him. There was nothing they could ever do to "undo" their sin. In a similar way, we often try to earn our way back into a right relationship with God, but no good work we could ever do can undo our sin (Isaiah 64:6, Ephesians 2:8-9).

Joseph looked to see if his brothers had changed; he looked for a repentant heart. Joseph was overjoyed to find out that his brothers had changed their ways. When they were given the chance to repeat their sin, they did just the opposite. Likewise, God also looks for a repentant heart. The Bible says that there is rejoicing in the presence of angels when a person repents (Luke 15:10). That means God is doing the rejoicing! He is overjoyed when we turn away from sin and turn back to Him.

Joseph forgave his brothers completely. He did not hold a grudge. He didn't even want his brothers to feel bad for what they had done. When we turn from our sin and put our trust in Jesus, God forgives us completely. By His grace, He keeps no record of our sin (Jeremiah 31:34). God tells us that He throws our sins into the bottom of the ocean (Micah 7:9). God's grace takes our sin away.

Joseph's relationship with his brothers was completely restored. They hugged and talked and ate and drank, as if nothing had ever happened. When we put our trust in Jesus, our broken

relationship with God is completely restored. By grace, God no longer sees our sin (Romans 8:1). Instead, He sees the perfection of Jesus in us (Romans 10:4).

Finally, Joseph's brothers were freely blessed with the best that Egypt had to offer. Joseph's brothers did not deserve these gifts. They just accepted them. When we become followers of Christ, not only are our sins forgiven, but we receive new life and eternal

blessings that begin right here on earth! (Hebrews 9:15) We don't deserve any of these blessings. It is by God's grace that He gives us blessings we could never earn. John 1:16 says, "From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another."

The best part of God's amazing grace is that He offers it to everyone. He wants everyone to repent from his or her sin, trust in Jesus, and receive His eternal blessings.

Psalm 45 // The Royal Wedding

This is a very interesting Psalm. It was most likely used in song form for wedding celebrations. Although we no longer know the way the song sounded- we can learn a lot from this Psalm.

We know that _____ is our bridegroom, and we (the church) are Christ's _____. So as the bride of Christ Jesus, we are waiting for Him to come and get us- and once we are reunited with Him, we will never have to leave Him.

Look at V6-7. Who is this talking about? Need a hint?

V7: "Therefore God, *your God*, has anointed you."

Yes! This is Jesus, Yeshua ha Moshiach! The Messiah- truly God & truly man!

Look at V13-14- who is this? _____

If that was us, the church, then what period are we seeing in V16-17? Hint: This time period lasts for 1,000 years.

Yes- the Millennial Reign of Christ! This is such an exciting time to learn about & look forward to!

Have your parent/teacher dictate Psalm 45:6-7 and correct as needed.

John 17 // The Great High Priest

In the book of Hebrews we learn about the wonderful work that our Saviour is doing for us today:

“For Christ is not entered into the holy
places made with hands, which are figures of the
true; but into _____ itself, now
to appear in the presence of _____ for _____”
(Hebrews 9:24)

Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest (see Hebrews 4:14; 7:26 and 8:1) who passed into heaven itself so that He could make Intercession for His believers who are still on the earth:

“Wherefore He is able also to _____
them to the uttermost that come unto God by
Him,
seeing He ever _____ to make
_____ for them”
(Hebrews 7:25)

When Jesus Christ returned to heaven He did two things to help His disciples who were still on the earth. First, He sent the Holy Spirit (the Comforter) to live in every believer. We studied this in John Chapters 14-16. Second, He began a ministry of prayer for His believers: “seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus Christ is no longer on earth with His disciples, but He is in heaven constantly praying for His disciples!

How important is this ministry of prayer? Suppose Jesus were to stop praying for His believers? Would they be able to survive in this world? Peter once got into trouble and even denied His Lord (see Luke 22:34,54-62). But did Peter have Someone praying for him so that he would survive and so that his faith would not fail (Luke 22:31-32)? _____ Peter was very thankful that Jesus interceded for him!

In John Chapter 17 we are going to learn how important it is to have our Saviour in heaven praying for His believers on earth. All of John Chapter 17 (all 26

verses)' is a PRAYER that Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father. He prayed this prayer on the very same night that He was betrayed by Judas and arrested by the Jews. This prayer was prayed on the evening before His crucifixion. On the very next morning He would be nailed to the cross and in less than 24 hours He would be in the tomb.

Before we begin looking at these verses in John 17, let us first point out several facts about this great prayer:

1) This is the **longest** recorded prayer of Jesus found in the Bible (26 verses long!). The other prayers of Jesus which are written down in the Bible are very short (see for example John 11:41-42; John 12:27-28; Luke 22:41-42; and Matthew 11:25-26).

2) This is a very **important** prayer for us! Jesus prayed many prayers. On one occasion He even continued _____ in prayer to God (Luke 6:12). But of all the prayers which Jesus prayed, God wanted this one in John 17 to be recorded (written down) for us. God had some very important reasons for choosing this prayer to be part of His Bible. God wanted us to listen in and hear the words that Jesus prayed on this night before He went to the cross.

3) The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ **prays for His own**. In Romans 8:34 we learn that Christ is "at the right hand of God, who also maketh _____ for _____" (Romans 8:34). Jesus Christ is in heaven today praying and pleading for those who belong to Him. When Jesus prays for us, what kinds of things does He pray about? It would be helpful if we could "listen in" and hear that which Jesus is praying.. This is one of the reasons God has given us John Chapter 17. He wants us to "listen in" as Jesus prays to the Father *for us*.

4) The prayer in John 17 may be rightly called THE LORD'S PRAYER. It is the prayer which the Lord prayed on the night before He went to the cross. There is another prayer which is commonly called "The Lord's Prayer" and it is found in Matthew 6:9-13. This prayer in Matthew was a prayer that Jesus gave to His disciples when He was teaching them how to pray. But did Jesus ever pray this prayer Himself? Would Jesus ever pray this: "forgive us our debts" (Matthew 6:12)? _____ Did Jesus have any sins that needed to be forgiven? _____ The sinless Son of God never prayed for forgiveness! This prayer in Matthew was a prayer that the Lord **taught** but it was not a prayer that the Lord ever **prayed**. The prayer that Jesus prayed is found in John Chapter 17.

5) When we read the prayer in John Chapter 17 we are entering upon holy territory. We are listening in on a holy conversation as the Holy Son of God is speaking to His "H_____ F _____" (John 17:11). It is very amazing

and wonderful that God should even allow us to listen to such a prayer! May we study this prayer with reverence and respect for a God who is greater than any tongue can tell. We must realize also that there are many deep things in this prayer--things which our little, puny minds have great difficulty understanding. For example, this prayer takes us all the way back to *eternity past* (Verse 5--"before the _____ was"; Verse 24--"before the foundation of the _____") and it takes us all the way ahead to *eternity future* when we will be with Christ seeing His glory in heaven (Verse 24). If our hearts are right with the Lord, He will teach us many things from this prayer. With the Lord helping us, let us consider some of the verses in John 17:

JESUS PRAYS FOR GOD'S GLORY

Prayer is not always bowing one's head and closing one's eyes. When Jesus prayed we are told that He "lifted up His _____ to _____" (John 17:1). He lifted up His eyes and looked up!

Notice the very first words that Jesus prayed, "Father, the _____ is _____" (John 17:1). Jesus knew that the hour of His death had come. It was time to go to the cross to provide salvation for sinful men. In this dark and difficult hour in His life, what did Jesus do? HE LOOKED UP! He prayed to God!

What do you do when things get rough and tough? What do you do during those dark and difficult times? God wants us to LOOK UP and lift up our heads (compare Luke 21:28)! Don't look around at the problems (Luke 21:26) but look up at the Saviour (Luke 21:28) There was only one thing that Jesus wanted more than anything else!

There was one thing that Jesus cared about and was concerned about more than anything else! It is, found at the end of verse 1: "that thy _____ also may _____ Thee." Jesus prayed that God the Father would be glorified! This was His greatest desire (compare John 12:28).

This should be our greatest concern also. The Bible says that in whatever we do we are to do all "to the _____ of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). We are to live in such a way that God will be made known and honored!

Was Jesus praying a selfish prayer when He prayed, "Father . . . glorify thy Son" (verse 1)? He was really saying, "Father, GLORIFY ME!" (compare verse 5). Did Jesus want to be glorified for SELFISH reasons? Of course the answer is "NO"! "Glorify thy Son" is only the first half of the prayer! The second half is this: "that thy Son also may glorify _____" (John 17:1). He wanted the Father to glorify Him so that He could glorify the Father. There was nothing selfish about this!

Have you ever prayed that God would glorify you? "Lord, glorify me that I might glorify You!" This is not a selfish prayer as long as the "glory" returns to God!

What does the word "GLORY" really mean? The word "GLORY" refers to the *wealth, worth* and *weight* of someone. The GLORY of God points us to how wealthy, worthy and weighty God really is! The glory of God is the expression of all that God really is!

The Father *has given* His children GLORY (John 17:22) so that these children can point back to the Father and glorify Him (1 Cor. 10:31). God gives His children GLORY so that the world will know who His children belong to! God's children are able to point out to others how wonderful God is. God's children ought to be showing off the wealth, worth and weight of God!

The believer can pray something like this: "Father, thank You for providing me with all I need (John 17:22). Help me to use and to exercise all that You have provided me with so that others might take notice and think and ask about my Source for such supply." Others might ask questions such as these: "How did you do that?" "Why did you do it that way?" "Why do you think like that?" "Why didn't you join us in doing this?" etc.

Consider the son of a very rich man (the son of a billionaire). Suppose this son went around town dressed in rags and looking like a poverty-stricken bum. Would this glorify and point back to his father? _____ This would dishonor his rich father. People would never be able to guess that this poor-looking person belonged to such a rich man!

But suppose that this rich man's son acted like a rich man's son. Suppose he dressed in expensive clothes and wore gold and diamond watches and rings and was driven to school every day by a chauffeur in a limousine. What would this tell you about his father? Would you somehow get the idea that his father is rich?

We have a very RICH heavenly Father and we want people to know how glorious He is. As believers (as children of God) may we thank our heavenly Father that He has given to us all that we need so that our lives will point back to Him and so that the world will know that we belong to Him! May we have our hearts right with God so that we can rightly use and exercise all that he has given to us.

Remember, if God honors you or blesses you in any way, be sure to give it back to God! Do not keep it for yourself. Herod failed to give God the glory and he dropped dead (see Acts 12:21-23)!

ETERNAL LIFE

There is one thing that frail, mortal, sinful men really need: E_____ L_____ (John 17:2). Who is the One who is able to GIVE eternal life to men (John 17:2)? _____ Apart from Jesus Christ there is absolutely no hope of eternal life! What wonderful GIFT does Jesus Christ give to His sheep (John 10:27-28)? _____

What is eternal life? Some people think that eternal life is simply "living forever" or "existing forever." But this is not true. Those who are not saved will EXIST FOREVER in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10,15; 21:8). They will have ETERNAL EXISTENCE but they certainly will not have ETERNAL LIFE. All men will exist forever somewhere: either in heaven or hell.

What is eternal life? God has not left us in the dark concerning this. He has given us His own definition of eternal life and it is found In John 17:3: "And this is _____, that they might _____ thee (God the Father) the only true God, and _____ whom thou hast sent." Eternal life is KNOWING God and knowing _____ (the One God sent). The person who rightly knows God and Christ is the person who possesses eternal life.

Christianity is not a religion, it is a RELATIONSHIP with God. It is not DOING SOMETHING but it is KNOWING SOMEONE. It is not a set of rules and regulations to follow but it is a wonderful PERSON to love and serve and follow and obey. Eternal life is a wonderful relationship with the only true God!

There are many people in the world that have religion but there are few people in the world that really have a real and a right relationship with the only true God. Do you have this kind of a relationship? Have you ever received this PERSON to be your God and your Saviour (John 1:12)? In light of John 17:3, can you say from your heart: "I know this Person as MY SAVIOUR, MY LORD, MY FRIEND, MY HELPER, MY SHEPHERD, MY KING, MY LOVER and MY EVER-PRESENT COMPANION AND COMFORTER!"? This is the kind of relationship God wants us to have both *now and forever!*

"It Is Finished!"

Did Jesus come into the world to do a work of judging men or saving men (John 3:17)? _____ Jesus came to earth and went to the cross and COMPLETED HIS MISSION. In John 17:4 Jesus said, "I have _____ (completed, accomplished) the work which you gave me to do." After He had paid the full penalty for man's sin on Calvary's cross, what did Jesus

cry out (see John 19:30)? _____ It is DONE!
FINISHED! ACCOMPLISHED! FOREVER DONE!

When Jesus actually spoke these words in John 17:4 He had not yet gone to the cross and He had not yet died for sinful men. But Jesus was looking ahead. In less than 24 hours the work would be finished. Jesus was anticipating what was soon going to happen. He was so certain that He would go to the cross and die that He spoke of it as if it were already accomplished. In His mind it was as good as done! We will learn more about what Jesus did for us on the cross when we come to John Chapter 19.

In John 17:5 we learn something very important about the Saviour, Jesus Christ. In this prayer Jesus said that He was with the Father “_____ the world _____.” This statement makes it very clear that the life of Jesus Christ did not begin in a stable in Bethlehem. Jesus Christ existed long before Bethlehem was ever a town! He existed long before there was even a world! Does John 17:24 teach the same truth? _____ The eternal Son of God (see John 1:1) became a man (John 1:14) so that He could eventually go to the cross and accomplish the work of salvation (John 17:4) so that the Father would be glorified (John 17:1; 12:28)!

JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

Jesus Describes His Own

Before Jesus prays for His disciples He first *describes them* in John 17:6-10. He tells us certain things that are true of those that belong to Him. In these verses we will learn that Jesus describes His disciples in six ways. These are six things that ought to be true of every believer. As we think about these verses we should ask ourselves this question: “*DO I FIT THIS DESCRIPTION? DO I RESEMBLE ONE OF CHRIST’S DISCIPLES?*” Let us consider this sixfold description:

1) *They know the Father.* In John 17:6 Jesus said, “I have manifested thy _____ unto the men which thou gavest me.” The “NAME” of God refers to all that God is. Jesus revealed God to His disciples (Matthew 11:27). Jesus SHOWED THEM THE FATHER as we already studied in John 14:8-9. Those who belong to Christ know the Father and have a personal relationship with God. Do unsaved people know the Father (John 15:21; 16:3)? _____ Do you know the Father? Do you fit this description?

2) *They keep (obey) God’s Word.* At the end of verse 6 Jesus said, “they have _____ thy _____.” Those who belong to Christ are obedient to God’s

Word. This does not mean that Christ's followers never fail or never fall. In fact on this very night Peter would deny his Lord three times (John 13:38) and the other disciples would scatter like frightened rabbits (John 16:32 and Matthew 26:56)! And yet, Jesus in speaking of these same men says "THEY HAVE _____ MY WORD" (John 17:6)! Jesus understood that there would be times when they would fail, but as the Lord looked over their entire life, He knew that these were men who would honor God's Word and obey it. Do you desire to obey God's Word (compare 1 John 2:3-5) or do you care nothing about doing what God says? Do you fit the description of one who has "kept His Word"?

