



BOOK-BY-BOOK BIBLE

WORKSHEETS

PSALMS

Of the 150 psalms in the Book of Psalms, over half were written by King David. More were written as early as Moses' time, around 1450 BC. More were added during the time of David and Solomon around 1000 BC. Additions continued after the time of David and Solomon around 500 BC. That means the writing spanned nearly 1,000 years and was always quite popular because they apply to every time and every person.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- To refute skeptics who say they've never seen God, people read this verse: **Psalm 115:5**. (19:1)
- This very first verse of Psalms declares that we are blessed if we don't walk in the way that sinners take, or sit in the company of **Psalm 115:1**.
- This psalm is often used in defense of a pro-life political stance. It states that you were in **Psalm 139:13**. (139:13)
- This psalm declares that if you delight yourself in God, He will give you **Psalm 37:4**. (37:4)
- People often refer to this psalm when they have to wait for things and be patient. **Psalm 46:10**, while knowing God is at work. (46:10)
- Written by King David, this most famous psalm features the lines, "The Lord is with me" (23:1)
- People recite this psalm by King David when they have done something wrong. It encourages God to create **Psalm 51:10** in us. (51:10)

APPLICATION

Of the lines cited above, which is your favorite given your current or past circumstances? Were any new to you that brought you encouragement? If so, which?

READ: PSA 91

This famous psalm is one to Christians who are facing that God protects you, if you trust in Him.

READ: PSA 139

Often psalms are popular when they have in common? King David recited the psalm.

GENESIS

The Book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible! It tells us a lot about Creation and how the world got to be in a fallen state. The first 11 chapters contain the stories of Creation, the Great Flood, and the Tower of Babel. After that, the whole book is about the first four generations of God's chosen people and the experiences they had on their journeys.

OT BOOK 1 OF 39

TEXT QUESTIONS

- This being tempted Eve in the Garden: **Genesis 3:1-7** (3:1-7)
- He was the first person on earth to get murdered: **Genesis 4:3-8** (4:3-8)
- This mountain range is where Noah's ark landed: **Genesis 8:4** (8:4)
- Noah's three sons who survived the Great Flood: **Genesis 9:1-2**, **Genesis 9:20-21**, and **Genesis 9:22-23** (10:1)
- The man who built the Tower of Babel: **Genesis 11:1-9** (10:9)
- The first patriarch of Israel: **Genesis 12:1-5** (17:5)
- This son almost got sacrificed on an altar: **Genesis 22:7-12** (22:7-12)
- The twin who had his father's blessing stolen: **Genesis 27:32-35** (27:32-35)
- This patriarch's name was changed to Israel: **Genesis 32:24-29** (32:24-29)
- This son of Israel dreamed all his brothers would bow down and worship him: **Genesis 37:2-11** (37:2-11)

APPLICATION

All of Genesis is true. However it is written in two parts. First is Genesis 1-11, which covers Creation through the Great Flood. Second is Genesis 12-50, about the four generations of God's 1st adopted family. Which of these two parts seems most interesting to you and why?

READ: GEN 2:5-10

Genesis 1 is the account of the Creation, and Genesis 2 goes into the Garden of Eden itself. Name some ways Adam's thoughts and actions would be different than ours, given how he was born? (v. 7)

READ: ROM 1:19-20

This verse shows how some things never change! What was going on in the verses that is happening again today? How can you protect yourself?

JUDE

Jude was the half-brother of Jesus. Like his brother James who contributed to the New Testament, Jude did not believe Jesus was the Messiah until after the resurrection. The Book of Jude was written around 75 AD to address false teaching, which was already getting out of control. Like 2 & 3 John, Jude is only one chapter long but famous for intriguing lines!

TEXT QUESTIONS

Jude says to keep ourselves in **Jude 1:20** as we wait for the Lord's return. Jude's brother wrote a book named after him that is a New Testament epistle. His name is **Jude**. (v. 1)

Jude says we should have mercy, and **Jude 1:22** in great gentleness. Jude compares the immoral people to this Old Testament villain: **Jude 1:23**. Jude names some of the bad behaviors of the immoral people, calling them fault-finders. **Jude 1:10**. (v. 16)

Jude tells us that in the last days there will be people who follow their own ungodly ways. **Jude 1:18**. (v. 18)

APPLICATION

Jude 1:13-15 expand on a scripture from **Matthew 24:24** by back in Genesis. Enoch was Noah's grandfather, one of only two people taken up to heaven without having to die. What do you think about what is Jude quoting Enoch?

READ: JUDE 8-9

Astonishingly, this book produces details about the angels that are not in Exodus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy.

READ: REV 12:7

In chapter 12 of the Revelation, the dragon is Satan. The remaining three being in Daniel. What does the dragon represent? (The other three mentions Michael.) What do you think they are? Daniel 12:13, 10:21.

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INTRODUCTION

Greetings! This package contains worksheets—66 of them—one for each book in the Bible. If you want a better understanding of each book in the Bible, from its big picture to some of its most popular details, this package is for you!

WHY THIS PACKAGE IS IMPORTANT

Have you ever heard a skeptic say, “Well, I read the whole Bible TWICE, and I still don’t believe it”? Anybody who reads the Bible like a novel, simply turning page after page, has to be truly called to do this or it is unlikely that any big picture will come clear.

A good teacher would have to ask in the prophecies, “Do you know to whom God is speaking here? Do you understand what was going on historically? How did you understand any rough translations, where there are no English words for the Hebrew word, or vice versa?”

If you are going to read the Bible all the way through, you need some teaching aids to point out important details, and this study is one of those! Let’s answer some frequently asked questions.

Do I have to read the book before using its worksheet? Yes, you should. The sheets are a little like CliffsNotes, which are designed to provide insight, not to be a shortcut! Using the sheet after reading is not difficult, and it will help you remember important things, like structure for longer books, and must-have verses. The Application Questions and “Digging Deeper” questions will help you apply passages to your own life and give you a broad picture of how they fit into the cultures surrounding it.

How much work is required for each sheet? The sheets themselves would take about an hour to fill out for longer books and perhaps a half hour for shorter ones.

What is on each sheet? The sheets are somewhat uniform, but we must keep in mind that some Bible books are more than 50 chapters, while others are just a few paragraphs. Some contain history; some contain poetry. A book wherein 66 books are unique—but are all part of the same story—bears some flexibility.

- 1. Background Details:** these are at the top of each page so you know the circumstances and the approximate year(s) each was written.
- 2. Most Popular Verse (MPV) of Today:** These give another important perspective. There are more than 31,000 verses in the Bible. A Bible enthusiast may know 200 of them by heart and be able to fill in the blanks for 500. But that is only 1.6 percent of the whole Bible. C. S. Lewis said that all cultures have their pet virtues and pet sins. Popular verses are one of the best earmarks for how a verse is being applied today (not always in good ways!) and can give us insight into brothers' and sisters' concerns.
- 3. Text Questions:** Longer books will have 10 text questions, and shorter ones may only have three. Each book is unique and is treated as such. The questions have verse references, making them easy to answer. They will help you remember the facts.
- 4. Application Question:** While this was challenging for the bigger books, each page poses one question about a principle contained or repeated in the book. It will ask you to apply it to your own life. You will feel the verses becoming part of your backstory.
- 5. Digging Deeper Into this Theme:** Sometimes these two questions will come from other books in the Bible to expand your knowledge base. Generally speaking, one question will come from the book you just read, and another will come from somewhere else in the Bible speaking on that theme. You will look up the passages and answer the questions, which also can be applicatory, or provide greater insight.
- 6. Answer Key:** Finally, on each page, is an answer key for the Text Questions. The Application Questions and Digging Deeper Questions do not come with answers—there is no wrong answer and they're highly subjective.

Who Can Use the Sheets? The sheets are great for discussion, so group usage is great. But they can also be used for anyone wanting a better understand of God's Word in solitude. They are designed for adults, though children can use them who are old enough to read and write well and have the maturity to want a better understanding of the Bible.

Don't read the Bible like a novel and expect to be enlightened. Stop after each chapter or book, and use one of these sheets. At the end of the Bible you will have a great reference document you can bind and save!



OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS

The Book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible! It tells us a lot about Creation and how the world got to be in a fallen state. The first 11 chapters contain the stories of Creation, the Great Flood, and the Tower of Babel. After that, the whole book is about the first four generations of God's chosen people and the experiences they had on their journeys.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This being tempted Eve in the Garden: _____ (3:1-7)
2. He was the first person on earth to get murdered: _____ (4:3-8)
3. This mountain range is where Noah's ark landed: _____ (8:4)
4. Noah's three sons who survived the Great Flood: _____, _____, and _____ (10:1)
5. The man who built the Tower of Babel: _____ (10:9)
6. The first patriarch of Israel: _____ (17:5)
7. This son almost got sacrificed on an altar: _____ (22:7-12)
8. The twin who had his father's blessing stolen: _____ (27:32-35)
9. This patriarch's name was changed to Israel: _____ (32:24-29)
10. This son of Israel dreamed all his brothers would bow down and worship him: _____ (37:2-11)



APPLICATION

All of Genesis is true. However it is written in two parts. First is Genesis 1-11, which covers Creation through the Great Flood. Second is Genesis 12-50, about the four generations of God's 1st adopted family. Which of these two parts seems most interesting to you and why?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
GEN
2:5-10**

Genesis 1 is the account of the Creation, and Genesis 2 goes into the Garden of Eden itself. Name some ways Adam's thoughts and actions would be different than ours, given how he was born? (v. 7)

**READ:
ROM
1:19-20**

This verse shows how some things never change! What was going on in the verses that is happening again today? How can you protect yourself?

Most Popular Verse: Genesis 1:26

EXODUS

Exodus means "departure." The Book of Exodus is about Israel's departure from the south, where they were slaves, back to Canaan, where Father Abraham was originally sent by God 500 years earlier. Most people don't know that the Book of Exodus only covers the first year of a 40-year journey. The first half of the Book of Exodus covers their journey to and beyond Mount Sinai. The second half includes rules and instructions.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Moses led the Exodus from this country: _____ (1:14)
- The river where Moses floated as a baby: _____ (2:3)
- The mount where Moses saw the burning bush: _____ (3:1)
- The first of the 10 plagues God brought on Egypt: _____ (7:19)
- The last of the 10 plagues God brought on Egypt: _____ (11:5)
- God used Moses to part this sea: _____ (15:4)
- God made a special promise to Israel at the foot of a mountain in this desert, both of which have the same name: _____ (19:1-6)
- The Fourth Commandment given to Moses tells us to keep this holy: _____ (20:8)



APPLICATION

Before and during the Exodus, the Hebrew people saw miracles every day, from God feeding them to leading them, to bringing plagues on the stubborn Egyptians. If you were seeing miracles daily, how do you think it would change your life?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
LUK
16:30-31

What did Jesus say here about people's reactions to miracles? Does this change your answer to the Application Question? If so, why?

READ:
DEU
5:22-25

This passage adds more detail to the Exodus version of the Ten Commandments, and it is not as well known. What is surprising about it, given most people think Moses went up the mountain in order to hear God's voice?

Most Popular Verse: Exodus 3:14

LEVITICUS

Leviticus seems like a book of rules that don't apply to Christians, so why read it? It's important to note that all the kingdoms of that era had rules such as "pay heavy taxes to the king, or he'll take your daughter." The longest psalm in the Bible (with 176 verses) repeats the theme of how helpful it is to reflect on these laws. They are special in that they showed fairness to all instead of reflecting what a human king thinks he is entitled to. They are a first glimpse at God's integrity.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. God established this part of living creatures to be an atonement for sins: [redacted] (17:11)
2. You should not seek this toxic behavior against others: [redacted] (19:18)
3. This verse encourages you to give a tenth of what you earn to the Lord. That offering features a similar word, [redacted], that means "tenth." (27:30)
4. Animals that do not have fins and scales are considered to be in this state: [redacted] (11:12)
5. A man is discouraged from marrying this sort of relative: [redacted] (20:21)
6. This is the first of several birds not to be eaten because they were unclean (or more susceptible to germs): [redacted] (11:13-15)
7. Animals that move along the ground or were considered scavengers hosted more germs and were considered unclean, including this one: [redacted] (11:29)
8. To prevent the spread of disease, an infectious skin disease could be treated by isolating a person for this long: [redacted] (13:21)



APPLICATION

It is important to remember what the Hebrew people could not get straight: Obeying these laws would keep them safer and healthier and less likely to argue. But they were not made righteous by following the Law. What does make us righteous?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
LEV
19:18**

This is one of the most famous passages in the entire Bible. Why should it not be surprising to see it this early on in Bible history?

**READ:
GAL
3:21**

What does this verse say that the Law cannot give?

Most Popular Verse: Leviticus 18:22

NUMBERS

The Book of Numbers was written by Moses during the Exodus. Numbers shows how God wanted to make the Hebrew people strong, though they were very resistant complainers. Hence, Numbers 14 is where God gave the sentence that they would wander for decades. This book contains stories from the other 39 years of the Exodus; however, they are mixed in with many logs and records. Skip to 10:12 to start the stories.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. While speaking with God early on, Moses compared the people to this certain type of being: _____ (11:12)
2. This famous verse declares Moses' best trait, _____, something he had more of than anyone. (12:3)
3. Moses had a privilege that no other man had until Christ came, which was speaking with God in this way _____ (12:8)
4. Israel's spies were acting like cowards. They came back from spying and reported to Moses that people of gigantic size were living in the future Promised Land, and their formal name was this: _____ (13:31-33)
5. This is the length of God's sentence on Israel to remain in the desert, because of their lack of faith, courage, and vision: _____ (14:34)
6. Moses' sister _____ was kept outside the camp for seven days after she contracted leprosy. (12:15)
7. What did Balaam's donkey see that made him pause three times? _____ (22:23)
8. What person tried to manipulate God into turning away from Israel in disgust so that they would stop invading territories? _____ (31:16)



APPLICATION

Numbers has a lot of great stories that are not heard as often as those from Exodus. Which one did you like best, and how does it apply to your life?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
NUM
31

This chapter is considered one of the Bibles' most difficult, as here God orders a genocide. How does it help to know that the Midian women seducing the Hebrews likely carried multiple STDs?

