



Teach Me Your Way

A Study for Youth on Surrender to Christ
and Submission to His Way

Student Journal

Truth:78



Teach Me Your Way

A Study for Youth on Surrender to Jesus
and Submission to His Way

By Sally Michael

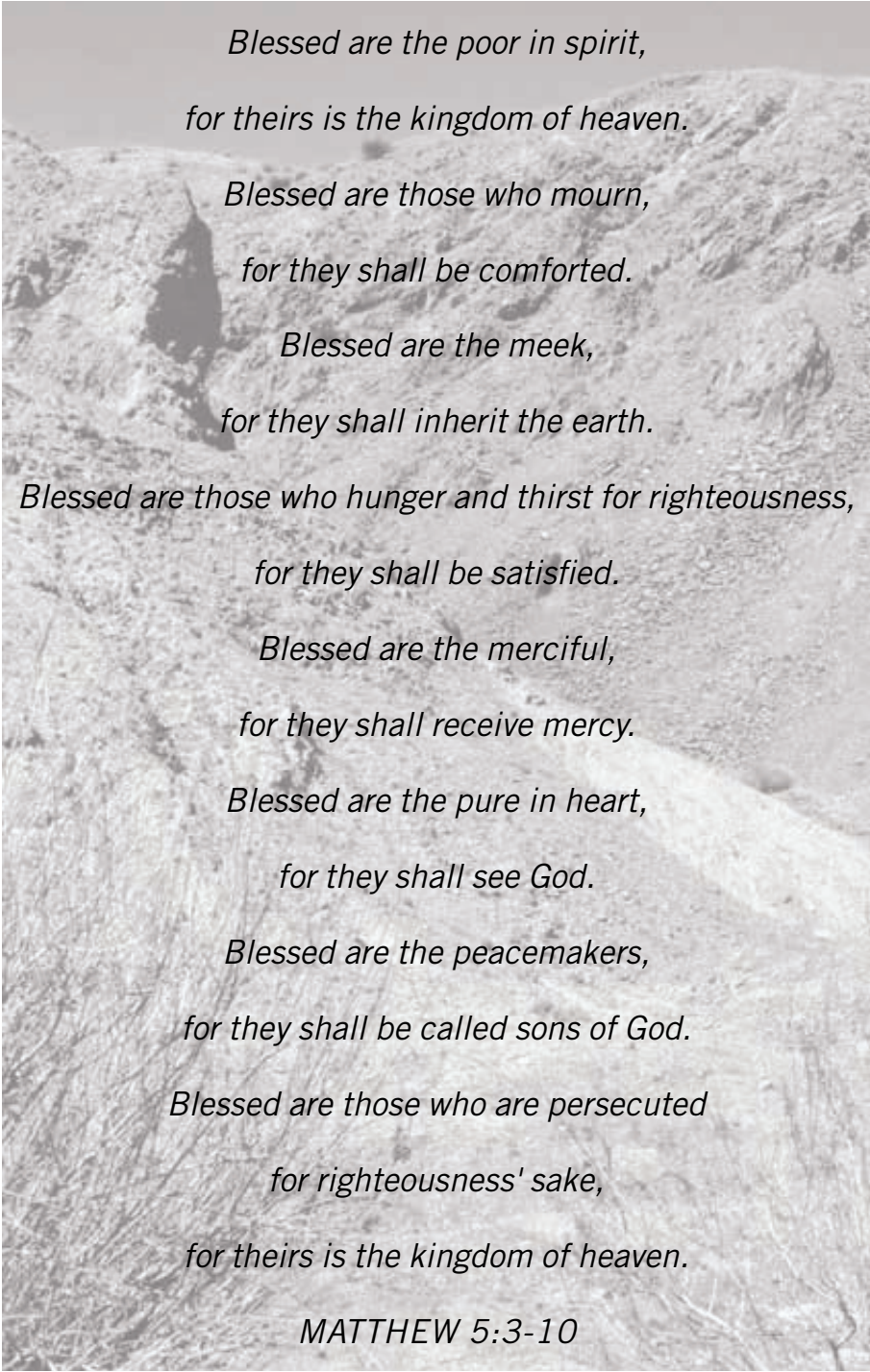


Truth78
Toll-Free: 1-877-400-1414
info@Truth78.org
www.Truth78.org

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*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

MATTHEW 5:3-10

Created to Worship God

FOCUS STATEMENT:

We are created to worship God by delighting in Him.

KEY VERSE:

You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. PSALM 16:11

MAIN IDEAS:

- > All men are worshippers.
- > Man was created to worship God.
- > True joy and satisfaction can only be found in delighting in God.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1) Isaiah 43:6-7 | 3) Psalm 63:1-4 | 5) Psalm 84:10 |
| 2) Psalm 19:1 | 4) Psalm 16:11 | |

Psalm 16:11	
What David has discovered:	Where? in God's presence, at God's right hand

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”²

What application can I make of this lesson?

How can I glorify God this week?

Prayer Requests

2. Piper, John. *Desiring God*. (Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Books, 1996), 50.

At Home

Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13. List below the commands or “requirements” in this passage:

Does this sound life-giving to you, or does it sound burdensome? Speak honestly with the Lord about your reactions.

What does verse 13 tell you about these commands? How should this shape your attitude?

Psalm 63 showed us that a passion for God comes from a **relationship** with God and a **knowledge** of God.

Read the following quote by A.W. Tozer:

"Before a sinful man can think right thoughts of God, there must have been a work of enlightenment done within him; imperfect it may be, but a true work nonetheless, and the secret cause of all desiring and seeking and praying which may follow.

We pursue God because, and only because, He has first put an urge within us that spurs us to the pursuit. 'No man can come to me,' said our Lord, 'except the Father which hath sent me draw him,' and it is by this [very prevenient coming before another thing] drawing that God takes from us every vestige of credit for the act of coming. The impulse to pursue God originates with God, but the impulse is our following hard after Him; and all the time we are pursuing Him we are already in His hand: 'Thy right hand upholdeth me.'

*In this divine ‘upholding’ and human ‘following’ there is no contradiction. All is of God, for as von Hugel teaches, **God is always previous**. In practice, however, (that is, here God’s previous working meets man’s present response) man must pursue God.”³*

Ponder the quote above. Write your thoughts about it below.

If you want to know God, He gave you that desire!

3 Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of God*. (Harrisburg: Christian Pub., Inc., 1948), 11-12.

You have made known to me the path of life... PSALM 16:11A



Since a relationship with God is initiated by God, the only thing man can do is throw himself upon the mercy of God and ask God to draw him to Himself.

Is there a prayer commitment you would like to make? Write it below.

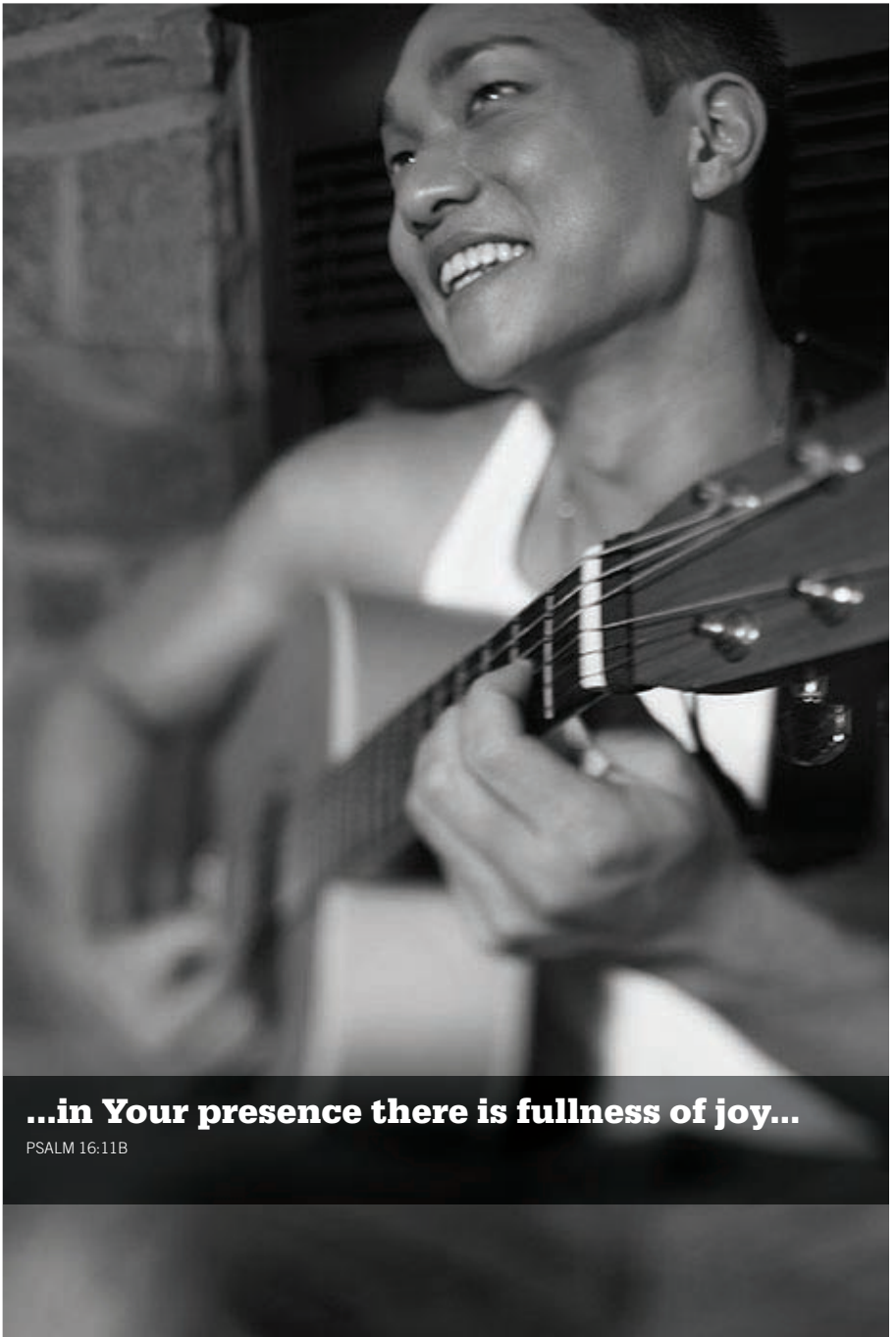
O God, you are
my God; earnestly
I seek you...
Psalm 63:1a

Lesson 1

Knowledge of God comes through His Word. Is there a commitment to Bible reading you would like to make? Write this below.

With your parent/s or mentor, read the first half of Chapter 1 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.





...in Your presence there is fullness of joy...

PSALM 16:11B

The Idolatrous Heart

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Man rejected the worship of God for the worship of self at the Fall and has exchanged the worship of the Creator for the worship of created things ever since.

KEY VERSE:

For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ROMANS 1:21

MAIN IDEAS:

- > In the fall, man rejected the worship of God and became a worshipper of self.
- > Because of his sin nature, man is prone to exchange the worship of God for worship of lesser things; man exchanges the worship of the Creator for the worship of the creature.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Genesis 2:7-10 | 3) Genesis 3:1-6 | 5) 1 Samuel 15:2-3, 9-11 |
| 2) Genesis 2:15-18 | 4) Romans 1:18-25 | |

In Class

Discussion 2a

Read Genesis 2:7-10, 15-18; 3:1-6 (See chart below.)

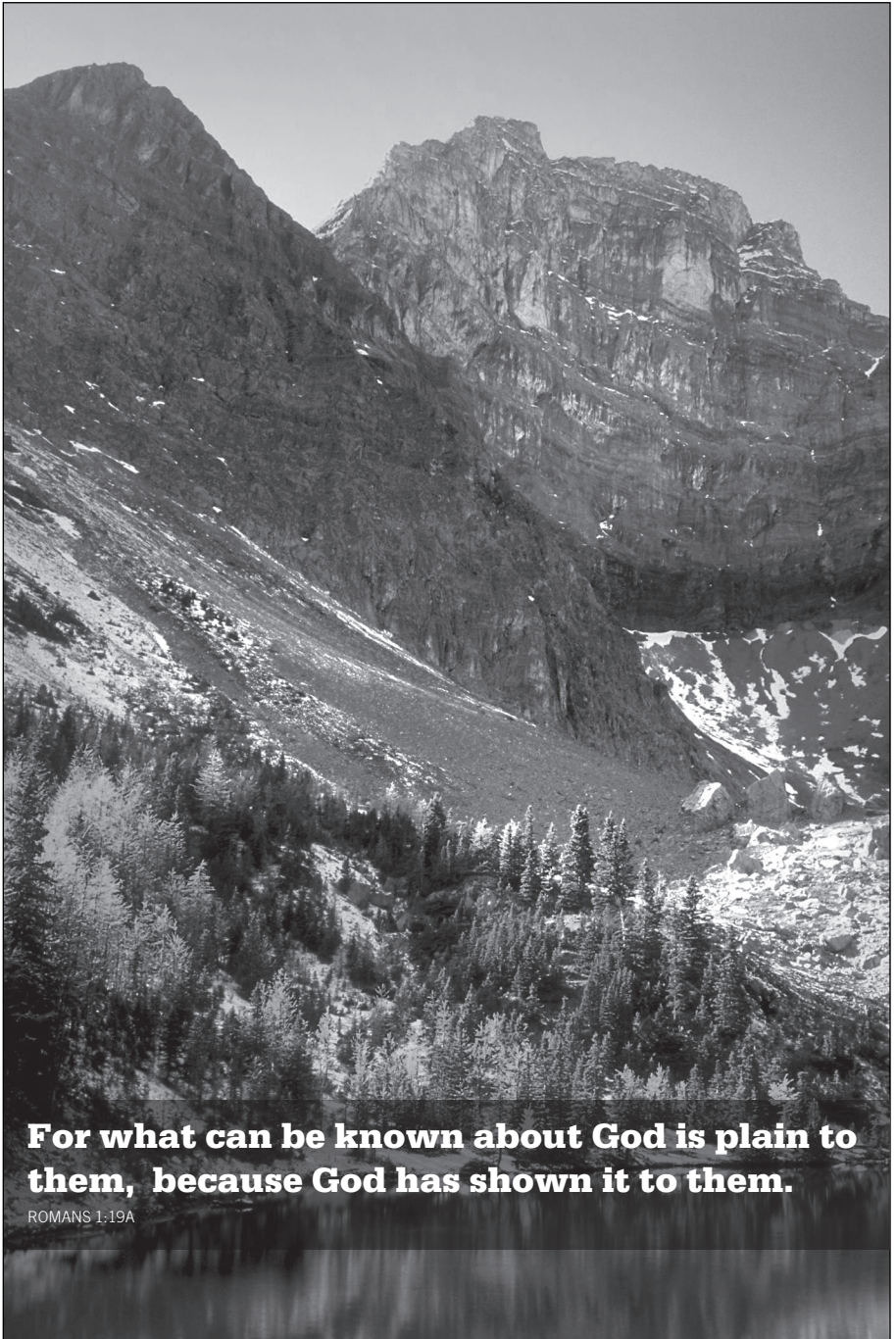
Discussion 2b

Read Romans 1:18-25.

God’s Goodness	God’s Sovereignty
Idols of the Heart	Lies Believed

that Rule the Heart:

Idolatry can be loving a good thing too much!



At Home

Choices and actions always reveal the desires that rule our hearts. What rules our hearts controls responses to people and situations. Keep a record this week of your choices, actions, and responses. Write them down and try to discern the roots of desire in the heart that fuel these choices, actions, and responses.

Read about God's rescue of Lot in Genesis 19:15-26.

Why do you think Lot lingered? Do the enticements of this world ever cause you to "linger"? What kinds of things do you linger over? What does that tell you about your heart? Write down some of the things that capture your heart.

What is your heart most drawn to in this world?

What is the sober warning in this story? (See verse 26— How is this a warning to us?) Note that Lot escaped because God was merciful to him (see verse 16). Thank God for His mercy to mankind.

Read the following verses:

*Do not love the world or the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world,
the love of the Father is not in him.
For all that is in the world—
the desires of the flesh and the desires of the
eyes and pride in possessions
—is not from the Father but is from the world.
And the world is passing away
along with its desires,
but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

1 JOHN 2:15-17

Meditate on these verses and write your thoughts about them below.

With your parent/s or mentor, read the second half of Chapter 1 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.

For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him... their foolish hearts were darkened. ROMANS 1:21



God Gave Them Up

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Man is without excuse when God rightly withdraws His restraining grace and gives man over to his sin.

KEY VERSE:

Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?
ROMANS 2:4

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Man's idolatrous heart leads to the withdrawal of God's restraining grace on man's sin nature.
- > Man is without excuse in his sin because the truth of God is plainly shown in creation and the law is written on the heart of man.
- > God is a jealous God who alone deserves man's worship.
- > Sinful man is storing up God's wrath to be revealed on the Day of Judgment.
- > Presuming upon God's grace (kindness) is an evidence of a hard and impenitent heart.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

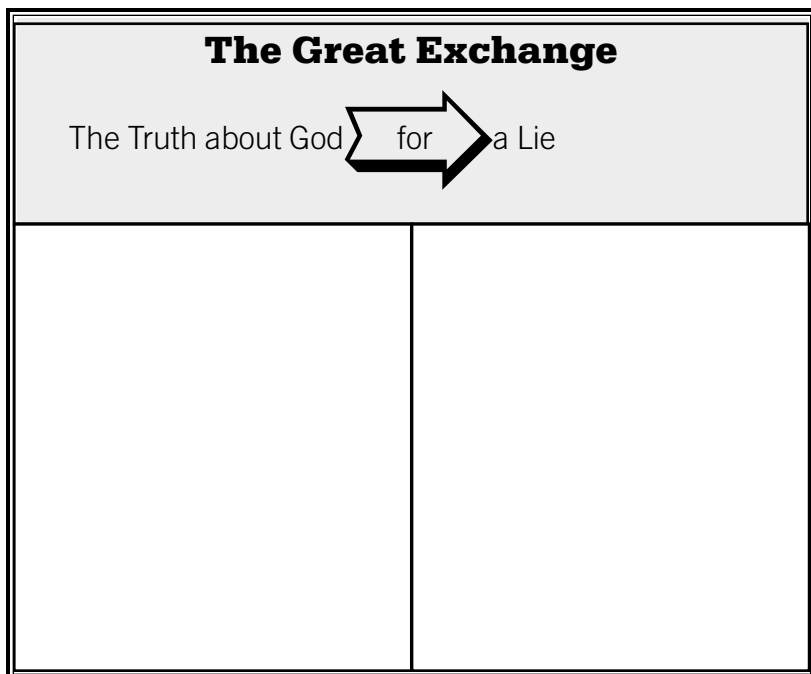
- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Romans 1:20 | 5) Galatians 6:7-8 | 9) Psalm 81:13-16 |
| 2) Romans 2:14-15 | 6) Exodus 20:3-5a | 10) Romans 2:4-5 |
| 3) Romans 1:21-23 | 7) Psalm 81:8-10 | |
| 4) Romans 1:24-32 | 8) Psalm 81:11-12 | |

In Class

Discussion 3a

Read Romans 1:24-32. Circle God's actions and underline man's actions.

Romans 1:24-32—²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.



Discussion 3b

Read Psalm 81:8-10, 11-12, 13-16.

Silent Reflection

Think of your reaction to sin in your life. Does it grieve you? Do you see any warning signs that you may be presuming upon the grace of God? This week, note your reaction to sin in your life and record it below.

Rejoice over the evidences of grace in your life and repent over presumption.

Main Ideas



What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Sometimes it is hard not to envy the wicked because often it seems that life is good or easy for them. Sometimes it is hard to persevere in righteousness. Asaph expresses this same frustration in Psalm 73. Read Psalm 73:1-15. Put in your own words what Asaph observed about the wicked that made him envious.

“My steps had
nearly slipped...”
Psalm 73:2

Read Psalm 73:16-28. How did Asaph get perspective on his thoughts about the wicked? What did God reveal to him about the wicked? What conclusion does Asaph draw?

“...those who are
far from You shall
perish...”
Psalm 73:27

How does verse 25 of Psalm 73 relate to what we have been learning? If you have not memorized Psalm 73:25-26, you may want to do so.

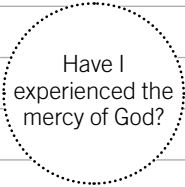
*Whom have I in heaven but You?
and there is nothing on earth that I desire
besides You.*

*My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.*

PSALM 73:25

Read about the rescue of Lot and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:22-19:29).

Record below the **Mercy of God**:



Have I
experienced the
mercy of God?

Record below the **Justice of God**.

What idols do you think were in the heart of Lot's wife, who was desiring this world in the face of destruction?



He who is often reproofed, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing. PROVERBS 29:1

Ponder the following quotes from Charles Spurgeon.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold down the truth in unrighteousness. Romans 1:18

Those last words may be read, "Who hold down the truth in unrighteousness." They will not let the truth work upon their hearts; they will not allow it to operate in their minds; but they try to make it an excuse for their sin. Is there anybody here who is holding down the truth to prevent its entering his heart? I fear that there are some such persons, who have come here for years, and the truth has pricked them, troubled them, made them lie awake at night; but they are holding it down, like one who grasps a wild animal by the ears, and holds it down for fear it should bite him. Oh, sirs, when you are afraid of the truth, you may well be afraid of hell! When you and the truth quarrel, you had better end your fighting soon, for you will have the worst of it if you do not yield: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold down the truth in unrighteousness." ¹

Will you kindly notice, that, according to my text, knowledge is of no use if it does not lead to holy practice? "They knew God." It was no good to them to know God, for "they glorified him not as God." So my theological friend over there, who knows so much that he can split hairs over doctrines, it does not matter what you think, or what you know, unless it leads you to glorify God, and to be thankful. Nay, your knowledge may be a millstone about your neck to sink you down in woe eternal, unless your knowledge is turned to holy practice."²

What does Spurgeon mean by "holy practice"? Do you store up knowledge about God or do you glorify God?

¹ Spurgeon, Charles H. *Inexcusable Irreverence and Ingratitude*. (Preached at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, July 13, 1890).
² Spurgeon, Charles H. *Inexcusable Irreverence and Ingratitude*. (Preached at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, July 13, 1890).

In what way are Romans 1:21 and Romans 2:13 saying the same thing?

With your parent/s or mentor, read the first half of Chapter 2 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.



God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance... ROMANS 2:4B



Jesus, the Bread of Life

FOCUS STATEMENT:

God must give sinful man a spiritual appetite for Jesus, the Bread of Life.

KEY VERSE:

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.” JOHN 6:35

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Man is prone to seek physical bread rather than spiritual bread.
- > Spiritual bread is eternal; physical bread is temporary.
- > Spiritual bread satisfies; physical bread does not satisfy.
- > Jesus, the Bread of Life, came to save sinners.
- > No one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him.
- > The facts of the Gospel must be accepted by the mind.
- > The Gospel involves the whole man—mind, heart, and will.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1) John 6:14-15 | 5) John 6:35-51 | 9) John 6:67-69 |
| 2) John 6:25-35 | 6) Numbers 21:8-9 | 10) Romans 1:21 |
| 3) Exodus 16:20 | 7) John 6:60 | 11) Matthew 16:26 |
| 4) Exodus 16:27 | 8) John 6:65-66 | 12) John 6:44 |

In Class

Discussion 4a

Read John 6:25-34.

Discussion 4b

Read John 6:35-51.

Man is prone to seek:	Rather than:
Gift	
Physical	
Temporary	

Because man’s sinful heart prefers temporary, physical bread rather than lasting, spiritual bread...

Main Ideas

How can I
seek the eternal
this week?

What application can I make of this lesson?