3) They receive God's Word. Jesus gave His disciples God's Words (John 17:8). Did they receive these words or did they reject these words (John 17:8)?

_____ It is a dangerous thing to REJECT God's words: "He that _____ me, and receiveth _____ my _____, hath one that judgeth him" (John 12:48). If a person rejects God's Words and refuses to hear them, does that person belong to God (John 8:47)? _____ True believers are those who have "gladly _____ his word" (Acts 2:41). What a person does with the Bible is very important. Have you believed and received God's Word in your heart? Do you fit this description?

4) They believe the right thing about Jesus Christ. Jesus said that His disciples "have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have _____ that thou didst send me" (John 17:8). It is very important what a person believes about Christ--who He is and where He came from. Did the Jews mentioned in John 6:41-42 believe the right thing about Jesus? _____ Do you believe that Jesus came down from heaven and was sent by God into this world to be our Saviour? _____ Do you fit this description?

5) They belong to God. Read John 17:9-10. How many times do you find the word "thine"? _____ How many times do you find the word "mine"? _____ The word "thine" refers to God the Father and it means that the disciples belong to God the Father. The word "mine" refers to Jesus Christ and it means that the disciples belong to Jesus Christ! When a person is saved he belongs totally to God! The Bible says "ye are not your _____" (1 Corinthians 6:19)! You do not belong to yourself, you belong to God! Have you given your heart and your life to God? Do you belong to Him? Do you fit this description?

6) They glorify Jesus Christ. In John 17:10 Jesus said, "I am _____ in them." This means that the disciples glorified Jesus Christ! Instead of living for themselves, they wanted to live for the glory of the One who saved them! Who did the Apostle Paul want to magnify and glorify (Philippians 1:20)? _____ Who did he want to live for (Philippians 1:21)? _____ Can you say the

same thing Paul said? Do you want your life to honor Jesus Christ? Do you fit the description?

Keep Them!

Jesus knew that He would soon return to heaven (John 17:11). He also knew that His disciples would remain “in the W_____” (John 17:11). This means that the disciples would be right in the middle of Satan’s territory in a very unfriendly environment. Jesus knew that these disciples would need to be protected. Therefore Jesus prayed that God would . . .

(see John 17:11, 12,15 and circle the correct answer):

- a. . . . make them rich
- b. . . . make them popular and famous
- c. . . . keep them (watch over them, keep them from harm, keep them safe)
- d. . . . take them out of the world

God is the only One who can keep His believers safe in this world. The Bible says in 1 Peter 1:5 that we are “_____ by the _____ of God.” If you are a believer, your safety and protection does not depend on you, it depends on God! If your safety depended on you, would you be very, safe? ____ God not only saves a person, but He also **KEEPS A PERSON SAVED!**

CAN A SAVED PERSON EVER BE LOST? This is an important question and Jesus gives the answer in John 17:12--“none of them is _____”(NOT ONE!). Did Jesus say the same thing in John 18:9 and John 6:39? ____ God is able to keep His own! The Great Shepherd knows how to protect and keep His sheep!

There was only one disciple who was lost. His name is Judas Iscariot and in John 17:12 he is called “the son of perdition” (this means “the son of destruction”, the man who was utterly lost and who would perish in the lake of fire). But we must remember that Judas never *lost* his salvation because Judas *never had* salvation! You cannot lose something that you never possessed! When we studied John 13:10-11 we learned that Judas was the one disciple who was **UNCLEAN** and **UNSAVED** (he had never had his salvation bath).

We need to learn a lesson from this man, Judas. This man was taught by the best Bible Teacher that the world has ever known. This man saw the most

amazing miracles that the world has ever seen. This man had every opportunity to put his trust in Jesus Christ but he never did. This man was so near to the Lord and yet he was so lost!

What about you? Do you go to a good Bible teaching church? Do you have a Pastor and teachers and parents who have taught you the way of salvation as revealed on the pages of the Holy Bible? Remember, going to church and hearing the message does not save anyone! It is possible for a person to attend a good Bible Church and hear the message of salvation for years but NEVER BE SAVED! Don't be a Judas! Turn to the Saviour and come to Christ today! Being near to the truth doesn't save anyone.

What has Jesus given to His disciples to help them as they are in this world (John 17:14)? _____ The Bible is the believer's GUIDE TO SURVIVAL! If we were in the world without the Bible we would be in trouble! This would be like a traveler trying to find his way without a map or a compass! One person has given the following amazing tribute to the Bible:

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

--Author Unknown

According to John 17:14 and 16 there are two groups of people in the world:

1) The Majority Group (the crowd)

They are “of the world”

They belong to the SYSTEM (Satan’s system)

2) The Minority Group (the courageous few)

They are “not of this world”

They belong to the SAVIOUR

Christ’s disciples are IN THE WORLD but they are not OF THE WORLD (they are OF GOD). Unsaved people are IN THE WORLD but they are also OF THE WORLD (they belong to the devil’s system--see Ephesians 2:1-3).

A believer might think: “Why doesn’t God take me out of this world? Why doesn’t God save people and then take them immediately to heaven?” This is not what God wants! God has a purpose for leaving His believers IN THE WORLD!

According to John 17:15 what does Jesus not pray?
_____ But He does pray that God will “keep them from the _____” (John 17:15). The word “evil” in John 17:15 actually means “the evil one, the wicked one” and it is referring to the devil himself. God wants us in the world but He does not want us in the clutches of the evil one. God wants us right in the middle of the battlefield, but God will keep us out of the clutches of the enemy. Because God does such a good job of protecting us from Satan, HE CANNOT TOUCH US (see 1 John 5:18)!

Yes, believers are in the world. What does God want His believers to do in the world (see the end of Philippians 2:15)? _____ It may not always be easy at school or in the neighborhood or at work, but if that is where God wants you to be, then that is where God wants you to shine! The darker the night the brighter the stars shine! Joseph was in pagan Egypt. He was right in the middle of idolatry and false religion. Was God able to keep him there? _____ Daniel was in pagan Babylon. He was right in the middle of a sinful society. Was God able to keep him there? _____ We need to do the *shining*, God will do the *keeping*!

Sanctify Them!

When Jesus prayed for His disciples the first thing He prayed for was that God would "KEEP THEM!" (John 17:11-15). His second prayer request is found in John 17:17-- "S_____ them!" What do the words "sanctify them" really mean? They mean "set them apart, make them holy, make them saintly." What does God want for His believers as they are in the world? He wants them to be HOLY! Jesus was praying that the Father would make His people more holy and more pure and more saintly in thought, word and deed (more Christ-like). Jesus wanted His disciples protected ("KEEP THEM") and He also wanted His disciples to live holy lives ("SANCTIFY THEM"). Christ was concerned for the holiness of His people.

The KEEPING of believers and the SANCTIFYING of believers are both needed. A believer who is kept in the world but who does not live a holy life is like a burnt out light bulb in a dark room. The light bulb is there but it is not doing what it is supposed to be doing!

How does God make His people SAINTLY and HOLY? He does this through the Bible: "Sanctify them through thy _____ thy _____ is truth" (John 17:17). Those who love God's Word, read it, obey it and live by it are those whose lives are holy. The "saintly" person is the person who puts God's Word into action in his life. THE HOLY BIBLE PRODUCES A HOLY LIFE.

Many people today do not really believe the Bible. They believe that the Bible is filled with many errors and mistakes and that many of the things written in the Bible are not really true. But we must always remember that the Son of God said, "THY WORD IS _____" (John 17:17)! God's Word is truth! Jesus said it and that settles it! And certainly no one knows more about the Bible than Jesus Christ! How can you prove to someone that the Bible is true? The best proof is to show them how the Bible has changed your life! Show them how God's Word has made you a different person! How can anyone argue with a changed life? This is illustrated in the following story:

The Infidel and the Miner

Everyone admitted that the infidel lecturer was a smart man. In debate, he could generally make his opponent, however clever, trip himself and look utterly ridiculous.

But "God is not mocked," and He was holding in reserve one of His own to confound this emissary of Satan.

One night during one of the infidel's lectures in a rich mining town, he observed the presence of a most intent listener. The man was still wearing his rough, grimy miner's garments, and the massive frame and scarcely concealed muscles bespoke a man of unusual physical strength. He ended his address by saying, "Now I'm sure that I have succeeded in accounting to you for the myth that is called the religion of Jesus Christ."

The atheist had hardly finished speaking when the miner rose slowly to his feet. "Sir," he said, "I'm only a working man and I don't know your fancy word 'myth.' But these people know me! They know that until three years ago I was the toughest man in town. I had a miserable home. I neglected my wife and children. I cursed, swore, drank all my wages and whoever withstood me soon felt my fist. Then someone came along and told me of the love of God to poor sinners. He gave me a glimpse of Christ Jesus dying on Calvary's Cross for lost wretches like me. I believed those things that you now deny, and through my new-found trust in the cleansing power of the Saviour's blood, my life was changed. These folks can tell you that all is different now. The Bible is still the Word of the living God. Jesus Christ is anything but a myth. And the gospel is still "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Romans 1:16).

Who sent Christ into the world (John 17:18)? _____ Who sent the disciples into the world (John 17:18)? _____ Christ sends His own disciples right into the battlefield (enemy territory)! But His disciples need not fear because the victory is His!

In John 17:19 Jesus said, "I _____ Myself." This means "I set myself apart." Jesus was referring to the work that He would do for us on the cross. He would be set apart as a sacrifice or as an offering for sin. He was SANCTIFIED so that we could be SANCTIFIED (John 17:19). He died to make men HOLY (compare Titus 2:14).

JESUS PRAYS FOR FUTURE BELIEVERS

When Jesus prayed this great prayer in John 17, He did not just have His little band of disciples in mind. He knew that there would be thousands of people in the future that would believe on Him also. In John 17:20 Jesus said, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall _____ on Me through their (the disciples') word."

The early disciples (such as Peter and John and later Paul) went forth after the resurrection of Christ and they preached the message of salvation everywhere (Mark 16:15,20). Many people believed on Christ because of their word and their preaching. Later God used these men to write the books of the New Testament. Since the New Testament was written thousands of people have read these books and have also believed on Christ. Jesus knew that these people would someday believe on Him and He wanted to include them in His prayer (John 17:20). Have you believed on Jesus Christ? Have you believed the message of salvation as presented on the pages of the New Testament? If you have, then it is encouraging to know that when Jesus prayed this prayer in John 17, He had YOU in mind!

Jesus prayed that His believers might be ONE (John 17:21-23). Read Ephesians 4:3-7 (Do you see the SEVEN ONE'S?). Was Jesus' prayer answered? ____ Today when people believe in Christ they are all "baptized into _____ body" (1 Corinthians 12:13). This means that every believer is placed into the body of Christ, which is the CHURCH. Every believer becomes a member of the Church! As believers we all share a common ONENESS and UNITY. Every believer is able to say this:

The Holy Spirit lives in me.

God is my Father.

Christ is my Saviour and my Head.

The Holy Spirit is my Comforter

Christ's return is my hope (expectation)

Heaven is my home!

Those who are not saved cannot say these things and we are not ONE with them.

Does Jesus desire that His believers be in heaven with Him someday (John 17:24)? ____ Will He come again to take us there (John 14:3)? ____ What does Jesus want us to behold (John 17:24)? _____ In heaven Jesus will be the very center of attention! Do believers rejoice today even though they do not see Christ (1 Peter 1:8)? ____ If believers rejoice today not seeing Him, just think how much they will rejoice in the future when they see Him face to face! Think of a girl who has a fiancé who lives far away. Would she rejoice to get a letter from him? ____ Would she rejoice to get a phone call from him? ____ What if he actually came to see her face to face! Would this be even better than the letter or the phone call?

Our Lord's prayer ends at the end of verse 26. But actually His prayer for believers never ends! The Bible tells us that "He ever liveth to make intercession for us" (Hebrews 7:25). He never stops praying for us! God lets us "listen in" to this prayer in John Chapter 17 so that we would know how much our Saviour loves and cares for His believers!

WHAT A WONDERFUL SAVIOUR!

WHAT A GREAT HIGH PRIEST!

NATURE IN ACTION // BIBLE

Helping My Parents Do Their Job

(Part 1)

Parents are the leaders and children are the ones that need to follow and be led.

As we learned in Chapter 3, the family must stay in balance:

Each leader shares in the balance. Mom and Dad both play an important part in the balancing act. Each leader has an important part to play. Each parent must contribute his or her skills and know-how.

How to Be a Good and Skillful Leader

Here are some thoughts to help parents be the leaders they should be:

1) Parents can often suggest rather than demand.

Read the following and put an "S" before that which is a Suggestion and put a "D" before that which is a Demand:

_____ Take out the trash this very instant!

_____ It might be a good idea to take out the trash before it piles up too much.

_____ What do you think about giving Mom a helping hand by starting in on this pile of dirty dishes?

_____ Wash those dishes right now or you will be severely punished.

Sometimes if we do not follow Mom's and Dad's suggestions they may have to use stronger language. As children in the home, how can we help our parents so that their suggestions result in action? Can you think of suggestions that your parents have given you? Have you followed them?

2) Parents should say "No" and mean "No."

There are many times when parents need to say "No." Would it be good for you if they always said "Yes" to everything that you wanted? Would it be good for you if they always let you eat what you wanted to, and do what you wanted to, and go where you wanted to and see what you wanted to? If you were babysitting for a little child, would you let him (or her) do that which **you know** would lead to trouble (like eating something poisonous), even though the child may not know it? _____ Is it possible that your Mom or Dad could know that something will lead to trouble for you, even though you may not know it or realize it?

God sometimes says "No" to those He loves. Moses wanted to go into the Promised Land. Did God say "Yes" or "No" (see Deuteronomy 3:23-27 and 34:4)? _____ David wanted to build a glorious temple for the LORD. Did God say "Yes" or "No" (see 1 Chronicles 17:4)? _____ Did God know what was best?

Parents should say "No" calmly and firmly. And if "No" is the right thing to say, then they should say it and mean it and not change it!

Is there any way that you can help your parents to stay firm when it comes to saying "No"? Sometimes children do everything within their power to try to change a "No" into a "Yes." Suppose you were to go up to your Father and say, "Dad, when you say 'no' you mean it and I'm not going to try to change it because I know that you only want what is best for me!" Would this surprise your Dad?

"Children, obey your parents except when they say 'No.'" Is this what Colossians 3:20 really says? _____

3) Parents need to be reasonable and fair. They should respect the rights of each child in being a child and they should be flexible in light of circumstances. To keep the family in balance, the children need to be reasonable and fair also. Can you think of times when you have not been very reasonable and fair?