READ:
2 KI
2:23-24

This is not another genocide, but is still case that makes us flinch. Here, God allowed for 42 children to be injured by a terrifying bear. Their crime was jeering at Elisha, one of His most famous prophets. How does this scripture help us see the imbalances in our culture with allowing the young to show disrespect?

Most Popular Verse: Numbers 23:19

DEUTERONOMY

The Book of Deuteronomy contains an interesting repeat of much of Exodus, but Moses is telling the stories to the new generation ready to invade the Promised Land. New details are fun! The book contains the only account of the death of Moses.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This man took over for Moses when he passed away: _____ (31:1-7)
2. This is the mountain that Moses climbed before he died there: _____ (34:1)
3. The text here speaks against this very hurtful and evil practice: _____ (18:10)
4. This verse declares this very unique way in which Moses knew God: _____ (34:10)
5. God told the people of Israel to show this trait while taking over the Promised Land from pagans:
_____ (31:6)
6. This passage showed what people were capable of doing in spite of incredible blessings: (6:10-12)

7. A great and famous tradition started at the end of the Exodus, cancelling this huge burden that people often carry today: _____ (15:1)
8. God told the people that this cause for sadness will always be in the land, and therefore he encourages generosity: _____ (15:11)



APPLICATION

Some of Deuteronomy is already covered in Exodus. People have noticed that it seemed awfully repetitive. Why was Moses being so repetitive? By the time of Christ 1,500 years later, does it appear that the people listened for long?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
DEU
32:48-52**

The passage covers the death of Moses. Some think it sounds very negative, given all that Moses went through. What do you think our lives would be like if God were all about compliments and nothing about correction?

**READ:
MAT
17:1-9**

Moses makes his next appearance in the Bible here, when Christ went up an unnamed high mountain with James, John and Peter. They saw Moses and Elijah in brilliant light. What does this say about God's feelings about Moses?

Most Popular Verse: Deuteronomy 6:5

JOSHUA

This book begins the story of Israel as a nation and contains the first events to take place after the Exodus. The first eight chapters of Joshua cover the first battle for Israel, which was Jericho. They also cover the battle to win Ai, which gave the nation two pieces of land. In the remaining chapters, Joshua's army conquers 31 kingdoms and divides the lands up among the tribes of Israel.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This woman helped the spies of Israel to take over her kingdom. Therefore, they saved her and her family:
[redacted] (6:17)
2. The sun actually stood still in the sky so Joshua could win a huge battle against these people:
[redacted] (10:12-13)
3. God stopped the water flowing to this sea when Joshua brought his men to invade Jericho:
[redacted] (3:16)
4. A great promise is provided that should prevent us from experiencing this emotion often:
[redacted] (1:9)
5. The spies told their inside helper, Rahab, to hang [redacted] in her window so the army wouldn't kill her or her family. (2:18)
6. The Lord dried up this river so the army could cross over: [redacted] (4:23)
7. This happened in Jericho so the troops could move in and slay the enemy: [redacted] (6:20)
8. Joshua was around 80 years old when he led the army into the Promised Land, and he was [redacted] when he died. (24:29)



APPLICATION

Christians are often taught the importance of meekness and humility. This book starts with a lesson in courage. What are some things that, as a Christian, you need courage to do?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
JOSH
10**

This chapter covers the miracle of the sun stopping in the sky, considered one of the most fantastic miracles in the Old Testament. How does it expand your faith in God's abilities to help you?

**READ:
JAM
4:3**

This verse helps us remember how to ask and for what to ask. Why do you think so many prayers appear to go unanswered, unlike Joshua's?

Most Popular Verse: Joshua 24:15

JUDGES

There was a time when God was the head of Israel, and people trusted in Him instead of in a king. The Book of Judges covers that time period. During those 300 years, Israel was served by a series of 15 judges. Some were very good, like Deborah and Samuel. Some were very evil. The judges often made poor, unethical choices because they didn't seek God for their decisions but did things on their own. However, they had God as their king, which kept them out of deep trouble.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. After Joshua died, the newly conquered land of Israel was given in portions to the tribes. However, the people turned against the Lord fairly quickly by doing this: _____ (2:16-17)
2. This evil man murdered 70 of his half-brothers so he could be a judge: _____ (9:1-6)
3. This evil woman got Samson to tell her the secret of his great strength so she could take away his power: _____ (16:17-19)
4. This judge picked his soldiers based on how they drank water out of the river: _____ (7:1-6)
5. This brave woman assassinated the evil army commander Sisera: _____ (4:16-21)
6. The judge Deborah is the only woman to do this with Israel's army: _____ (4:4-7)
7. After Deborah, her commander, Barack, and Jael saved the day, the land had peace for _____ years—the same number of years the Hebrews spent in the desert. (5:31)
8. The judge Samson used his brute strength to kill himself and thousands of people by doing this: _____ (16:30)



APPLICATION

This book covered some judges at length, including the famous Gideon, Deborah, and Samson. Which of these three impresses you the most, and why?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
JOSH
1:27-36**

This is a lengthy list of some of the people that weren't kicked out of the Promised Land, most likely because the Israelites didn't have the stomach to carry out God's order. Some things that God asks of us are not easy. Think of some modern-day examples.

**READ:
LUKE
11:28**

Some Christians make a habit of practicing instant obedience when they believe the Lord has spoken to their hearts. Think of some instances where instant obedience would be challenging for you and why. Ask God to clear your vision to being courageous.

Most Popular Verse: Judges 2:3

RUTH

The Book of Ruth is only four chapters long and is a story. Ruth was from Moab, but after her husband died and her mother-in-law's husband died, she agreed to return with her widowed mother-in-law to Israel. This was a remarkable leap of faith for a young girl, who would have had many chances to remarry among her own people.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. After the deaths of all their husbands, Naomi told her widowed daughters to go home. Ruth refused. The one who left was named _____ . (1:14)
2. Naomi took Ruth back to this famous town in Israel, where they would live: _____ (1:19)
3. Once there, Naomi told people to call her by this new name, _____ , which means "bitter." (1:20)
4. Boaz saw that Ruth had left her homeland and people out of loyalty to her mother-in-law. He prayed that God would _____ . (2:11-12)
5. To catch Boaz as a husband, Ruth took Naomi's advice to do this very strange thing on the threshing floor: _____ (3:3-4)
6. Boaz was impressed and complimented Ruth about this feature: _____ (3:10)
7. When Boaz married Ruth, Naomi became _____ , even though her friends were calling her a mother. (4:17)
8. Ruth and Boaz became the great-grandparents of this famous Bible hero: _____ (4:17)



APPLICATION

Have you ever made a move or a change that took a lot of faith? How does Ruth's experience compare to yours?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
RUTH
4:18-22**

Genealogies can seem dull, but this one is a second showing of Ruth's great reward for her faith. What do you feel would have been the hardest part of that journey, and what in your life can you relate to it?

**READ:
MAT
1:5-16**

It's another one! This genealogy shows Ruth's relation to what very important person beyond King David? Think of a time when God gave you a gift that turned out to be even better than you thought. Describe it.

Most Popular Verse: Ruth 1:16

1 SAMUEL

First Samuel contains the stories of Samuel the prophet, King Saul, and King David's trials before he was crowned king. It contains some of the most beloved Bible stories, including the famous story of David killing Goliath, and David being on the run from King Saul and refusing to kill him when finding him alone at a weak moment.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. First Samuel starts with the life of the prophet Samuel. His mother gave him to priests to raise because she was so grateful for him. Her name was [redacted]. (1:21-23)
2. When Samuel anointed David king instead of one of his seven older brothers, it was said that man looks at outward appearances, but God looks at [redacted]. (16:7)
3. This man was the first to be anointed king of Israel: [redacted]. (9:17)
4. When David fought Goliath, the Israelites had camped here: [redacted]. (17:2)
5. David's best friend was Saul's son [redacted]. (20:4)
6. Saul's death was accurately predicted by the ghost of [redacted] after Saul went to see a medium. (28:16-19)
7. When King David refused to kill King Saul, he said: "'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not [redacted]." (24:13)
8. Abigail's husband eventually died from [redacted], which enabled David to do the honor of marrying her. (25:37-38)



APPLICATION

King David made it a habit of always trying to do the right thing, even if it looked like it would get him into more trouble. Examples include offering to fight Goliath, refusing to kill King Saul or to even speak evil against him, and marrying the newly widowed Abigail. What choices in your life look, or have looked, like they would create a lot of trouble if you did the right thing?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
1 SA
17:36**

This is one of the greatest statements of courage and faith coming from David, as a mere teenager. He saw what an entire army could not see. Have you ever felt God had given you wisdom about something when others weren't seeing it yet? What happened?

**READ:
HEB
11:32**

David is listed here among the Hall of Famers of the Old Testament for his faith. Faith is simply believing what is true and allowing it to affect your actions, especially big decisions. What big decisions might you have to make in the future that show your faith?

Most Popular Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7

2 SAMUEL

Second Samuel covers the reign of King David. He was an excellent warrior and poet who wrote half of Psalms. He also made some bad choices and had some terrible ordeals, such as losing two sons, one of whom tried to commit a coup d'état on his own father after the other had raped his sister.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. One of the first things David did as king was bring the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem, the city also known as [redacted] . (6:16)
2. After David's selfish sin, God said [redacted] would be the consequence of his action. (12:13-14)
3. This son of David raped his sister Tamar and was killed by his brother Absalom: [redacted] (13:29)
4. David's son [redacted] tried to steal the throne from him. (15:10-12)
5. This man cursed King David in a fit of very bad fake news and corrupt politics: [redacted] (16:5-8)
6. This son of David died in a freak accident where his hair got caught in a dangling tree branch: [redacted] (18:9-18)
7. This man killed Goliath's brother, bringing the race of giants closer to an end: [redacted] (21:21)
8. David made a bad choice in using this method to find out how much strength he had, instead of trusting God: [redacted] (24:1-10)



APPLICATION

So, the life of a king is not all wine and roses! Describe what you feel was David's worst trial as king. How did he handle it, and how could you learn from his example?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
2 SA
1:17-27**

One great gift of King David was his humility, shown in this song he wrote for his best friend Jonathan, and the former king who put him through torment. His humility was mixed with his courage in a way most people could never achieve. What in your life requires both courage and humility? How can King David inspire you?

**READ:
PRO
22:4**

This proverb tells of the reward for humility. King David had it largely because he didn't just love God, but he feared Him. Our culture knows a lot about loving God but does not appreciate the concept of fearing Him. Describe how our feelings for God should be and how King David's examples can help us find a balance.

Most Popular Verse: 2 Samuel 7:12

1 KINGS

First Kings continues the stories of 1 and 2 Samuel. First Kings covers the reign of David's son, King Solomon, known as the wisest and wealthiest man alive. It contains the stories of the important prophet Elijah, who appeared at the Transfiguration with Jesus 800 years later.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Solomon had a dream where he asked God for only this one thing: _____ (3:8-14)
- When God appeared to Solomon a second time, He blessed him but said that if the people departed from Him and worshipped other gods, the temple would become _____. (9:6-8)
- This chapter covers a most important piece of history: the split of Israel. When Solomon's son Rehoboam was told by the people that they wanted a tax break, he responded that his father made their yoke heavy; he would _____. (12:8-14)
- Elijah prophesied to the starving widow that her two jars filled with _____ would not run dry until the drought ended. (17:13-15)
- This is what the evil King Ahab called Elijah, just before Elijah performed a great miracle and called off a three-year famine and drought: _____ (18:16-18)
- When Elijah asked the palace administrator, Obadiah, to give a message to King Ahab, Obadiah was afraid because _____. (18:9-12)
- What happened to the 450 prophets of Baal after Elijah's soaked altar caught fire but theirs wouldn't? _____ (18:36-40)
- Before Elijah heard the kindly voice of God on the mountain, what three natural disasters did he witness? _____ (19:11-13)



APPLICATION

Elijah was not known for his pleasant disposition. He was not a charming conversationalist; he was direct, serious, and no nonsense. What personality traits did God give you that might not be likeable to others but which He could use heartily?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
1 KI
18:41-45**

1 Kings culminates in this chapter covering the altars of Baal versus God on Mount Carmel. This ending shows us something about true faith and needing patience. Think of a time you believed for something that manifested, but it involved a great deal of waiting. Compare or contrast your experience to the great prophet's.

**READ:
HEB
11:6**

This famous statement gives the foundation of faith like Elijah's which only involves two beliefs. What are they, and which one has caused you the most challenges in delivering?

Most Popular Verse: 1 Kings 17:1

2 KINGS

Second Kings covers the continued decline of Israel until it was reduced to nothing as the people's idolatrous and self-centered behavior grew. For high notes, it has Elijah being taken up to heaven; and for downers, it covers both the invasions of Israel in the 700s BC and of Judah in the 500s. The latter ended the kingdom of God's people in Bible times.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. As Elisha followed his mentor to the place of his ascension, he asked Elijah to intercede so that Elisha could have _____ . (2:9)
2. 2. When Elisha raised the Shunammite woman's son, the boy did this: _____ (4:32-35)
3. 3. Naaman was disgusted when getting a message from Elijah to bathe seven times in this dirty river to cure his leprosy: _____ (5:8-11) _____
4. 4. When Elisha prayed for his servant's spiritual eyes to be opened, what did the servant see surrounding Dothan? _____ (6:13-17)
5. _____ murdered her whole family so she could be queen (11:1-3)
6. This evil king was one of two to sacrifice their children to a false god: _____ (16:1-4)
7. In this important piece of Israel's history, the people were exiled into _____ , never to return. (17:21-23)



APPLICATION

Both Israel and Judah are in a serious state of decline in this book. What do people rebelling against God or authorities today have in common with the people of Israel?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
2 KI
17:7-23**

This is a book about a nation falling apart. Look at the litany of sins these people committed. Which ones are going on in the church today? Which ones are similar that are going on outside of the church?

**READ:
1 CO
6:9-10**

Here is a fairly comprehensive list of areas where we can fall into sinful practices like the people of Israel did. List any with which you are struggling, for which you might ask for help from God and church leadership.

Most Popular Verse: 2 Kings 2:3

1 CHRONICLES

Originally, the Chronicles were one combined book instead of two. The purpose of it was to present an entire history of Israel, starting with Adam. First Chronicles gives the history from Adam through King David, or around 4000 BC to 1000 BC, but most of it focuses on King David. The stories may be familiar as they are repeats of many in 1 and 2 Samuel; however, other details are present!