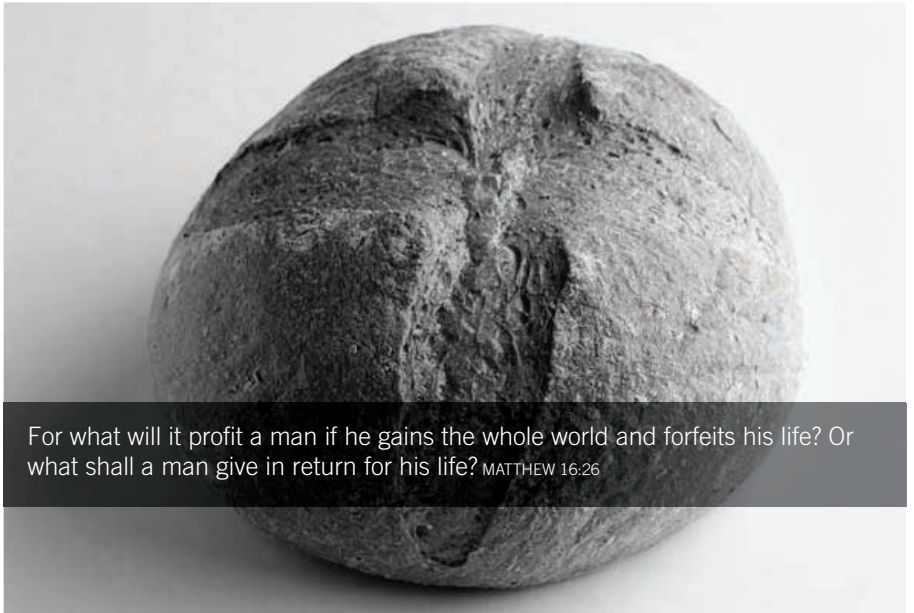
Prayer Requests

At Home

Suppose you are going on a two-week backpacking trip. List some of the foods you might bring with you.

Are any of the following foods on your list: bananas, peaches, milk, Jello®? Probably not, as these foods would spoil. In a sense, they are “temporary”; they perish easily. The wise person would pack banana chips, powdered milk, and freeze-dried foods. If we should be wise in taking a backpacking trip, how much wiser should we be in our journey through life!

Read Luke 12:13-21. How is this man like the crowd who followed Jesus looking for physical bread?



For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? MATTHEW 16:26

Carefully read and think about the following quotes from Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones. You will probably need to read these several times.

Now one of the greatest glories of the Gospel is this, that it takes up the whole man... What a Gospel! What a glorious message! It can satisfy man's mind completely, it can move his heart entirely, and it can lead to wholehearted obedience in the will. That is the Gospel. Christ has died that we might be complete men, not merely that parts of us may be saved; not that we might be lop-sided Christians, but that there may be a balanced finality about us.¹

Truth comes to the mind and to the understanding enlightened by the Holy Spirit. Then having seen the truth the Christian loves it. It moves his heart. He sees what he was, he sees the life he was living, and he hates it. If you see the truth about yourself as a slave of sin you will hate yourself. Then as you see the glorious truth about the love of Christ you will want it, you will desire it. So the heart is engaged. Truly to see the truth means that you are moved by it and that you love it. You cannot help it. If you see truth clearly, you must feel it. Then that in turn leads to this, that your greatest desire will be to practice it and live it.²

We must always put things in the right order, and it is Truth first... The heart is always to be influenced through the understanding—the mind, then the heart, then the will... But God forbid that anyone should think that it ends with the intellect. It starts there, but it goes on. It then moves the heart and finally the man yields his will. He obeys, not grudgingly or unwillingly, but with the whole heart. The Christian life is a glorious perfect life that takes up and captivates the entire personality.³

In *Spiritual Depression*, Martyn Lloyd-Jones states that the mind, heart, and will must all be involved in turning to the Gospel and living the Christian life. This can be expressed in this way:

Mind: truth presented and understood

Heart: truth embraced or loved

Will: truth acted upon

¹ Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. *Spiritual Depression*. (Grand Rapids, Mich. Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1965), 56, 60.

² *Ibid.*, 61.

³ *Ibid.*, 61.



MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

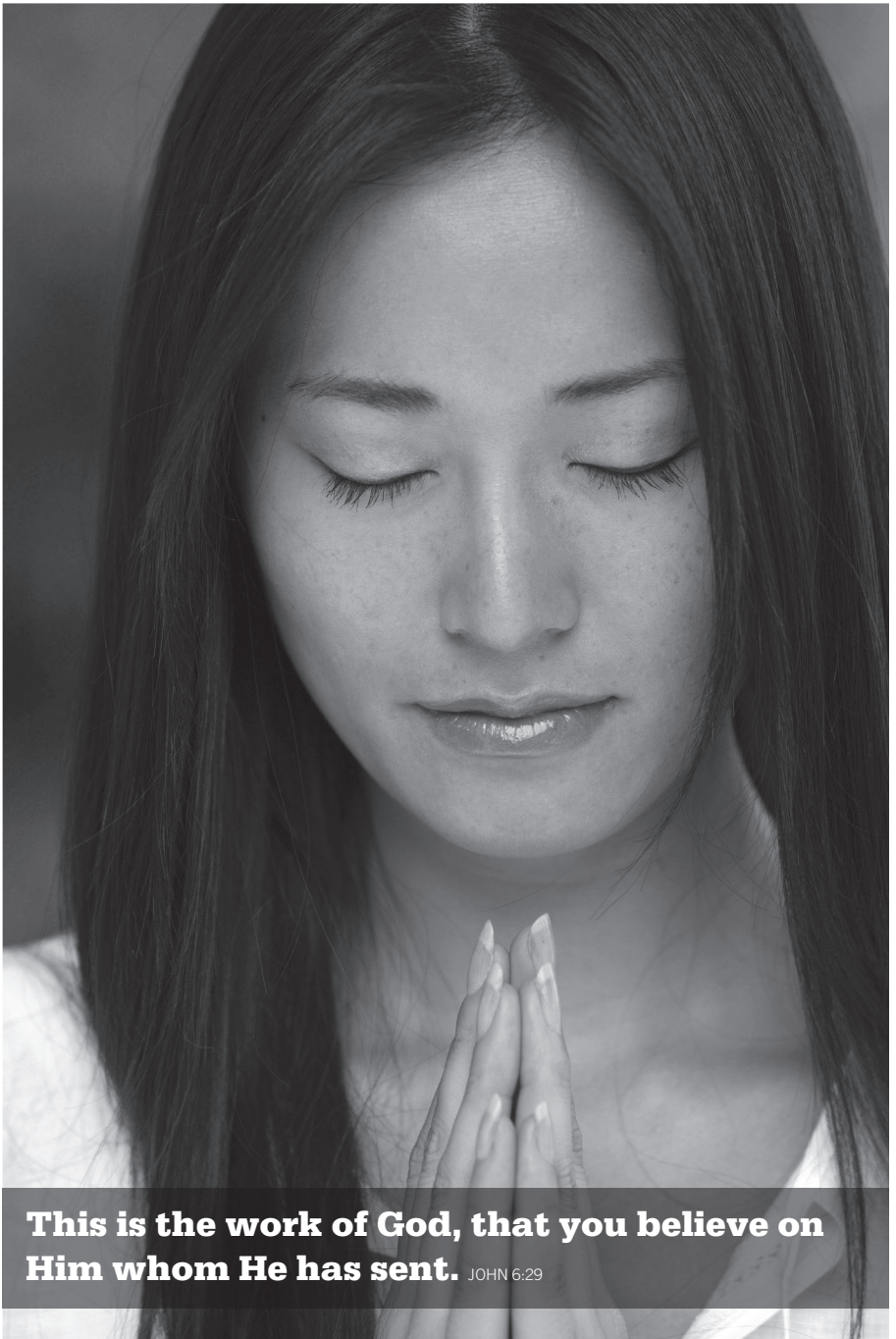
Think about the verse below. Why wasn't Paul ashamed of the gospel?

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
for it is the power of God for salvation
to everyone who believes,
to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
For in it the righteousness of God
is revealed from faith for faith,
as it is written,
“The righteous shall live by faith.”*

ROMANS 1:16–17

Pray that God would incline your heart toward Him.

With your parent/s or mentor, read the second half of Chapter 2 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.



This is the work of God, that you believe on Him whom He has sent. JOHN 6:29

The Surpassing Worth of Knowing Christ

FOCUS STATEMENT:

The Gospel must be embraced by the heart for us to be persuaded that the idols of our hearts are rubbish compared to knowing Christ.

KEY VERSE:

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ. PHILIPPIANS 3:8

MAIN IDEAS:

- > The Gospel must be embraced by the heart.
 - > An addiction to this world keeps a person from loving the Gospel.
 - > Blindness to personal sinfulness and the wrath of God keeps a person from loving the Gospel.
 - > Confidence in personal merit keeps a person from loving the Gospel.
 - > Embracing the Gospel in the heart means a person has the desire to be saved.
 - > Everything is as rubbish compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.
-

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1) Matthew 15:8-9 | 5) Luke 7:36-40 | 9) Psalm 41:1 |
| 2) Matthew 19:16-22 | 6) Luke 7:41-50 | 10) Psalm 27:4 |
| 3) Matthew 19:23-26 | 7) Philippians 3:4b-8 | |
| 4) Matthew 19:27-30 | 8) Psalm 73:25-26 | |

In Class

Discussion 5a

Read Matthew 19:16-22, 23-26, 27-30.

Discussion 5b

Read Luke 7:36-40, 41-50.













Hindrances to Embracing the Gospel:

Can you think of other hindrances to embracing the Gospel?



Main Ideas

Do I count
everything except
Christ as "loss"?

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.PHILIPPIANS 3:8A



At Home

List your “credentials” as Paul did in Philippians 3:5-6.

Just as Paul, our credentials are useless. Only trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus—believing the Gospel, loving the Gospel and acting on the Gospel—will prepare us for acceptance into heaven. Go back and cross through all your credentials.

Think about the following quote from Pastor John Piper.

... if we don't know what our real plight is, we may not recognize God's rescue when it comes. And so we might not receive it and cherish it, and we may well be attracted by a substitute gospel that sounds very plausible, but misses the most essential thing. And we will not escape the judgment of God.¹

Another way of saying this is, “If you don’t know your plight, you will not recognize the rescue.” The Gospel is our rescue. Try to think of 20 things the Gospel rescues us from. List these below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

¹ John Piper. *God Credits Faith as Righteousness*. (Preached at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 1, 1999).

Lesson 5

- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Go back over your list. Which of these things do you want to keep?

Spend some time in prayer today asking Jesus to be your greatest treasure.

With your parent/s or mentor, read the first half of Chapter 3 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.



**...if we don't know what our real plight is,
we may not recognize God's rescue when it
comes.** JOHN PIPER



Follow Jesus

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Obedience is the result and evidence of genuine faith and repentance.

KEY VERSE:

All that the Father gives to Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out. JOHN 6:37

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Salvation requires an act of the will—trusting Jesus to save you.
- > Commitment to live under God's rule is a necessary response of trusting in Jesus.
- > Faith must be accompanied by repentance; repentance is forsaking sin and committing to obey Jesus.
- > Jesus will not turn away any repentant sinner.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Acts 26:24-29 | 4) Luke 9:57-62 | 7) Matthew 16:24-26 |
| 2) Mark 1:16-20 | 5) 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 | |
| 3) Luke 5:27-28 | 6) John 6:37 | |

In Class

Discussion 6a

Read Acts 26:24-29.

Discussion 6b

Read Luke 9:57-62.

Saving Faith

Mind	+	Heart	+	Will	=	Saving Faith

	Adam and Eve Natural Man	New Man in Christ Christ/Christian
Rejected		
Accepted		
Outward sign		
Inward Attitude		

Main Ideas

Obedience is the
result of true faith
and repentance.



What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

What type of belief in God do I have?

John 1:11 and John 1:12 contrast two kinds of people. How would you describe them?

*He came to His own,
and His own people did not receive Him.
But to all who did receive Him,
who believed in His name,
He gave the right to become
children of God.*

JOHN 1:11-12

Which kind of person are you? How much of you has embraced the Gospel--mind, heart, will?

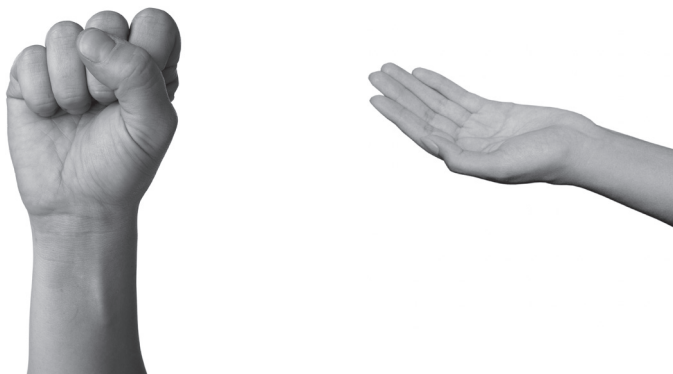
All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out. JOHN 6:37

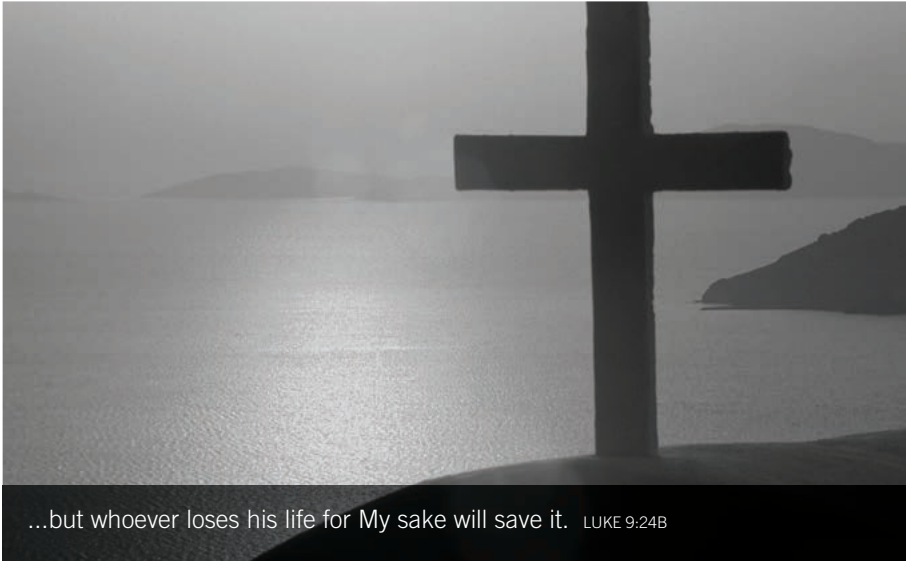


Surrendering to Jesus in salvation is the beginning of daily surrendering our wills to Him. Luke 9:23 says that we must “daily” take up our cross and follow Jesus.

Luke 9:23-25— And He said to all, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"

The two images below— the clenched fist and the open hand— represent two ways we can hold our lives out to Jesus. Which hand most represents your will? Under each hand list the things you hold tightly and the things you hold loosely.





What does it mean when an army surrenders to another army? How can the image of an army surrendering help you understand what it means to surrender to Jesus?

Are you willing to ask Jesus to help you deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him? First you must surrender to Him in salvation, then in your daily walk with Him. With your parent/s or mentor, read the second half of Chapter 3 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.

Your Life Is Hidden with Christ

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Our fleeting lives have significance only when we die to self and live for God and His purposes.

KEY VERSE:

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. COLOSSIANS 3:3

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Man's existence is fleeting; God is eternal.
- > God sovereignly orchestrates His plan for the universe.
- > We were born to live for God's purposes and to glorify Him.
- > The Christian is dead to his own plans, will, and agenda and lives for Christ; the Christian's life is "hid" in Christ.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Isaiah 40:6-8 | 4) James 4:13-16 | 7) Daniel 4:34-35 |
| 2) Isaiah 40:15-17 | 5) Matthew 16:21-23 | 8) Galatians 2:20 |
| 3) Psalm 103:15-19 | 6) Colossians 3:1-4 | |

Fleeting (temporary)	Eternal (permanent)

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read Psalm 103:15-19.

What is the promise given in these verses? To whom is it given? Why is God able to keep this promise? How does God show steadfast love in this passage? List some of these ways below.

God's steadfast
love is for those
who fear Him!

Until about a hundred years ago, it was commonly understood that all things were subject to the will of God. Speeches, letters, newspaper articles, all kinds of correspondence carried the term *Deo Volente*—Latin for “God willing.” Sometimes just the initials D.V. were used. If someone signed a letter D.V. today, most people would not even know what it means.

Do you think the last statement is true? If yes, why do you think this is so?

Read Psalm 90. Write a title to summarize the main thought of each section.

§ Verses 1-2:

§ Verses 3-6:

§ Verses 7-11:

§ Verses 12-17:

Moses notes two main problems of man in Psalm 90—the brevity of man's life and man's sinfulness (verses 3-6 and verses 7-11). These are sandwiched between the solutions to man's problems. What is the solution Moses gives for man's problems? (Where does man find joy in life?) Meditate on the verse below.

*Lord, You have been our dwelling
place in all generations. PSALM 90:1*



...you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. JAMES 4:14



The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every person must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old person which is the result of our encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise God-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls us, he bids us come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him, or it may be a death like Luther's, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time—death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old person at his call.¹

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Think about the quote above by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. What “attachments” do you need to abandon? You may want to list them below.

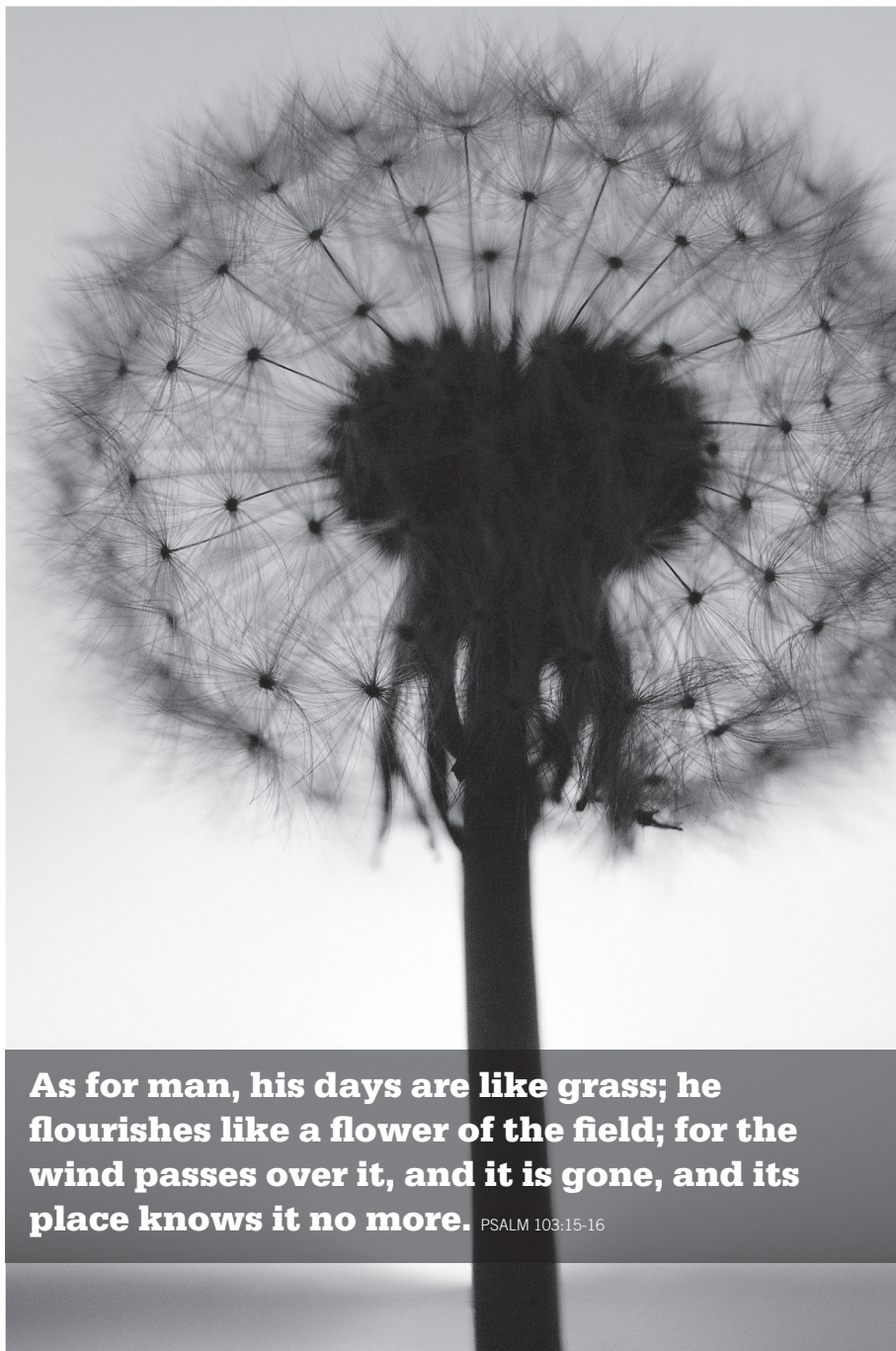
¹ Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *A Testament to Freedom: The Essential Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. (San Francisco, Calif.: Harper San Francisco, 1995), 313.

Think about the following prayer, and if it reflects your heart, pray this prayer.

*Lord, I am willing
To receive what You give;
To lack what You withhold;
To relinquish what You take;
To suffer what You inflict
To be what You require,
And to do what You sent me to do.¹*

With your parent/s or mentor, read the first half of Chapter 4 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.

¹ Bridges, Jerry. *The Joy of Fearing God*. (Colorado Springs: Waterbrook Press, 1997), 246.



As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. PSALM 103:15-16

Obedience: The Mark of a Surrendered Heart

FOCUS STATEMENT:

God demands and delights in hearts that respond to His grace in obedient surrender to Him and His will.

KEY VERSE:

...If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

LUKE 9:23

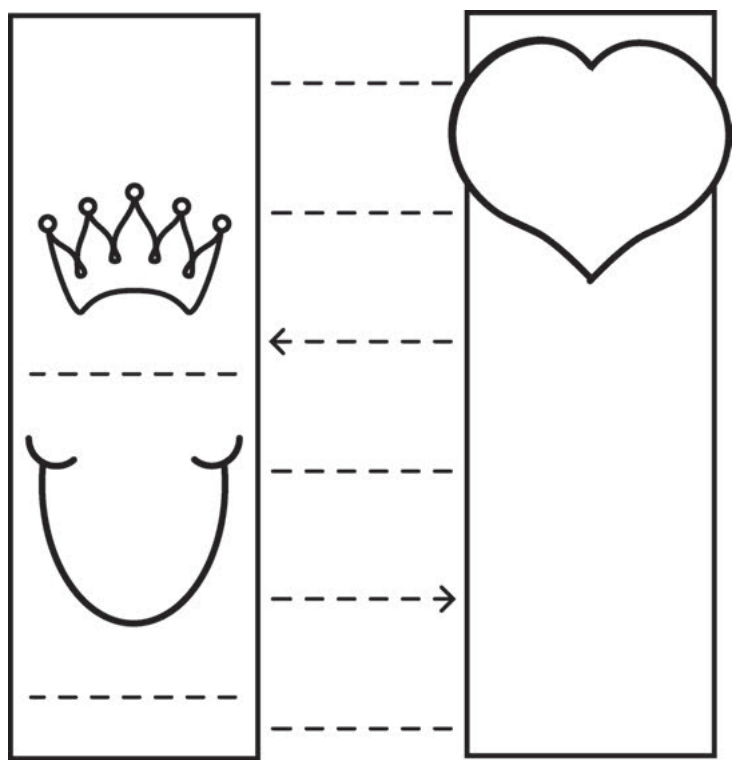
MAIN IDEAS:

- > Jesus is both Savior and King.
- > Jesus demands obedience and Jesus loves obedience.
- > Obedience is an evidence of a surrendered heart; a disciple has a surrendered obedient heart.
- > God's grace inclines His children's hearts in submission to Him.
- > God's grace enables His children to fight their sin nature and sinful passions by denying themselves and taking up their crosses daily.
- > Blessing comes to those who seek Jesus and walk in His ways.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1) Revelation 19:11-16 | 3) Psalm 119:32 | 5) Psalm 119:2-3 |
| 2) Luke 8:19-21 | 4) Luke 9:23 | 6) John 14:15-17 |

Main Ideas



What application can I make of this lesson?

How can I
surrender to God
this week?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read Luke 1:26-35.

Imagine Mary's situation. How was it awkward? scary? wonderful? How do you think you would feel in her situation?

Read Mary's response in Luke 1:38. What does this show about Mary's heart?

Notice how Jesus is described in Luke 1:26-35.