4) Parents should give praise for work well done. It feels good to know that we have done something well and right. Life would be difficult if our parents always scolded us and never praised us. Suppose your parents were away and you decided to sweep out the garage. What would happen if no one noticed and if no one said anything to you about it? Would you feel badly about this? Even though no one may notice or know you did this, is there Somebody who noticed your work? Was the Lord aware of what you did? Even if no one else knows and notices, **GOD does!**

5) Parents must discipline with a view towards correction. Which parent loves his child (see Proverbs 13:24)? The parent who spares the rod and does not discipline his child or the parent who does discipline his child? _____
Is it very loving for a parent to let the child continue doing wrong without ever stopping him? Would it be very loving for a policeman to let a crook rob 50 houses without stopping him? Does God discipline those He loves or those He hates (see

Hebrews 12:6)? _____ Does God let His children keep on sinning or does He stop them? _____

6) Parents must set a good example. Children follow and imitate their parents. God's children should follow and imitate Him: "Be ye therefore _____ of God as dear _____" (see Ephesians 5:1; "followers" means "imitators"). Can you think of ways in which you follow or copy your parents? Do you talk like them? Do you act like them in certain ways?

It is possible for a parent to sometimes set a bad example? Parents are not perfect (and neither are children). If this happens, what should you do? Should you follow what is wrong (3 John 11)? What if your parents do what is good and right? Should you follow them (3 John 11)?

7) Parents should consider the weaknesses and the strengths of the children. Every young person has certain strengths and weaknesses. There are certain things that you can do well and certain things that you cannot do well. There are certain things with which you feel comfortable, and certain things with which you don't feel comfortable. One child might find sports easy and school work hard. Another child might find school work easy and sports hard.

Parents are the same way. Each parent or leader has certain strengths and weaknesses. Mom and Dad are learning to lead, and they have much still to learn. You are learning to follow and they are learning to lead. In this way the balancing act goes forward!

8) Parents should give clear directions. It is difficult to do something if you are not sure what you are supposed to do! Suppose you are told, "Go to the store and bring back what we need!" You might not know what your family needs and you might not know what store you should go to! Clear and simple directions are very helpful.

How can we help our parents when it comes to directions? Sometimes our parents do give very clear directions, but we do not listen carefully! The directions are not clear in our mind because we did not pay attention! Sometimes we do not listen to God's Word very carefully either. God gives very clear directions. For example, He tells us exactly what to do instead of worrying (Philippians 4:6) and

He tells us exactly what to do when we sin (1 John 1:9). But we do not always pay attention to God's directions as we should.

If our parents do not give clear directions, what can we do? We can always ask them to explain: "Mom, I do not understand what you want me to do. Could you please explain again." If there is a question, then ask and get an answer!

Differences Among Children

All people are different and have differences. And because this is true, different actions are required. Let's think about some of these differences:

The Inward, Timid Child

Some young people are gentle and shy and timid. They do not say very much and they tend to keep things within instead of letting them come out. Do you know young people like this? This kind of person appears to be easily led and will do what the parents say, but on the inside there might be much **resentment** (on the inside the young person is not very pleased or happy about it at all). On the outside this person might say, "All right, I'll do it!" but on the inside this same person might be thinking, "I hate doing this and I'm unhappy doing this and I'm angry at my parents for making me do this!"

When Mom and Dad scold this shy and timid person, he might move right away and be quick to obey them. But the parents need to see if his heart is really in it. The parents need to find out if there are unhappy and resentful feelings on the inside. If there are, then this young person will silently seek to do what he (or she) wants to do without the parents knowing it.

If you are a young person who is like this, what can you do to help your parents? How can you bring out some of those feelings which are on the inside? Why not try being honest and open with your parents: "Mom and Dad, I'm not very happy about certain things and I would like to talk to you about it!"

It is not easy for a timid and shy person to bring things out into the open. Often such a child is pushed into a small corner of self and into a dark, lonely closet of worry, shame and fear. Instead of going to Mom and Dad and talking, this person

hides out from Mom and Dad. He (or she) will only let his parents know the part of him that he (or she) dares to let them see.

Suppose your car had engine problems and suppose you were a good mechanic and you were able to fix these problems. What if your car refused to let you open the hood so that you could see what was on the inside? Would you be able to help the car and fix the problem? ____ Some people are like this car. They refuse to open up and let people see what is on the inside. How can your parents help you if they do not know what is bothering you? How can they help to fix something if you will not let them see what is broken? As the family tries to stay in balance, you need to do your part: **talk, share, open up the hood!**

The Outward, Rebellious Child

Other children have the opposite temperament. Instead of being inward, they are outward. Instead of holding things in, they let everything come out. Instead of hiding how they feel from their parents, they let their parents know exactly how they feel. These children clearly express what is on the inside so that everyone knows!

When the parents give commands, this young person responds in an explosive way. His nickname is "Firecracker!" As Mom and Dad give the orders, this person is likely to **resist** and **fight** every inch of the way.

This person does not **brood** (let thoughts go through his mind) silently like the timid person. Neither does he always obey outwardly. This person is a real fighter who needs a **firm** but gentle hand from the parents.

Parents must help this person now while they can or else there will be much more trouble later. Later the person will be older and bigger and stronger and his explosions will be much more dangerous to his parents, to himself, and to other people. He will no longer be a "Firecracker;" he will be an "**active volcano!**" A volcano is much more dangerous than a firecracker!

Think again of that car that would not let you open up the hood. What if another car not only allowed you to open up its hood, but also threw motor oil and nuts and bolts and other metal parts right into the face of the one who was there to fix it! It is good to open up, but it is not good to open up in the wrong way! If you are a "Firecracker" type of person, what can you do to help your parents and to help the entire family as they seek to balance properly?

It may get to the point where the parents' criticisms ("you are doing this wrong") and commands ("you must do this and not do that") do not seem to reach the rebellious young person. He refuses to listen and obey. It seems like all he hears is "NO!" and it seems like his heart gets harder and harder. The parents might feel that they are not getting through at all (like they are trying to speak to a brick wall).

The young person needs to realize that rebellion against parents is also rebellion against God. He is the God who gave the Fifth Commandment found in Exodus 20:12. When a young person gets hard against parents who are trying to do right, he is also getting hard against God. Not only is he fighting his parents, but he is also fighting God.

Parents must deal with this young person with much patience and they must see their son or daughter in the right way (with a **long view**). The parents need to see more than "the little trouble maker." They need to see the young man or the young woman that this person will be down the road. They need to look ahead about ten years! God can use an outgoing assertive personality for His glory.

God is very patient and **longsuffering** (slow to anger, long before getting angry) with us. Were we once rebellious and disobedient (Titus 3:3)? ____ Yes, there was a time when we were all God-fighters. God made peace (Ephesians 2:15)! God made it possible for the war to be over! God could have quickly destroyed all of the rebellious people, but instead He sent His Son and provided a wonderful salvation! God was patient with us and He slowly hammered away at our hearts with His Word. The Bible has always been the same. God's commands have always been there and they stay the same. But God did not force all of these commands on us all at once. Even though we might hold the whole Bible in front of us, our limited minds can only understand a little at a time. We can only read the Bible one page at a time (one sentence at a time). God used His Word and kept working at our hearts. When a person is saved, he still has many problems and sins in his life, but God looks ahead down the road and sees the believer presented F_____ (see Jude 24). **Without any faults at all!**

Parents need to know their children and children need to know their parents. As a young person, you need to understand that your parents have a great responsibility. God has given you to them to raise and to lead. Who is held responsible before God for raising you and training you in the right way--**you or your parents?** _____ They have an important job and they need your help!

Parents need to love and respect young people and see each of them as a person:

A person who has been created by God.

A person for whom God has died (1 Cor. 15:3).

A person whom God wants to save (1 Timothy 2:4).

When the parents understand this, then they will be able to be **persistent** (not give up) and **consistent** (steady, the same day after day) in leading them to God and to good and in taking them in the right direction.

Parents want to go the right way! Don't make them fall off the tightrope. They need your help!

How are you helping your parents?

What areas does your family need to work in when it comes to home life?

What is your favorite part about your family and home?

What is your least favorite part about your family dynamic and home?
Take these things to prayer, discuss them, and work together to resolve these issues.

BIBLE MANNERS & CUSTOMS

Animals & the Bible

Did you know that animals are mentioned in the Bible even before people are mentioned? In the first chapter of the Bible we learn about the creation of the animals and the creation of man (Genesis 1):

On what day were the fish and sea creatures created? _____

On what day were the birds of the air created? _____

On what day were the land animals created? _____

On what day was man created? _____

In the last chapter of the Bible (Revelation 22) we also find the names of animals. We read about the LAMB (God's Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ) in verses 1 and 3. We also read about D_____ in verse 15 (those unclean and filthy people who will not be allowed to enter heaven).

Satan made use of an animal when he tempted Eve (Genesis 3:1). God used animal skins to cover Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). Animals filled the ark which Noah built (Genesis 7). An animal was put to death instead of Isaac (Genesis 22:13). Jacob used the skins of animals to deceive his father (Genesis 27:16); later he himself was deceived by the blood of an animal which he thought was the blood of his son Joseph (Genesis 37:31-33). Many of the plagues which God put upon the land of Egypt involved animals (Exodus chapters 8-9). Saul once went looking for some lost animals (1 Samuel 9:3) and he met Samuel and was anointed as king of Israel. The Lord Jesus was born and lay in a place where food is usually put for animals (Luke 2:7). During His temptation Jesus was with the wild _____ (Mark 1:13). When Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem before His death, He rode upon an animal (Mark 11:7). When Peter denied the Lord an animal cried out (Luke 22:60). Later the Lord used animals to teach Peter an important lesson (Acts 10:9-16). When the Lord Jesus Christ comes to the earth with His armies, animals are mentioned (Revelation 19:11,14). During the thousand year kingdom, animals will live together peacefully and will not harm man (Isaiah 11:6-9). Yes, the Bible has much to say about animals!

According to 1 Timothy 6:8, what are two things that man needs to live and survive on this earth (the word "raiment" means "clothing")? 1. _____ 2. _____

Can you think of some of the ways animals provide food for people? What kind of animals are needed for the kinds of food sold at a fast food restaurant? How do animals provide clothing for people? Are you wearing anything right now that has come from an animal? Providing food and clothing are just two of the ways animals help men. The Creator knew what He was doing when He made the animals!

In this chapter we do not have enough space to talk about all of the animals mentioned in the Bible. We will discuss some of the important mammals which are mentioned frequently in the Bible. If you want to learn more about some of the other animals mentioned in the Bible, you can look in a good Bible dictionary.

Sacrificial Animals

Often in the Bible we read about animals being sacrificed. This is something that we do not do today. We slaughter animals and prepare them for eating, but we do not kill them for sacrifice. Even the Jews do not have animal sacrifices today. The Jewish altar of sacrifice was located at the temple and today the Jewish people do not have a temple. The Jewish temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. Therefore today the children of Israel are "without a S_____ " (Hosea 3:4).

The following animals were used in sacrifice:

<p>1) Cattle The bull (male) The cow (female) The calf (young cow or bull)</p>	<p>2) Goats The he-goat (male) The she-goat (female) The kid (young goat)</p>
<p>3) Sheep The ram (male sheep) The ewe (female sheep, pronounced like our word "YOU") The lamb (young sheep)</p>	

If people could not afford these larger animals, they could offer turtledoves or pigeons instead (see Leviticus 5:7,11).

The very first animals that died were killed as a sacrifice because of man's sin. We read about this in Genesis 3:21. If coats were made from the skins of these animals,

what must have happened to the animals? _____ When we think about animal sacrifices, there are three things that we should always remember:

1. A sacrifice was needed because of man's sin.
2. The sacrifice involved the shedding of blood (the animal died).
3. Instead of the sinner dying, the innocent animal died in his place as his SUBSTITUTE.

In Old Testament times thousands and thousands and thousands of animals were sacrificed. According to 1 Kings 8:63, how many oxen (male cattle) were sacrificed? _____ How many sheep were sacrificed? _____

All of these sacrifices pointed to a greater sacrifice: the sacrifice of Jesus Christ who is called the L_____ of God (John 1:29). This sacrifice took place when Jesus died on the cross.

Did the thousands of animal sacrifices really take away man's sin (Hebrews 10:4,11)? _____ Did the one, perfect sacrifice of Christ take away man's sin (John 1:29; Hebrews 10:14,17-18)? _____

The animal sacrifices were just the S_____ (Hebrews 10:1) of something that was to come (the perfect sacrifice of Christ). Which would you rather have, the shadow of a twenty dollar bill or the real thing? Would you rather eat the shadow of an ice cream cone or would you rather eat the real thing? The shadow does not do anything for you, but it does tell you that there is something real which is making the shadow. If there were no ice cream cone, could you have the shadow of an ice cream cone? _____ The animal sacrifices carried this message: "SOMEDAY GOD'S SON WILL BE THE PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR MAN'S SIN!" As we think about the sacrifice of Christ, the same three things are true:

1. The sacrifice of Christ was needed because of man's sin. He died to put away _____ (Hebrews 9:26).
2. The sacrifice of Christ involved the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22) as the Saviour paid the death penalty for man's sin.
3. Instead of the sinner dying, Jesus died in his place as his SUBSTITUTE (Romans 5:8; 6:23).

Do you really believe that Christ did this for you? Have your sins been put away and forgiven? God does not want us to offer animal sacrifices any more. However, what does God want us to do in order to remember Christ's great sacrifice (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)?

BEASTS OF BURDEN

The Donkey

Today when we need to move things from one place to another we pack them in the trunk of our car or in the back of a truck. In Bible times people would load up an ass or donkey. This animal is sure-footed and can carry a heavy load. The donkey can give people a ride too (see Judges 10:4). According to Zechariah 9:9 and Matthew 21:1-11, who once rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey? _____ Probably the most famous donkey in the Bible is the one Balaam rode on. What was so unusual about this donkey (Numbers 22:21-31)? _____ Who had more sense, the donkey or the rider? _____

The Camel

This beast of burden is perfectly designed for desert travel. Here are five reasons why:

- 1) The camel is able to store water in its body so that it can travel for days without drinking. It needs water just like any other animal, but God has given it the remarkable ability to store water. A camel can consume over 15 gallons of water at a single drink and this water will last for several days.
- 2) The camel has a broad foot which enables it to walk over sandy areas without sinking deeply beneath the surface. Also its feet are tough enough to stand the burning hot sand.
- 3) The camel can live off coarse and bitter desert plants and can even take thorns into its mouth and grind them up with its powerful teeth. The camel has been known to travel 20 days without receiving anything as food except what it discovered for itself along the way.
- 4) The camel is strong and able to carry a burden of 400 or 500 pounds and plod through the hottest desert. It can cover about 30 miles a day.
- 5) The camel is very large and sometimes reaches eight feet or more in height. How can such a large and tall animal be loaded? The camel is able to kneel down so that it can be loaded as easily as an ass (Genesis 24:11). This makes it much easier for men to climb up on too.

The camel was very useful and valuable. How many did Job have (Job 1:3; 42:12)? _____ God wonderfully designed each animal He created to be able to live where it is found. What we find is not animals struggling to survive (as evolution teaches), but animals that have been made to survive from the beginning because the Creator designed them that way!

The Lord Jesus used the large size of the camel to teach two important lessons. The first is found in Matthew 19:24. How easy is it for a large camel to go through the tiny eye of a needle? _____

Is this possible or impossible? _____ How easy is it for *sinful* men to enter a *sinless* heaven (see Matthew 19:25-26)? _____ Can a sinful person save himself? Is this possible or impossible? _____ What are some of the things that people do to try to get saved, even though it is not possible to enter heaven by doing these things?