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. How did King Saul die? _____ (10:1-6)
2. David was the first to put _____ in the hands of Israel, which is still a most important city today. (11:4-7)
3. When Uzzah died after touching the Ark of the Covenant, what was David's feeling toward God? _____ (13:9-14)
4. David makes a statement that we can all learn from. He says he will not offer something to the Lord that did not _____. (21:22-24)
5. Goliath the giant was killed by David. Later, another soldier killed one of Goliath's brothers. The soldier's name was _____. (20:5).
6. David shared with his son Solomon that he had been told by God not to build the Temple. The reason was _____. (22:7-8)
7. This physical trait is named as one often seen in the giants like Goliath who were common in Old Testament times: _____ (20:6)



APPLICATION

A theory exists that the Ark of the Covenant may have contained radioactive materials. How would that have affected those who touched it? Think of a circumstance where people thought God was being mean, and it turned out to be plain old science instead.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
1 CHR
1:1-3

We are back here to the very important thesis that Adam was a real man, not an invention, not mythology. What other Bible stories, along with the Fall of Adam, do people try to discredit while trying to prove the Bible isn't true?

READ:
LUK
3:38

Here is another place showing Adam as an actual ancestor of Christ. This one is in the New Testament. If evil people could show that Adam isn't real, then the Fall of Man isn't real. What does this say about the death of Christ for our sins?

Most Popular Verse: 1 Chronicles 1:1

2 CHRONICLES

Second Chronicles covers the reign of King Solomon, plus all the kings of Israel and Judah after the split of the United Kingdom. Like the Kings, 2 Chronicles gives little snippets about each king and notes whether they grieved or pleased the Lord. (Only a handful, all from Judah, pleased the Lord.) Again, many stories may sound familiar as they are in other books, but often the details here are new and different.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. For a king like Solomon to be so humble that he asks for wisdom instead of riches, it's amazing to see that God rewarded him with _____ chariots. (1:14)
2. There was nothing in the Ark except for _____. (5:10)
3. When the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon, she brought many gifts, but there had never been anything like these particular things used in oils and food: _____ (9:9)
4. King David and his son King Solomon both served Israel as king for the same number of years: _____ (9:30)
5. Rehoboam made a mistake that a lot of young people make today. What is it? _____ (10:8)
6. How did Solomon's son, King Rehoboam, commit evil? _____ (12:13-14)
7. Manasseh was a nightmare of a king, and this passage shows the list of his crimes, and probably the worst of them was _____. (33:1-6)



APPLICATION

As with King Solomon and his son King Rehoboam, many Bible heroes had horrendous children. They include Eli (the Priest who raised Samuel), Samuel, David and Noah among others. What can Christians today do to be at peace with themselves about childrearing and the way their kids turn out?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
2 CHR
1:1-12**

Here we have a repeat of Solomon's famous request for wisdom above all else. If we were to make a request to God for one thing, it might be something a bit more self-serving, such as power, long life, riches and honor. Most Bible heroes are famous for their humility. Reflect on things you can do, such as serving others, that breed humility instead of vanity.

**READ:
1 KI
11:1-9**

It is astonishing that Solomon could have turned from the Lord after all he was given. What behaviors put Solomon on the wrong path, and what steps should we take to avoid making such horrible choices?

Most Popular Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:14

EZRA

This is the first book that takes place after the Great Exile to Babylon, when Judah was invaded by King Nebuchadnezzar. One hundred thousand Jews are all that returned to the Holy Land to rebuilt Jerusalem. Ezra was a prophet; his book and Nehemiah are sometimes considered sister books, covering the same time period from two different points of view.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This is one of the times in the Bible where God inspired a Gentile, the king _____, to do good for Israel. (1:1)
2. The priests, who had to be above age 20, all come from the tribe of _____. (3:8)
3. The enemies of the tribe of Judah (the main tribe that had worshipped in Jerusalem before the Babylonian invasion) resorted to this awful behavior to try and stop the building of the Temple: _____ (4:4-5)
4. The work on the Temple came to a standstill because of this foreign king:
5. _____ (4:17-23)
6. The letter to explain the building of the Temple went to King _____. (5:6-7)
7. What were the people already doing that had destroyed them once before? _____ (9:2)
8. How did the people deal with this sin? _____ (10:19)



APPLICATION

The story of Ezra shows that getting divorced or “putting away” a spouse can be done for reasons that could affect one’s spirituality. How is this different from so many divorces of today?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
EZRA
10:1-4**

The people’s confession may seem a bit shocking to people who don’t understand the history. Even King Solomon had eventually come under the spell of foreign women. The Babylonian invasion had been so brutal that some people who were not violently killed starved to death. And the problem had mostly to do with the influence of foreign wives. We live in cultures surrounded by skeptics looking to trample on our faith. What can we learn from the seriousness of these people’s faith?

**READ:
2 CO
6:14**

How do we live up to this scripture’s edict without snobbery?

Most Popular Verse: Ezra 7:10

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah was not a prophet; he was an engineer. He wrote in first person and is one of only a few Bible heroes to do so. He felt God calling him to return to Jerusalem and help establish the wall and the Temple at the same time Ezra was there.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Nehemiah was working for the King of Susa when he felt his calling. His job was _____ . (1:11)
- Nehemiah told this many people about God putting it in his heart to help out in Jerusalem: _____ (2:12)
- Sanballat and Tobiah the Ammonite were doing this when they saw the Jews' hard work: _____ (4:1-3)
- When the Temple was finally completed, the people celebrated more than they had in almost 1,000 years. They were reminded of this famous Bible hero who first invaded the future Holy Land: _____ (8:17)
- Like Ezra, Nehemiah discovered a whip-lashing sin amongst the people. What was it? _____ (5:1-7)
- The people would commit evil when they were in this state: _____ (9:28)
- Nehemiah named this famous king, implying that if foreign women could get him to sin, how safe are we from our nature of sin? _____ (13:26)



APPLICATION

As did the Jewish people in this story, we have to find a balance between being kind, loving and hospitable to people not like us (the unsaved) without allowing them to influence us. Name some things we can do to help balance out.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
NEH
9:7-15**

This is one of the multiple places in Bible history where people were cherishing things that had happened 1,000 to 1,500 years ago. Why do they keep reminding themselves of the old stories, and why as Christians do we spend a lot of time studying and thinking about the heroes of the Old Testament?

**READ:
HEB
11:4-28**

This is known as "the Bible's Hall of Fame." Who mentioned here is your favorite and why?

Most Popular Verse: Nehemiah 8:10

ESTHER

Queen Esther prevented a genocide of the Jewish people by being a combination of very cunning and very humble. This combination of what appear to be opposite traits are important to all of us, and so her example has been heralded throughout history.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. Because he felt it was idolatry, Mordecai refused to [redacted] . (3:1-3)
2. Haman had just been honored by King [redacted] . (3:1)
3. Haman manipulated an order, which was sent out to the provinces, telling them to do this on a certain day: [redacted] (3:12-13)
4. Haman's wife Zeresh suggested Haman erect a pole for this purpose: [redacted] (5:14)
5. Here in Mordecai's famed speech to Queen Esther, he reminds her that [redacted] . (4:12-14)
6. How was Haman killed? [redacted] (7:9-10)



APPLICATION

The great biblical saying is "pride comes before the fall" (Proverbs 16:18). Reflect on some practices we can use to make sure we are not becoming too prideful.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
EST
5:1-8

One of the greatest themes in this book is oft repeated in the Bible—the power in humility. Look at Queen Esther's plan, keeping in mind her husband was a brutal and violent king, and think of circumstances in your life where you could use her as an example.

READ:
1 PET
5:6

Here, Apostle Peter tells us that if we humble ourselves, God will exalt us at the right time. In spite of promises like this, why do you think it is so hard for us to be humble?

Most Popular Verse: Esther 4:14

JOB

Job may have been the first Bible book written. The book is one story about a man who goes through the most extreme testing ever. Most Christians read it during times of their own trials and gain strength from it. Most don't venture into the middle passages containing the words of Job's three friends, as they are lies mixed with truth and too confusing to discern without commentary, though they are beautiful and interesting.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. Job lived in the land of _____, though no one knows exactly where it was. (1:1)
2. Job begins the story with a great deal of wealth. This supernatural being appears before God to make a quarrel about Job's goodness: _____ (1:9-12)
3. When evil struck, messengers each delivered bad news about Job's oxen, donkeys, sheep, camels, servants, and finally, _____. (1:18-20).
4. Job said when he found out his 10 children were dead: "The Lord gave and the Lord has _____; may the name of the Lord be praised." (1:21)
5. Satan returned to God and argued that Job would curse God if _____ was allowed to be cursed. (2:4)
6. Job's three friends came to comfort him. But for the next 34 chapters, they kept suggesting that Job must have committed a sin. Their names were Eliphaz, Bildad and _____. (2:11)
7. After this trial ended, God restored Job's fortunes by giving him _____ of all the possessions he had before. (42:10).
8. As for his children, God gave Job _____ more. (Some people wonder why God didn't give Job 20 children, since he lost 10. The reason is that his lost children were still his children, as he would see them again in heaven.) (42:13)



APPLICATION

Think of the hardest trial of your life. How did it compare to Job's, and what can we learn from his example?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
JOB
1:1-12**

It is very shocking to many that God and Satan are as cordial as they are toward each other. What else do you see in the conversation that is surprising?

**READ:
2 COR
11:14**

What does this verse help us see about people who can be very polished, even though some are doing good?

Most Popular Verse: Job 1:6

PSALMS

Of the 150 psalms in the Book of Psalms, over half were written by King David. Individual psalms were written as early as Moses' time, around 1450 BC. More were added through the time of David and Solomon around 1000 BC. Additions continued after the Babylonian captivity around 500 BC. That means the writing spanned nearly 1,000 years. They have always been quite popular because they apply to every time and every person.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- To refute skeptics who say they've never seen God, people read this verse, which says God is evident in _____ . (19:1)
- This very first verse of Psalms declares that we are blessed if we don't walk in step with the wicked, or stand in the way that sinners take, or sit in the company of _____ . (1:1)
- This psalm is often used in defense of a pro-life political stance. It states that God has known you since you were in _____ . (139:13)
- This psalm declares that if you delight yourself in God, He will give you desires that exist _____ . (37:4)
- People often refer to this psalm when they have to wait for things and become impatient. It tells you to _____ , while knowing God is at work. (46:10)
- Written by King David, this most famous psalm features the lines, "the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not _____ " (23:1)
- People recite this psalm by King David when they have done something for which they feel a lot of guilt. It encourages God to create _____ in us. (51:10)



APPLICATION

Of the lines cited above, which is your favorite given your current or past circumstances? Were any new to you that brought you encouragement? If so, which?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
PSA
91**

This famous psalm is one of several that has been a source of comfort to Christians who are facing a hard time. Which verse, citing the ways that God protects you, is your favorite?

**READ:
PSA
22:1 &
31:5**

Often psalms are prophetic, and these two are examples. What do they have in common? What does it do for your faith, knowing that King David recited these lines 1,000 years before Jesus did?

Most Popular Verse: Psalm 119:105

PROVERBS

Proverbs is called “the wisdom book.” It is searched as much today as ever for wisdom and guidance in all sorts of dealings. Proverbs is known for its short instructions for living an effective life on earth. It contains no stories or theology as many other Old Testament books do. It simply states wisdom for all to enjoy and use.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This feeling toward God is the beginning of true knowledge. (1:7) _____
2. Everything you do flows from _____, so guard it. (4:23)
3. Solomon compares friends to _____. (27:17)
4. Pride is generally followed by _____, so don't be haughty. (16:18)
5. This proverb states that a certain response to anger can stop a fight: _____ (15:1)
6. We are supposed to honor the Lord with _____, also known in Bible times as “the first fruits of all your crops.” (3:9)
7. The tongue has the power of these two things, _____, so don't speak foolishly. (18:21)



APPLICATION

Which of the proverbs you read above is most likely to help you with an upcoming or current challenge? In what way?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
PRO
1**

This is the first of many proverbs where King Solomon implores his son to seek wise counsel from elders and mature people with experience. What is happening in our society that seems to be the opposite? Based on this proverb, what will be the results of not seeking true wisdom?

**READ:
2 CHR
10:8-11**

How do these verses show King Solomon's son, who became king, going against his father's own advice?

Most Popular Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes contains the thoughts of King Solomon. It shows his great wisdom in essay format, as opposed to short rhyming verses like Proverbs. Solomon was wealthy, wise, and successful in all of his dealings—including building the first temple for God. However, he shared an emptiness in Ecclesiastes that comes from not conversing with God enough to have a strong relationship with Him.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Solomon raises this question to let us know not to focus on the pursuit of earthly treasures:
_____ (1:3)
- To inspire us to greater humility, Solomon says this about old and wise people: _____ (1:11)
- This passage tells us why understanding history is so important. It names something that does not exist under the sun: _____ (1:9)
- Solomon names _____ as the most important duty in life along with keeping God's commandments. (12:13)
- It's important to begin reflecting on God at this point in your life to avoid problems later:
_____ (12:1)
- The end of a matter is better than _____ . (7:8)



APPLICATION

Solomon had more great and beautiful possessions than anyone ever born. And yet he is known for being depressed; in Ecclesiastes 1:2, he states that everything is meaningless. Is general sadness among believers acceptable? Why or why not?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
ECC
5:6**

A repeated theme in this book is getting ensnared, either by one's sins or by one's lack of faith. This verse talks about our mouths leading us into sin. How often do we gossip, brag and take the Lord's name in vain? Name some things we can do to help keep our lips pure.

**READ:
JAM
3:8**

What does this verse tell us about most people's words? Name some situations in which it is hard to remain silent. Vow to try consciously.

Most Popular Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:1

SONG OF SOLOMON

Song of Solomon is considered the romantic book of the Bible for people in love. It was written as one continuing poem. Some say the book also reflects the feelings of Christ and His love for His bride, which is the Church.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. Faint with love" was first coined in this famous verse! In this case, the person in love wanted to strengthen herself with fruit: apples and _____ . (2:5)
2. Wise men were often compared to strong trees in Bible times. The woman likened her lover to this sort of tree: _____ (2:3)
3. Some people use this verse to infer that Solomon was black or dark-skinned. It describes him using this adjective: _____ (1:5)
4. Who beat the woman and took away her coat? _____ (5:7)



APPLICATION

This book is challenging to understand because it seems to have little to do with spiritual matters. What does it let you know about God's feelings about His creation—foods, physical things, and romantic love?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
SOS**
3:1-5

This passage is one of several in the book reflecting how we feel when God's voice does not seem to answer when we call. Have you had a situation in your life where "the heavens turned to brass" or you couldn't feel God's presence? How did it end?