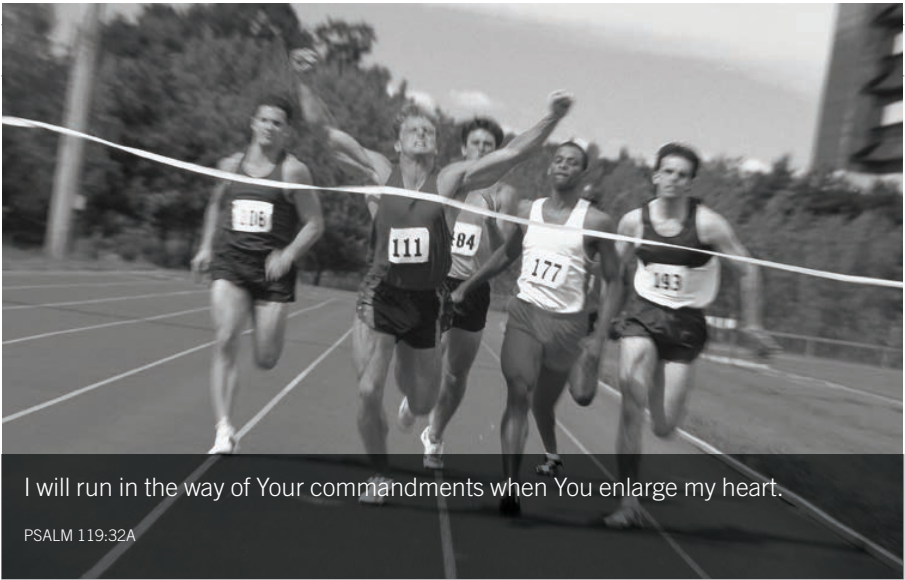
*The LORD is my portion;
I promise to keep Your words.
I entreat Your favor with all my heart;
be gracious to me
according to Your promise.
When I think on my ways,
I turn my feet to Your testimonies;
I hasten and do not delay
to keep Your commandments.*

PSALM 119:57-60

What do these verses tell you about obedience? Think beyond the obvious answers. Write your reflections below.

Reflections: Are you a follower of Christ? Are you an obedient child of King Jesus? Are you living for yourself or for God? To evaluate your condition, a list has been started. Think of other questions to ask yourself to help determine your heart condition. Then pray for yourself.

- * **When I wake up, do I think about what I want or do I ask God to bring what He wants for me today?**
- * **Do I find myself delighting in what is right?**
- * **Is there a spirit of rebellion in my heart?**
- * **Am I irritated when God doesn't do what I expect Him to do?**



Take a closer look!

Read Romans 8:3-9. Why can't the law save us?

What provision has God made for the salvation of man?

What contrast is made between those who live by the flesh and those who live by the Spirit?

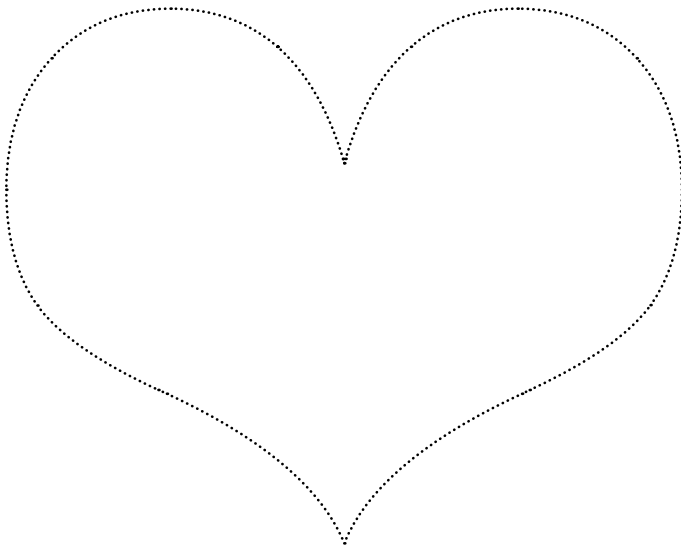
What is the result of pursuing these two different paths?

Why is death the result of the mind set on the flesh?

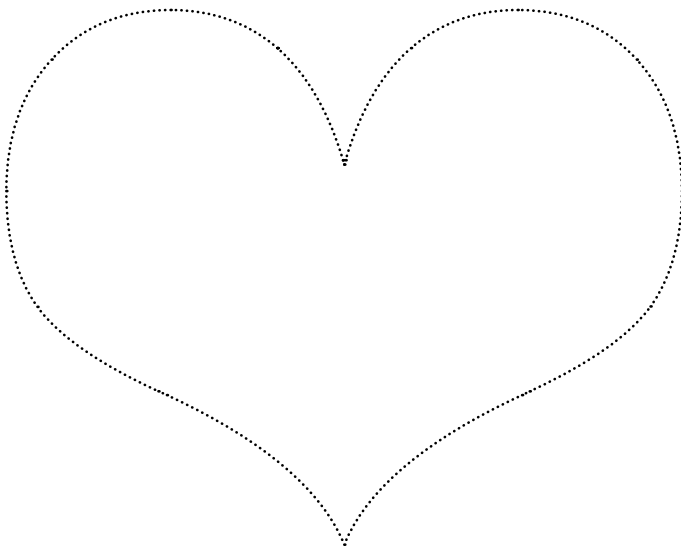
How does one become a person in the Spirit?

Observing Romans 8:3-9 is a way to put the truths in the mind. But the Gospel must be embraced by the heart and will as well.

Think about being an enemy of God. What is this like? What is it like now and what will it be like in the future? Write your answers in the heart.



Now think about what it is like to be rescued from what you wrote in the heart above. Write your answers in the heart below.



Romans 8:2 says:

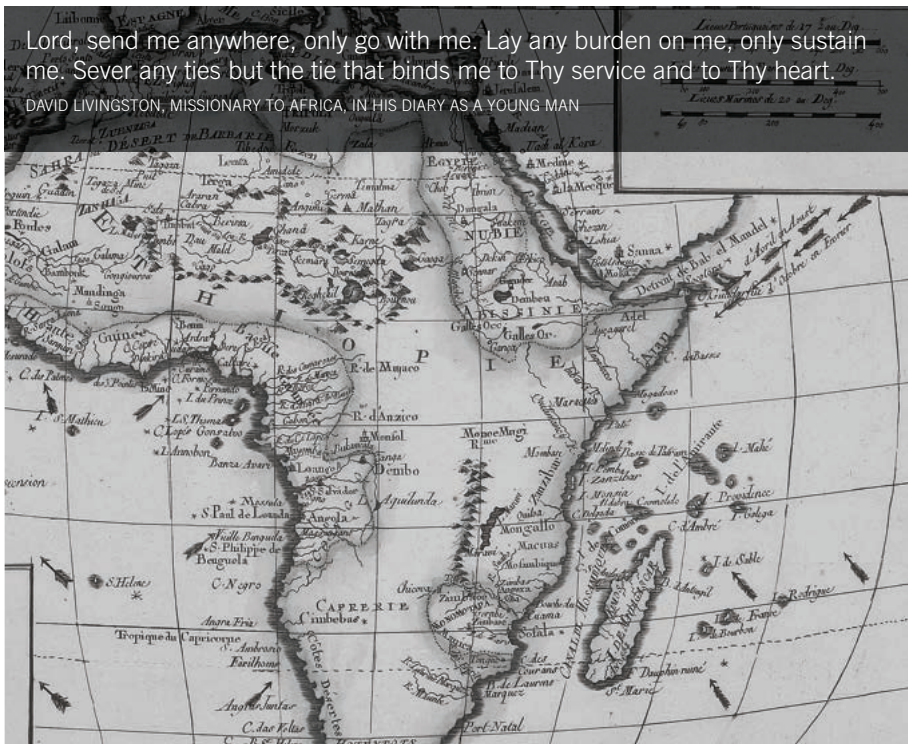
The law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

If you are a Christian this means that you do not have to follow the desires of your sinful nature. You can turn your back on the flesh and walk in the Spirit. This means the Holy Spirit can help you surrender your heart daily, resulting in submission to God and obedience to His Word, purposes, and way of responding. But this truth is not yours until you **act** on it. Ask God to help you to **act** on the truth.

Think about this verse:

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. James 4:7-8a

With your parent/s or mentor, read the second half of Chapter 4 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.



Jesus, Our Example

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Jesus is our p_____ e_____
of a h_____ s_____ to
the Father and a w_____
s_____ to God's p_____.

KEY VERSE:

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me. JOHN 6:38

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Jesus is our example of a heart surrendered to the Father and a will submitted to God's purposes.
- > Jesus understood and submitted to the Father's authority.
- > Jesus had a loving, personal relationship with His Father.
- > Jesus embraced the will of the Father with His mind, heart, and will.
- > Jesus' perfect obedience is evidence of His surrendered heart and His submitted will.
- > God is a loving heavenly Father, who eagerly strengthens His children who desire to follow Him.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1) John 12:49 | 5) Matthew 26:36-42 | 9) John 10:17-18 |
| 2) John 17:6-10 | 6) Luke 22:43 | 10) Hebrews 12:1-3 |
| 3) John 8:28-29 | 7) John 18:10-11 | |
| 4) Luke 9:51 | 8) John 6:38 | |

What application can I make of this lesson?

Is there a particular sin or weight in my life that is keeping me from running in obedience to God as Jesus did? What steps can you take to “lay aside this weight and sin”?

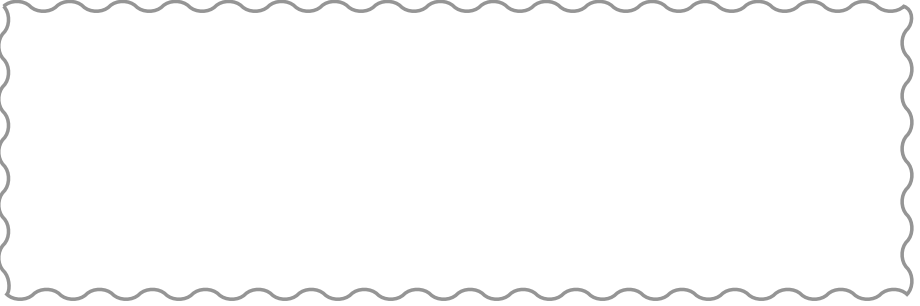
Lord, help me
lay aside the sin
that keeps me
from You!

Think of a person in your life who is struggling with hard times or with hostility for following Jesus. How can you pray for this person in light of Hebrews 12:1-3? Ask God to use you to encourage that person this week with a Scripture verse you have studied today.

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read Philippians 2:5-10. Verse 5 tells us to have Jesus' mind—to imitate Christ. Write in the box some things in the lesson this week that you saw about Jesus that are worthy to imitate.



What does this passage say about the submission of Jesus? Why is the kind of submission Jesus showed in this passage difficult for us?

Think of another person you know who demonstrates a surrendered heart to the Lord. What in this person's life shows this submission to God? How do you think this person learned this kind of surrender?

Paul tells us to “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). Would you be able to say that to someone else? Why or why not? If you are a Christian and you are imitating Christ, your life is an example to others. If you would not want someone to imitate you, what does that tell you about yourself?

If Jesus is our example to imitate, we must know Him well enough to know what to imitate. How well do you know Jesus?

- † Spend some time this week reading the Gospels. Ponder the kind of person Jesus was.
- † Write down the things you see in Jesus that are worthy to imitate.
- † Read through the first list you made this week and this new list. From these two lists, write down one thing you saw in Jesus that you would like to imitate.
- † Then ask God to put the mind of Christ, the heart of Christ, and the will of Christ in you.

Lesson 9

Read John 9:4-7. What does John 9:4-7 say about Jesus’ commitment to doing the Father’s will?

What works did Jesus do?

What does this tell you about God’s character?

How did Jesus’ submission to the Father bring glory to the Father? (What does it show about a person when someone willingly submits to him?)

Fill in the box below with your thoughts.

What our willing obedience to God shows others about God:

Read John 13:3-17. What is the example that Jesus is giving in this passage? What does Jesus mean in verse 13? What is the relationship that Jesus draws in this passage between knowing and doing?

If I, then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. JOHN 13:14



Read Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17. This prayer is a beautiful expression of Jesus' heart for His followers. Make a list of all the things Jesus prayed for His followers. If you are a Christian, Jesus prayed this for you!

Think about Jesus' desires for His children. Think about your desires for your life. Are they similar to Jesus' desires?

With your parent/s or mentor, read the first half of Chapter 5 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world He said:

*"Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for Me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
You have taken no pleasure
Then I said, 'Behold, I have come
to do Your will, O God,
as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book.'"*

Can it be written of you that you are determined to do the will of God?



Can you say, like Paul, "Be imitators of me as I am of Christ"?

Teach Me Your Way

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Because the believer operates in God's kingdom, he must submit his mind, heart, and will to learn the ways of God.

KEY VERSE:

Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.

PSALM 86:11

MAIN IDEAS:

- > God's ways are not our ways; God's ways are higher than man's ways.
- > The Christian operates in God's kingdom.
- > Christ helps believers put off the old self and put on the new self.
- > We must learn the ways of God.
- > Teaching the soul involves an informed mind, a heart desire, and a surrendered will.
- > We should not be stubborn before the Lord, but teachable.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Numbers 11:21-23, 31 | 4) 2 Corinthians 5:17 | 7) Psalm 86:11 |
| 2) Isaiah 55:8-9 | 5) Ephesians 4:17-24 | 8) Psalm 143:10 |
| 3) John 18:36 | 6) Romans 7:18-19 | 9) Psalm 32:8-9 |

In Class

Discussion 10a

Read Ephesians 4:17-22. Circle the things that describe unbelievers who do not live for God, and underline those things that describe men who have been changed by God.

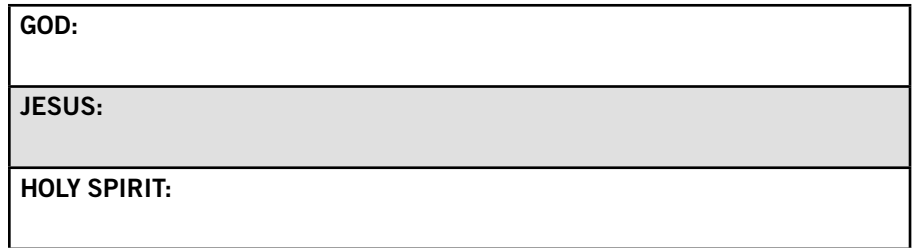
Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ²¹ assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus,²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires. Ephesians 4:17-22

Discussion 10b

Read Psalm 86:11.

Read Psalm 143:10.

Main Ideas



What application can I make of this lesson?

How can I
practice God's
ways this week?

Prayer requests



He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way. PSALM 25:9

At Home

Read Psalm 25 three or four times. Then read it section by section, meditating on each section. List at least eight attitudes or qualities you see in David in this psalm. Then list at least eight qualities you can see about God in this psalm.

Qualities of David:	Qualities of God:
①	①
②	②
③	③
④	④
⑤	⑤
⑥	⑥
⑦	⑦
⑧	⑧

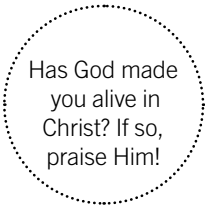
What in this psalm gives hope to the Christian who desires to walk in God's ways?

BUT GOD

Read Ephesians 2:1-5. Fill out the chart below, describing what the Ephesians did before God saved them, the action of God, and the result.

You Were (Before Conversion)	BUT GOD	The Result (After Conversion)

What is the significance of the words BUT GOD?



What caused the change in the Ephesians? How did they pass from death to life? What does that tell you about a person’s ability to change?

If you have not been made alive by the grace of God, you will not be able to master the sin in your life. Sin will enslave you.

If God has given you new life and made you a citizen of His kingdom, then you will begin the struggle that will last your whole life to “put off” the sin in your life that distracts you from becoming more like Christ and walking in His ways.

Lesson 10

Read Colossians 3:5-10. Why does Paul call what is “earthly” in man “idolatry”? To see the connection, read Romans 1:21-25 and 1:28-32 again (from Lesson 1).

On the lines below, make a list of things in your life that must be put off.

Does this feel overwhelming to you? Read the encouragement below.

Have you ever watched a baby learn to walk? What does a loving parent do when the baby falls down?

*"If only the will to walk is there, God is pleased with our stumbling."*¹

—C.S. Lewis

With your parent/s or mentor, read the second half of Chapter 5 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.



God is a loving parent!

1. Lewis, C.S. *The Screwtape Letters*. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1961), 39.

**Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk
in your truth; unite my heart to fear your
name.** PSALM 86:11



The Poor in Spirit

FOCUS STATEMENT:

God's kingdom belongs to the poor in spirit because they humbly recognize that they are undeserving of and desperate for God's mercy.

KEY VERSE:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. MATTHEW 5:3

MAIN IDEAS:

- > The Sermon on the Mount is a description of the character of the Christian.
- > The kingdom of heaven is both present and future.
- > The poor in spirit recognize their utter spiritual depravity; they are humble before God.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1) Matthew 5:1-10 | 6) Judges 6:15 | 11) Romans 7:18 |
| 2) Matthew 5:3 | 7) Job 42:5-6 | 12) Romans 7:21-24 |
| 3) Luke 18:9-14 | 8) Isaiah 6:5 | 13) Isaiah 66:1-2 |
| 4) Genesis 18:27 | 9) Luke 5:8 | |
| 5) 2 Samuel 7:18 | 10) John 1:27 | |

Kingdom of Heaven: Present	Kingdom of Heaven: Future

Poor in spirit:

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read the following excerpt from *The Sermon on the Mount* by R. Kent Hughes:

We must realize that:

*The first link between
my soul and Christ is
not my goodness
but my badness;
not my merit
but my misery;
not my standing
but my falling.*

Fortunately, this truth can penetrate the most privileged of hearts, as it did to one of England's distinguished judges. The church he attended had three mission churches under its care. On the first Sunday of the new year all the members of the missions came to the big city church for a combined Communion service. In those mission churches, which were located in the slums of the city, were some outstanding cases of conversions—thieves, burglars, and so on—but all knelt side by side at the Communion rail.

On one such occasion the pastor saw a former thief kneeling beside the aforementioned jurist, a judge of the High Court of England. After his release the thief had been converted and became a Christian worker. Yet, as the judge and the former thief knelt together, neither seemed to be aware of the other.

After the service, the judge happened to walk out with the pastor and said, "Did you notice who was kneeling beside me at the Communion rail this morning?"

The pastor replied, "Yes, but I didn't think that you did."

The two walked along in silence for a few more moments, when the judge declared, "What a miracle of grace."

The pastor nodded in agreement. "Yes, what a marvelous miracle of grace."

Then the judge asked, "But to whom do you refer?"

The pastor responded, "Why, to the conversion of that convict."

"But I was not referring to him. I was thinking of myself," explained the judge.

Surprised, the pastor replied, "You were thinking of yourself? I don't understand."

"Yes," the judge went on. "It was natural for the burglar to respond to God's grace when he came out of jail. His life was nothing but a desperate history of crime, and when he saw the Savior he knew there was salvation and hope and joy for him. He understood how much he needed that help.

"But I...I was taught from early infancy to be a gentleman—and that my word was my bond, that I was to say my prayers, go to church, and receive Communion. I went up to Oxford, took my degrees, was called to the bar, and eventually ascended to judge. My friend, it was God's grace that drew me; it was God's grace that opened my heart to receive Christ. I'm a greater miracle of his grace."¹

Why do you think the judge thought he was a greater example of the grace of God? Do you agree with the judge? What danger do you see in your situation?



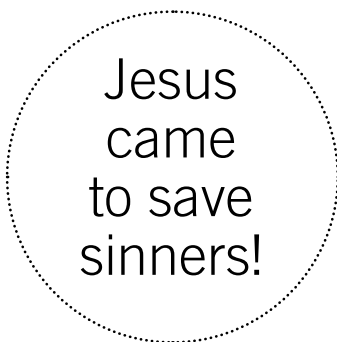
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. MATTHEW 5:3

¹ Hughes, R. Kent. *The Sermon on the Mount*. (Wheaton, Ill. Crossway Books, 2001), 23-24.

Read Mark 2:15-17. What was the attitude of the scribes?

What does this show you about their view of their own depravity?

What was Jesus' response? (Write your own paraphrase of Jesus' response.) What does this tell you about Jesus?



Read the following verses:

- § MATTHEW 23:12
- § PSALM 149:4
- § PSALM 138:6
- § PSALM 51:17
- § PSALM 147:6

How is the message of the Old Testament verses similar to the Sermon on the Mount?

If we truly are “poor in spirit,” then we see ourselves in the shoes of those committing terrible evils. Without the intervention of God, our desperately wicked hearts would commit atrocious evils continually.

Think about the following quote from Tim Keller¹:

"When a Christian sees prostitutes, alcoholics, prisoners, drug addicts, unwed mothers, the homeless, the refugees, he knows that he is looking in a mirror."



¹ Keller, Tim. *Ministries of Mercy: A Call to the Jericho Road*. (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R Pub, 1997), 60.

Think about the following quote from C.S. Lewis.

Whenever we find that our religious life is making us feel that we are good—above all, that we are better than someone else—I think we may be sure that we are being acted on, not by God, but by the devil. The real test of being in the presence of God is that you either forget about yourself altogether or see yourself as a small, dirty object. It is better to forget about yourself altogether.¹

With your parent/s or mentor, read the first half of Chapter 6 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.

Lord, thank You
for saving
sinners!

¹ Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1958), 96-97.

Those Who Mourn

FOCUS STATEMENT:

God brings eternal comfort to the one who mourns over sin and repents.

KEY VERSE:

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. MATTHEW 5:4

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Those who mourn over their sin are blessed.
- > Godly grief produces repentance.
- > Mourning over sin drives a person to repentance, which results in comfort and forgiveness from God.
- > Those who are Christians will mourn over personal sin and over the sins of others.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1) Matthew 5:4 | 4) Luke 22:54-62 | 7) James 4:8-10 |
| 2) 2 Corinthians 7:10 | 5) Luke 15:18-24 | 8) Psalm 119:136 |
| 3) Psalm 38:4 | 6) Psalm 130:1-7 | 9) Isaiah 53:3 |

In Class

Discussion 12a

Read Luke 22:54-62.

Discussion 12b

Read Psalm 130:1-7.

Main Ideas

Worldly Mourning:

Spiritual Mourning:

2 Corinthians
7:10
FOR

godly
grief



WHEREAS



Main Ideas

What application can I make of this lesson?

Do I mourn
over sin?

Prayer Requests



Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. MATTHEW 5:4

At Home

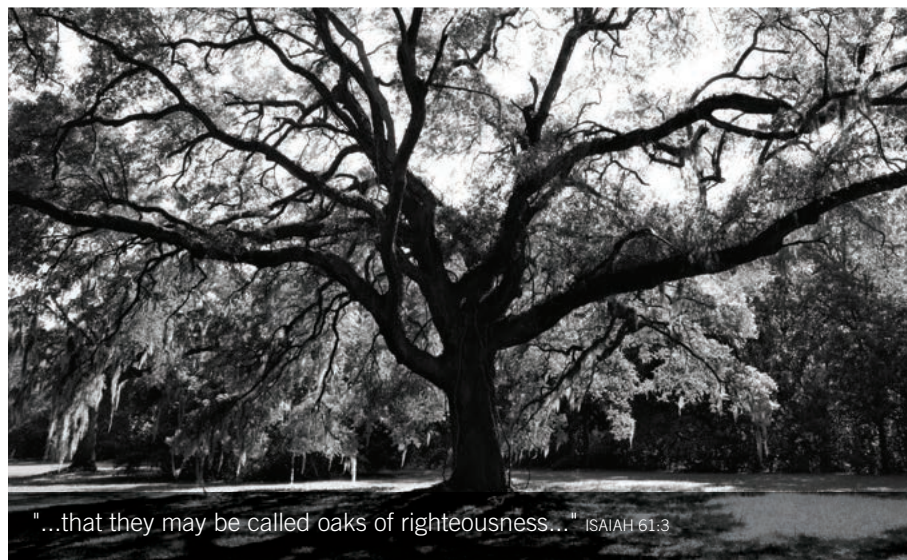
What kind of image does “oaks of righteousness” put in your mind? What is the connection between “oaks of righteousness” and “to comfort all who mourn”?