Is salvation possible with God (Matthew 19:26)? _____ Can He make it possible for a *sinful* person to enter a *sinless* heaven? _____ What did God do to make the impossible possible (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10)? _____

The second lesson in which Jesus used the camel is found in Matthew 23:24. Sometimes little tiny insects would find their way into a drink, and the Pharisees were very careful to strain out these tiny gnats before drinking. Have you ever had a bug in your juice? If you were to accidentally swallow one, do you think it would kill you? Jesus was saying to these Jews, "You are very careful not to ever swallow a tiny insect, but then you go and swallow a camel!" Have you ever had a camel in your juice? If you were to swallow a camel, would this be more serious than swallowing a gnat?

Jesus knew that people did not really swallow camels, but He used this silly illustration to teach a powerful lesson. These Jews were very concerned about the little things, but they were not concerned about the big and important things such as "judgment, mercy and faith" (verse 23). These people followed all kinds of religious rules and regulations, and thought that they were very righteous in doing so, but when God's Son came along THEY CRUCIFIED HIM!

Suppose your teacher said, "This test has eleven questions. The first ten are very important. The last question is not very important and will not count very much." You then spend all of your time working on the last question and no time on the ten important questions. Would you flunk the test? _____ When it came to being

right with God, the Pharisees flunked. They concentrated on minor things and neglected the major things.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS GOD WANTS YOU TO DO?

HORSES AND DOGS

Horses

Today horses are used primarily for riding and racing. In Bible times the main purpose for horses was FOR WAR! Why were the children of Israel afraid of Pharaoh and his army (see Exodus 14:9)? _____
Horses would pull chariots and the chariots would hold the soldiers. An army with horses and chariots was mighty and greatly to be feared!

Did the Lord want the children of Israel to trust in horses for victory (Psalm 33:16-17)? ____ Do some trust in horses and chariots (Psalm 20:7)? ____ Who should we trust in to give us victory and to fight our battles (Psalm 20:7)? _____

Christ's first mission to earth was one of peace and He came riding a donkey (Matthew 21:5-7). Christ's next mission to earth will be one of war and He will come riding on a white _____ (Revelation 19:11)!

Dogs

Today when we think of a dog we think of "man's best friend." We think of these nice household pets. In our day, dogs are looked upon favorably by most people.

This was not so in Bible times. In those days dogs were looked down upon as unclean and filthy animals. Dogs would eat garbage, dead animals and even human flesh and blood (1 Kings 14:11; 22:38). They even had the disgusting habit of eating their own vomit (Proverbs 26:11; 2 Peter 2:22). The only good thing said about dogs in the Bible is that they would sometimes watch the flock (Job 30:1).

In Revelation 22:15 the word "dogs" is used to describe people who are not allowed to enter the holy city. This means that these people are filthy and unclean and impure. They have no concern about a holy God. There will be no "dogs" in heaven!

WILD BEASTS

The Lion

The lion was probably the most feared animal in Bible times. Lions no longer live in Palestine today, but in Bible times many lions roamed this area. The word "lion" is found in 31 books of the Bible.

Why is Satan compared to a lion (1 Peter 5:8)?

Why is the Lord Jesus compared to a lion (Revelation 5:5)?

Why are believers compared to a lion (Proverbs 28:1; remember, lions are not very bashful and are not usually afraid to approach someone)?
_____ In what ways should believers be BOLD?

The Wolf

The wolf is another wild animal which once roamed Palestine (and there are still some wolves there today). The wolf is a fierce and cruel enemy, and a real danger, especially to sheep. The wolf is light-colored and resembles a large dog. The Lord Jesus spoke of people who pretend to be sheep (true believers) but were really _____ or false prophets (Matthew 7:15). See also Acts 20:29 where wolves describe false teachers who try to destroy believers.

These wild animals will not be wild forever. See Isaiah 11:6-9. The Prince of Peace will rule even over the animal kingdom! In what ways will these animals be different?

Let us thank God for animals and for how they help us in so many ways and for the way they provide us with food (1 Timothy 4:4). Let us be careful not to worship animals or let them take the place of God or persons (Romans 1:22-25). 3) Let us use our mind to pay attention to God and learn about Him and from Him. Sometimes we act like animals (see Psalm 73:22). Instead of thinking in the right way, using the mind God has given us, it is possible for a person to act like a beast.

Why Were Animals Created?

The Bible gives many reasons, among the following:

1. For limited but inadequate companionship (Genesis 2:18-22 and see 2 Samuel 12:3). A dog may provide enjoyment and may walk at a man's side, but the dog was never intended to be "man's best friend." God intended a much better helper for man (Genesis 2:20-22). Indeed, man's greatest and best Companion is the Lord Himself.
2. For food (Genesis 9:2-3)
3. For clothing (Matthew 3:4)
4. For transportation (Genesis 22:3)
5. For sacrifice, in order to point to the one great Sacrifice and to illustrate that salvation is only possible by way of the shedding of blood (Gen. 4:4; Lev.1:3)
6. For judgment of sinful men (Exodus chapter 8; 2 Kings 2:23-24)
7. To serve man in a multitude of ways (Gen. 8:7-8; and compare some amazing uses of animals today, such as "seeing eye dogs" for the blind, animals used in experimentation so as to develop new drugs and medical procedures, etc.)
8. To teach men spiritual lessons (Proverbs 6:6)
9. To teach men of God's care (Matthew 6:26)
10. To give enjoyment to children (Isaiah 11:6,8)
11. To carry out orders from their Creator (1 Kings 17:6; Matthew 17:27)
12. To illustrate that "the Hand that made us is Divine" (every creature demonstrates that it was remarkably designed by the Creator and could never have evolved by chance). Every animal made by God is indisputable proof against the theory of evolution

Heaven for Kids: Read pages 68-74 and answer the correlating pages in the study PDF. Discuss these questions and topics as a family often!

DAY 57 // WEEK 12

Genesis 46 // Jacob & his Family Move to Egypt

Main Point: We can trust God's promises!

Key Verse:

Lord and King, You are God! Your words can be trusted. You have promised many good things to me.

2 Samuel 7:28

Jacob Turns To God (Genesis 46:1-27)

When Jacob's eleven sons came home from Egypt, they told their father everything that had happened. Just imagine - part of their story had to be admitting that Joseph was not killed by a wild animal, but that they had sold him as a slave! When they told Jacob that Joseph was still alive, he couldn't believe it. They had to convince him that they were telling the truth by showing him all the carts filled with gifts that Pharaoh had sent home with them. Finally, Jacob accepted the truth, and he really wanted to go see his son! This would mean leaving the land of Canaan.

Years and years before, God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's family. That's why Jacob lived in Canaan and raised his family there. Refer to map. But now, there was no food in Canaan, Joseph was in Egypt, and Pharaoh offered Jacob everything he needed to take

care of his family in Egypt. Jacob had to decide between God's Promised Land (Canaan) and the logical place to go (Egypt).

How could Jacob be sure that God wanted him to pack up his large family and leave the land of Canaan now? Listen for answers. Jacob could have flipped a coin. "Heads we move, tails we stay." Or, he could have taken a vote. Or, Jacob could have made a list in his head with the good points and bad points about moving to Egypt. Let's read in Genesis 46 to see what Jacob did.

So Israel started out with everything that belonged to him. When he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

God spoke to Israel in a vision at night. "Jacob! Jacob!" He said. "Here I am," Jacob replied.

"I am God. I am the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt. There I will make you into a great nation. I will go down to Egypt with you. You can be sure that I will bring you back again. And when you die, Joseph will close your eyes with his own hand." - Genesis 46:1-4

Jacob had packed up his family and set out, but as soon as he arrived at Beersheba, he stopped. This was a special place at the very edge of Canaan where God had spoken to Jacob before (Genesis 26:23-24). Refer to map. At Beersheba, Jacob offered sacrifices to the Lord. It is wonderful that Jacob turned back to the Lord before taking his family to a foreign land.

Twice before, in Jacob's ancestry, a famine struck the land of Canaan. The first time, Jacob's grandfather, Abraham, went to Egypt in order to find food, with nearly disastrous results (Genesis 12:10-20). During the second famine, God warned Jacob's father, Isaac, not to go to Egypt (Genesis 26:2). It is little wonder that Jacob felt the need to turn to God for direction before crossing the southern border of Canaan.

Application: Going to the Lord is the very best way to make any decision! We all make decisions every day. Most often, we try to use our own logic. We make a list in our mind to weigh the good points against the bad points. But the Bible says, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.*" (Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT)

God did not hesitate to speak to Jacob when Jacob came to Him. Even though Jacob's heart had been far from the Lord over the past years, the Lord was not far from him. God

was eagerly waiting for Jacob to turn back to Him. The Lord knew that Jacob was fearful about leaving Canaan and going to Egypt (Psalm 139:23). God made the way very clear for Jacob. God told Jacob that going to Egypt was the right thing to do. God promised that He would go with Jacob to Egypt, that his family would grow and thrive there, and that one day, his family would return to Canaan. And when the time came for Jacob to die, his dearly loved Joseph would be at his side. We can just imagine the peace that Jacob felt when God gave him such clear direction and wonderful promises.

Jacob trusted the Lord's promises. He and his large family took all of their belongings and their livestock and headed for Egypt. All together, counting Jacob's eleven sons, their wives, sons, and daughters, there were over 70 people traveling to Egypt. No wonder Jacob wanted to be sure that this was God's plan. He was changing the lives of many people by moving to Egypt. It was a long trip by wagon. Of course there were no cars or airplanes back then. There were only crying babies, antsy children, and a very old Jacob. The Bible tells us he was about 130 years old by then!

Joseph And Jacob Are Reunited (Genesis 46:28-34)

Jacob's family arrived in Egypt in the area called Goshen. This was a wonderful piece of land. These men were shepherds. They took care of

sheep, goats, and cattle. What is the main thing that makes land good for shepherding?

There has to be a good source of water for the animals to drink, and to grow grass for the animals to eat. The Nile River is the longest river in the world, and it flows right through Egypt. The Nile was so important to the Egyptians' survival that the Egyptians even worshipped the Nile. It flows northward before it ends at the Mediterranean Sea. Toward the end of the Nile, it branches out into many smaller rivers. This happens right at the land of Goshen.

Did God keep His promise to bless Abraham's family? Yes! God gave them the best land in the only country that had any food!

As soon as Joseph heard that his family had arrived, he got in his chariot and raced to meet his father. He had waited over twenty years for this moment!

As soon as he came to his father, Joseph threw his arms around him. Then Joseph sobbed for a long time. Israel (Jacob) said to Joseph, "I have seen for myself that you are still alive. Now I'm ready to die." - Genesis 46:29b-30

Jacob meant that he could die a happy man, since he had seen that his son was alive and well.

Twice, Jacob proclaimed he would go to his grave mourning for his sons (Genesis 37:35, 42:38). He now exclaims that he is ready to die - so that he may end his life on a good note.

Psalm 46 // Psalm of Zion

Today's Psalm should get you SUPER EXCITED! Let's look at this line by line-- we have such great things to look forward to as followers of Christ!

1 God is our refuge and strength,
always ready to help in times of
trouble.

2 So we will not fear when
earthquakes come and the
mountains crumble into the sea.

3 Let the oceans roar and foam.
Let the mountains tremble as the
waters surge!

Now look at Matthew 24:3-8- Jesus says, "but do not panic/worry" Why not?! Why would we NOT worry when these horrible things take place?

4 A river brings joy to the city of our
God, the sacred home of the Most
High.

5 God dwells in that city; it cannot be
destroyed. From the very break of
day, God will protect it.

*What city is this? Look at Zechariah
14:8 - the city in which He dwells in
will be Jerusalem, Israel!*

6 The nations are in chaos, and their
kingdoms crumble!
God's voice thunders, and the earth
melts!

7 The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here
among us; the God of Israel is our
fortress.

*Jesus, the Messiah, will return, will
reign from Jerusalem, and will rule
over the world with us in it! Go to
Isaiah 25 & 26.*

8 Come, see the glorious works of the
Lord: See how he brings
destruction upon the world.

9 He causes wars to end throughout
the earth. He breaks the bow and
snaps the spear; he burns the
shields with fire.

10 "Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be honored by every nation.
I will be honored throughout the
world."

11 The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here
among us; the God of Israel is our
fortress.

*Amen! Do we see now that Jesus is
honored among every nation? Is
Christ ruling and reigning over
the earth today? No! These things
are still to come!*

Copywrite Psalm 46 today - you can have your parent/teacher dictate it to you if you prefer!

John 18 // The Lamb of God

John the Baptist once pointed to Jesus Christ and said, "Behold the _____ of God who takes away the _____ of the world" (John 1:29; see 1:36). The LAMB was a sacrificial animal (compare Genesis 22:6-8; Exodus 12:3-7). The innocent lamb that was sacrificed on the Jewish altar was meant to be a picture of the PERFECT SACRIFICE OF CHRIST (Hebrews 10:4-14). Jesus Christ is **GOD'S SACRIFICIAL LAMB**--the innocent One who suffered and died for the sin of the world. The God of love was willing to sacrifice His own beloved Son for us:

"He that spared _____ His own Son, but _____ Him up for us all" (Romans 8:32).

"For God so loved the world that He _____ His only begotten Son" (John 3:16).

As we study John chapters 18-19 we are brought right to the foot of Calvary's Cross. Here the Son of man was "lifted up" to die (John 3:14-15; 12:32-33). Here we can gaze upon the Lamb of God and see Him die as the sinner's Substitute.

The Arrest of Christ

In John 18:1 we learn that after Jesus prayed (see John 17) He led His

disciples to a certain garden (known as the garden of Gethsemane). What did Jesus do while He was at this garden, and what did He want His disciples to do (see Matthew 26:36,39,41,42,44)?

Did Judas, the traitor, know where he could find Jesus (John 18:2)? _____

In John 18:3 we have a description of the group that came to arrest Jesus. The word "band" is a military term which refers to a Roman "cohort" which at full strength consisted of one-tenth of a legion. A legion at full strength would be composed of 6,000 soldiers. Thus a "band" or "cohort" would equal 1/10 of 6,000 which equals **600 soldiers**. Since Jerusalem was packed with people during this Passover season, the Romans had numerous soldiers on hand to stop any possible uprising or revolt. The Jewish leaders were thus able to procure the services of a Roman cohort to arrest Christ. Whether there were actually the full number of 600 Roman soldiers present in the garden we cannot be sure, but certainly there was a vast number. Matthew says that Judas had with him a G_____ M_____ (Matthew 26:47). It was certainly more than enough to handle a small group of disciples.

The Jewish leaders had their officers as well (John 18:3). These "officers from the chief priests and

Pharisees" could be described as "temple police" (compare Luke 22:52). Did this group come armed or unarmed (John 18:3)?

_____ The combined power of the Jews and Romans was brought together against one unarmed Man and His eleven disciples! The children of darkness carried their lanterns and torches (John 18:3) so that they might seize the _____ of the _____ (John 8:12). What kind of weapons did they have (Mark 14:43)?