**READ:
PSA**
46:10

This scripture is quite well known and relied upon in many circumstances. How can it help you in periods where God seems silent?

Most Popular Verse: Song of Solomon 2:3

ISAIAH

The Prophet Isaiah is said to have written the most prophecies about the coming of Jesus. Early chapters give detailed judgments against the people who turn their backs on the Lord. Later chapters show God's faithfulness, even though mankind is stubborn and sinful.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This famous announcement of Christ's coming features a line used frequently by John the Baptist over 600 years later. It says to prepare _____ (40:3-5)
2. This famous prophecy reveals that Jesus will be born of a _____. (7:14)
3. Here is a prophecy Jesus recited near the start of His ministry. It says He has come to proclaim _____. (61:1)
4. Christ's death as a sin sacrifice is predicted in this verse. It also predicts that He would suffer _____. (52:14)
5. There was an eclipse during the crucifixion of Christ. This verse predicts it, saying that a certain condition would fall across the earth: _____. (60:2)
6. This well-known verse is about Satan, also known as Lucifer. He is called by this name in the verse: _____. (14:12)
7. Isaiah 40:31 is often referenced by people who have become very tired in a trial. It says that if you wait on the Lord, _____. (40:31)
8. This entire chapter of Isaiah makes strong references to the crucifixion. One verse states that by His wounds, we _____. (53:5).



APPLICATION

Isaiah 53 is probably the most famous passage about the Messiah manifested in Jesus. Look over the verse and list all you know that happened to Him or was caused by Him.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
ISA
61:1**

This holy prophet is famed for having so many prophecies about the Messiah that match up with the life of Jesus. Isaiah includes the full scope of Jesus' life: the announcement of His coming (40:3-5), His virgin birth (7:14), His proclamation of the good news (61:1), His sacrificial death (52:13-53:12), and His return to claim His own (60:2-3). Read the manifestation of Isaiah 61:1 in Luke 4:18-19, with it in mind that Christ spoke those words over 700 years later. What feelings does it leave you with?

Most Popular Verse: Isaiah 9:6

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah was nearly 20 years old when he began to prophesy. He prophesied for the rest of his adult life of 40 years or more. He was prophesying to a nation that was behaving terribly, and judgment from God was on its way. His early prophecies concerned that. He had actually been imprisoned during the siege, so he escaped the Great Exile, but went to Babylon for a time.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- God will tell us His wisdom if we seek Him diligently. Those things are referred to in this way:
 (33:3)
- This part of human makeup is deceitful above all things and beyond cure: (17:9)
- Prophets are appointed as far back as when they are in . (1:5)
- You will find God when you search for Him . (29:13)
- You cannot from God. (16:17)
- This verse declares this important blessing is coming to Israel and Judah: (31:31)
- The prophet says we will find rest for our souls if we . (6:26)



APPLICATION

Jeremiah is known as one of the few prophets that got to see his own prophecies come true in his lifetime. However, it was very frustrating for him because nobody listened to him. It was like spending one's life talking to a wall! Think of a time when you felt nobody was listening to you. How can you relate your experience to this prophet's?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
JER
31:31-34

This passage about the New Covenant is astonishingly accurate. Which thing that God promises to do brings you the most encouragement?

READ:
HEB
8:1-13

Here in the New Testament, we find a description of the New Covenant. Outside of the quote from Jeremiah, make a list of the characteristics and promises.

Most Popular Verse: Jeremiah 29:11

LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah also wrote the Book of Lamentations. It was a sad book, written just after the Babylonian invasion of Judah. The people who were not murdered had been taken away to exile, and Jerusalem was vacant and in shambles.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. After the Jews were taken to Babylon in exile, Jeremiah roamed the deserted streets and described the once-beautiful gates of Jerusalem this way: _____ (1:4)
2. Jeremiah says that God has slain all of these types of people: _____ (2:4)
3. What happens whenever Jeremiah tries to pray while in Jerusalem? _____ (3:8)
4. Jeremiah laments that the people's financial condition is in this state: _____ (4:5)
5. The punishment for people's sins were worse, according to Jeremiah, than the punishment to this place: _____ (4:6)
6. Jeremiah compares the weight of these consequences with _____ (3:7)
7. At the very end of the book, Jeremiah asks this surprising question (given he was a prophet who saw the whole thing coming): _____ (5:20-22)

8.



APPLICATION

Consider how the book ends with question #7 above. It is surprising because Jeremiah knew of much of the invasion as he prophesied about it. How does his humanity and emotional questions give you encouragement to be honest with God when you are feeling despondent?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
LAM
3:22**

The prophet is "lamenting" over the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon and is walking its streets, heartbroken (he had escaped the city before the siege). Look at the description of the city of Jerusalem here. Have you ever had a great success in life that turned into one trial after another? How does it help you relate to Jeremiah?

**READ:
REV
18**

This passage is about a future city that will come to an even bigger ruin than Jerusalem did. Some call the city "Mystery Babylon" while others think it may be Jerusalem, New York, or Rome. How can Lamentations inspire us to break from our sins?

Most Popular Verse: Lamentations 3:22

EZEKIEL

The Book of Ezekiel begins before the Babylonian invasion and exile. Ezekiel prophesied about it in the early chapters of the book; however, no one listened to his increasingly dire warnings. He then prophesied in Babylon, as part of the exile, for around 22 years. Ezekiel gave his people hope. But he also prophesied about the end of times, and is famous for seeing "Ezekiel's wheel."



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. Here is a scripture of God begging Judah to repent of idolatry and escape His coming justice, asking why they insist on _____ . (33:11)
2. The famous vision of Ezekiel's Wheel happens in the first chapter. It states there were actually wheels. _____ (1:16)
3. Ezekiel's Wheel vision continues by saying that the wheels were full of _____ . (1:18)
4. This famous, yet startling, prophecy is about the revival of Israel, which came to pass in 1948. It is referred to as the Prophecy of _____ . (37:4-5)
5. People often wonder what Sodom and Gomorrah's sins were, that God would destroy the towns. This verse describes the people as not being generous to the poor among them, while also _____ . (16:49)
6. Ezekiel saw the appearance of the Glory of the Lord very early on in his prophetic ministry. He described God's radiance as being like _____ . (1:28)
7. This prophecy describes what already happened to Israel with Assyria and uses the same rhythm to predict what will happen to Judah with Babylon. Yet people refused to listen. It says Babylon will come upon them with weapons, chariots, and _____ . (23:24)
8. In this famed prophesy, God is telling Ezekiel that Israel will come "back to life" after being dormant for 2,000 years. This happened in 1948. God uses this term to describe what He will do to make Israel live : _____ (37:4-6)



APPLICATION

It does appear Ezekiel prophesied about something that would happen 2,500 years later-when Israel became a nation again. Is there something you have been praying for (something that is according to God's will), whereupon this chapter can give you encouragement?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
EZE
16:49**

The book is full of passages like this, where God is making plain the sins of the people, in case they had any doubt. Look at the small list in this passage and compare it to the Church. How much better are we doing, in your estimation?

**READ:
1 CO
5:12-13**

In the last question, you were asked to hold this list up to the church and not to your whole country. Why is that? How are pastors ranting about the sins of the unsaved clouding the issue instead of helping?

Most Popular Verse: Ezekiel 36:26

DANIEL

Daniel contains not only some of the most famous stories in the Bible but also a great example of how to please God, as the prophet was extremely devoted. Daniel was still a teenager when he was deported to Babylon with many others in the Great Exile. The first six chapters are his current events. In Chapter 7, the book makes a turn and becomes prophecy.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- The three men thrown into the fiery furnace for refusing to commit idolatry were Shadrach, Meshach, and _____ . (3:8-12)
- King Nebuchadnezzar had the furnace heated so hot that this happened: _____ (3:19-23)
- King Nebuchadnezzar did this after the three men came out of the fire unharmed: _____ (3:28-30)
- The saying, "the handwriting is on the wall" started with this famed passage. Today, it means people know what will happen in a future event. Back then, an invisible hand wrote a prophecy on the wall because King Belshazzar refused to show this virtue: _____ (5:22-23)
- King _____ , who threw Daniel into the lions' den, loved Daniel and didn't want to do it. But he had been tricked. (6:6)
- In the morning, no wound was found on Daniel, and he was uninjured due to _____ . (6:23)
- This prophecy speaks of the end of time and a terrible time of trials that comes right before it. It says those will be saved whose names are found in _____ . (12:1)
- An angel visited the prophet Daniel. The angel said he had been detained by dark, evil forces for 21 days, but then this prince, or archangel, showed up to help: _____ (10:12-14).



APPLICATION

Daniel was exiled to Babylon when the nation invaded Jerusalem in 609 BC. Through his deportation, Daniel became a universal hero. What has God done in your life that looked like a defeat that turned out to work in your and His favor?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
GEN
2:5-10**

Genesis 1 is the account of the creation of our planet, and Genesis 2 goes into the Garden of Eden itself. Name some ways Adam's thoughts and actions would be different than ours, given how he was born? (v. 7)

**READ:
ROM
1:19-20**

What utterly depraved thinking was predominant at the time of the Romans that has made a resurgence in today's academia? How can we protect ourselves from it?

Most Popular Verse: Daniel 9:24

HOSEA

Hosea is one of three minor prophets who prophesied about the two invasions coming, one to Israel and one to Judah. Hosea is unique in God telling him to marry a woman who would eventually betray him as a reflection of Israel's relationship to God. He lived in the 700s BC.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This is a prophecy we hear around Christmas, because Mary and Joseph took Jesus to this country, which is mentioned: _____ (11:1)
2. God compares Israel to this type of woman: _____ (1:2)
3. In laying out His charges, God said that there were none of these three things in the land of Israel: _____ (4:1)
4. God accused the priests of Israel of _____ . (4:7-8)
5. Hosea prophesies that _____ will rule over Israel (and that country invaded and destroyed the tribes in 732 BC). (11:5)
6. Hosea predicts the downfall of _____ by alluding to the upcoming Great Exile of 585 BC. (5:14)



APPLICATION

The crimes of Israel are laid out so plainly and are so flinch-worthy because we can see so much of this heartbreaking behavior in our own nations today. What crimes, listed in chapters 4 and 5, sound familiar?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
HOS**
1:1-2
3:1-3

Hosea is important because he is one of two prophets asked to manifest their prophecies in their daily lives (the other is Ezekiel, who was asked to lie on his side for 390 days to reflect Israel's contempt). Why do you think God is using real lives? What is He trying to show us?

**READ:
GAL**
5:19-21

Focus on the items in this list of unchristian behaviors. Are any particularly rampant in your culture? What ones have you struggled with personally? It may feel strange, as Christians are losing the concept of confessing sins. Make a sincere confession and ask God to help you turn from them.

Most Popular Verse: Hosea 4:6

Joel is a bit of a mystery in that commentators cannot agree on when he lived, some saying in the 4th century BC and others in the 7th. But his words are powerful and meaningful to many today because he spoke of what we call the "End Times," which many believe we are living in.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This is one of many places where Joel warns us about _____ . (2:2)
2. Joel gives us this clear picture of repenting, which can include these three things:

_____ (2:12)
3. Some Christian commentators think this verse came true with this event in 1948:
_____ (3:1)
4. The prophet Joel spoke a famous verse which was quoted at Pentecost. It said that God's sons and daughters would _____ . (2:28)



APPLICATION

A problem of today is some people "tickling their ears," (2 Timothy 4:3) and listening to false prophets who tell them things like if they give more, they get richer. What are some other false prophecies you might want to share someday?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
JOEL**
1

We don't know what kingdom Joel is referring to. If you are suspicious it could be yours or one you know of, what crimes are the people committing that you don't want to be entrapped in?

**READ:
MIC**
7:18

How do statements like this provide relief after scary passages like those found in Joel?

Most Popular Verse: Joel 2:28

AMOS

The Assyrian invasion of Israel was coming fast when Amos prophesied, between 767 BC to 753 BC, with the invasion occurring around 30 years later. Amos is unique in that he was not part of the priesthood, but rather was a shepherd in Judah. He also is unique in that his prophecy was to Israel and not Judah, where he lived.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. God announces judgment on the prized nation of _____ by saying that a particular thing will consume their fortresses (Amos 2:5)
2. God describes the first sin of Israel, which is thoughtlessness toward _____. (2:6-7)
3. God says He does not make a plan without revealing it to _____. (3:7)
4. This scripture shows that the people of Israel had this in common with wealthy people of today:
_____. (3:15)
5. God makes this astonishing claim about the people of Israel: _____ (9:14)



APPLICATION

God's prophecy through Amos was against the privileged people of Israel. They were showing no love for their neighbor, took advantage of the poor, needy, and others, and only looked out for their own concerns. Describe behaviors you've seen, either personally or on television, that reflect these behaviors today.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
AMO
9:11-15**

This is an astonishing promise, as the people of Israel were exiled to Assyria and other neighboring companies, and they disappeared into the mix of Gentiles. How does our understanding of genetics and DNA make a difference?

**READ:
JER
16:14-15**

Here, Jeremiah prophesies the same thing. What does it tell us about God's love and His promises?

Most Popular Verse: Amos 4:1

OBADIAH

Obadiah is one of three minor prophets who spoke solely about one nation, not Judah or Israel. He prophesied about the destruction of Edom for sins against God at around 600 BC. This prophecy is one of only five books in the Bible to be only one chapter long! (Others include Philemon, 2 & 3 John, and Jude).



TEXT QUESTIONS

- God calls Judah “Jacob,” (another word for Israel) and says He will destroy Edom because of _____ . (v. 10)
- This has to do with another behavior of Edom that we should try to avoid doing: _____ (v. 12)
- Edom’s betrayal included these flinch-worthy accusations: _____ (v. 14)
- God uses this name for Edom, because it is where this brother of Jacob settled: _____ (v. 18)



APPLICATION

Edom was a wealthy nation, and the citizens felt it was impenetrable. Think of nations today that might have the same feeling. State the traits you are seeing.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
OBA
11-14**

These verses list the sins of the Edomites, and it is behavior we often see in neighborhoods, schools, and businesses. Think of ways these sins relate in modern times.