Isaiah 61:1-3—The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

Consider the following quote by Kent Hughes:

The saddest thing in life is not a sorrowing heart, but a heart that is incapable of grief over sin, for it is without grace. Without poverty of spirit no one enters the kingdom of God. Likewise, without its emotional counterpart—grief over sin—no one receives the comfort of forgiveness and salvation.

If you have never sorrowed over sin in your life (not just its consequences, but sin itself), then consider long and carefully whether you really are a Christian. Genuine believers, those who are truly born again, have mourned, and continue to mourn, over sin.¹



“...that they may be called oaks of righteousness...” ISAIAH 61:3

¹ Hughes, Kent. *The Sermon on the Mount*. (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001), 29-30.

Read the poem *Good Friday*. What does Christina Rossetti name as the reason for not weeping at the cross? What is the plea in this poem?

Hardheartedness keeps us from mourning our sin as well. The word for “mourn” in, “Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4) is the strongest Greek word expressing sorrow. It means deep inner agony or severe heartfelt grief. Would you say that this characterizes your mourning over sin?

To some degree, all of us are hardhearted and in need of the mercy of God. If you want God to soften your heart so that you mourn more over sin, write your prayer below.

What is the great promise in Matthew 5:4 to those who mourn? What does God’s comfort look like?

Mourning over sin leads to confession. Examine your heart and ask the Lord if there is anything you need to confess. Write down anything the Lord brings to mind:

How do you feel in your heart about these areas of sin in your life? If your heart does not feel remorse, continue to ask the Lord to change your heart.

If you are repentant, ACT—confess to the Lord. The comfort and forgiveness that God’s promises are yours.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us...If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 JOHN 1:8-9

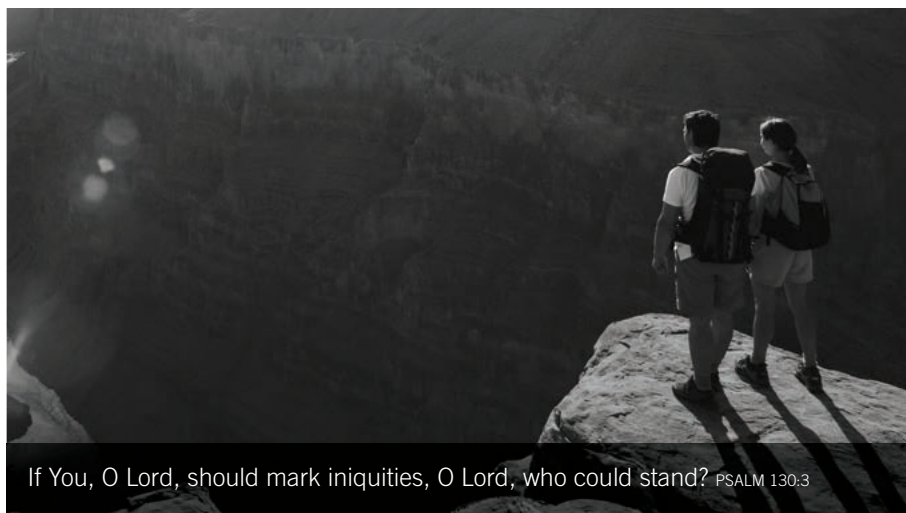
Remembering that the kingdom of heaven is both present and future, the comfort God offers from mourning over sin is for today. We can rejoice in that! But there is another kind of rejoicing we will do as well. Read the passage below:

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more,
neither shall there be mourning
nor crying nor pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away.*

REVELATION 21:4

Think specifically about what things this verse promises. What will pass away? (Think also in terms of what we studied in this lesson.)

With your parent/s or mentor, read the second half of Chapter 6 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.



If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? PSALM 130:3

The Meek

FOCUS STATEMENT:

The meek humbly submit their will to Jesus and trust God's rule, which results in the inheritance of all things.

KEY VERSE:

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. MATTHEW 5:5

MAIN IDEAS:

- > The meek are those who are submitting their wills to Jesus.
- > The meek are marked by gentleness, humility, determination to follow Jesus, and self-control/God-control.
- > The meek see their sinfulness, mourn over it, and have no expectation of mercy; the meek recognize that they do not deserve mercy.
- > The meek trust God.
- > The meek are soft on the outside and strong on the inside.
- > The meek will not only reign in the kingdom to come, but also “possess everything” in the present; the meek are satisfied and content.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Matthew 5:5 | 4) John 19:9-11 | 7) 2 Timothy 2:12 |
| 2) Matthew 11:29 | 5) James 1:17a | 8) 2 Corinthians 6:10 |
| 3) Matthew 26:49-56 | 6) 1 Peter 2:23 | |

In Class

Discussion 13a

Read John 19:9-11.

Discussion 13b

Read 1 Peter 2:23.

Main Ideas

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Portrait of the Meek:



Focus Statement:

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read Matthew 5:1.

Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. Matthew 5:1

Because we don't always understand the culture of Jesus' day, we can miss important things in the Bible. What is the posture of your teacher when he is teaching? In the New Testament time, rabbis taught from a sitting position. When walking or standing while teaching, the teaching of the rabbi was unofficial or unauthoritative. But when he taught from a sitting position, his teaching was official and authoritative.

The Sermon on the Mount ends with these words:

*And when Jesus finished these sayings,
the crowds were astonished at His teaching,
for He was teaching them
as one who had authority,
and not as their scribes.*

MATTHEW 7:28-29

What does this say about everything sandwiched between these verses? Read through some of the Sermon on the Mount and remind yourself that these words are authoritative. These are not just vague ideas or casual suggestions; the statements in the Sermon on the Mount are rock solid truths.

.....

How does knowing that "blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" is the authoritative word of truth from the Living God make you understand this verse and its application in your life?

Learning Meekness

Learning meekness? Yes, meekness can be learned. Read Matthew 11:29-30.

A bit of background to help you understand these verses: A farmer would yoke a young ox with an older more experienced ox. Why do you think he would do this? If the two oxen don't cooperate, if they don't walk with the same rhythm, the yoke rubs irritatingly. If you are a Christian, what does this tell you about cooperating with Jesus?

How does the truth that Jesus is “gentle and lowly” affect how you learn meekness from Him? Write below some ways that you can learn meekness from Jesus:

Learning can be easy or learning can be hard. One of the factors that determine whether learning is easy or hard is the attitude of the learner. A teachable person learns character lessons easier than an unteachable person. To become more meek, our pride and self-sufficiency must be broken; just like the resistance in an untamed horse needs to be broken. What kind of resistance is there in your life? Are there areas of your life you are unwilling to yield to Jesus or areas that you struggle in yielding daily? Write these areas below and then make them a matter of daily prayer. If you have not surrendered your life to Jesus, you will be unable to do this. Instead, as God leads, pray that God will open your heart to Him.

Pastor John Piper has said that “sanctification is not about perfection but about direction.” This is encouraging. God does not expect us to be perfect, but He does expect us to make progress, to go in the right direction. Consider the following quote from Pastor Kent Hughes.

Jesus’ words are not demanding perfection. The point is, however, that if a gentle/meek spirit is not at least imperfectly present in your life, if it is not incipient and growing, you may very well not have the smile of Christ, which is everything.¹

Think about this definition of meekness:

Meekness is being so committed to the will of God that you accept whatever He brings into your life without complaining.

The next time you find yourself complaining, ask yourself how committed you are to the will of God.

The Apostle Paul was very strong willed. Read about his determination to persecute Christians (Acts 26:9-11) and how God subdued his will (Acts 26:12-16).

With your parent/s or mentor, read the first half of Chapter 7 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.



Meekness is not weakness before man. It is submission to God, which equips a young man to stand tall and upright before lawless thrones, as three young men once did in Babylon. DOUG WILSON²

¹ Hughes, Kent. *The Sermon on the Mount*. (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001), 36.

² Wilson, Doug. *Future Men*. (Moscow, Idaho: Canon Press, 2001), 50.

The Prodigal Son

His MIND realized the deplorable state he was in;
his HEART mourned over his sin;
his WILL chose to go back to his father and repent.

I have sinned against heaven and against you

(Blessed are the poor in spirit)

I am no longer worthy to be called your son

(Blessed are those who mourn)

Make me like one of your hired men

(Blessed are the meek)¹

¹Thought contributed by Greg Zierhut, Bethlehem Baptist Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents..." LUKE 15:7



Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

FOCUS STATEMENTS:

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are those who desire that their lives and the lives of others reflect God's righteousness.

God will satisfy those who desire that their lives and the lives of others reflect God's righteousness.

KEY VERSE:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. MATTHEW 5:6

MAIN IDEAS:

- > An appetite for God and spiritual things is a gift.
- > Hungering and thirsting for righteousness, an inner righteousness that conforms to the will of God and obeys the ways of God, is the mark of a believer.
- > Those who know Christ have an intense desire, a hungering and thirsting, for both personal righteousness and the righteousness of others.
- > Underneath a desire for inner righteousness is a desire for God.
- > God continually satisfies the ongoing hunger and thirst for righteousness.
- > For the believer, the Sermon on the Mount is a celebration of the identity of the kingdom; for the unbeliever it is an invitation to surrender to the Christ and become part of His kingdom.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Psalm 34:8 | 3) Psalm 63:1 | 5) Matthew 5:1 |
| 2) Matthew 5:6 | 4) Philippians 4:8 | 6) Ephesians 5:3-4 |

Read Psalm 63:1.

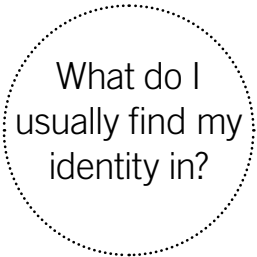
Read Philippians 4:8.

Main Ideas

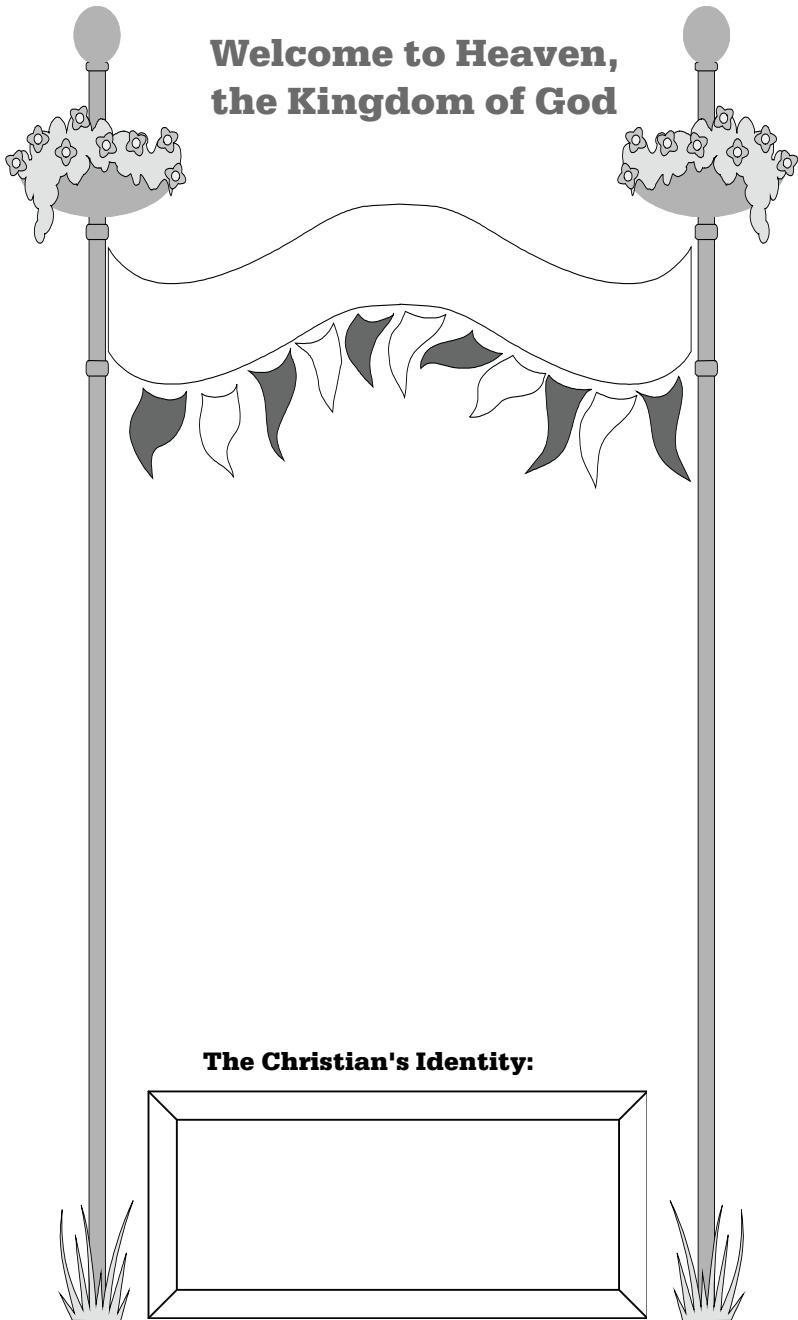
How can I
hunger and
thirst for
righteousness?

How can I
hunger and
thirst for
righteousness?

What application can I make of this lesson?



Prayer Requests



At Home

What is your favorite food? Do you ever get tired of it? Is your spiritual appetite like your physical appetite? Ask yourself the following questions to evaluate your spiritual appetite:

- § *Do you love the Bible? Are you satisfied reading the Word of God and finding treasures there?*
- § *Are you dissatisfied with your spiritual life?*
- § *Do you enjoy talking about the Lord and being with the people of God?*
- § *Do you see the world as dry and weary?*
- § *Do you mourn over your sin?*
- § *Are you teachable before God?*
- § *Do you desire God's will over your own? Do you want to see His purposes accomplished in this world?*
- § *Is your heart captured by the creature or the Creator?*
- § *Do you like being in the worship service?*

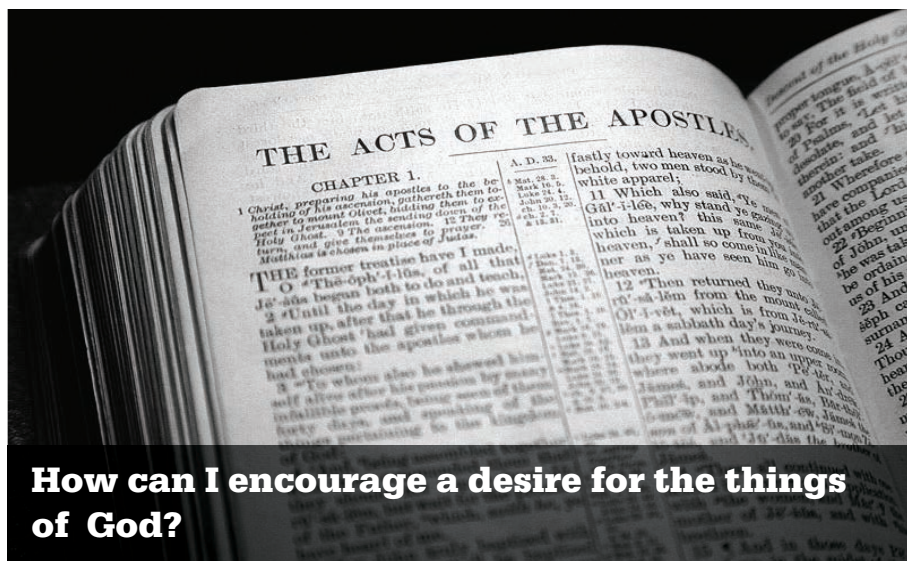
What can you do to whet your spiritual appetite? Write your thoughts below and determine what you can act on this week.

[illegible]

*Your words were found,
and I ate them,
and Your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by Your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.*

JEREMIAH 15:16

What reason does Jeremiah give for delighting in the Word of God? Jeremiah called God, LORD, or “Master”. What does that tell you about Jeremiah’s relationship with God? What is Jeremiah’s identity? Is this your identity?



Goal!

The goal of hungering and thirsting for righteousness for the Christian is sanctification (being cleansed from sin).

The goal of hungering and thirsting for righteousness for the non-Christian is justification (being made right with God).

Which team are you on? Why do you say this? Write your thoughts below.



Read the following two verses:

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. 1 Corinthians 10:23

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. 1 Corinthians 6:12

Compare these verses with the following statement:

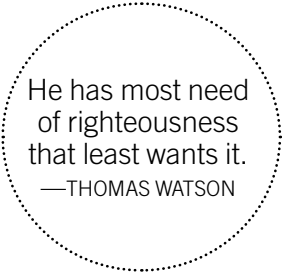
It is asking the wrong question to ask, "What is wrong with this?"

The question you should ask is, "What is right about this?"

What is the statement saying? How will asking the right question help guide your choices?

Do you hunger to see righteousness in the world? What can you do to encourage righteousness in your family? In your church? In your school? In the world?

With your parent/s or mentor, read the second half of Chapter 7 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.



He has most need
of righteousness
that least wants it.
—THOMAS WATSON

The Merciful

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Those who truly embrace the undeserved mercy of God will overflow with mercy toward others and so be blessed with more mercy.

KEY VERSE:

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. MATTHEW 5:7

MAIN IDEAS:

- > God is merciful, forgiving sin and restraining evil.
- > Jesus demonstrated the mercy of God.
- > Mercy includes forgiveness and compassion on those in misery.
- > Those who recognize that they are saved by grace will overflow in extending mercy to others.
- > Mercy is not just a feeling but an action as well.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Psalm 145:8-9 | 4) Luke 7:12-15 | 7) Matthew 5:3-10 |
| 2) John 8:3-11 | 5) Matthew 5:7 | 8) John 8:12 |
| 3) Matthew 9:35-36 | 6) Ephesians 2:1-10 | 9) James 2:13 |

In Class

Discussion 15a

Read John 8:3-11. Read Matthew 9:35-36; Mark 6:34; Luke 7:12-15.

Discussion 15b

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Underline words and phrases that describe people apart from Christ and circle words and phrases that describe God's actions through Christ.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved⁶—and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:1-10

Main Ideas

At Home

Read Psalm 103:8-14.

How has God shown His compassion toward you? What does the psalmist mean when he says that God “remembers that we are but dust”? What is the comfort in that verse?

List some of the Lord's mercies to you below:

Read James 2:13.

For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

List below some times you failed to show mercy. Think about the first phrase of James 2:13. Do you need to spend some time in confession? Look through the list again, and think about what “mercy triumphing over judgment” would look like. Then think of a time when someone showed you mercy, and the result of that.

What would it look like for mercy to triumph in my life?

Read Luke 6:27-38. List all the commands in these verses. Think about the sentence:
For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

Lord, help me
to show mercy
to others!

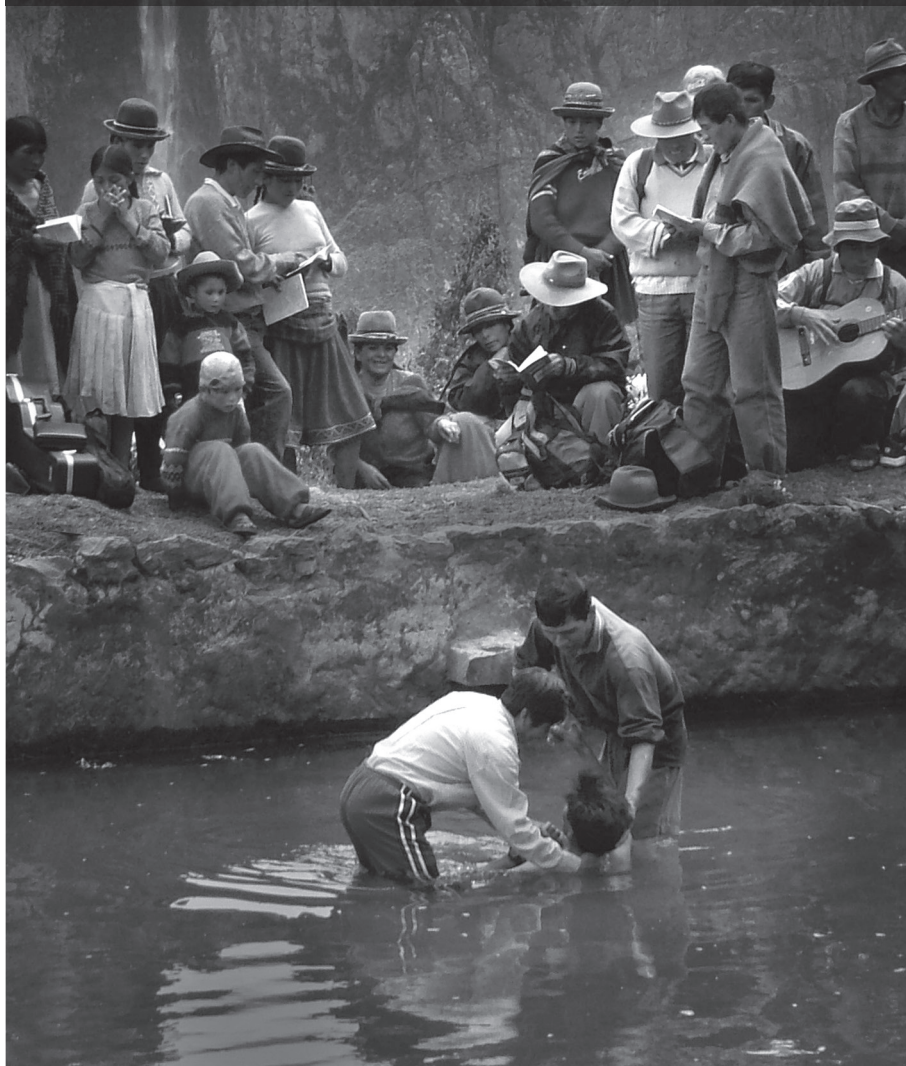
Action!

Is there a practical act of mercy you can do this week?

Write that step below and ask God to help you to take that step this week.

With your parent/s or mentor, read the first half of Chapter 8 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.

**He saved us, not because of works done by us
in righteousness, but according to His own
mercy...** TITUS 3:5A



Photograph © SIM (Serving In Mission)

The Pure in Heart

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Through Jesus Christ sinful hearts are made clean and undivided so that Christians can see God now by faith and one day will see His face in heaven forever.

KEY VERSE:

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. MATTHEW 5:8

MAIN IDEAS:

- > The pure in heart shall see God.
- > Only the righteous shall enter the presence of God.
- > The only way to have a pure heart is through Jesus.
- > Pure in heart means clean from sin and wholly dedicated to God.
- > Seeing God is both now and future; seeing God now means seeing Him in His creation and seeing His hand at work in the world, and enjoying fellowship in God's presence.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Matthew 5:8 | 6) Job 42:5 | 11) Psalm 139:23 |
| 2) Exodus 30:18-21 | 7) Psalm 119:11 | 12) James 4:7-8 |
| 3) Psalm 24:3-4 | 8) Proverbs 4:23 | 13) Proverbs 20:9 |
| 4) Leviticus 20:7-8 | 9) Psalm 51:10 | 14) Jeremiah 32:39 |
| 5) Leviticus 20:24-26 | 10) Psalm 26:2 | 15) Psalm 17:15 |

In Class

Discussion 16a

Read Exodus 30:18-21.

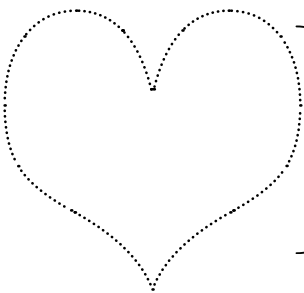
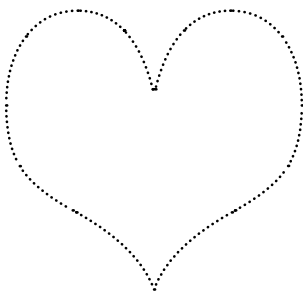
Read Psalm 24:3-4.

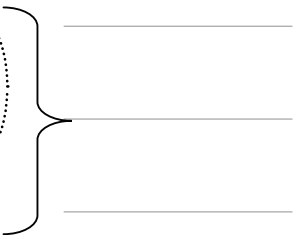
Read Leviticus 20:7-8.

Main Ideas

The Pure in Heart

See God





Lord, teach me
to be pure in
heart!

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read Matthew 23:25. How are the scribes and Pharisees described? What does this say about outward appearances? About the heart?

Do you sometimes wear a “Christian mask”?

Growing up in a Christian home doesn’t make a person a Christian any more than being in an airport makes a person a pilot.