_____ ("Staves" means "clubs.")

Was Jesus surprised by what was happening (John 18:4)? _____ Soon something would happen that would really surprise those who had come to arrest Jesus. Read John 18:4-6 carefully. Jesus identified Himself with the words "I AM" (the word "he" is in italics which means that it is not in the original Greek text). Jesus was saying, "I'M THE ONE! I AM!" Jesus identified Himself as the Great I AM (compare Exodus 3:14; John 4:26; 6:20; 8:24,28,58). What happened to this great host of people when Jesus identified Himself in this way (John 18:6)?

_____ Did Judas fall down with them (John 18:5-6)? _____ Everyone could now see which side Judas was on! He was on the side of the Lord's ENEMIES and he was on the ground with them. It must have been an amazing sight to see hundreds of trained Roman soldiers and a multitude of Jews *ON THE GROUND*, and eleven disciples

and one unarmed Jesus being the only ones on their feet! All of this took place simply because Jesus said *two words*: "I AM!"

As this great multitude was getting back on their feet, it was as if Jesus were saying, "Men, I'm going to give you permission to arrest Me, but before I do, I just wanted to remind you who is really in control!" The Son of God was in complete command of the situation.

The Ear of Malchus

According to John 18:10-11, Peter rushed to the Lord's rescue, and with great zeal and poor aim, he sliced off the right ear of a man named Malchus! According to Luke the physician, what did Jesus do about this situation (Luke 22:51)? _____ Those who arrested Jesus witnessed two miracles:

- 1) Jesus speaking two words and everyone falling down (John 18:6)!
- 2) Jesus supernaturally healing the ear of Malchus (Luke 22:51)

The army that arrested Jesus had no excuse. They could never say, "We had no reason to believe He was the Son of God!"

Did Jesus really need Peter's help (Matthew 26:53)? _____ (Remember, a legion at full strength

consisted of 6,000 soldiers; twelve legions of angels would equal 72,000 angels!). About 53 days later, Peter once again took a sword and used it against the enemies of Christ, and this time he was successful! This time his sword did much more than slice off an ear, it pierced deeply into the hearts of thousands of people. We read about this in Acts 2:14,36,37,38,41. In Acts 2:37 the word "pricked" means "pierced, stabbed." They were "cut to the heart." The sword that Peter used is described in Hebrews 4:12. Does God want us to use this same sword (Ephesians 6:11,17)? _____

Did the Jews and the Roman soldiers take Jesus and arrest Him (John 18:12)? ____ But did they really take Him? We need to remember what Jesus taught in John 10:11,17,18. They took Jesus only because Jesus let them. Jesus willingly and voluntarily gave His life, and thus they were able to take Him. Otherwise it would have been impossible for them to take Him (compare John 7:30; 8:20; etc.). What was it that made the Lord give Himself up (Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:2,25)?

It was not MEN who made the Saviour go to the cross. It was LOVE that made Him go! Christ was so willing to save sinful men! How willing are you to be saved? [Compare the tragic words of John 5:40.]

When Peter was with Jesus he very boldly and very bravely cut off the ear of Malchus. Very soon, however, this bold and brave Peter

would become a coward. The Peter who once said that he would follow the Lord even if it meant death (John 13:37) was about to deny his Lord three times (John 13:38)!

The Denial of Christ

The "other disciple" mentioned in John 18:15-16 was probably John, the disciple who wrote the Gospel of John which we are studying. After Jesus was arrested, all of the disciples fled (Matthew 26:56), but Peter and John came back. John had some kind of connections with the high priest (John 18:15), and therefore he and Peter were allowed to enter the palace grounds (John 18:16).

Peter thought that he was strong (John 13:37) but he was about to learn how very weak he really was. Peter's first denial is found in John 18:17. The woman's question should be translated like this: "You are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" She expected a negative answer. Did Peter tell the truth? ____ Not only did Peter LIE, but he DENIED!

Peter denied his Lord. This is what he was saying by his answer: "I do not have any connection with Jesus Christ." At this point in his life was Peter proud to be known as a disciple of Jesus or was he ashamed to be known as a disciple of Jesus (John 18:17)?

Are you proud of the Saviour or

ashamed of the Saviour? Do you want people to know that you are a believer in Jesus Christ? If someone should say to you, "Are you a Bible believing Christian?" how would you answer? Peter should have said something like this: "YES I AM! I AM PROUD TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS. HE IS MY LORD AND I AM HIS DISCIPLE."

The second denial is found in John 18:25. They said to Peter, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" [They expected a negative answer.] Did Peter lie and deny?

The third and final denial is described in John 18:26. The man who asked this final question was a relative of Malchus (compare John 18:10). This man had also been in the garden at the time of the arrest and had seen Peter cut off his relative's ear. He was almost sure it was Peter. Almost but not quite sure. His question could be translated in this way: "I saw you in the garden, didn't I?" [He expected an affirmative answer.] How did Peter answer this question? Peter should have said, "Yes, I must tell the truth. I am the man you saw in the garden with Jesus. I am the man who cut off your relative's ear." Is this what Peter said (John 18:27)? _____ Did the prediction of Jesus found in John 13:38 come true? _____

Read Matthew 10:32-33. Which verse describes what Peter did? _____ Which verse describes what God wants us to do? _____

Just as a label on a can is there to confess its contents, so every believer ought to confess his Lord and Saviour clearly, without being ashamed (Romans 10:9-11). We should be able to say what Paul once said: "I am _____ ashamed of the _____ (good news) of Christ" (Romans 1:16). Peter was ashamed of his Lord. Was Peter later sorry for what he had done (Luke 22:59-62)? _____ Peter fell into sin and he fell hard, but Peter also recovered! About 53 days later Peter boldly and courageously **confessed Christ** before thousands of Jews (see Acts 2:14, 22-24,29,36,41). He was not ashamed of Jesus ever again and He was even willing to **die** for His Lord, and this is exactly what happened (compare John 21:17-19). There is a big difference between Peter and Judas. Both of these men failed the Lord--Judas by betraying Him and Peter by denying Him. Peter repented and recovered; Judas never did.

The Trial of Christ

The Scripture tells us that immediately after the arrest of Christ, Jesus was led first to _____ (John 18:13), for a preliminary examination. Who was this important person?

Annas was perhaps the most powerful and influential man in Jerusalem. He served as the High Priest from 7-15 A.D. Even after he was *deposed* (removed from office) in 15

A.D. he still retained the title (see Luke 3:2; John 18:19,22; and Acts 4:6, where he is called the "High Priest" even though he was not the actual High Priest). Annas was the Father in law of _____ (John 18:13; this is the man we learned about in John 11:49-52). Annas had great influence over the priestly party. In fact, five of his sons as well as Caiaphas his son-in-law and his grandson Matthias each served as the High Priest. At the time of the trial of Jesus Annas was a man of great age and experience and wealth. Though not holding the actual office or title, he was considered the High Priest in the eyes of the people, and on any matter of great import, he was always the man to consult. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn that Jesus was led to Annas F_____ (John 18:13).

What two things did Annas ask Jesus about (John 18:19)?

1. His D_____
2. His D_____ (teaching)

By his questioning, Annas was insinuating that Jesus was gathering around Himself a band of followers (**His disciples**) with the possible intention of political insurrection and revolt against Rome. He wanted Jesus to say something (**His doctrine**) which would make Him appear as One who was seeking to overthrow Roman rule. He knew the Romans would gladly exterminate anyone guilty of or even accused of sedition or treason. In

short, he wanted Jesus to say something by which He would incriminate Himself.

Notice our Lord's masterful response in John 18:20-21. It was as if He were saying, "I decline to be a witness against myself, and I demand that you produce honest witnesses as the law requires." Following this fair request, Jesus received unfair treatment from the hand of a Jewish officer who "struck Jesus with the _____ of his _____ " (John 18:22). His hand was not clenched in a fist, but it was his open hand that made contact--either a blow with the palm of the hand (cuff) or a strong slap with the hand and fingers. This was the first of many such blows to the face that Jesus would receive in the coming hours. Do you think the officer was able to answer the Lord's question in John 18:23? _____ Jesus was willing to take terrible physical abuse as He made His way to the cross to die for mankind. He was so willing to save you. How willing are you to be saved?

After His visit with Annas, where was Jesus taken next (John 18:24)?_____ This man was the actual High Priest (John 11:49; 18:13). As to their character and hatred for Jesus, Caiaphas and Annas were very similar. To learn about Christ's trial before Caiaphas we must go to the other gospels (for example, see Mark 14:53-65).

Jesus Before Pilate

The Jews bound Jesus and led Him away to the Roman Governor whose name was Pilate (John 18:28-29). The Jews wanted Christ to be put to death but they were unable to do this. In John 18:31 we learn that only Rome had the authority to put a person to death. If the Jews had killed Christ their way they probably would have stoned Him (compare John 8:59 and 10:31). The Roman method of putting criminals to death was by crucifixion. Thus Jesus knew exactly what He was talking about when He spoke about being "lifted up to die" (John 12:32-33 and see John 18:32).

In John 18:28 we learn something very interesting about these Jews who wanted to murder Christ. It says, "they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be _____" (John 18:28). These men were involved in the worst crime ever known to the human race, and yet they were worried about being defiled in a pagan's palace (Pilate's palace)! This would be like a bank robber who carefully wipes his feet on the door mat so that he won't dirty up the bank's nice rug, and then he comes in the bank and shoots the teller at the window and runs away with a million dollars! These Jews were all worried about swallowing a little bug in their juice, but they thought nothing about swallowing a huge camel (compare Matthew 23:23-24). They failed to realize that they were already defiled to the limit!

What they should have done is fall before the feet of their bound Prisoner and cry out for mercy and pardon. Such is the tragedy of **religion** as men try to cover up a defiled heart instead of facing up to a holy God.

Pilate asked Jesus a simple question: "Art thou the _____ of the Jews?" (John 18:33). They were asking, "Are You the King?" Jesus gave a clear answer to this question. In John 18:36 Jesus said "MY _____" three times! If a person has a kingdom then he must be a K_____. In John 18:37 did Jesus deny that He was a King or did He admit that He was a King?

Jesus also explained that His subjects were not militants who were intending to fight against the Jews or against Rome (John 18:36). Such a King was no threat to Pilate or to the Romans, and thus Pilate announced his verdict of "**NOT GUILTY**"--"I find in Him no _____ at all" (John 18:38). The Jews, however, would not be satisfied until they could see Christ on the cross. They wanted the guilty Barabbas released and the innocent Christ crucified (John 18:40). Barabbas was a "R_____" (John 18:40), and in modern terms we might speak of him as a "terrorist" and a member of the "Jewish Liberation Army." One of his terrorist acts resulted in murder (Mark 15:7 and Acts 3:14).

There was one other question which Pilate asked Jesus. It is found

in John 18:38--"WHAT IS _____?" Pilate asked the right question and Pilate asked the right Person! Did Pilate stay around to hear the answer that Christ would have given him (John 18:38)? _____ What answer do you think Jesus

could have given Pilate if Pilate had stayed around (see John 14:6 and John 17:17)?

WRITER'S TEA TIME // BAKING

WRITER'S BLITZ

Complete the activity for Day 4 of the Writer's Blitz. Sit down together at the table, light a candle, put on some soft music and enjoy the tea cake (below), a cup of something warm & write together!

Blueberry Tea Cake

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup wholemeal self raising flour
- ¼ cup coconut sugar or brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 tbsp melted coconut oil
- ½ cup almond milk
- ½ cup blueberries (or raspberries, etc..)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a bowl mix the melted coconut oil and the coconut sugar together, mix in the egg, vanilla and almond milk into the bowl. Whisk together until well combined.
2. Add in the flour and continue to mix well, then fold through the blueberries
3. Put cake batter into a loaf pan (I used a silicone loaf pan)
4. Bake at 350 degrees until cooked (around 30min)
5. Let the cake cool before cutting.

DAY 58 // WEEK 12

Genesis 47 // Jacob Blesses Pharaoh & Settles in Goshen

Pharaoh Meets The Family (Genesis 47:1-12)

Joseph went to tell Pharaoh that his family had come to Egypt. Joseph chose five of his brothers and brought them before Pharaoh. They told him that they were shepherds, and Pharaoh told them they were welcome to live in Goshen. He even asked for some of Joseph's brothers to take care of his own livestock.

Then Joseph brought his father in to meet Pharaoh. Jacob pronounced a blessing on Pharaoh. Obviously, Jacob didn't own anything that he could give to the richest man in the world. Jacob's blessing was a spiritual blessing that he spoke over Pharaoh.

Joseph helped his family settle in Goshen. Joseph made sure that his father, brothers, sister, nieces, and nephews had plenty of food to eat.

Will Work For Food (Genesis 47:13-26)

How many years of famine were there going to be? Seven. Two of the seven years had passed. There were five years left, and everyone except Jacob's family (now called the Israelites) and the priests were completely out of food. The Egyptians had spent all of their

money buying food from Joseph. The Bible says that both Canaan and Egypt wasted away during these years.

When the money of the people of Egypt and Canaan was gone, all of the Egyptians came to Joseph. They said, "Give us food. Why should we die right in front of your eyes? Our money is all gone."

"Then bring your livestock," said Joseph. "You say your money is gone. So I'll trade you food for your livestock."

They brought their livestock to Joseph. He traded them food for their animals. They gave him their horses, sheep, goats, cattle and donkeys. He brought the people through that year by trading them food for all of their livestock. - Genesis 47:15-17

It may seem harsh that Joseph was selling the grain to the people instead of just giving it away. But remember, the grain did not belong to Joseph. It belonged to Pharaoh. Joseph worked for Pharaoh. Any of the Egyptians could have stored up their own grain supply during the seven years when there was plenty of food, but they didn't. Joseph's plan to sell them grain kept them alive and

they were very grateful (Genesis 47:25).

When that year was over, (the Egyptians) came to him the next year. They said, "We can't hide the truth from you. Our money is gone. Our livestock belongs to you. We don't have anything left to give you except our bodies and our land.

"Why should we die right in front of your eyes? Why should our land be destroyed as well? Trade us food for ourselves and our land. Then we and our land will belong to Pharaoh. Give us some seeds so we can live and not die. We don't want the land to become a desert." - Genesis 47:18-19

I don't know if any of us in this room can understand this kind of hunger. The people were starving, and they were desperate. They had already sold everything they owned. The only thing they had left was their land and themselves. So the Egyptians entered into an agreement with Joseph. They were willing to give their land to Pharaoh in exchange for food. Since there were four more years of famine coming, they also offered to become servants to Pharaoh in exchange for enough grain to make it through the rest of the famine. They agreed to become "indentured servants." This type of servant was different than a slave because the people were offering to do this, and they were receiving something in return - they were receiving enough food to eat for the next four years, and seeds to plant for future crops. Joseph would

give them what they needed, and they would "owe" him the work to pay off their debt. This has been a common practice throughout history.