**READ:
REV
18:14-19**

This is a mysterious, unnamed city in the future that looks like it will sustain a nuclear attack. Thoughts on this include Jerusalem, New York, Rome, and even Tokyo. More importantly, reflect on any items you have possessed where your primary purpose was to impress others. Do you still possess them? What do you need to do to repent if needed?

Most Popular Verse: Obadiah 3

JONAH

Jonah is best known for being swallowed by a giant fish and spit out again. Jesus referred to this story, citing it as an actual event, in spite of the doubts of skeptics. However, many people don't know Jonah's beautiful prayer to God or that he did actually get Nineveh, the capital of the bloodthirsty Assyrians, to repent.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- How long was Jonah in the belly of the great fish? _____ (1:17)
- While in this terrifying predicament, Jonah uttered this astonishing statement about help and salvation:

(2:8-9)
- Jonah's prophecy in Nineveh stated that if they did not repent, the people of Nineveh would be attacked in _____ days. (3:4)
- After his victory in Nineveh, Jonah said this surprising thing: _____ (4:9)



APPLICATION

Jonah and many Jews despised the Ninevites, finding them violent, uneducated and crude. Think of people in your society who share these traits and reflect on God's love for them. Does reflecting on them make you feel kinder toward them? If so, in what way?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
JNH
4:10**

One theme of Jonah is this disconnect between our concerns and God's concerns. Jonah, deep in snobbery, cared more about his "own plant" than about 125,000 people and animals. Think of a time you practiced selfish thinking or behavior, then vow to make an effort not to do it again.

**READ:
MAT
12:38-42**

This is where Jesus talks about the prophet Jonah. Write in your own words why the story of Jonah is so valuable.

Most Popular Verse: Jonah 1:4

MICAH

Micah prophesied during the reigns of three Judean kings: Jotham (750-735 BC), Ahaz (735-715), and Hezekiah (715-687). He prophesied mostly on two themes. The first was the coming destruction of Israel and Judah (covered in Micah 1:1-3:12), and God's promise to restore His people (4:1-5:15).



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Micah made the famous prophecy about Jesus' birth by naming this place: _____ (5:2)
- Micah accurately predicted the destruction of _____, which happened around 120 years later. (3:12)
- This sight has yet to manifest concerning a great place to which people will flock: _____ (4:1)
- Some find it surprising that God actually delights in _____. (7:18)
- Some find it surprising that people with whom God is extremely angry can make a quote such as _____. (3:11)
- In this famous verse, Micah predicts that in the millennial kingdom, people will beat their swords into _____. (4:3)



APPLICATION

Look carefully at Micah 2:6. A bit cryptic, it is taking up the voice of evil, which is telling prophets not to preach destruction because destruction is impossible. Reflect on today and how, if someone says a natural disaster is a warning from Above, they can be viciously attacked.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
MIC
2:1**

Micah's compassionate yet honest voice makes it easier to hear things from him like this common sin that we've probably all committed. Think of something that kept you awake at night. Did it have something to do with a threat to either your (1) pride, (2) safety and security, (3) wealth or (4) your power? How can God's love and strength help you deal with this problem?

**READ:
PRO
3:24-26**

Here is an opposite sort of scripture about God bringing safe and sound sleep. What lines of it can you relate to the best?

Most Popular Verse: Micah 6:8

NAHUM

Nineveh survived the prophet Jonah's visit by repenting. But 150 years later, it all came crashing down, as prophesied by Nahum. He prophesied shortly after 660 BC, and the fall of Nineveh came in 606 BC. Only three chapters long, Nahum's prophecy is very direct.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This is not the only place God is described using the word _____, but it still surprises many. (1:2)
2. Nahum's prophecy compares Nineveh to this type of fierce animal: _____ (2:11)
3. The Ninevites are accused of these four crimes in this passage: (3:1-4)



APPLICATION

Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, a violent and bloodthirsty nation. Nahum and his predecessor, the Prophet Jonah, would have been hesitant to think them deserving of God's love. What can this situation help us to see about God's love?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
NAH
3:15-19

Nahum was a lover of metaphors, which God used well. In this passage, Nahum is using locusts to describe several types of people. What are they?

READ:
REV
9:1-10

Here is another passage using locusts as a metaphor. Read carefully and see if you can visualize what types of people and machinery these are.

Most Popular Verse: Nahum 1:7

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk prophesied around 15 years before the Babylonian invasion of Judah, which took place around 585 BC. While multiple prophets predicted this, Habakkuk is doing what some Christians love to do—write out his prayers, including what he hears as answers.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Habakkuk wrote incredibly accurate things, such as which country would invade Judah:
 _____ (1:6)
- He also compares the Babylonian army to a _____ that swoops to devour, intent on violence. (1:8-9)
- Habakkuk is accusing Judah of corruption, making themselves rich with _____. (2:6)
- Habakkuk is another prophet who works wonders with metaphors. How many metaphors are in the following passage? _____ (1:7-10)



APPLICATION

Habakkuk has just seen the future destruction of his home. If you were to see such a thing about your country, what do you know about God so that you don't have to fear it?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
HAB
1:2-4

This is one of the questions Habakkuk raises to God. You can hear his sincerity and his despondency. Write your own version, a question for God that has you sincerely concerned or even despondent. Ask the question—or better, write it, and see what type of response you get.

READ:
JOH
16:33

Here is one answer to despondency. Does it speak to your issue, and if so, how?

Most Popular Verse: Habakkuk 1:3

ZEPHANIAH

The opening passage tells us that Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah, the king of Judah from 640 to 609 BC. He spoke of the Day of the Lord often—not just as one day, but a time in any era when God delivers justice. His messages relate to the End Times, according to commentators.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This opening has God saying He will sweep _____ away eventually. (1:2)
2. Zephaniah 1:12 warns us about being _____, which is like not caring, being lukewarm, or thinking you can get away with bad behavior.
3. Zephaniah 1:18 promises that _____ will save no one in the last days.
4. Zephaniah 2:3 states that if you seek these three things, God may hide you in the time of danger:



APPLICATION

Moab and the Amorites, mentioned in 2:9, likely laughed when word of this prophecy got to them. That is because hardly anyone or any nation listened to prophecy until it was too late. Reflect on some ways we can remain safe from deception and vanity like these people.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
ZEP
1:6**

This verse can help to answer the Application Question. It speaks of a certain behavior that thinks only in the moment. Describe this in your own words after looking up the scripture. Ask God about what we might share with people who harbor these debilitating traits.

**READ:
2 TIM
3:1-7**

Because Zephaniah 1 is about a time many think is close at hand, it's a good time to look up and see what Timothy's famous words were about people living then. Look at the traits in this passage and reflect on things that are likely angering God in our times.

Most Popular Verse: Zephaniah 3:17

HAGGAI

Haggai prophesied around 450 BC, after the people returned from the Great Exile to rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem's wall. God used him to explain to the people why they were not prospering.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. He states a community obligation they were neglecting while each was focused on his own house and property: _____ (1:9-10).
2. Haggai delivers words several times directly to _____, the governor of Judah. (2:23)
3. God here says something three times as an encouragement in what to do when things seem to be going wrong: (3:13-19) _____



APPLICATION

This whole book seems like a lot of threats from God with little encouragement. Why doesn't God give more compliments and encouragement? How do we usually end up responding to it? What is the danger of raising children who have no accountability?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
HAG**
1:5-6

This passage is sometimes known as "the curse of Haggai." Have you ever felt you were under this curse? If so, why, or how did you resolve the situation?

**READ:
MAT**
6:24

The people trying to rebuild the Temple were still practicing the love of money and the love of self, which are closely entwined sins. Reflect on some things we can do to change if the love of money and the vanity it brings becomes a problem.

Most Popular Verse: Haggai 1:4

ZECHARIAH

Zechariah prophesied to the people of Judah who had returned from their seventy-year Babylonian exile. Zechariah's grandfather was one of the returnees, and he brought Zechariah with him. They were with the first group of Israelites allowed to return in 538 BC.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. What line in this prophetic verse lets us know that it is about Christ? _____ (12:10)
2. Not by power, not by might, but by _____ . (4:6)
3. This verse promises that if we return to God, He will _____ . (1:3)
4. Zechariah 11:12 is a direct reference to Judas Iscariot. How much silver did he receive for betraying Christ? _____
5. Zechariah 1:18-21 shows God using this instrument to deliver judgments: _____



APPLICATION

Zechariah 7:8-10 shows how God's commands, which can seem very complicated to us, are really very simple. How would your life be different if you were able to follow this verse all the time? What can we do to work toward it?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
ZEC
6:1-8**

Compare Zechariah 6:1-8 with Revelation 6:1-8. What does this tell us about the symbol of horses and what God uses them for? (Is the numbering of the verses a coincidence in your opinion?)

**READ:
REV
4:5**

Here is another place in the Bible where one vision seems to be related to another, given hundreds of years apart. How are they alike, and how are they different?

Most Popular Verse: Zechariah 9:9

MALACHI

As the last book in the Old Testament, Malachi was written at some point between 450 and 333 BC. The Temple had been completed and people were worshipping there again. They had been back in the land for more than 100 years and wondering why they weren't being blessed to the extent they'd expected. Malachi spoke to a culture already rampant with corruption.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. God used this word to describe his feelings for Esau (the ancient brother of Jacob), _____, which really means that God saw into his dismissive and lukewarm mind. (1:3)
2. This is one of two well-known references to John the Baptist by Malachi. The verse calls him _____ . (3:1)
3. Malachi 3:6 states that God does not _____ .
4. God said through Malachi that the people were robbing heaven. God wanted all of the _____ to be brought to the storehouse. (3:8-10)
5. Malachi also spoke of the coming of Christ. He made a reference to John the Baptist, saying he would have the spirit of this great prophet: _____ (4:5)



APPLICATION

One of the most famous verses in Malachi is the last, where he prophesied that John the Baptist would be strongly influenced by the prophet in the answers below. Both men had antisocial tendencies, and neither was a charming conversationalist. How does the passage, and God's use of awkward people, make you feel about Him using you in a ministry?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
MAL
1:6-10**

This passage shows the bad attitude of the people in a few examples. Describe it in your own words. When you bring gifts to the Lord, how will this verse help you decide when and what to give Him?

**READ:
LUKE
6:38**

This most excellent promise affects all Christians. How can it inspire you? As well, how has it been used for financial gain by wolves in sheep's clothing?

Most Popular Verse: Malachi 3:10



NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW

Matthew, the first Gospel, was written by Jesus' apostle by that name. It was written around 60 AD. Matthew was writing to Jews, which is why his Gospel often quotes the Old Testament to show how prophecy was fulfilled in the life of Jesus.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- In this famous passage, Jesus brings hope to all by promising to be with us always, even until the end of _____ . (28:20)
- Matthew had this occupation before becoming an apostle, and probably was a ruthless person prior to his salvation: _____ (9:9)
- The verse attests that following Christ makes life easier and more joyful, though sometimes it feels like the opposite. Jesus offers _____ to the weary and heavy-laden. (11:28)
- Jesus called Peter _____ when they first talked about the church. It implied that Peter would always be known as the apostle who started the church. (16:18)
- Jesus says He came to fulfill the law as well as the words given by the _____ . (5:17)
- Jesus called these the greatest commandments: _____ (22:37-40)



APPLICATION

One of the more famous passages in Matthew gives a great reflection of what the Christian walk is all about. It is Matthew 7:21, saying, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of my Father who is in heaven." Make a vow to awaken each morning asking God what His will is for you today, who it is He wants you to serve or pray for.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
MAT
26:31**

Can you find additional verses where Matthew is quoting the Old Testament? If you are using a hardcopy Bible, Matthew's quotes are often in CAPS.

**READ:
ZEC
13:7**

This is the Old Testament passage that Matthew is quoting to have written the verse mentioned above. Notice the slight difference in language. Would you have been able to recognize this as having to do with Apostle Peter if you were just reading on your own? What are some things we need in order to understand the scripture better?

Most Popular Verse: Matthew 28:19

Matthew's Gospel portrays Jesus as king, while Mark's Gospel focuses on Him as a servant. Of course, both are true, but this book does not emphasize prophecy as much as His miracles. Both the humanity and deity of Jesus are emphasized in the book. It was likely the first Gospel written, between the 40s and 60s AD.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. Jesus said, surprisingly, that a certain day of the week, _____, was made for man. It shows that men are more important to God than laws. (2:27)
2. The Bible implies that Jesus was biologically fathered by the Holy Spirit. However, Mary and Joseph went on to have other children after His birth. Jesus' biological half-brothers were named Simon, Judas, Joseph, and _____. (6:3)
3. Jesus tells us to pick up _____ daily, which means to put His ideas in front of our own. (8:34)
4. Jesus says that we can have whatever we ask for, in faith, as long as we _____. (11:24)
5. Jesus said He came not to start a rebellion or cause trouble, but rather to _____. (10:45)
6. Jesus proclaimed that _____ belongs to the little children. (10:14)
7. While Jesus was on the cross, He asked why God had _____. (15:34)



APPLICATION

The first miracle in the Book of Mark is casting out an impure spirit, starting in Mark 1:1. Have you ever experienced one or know anyone who had? What happened?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
MARK
12:30**

This is one of the many places we are given a clear instruction on how to love God. In this version there are four listings of "with all your." Name each one and think of a way to describe how to love God, based on each.

**READ:
MAT
12:43-45**

This is another accounting of what demonic spirits do. How can you use this to be cautious about what you take up after having repented?

Most Popular Verse: Mark 16:16

While Matthew attempts to prove Christ's kingship, Luke shows Him as the one who offers salvation to all humanity—Jew and Gentile alike. It is thought to have been written shortly after the Gospel of Mark was completed, around 60 AD. Luke is beloved largely because he tells stories so well and gives a lot of detail.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. God sent the angel _____ to tell Mary that she would have the baby Jesus. (1:26-33)
2. Jesus made this all-time famous statement, naming a rule that everyone should follow to achieve peace on earth: to love your neighbor as you would love _____. (10:27)
3. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem for a specific purpose, not intending to have a baby there! The purpose of the journey was _____. (2:1-4)
4. At the start of His ministry, Jesus went into the wilderness and was tempted by Satan. He was in the wilderness for this amount of time: _____. (4:2)
5. When He was 12, Jesus got separated from His parents while on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. His parents found Him _____. (2:46)
6. Jesus tells us not to worry but instead to be like these animals: _____. (12:24)
7. Jesus healed on a special day, _____. The religious leaders were angry instead of happy for the person He healed. (14:1-6)



APPLICATION

Luke 16:19-31 is what some call the "lynchpin" for the existence of a Hell or Hades. What did the rich man do to earn a place there?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
LUKE
3:38**

This one of many places in the Bible naming Adam as a real ancestor and not a myth. Three places are genealogies, which are historical records. If we believe the Bible is God's word, how many mistakes should we allow for?