Only through a personal relationship with Jesus can a person truly be pure in heart and wholly devoted to God. This does not mean that your Christian life will be free from struggles. But in the core of your heart, there is a desire to be fully devoted to God, and there are efforts made to fight the battle of complacency and sin. Where do you stand? Write your thoughts below.

Label the picture below with a slogan.



Where are you influenced by the containments of this world? Write these below.



Are there any changes you need to make in your life to help you be pure in heart?

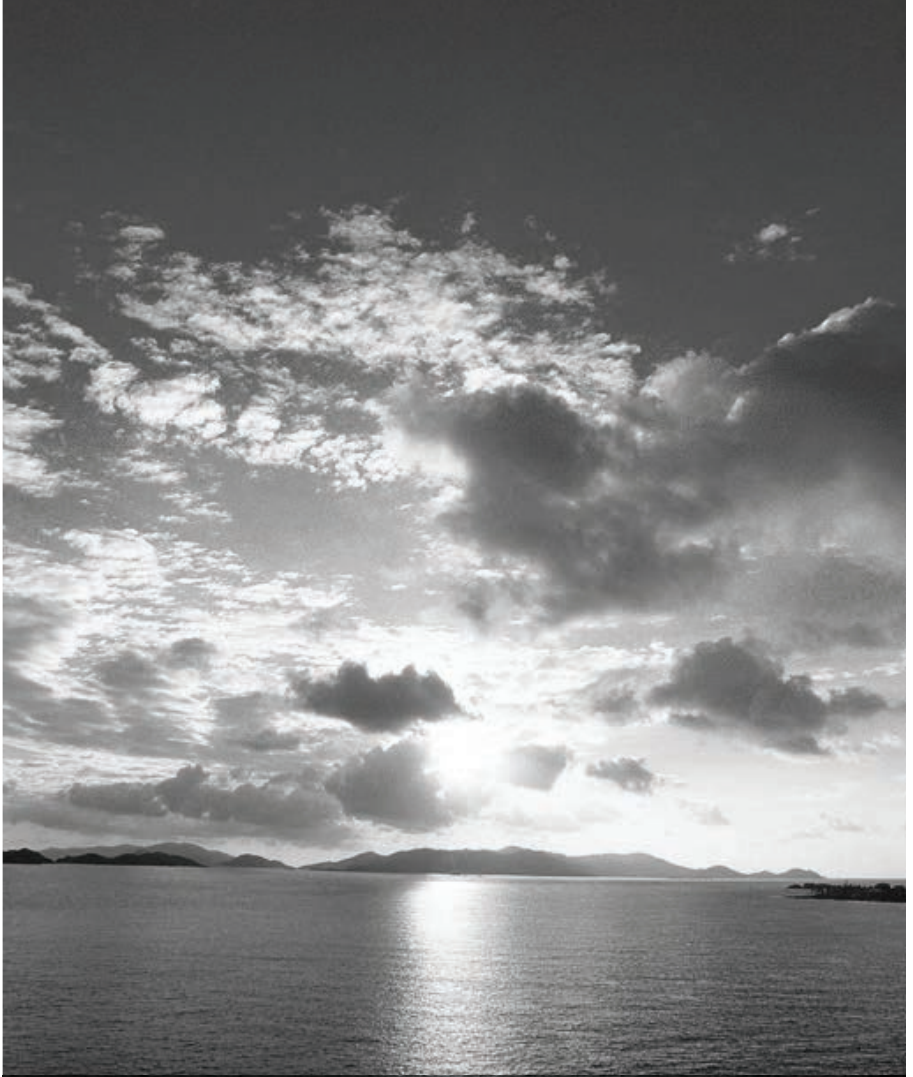
Read Hebrews 10:19. What encouragement does this passage give you?

Read Revelation 22:14. How can you wash your robes since Jesus has paid the price of your sin for you?

Daily confession and daily surrender are things we often neglect. How can you remember to do this daily? What plan can you devise to help yourself? Write your plan below.

With your parent/s or mentor, read the second half of Chapter 8 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.

As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with Your likeness. PSALM 17:15



What can you do to focus your thoughts toward God each morning?

The Peacemaker

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Christ reconciles man to God and then gives man the ministry of active and passive peacemaking.

KEY VERSE:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. MATTHEW 5:9

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Christ reconciles man to God and then gives man the ministry of reconciliation.
- > Peacemakers are blessed and shall be called sons of God.
- > Jesus is the Perfect Peacemaker.
- > Being a peacemaker comes from surrender to Jesus and is an evidence of being a disciple of Jesus.
- > Peacemaking is both active and passive.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Colossians 1:19-20 | 4) Matthew 5:9 | 7) Romans 14:19 |
| 2) Romans 5:1 | 5) John 8:3-11 | 8) 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 |
| 3) 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 | 6) Hebrews 12:14 | 9) 1 Peter 3:8-11 |

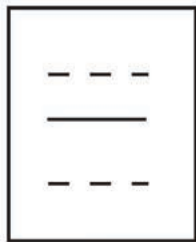


Figure 1

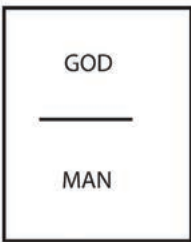


Figure 2

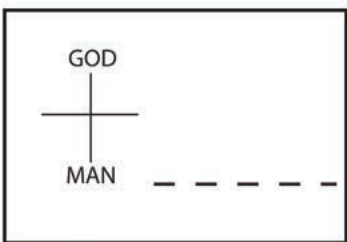


Figure 3

How Jesus Made Peace Between:

Pharisee/Woman	Pharisees/Himself	Woman/Himself

Passive Peacemaking	Active Peacemaking

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:13-18

James is contrasting two kinds of wisdom. Describe these below.

What is the blessing that comes from righteousness?



How can you be a peacemaking bridge?


What makes it difficult for you to be a peacemaker—either actively or passively? Write these issues below and pray about these things regularly.

A peacemaker is like a bridge between two people or two groups. In what way can you be a peacemaking bridge?

Read Romans 12:16. Answer the questions below:

How can you live in harmony with others?

What inner character must you possess in order to follow these verses?



Why does Romans 12:18 say "if possible" and "so far as it depends on you"? What does this mean? Are there circumstances in which a follower of Christ might not be able to live in harmony with others? When?

The Christian is a man who has two men in him, the old and the new. He hates the old and says to him "Silence! Leave me alone! I have finished with you."¹

With your parents/s or mentor, read the first half of chapter 9 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.

¹ Jones, Martyn Lloyd. *The Sermon on the Mount*. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1972), 123.

Those Who Are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Though followers of Christ will be persecuted because of their identification with Christ, they can rejoice because their reward will be great in heaven.

KEY VERSE:

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. MATTHEW 5:10

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Christians belong to the kingdom of God.
- > Followers of Christ will be persecuted.
- > Persecution for the sake of Christ is a blessing.
- > Christians are persecuted because of their identification with Christ.
- > Christians are to rejoice in persecution.
- > The reward for the persecuted Christian is great in heaven.

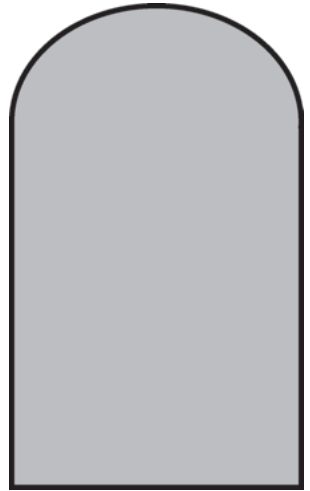
MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Psalm 103:15-16 | 4) Matthew 5:10-12 | 7) 2 Corinthians 11:24-27 |
| 2) James 4:14 | 5) 2 Timothy 3:12 | 8) 1 Peter 4:12-16 |
| 3) Matthew 5:3 | 6) John 15:18-21 | 9) Hebrews 11:13-16 |

Read John 15:18-21.

Read 1 Peter 4:12-16.

Main Ideas



	Who?	What will happen to them?	Why?	Their attitude	Why?	Where?
Though						

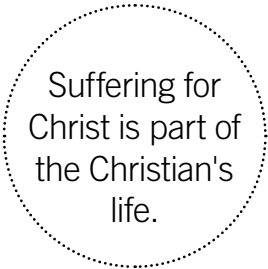
Three Commands in Suffering:

- 1)

- 2)

- 3)

What application can I make of this lesson?



Prayer Requests

At Home

Think about the following quote:

Our assurance of salvation does not come from knowing we made a decision somewhere in the past.

Rather, our assurance that the decision was a true decision for Jesus Christ is found in the life of righteousness that results in suffering for the sake of Christ.¹

What are your thoughts on this quote? Where do you think you stand in relation to Jesus Christ? Write your answer.



Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. MATTHEW 5:10

¹ MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 1-7*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985), 232.

Lesson 18

Read Matthew 10:16-32.

What does it mean to be as “wise as serpents” and as “innocent as doves”?

How is willingness to suffer for the kingdom a sign that a person is saved?

What does verse 28 mean?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-11. Why does Paul picture Christians as “jars of clay”? What is he saying through this metaphor?

How do we rely on the power of God rather than on our own resources? How did Paul demonstrate this in his life?

Lord,
help me
when I suffer
for You!



But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

Read Hebrews 11:1-15.

What is better about a heavenly country? How does knowing that God is preparing a city for His children help a Christian endure suffering?

Is it wrong to seek a reward? Read Hebrews 12:2.

What can you do to keep the kingdom of heaven more at the center of your life? Write your ideas below.

Read Hebrews 11:17-40.

Verse 38 is a startling statement. Why is it so startling? What is so different about that statement from what the world thinks? Why would the writer say that the world was not worthy of these people?




Persecution is not just something that happened a long time ago. Go to *The Voice of the Martyrs* website and read about persecuted Christians. Send a note of encouragement to a persecuted Christian through the site.

Pray for those who are experiencing persecution. Make a list below of things that you can pray about for these Christians. Use the references in the lesson and Hebrews 11 to help you make your list.

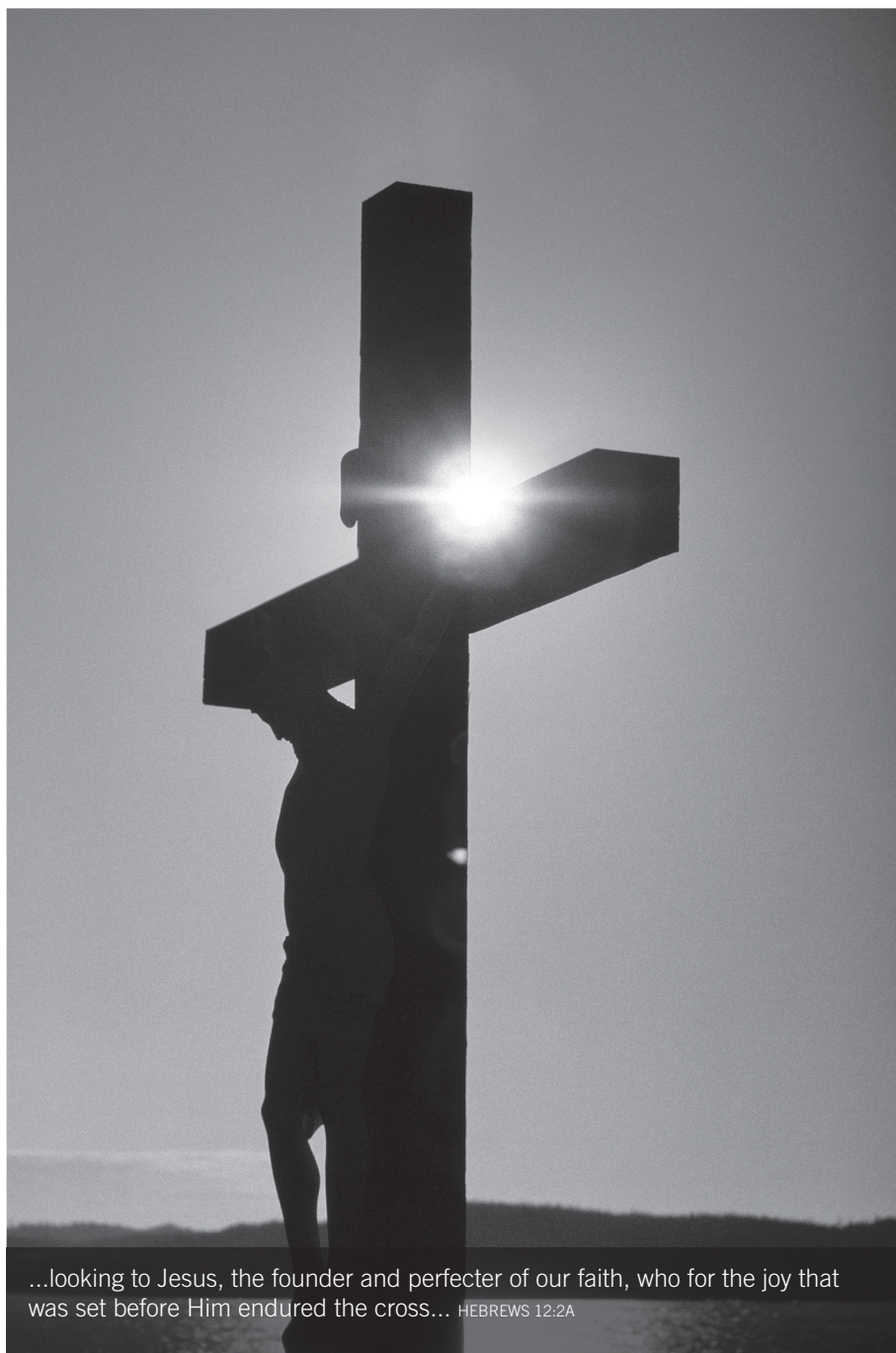
With your parent/s or mentor, read the second half of Chapter 9 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.

*The central theme of the Beatitudes
is righteousness.¹*

The Beatitudes

poor in spirit mourn		our own righteousness
meek hunger and thirst for righteousness merciful pure in heart peacemakers		our seeking and reflecting righteousness
persecuted for righteousness		suffering for the sake of righteousness

¹ Adapted from: MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 1-7*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985), 227.



...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross... HEBREWS 12:2A

The Salt of the Earth

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Christians are called to be salt, flavoring the world with the Gospel and preserving the world from moral decay.

KEY VERSE:

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. MATTHEW 5:13

MAIN IDEAS:

- > As the salt of the earth, Christians are to be a positive, noticeable presence in the world preserving the world from moral decay.
- > Christians can become diluted when they fill their lives with the world, dulling their spiritual appetites, and when they trade high standards for the world's low standards.
- > Those who do not demonstrate the uniquely Christ-like character reflected in the Beatitudes are not useful in the kingdom, and may even need to question if they are true followers of Christ.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1) 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 | 3) 1 Timothy 6:9-14 | 5) John 17:14-18 |
| 2) 2 Timothy 2:22-24 | 4) Matthew 5:13 | 6) Psalm 119:37 |

In Class

Discussion 19a

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-16.

Discussion 19b

Read 2 Timothy 2:22-24; 1 Timothy 6:9-14.

Main Ideas

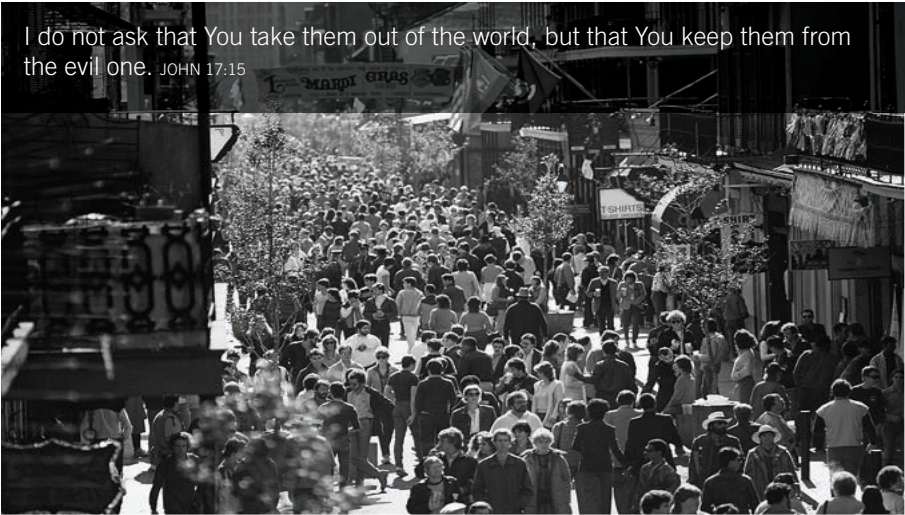
What I should pursue:

Am I _____

or is _____?

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests



At Home

Read Daniel 1. How did Daniel handle his problem? What does this tell you about the way the Christian should confront the world?

Read Daniel 3. What was the response of the Chaldeans to the godliness of Daniel and his three friends? How does this relate to Matthew 5:10-12? In what ways did Daniel and his friends reflect God? What kind of response was there to the “aroma” of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

Read Daniel 6. In what ways was Daniel different from those around him? Would you say that Daniel tried to get as close to the line between “acceptable and unacceptable” as possible?

What shows Daniel’s uncompromising boldness in holding to what he knew was right? Why did Daniel pray in front of the open window? How was Daniel “salt”?

Not only was Daniel distinct from those around him, we even get the impression that he gloried in his differentness. Do you note any sense that Daniel was ashamed to stand for the truth? Why do you think Daniel was so strong in his convictions? What can you learn from Daniel?

Below, write some ways in which you can be uncompromisingly bold in standing for the Lord. Pray about this list. Is there a step that God would have you take? Ask Him for strength and then *act* on this.

Don't be
ashamed to
stand for the
truth!

Take a closer look!

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-16. Underline all the commands in the passage. Circle the reasoning behind the commands. Put a box around the promise in these verses.

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.⁷ Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.¹¹ Command and teach these things.¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.¹⁵ Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.¹⁶ Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Timothy 4:6-16

What is one practical thing you can take away from this passage?

With your parent/s or mentor, read the first half of Chapter 10 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. MATTHEW 5:13



The Light of the World

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Those who follow Jesus, the True Light of the World, reflect His light to a dark world.

KEY VERSE:

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. MATTHEW 5:14-16

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Jesus is the light of the world.
- > The followers of Jesus are also light because the light of Jesus is within them and because they are called to reflect His light to the world.
- > The mission of Christians as light bearers is to reveal darkness, warn of spiritual danger, and guide those in darkness to the True Light.
- > The true Christian will not hide his light.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1) John 1:9 | 4) Colossians 1:3 | 7) Ephesians 5:11 |
| 2) John 8:12 | 5) Matthew 5:14a | 8) Ephesians 5:8-14 |
| 3) 2 Corinthians 4:6 | 6) John 3:16-21 | 9) Matthew 5:14-16 |

In Class

Discussion 20a

Read John 3:16-21. Draw a circle around every reference to “light”; underline statements referring to the Christian’s response to the light; double underline statements referring to the non-Christian’s response to the light.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.¹⁸ Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.

Discussion 20b

Read Ephesians 5:8-14. Underline Paul's four commands to Christians.

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Main Ideas

Jesus, help me
be a light to Your
world!

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read Titus 2:11-15. List the commands in this passage.

What does the word "training" imply? How is God training you? How can you cooperate with His training?

Read Philippians 2:14-16. What things do you tend to grumble or complain about? If you are a Christian, what does that do to your witness? How can you joyfully follow God's command to be light?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:58 and Romans 12:21. What can you DO in response to these passages? Be practical about how you can apply these verses in your everyday life.

How can I
overcome evil
with good?

Read John 9:1-7. What is Jesus saying in verse 4? What does the urgency expressed by Jesus in verse 4 mean for you?

In the frame below, list some of the good works that Jesus did. Did they bring glory to His Father? If so, how did they?

Read the following verse:

*Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable,
so that when they speak against you as evildoers,
they may see your good deeds
and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

1 PETER 2:12

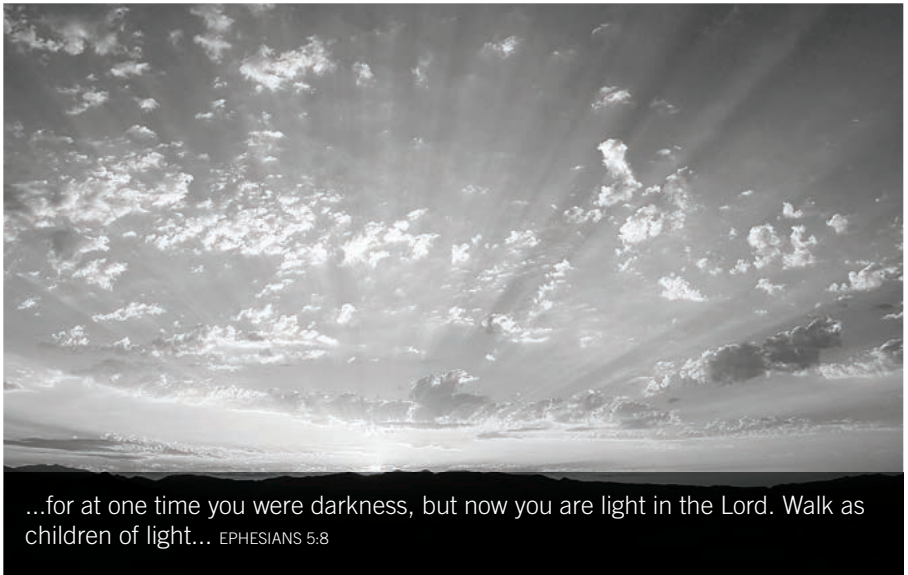
What does this verse presume?

What is “the day of visitation”?

What encouragement to persevere does this verse give the Christian?

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the courage to show your light by your good deeds and by your words of testimony.



As the light of the world, Christians are called to:

WARN



EXPOSE

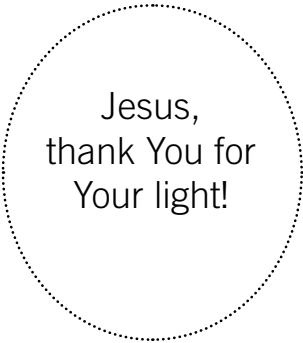


GUIDE



What does this mean for you?

With your parent/s or mentor, read the second half of Chapter 10 of *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer.





"While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, He departed and hid Himself from them. JOHN 12:36

Anger

FOCUS STATEMENT:

The heart attitude of anger, not just the outward act of murder, is liable to judgment.

KEY VERSE:

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. MATTHEW 5:22

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Our righteousness must be more than an outward righteousness; it must be an inward righteousness of the heart.
- > Not only murder (the outward act of taking the life of another person) is forbidden by God, but also the inward attitude of desiring harm to another.
- > The mouth speaks out of the abundance of the heart; a person's fruit shows a person's heart.
- > Anger is dangerous and must be arrested.
- > Jesus imputes perfect righteousness to His followers and the Holy Spirit helps them to walk in His ways.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

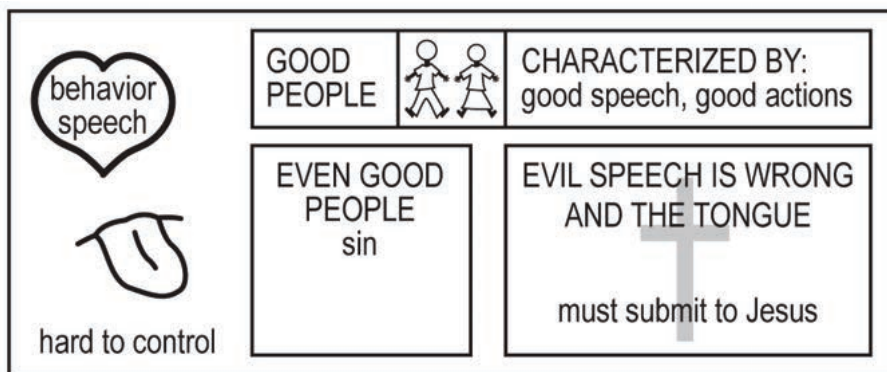
- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Matthew 5:20-22 | 4) Proverbs 6:27 | 7) 1 Peter 2:23 |
| 2) Luke 6:43-45 | 5) 1 John 3:15 | |
| 3) James 3:7-10 | 6) Proverbs 19:11 | |

In Class

Discussion 21a

Read Luke 6:43-45.