Additional Application for older students: Here is a credit card. You probably know how this works. If I want to buy something, like a new television, but I don't have enough money, I can use a credit card. I go to the store, hand them my card, and they hand me a new TV. That may sound pretty good, but it isn't! What really happens is then I owe money to the credit card company - a lot more than the TV cost in the first place! A \$200 television might end up costing me \$250. In a way, I become a servant to the credit card company (Luke 16:13). I have to spend the next months, maybe even years, working to earn money so I can send payments to the credit card company. Using credit makes you a servant to the person or company that you owe money to. It is ALWAYS better to save up for what you want first.

The Bible says to learn from the ants! They store up the food they need during the summer when there is plenty. Then they always have food during the winter (Proverbs 6:6-8). The Egyptians should have done this. Now they were getting food from Joseph "on credit." They and their children would work for years and years to pay off their debt to Pharaoh.

Joseph gave seed to the people, and then he explained that one-fifth of everything they grew would belong to Pharaoh. For example, if I planted apple seeds, and in time my apple tree produced apples, I would have to give one out of every five apples to Pharaoh. Show your five apples, and give one away. This became the law in Egypt, and it stayed in effect for hundreds of years (Genesis 47:26).

How do you think the people felt about this deal? Read Genesis 47:25 together.

"You have saved our lives!" they exclaimed. "May it please you, my lord, to let us be Pharaoh's servants." - Genesis 47:25 NLT

The Egyptians were sure to die without Joseph's provision of food. Even though being servants would be difficult, it was far better than dying! The people were very grateful.

Blessed In Goshen (Genesis 47:27)

Meanwhile, things were going very well in the land of Goshen. The Bible tells us that Jacob's family, the Israelites, gained more property and their numbers grew quickly. How can this be? First of all, Joseph provided food for his large family. Also, do you remember when Pharaoh asked for some of the brothers to take care of his animals (Genesis 47:6)? One year later, Pharaoh owned all the animals in Egypt! The brothers would have their hands full as the official shepherds for Pharaoh, and we can

imagine that Pharaoh paid them well to care for his livestock. The Israelites were thriving. They were having more and more children and grandchildren. Think back to Jacob's vision in Beersheba. God promised Jacob that He would make his family into a great nation in Egypt. Did God keep His promise? **Yes!**

The people of Egypt had not lived according to God's wisdom. They lived their own way, and now they were servants to Pharaoh. On the other hand, Joseph had listened to God in every step of his life. He trusted God's promises and he was greatly blessed by the Lord. When Pharaoh trusted God by listening to the plan God gave to Joseph, he was greatly blessed. And finally, Jacob had turned back to the Lord. Jacob trusted God's promises that He spoke at Beersheba, and he and his family were blessed beyond their wildest dreams.

Application: We each have the same opportunities as the people we have talked about today. By God's loving grace, He gives us many wonderful promises that we do not deserve. God ALWAYS keeps His promises! If you trust His promises, you will live according to His word. If you don't trust His promises, you will live your life according to your own wisdom. We have seen God keep His promises time and time again in the Bible. Are you willing to trust His promises in your own life? It is up to you. Will you be like the Egyptians - enslaved by

worldly things, or like Joseph -
blessed and used in God's plan?

Psalm 47 // A Psalm of Celebration

Continuing to look at these Psalms
and how they can point to Christ-
what do you see in Psalm 47?

Discuss these as a family.

Have your parent/teacher dictate
V6-9 to you. Correct and rewrite as
needed.

John 19 // The Final Rejection of Christ

Pilate knew Jesus was innocent and he wanted to release Jesus. His final plan was to punish Christ so badly that the Jews would have pity on Him and be willing to have Him released. He was hoping that the Jews would say, "He's been punished enough. You can release Him now." Therefore, Pilate "took Jesus and _____ him" (John 19:1). Scourging is a very cruel form of whipping. Nothing was more terrible than the Roman scourge, except for the Roman cross. Consider the following:

"Such scourging was hideous torture. The Roman scourge consisted of a short wooden handle to which several thongs were attached, the ends equipped with pieces of lead or brass and with sharply pointed bits of bone. The stripes were laid especially (not always exclusively) on the victim's back, bared and bent. The body was at times torn and lacerated to such an extent that deep-seated veins and arteries--sometimes even entrails and inner organs--were exposed. Such flogging, from which Roman citizens were exempt, often resulted in death." (William Hendriksen, *John*, p. 414)

Scourging was not the only cruel treatment that Jesus received (see John 19:2-3). By this time His face was battered and beaten (compare Isaiah 52:14 and 53:2). Most pictures of Christ on the cross do not show His face as it really was. Have you ever seen the face of a boxer at the end of a match after his face has been badly battered? Before we begin to feel sorry for Jesus, we should remember that it is these soldiers whom we should really feel sorry for. There will come another day when these men will once again bow before the KING, the very One they mocked and abused (see Philippians 2:9-11). At that day it will not be for fun. It will be for real!

After all this was done Pilate brought forth Christ to exhibit Him to the crowd and he said, "Behold _____" (John 19:5). When the Jews saw the battered and beaten Jesus, did they have pity on Him? Did they think that He had been punished enough (John 19:6)? _____ They would only be satisfied to see Him on the cross. They wanted BLOOD!

What crime had Christ done? His great crime according to the Jews was that "He made Himself the _____" (John 19:7). He claimed to be God's Son, and the Jews considered this **blasphemy!** They knew that when a person claimed to be the Son of God he was making himself "equal _____" (John 5:18). If Christ had been a mere man, then His claims would indeed have been blasphemy and He would have been worthy of death (see Leviticus 24:16). Jesus, however, was everything that He claimed to be. He was the Son of God and the King of Israel!

Pilate became even more _____ (John 19:8) as he began to realize that Jesus was no ordinary Man. When Pilate told Jesus how much power and authority he had (John 19:10), Jesus reminded him that he would have _____ power or authority at all if God had not given it to him (John 19:11). Pilate would never have been Governor apart from God's permission (see Romans 13:1). God is

the One who sets up rulers and removes them (Daniel 2:21; 4:17,25,32). Pilate's sin was great. He was pressured by the Jewish leaders and by the shouting crowd to do what he knew was wrong. According to Jesus, the sin of the Jewish leaders was even G_____ than the sin of Pilate (John 19:11). Did Pilate try to get Jesus released (John 19:12)? _____ He tried again and again but he did not succeed.

Finally Pilate gave the Jews one more opportunity. He brought Jesus forth and said to the Jews, "BEHOLD _____" (John 19:14). The terrible rejection of Jesus Christ by the Jews is seen in the three things which they said (John 19:15):

1. "_____ WITH HIM, _____ WITH HIM!" They wanted to get rid of Him once and for all!
2. "C_____ HIM!" They wanted Him to suffer the kind of death that was reserved for the worst criminals (compare Philippians 2:8).
3. "WE HAVE NO _____ BUT _____." The Jews hated Caesar and they hated to be under Roman rule, but they hated Christ even more. The cry of sinful men has always been this: "We do not want God to rule over us. We do not want God to tell us what to do. We want to do whatever we want to do." Man has tried to be his own king and has ended up a SLAVE. Only those who let God be King are truly FREE (John 8:31-36).

Did these Jews fulfill the words of John 1:11? _____

The Crucifixion

Pilate finally gave in to the Jews and gave them what they wanted (John 19:16). The place of the crucifixion was called **Golgotha** which means "the place of a _____" (John 19:17). The word **Calvary** also means **skull** and refers to the same place (see Luke 23:33). How many criminals were crucified with Christ on this day (John 19:18)? _____

When criminals were crucified, the charge or accusation was often written over their heads. For example, if a man intentionally killed someone, they might write, "THIS IS A MURDERER!" What accusation was written over the head of Jesus

(John 19:19)? _____ In how many languages was this written (John 19:20)? _____ [*Note:* The local language of Palestine was *Hebrew* or Aramaic; the common language of the whole Roman empire was *Greek* and the official or legal language was *Latin* because the Romans were the ruling power]. What was the great crime that Jesus was guilty of? *He was the King of the Jews!* Did the Jews want this sign to say what it did (John 19:21)? _____ Did Pilate change it for them (John 19:22)? _____ This was one way Pilate could get back at the Jews. Pilate had suffered a major defeat (in not being able to get Jesus released) but now he is able to win a minor victory. We can also hear the voice of God speaking through this sign. It was not just that Jesus *claimed* to be the King, *HE WAS THE KING!*

The Roman soldiers then did something that God said they would do long before it ever happened (see John 19:23-24). About 1000 years earlier David wrote the words found in Psalm 22:18. These Roman soldiers were ignorant of this prophecy and yet they perfectly fulfilled it! God knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). Can you find any other verses in Psalm 22 that remind you of *crucifixion*? _____ Remember, this Psalm was written hundreds of years before there was such a thing as *Roman crucifixion!*

The Cry of Victory

Jesus was on the cross for about six hours. At the end of this time He asked for a drink by saying, "I _____" (John 19:28-29). Again the Scripture was fulfilled (see Psalm 69:21). It is also possible that Jesus wanted this drink to moisten His dry mouth so that He would be able to say something LOUD and CLEAR that everyone would understand. [*Note:* The Lord had just said something in a loud voice but it was misunderstood. See Matthew 27:46-47. But what He was about to say was so important that He did not want anyone to misunderstand it.] Right after He received this drink He cried out and said, "IT IS _____" (John 19:30). We learn by reading Matthew 27:50 that Jesus said these words with a _____ voice. "*It is finished! It is accomplished! It is done! I have finished the work which the Father gave Me to do!*" (compare John 17:4) As the hymn writer has put it:

*HALLELUJAH TIS DONE!
I BELIEVE ON THE SON,
I'M SAVED BY THE BLOOD*

OF THE CRUCIFIED ONE!

We have a Saviour who has done all, paid all, accomplished all and performed all that is necessary for our salvation. His mission was accomplished (compare Luke 19:10; John 3:17; 1 Timothy 1:15)! The Lord Jesus said, "IT IS FINISHED!" The person who is saved answers with another cry, "*IT IS ENOUGH!*" It is enough that Jesus died and that He died for me!" The book of Hebrews explains the importance of the finished work of Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 1:3; 9:24-28 and 10:10-14 and notice the word "once"). Has your heart said "AMEN!" to the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross for you?

The Death of Christ

Crucifixion is a terrible form of death. Death by the electric chair or firing squad or guillotine is relatively fast and painless. The sufferings of the cross seem endless. It is interesting that the Gospel writers give us very few details about the crucifixion of Christ. We might have expected them to describe all the gory and grim details of what Christ had to endure during those hours of torture on the cross. They did not do this. For example, John's description is very brief. He simply said, "... they _____ Him" (John 19:18).

God the Holy Spirit (the Divine Author of Scripture) had a reason for not over-emphasizing the physical sufferings of Christ. The physical sufferings were not what made the death of Christ so terrible. There have been other men who have been scourged more severely than Christ was and there have been men who have hung on a Roman cross much longer than Christ did. Some of the Christian martyrs had to undergo terrible forms of death which would have made crucifixion seem mild by comparison (see *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*). Jesus suffered more than any man has ever suffered, but not because of what the Roman soldiers did to Him.

If we see only the physical aspect of the crucifixion, then we have really missed the whole point. Prior to the cross, what was it that Christ dreaded the most (Mark 14:36 and John 18:11)?

- a. The nails that would pierce His hands and feet
- b. The spear that would pierce His side

- c. The agony of being suspended on a cross for about six hours
- d. The awful thirst and danger of suffocation
- e. The cup which *the Father* would give Him to drink

According to Christ's own words in Matthew 27:46, what was the most terrible part of the crucifixion experience (Matthew 27:46)?

- a. Being nailed to the cross by the Romans
- b. Being mocked and reviled by the unbelieving Jews
- c. Being tortured by the weight of His own body coming down upon the nails
- d. Being forsaken and abandoned by Almighty God

Jesus Christ SUFFERED FOR _____ (1 Peter 3:18). The real sufferings of the cross did not come upon Christ because of what the Roman soldiers did to him, but because of what God did to Him **because of your sins and mine!** Read Isaiah chapter 53 and write down some of the things that God did to the Lord Jesus:

Verse 4: _____

Verse 6: _____

Verse 10: _____

God's wrath and judgment came down upon the Saviour as He died in our place. We are the ones that God should have punished. Our perfect Substitute paid the awful penalty of sin instead of us. This is the real meaning of the death of Christ: CHRIST DIED FOR _____ (1 Corinthians 15:3).

Was Jesus Really Dead?

There are some people who do not believe that Jesus really died on the cross. Some say that He just passed out and seemed to be dead (fooled everybody), but later He regained consciousness and people thought that He had

risen from the dead (fooled everybody again). Did Jesus really die or did people just think that Jesus died? The answer is found in John chapter 19.

The day after the crucifixion was a special holy day and the Jews did not want anyone to stay on the cross during that day (John 19:31). It usually takes about two or three days for a man to die on a Roman cross. Some victims have been known to survive on a cross for more than a week! Death by crucifixion was certainly not a fast and painless method.

"Breaking the legs" (John 19:31-32) was a procedure used to hasten death. Without the legs to give support, the body would sink down, the tension in the chest muscles would be too great and rapid suffocation would occur. Apart from this procedure, the two criminals that died with Christ may have lived another day or two. One of these criminals had an appointment to meet Christ in paradise TODAY (see Luke 23:43) and by breaking his legs the Roman soldiers helped to hasten him on to this place where he would never suffer again. The fate of the other criminal was not so fortunate because he was never saved. He went into an eternity of suffering, forever separated from the Christ who had been so willing to save him.

When the soldiers came to the center cross they discovered that Jesus was _____, and therefore they did not break His legs (John 19:33). Was Pilate surprised to learn that Jesus was dead after being on the cross for only about six hours (Mark 15:44)? _____ If there is any doubt about whether Jesus was really dead, John 19:34 settles the matter once for all! What did one of the soldiers do? _____ Of course, Jesus was already dead when this happened (verse 33), but what this soldier did helped to settle the matter. If Jesus had merely been "UNCONSCIOUS" and if the soldiers had thought Him to be dead but were mistaken, then it is certain that the spear would have killed him. No one can survive a spear wound such as the one Christ received. Those who say that Jesus never really died are simply blind to the facts. [**Note:** Compare 1 Samuel 17:49-51. Goliath was already dead when David cut his head off, but David did this so that all would see that the great Goliath was truly dead. If anyone had doubts about whether Goliath was really dead, his detached head quickly removed the doubts!].

The man who wrote the Gospel of John was right there at the scene of the crucifixion and he saw all of these things take place (John 19:25-27 and 19:35). John witnessed all of these things and he said, "And he that _____ it bare record (witness), and his record (witness) is _____" (John 19:35). John was not making up a story. As an eyewitness, he was writing down what really happened. And John wrote these things down "that ye might _____" (John 19:35).

The burial of Christ (John 19:38-42) also proves that Jesus was really dead. People do not usually bury those who are alive. The names of two men are given who played an important part in giving Jesus a decent burial (John 19:38,39). We first met Nicodemus in John chapter 3. Most crucified victims were not even given a decent burial. Their bodies were sometimes thrown in a dump outside the city of Jerusalem (called GEHENNA). Pilate, however, gave Joseph permission to bury Jesus in a tomb.