**READ:
GEN
5**

This is the Bible's first genealogy, or historical record. Again, we see Adam. Are you one of the people struggling to believe the beginning of the Bible, or do you feel assured of its sound truth? Explain your choice.

Most Popular Verse: Luke 4:18

New Christians often start reading their Bibles with the Book of John. This is because he was a fisherman, and not a Jewish scholar, before becoming an apostle. All he has to say is very relatable to normal, working-class people—like us and the generations who came before us. Even still, this favorite apostle of Christ’s can lay on some heavy theology, such as the opening of Chapter 1.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. John calls Jesus _____ in the beginning of his Gospel, saying he was God and he was with God. (1:1)
2. Jesus made eight famous “I am” statements in the Book of John. They include “I am the bread of life,” “I am the door to the sheep.” In another, He referred to Himself as the way, the truth, and _____. (14:6)
3. To all who receive Him and believe on His name, Jesus gives the right to become _____. (John 1:12)
4. Here is another famous passage among Christians. It states that in order to see the kingdom of God, you must become _____. (3:3)
5. Jesus’ very first miracle occurred in the small town of Cana, at a wedding. Who asked Jesus to turn the water into wine? _____ (2:1-5)
6. John 20:1 names _____ as the first to have seen the Risen Lord.
7. There wouldn’t be enough _____ in the world to hold all of the stories about Jesus. (21:25)



APPLICATION

Use all of chapter 3 and write out your own version of what salvation requires by looking at all Jesus said about it.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
JOHN
8:31-44**

Today, we are so deep in deceptions that some pastors are calling our times “the age of the great deception”. Write out a prayer asking God for protection from deception.

**READ:
2 CO
11:14**

Here is another verse on the same theme. If a liar were to perform miracles, how can we prepare ourselves and our loved ones to possibly see that and not leap to believe in it?

Most Popular Verse: John 3:16

Acts is the only book in the Bible that tells us how the early church was born. It gives a valuable account of how the church was able to spark in Jerusalem and spread throughout the Roman Empire.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- At His Ascension, Jesus promised the disciples they would receive this special gift on the day of Pentecost: [redacted] It is available to all of us through the Holy Spirit. (1:8)
- At the Ascension, two men appeared who some scholars think were Enoch and the prophet Elijah. They were the only two Old Testament heroes who were taken to heaven without dying first. They said that Jesus would return to earth in this way: [redacted] (1:10-11)
- On the day of Pentecost, the people heard [redacted], which meant the Holy Spirit had come among them. (2:2)
- God doesn't show favoritism and accepts people from every [redacted]. (10:35)
- Saul was threatening to do this to the Christians before his conversion when he became Paul: [redacted] (9:1)
- Ananias lied about sharing to God and the Holy Spirit. Consequently, this happened to him: [redacted] (5:5)
- As the church grew, believers shared all their possessions. They were described as being of one heart and [redacted]. (4:32)



APPLICATION

Let's look at the martyrdom of Steven in Acts 7:54-60. Many Christians today still live in places where you can be martyred simply for believing. If something like this happened to you, which parts of this passage give you hope and even joy?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
ACTS
4:12

This is one of several places in the Bible that refers to Christ as the only means to getting into heaven. If you were to say this in public, it's likely someone would say there are many paths to heaven. How would you respond?

READ:
JOHN
14:16

This is Christ Himself saying He is the only way to heaven. See if you can combine the two verses to come up with a response that isn't overbearing or too long.

Most Popular Verse: Acts 1:8

ROMANS

Paul was writing to Christians living in Rome. He knew he was writing to city people who could be very different from each other. Tough sailors, well-traveled tradesmen, wealthy former idolaters, and slaves were all part of the new church in Rome. He wanted them to see their likeness in Christ. This book is known as the best for understanding the basic truths of salvation. The time of this writing is around 56 AD, making it one of the earlier books.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- This verse states the reality of sin (and the Fall of Man) by alluding to a man who is not named here:
 (5:12)
- When you declare Jesus as Lord and believe in His power, . (10:9)
- “The wages of sin is death,” but the gift from God is . (6:23)
- We can have confidence that even bad things will work out in this way if we have Christ as savior:
 (8:28)
- We should live our lives for God by offering our bodies as . (12:1)
- Good men might die to save other good men. But Christ died for
to show God’s love for all. (5:8)
- Do not to conform to the ways of the world but instead. (12:2)



APPLICATION

As popular as it is, Romans is challenging for some because they are either assuming or don’t understand the meaning of certain words. Look a few up, plus their scriptures and write out the meaning of the words in their place in the verse: JUSTIFIED (5:1), RIGHTEOUS (3:10), GRACE (6:1).



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
ROM
1:16**

Romans is known for having many scriptures about the meaning of salvation. What does this verse say about salvation?

**READ:
ACTS
4:12**

Here is another beloved verse about salvation, which you saw in a different context in the last lesson. It causes people of darkness to lash back in anger. Why?

Most Popular Verse: Romans 3:23

1 CORINTHIANS

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to address bad behavior and quarreling in the church. He wanted to teach them about discipleship and send them instructions for living according to Christ's example. It was likely written in 55 AD, a year before Romans, making it another early epistle.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- When you witness to someone who laughs or is haughty in response, it is because they are seeing your message _____ . (1:18)
- Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy or _____ . (13:4)
- Our bodies are to be _____ for the Holy Spirit. (6:19)
- All people experience temptation. However, God will never let us be tempted beyond _____ . (10:13)
- Christ died for our sins, according to _____ . (15:3)
- Without love, we sound like _____ . (13:1)



APPLICATION

As you may have observed, 1 Corinthians is a treasure trove of wisdom. Look at the text questions above and focus in on one that is ministering to you most. Why and which one?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
1 CO
15:12-19**

This passage is beloved because it sums up what our faith is all about. Write it in your own words.

**READ:
ISA
26:19**

Here is another beautiful verse about hope. What does this tell us about our confidence in Jesus as Christ?

Most Popular Verse: 1 Corinthians 6:9

2 CORINTHIANS

Second Corinthians is actually the fourth letter Paul had written to this feisty group of believers. Two of the letters were lost in history. After three bad reports of their behavior, Paul finally got a good one. He wrote 2 Corinthians to encourage them on their journey toward the kingdom of God. This letter was probably written a year after 1 Corinthians, or 56 AD.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- For those who think belief is merely an act, it is important that they know belief is actually _____ . (3:18)
- The god of this age has done this horrible thing: _____ (4:4)
- We should not allow unbelievers to hold us back in our faith. But we can be held back if we get in this situation with them: _____ (6:14)
- Jesus gave up all His riches and became poor so that we might become _____. (8:9)
- We should not do good while rolling our eyes or having a bad attitude. Rather we should give _____ . (9:6)
- A powerful but difficult verse to understand, it states that our power actually manifests as _____ . (12:9)



APPLICATION

The treasure trove continues! Find which verse in the six above is most ministering to your current condition and circumstances. Write how and why.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
2 CO
4:4

Let's return to this passage found in question #2 above. If you share Christ with someone who rejects your message brazenly, what can you think, rather than that your witness is off?

READ:
1 PE
3:15

This verse is instructional. Many people find their best witness is their testimony. Write what you would like to say to people about your first experiences with Jesus, and it will be easier to remember when the time comes.

Most Popular Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

GALATIANS

Leaders in the Church in Galatia were starting to say that Gentiles needed to follow Jewish laws in order to be saved. It was confusing people and putting a burden on them all that was unnecessary. Paul wanted to straighten that out. This is one of the first epistles, written around 49-50 AD.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for are all _____ in Christ. (3:28)
- We should deal with Christians in this way when they are living in sin: _____ (6:1)
- We are encouraged not to become weary in doing good, because we will eventually _____ if we keep on while having faith. (6:9) _____
- This will happen to anyone who preaches a strange gospel—a different gospel than the one about Jesus: _____ (1:8)
- We are to love each other and carry _____ . (6:2)
- We are not saved or justified by doing the works of the law. We are saved by _____ . (2:16)



APPLICATION

It is easy to get our foot caught in legalism. Reflect on a time you thought God was asking you to do or be part of something that felt utterly burdensome.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
GAL
5:13-21**

This is a theme statement of the book. It tells us what we are required to do for our walk to be joyous and victorious. Which of the statements in this passage speaks to you the loudest and why?

**READ:
ROM
7:7**

Here, Paul is defending the Law. But how far does his defense go? What is the Law good for, and what can't it do?

Most Popular Verse: Galatians 5:22

EPHESIANS

Paul wrote several New Testament epistles while under house arrest in Rome, and Ephesians is one of them. The others are Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. He was arrested several times for preaching the gospel, but these four books are known as “the prison Gospels,” as it was a very high-energy couple of years for Paul in the writing department. The book dates around 60 AD.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Our struggle is not against flesh and blood. It is against rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, and _____, which exist in the heavenlies. (6:12)
- We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ to do _____, which God prepared in advance. (2:10)
- God chose us to do His good works before _____. (1:4)
- God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work _____. (3:20)
- You are no longer foreigners, but members of _____. (2:19)
- We must speak the truth but must do so while having _____. (4:15)



APPLICATION

Ephesians 6:12 above says that our struggle is not against flesh and blood. Reflect on a time in your life you felt that the battle was with something less visible but more threatening. What happened?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
EPH
1:5**

What are some ways our relationship with God is different than early Hebrews?

**READ:
ROM
8:15**

Here is another great line about adoption. Translated, “abba” means “daddy.” If you started a prayer with, “Hello there, Dad,” how might it change your prayers?

Most Popular Verse: Ephesians 2:8

PHILIPPIANS

This book begins with Paul describing his imprisonment in Rome. He was under house arrest while writing this and three other epistles. Paul wrote this letter to express his appreciation and affection for the believers in the church of Philippi. More than any other church, the people offered Paul support for his ministry in payments, gifts, and comfort. The book was penned between 60 and 62 AD.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. God tells us not to be anxious about our problems. That is a tough assignment. But in this popular verse, he tells us to use prayer, supplication, and _____ in solving problems. (4:6)
2. We can feel angry, insecure, even hateful over certain problems in life. Here is a verse to help distract us from toxic thinking. Think of whatever is true, noble, right, pure, and virtuous, and then _____ . (4:8)
3. We can be confident in God, because we don't have to do all the work to grow spiritually. He is the one who will bring us to _____ . (1:6)
4. Don't do anything out of selfishness or conceit, but instead we should think of others in this way:
5. _____ (2:3)
6. Paul could handle a lot of hardship because he was filled with the fruit of _____ . (1:11)
7. The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard _____ through Jesus. (4:7)
8. Philippians is one of the books Paul wrote while imprisoned. He explained to the guards that he was in chains for _____ . (1:13)



APPLICATION

Philippians is a happy book. The people are doing well and have even given Apostle Paul a boost while he's under house arrest in Rome. Which of the statements above gives you the biggest boost, and why?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
PHI
4:18-19

Verse 19 is a Bible favorite. Look at verse 18. How can this verse inspire us as well?

READ:
1 JO
3:2

Here is a favorite similar in tone and good news to the Philippians verse above. What are the conditions? If they inspire you to want to make changes in your life, what are they?

Most Popular Verse: Philippians 4:13

COLOSSIANS

Paul wrote this letter to defend the authority of Jesus and to warn against spiritual practices which are not of God. He tells the people that Jesus is divine. They were starting to say what many people say today, that Jesus was simply a great prophet and teacher and there are other paths to contact with God the Father. Paul wanted to set the record straight. Jesus is our Savior.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Some people think God is hard to know. But this verse says that Jesus is “the image of the invisible God.” It also says Jesus was the firstborn over all of _____ . (1:15)
- Be clothed in compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and _____ . (3:12)
- We have been rescued from the dominion of darkness! We are now part of _____ . (1:13)
- When we work on a task—whether it’s homework, a chore, or a good deed—we should do it all as if _____ . (3:23)
- To “put to death” is another biblical way of saying “resist temptations.” We should resist temptations that have to do with _____ . (3:5)
- We should let _____ rule our hearts instead of fear, bitterness, or other toxic emotions. (3:15)
- We should devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful, and _____ . (4:2)



APPLICATION

The Colossians were starting to practice Gnosticism, which is a denial of the deity of Christ. Reflect on some people of today who are into this. There are many people who think the most important duty we have is to get along with others and not make waves. While we don’t want to argue, how can we address them?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
COL
2:18-19**

Some believers in Colossae were mystics who claim to have interacted with angelic beings through visions and similar mystical experiences. In your own words, how does Paul describe this behavior?

**READ:
2 PE
2:20**

Here is a description that sounds like it is about so many people of today. Think of some other qualities in addition to these that we should avoid.

Most Popular Verse: Colossians 1:16

1 THESSALONIANS

Paul spent around three months in Thessalonica when it was a small, new church. He wanted to check up on their faith, fearing that false teachers might have infiltrated their members. He sent back Timothy, who gave a surprisingly good report. That prompted Paul to write 1 Thessalonians as a letter of encouragement. It is an early book written next after Galatians, around 51 AD.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Paul explains that we do not have to be upset about _____, even though the world is very upset about them. (4:13)
- This is a surprising verse to some who think our salvation journey is complete with one prayer of faith. What does it say about pleasing God? _____ (4:1)
- Paul says that we should give thanks in all _____. (5:18)
- What does Paul want for these people that we should want for each other?
_____ (3:12)
- This verse explains that whoever rejects Paul's or the Bible's instructions rejects _____ also. (4:8)



APPLICATION

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 is another famous verse which we call "loaded" because it offers so much. Write out three ways this verse could help you if you reflected on it often.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
1 TH
5:6

Have you ever seen Christians who acted like they were asleep on their feet—not joyful, not in mourning, but like they didn't seem grateful or spiritually alert? If so, what would you like to have said to them (if manners were not an issue)?