Read James 3:7-10.



Discussion 21b

Read Proverbs 19:11.

Read 1 Peter 2:23.

Strategies for dealing with anger:



For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. LUKE 6:43-44A

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read the following verses on anger. Write down what you learn from each verse in the space below.

§ Proverbs 14:29

§ Proverbs 29:22

§ Proverbs 15:1

§ Proverbs 16:32

§ Ecclesiastes 7:9

§ James 1:19

Lord, help me
to put off anger
and put on
righteousness!

Keep a record of when you get angry or are tempted to get angry. See if you can identify any anger triggers. Can you identify any potential heart idols?

Lord,
I commit
my way to You!

In class you discussed two ways of submitting to Jesus' ways when offended or sinned against:

Proverbs 19:11—be slow to anger; overlook offenses

1 Peter 2:23—do not retaliate but trust God to judge rightly

Here are two more:

Proverbs 17:14—The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.

Express this principle in your own words.

Psalms 37:4-8—Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in His way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

Verses 4-5 are the prerequisite for verses 6-8. How does one delight himself in the Lord? How does one commit one's way to the Lord?

What does it mean to "be still before the Lord"? Practically, what does this look like?

Be still and
trust that God
will act!

Think about the following quote from Paul David Tripp:

*Our tongues are a restless evil
because the "heart is deceitful
above all things and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).
Word problems reveal heart problems.
The people and situations around us
do not make us say what we say;
they are only the occasion for our hearts
to reveal themselves in words.¹*

¹ Tripp, Paul David. *War of Words*. (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R Publishing, 2000), 55.

Ephesians 4:26 gives us wise counsel regarding anger. Righteous anger over sin and evil in the world still is not a reason to sin. How can you channel righteous anger into constructive energy? Is there a situation of injustice or wrongdoing that you can work at correcting?

If you determine to resolve conflicts before the day is over, it stems the growth of resentment. How can you apply this in your life?

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger. Ephesians 4:26

How do you usually handle offenses?

How can you learn to overlook a real offense? If you are a child of God, you have this promise:

*I will bless those who bless you,
and him who dishonors you I will curse,
and in you all the families of the earth
shall be blessed.*

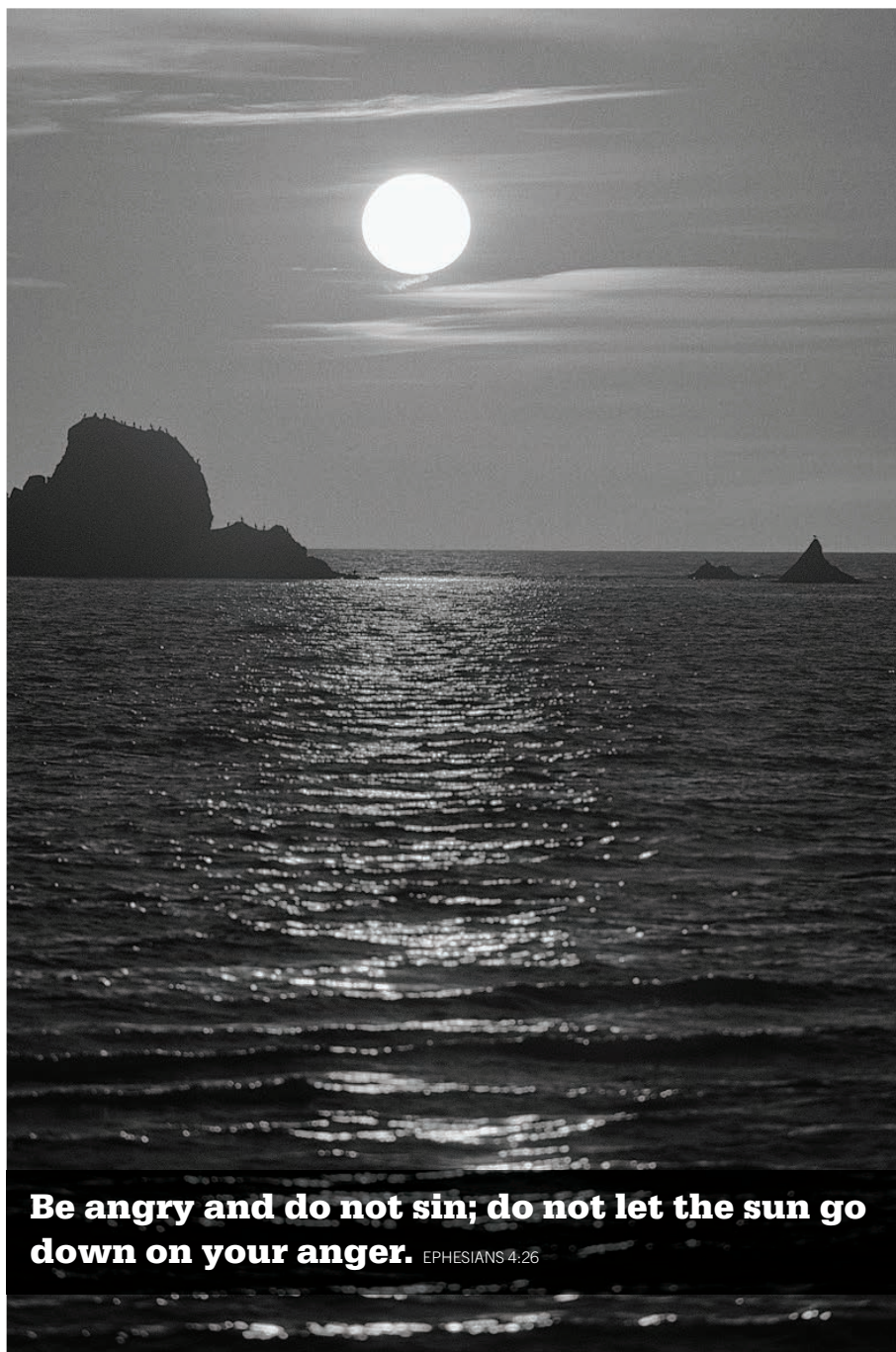
Genesis 12:3

How does this help you handle offenses?

How does being poor in spirit and mourning over sin help someone overlook the sin in others?

Ask God to give you a greater sense of your own sin and to increase your patience and mercy toward others.

If you have not finished *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer, continue your reading. Start memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.



Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger. EPHESIANS 4:26

Reconciliation

FOCUS STATEMENT:

God delights when His obedient children quickly initiate reconciliation more than He delights in outward religious activity.

KEY VERSE:

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling.

1 TIMOTHY 2:8

MAIN IDEAS:

- > The Christian is commanded to reconcile with his brother in order to worship with a right heart; reconciliation should come before religious activity or that activity will not reflect a heart of true worship.
- > God delights in obedience more than in sacrifices; the sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken and contrite heart.
- > Christians should be initiators in restoring peace in a relationship.
- > Christians are commanded to move toward reconciliation with urgency.
- > Christians must attempt to be at peace with everyone.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Matthew 5:23-24 | 4) Luke 19:1-10 | 8) Romans 12:18 |
| 2) 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-9,
10-15, 22-23 | 5) Matthew 5:25-26 | |
| 3) Psalm 51:17 | 6) Hebrews 12:14-15 | |
| | 7) Matthew 18:15-17 | |

In Class

Discussion 22a

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-3.

Read 1 Samuel 15:7-9.

Read 1 Samuel 15:10-15.

Read 1 Samuel 15:22-23.

Read Psalm 51:17.

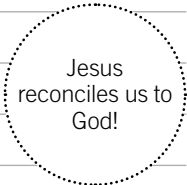
Discussion 22b

Read Luke 19:1-10.

Main Ideas

God's reconcilers are:

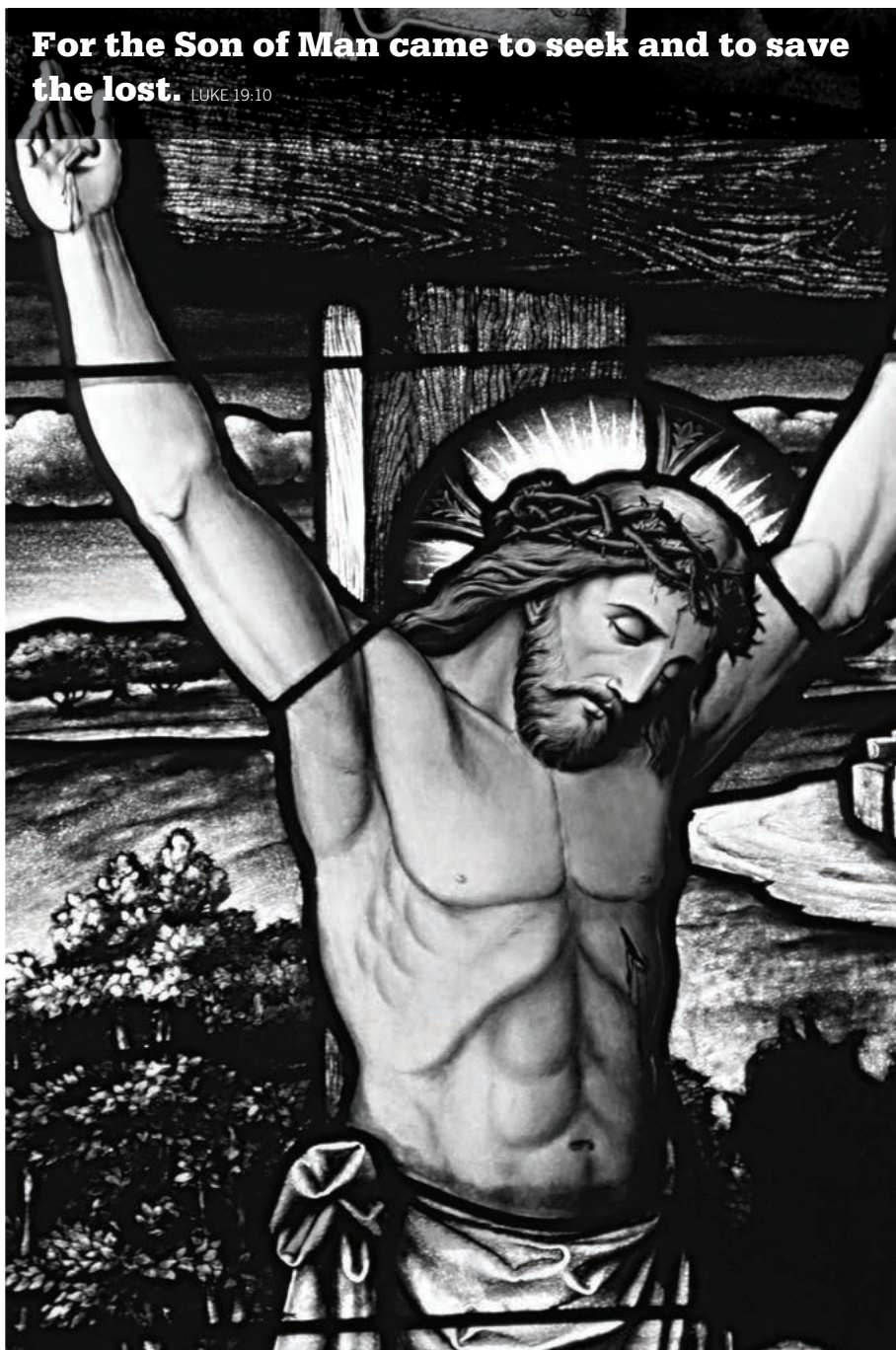




What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. LUKE 19:10



At Home

Read Psalm 51:17. Does this verse mean that God does not like religious activity? What is it saying?

To participate in religious activity while harboring resentment or bitterness in the heart is hypocrisy. Obviously, the answer to this dilemma isn't to neglect going to church. What can the Christian do to keep a pure heart in worship?

Is there any sin you need to confess? Spend some time in heart examination and confession.

Read the following verse:

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling. 1 Timothy 2:8

How does this verse relate to Matthew 5:23-24?

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.



The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. PSALM 51:17

Read 1 Samuel 25:1-35 and answer the following questions:

- What was David's request of Nabal? What can you surmise about David's situation?
- Was it an unreasonable request? Did Nabal have the means to grant David's request?
- What was the tone of David's request? What was the extent of his request—how particular was David?
- How had David and his men treated Nabal's men?
- Describe Nabal. What was the tone of his denial of David's request?
- How does Nabal's servant speak about him in verse 17? Why is being unapproachable such a devastating shortcoming?
- What was David's response to Nabal's offense?
- Describe Abigail. What was her response to the offense of her husband to David?
- How is Abigail's response similar to Jesus' command in Matthew 5:24?
- What was David's response to Abigail? Compare this with Proverbs 15:1.
- What do verses 33 and 34 show you about anger that is allowed to fester?
- What does verse 35 show you about David's heart?

Write below what you learned from this passage and how you can apply it to your life:

Lord, help me
to reconcile with
others!

Often an apology is not accepted or a relationship isn't adequately healed because the apology is wrongly given. Below are some guidelines from Peacemaker Ministries for making an apology.

The Seven A's of Confession¹

Address everyone involved

Avoid "if", "but", and "maybe"

Not, "I know I should have asked to use your game but you weren't home." This is an excuse not an apology.

Admit specifically

Admit your specific sin addressing the heart issues as well as the actions. Name your specific sin.

Apologize

Demonstrate that you understand how your sin affected the other person. For example, "I'm sorry I made you feel foolish when I..."

Accept the consequences

Alter your behavior

Ask for forgiveness and allow time


Don't leave your apology at "I'm sorry," but show that you recognize that you need the forgiveness of the other person: "Will you forgive me?" or "Will you forgive me for...?"

How can I
show that
I'm truly
sorry?

¹ Sande, Ken. *Peacemaking for Families*. (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2002), 52-58.

Is there anyone from whom you need to ask forgiveness? If so, first confess your sin to the Lord. Then use the chart below to help you make a good apology. If not, save the chart for the next time you need it.

Who do I need to address?
What specifically do I need to admit?
Write out an apology avoiding "if", "but", and "maybe."
How do I need to alter my behavior?



Now *ACT* in obedience. Ask for forgiveness and accept the consequences.

Read 2 Timothy 2:24.

Write down the qualities of the follower of Christ that Paul mentions in this passage.



How is the character of the Beatitudes needed in order to act in this manner?

What purpose of God and what blessing to others may this demonstration of the character of the Beatitudes fulfill?

If you are a Christian, ask God each day to help you to grow in Christ's character and to demonstrate the attitude of Christ in your relationships with others.

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another. JAMES 5:16A



Lust

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Lust is a strong, progressive, controlling desire that must be cut off so that the believer will reflect God's wise and pure design for his life.

KEY VERSE:

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. MATTHEW 5:29

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in Your ways. PSALM 119:37

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Not just the external act of adultery is wrong, but also the inner heart attitude of lust is wrong.
 - > Jesus is not just condemning adultery and lust, He is also commanding purity.
 - > Lust grows when it is fed.
 - > We have a responsibility not to place a stumbling block before others. (theme for girls)
 - > Lust is a deadly poison; it is a progressive desire that becomes uncontrollable.
 - > Lifetime habits are formed in youth.
 - > We need to take whatever measures are necessary to protect ourselves from lust; no measure is too drastic.
-

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Matthew 5:27-28 | 4) Romans 14:13 (girls) | 7) 1 Corinthians 6:17-18 |
| 2) Job 31:1 (boys) | 5) Matthew 5:29-30 | |
| 3) 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 | 6) Psalm 119:37 | |
-

In Class

Discussion 23a: Boys

Read Job 31:1.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.

Discussion 23a: Girls

Read Romans 14:13.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.

Discussion 23b

Read Psalm 119:37.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:17-18.

Main Ideas

Suggestions for Cutting Off Wrong Desires

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Keep a viewing log. Write down the movies or television shows you watch, the magazines and internet sites you look at, etc.

Viewing Log:

Read the verses below:

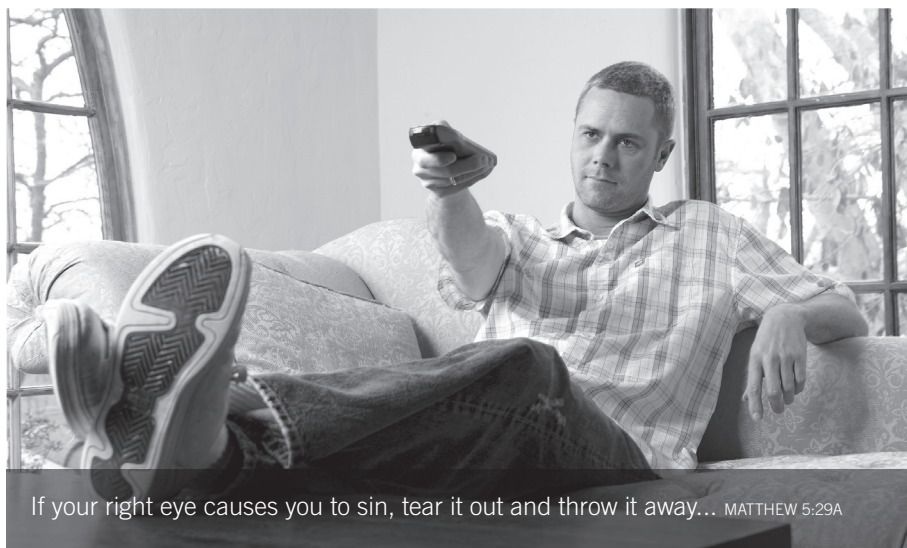
*Turn my eyes
from looking at worthless things;
and give me life in Your ways.*

PSALM 119:37

*I have made a covenant with my eyes;
how then could I gaze at a virgin?*

JOB 31:1

Think about what these verses mean. How will your life need to change if you take these verses seriously?



If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away... MATTHEW 5:29A

Consider making a covenant with your eyes as Job did.

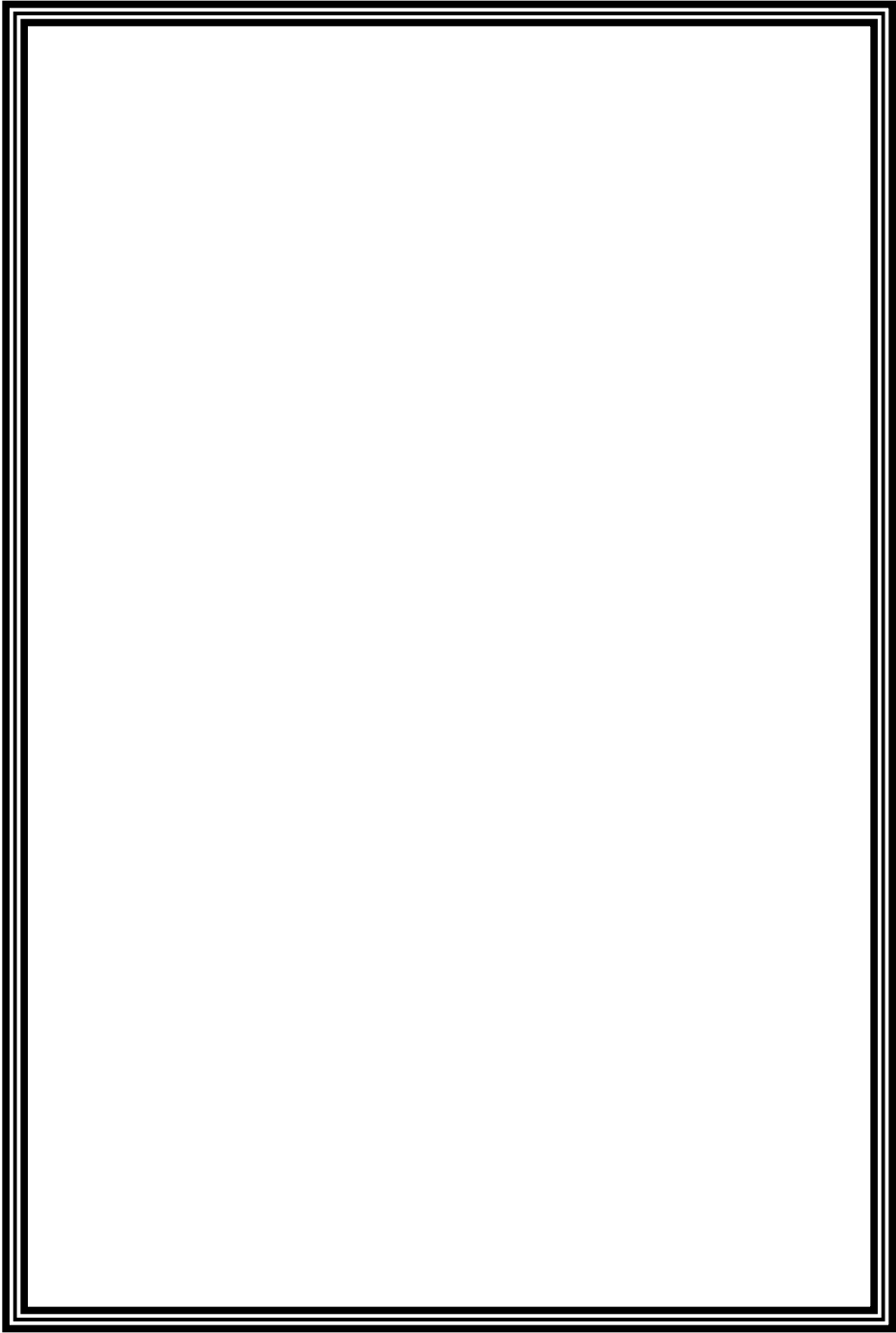
If you want to make such a covenant, write it in the frame below.

Sign and date it.

After you've done this, rewrite your covenant on the next page, making it an "official copy". Then cut it out and place it in a prominent place.

My Covenant with My Eyes:





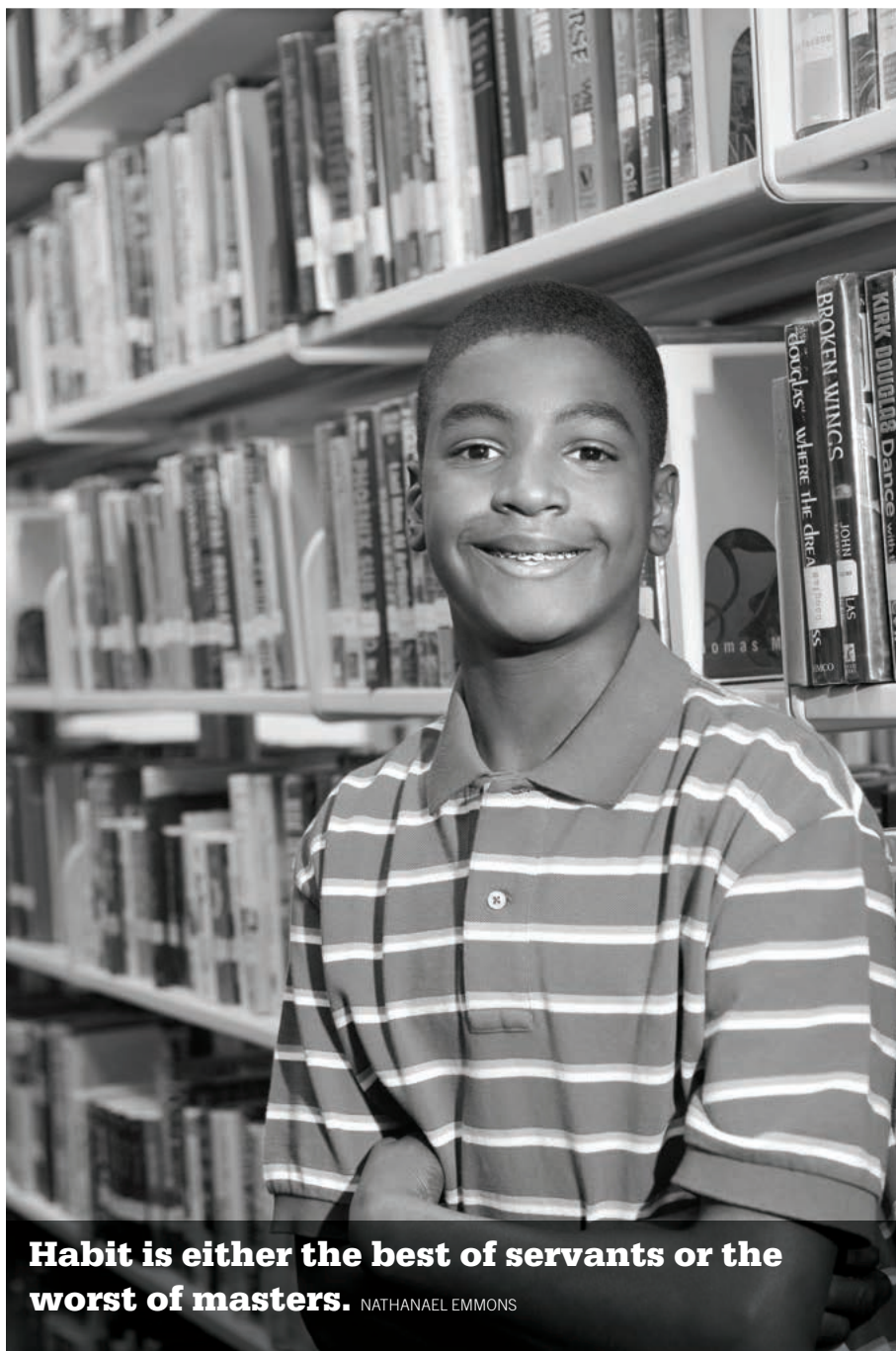
It is good to have viewing standards already determined before you are in a situation where you must decide if something is appropriate. Think about viewing standards. Discuss them with your parent/s and/or other mature adults. Then determine your standards and write them below. Be specific so that they are a good guideline for you.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

Read Genesis 39. What can you learn from Joseph's example?