* * * * *

The finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross is man's only hope. Think of a man who must jump out of an airplane. Let's assume that the parachute which he has is a good one and works well. This parachute is all that the man needs. With it he will live and without it he will perish. The parachute is the man's only hope. The man cannot do anything himself that will save him. He can flap his arms as hard as he can, but without the parachute he will still fall to the ground and be destroyed. He must simply believe that the parachute will save him, pull the string and let the parachute do all the work.

In the same way Jesus Christ is all that a lost sinner needs. With Christ he will live and without Christ he will perish (John 3:16). Christ is the sinner's only hope. The sinner cannot do anything himself that will save him (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9). He must simply believe that Jesus Christ died to save Him, ask Christ to be His Saviour and let Jesus do all the work of saving his soul.

HAVE YOU DONE THIS?

ARE YOU RESTING ON THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS CHRIST?

CRAFTING IN ACTION // MATH

Look back at Week 9 - which of those skills have you worked on this month?

Pick an additional skill to focus on this week- use these skills as often as you can to serve your home- and even neighbors & friends or family.

Complete the Math Lesson for the week.

DAY 59 // WEEK 12

Genesis 48 // Jacob Blesses His Children

Main Point: God works all things together for His plan and purpose.

Key Verse:

(God) works out everything to fit His plan and purpose. - Ephesians 1:11b

Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons (Genesis 48)

Some time later, Jacob became very sick. Joseph brought his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to his father. Jacob reminded Joseph of the wonderful, undeserved promises that God had made to him. God had promised to make his family grow and grow, and one day that family would return to the land of Canaan.

(Jacob's) eyes were weak because he was old. He couldn't see very well. So Joseph brought his sons close to him. His father kissed them and hugged them.

(Jacob) said to Joseph, "I never thought I'd see your face again. But now God has let me see your children too." - Genesis 48:10-11

Then Jacob put his hands on the boys' heads and spoke wonderful blessings over them.

Notice Jacob's attitude. Jacob gave all credit to God for allowing him to have this wonderful time with Joseph and Joseph's sons. Jacob had many losses and heartbreaks in his life. For years, Jacob complained about his troubles, but now he understood that God had brought him full circle. Now he realized that God had been with him all along, and God used every difficult situation for good to bring him to this place.

Application: Many people pray that they will never have hardship in their lives. The FAR BETTER thing to pray is that God will use every hardship to make you more like Jesus, that you will feel God with you in the trouble, and that God will use the hardship for His glory. For example, instead of praying, "Lord, please don't let me get that really hard math teacher this year," you should pray, "Lord, You know what's best for me. Give me whichever teacher will help me to learn, and if I get the really hard teacher, please let me know You are sitting right beside me in class. Help me to do my best and to be a good example to others as I work hard and do not complain."

God's Plan & Promises (Genesis 12:2-3)
Before we go on, let's think back one more time to the promises that God gave to Joseph's great-grandfather,

Abraham. Remember, the promises apply to Abraham's whole family.

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. - Genesis 12:2-3

God gave these promises by His grace. Abraham did nothing to deserve these wonderful blessings. As we read through the Bible, and even by what we can see today, we know that God kept each of these promises.

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you - We have seen this already in the land of Goshen, but it will continue throughout history.

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. - We have seen how Joseph was certainly a blessing because he saved the lives of everyone in Egypt, Canaan, and the surrounding areas.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse - We have seen that Pharaoh was blessed because he blessed Joseph. There are countless examples of this throughout the Bible.

And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. - Today, I would like us to focus on this part of the promise. It is the VERY BEST part of God's promises to Abraham.

How in the world could every person on earth - throughout all time - be blessed by Abraham's family? Galatians 3:8 tells us that this promise was God's way of telling Abraham that the Messiah was going to be born into his family one day. The Messiah was the Deliverer that God promised to send. He would come to rescue people from the punishment of their sin. Because of our sin, all people are separated from God. The Messiah would be a blessing to every person on earth - throughout all time - because he would bring people back to God.

Psalm 48 // The Song of Zion

Go through all 14 verses together- what do you understand from each verse?

V1

V2

V3

V4

V5

V6

V7

V8

V9

V10

V11

V12

V13

V14

John 20 // The Risen Lord

The word "GOSPEL" means "good news" or "glad tidings." We have been studying the GOSPEL according to John. As we came to the end of John chapter 19 we learned that Jesus really died and that His lifeless body was placed in a garden tomb (John 19:33-42). If the GOSPEL of John had ended with Chapter 19, it would be no GOSPEL! There would be no GOOD NEWS. If Christ had remained in the tomb then there would have been no salvation, no Christianity and no message of hope for men (compare 1 Corinthians 15:14-19). There would be no good news to believe in and there

would be no good news to share with others.

Thankfully, the Gospel of John does not end with Chapter 19. There are two final chapters that set forth the glorious truth that the Lord is risen indeed! The One who died in Chapter 19 is seen alive in Chapters 20 and 21! A biography is a written story of a person's life. If you have read many biographies about famous people, then you know that the last chapter in a biography usually tells about the person's death. After the person dies, there is nothing more to say about the person. The writing of the life ends

where the life ends. After death the person will do no more and say no more. The man (or woman) is gone and no other chapter is possible. The last chapter has been written. Sometimes additional chapters are written about the influence that the person's life had on society, etc., but nothing more can be said about the person. The person has left the scene.

The biography of Jesus Christ is amazingly different than any other biography! The story of His death is not the last chapter. After the story of His death, we read more. We find this Man doing certain things and saying certain things. There are new chapters because the One who had been dead now lives again. His biography continues on!

THE EMPTY TOMB

Consider the following:

Abraham's tomb	occupied
	--
Moses' tomb	occupied
	--
Confucius' tomb	occupied
	--
Buddha's tomb	occupied
	--

Mohammed's tomb	occupied
	--

JESUS' TOMB	EMPTY!
	--

Who discovered that the tomb of Jesus was empty (John 20:1-2)? _____ She came on the first day of the week which is SUNDAY, and she came very early in the morning: "when it was yet _____" (John 20:1). She was amazed to find that the _____ had been taken away from the sepulcher (John 20:1 and compare Matthew 27:62-66). Was this a big stone (Mark 16:4)? _____ According to Matthew 28:2, who moved the stone?

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| a. Jesus | d. the Jews |
| b. the Romans | e. the disciples |
| c. an angel | |

Jesus did not need to have the stone rolled away from the door (compare John 20:19,26), but God wanted others to be able to see that the tomb was EMPTY! The stone was rolled away, not to let Jesus out, but to let others in! The Lord had already

vacated the tomb by the time the stone was rolled away.

Mary ran quickly to Peter and John to tell them the news (John 20:2). Did Mary Magdalene believe that Jesus had risen from the dead or did she believe that someone had come and removed the dead body to another place (John 20:2)?

Peter and "that other disciple" (John) ran to the tomb to see for themselves. Which disciple won the race (John 20:4)? _____ Did he go into the tomb (John 20:5)? _____ Then along came Peter. Did he run right in (John 20:6)? _____ [Peter had an impulsive character trait in contrast to John who was more pensive and thoughtful. Peter was like the man who would first dive off the diving board and later check to see if pool had any water in it!]

Peter and John must have been amazed by what they saw (see John 20:6-7). The graveclothes (linen wrappings) were lying in a very neat pile, perhaps in the very position in which the body had lain. How could this be? If someone had stolen the body they probably would have taken the graveclothes and all. Why would they take time to unwrap the body? If someone had removed the body by first stripping it of the linen wrappings, then why were not the wrappings lying about in disarray or piled in a disorderly heap somewhere on the floor? How could the body of Jesus have been removed without disturbing the wrappings? These linen wrappings were found in a very orderly manner as

if Christ had passed out of them without their being un-wrapped! When John saw this, the Bible says he B_____ (John 20:8).

There was much that John did not yet understand (John 20:9), but he was beginning to see the light. He saw and investigated these amazing graveclothes and he believed that the only explanation was that GOD, not man, must have done something! Something very wonderful had happened and John knew it!

THE RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

According to Mark 16:9, who was the first person to see the risen _____ Christ?

_____ Christ appeared to many people after His resurrection. He was seen by men for a period of _____ days (Acts 1:3). On one occasion he was seen by over _____ brethren (1 Corinthians 15:6), and according to this verse over 250 of these people were still alive when Paul wrote this first letter to the Corinthians which would have been about 55 A.D. or 25 years after the resurrection took place. Christ appeared to many, but the very first person to see the risen Lord was a humble woman--Mary Magdalene. It is the Gospel of John which gives us the most information

about Christ's appearance to Mary (John 20:11-18).

What was the first thing that Mary saw as she looked into the tomb (John _____ 20:11-12)?

_____ What was Mary's explanation for the empty tomb (John 20:13 and compare verse 15)?

_____ Who did she see after she had turned around (John 20:14)? _____

Did she recognize Him (John 20:14)? _____

_____ Who did she mistake Him for (John 20:15)? _____

What made her finally recognize Him (John 20:16)?

_____ The words of Jesus in John 20:17 have often been misunderstood. The Lord said, "TOUCH ME _____" (John 20:17). Jesus was not saying, "Don't touch me at all," as if something terrible would happen to Mary if she were even to touch Him with one finger. This is not really what Jesus meant or said. The word "touch" can often mean "fasten oneself to, cling to, hang on, grasp, lay hold of." Instead of "touch me not," a better translation of this phrase would be something like this: "STOP CLINGING TO ME."

Apparently when Mary finally knew that it was Jesus she was so filled with joy and excitement that she grabbed the Lord and started clinging to Him, possibly holding Him by the feet (compare Matthew 28:9). Jesus made it very clear to Mary that He was going to A_____ to His Father (John 20:17). He was going to go back to heaven. In fact, Jesus was still

in the process of "departing out of this world unto the Father" (John 13:1). Before returning to heaven He appeared to certain people as proof of His resurrection, and Mary was one of those who was privileged to see the risen Lord.

Mary may have thought something like this: "Jesus is here! He's alive! Everything is now alright because I have the Lord's bodily presence right here." But does this imply that if the Lord's body is absent from earth everything is not alright? [Some people even today carry this to the extreme. They feel that everything is alright as long as they have a picture of Jesus in every room and carry a picture of Jesus with them in their wallet or pocketbook!] Earlier Jesus had taught the disciples how necessary it was for Him to go away and return to the Father (John 16:7). A believer's relationship with the Lord does not depend on His bodily presence, and Mary needed to understand this.

Did the risen Christ allow people to "touch" and handle His body (see Matthew 28:9, John 20:27; Luke 24:39)? _____ Today however, this is not longer possible. Jesus today is at the right hand of God in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:20-21). Believers today cannot touch Him nor can they even see Him, but they can love Him and believe in Him and "rejoice with _____unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8). Has Christ promised to be WITH His believers even though He is not with them in a bodily way (Matthew 28:20; Mark 16:20)? _____ Today we cannot cling to Jesus as Mary did, but we can cling to His faithful and true

WORD which never fails, because we walk by _____ and not by _____ (2 Corinthians 5:7).

According to John 20:17 ("STOP CLINGING TO ME") and 20:18, the resurrection of Christ was confirmed to Mary by three of her senses: **She saw Him! She heard Him! She touched Him!** She immediately went to tell the disciples the good news (John 20:17).

Jesus Appears to the Disciples With Thomas Absent

On that very first Easter Sunday evening the disciples were assembled together in a certain place, with the doors S_____ and probably locked (John 20:19). The same risen Christ who had no problem making an **exit** from a tomb that was sealed with a stone also had no problem making an **entrance** into a room whose doors were closed shut. What was the emotional state of the disciples after Jesus had given them visual proof of His resurrection (John 20:20)? The Lord's resurrected and glorified body still bore the marks and scars of His death (John 20:20,27), as a vivid reminder of what He did for us.

In John 20:21 Jesus spoke some very important words to His disciples. We might call this the "GREAT COMMISSION ACCORDING TO JOHN." Jesus said, "As my Father has _____ Me, even so _____ I you." This same truth was expressed by Jesus in His prayer found in John 17:18. Consider the following diagram:

FATHER	SON
SON	BELIEVERS

"As my Father hath sent Me ..
.....even so send I you" (John 20:21)

"As thou hast sent Me into the world
.....even so have I sent them
into the world" (John 17:18).

The Father sent the Son and in the same way the Son sent His disciples. If we are to understand what it means to be sent by Christ, we must first understand what it means for Christ to have been sent by the Father. How was our Lord sent? What was His relationship to the One who sent Him (His Sender)? The Gospel of John clearly delineates the meaning of this relationship. The following passages (listed under 10 categories) are found in the Gospel of John and speak of Christ being **SENT** by His Father:

1. Christ was sent not to do His own will, but the will of His Sender (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38).

This is what our Lord hungered for more than anything else: not to do what He wanted, but to do what the Father wanted. Not what He desired, but only what the Father desired. **Even so**, we ought to be able to say, "My food is to do the will of Christ my Sender--to do only what Christ wants and desires. Not my will, but Christ's will be done!"

2. Christ was sent not to please Himself, but to please His Sender (John 8:29).

Even so, may we be able to say, "For I do always those things that please Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:9-11; Ephesians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 7:32; Philippians 3:7-8). Paul's great concern was not to please _____, but to please _____ whom he served (Galatians 1:10).

3. Christ was not sent to seek His own glory, but to seek the glory of His Sender (John 7:18).

Christ did not want recognition, praise or attention to come to Himself. He wanted the Father to receive the attention. He was God the Father's witness--pointing clearly and consistently to the One who had sent Him. **Even so**, we should not want recognition and praise to be heaped upon ourselves. We want our lives to draw attention, not to the ugliness of self, but to the beauty of our Lord Jesus Christ who has sent us. We are His W_____ (Acts 1:8) and our lives are to point clearly to Him. As John the Baptist once said, "He must

_____ but I must _____" (John 3:30).

4. Christ was sent into the world to represent His invisible Sender (John 5:37 and compare John 1:18).

Men could not see the Father, but they could see Christ. Christ represented the invisible God! **Even so**, we have been sent into the world to represent the invisible Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). The world cannot see Jesus today (John 16:10--"I go to my _____, and ye see me _____),but they can see His believers who are still on the earth. If the world is to see Christ today, they must see Him portrayed in the lives of believers.

5. Christ was sent into the world so that men, in seeing Him, would see His Sender (John 12:44-45).

According to John 14:9, as people saw Christ, they were really seeing God the Father. **Even so**, as men and women look at our lives they should see our Sender, even our Lord Jesus (see Galatians 2:20--"Christ _____ in _____ and Galatians 4:19--"Christ be _____ in you"). May we reflect the image and likeness of the One who has sent us into the world. The world needs to see CHRIST-LIKE believers!

6. Christ was sent into the world by His living Father and He lived by (through) His Sender (John 6:57).

Even so, the living Christ has sent us and we live by Him. Christ is our L_____ (Colossians 3:3-4). Paul said, "For to me to _____ is _____" (Philippians 1:21). Our life is centered in Him (Galatians 2:20) even as His life was centered in the Father. Remember, our primary function as a WITNESS is to make known and manifest the "L_____ of J_____"(2 Corinthians 4:10-11).