READ:
EPH
5:13-21

Here is another popular verse about being asleep on one's feet, containing some encouraging ways to wake up. Which ones do you feel like you could add to your life?

Most Popular Verse: 1 Thessalonians 4:16

1 TIMOTHY

This letter, along with 2 Timothy, was addressed to Paul's young disciple Timothy and both were written by Apostle Paul. Timothy may have been experiencing some burnout, as many pastors do at times. That inspired the first letter as an encouragement. Both letters were written in the early-to-mid 60s AD.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. Nearing his death sentence, Paul shows his love for Timothy when he calls him his [redacted]. (1:2)
2. Paul encourages his colleague to teach against false doctrines of people who devote themselves to [redacted]. (1:3-4)
3. Apostle Paul explains that some will abandon the faith because of [redacted]. (4:1)
4. Paul says not to let anyone look down on you because you are [redacted]. (4:12)
5. Paul describes himself as the worst of [redacted] because he wanted to help kill Christians before his conversion. (1:15)
6. Some people say that money is evil. Apostle Paul doesn't say that. He says that, rather, [redacted] is evil. (6:10)



APPLICATION

1 Timothy 2:8-15 is one of the most controversial passages in all of the Epistles. Instead of wading through a lot of socially relevant explanations among the ancients, of which we are not certain, let's cut to the chase and answer this: If a man wants to be the king of his castle, does that make his wife a queen or a kitchen servant? If a man insists on treating his wife as a servant, what does that make him?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
1 TI
6:8-18**

This very popular passage has a message for just about everyone who lives in the US. Americans are surrounded by temptations to borrow, to own, to cheat, to steal so to give the appearance of being successful (powerful). Think of some strategies for managing your belongings so that you don't get caught in this mudslide.

**READ:
MAT
6:24**

From the mouth of Christ, here is the truth. To develop a good business head is one thing. To have it dominate your time and your identity, that is a sin. Have you ever crossed the line? What happened?

Most Popular Verse: 1 Timothy 2:5

2 TIMOTHY

The very serious tone of the second letter inspires us to believe it was near the end of Paul's life. Paul knew that his work was nearly done. He was arrested by the Roman Emperor Nero during the time when Nero was persecuting Christians in violent ways. Nero eventually had Paul decapitated.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Paul states that the Spirit should not make us timid but give us _____ . (1:7)
- Second Timothy 3:2 predicts that in the terrible time ahead, people will become disobedient to _____ .
- Sinful people in the days ahead will have a form of godliness but deny _____ . (3:5)
- Everyone who lives a godly life in Christ will experience _____ . (3:12)
- In the latter days, people will turn aside from truth to _____ . (4:4)



APPLICATION

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-21. When all the epistles are thought of together in an overview, it is amazing how many false doctrines Paul faced. Make a list of some of the false doctrines and their examples he speaks of here.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
2 TI
3:1-9

Since Paul may very well be speaking of our time more than his own, what examples of his do you see in society today?

READ:
2 PE
3:1-9

To compare with Timothy's statement above, here is Peter's similar statement. What does one cover that the other doesn't, and vice versa?

Most Popular Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16

TITUS

Titus was a young pastor put in charge of the churches at Crete, which is a large island found in the Great Sea, known today as the Mediterranean. Paul wrote to encourage Titus, and he addressed some of the same leadership challenges he addressed with Timothy, his young disciple. The book is only three chapters long and was written around 63 AD.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This verse assures us that God keeps His promises and does not _____ . (1:2)
2. Apostle Paul explains to Titus that we will be able to refute false doctrine if we hold firmly to _____ . (1:9)
3. The apostle says that an elder must be _____ . (1:6)
4. Divisive people are those who start quarrels. We should warn divisive people _____ times before we distance ourselves from them. (3:10)
5. The Apostle Paul tells us to avoid _____ , which is toxic in our lives. (3:9)



APPLICATION

Look again at verse 1:6 about raising children. Should we make more allowances today with a pastor's child who rebels? Are parents really expected to be victorious when the schools have the children for the most hours a day? Why or why not?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
TITUS
1:10-14**

The list of charges is shocking because it contains a generalization that smells of prejudice (Cretans are ALWAYS liars, evil, and lazy, etc.). As this may be a translational issue, we can assume that the culture in Crete was overrun by evil, lazy gluttons. When an entire culture becomes ensconced in bad behaviors, how can the church protect itself?

**READ:
GAL
5:9**

People are only rarely put out of the church for bad behavior because it is heartbreaking, and we love to think they will change quickly. Today, many people might leave a church, having seen someone put out. Have you ever heard of someone being asked to leave a church? Without naming names, what was the cause?

Most Popular Verse: Titus 3:5

PHILEMON

The book was written so that a slave would be accepted as a beloved brother among Christians, and Paul wanted to encourage Christians to not think in snobbish terms. The book is just one chapter long and was written between 60 and 62 AD, when Apostle Paul was under house arrest in Rome.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. Mature Christians remember to _____, and so should we. (v. 4)
2. This verse mentions one good way to gain greater understanding: _____
(v. 6)
3. Paul speaks of a Christian man whom he describes as _____. (v. 12)
4. Paul speaks of this great principle about people's behavior—that good deeds are more precious when they are not _____. (v. 14)
5. This passage states that even slaves, if they are Christians, should be seen _____.
(v. 15-16)



APPLICATION

Paul's message is that even though slavery was an accepted part of Roman society, we should treat each other as equals, like he encouraged Philemon to treat his slave as a brother. We no longer have indentured servitude in our culture (at least not legally). But to whom can we apply this law of treating all as equals under Christ?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
PHILE
4-6:**

Paul calls Onesimus, the slave, his son because the man proved himself faithful and useful. How can you use Paul's example of mercy to accept a brother or sister whom you feel lukewarm about?

**READ:
ROM
2:9-13**

Here is another beloved passage about equality. We often compare ourselves to others, whether positively or negatively. We often get in the habit of snap judgments while spending time in crowds. Think of some methods for retraining our Christian values in school or the workplace.

Most Popular Verse: Philemon 21

HEBREWS

Hebrews is the only book in the New Testament where scholars are unsure of its author, though some feel it was written by Apostle Paul. The book was written around the time when the evil leader Nero was persecuting Christians and putting many to death. Nero reigned between 37 and 68 AD, and the book dates itself to that period.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. This verse explains that the Bible isn't just a book, but it is _____ . (4:12)
2. It is impossible to please God without having _____ . (11:6)
3. We should be content with what we have and to be free from the love of _____ . (13:5)
4. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and _____ . (13:8)
5. We need to greatly encourage each other towards love and _____ . (10:24)
6. It is very important to try to live in peace with _____ . (12:14)
7. Whenever we feel tired of doing good, we can remember the people cheering for us in heaven. They are referred to by this name: _____ (12:1)



APPLICATION

Hebrews 12:1 is a fantastic verse to get our spiritual eyes working. Think of your favorite Bible characters as well as loved ones who have passed on. Make a list and imagine them watching you from above as your great cloud of witnesses.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
HEB
4:14-16**

Have you ever thought a problem was not something you could approach God about? What was it? How does knowing Jesus suffered as you did and can intercede for you change your feeling?

**READ:
ROM
8:26**

This mentions the Holy Spirit's part in our prayers. Combine His role with Christ's in the passage above, and describe what a prayer is like from heaven's perspective.

Most Popular Verse: Hebrews 11:1

James existed in Judea at the time of Christ. This is one of the half-brothers of Jesus, born to his mother Mary, but with Joseph as the biological father. James did not believe Jesus was the Messiah until after the resurrection. But his book shows how much he changed. The Book of James is sometimes referred to as “the Proverbs of the New Testament,” full of wisdom.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. We should confess our sins and pray for each other so that we may receive _____ . (5:16)
2. God never says, “That was a stupid question,” or “I don’t have time for your questions.” James states that asking God is a great way to gain _____ . (1:5)
3. We should be doing this when someone is sick: _____ (5:14)
4. Pure and faultless religion is described by James as including _____ . (1:27)
5. If we choose to _____ when tempted, the devil will flee from us. (4:7)
6. God opposes the proud, but shows favor to _____ . (4:6)
7. Which is more important, mercy or judging? _____ (2:13)



APPLICATION

The “Believe and Belong” deception is rampant in the United States as well as other countries. It involves people who come to church but “have no works.” Look at James 2:14-20. Reflect on the works you are doing and ones you would like to add. Commit to showing God’s love, as it is a better witness than speaking.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
JAM
3:3-12**

This passage gets into taming the tongue. On the one hand, James says in verse 8 that no one can tame their tongue. On the other hand, we need to put every effort into this. God is likely to be less impressed with your attempt to give up foul language and more impressed with your attempt to build people up and encourage. Think of any adjustments you’d like to make to your tongue’s use.

**READ:
ISA
6:5**

Here we have one of God’s most anointed and astonishingly accurate prophets saying things about his lips. What are they? We don’t know exactly what Isaiah said, but it likely meant he said numerous things he felt he shouldn’t. Think of a time your lips really let fly and you regretted the situation. How would you do it now if you had a chance to do it over?

Most Popular Verse: James 1:2

1 PETER

Peter wrote his first letter during Nero's reign. Nero was the Roman emperor starting shortly after Jesus died until the 60s AD. He eventually did horrible things like throw Christians to lions. Apostle Peter was addressing both Jews and Gentiles with encouragement to stay the course with Jesus, no matter what happened. The book is considered a great source to read when you are being picked on, bullied, or persecuted for your faith.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. Because Christ died on the cross, He wants our will and nature to die to _____ . (2:24)
2. Peter compares the devil to this breed of animal: _____ (5:8)
3. Peter tells us to use our gifts for this purpose: _____ (4:10)
4. Humble yourselves, and _____ in due time. (5:6)
5. You should cast all your cares on God for this reason: _____ (5:7)



APPLICATION

This 5-verse passage is a treasure of gifts: 1 Peter 5:6-10. Which statement means the most to you and why?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
1 PE
3:13-16

We tend to think of suffering as a general thing, but Peter points out here that there is suffering over something bad that happened or suffering over something good that happened. Have you ever suffered for good—for example, not being invited to something because you were considered too Christian? Give the details.

READ:
ROM
5:3-5

This verse puts suffering in a great perspective. Think of a time God allowed you to go through suffering and compare it to the phases in this passage.

Most Popular Verse: 1 Peter 3:15

2 PETER

Second Peter was written to address false doctrine. Peter told the people to become mature and not be driven apart by people who teach false things. It was written perhaps three years after 1 Peter, or in 63 AD.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. False prophets and teachers secretly introduce _____ . (2:1)
2. Peter ended up being a martyr, and would never deny Christ largely for this reason:
_____. (1:16)
3. Be patient; for in God’s story, _____ is like a day. (3:8)
4. The Day of the Lord will come like _____ . (3:10)
5. God’s patience means _____ (3:15)



APPLICATION

This book says a lot on patience while waiting for the Lord. Think of a time when you had to wait quite a while for the answer to prayer to manifest. What do you see now about that wait that was a blessing?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
2 PE
2:1-3

Correcting false doctrine is a constant theme in the Pauline Epistles and to Peter as well. Look at the details, especially “fabricated stories,” and think of some leaders today we may want to steer clear of.

READ:
1 TI
6:3-5

Here, Apostle Paul is sharing his feelings on this subject with Timothy. He says false teachers are fueling themselves with conceit. Who, today, especially on television and the internet, seems to feel that godliness is an okay means of gain?

Most Popular Verse: 2 Peter 3:9

1 JOHN

John wrote later than the other apostles, in the 90s AD. He focused on misinterpretations of the gospel that were causing problems. The Book of 1 John was written to combat false teachings called "Gnosticism." Gnostics taught that Jesus was a spirit and never really had a body, and other errors.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. Everyone who has been born of God and knows God does not _____ (5:18)
2. If we claim to be without sin, we _____ ourselves. (1:8)
3. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is _____. (2:9)
4. This verse encourages us not to believe every spirit, but to _____. (4:1)
5. First John 4:2 tells us that a spirit is from God if it acknowledges _____.
6. Whoever does not love does not know _____. (4:8)



APPLICATION

We are not sure to whom John is writing. However, he corresponded with churches full of people who had struggled with discouragement—whether due to their own sinful failures or the presence of false teachers in their midst. Which has caused you more pain—your own sinful failures or untangling from false teaching? What details can you share?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
1 JO
2:9-11**

Families can be tricky. Even saved siblings have to fight issues like sibling rivalry. Whom have you had to forgive in your family, and what boundaries or solutions did you discover to try to make it stick?

**READ:
ROM
7:17-20**

Paul's take on his own sinfulness appears less black and white than John's, and it may be helpful to read them in tandem. What does Paul say about his sinful nature that you can relate to?

Most Popular Verse: 1 John 1:9

2 JOHN

Here in his second book, John is addressing the same issue but not in as much detail. It focuses on protecting bodies of believers from those who teach falsehood. He teaches caution about whom we love because what was true then is even more true now: The wolves are out in force!



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. If we already love Christ, we can prove it by _____ . (v. 6)
2. John tells the woman not to let this type of person into her house:

(v. 10)
3. John likes this woman's family enough to share this hope: _____

(v. 12)



APPLICATION

Verse 10 mentions anyone "who does not bring this teaching" as being wicked. However, false doctrines are not always easy to spot, are they? Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate, for the path is wide that leads to destruction." The narrow gate is straight ahead. Satan knows he doesn't have to get us going in the opposite direction; he just has to change our trajectory slightly. What are some ways to prevent this?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
2 JO
1:8

This passage is one of many in the Bible that promises great rewards to those who persevere. Salvation is a free gift from God. However, your inheritance has to do with what you did with your life. What rewards would you like to have?

READ:
MAT
25:21

Most Christians who are spiritually on top of their game yearn to hear this at Judgment. What do you think would have to happen in your life before God would say this to you?

Most Popular Verse: 2 John 5

3 JOHN

Third John was most likely written around 90 AD from the island of Patmos, where John was exiled at the time. John wrote his letter to Gaius, a leader of one or more churches in Asia Minor. The apostle had received a report of some difficulties caused by a man named Diotrephes, and he wanted to be supportive of his protégé.