What did Joseph's standards cost him? Was it worth it?

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.



Habit is either the best of servants or the worst of masters. NATHANAEL EMMONS

Dying to Self

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Christians are called to follow the example of Jesus and die to self, surrendering their rights to God.

KEY VERSE:

Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good. ROMANS 12:21

MAIN IDEAS:

- > The spirit of retaliation in the human heart is in conflict with the ways of God.
- > The Christian is not to resist the one who is evil—the one who personally offends him.
- > The Christian response to need is generosity.
- > Christians are called to die to self and surrender their rights.
- > Remembering the mercy of God toward us is a way to fight the spirit of retaliation.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Matthew 5:38-42 | 4) Proverbs 22:26 | 7) Romans 12:21 |
| 2) Psalm 103:8-14 | 5) Proverbs 17:19 | |
| 3) Luke 6:35-36 | 6) 1 John 3:17 | |

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests



Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

LUKE 6:36

At Home

Lord, help
me to return
evil with good!

What areas of your life are a struggle for you to surrender to Jesus? Where do you find yourself fighting for your “rights”? Ask God to reveal your heart. Where do you want to change? Write a prayer to God below.

Read 1 Peter 3:9. What is the command in this verse? What is the promise in this verse? Do you believe this promise? Put God’s Word to the test this week. Obey the command and watch for the result. Remember blessings don’t always look like we expect them to look. Write the result below.

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.

Love Your Enemies

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Believers who have experienced the love and forgiveness of God are called to imitate God by committing to love and forgive their enemies.

KEY VERSE:

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. MATTHEW 5:44

MAIN IDEAS:

- > The Gospel heals the relationship between man and God and the relationship between man and man.
- > God loves His enemies because He is good.
- > Christians are called to imitate God in loving our enemies.
- > If we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us; if we don't forgive others, we really don't understand the sin in our own hearts.
- > Forgiveness is not a feeling, it is a commitment.
- > Those who are truly Christians will grow in Christ-like character.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Romans 5:5-8 | 3) Luke 6:27-36 |
| 2) Matthew 5:43-48 | 4) Matthew 6:14-15 |

In Class

Discussion 25a

Read Luke 6:27-36.

But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.³² "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Discussion 25b

Read Matthew 6:14-15.

"Do not waste your time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him...The difference between a Christian and a worldly man is not that the worldly man has only affections or "likings" and the Christian has only "charity." The worldly man treats certain people kindly because he "likes" them; the Christian, trying to treat everyone kindly, finds himself liking more and more people as he goes on."¹

¹ Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*. (London: Fontana, 1964), 114.

What could these truths look like in my life?

At Home

Read Matthew 18:21-35. Write a note below to God explaining your response to this truth.

Is there someone in your life who you need to forgive? What is holding you back from forgiving this person?

Reread the words of Matthew 6:14-15. Ask God to help you forgive that person.

Read the four promises of forgiveness on the next page. In the space below, write down what forgiving that person would look like.

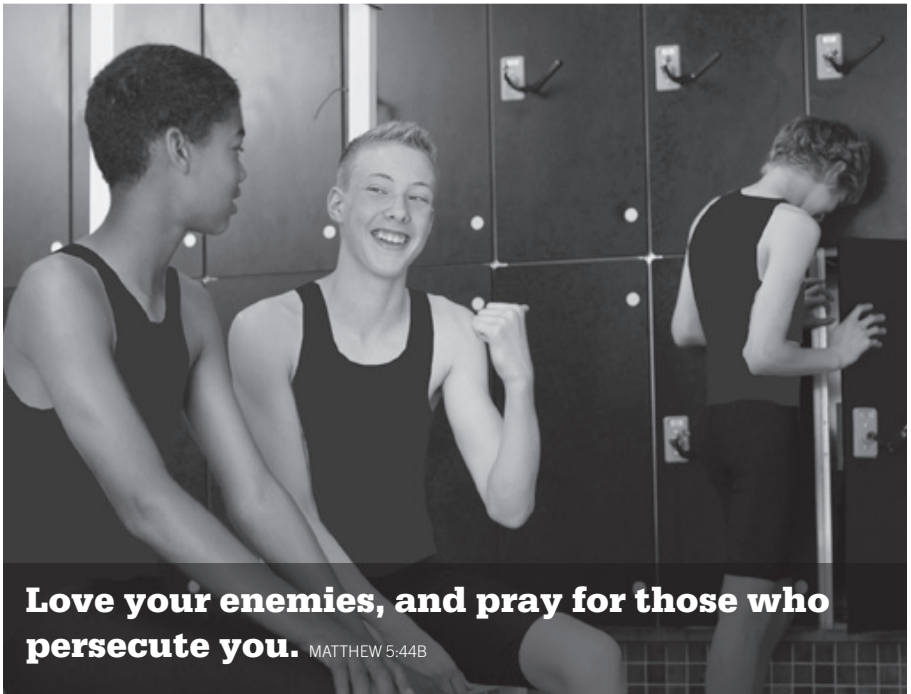
Four Promises of Forgiveness¹

I will not think about this incident.

**I will not bring up this incident again
and use it against you.**

I will not talk to others about this incident.

**I will not allow this incident to stand between us
or hinder our personal relationship.**



**Love your enemies, and pray for those who
persecute you. MATTHEW 5:44B**

¹ Sande, Ken. *Peacemaking for Families*. (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2002), 41.

Two kinds of love in the Bible as explained by Bruce Ware, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, are “because of” love and “in spite of” love.

**"Because of" Love =
Because of the Value
or Virtue of the
Recipient**

**"In Spite of" Love=
In Spite of the
Deficiencies of the
Recipient**

Read Psalm 119:97-98 and Psalm 18:1-2 as examples of “because of” love. Record your observations below.

I love _____ because _____.

I love _____ because _____.

Read Ephesians 2:1-7 and Romans 5:6-8 as examples of “in spite of love.” Record your observations below.

What kind of love do we have for God? What kind of love does God have for us? What kind of love are we to have toward our enemies? How is God our example? How are we in the same situation as our enemies?

Think about the following quote by John Piper.¹

*Being sanctified means that we are
imperfect and in process.*

*We are becoming holy
but are not yet fully holy.
And it is precisely these—
and only these*

—who are already perfected.

*The joyful encouragement here
is that the evidence
of our perfection before God
is not our experienced perfection,
but our experienced progress.*

*The good news is that being
on the way is proof
that we have arrived.*

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.

¹ Piper, John. *The Passion of Jesus Christ* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2004), 49.

Hypocrisy

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Actions and worship that please God overflow from pure hearts that desire His praise more than the praise of others.

KEY VERSE:

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

MATTHEW 6:1

MAIN IDEAS:

- > The pure motive for letting our good works be seen is so that others give glory to God.
- > True righteousness comes from a pure heart and overflows in expressions of good works.
- > Even sincere Christians are susceptible to hypocrisy.
- > Even good things can be done with a sinful heart.
- > God rewards those who give, pray, and fast with a sincere heart.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Matthew 6:1 | 3) Matthew 6:2-6, 16-18 | 5) 2 Corinthians 9:7 |
| 2) Matthew 5:16 | 4) Acts 5:1-6 | 6) Hebrews 12:2 |

In Class

Discussion 26a

Read Acts 5:1-6.
Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.

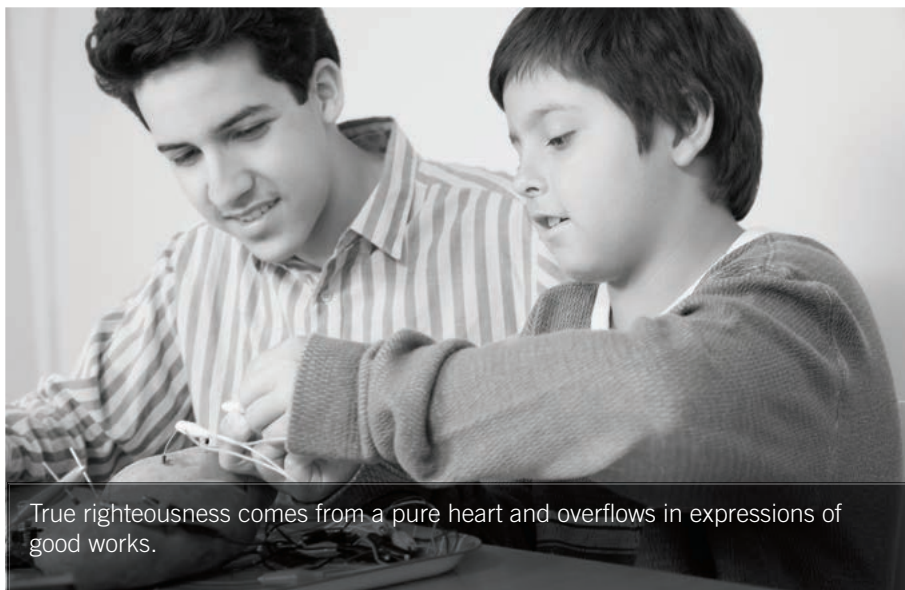
Discussion 26b

The Hypocrite's Reward	The True Believer's Reward

Questions to Help Me Discern My Heart

1. If I could go to heaven and see my friends, but Jesus wasn't there, would I be content?
2. Do I not only know my memory verses, but also strive to obey them?
3. Do I recognize sin in myself and ask God to purify my heart?
-
-
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Main Ideas



True righteousness comes from a pure heart and overflows in expressions of good works.

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Even good things can be done with a sinful heart.

Think about the way Jesus addresses the Pharisee who invited Him to dinner:

...you are full of greed and wickedness .

You fools!

But woe to you!

...you neglect justice and the love of God.

Woe to you Pharisees!

...you love the best seat and greetings.

Woe to you!

...you are like unmarked graves.

Does this seem like an unusual way to talk to a host? What does this tell you about the serious nature of hypocrisy?

Write below a definition of true righteousness:

Sometimes people reject Christianity because they see hypocrites in the church. What do you think about this?

In the last lesson, we noted that “being perfect” (Matthew 5:48) means that you are heading in the right direction—you are becoming more like Christ—not that you have arrived at perfection. How does this help you understand the apparent hypocrisy in the church?

Read Matthew 13:24-30. How does this help you handle hypocrisy in the church?

Now, look at the inconsistencies in your own life. Are you always honest about who you are? Do you always live up to what you say you believe? How does this help you handle hypocrisy in the church?

Is there an area in which you see inconsistency between your talk and your walk or your talk and your heart? Is there something you need to surrender to God? Is there an area in which you need to change or grow? Write your response below. Then make it a matter of regular prayer.

What is the “cure” for hypocrisy?

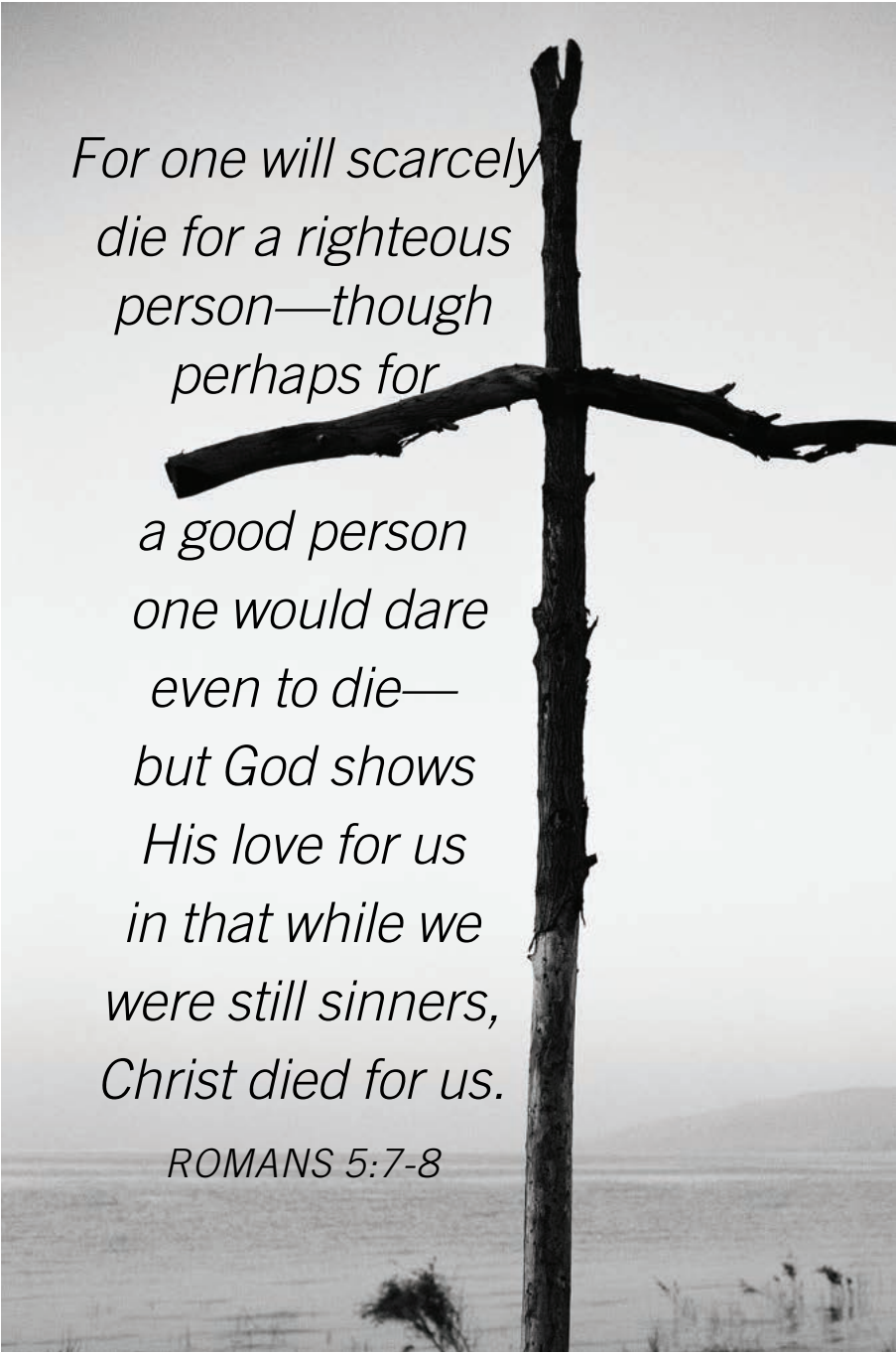
Consider this:

We have a need to make ourselves look better than we are because deep down we know that we are sinners and we see the evil in our own hearts.

BUT IN CHRIST we have full acceptance. God accepts sinners as we are! So Christ not only takes care of our sin problem by declaring us righteous through imputing His righteousness to us, but for the children of God, the Holy Spirit works in us to conform us to the character of Christ.

God knows we are in process, so we need not pretend we are not sinners, but rather rejoice that we are accepted and cooperate with His refining work in us.

This is good news for those who are “in Christ”. If you are not “in Christ,” this is a great hope. God’s offer of salvation is for you today.



*For one will scarcely
die for a righteous
person—though
perhaps for*

*a good person
one would dare
even to die—
but God shows
His love for us
in that while we
were still sinners,
Christ died for us.*

ROMANS 5:7-8

God loves generous giving that comes from a pure heart. Read the following texts: Leviticus 25:35, Deuteronomy 14:29, Deuteronomy 15:7-8, Proverbs 19:17, and 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Write down what you learned from these passages.

How do you know when to “let your light shine” and when you are acting to be “seen by others”? A.B. Bruce has a helpful guideline for us.

*We are to show
when tempted to hide
and hide
when tempted to show.
A.B. BRUCE*

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.

Submission in Prayer

FOCUS STATEMENT:

True prayer is focused on God and flows out of relationship with God.

KEY VERSE:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. MATTHEW 6:9B-10

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Prayer is just empty words unless a person has a relationship with God.
- > The Lord's Prayer is a picture of the surrendered heart.
- > The Lord's Prayer is a God-centered prayer.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1) Matthew 6:7-13 | 4) 1 Peter 3:15 | 7) 1 John 1:7-9 |
| 2) John 1:12 | 5) James 1:17 | 8) James 1:13-14 |
| 3) Psalm 115:3 | 6) Proverbs 28:13 | |

In Class

Discussion 27a

Read John 1:12.

Read Psalm 115:3.

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.¹⁰ Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..." Matthew 6:9-13

Discussion 27b

Read Proverbs 28:13.


Main Ideas

[illegible]

At Home

Can you say that God is your Father? Do you have a personal relationship with Him? What in your life points to this? Read the quote below:

*Prayer involves struggle,
but the struggle is not that
of persuading our God.
Rather, it is the struggle involved
in being subdued by God,
coming out of the dark and secret places
in which we have been hiding
the truth about ourselves,
and laying the whole of our lives
before Him.¹*



Lord, help
me submit to
You in prayer!

¹ Ferguson, Sinclair. *The Sermon on the Mount*. (Carlisle, Penn.: Banner of Truth Trust, 1987), 120.

God knows who we are—He knows the most secret places of our hearts. We really can't hide anything from Him. Is there anything you want to confess to Him?

Read over the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Think about each phrase carefully and the implications of it in your life. Can you pray each phrase sincerely? Where do you struggle? What do you need to submit to God? Pray as much of this prayer as you are sincerely able to. If there are parts you cannot pray, ask God to change you so you will be able to pray these parts. Write any commitment you have made below.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven... MATTHEW 6:9-10

The relationship between God and His children, as seen in The Lord's Prayer:¹

Our Father: father/child

Hallowed Be Your Name: the deity/worshipper

Your Kingdom Come: the sovereign/subject

Your Will Be Done: the master/servant

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread: the benefactor/beneficiary

Forgive Us Our Debts: the Savior/Sinner

Lead Us Not into Temptation: the guide/pilgrim

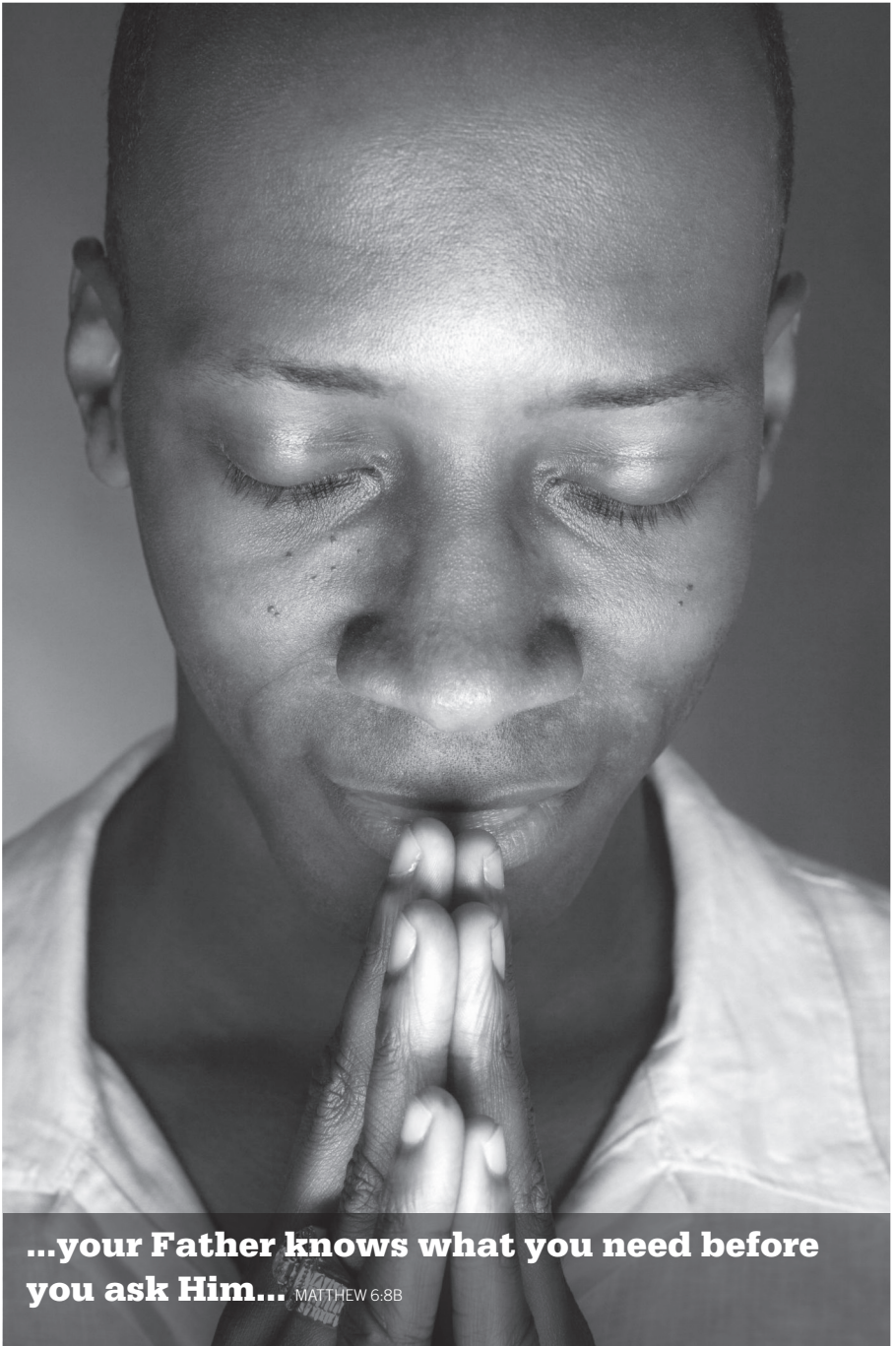


Note as you pray this week and as you hear others pray how much prayer is God-centered and how much is self-centered. Then pray that God's people focus more on Him in prayer.

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.

Lord, Yours
is the kingdom
and the glory!

¹ MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 1-7*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985), 374.



**...your Father knows what you need before
you ask Him...** MATTHEW 6:8B

Store Up Treasures in Heaven

FOCUS STATEMENT:

What we treasure reveals and captures our desires and influences everything in our lives so true joy can only be found in pursuing the eternal heavenly treasures for which God designed us.

KEY VERSE:

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. MATTHEW 6:19-20

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Earthly treasures are temporary; heavenly treasures are eternal.
- > Pursue heavenly treasures.
- > Our treasures both reveal and capture our hearts.
- > Our vision—our priorities— influences everything in our lives.
- > No one can serve two masters.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1) 1 John 2:15-17 | 3) 1 Timothy 6:17-19 | 5) Matthew 6:22-24 |
| 2) Matthew 6:19-21 | 4) Proverbs 23:4-5 | 6) Luke 12:32-34 |

In Class

Discussion 28a

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

Discussion 28b

Read Matthew 6:24.

Main Ideas

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Heart Indicator Questions:

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

Are you putting anything that God has given you “in barns”? Why is that foolish? On the lines below, write anything you are holding onto. Then write a prayer to God about that.