7. Christ was sent into the world, not with His own words and doctrine, but with the words and doctrine of His Sender (John 3:34; 7:16; 12:49-50).

The Lord Jesus Christ was a very unoriginal Teacher. Everything He taught came from the Father! Even so, Christ has sent us into the world, not with our own message but with the gospel of Christ, "teaching them to observe _____ whatsoever I (Christ) have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). A herald's task is not to be original but to simply announce the message of the king. He is not to make up his own message. We are merely HERALDS OF THE KING OF KINGS bearing His message (Mark 16:15; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20). The message comes from God. We just deliver it!

8. Christ could do nothing apart from His Sender (John 5:30).

The Lord was totally dependent upon His Heavenly Father. Even so, we are totally dependent upon our Sender. The One who sent us into the world has

said, "Without _____ ye can do _____" (John 15:5).

9. Christ was not alone, His Sender was with Him (John 8:16,29).

Even so, the One who has sent us is constantly with us. Jesus said, "Lo, I am _____ you _____, even unto the end of the world (age)" (Matthew 28:20 and compare Mark 16:20 and Hebrews 13:5). We have all the blessings and benefits of His presence, even though we do not have His bodily presence.

10. Christ was busy in doing the work of His Sender (John 4:34; 9:4) and when His work was done, He went home to be with His Sender (John 7:33; 16:5).

Even so, we are to be always A_____ in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:58), and when our work is finished we will go home to be with our Sender (John 14:3; 17:24; Philippians 1:23; 2 Tim.4:6-8).

As we consider this great commission as found in John 20:21, what can we say? The humble believer should say something like this: "Lord, how can I do these things? Who is sufficient for these things? How could I ever have the power to perform these things and to live in this way?"

Here is the key. As we study the Gospel of John we make a wonderful discovery. Not only has Christ sent us, but He has also sent Someone else! "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: It is

expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart I WILL _____ HIM UNTO YOU" (John 16:7). Apart from the Holy Spirit we could never do it! He alone can supply the needed POWER (Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8). Jesus wanted to remind His disciples that their mission would be a complete failure apart from the Holy Spirit. This is why after Jesus said "SO SEND I YOU" we are told that He breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive, ye the _____ Ghost (Spirit)" (John 20:22). It was as if Jesus were saying, "I want you never to forget that it will never be done apart from Him (the Holy Spirit)! You will never do it on your own!"

Fifty days later (on the day of Pentecost) the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in an even greater and more special way (see Acts chapter 2). This was the great promise that the disciples were waiting for (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8). We learned about this precious promise much earlier in our study of the Gospel of John (see John 7:37-39). Today EVERY BELIEVER has the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; John 7:38-39). It is in the Spirit's fullness and power that we go forth to fulfill our Lord's words: "AS THE FATHER HATH SENT ME, SO SEND I YOU" (Jn.20:21).

The words of the risen Christ found in John 20:23 have also been misunderstood. Jesus said, "Whose soever sins ye remit (forgive), they are remitted (forgiven) unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain (this is the opposite of forgiveness), they are retained." Does this mean that Christ gave men the power to forgive sins?

Does this mean that people need to go to certain men in order to have their sins forgiven (such as "priests")?

According to Mark 2:7, who is the only Person who can forgive sins? _____ The Apostles were not able to do that which only God can do. The Apostles were not able to forgive sins. There was something, however, that they could do. They were able to declare or pronounce with authority whose sins were forgiven and whose sins were not forgiven.

The Apostles did not go around forgiving men of their sins. The Apostles did go around telling people whose sins would be forgiven and whose sins would not be forgiven. For example, in Acts 3:19 Peter made it very clear that whoever should R_____ and be C_____ would have his sins _____ out. What about those who refuse to repent? Can they claim this promise? Consider carefully Acts 10:43 (the word "remission" means "forgiveness"). According to this verse, whose sins will be remitted or forgiven? _____ "whosoever _____ in Him (Jesus Christ)." Whose sins will be retained?

_____ Peter did not go around forgiving sins, but he did go around proclaiming the good news that there is complete forgiveness of sins to all who repent and believe in Christ. Those who accepted the message of the apostles and believed in Christ had their sins remitted (forgiven). Those who rejected the message of the apostles had their sins retained, even as Jesus said in John 8:24--"for if ye

_____ not that I am He, ye shall die in your _____." What about you? Have your sins been remitted or retained?

Who was not among the disciples when Jesus appeared to them on that first Sunday evening (John 20:24)? _____ Did Thomas believe the testimony of his friends (John 20:25)? _____ According to Thomas, what would be needed to convince him of the reality of the resurrection (John 20:25)? _____

_____ "I will not take your word for it. I will only believe if I can SEE and even TOUCH!" It is for this reason he has been given the nickname of "DOUBTING THOMAS."

Jesus Appears to the Disciples With Thomas Present

The expression "after eight days" (John 20:26) is the Jewish way of saying "one week later." Jesus first appeared to His disciples on a Sunday. On the following Sunday He appeared to them again and this time _____ was with them (John 20:26). The Lord could have appeared to them on some other day, but from the very beginning it seems as if the Lord wanted to show His disciples that Sunday was a very special day for believers to assemble together. Christians have been meeting together on this day ever since.

The first individual that Jesus spoke to was Thomas. The Lord invited Thomas to put his finger in the print of the nails and to thrust his hand into

His side! The Lord was echoing the very words that Thomas had said a week earlier (see John 20:25). The words that we say or think are always known to God! Did Thomas actually do what Jesus invited him to do (John 20:27-28)? _____ Seeing and hearing was all that Thomas needed. Touching was not necessary. DOUBTING THOMAS instantly became CONVINCED THOMAS! At the end of John 20:27 Jesus rebuked the unbelief of Thomas: DO NOT BE FAITHLESS (without faith) BUT BE FAITHFUL (full of faith)! DO NOT BE UNBELIEVING BUT BE BELIEVING!

As Thomas saw the risen Lord there was only one thing he could say: "MY _____ AND MY _____" (John 20:28). There are many religious groups and cults today who do not believe that Jesus Christ is God. It is important to realize that Thomas called Jesus "GOD" in no uncertain words. Also Jesus did not correct Thomas or rebuke him for saying these words. Jesus did not say, "Thomas, you must never call me GOD! I am your Teacher and your Master, but I am not God and it is a great mistake to call me that." No, Jesus did not say this. He did not say, "Thomas you are wrong!" but instead He said, "Thomas . . . thou hast B_____ "(John 20:29). Thomas believed that Jesus Christ was God and he was absolutely correct! Do you believe this? Are you able to say from your heart what Thomas said--"MY LORD AND MY GOD"?

Why did Thomas believe in the resurrection (John 20:29)? _____

_____ Thomas had an advantage which no one living today

has. Thomas was able to see the risen Christ with his eyes. Can we do this today (compare John 16:10)? _____ Today if a person refuses to believe until he sees the risen Lord, then he is going to wait a long time! When he finally does see the risen Lord it will be too late. There must be something better than a faith that is based on sight. How happy are those whose faith is based upon the written Word of God! Jesus said, "Blessed (happy) are they that have not _____, and yet have _____" (John 20:29). Such happy people are described by Peter in 1 Peter 1:8. Did these people see? _____ Did they believe? _____ Thomas refused to believe the testimony of the Apostles. They told him the good news: "We have seen the Lord!" (John 20:25) and he refused to believe their word. The

Gospel of John was written by one of these apostles. It was written by a man who personally saw the risen Lord and who knew from first hand experience the reality of the resurrection. This man has written certain important things about Christ and put them in a book (John 20:31). These were written "that ye might _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that _____ ye might have _____ through his name" (John 20:31). Are you willing to receive the testimony of the Apostle John? Are you willing to believe on Christ through His Word (compare John 17:20)? Remember, "his testimony is _____" (John 21:24)! Blessed and happy is the man who believes (John 20:29). He will be the possessor of eternal L_____ (John 20:31)!

WATCH & LEARN // HISTORY

We've covered some amazing scriptures this week- look up movies on Joseph- Evidence for Exodus covers proof of Joseph and his time. Look up videos and learn more about how God created our bodies to work or how Ancient Egypt used to be. Enjoy learning together!

Read Pages 59-65 in The Bible in World History

Answer the discussion questions and review as needed.

DAY 60 // WEEK 12

Send your end of the week e-mail to your parents for your end of the week review.

We'll also finish the Gospel of John today too!

John 20 // Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Jesus Appears to the Disciples at the Sea

The Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1) is another name for the Sea of _____ (John 6:1). John chapter 21 gives us the account of the THIRD resurrection appearance that Jesus made to His disciples as a group (see John 21:14). We have already learned about the first two appearances (John 20:19 and John 20:26).

How many disciples were together on this occasion (John 21:2)? _____ Whose idea was it to go fishing (John 21:3)? _____ How successful were they (John 21:3)? _____ That which took place here in John 21 is very similar to what had happened several years earlier (see Luke 5:4-11). What were some of the similarities between what happened in Luke 5 and what happened in John 21? In Luke 5:10 Jesus had said to Simon Peter, "From henceforth (from now on) thou shalt catch _____." In John 21 we find that Peter had gone back to catching fish!

In John 21:7 we are told something about Peter and John. Which disciple was the first to recognize Jesus? _____ Which disciple was fast to act and quick to jump in? _____ When all of the disciples arrived at the shore, who already had breakfast cooking (John 21:9)? _____ Who served the meal (John 21:13)? _____ The proof of our Lord's resurrection is here abundant. Seven grown-up men saw him with their own eyes in the light of the morning sun. We see the Lord sitting, talking and eating on the shore of the sea of Galilee. Could any stronger proof of the resurrection be given? Peter was totally convinced and satisfied by this because years later he said to Cornelius, WE DID "eat and drink with Him after He _____ from the _____" (Acts 10:41). Those today who say they are not convinced that Jesus is alive need to take an honest look at the clear evidence!

In the next section of this chapter we see the tender way in which the Saviour dealt with Peter. Not too long ago, Peter had shamefully denied His Lord.

Notice the following similarities as we compare Peter's denial with this passage in John 21:

PETER'S DENIAL	JESUS' DEALING WITH PETER (John 21)
When Peter denied the Lord he warmed himself around a fire _____ (John 18:18)	When Jesus spoke to Peter they also were around a _____ of coals (John 21:9)
Peter denied the Lord three times (John 13:38).	Jesus gave Peter three opportunities to confess his love for the Lord (John 21:15-17).
It was after the third denial that the cock crew and Peter was grieved and wept bitterly (Matthew 26:75).	It was after the Lord's third question that Peter was grieved (John 21:17). Could he have had a flashback to his previous failure?

Read John 21:15-17 and notice the last three words found in each verse. What was the one thing that Peter was told to do in order to show that he really loved Jesus? _____ John Chapter 21 tells us the story of how Peter went from a FISHERMAN to a SHEPHERD!

Peter's life's ministry was to work, not among fish, but among men (see Luke 22:31-32). He was to take care of God's flock, and as we have already learned in John 10:27, God's sheep are those who hear the voice of Christ and follow Him and believe on Him. Peter learned his lesson well because later in his life he understood the importance of feeding the flock and being the right kind of leader over God's sheep (1 Peter 5:1-4)! If a Pastor is not taking good care of God's flock and not feeding them the truth of God's Word, is he really showing that he loves the Saviour? _____

In John 21:18 the Lord Jesus told Peter something about his future. Jesus told Peter about something that would happen to him as an old man What was

the Lord referring to (John 21:19)? _____ The Lord knew all about Peter, even about the manner of his death. The book of 2 Peter was written when Peter was old and about to die. In 2 Peter 1:14 notice how Peter spoke about his coming death: "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle (tent, temporary dwelling place), even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath _____." Long before it ever happened Jesus showed Peter and told him about his death. Historical tradition tells us that the Apostle Peter was crucified by the Romans during the days of Emperor Nero. Thus, not only by his life but also by his death Peter glorified _____ (John 21:19 and compare Philippians 1:20-21).

It is comforting to know that the Lord knows all about our future. We do not know what the coming days may bring but God certainly does. We need to F_____ Him (John 21:19) and trust Him to take care of our living and our dying.

Peter then turned about and became very interested in the Lord's future plans for John (John 21:20-21 and compare John 13:23-26). "WHAT SHALL THIS MAN DO?", Peter asked. Jesus answered, "What is that to you?" (John 21:22), the idea being, "Mind your own business!" Jesus had a plan for Peter and Jesus had a plan for John. If Jesus had so desired He could have allowed the Apostle John to tarry or remain on the earth until the day of His coming. The early Christians were looking for Christ's coming and they believed that Christ might come even during John's lifetime. As things turned out, John did outlive all of the other Apostles and died as an old man. John lived many years longer than Peter did, but both of these men were faithful servants of Christ and God used both of these men in special ways. Peter did not need to concentrate on what would happen to John. Peter needed to concentrate on following Christ. The real issue is not *HOW LONG* a person lives but *HOW WELL* a person lives!

JOHN'S CLOSING WORDS

The Apostle John speaks of himself in John 21:24. Throughout this Book John never refers to himself by name. He usually calls himself "that disciple," "the other disciple," or "the disciple whom Jesus loved." John is the author of the book we have been studying and "we know that his _____ is _____" (John 21:24). The Gospel of John is a TRUE and ACCURATE account of the words and works of Jesus Christ!

Did the Apostle John write down everything that could have been written about the Lord Jesus Christ (John 21:25)? _____ John was very selective in what he wrote. Men who carefully study the Bible tell us that all the incidents reported in the four Gospels fall on only about 35 days throughout a period of some three

and a half years. Thus there are more than a thousand days concerning which nothing is written. There were many more things that John could have written down on paper. But John did give us everything we need to know in order to understand WHO JESUS CHRIST IS and WHAT JESUS CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US. We do not need more information about Christ but *we need to believe the information that God has given to us in His Word.*

JOHN'S PURPOSE IN WRITING

To find the reason why John wrote his gospel we must go back again to John 20:30-31. John was selective in the things which he included in his book, but under God's direction and under God's inspiration he wrote down just what we needed: "But these are written that you might _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have _____ through His Name" (John 20:31).

This ends the study of the 21 chapters found in John's Gospel. As you think back upon this book, what is your conclusion? **Who do you think Jesus Christ really is?**

Is He a LIAR?

A LUNATIC?

THE LORD GOD?

Was the Apostle John a liar and a deceiver, or did he write that which was true and accurate? Have you believed his message? According to the Gospel of John, what must a person do to have everlasting life (John 3:16,18,36; 5:24; 6:35-37; 11:25-26; etc.)?

Have you done this? _____ God wants men and women and boys and girls to believe on His Son and those who do believe have ETERNAL LIFE!

The writers of this set of Bible study notes urge you to join the happy crowd of those who have believed on Christ, such as the following:

John 1:41 (Andrew)

John 1:45 (Philip)

John 1:49 (Nathanael)
John 4:42 (the Samaritans)
John 6:68-69 (Peter)
John 9:35-38 (the man born blind)
John 20:8 (John)
John 20:28-29 (Thomas)

WHAT ABOUT YOU?