TEXT QUESTIONS

- Gaius, to whom John is writing, gets a compliment for serving brothers and sisters who were also . (v. 5)
- It is important that Christians working together show , which means sharing and being welcoming. (v. 8)
- John speaks of an ill-behaved brother. He accuses the brother of gossiping, which means spreading . (v. 10)



APPLICATION

The edict of verse 11 is to not imitate evil but imitate what is good. This is a very general statement. Think of some examples in your own life to make it specific.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

READ:
3 JO
1:9

The Diotrephes spoken of here sounds like one of today's narcissists. There is much debate lately about the ability of true narcissists to be saved. What is your feeling? Can God change someone who sees no flaw in themselves, but only flaws in everyone around them?

READ:
MAT
6:1-7

Jesus explains narcissistic religious behavior here, along with its opposite, which is what we should strive to do. What are those instructions?

Most Popular Verse: 3 John 11

JUDE

Jude was the half-brother of Jesus. Like his brother James who contributed to the Bible, Jude did not believe Jesus was the Messiah until after the resurrection. The Book of Jude was written around 75 AD to address false teaching, which was already getting out of hand. Like 2 & 3 John, Jude is only one chapter long but famous for intriguing lines!



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. Jude says to keep ourselves in _____ as we wait for Christ's mercy. (v. 21)
2. Jude's brother wrote a book named after him that is a New Testament epistle. His name was _____ . (v. 1)
3. Jude says we should have mercy, and _____ in great abundance. (v. 2)
4. Jude compares the immoral people to this Old Testament villain: _____ (v. 11)
5. Jude names some of the bad behaviors of the immoral people, calling them fault- finders and _____ . (v. 16)
6. Jude tells us that in the last days there will be people who follow their own ungodly desires. They are called _____ . (v. 18)



APPLICATION

Verses 13-15 expand on a scripture from all the way back in Genesis. Enoch was Noah's great grandfather, one of only two people ever taken up to heaven without having to die. About what is Jude quoting Enoch?



DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS THEME

**READ:
JUDE
8-9**

Astonishingly, this book produces details about the death of Moses that are not in Exodus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy. What do they say?

**READ:
REV
12:7**

In chapter 12 of the Revelation, the dragon is Satan. This is one of five passages in the Bible that mentions Michael-Jude being another, and the remaining three being in Daniel. What does the Revelation say about Michael? (The other three mentions are all in Daniel, and if you'd like to see them as well: Daniel 10:13, 10:21, and 12:1)

Most Popular Verse: Jude 4

REVELATION

Revelation was written by the Apostle John, who was very old by that point—around 95 AD. He was in prison for preaching the gospel, on an island called Patmos. While there, he experienced the visions that are contained in Revelation. They concern the end times and all the good and bad things that will happen. The book is dated around 95 AD.



TEXT QUESTIONS

1. The letter to church of Laodicea describes rich Christians who think they are very cool. Jesus says they are actually [redacted]. (3:16-17)
2. There are many judgments that will fall on planet earth in the end times. The first seven are symbolized by [redacted]. (6:1)
3. John sees up in heaven all the people who have been saved. They were wearing [redacted]. (7:9)
4. John sees Satan hurled down to earth, appearing in the form of this mythological creature:
[redacted] (12:9)
5. The Apostle John describes the new heaven and new earth we will see at the end of time. Strangely enough, it says there will no longer be any [redacted]. (Revelation 21:1)
6. At the end of time, God will finally [redacted] so we can enjoy eternity with Him. (21:4)
7. The [redacted] will be so bright in heaven that there will be no need for a sun. (22:5)



APPLICATION

Probably the most popular chapter in Revelation is 13, which introduces the Antichrist, the false prophet, and the number 666. Read it and ask God to reveal more details by bringing more materials into your presence.



ANSWER KEY

GENESIS

1. Serpent
2. Abel
3. Ararat
4. Shem, Japheth, and Ham
5. Nimrod
6. Abraham
7. Isaac
8. Esau
9. Jacob
10. Joseph

EXODUS

1. Egypt
2. Nile
3. Mount Horeb
4. Water turning to blood
5. Death of all firstborn males including cattle
6. Red Sea
7. Mount Sinai
8. The Sabbath

LEVITICUS

1. Blood
2. Revenge
3. Tithe
4. Unclean
5. Brother's wife
6. Eagle
7. Rat
8. 7 days

NUMBERS

1. Infants
2. Humility
3. Face to face
4. Nephilim
5. 40 years
6. Miriam
7. Angel of the Lord
8. Balaam

DEUTERONOMY

1. Joshua
2. Nebo
3. Witchcraft
4. Face to face
5. Courage
6. Forgetting God
7. Debt
8. Poverty

JOSHUA

1. Rahab
2. Amorites
3. Dead Sea
4. Discouragement
5. Red or scarlet cord
6. Jordan
7. Walls collapsed
8. 110

JUDGES

1. Worshipping other gods
2. Abimelech
3. Delilah
4. Gideon
5. Jael
6. Lead a battle
7. 40
8. Destroying the Temple

RUTH

1. Orpah
2. Bethlehem
3. Mara
4. Repay Ruth
5. She lied on the floor
6. Not chasing younger men
7. Grandmother
8. King David

1 SAMUEL

1. Hannah
2. The heart
3. Saul
4. Valley of Elah
5. Jonathan
6. Samuel
7. Touch you
8. Heart failure

2 SAMUEL

1. City of David
2. His newborn son would not live,
3. Amnon
4. Absalom
5. Shimei
6. Absalom
7. David's nephew Jonathan (not to be confused with Jonathan, Saul's son, who was David's best friend)
8. He took a census

1 KINGS

1. Wisdom
2. A heap of rubble
3. Make it heavier
4. Flour and oil
5. Troubler of Israel,
6. Ahab would have Obadiah killed
7. He had them slaughtered
8. Wind, earthquake, and fire

2 KINGS

1. A double portion of Elijah's spirit
2. Sneezed multiple times
3. The River Jordan
4. The hills full of horses and chariots of fire
5. Athalia
6. Ahaz
7. Assyria

1 CHRONICLES

1. Suicide (he fell on his sword)
2. Jerusalem
3. David was afraid of Him
4. That did not cost him anything
5. Elhanan
6. David had shed too much blood
7. Having six fingers and six toes

2 CHRONICLES

1. 1400
2. The two tablets from Moses,
3. Spices
4. Forty years
5. Taking the advice of young friends rather than old and experienced elders
6. One,
7. Burning his children as sacrifices to other gods

EZRA

1. King Cyrus of Persia
2. Levi (Levites)
3. Bribery
4. King Artaxerxes
5. King Darius
6. Marrying outsiders with different beliefs
7. They put away (divorced) their foreign wives

NEHEMIAH

1. The king's cup bearer
2. No one
3. Making fun of them
4. Joshua
5. The priests were profiting off the hardship of the people
6. When they were at rest
7. King Solomon

ESTHER

1. Bow down and honor Haman
2. Xerxes
3. Destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews
4. To have Mordecai impaled on it
5. She may have been made queen in order to save her people
6. Impaled on the pole he erected for Mordecai

JOB

1. Uz
2. Satan
3. His children
4. Taken away
5. His flesh
6. Zophar
7. Twice as much
8. Ten

PSALMS

1. The skies
2. Mockers
3. The womb
4. Your heart
5. Be still
6. Want
7. A clean or pure heart

PROVERBS

1. Fear
2. Your heart
3. Iron
4. Destruction
5. A soft or gentle answer
6. Your wealth
7. Life and death

ECCLESIASTES

1. What does man gain for all his toil and hard work?
2. They will not be remembered
3. Nothing new exists under the sun
4. Fear God
5. In your youth
6. The beginning

SONG OF SOLOMON

1. Raisins
2. Apple tree
3. Dark
4. The Watchmen

ISAIAH

1. The Way of the Lord
2. Virgin
3. The Good News
4. Disfigurement beyond anything we have seen
5. Darkness,
6. Morning star
7. You will mount up with wings like eagles'
8. Are healed

JEREMIAH

1. Unsearchable things
2. The hear
3. Their mother's womb
4. With your whole heart
5. Hide
6. The New Covenant
7. Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it

LAMENTATIONS

1. Her gateways are desolate
2. Those who were pleasing to the eye
3. God shuts out his prayer
4. They are destitute
5. Sodom
6. Chains
7. "Why do you always forget us?"

EZEKIEL

1. Dying
2. Four
3. Eyes
4. The Prophecy of the Dry Bones
5. Engaging in gluttony (overeating)
6. Like a rainbow in the clouds
7. Wagons
8. God will put breath into them

DANIEL

1. Abednego
2. Soldiers were burned alive
3. Promoted them
4. Humility
5. Darius
6. Daniel trusted God
7. An unnamed book
8. The archangel Michael

HOSEA

1. Egypt
2. Promiscuous, a harlot
3. Faithfulness, love, acknowledgment of God in the land
4. Feeding on the sins of God's people
5. Assyria
6. Judah

JOEL

1. The Day of the Lord
2. Fasting, weeping and mourning
3. The return of the Nation of Israel
4. Prophecy and dream dreams

AMOS

1. Judah
2. The innocent, needy (in verse 6) and the poor (verse 7)
3. The prophets
4. Summer and winter homes
5. He will restore them one day

OBADIAH

1. Violence against Israel
2. Gloating over someone's misfortune especially a servant of the Lord's
3. Attacking those running away, and handing them over to the enemy
4. Esau

JONAH

1. Three days and nights
2. It comes from the Lord
3. Forty
4. "I wish I were dead."

MICAH

1. Bethlehem
2. Jerusalem
3. The mountain of the Lord's temple will be named as a most popular place to visit
4. Showing mercy
5. "Is not the Lord among us? No trouble will come to us,"
6. Plowshares

NAHUM

1. Jealous
2. A lion
3. Lying, stealing, prostitution, and witchcraft

HABAKKUK

1. Babylon
2. Eagle
3. Other people's money
4. There are six: leopards, wolves, eagle, desert wind, sand, moving like wind

ZEPHANIAH

1. Everything
2. Complacent
3. Silver or gold,
4. The Lord, righteousness and humility

HAGGAI

1. Rebuilding the Temple
2. Zerubbabel
3. Reflect on the problem and give careful thought

ZECHARIAH

1. "The one they have pierced,"
2. God's Spirit
3. Return to us
4. 30 pieces of silver
5. Four horns

MALACHI

1. Hated
2. Messenger
3. Change
4. Tithe
5. Elijah

MATTHEW

1. The age
2. Tax collector
3. Rest
4. Rock
5. Prophets
6. Love God with all your heart, soul and strength; love your neighbor as yourself

MARK

1. The Sabbath
2. James
3. Our cross
4. Serve or minister to others
5. Believe
6. The Kingdom of Heaven
7. Forsaken Him

LUKE

1. Gabriel
2. Yourself
3. A census was being taken in Bethlehem, and Joseph was required to appear
4. 40 days
5. He was in the Temple
6. Birds
7. The Sabbath

JOHN

1. The Word
2. The Life
3. Children of God
4. You must be born again
5. His mother
6. Mary Magdalene
7. Books

ACTS

1. Power
2. The same way He left
3. A loud, violent or mighty wind
4. Nation
5. Have them killed
6. He died
7. One mind

ROMANS

1. Adam
2. You will be saved
3. Eternal life
4. All things work for good for us
5. Living sacrifices
6. Sinners
7. Be transformed

1 CORINTHIANS

1. As foolishness
2. Boast
3. A living sacrifice
4. What we can bear
5. The scriptures
6. A resounding gong or clanging cymbal

2 CORINTHAINS

1. A transformation (over time)
2. Blinded people's eyes
3. Yoked together (in business, marriage or friendship)
4. Spiritually rich
5. Cheerfully
6. Our weaknesses

GALATIANS

1. One
2. Gently
3. Reap a harvest
4. They will be cursed
5. Each other's burdens
6. Faith in Christ

EPHESIANS

1. Spiritual forces of evil
2. Good works
3. The creation of the world
4. Inside of us
5. God's household
6. Love

PHILIPPIANS

1. Thanksgiving
2. Think on these things instead
3. Completion
4. As better than ourselves
5. Righteousness
6. Our hearts and our minds
7. Christ

COLOSSIANS

1. Creation
2. Gentleness
3. The Kingdom of Christ and God
4. We are working for the Lord
5. Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry
6. The peace of Christ
7. Thankfulness

1 THESSALONIANS

1. Our loved ones who have died
2. To do it more and more (to master it or grow in it)
3. Circumstances
4. For our love to increase and overflow
5. God

2 THESSALONIANS

1. Perseverance
2. God
3. Signs and wonders
4. Idle, disruptive busybodies

1 TIMOTHY

1. Dear Son
2. Myths and endless genealogies
3. Deceiving spirits
4. His youth
5. Sinners
6. The LOVE of money

2 TIMOTHY

1. Power
2. Parents
3. God's power
4. Persecution
5. Myths

TITUS

1. Lie
2. The trustworthy message that was taught
3. Blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and behave
4. Two,
5. Lying

PHILEMON

1. Pray for Christians (especially those far away)
2. Partner with other Christians (even those far away)
3. Having his own heart
4. Forced
5. As dear brothers

HEBREWS

1. Alive
2. Faith
3. Money
4. Forever
5. Good deeds
6. Everyone
7. Great cloud of witnesses

JAMES

1. Healing
2. Wisdom
3. Pray for their healing
4. To look after orphans and widows
5. Resist the devil
6. The humble
7. Mercy

1 PETER

1. Our sins
2. A roaring lion
3. To serve others
4. God will exalt you
5. Because He cares for you

2 PETER

1. Destructive heresies
2. He was an eyewitness
3. A thousand years
4. A thief
5. Salvation

1 JOHN

1. Continue to sin
2. Deceive
3. Still in darkness
4. Test the spirits
5. That Jesus Christ has come in the flesh
6. God

2 JOHN

1. Walking in obedience to His commands
2. Someone who rejects the teaching John brought from Christ
3. He wants to visit and talk face to face

3 JOHN

1. Strangers
2. Hospitality
3. Malicious nonsense

JUDE

1. God's love
2. James
3. Love
4. Cain
5. Grumblers
6. Scoffers

REVELATION

1. Wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked
2. The seven seals, 3. White Robes
4. The Dragon
5. Seas
6. Wipe away all tears
7. Light of God