[illegible]

Try to imagine the scene described in Matthew 13. What would this parable look like in your life?

Think about this quote from martyred missionary Jim Elliot.

*He is no fool
who gives what he cannot keep
to gain what he cannot lose.*

JIM ELLIOT

What did Jim Elliot give? What did he gain? Was this a shrewd bargain?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-14. Make up your own saying based on what you learned in this passage and in this lesson.



In his book *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn gives some “Treasure Principles.” These are slightly modified below:

- 1. God owns everything. I'm His money manager.**
- 2. My heart goes where I put God's money.**
- 3. Heaven, not earth, is my home.**
- 4. I should live not for the [present] but for the [future].**
- 5. Giving is the only antidote to materialism.**
- 6. God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.**

Think carefully about each of these principles. Is there one of them that stands out to you as a principle you need to put into practice? Can you seek God for that change? Write this principle below:

Lord,
help me to
understand that all
I have belongs
to You!

Lord,
help me to
understand that all
I have belongs
to You!

Quotes to think about:

*I have held many things
in my hands
and I have lost them all.
But whatever I have placed
in God's hands,
that I still possess.*

MARTIN LUTHER

*The less I spent on myself
and the more I gave to others,
the fuller of happiness and blessing
did my soul become.*

HUDSON TAYLOR

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.



The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. MATTHEW 13:44



Faith, Not Anxiety

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Worry comes from believing lies more than the promises of God.

KEY VERSE:

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. MATTHEW 6:34

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Worry is believing lies instead of the truth.
- > Worry comes from having wrong values; Christians should seek God's kingdom.
- > Worry comes from trying to control our own lives; God is sovereign over all of life.
- > Worry comes from lack of faith in God; God cares for His children.
- > Pursue God's kingdom and He will provide all you need.
- > Don't be anxious about tomorrow.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

1) Matthew 6:25-34

2) Romans 8:31-32

3) 1 Peter 5:6-7

In Class

Discussion 29a

Read Matthew 6:25-26.

Read Romans 8:31-32.

LIES	TRUTH
we are tempted to believe	Jesus calls us to believe

Discussion 29b

Read Matthew 6:31-33.

Main Ideas

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read Luke 10:38-42. Was it wrong for Martha to want to make a meal for Jesus? What was the problem with Martha? What was Jesus' response to Martha? How is this similar to Matthew 6:25-33?

Practically Speaking: How can you seek God's kingdom and His righteousness? Think of one troubling or problematic situation in your life. What does seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness in that situation look like? Write your answer below and then pray and ask God to help you to respond in this way.



Humble yourselves...casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. 1 PETER 5:6A, 7

Philippians 4:6 has some wise counsel about worrying. Read this advice and then read Philippians 4:19. Are there any situations in your life that are worrisome? Can you follow the advice in Philippians 4:6? Can you trust God to keep His promise in Philippians 4:19?

Below are some practical steps to fight the temptation to worry.



Ask yourself questions that will put the situation in the right perspective such as:

- What difference will this make 10 years from now?
- What is the worst thing that can happen? Can I handle this with God's help?
- Is this problem too big for God?
- What are the kingdom priorities in this situation?



Turn worry into action. Is there something I can do about this concern? Is there any change I can make? If so, do it.



Look on the positive side of things. God has promised that all things work for good for His children. What could God be doing through this situation? Can you trust Him to work for your good?



Are there any promises from God's Word that you can cling to in this situation? Learn that promise and speak it to yourself often.

Commit the situation to God's sovereign care in prayer.

Read the following quote by John Piper:

*[My mother] taught me to live my life
between two lines of "Amazing Grace."*

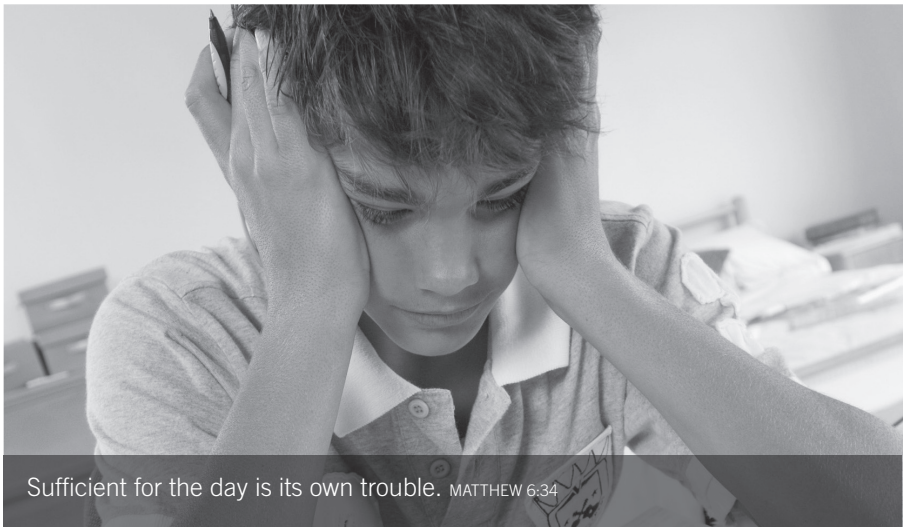
The first line: "Tis grace has brought me safe thus far."

The second line: "And grace will lead me home."

*Before I could explain it, I learned that believing the first
line fortifies faith in the second line; and believing the
second line empowers radical obedience to Jesus.¹*

How does this quote help you with worry? How does this quote help you seek God's kingdom? The same God who has brought you this far, will be with you in the future. What a great and glorious promise this is for the children of God!

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.



Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. MATTHEW 6:34

¹ Piper, John. *Future Grace*. (Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah Books, 1995), 6.

Judge Not

FOCUS STATEMENT:

When a believer sees sin in another person's life, he must not be judgmental or self-righteous but must humbly repent of his own sin before correcting his brother.

KEY VERSE:

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but so not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. MATTHEW 7:3-5

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Christians are to be discerning but not to have a condemning, judgmental attitude toward others.
- > A judgmental attitude comes from a self-righteous heart.
- > The degree of mercy we extend toward others will be reflected back to us from God.
- > Before correcting others, we need to first examine our own hearts and repent of our own sin.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Matthew 7:1, 6 | 5) Romans 14:10-13 | 9) Psalm 51:10-13 |
| 2) 1 John 4:1 | 6) Matthew 7:2 | 10) James 4:11-12 |
| 3) Matthew 7:15 | 7) Romans 2:1 | |
| 4) Matthew 18:15-17 | 8) Matthew 7:3-5 | |

In Class

Discussion 30a

Read Romans 14:10-13. Matthew 7:2.

Discussion 30b

Read Psalm 51:10-13.

Focus Statement:

When a believer sees sin in another person's life, he must not be _____
 or _____ but must _____ of _____
 before _____.

Psalm 51: 10-13 Progression:

Main Ideas

At Home

When the Bible talks about God's judgment, we tend only to think of the final judgment where a person's eternal destiny is pronounced. If you are in Christ, Christ will stand in your place on that day and you will be received as perfectly righteous in Him.

But there are other judgments in the Bible as well. There is the judgment that God uses to discipline His children and turn them back to Him and His ways. An example of this is found in 2 Samuel 12 where God sent Nathan to rebuke David. David's heart was turned back to God though there was severe punishment for his sin.

Another kind of judgment the Bible talks about is the judgment that happens at the judgment seat of Christ. This is not the judgment of a person's status before God, but rather this is a judgment of Christians only where each person's works will be judged. Read about this judgment in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

This does not mean that our salvation is determined by our works—our salvation is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9). But rather, our works are judged to see if they are genuine. Our reward in heaven is determined by our obedience.

One of the works that will be judged is the mercy which we show toward others—either the spoonfuls or the shovelfuls.

Think about it: How big is your shovel?



How can you show mercy without excusing sin?

Read Ephesians 4:29. What quantitative word (a word that measures amounts) is in this passage?

Define “no corrupting talk”. First define “no”; then define “corrupting”.

What does Paul give as the reason for our speech? What kind of speech should we then have?

What does our speech have to do with judging others?

List some of the words you used with others in the past 24 hours.

Were these grace-filled words? Do you need to repent of any of your words? Do you need to apologize to anyone?

Judge not, that you be not judged, or the more common version:

“Judge not, lest you be judged”

is sometimes quoted by non-Christians when a Christian witnesses to them. What is your response to this? Write a biblical response below.

What in your demeanor can lessen the possibility of a defensive reply from either a non-Christian or a Christian when you must confront him of sin?

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.



Ask, Seek, Knock

FOCUS STATEMENT:

God's children who pray diligently for spiritual blessing will receive it, as God will transform their desires and actions by the Holy Spirit.

KEY VERSES:

Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. MATTHEW 7:7

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. MATTHEW 7:12

MAIN IDEAS:

- > The Sermon on the Mount is a description of the kind of person the Christian is becoming through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, not a list of commands.
- > God's children who pray diligently for spiritual blessing will receive it.
- > God is good and gives the Holy Spirit to His children who ask Him.
- > The work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's heart enables him to treat others as he would want to be treated.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Matthew 7:7-11 | 3) Matthew 7:12 |
| 2) Luke 11:13 | 4) Philippians 2:3-4 |

In Class

Discussion 31a

Read Matthew 7:7-11.

Read Luke 11:13.

Discussion 31b

Jesus' Teaching (5:21-48)	Relationship to Matthew 7:12

Main Ideas

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Do you see God more as a Judge or as a Father? Do you see Him as condemning or forgiving? Are you afraid to go to Him when you have sinned or are you eager to restore the relationship. Why? Write your reflections below.

Read Genesis 32:22-32. Describe Jacob's wrestling. How long did it last? What was Jacob's attitude in it?

What can you learn from Jacob's perseverance for a blessing? How can this help you pray for spiritual blessings?



SELF

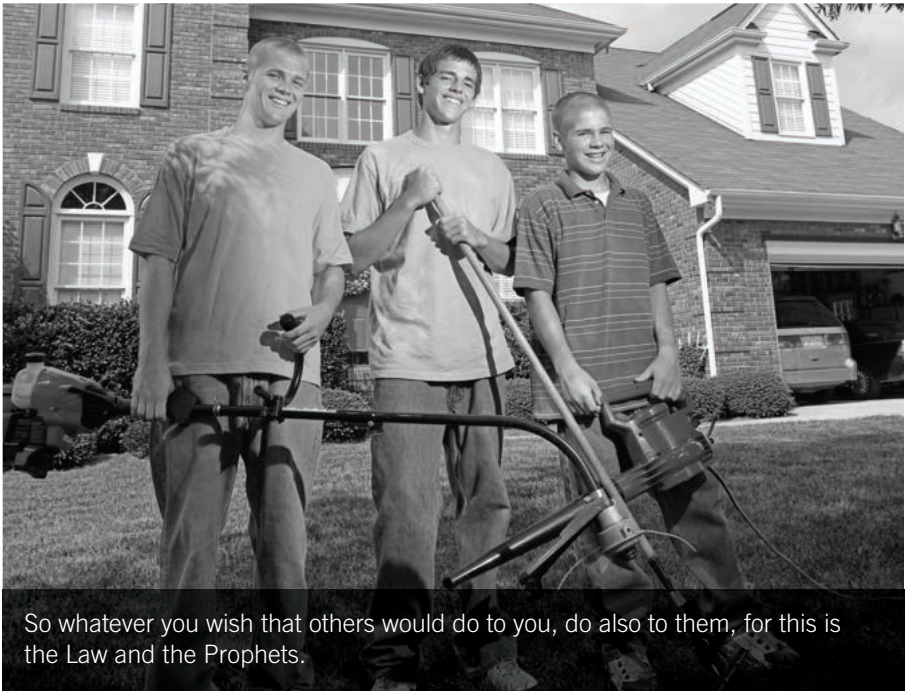
How did you look to your own interests today? Make a list of ways in which "self" took priority over others today.

Read Matthew 10:40-42. Now go back over your list. Is there any situation in which you wish you would have acted differently after reading this passage? What could you do, with God's help, the next time you are in a similar situation?

Spend some time in prayer seeking spiritual blessing and the resulting fruit of looking to the interests of others rather than to your own interests.

Start a list of instances when God helped you to apply the Golden Rule in your home or elsewhere. Thank God for His help and His grace in your life.

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.



So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

The Narrow Gate to Life

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Everyone is either living for the world which is easy but deadly or living for Jesus which is hard but infinitely worth it.

KEY VERSES:

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. MATTHEW 7:13-14

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. ACTS 4:12

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Everyone is either on the narrow path or the wide path; there is no alternative.
- > Not to choose the narrow path means choosing the wide path.
- > The narrow way is hard but it leads to life.
- > The wide way is easy but it leads to destruction.
- > Jesus is the only way of salvation and the path to life.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Matthew 7:13-14 | 4) Joshua 24:14-15 |
| 2) Acts 4:12 | 5) John 14:1-6 |
| 3) Deuteronomy 30:15-16, 19-20 | |

Read Matthew 7:14.

Read Matthew 7:13.

Main Ideas

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What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read 1 Kings 18:20-40. Why do you think the Israelites were “limping between two different opinions”? Was there a third option? What did not choosing God mean?

The Israelites realized that, “The Lord, He is God.” Where are you? Are you limping between two opinions? Not to make a decisive, deliberate commitment to Jesus is to choose to be a part of the kingdom of this world. No one can serve two masters. If you are not a follower of Christ, what prevents you from making this choice?

If you are a follower of Christ, are you wholeheartedly committed to Him or are you trying to be a part of this world and of the Kingdom of God? Are you trying to live with one foot in each world?

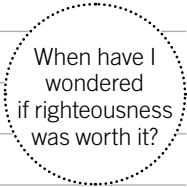
Commitment to Jesus requires radical obedience and surrender to His will and His ways.

Have you entered the narrow gate? What evidence of this is there in your life?



Have you entered the narrow gate? What evidence of this is there in your life?

Read Luke 13:23-30. Write down the main thoughts in the passage. Then write down your reaction to this passage.

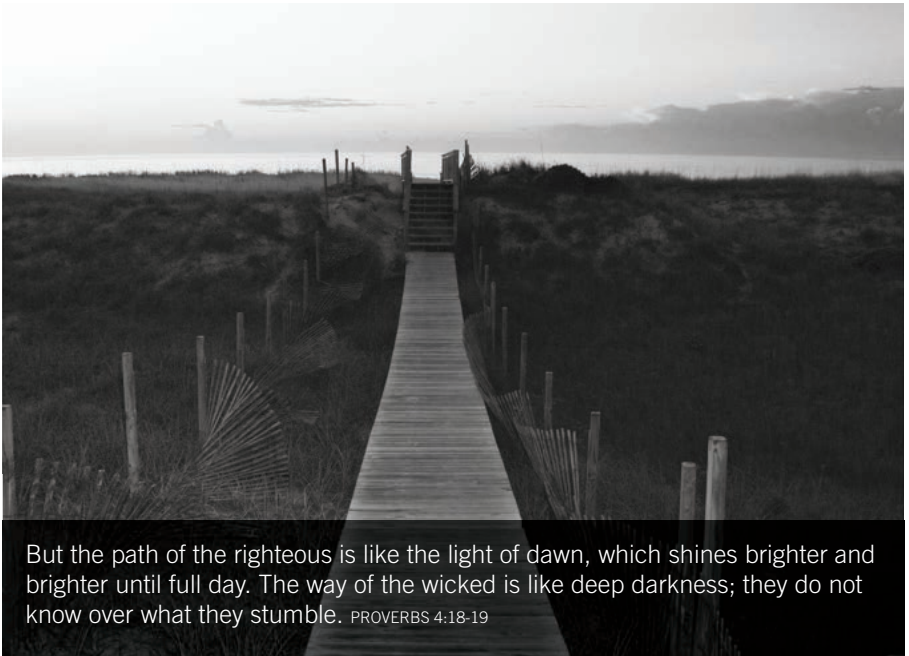


Read Psalm 73:1-15. Have you ever felt like Asaph? Explain below.

Now read Psalm 73:16-20. What perspective did the psalmist gain? How did he get it? List at least three things that you can learn from these verses.

What conclusion did Asaph come to in verses 21-28? Write Asaph's conclusions in your own words below.

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.



But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble. PROVERBS 4:18-19

Beware of False Prophets

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Watch out for false teachers, and test those who claim to be from God by the evidences of His grace in their lives.

KEY VERSES:

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. MATTHEW 7:15

MAIN IDEAS:

- > False teachers are dangerous.
- > False teachers portray themselves as acceptable but their aim is destruction.
- > False teachers make their teaching believable.
- > We need to be careful about the influences we allow in our lives, and we need to know the Bible well.
- > We should not be quick to lend support or to follow those who claim to know truth; because false teachers can be known by their fruits, we should observe those we don't know closely.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Matthew 7:15 | 3) Acts 20:30 |
| 2) 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 | 4) Matthew 7:16-20 |

In Class

Discussion 34a

Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

Read Acts 20:30.

Discussion 34b

Excuses for Exposing Myself to Untruth:

Main Ideas

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read 1 John 4:1-6. To whom is John writing? What is his warning? What encouragement does John give us? What biblical principles or truths does John state?

Now summarize this passage in your own words below.

Read 2 John 1:7-11. What does John teach should be our response to false teachers? Does this seem mean to you? Why do you think John should make such a strong statement?

This passage is a very sober reminder that we are to be so careful about who we associate with and the influences we allow in our lives. We are to run from evil influences, not entertain them.

Are there things you allow in your house or your life that you should not allow? Write below any influences you need to distance yourself from. Then think through how you will do this. Write this below as well.

Is there any confession you need to make? Do you need help from your parents or someone else in order to follow through on your decision? Pray and ask God for His help.

In the space below, write down any false thinking you spot this week. Choose one topic and write a biblical response to that thinking.

Biblical Response:

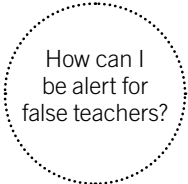
Eternal Perspectives

Go to the *Eternal Perspectives Ministries* website and read some of the pro-life articles posted there. Could you give an articulate response to the pro-choice/euthanasia teaching?

How well do you know the Bible? Is there anything you need to change in your pattern of Bible reading, Bible learning, or verse memorization?

How would you explain this lesson to your friends?

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.





Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. MATTHEW 7:15

Genuine Faith Produces Obedience

FOCUS STATEMENT:

True faith in Christ produces a growing desire to obey Christ.

KEY VERSES:

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. MATTHEW 7:21

And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 1 JOHN 2:3

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Those who do good deeds and religious works but who do not do the will of the Father will not be welcomed into heaven.
 - > Having a personal relationship with Jesus is a requirement for entering heaven.
 - > Those whose lives are founded on obedience to the Word of God will weather life's storms and final judgment.
 - > Believing the Word of God is not sufficient evidence of salvation; obedience to the Word is an evidence of true saving faith.
 - > God accepts those who are humble, contrite, and tremble at God's Word.
-

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1) Matthew 7:21-23 | 3) 1 John 2:3-6 |
| 2) Matthew 7:24-27 | 4) James 2:18-19 |

Read Matthew 7:21-23.

Read Matthew 7:24-27.

Building on sand	
Building on rock	

Main Ideas

[illegible]

Will I pass
the test of
submission?

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

Rewrite this parable below giving the actual meaning of it.

What is the serious warning in this parable?

Lord, am I like
the "wheat"
or the "weeds"?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5. One way to examine yourself is to go back through the Sermon on the Mount and see if it reflects your growing character. Write your thoughts below.

Because it is easy to be self-deceived, as were those in Matthew 7:21-23, ask someone who knows you well if he sees evidence of genuine faith in you. The words below are engraved on a cathedral in Lubeck, Germany. What do you think of this?

*Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us,
You call Me master and obey Me not,
you call Me light and see Me not,
you call Me the way and walk Me not,
you call Me life and live Me not,
you call Me wise and follow Me not,
you call Me fair and love Me not,
you call Me rich and ask Me not,
you call Me eternal and seek Me not,
if I condemn thee, blame Me not.¹*

¹ MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 1-7*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985), 480.

If you are a Christian, you will have opportunities this week to test your commitment to Christ. Will you obey God and submit to His ways even when you don't feel like it, when it isn't convenient, or fair, or when you don't understand what He is doing in your life?

Write about one opportunity you had this week to test your commitment, and how you responded to it.

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.



Sojourners and Exiles

FOCUS STATEMENT:

The believer will feel out of place in this world because his heart desires and life actions show that Jesus is his King and heaven is his ultimate destination.

KEY VERSES:

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. PHILIPPIANS 3:20

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ROMANS 12:2

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Christians are different from the world.
- > Christians have their citizenship in heaven and therefore are sojourners and exiles in this world.
- > Christians have transformed minds, hearts, and wills.
- > Christians must cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit in transforming the mind by pursuing truth and praying for the humility to accept the truth.
- > The Christian's desire for heaven is stronger than his desire for the world.
- > The Christian lives differently by abstaining from the passions of the flesh.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1) Philippians 3:20 | 3) Hebrews 11:13-16 | 5) 1 Peter 4:1-5 |
| 2) Romans 12:1-2 | 4) 1 Peter 2:11 | |

In Class

Discussion 35a

Read Joshua 23:6-8.

Discussion 35b

Read Hebrews 11:13-16.

*So, then you see the reason why the Christian cannot go back,
though he has many opportunities, lies in this,
that through divine grace he has had produced
in his heart desires for something better,
and even when he does not as yet enjoy that something better,
the desires themselves become mighty bonds
that keep him from returning to what he was.¹*

*Let every act of your living body
be a demonstration that God is your treasure.*

*Let every act of your living body
show that Christ is more precious to you than anything else.*

*Let every act of your living body
be a death to all that dishonors Christ.²*

Main Ideas

¹ Spurgeon, Charles. *Go Back? Never!* (Preached at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington, July 13, 1871).

² Piper, John. "Present Your Bodies as Living Sacrifices." (Preached at Bethlehem Baptist Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 13, 2004).

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read Psalm 1. This psalm contrasts the heavenly sojourner with the man who is of this world. Where in this psalm do you see the transformation of the mind, heart, and will of the righteous? Write your answer below.



But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior... PHILIPPIANS 3:20

There is a vast difference between a citizen of heaven and a citizen of this world. Make a list contrasting the marks of the two citizenships. A list has been started for you.

Heavenly Citizenship	Earthly Citizenship
Permanent Guidance Rewards Aliens in a foreign land Wisdom Fulfillment Love	Temporary Wandering Regrets At home in a hostile world Foolishness Yearning, coveting Lust

Read and ponder the following quote from Martyn Lloyd-Jones:

*The glory of the Gospel is that
when the Church is absolutely different
from the world,
she invariably attracts it.*

*It is then that the world
is made to listen to her message,
though it may hate it at first.*

*That is how revival comes.
That must also be true of us as individuals.*

*It should not be our ambition to be
as much like everybody else as we can,
though we happen to be Christian,
but rather to be as different
from everybody who is not a Christian
as we can possibly be.*

*Our ambition should be to be like Christ,
the more like Him the better,
and the more like Him we become,
the more we shall be unlike anybody
who is not a Christian.¹*

¹ Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. *The Sermon on the Mount*. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1972), 37.

Salmon swim upstream in order to lay their eggs. In many ways, the Christian is also “swimming upstream” in this world. In what ways must you “go against the flow”? What trends must you go against? What ideas must you resist? What influences must you deny?

Read and ponder the following quote from Pastor John Piper:

In Ephesians 4:23 Paul uses a striking phrase to parallel Romans 12:2. He says, “Be renewed in the spirit of your minds.”

Now what in the world is that? “The spirit of your mind.”

It means at least this: the human mind is not a sophisticated computer managing data, which it then faithfully presents to the heart for appropriate emotional responses.

The mind has a “spirit.” In other words, our mind has what we call a “mindset.” It doesn’t just have a view, it has a viewpoint. It doesn’t just have the power to perceive and detect; it also has a posture, a demeanor, a bearing, an attitude, a bent.

“Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”

The problem with our minds is not merely that we are finite, and don’t have all the information. The problem is that our minds are fallen. They have a spirit, a bent, a mindset that is hostile to the absolute supremacy of God. Our minds are bent on not seeing God as infinitely more worthy of praise than we are, or the things we make or achieve.¹

With your parent or mentor, find the following sermon by Charles Spurgeon and read and discuss it:

Go Back? Never!

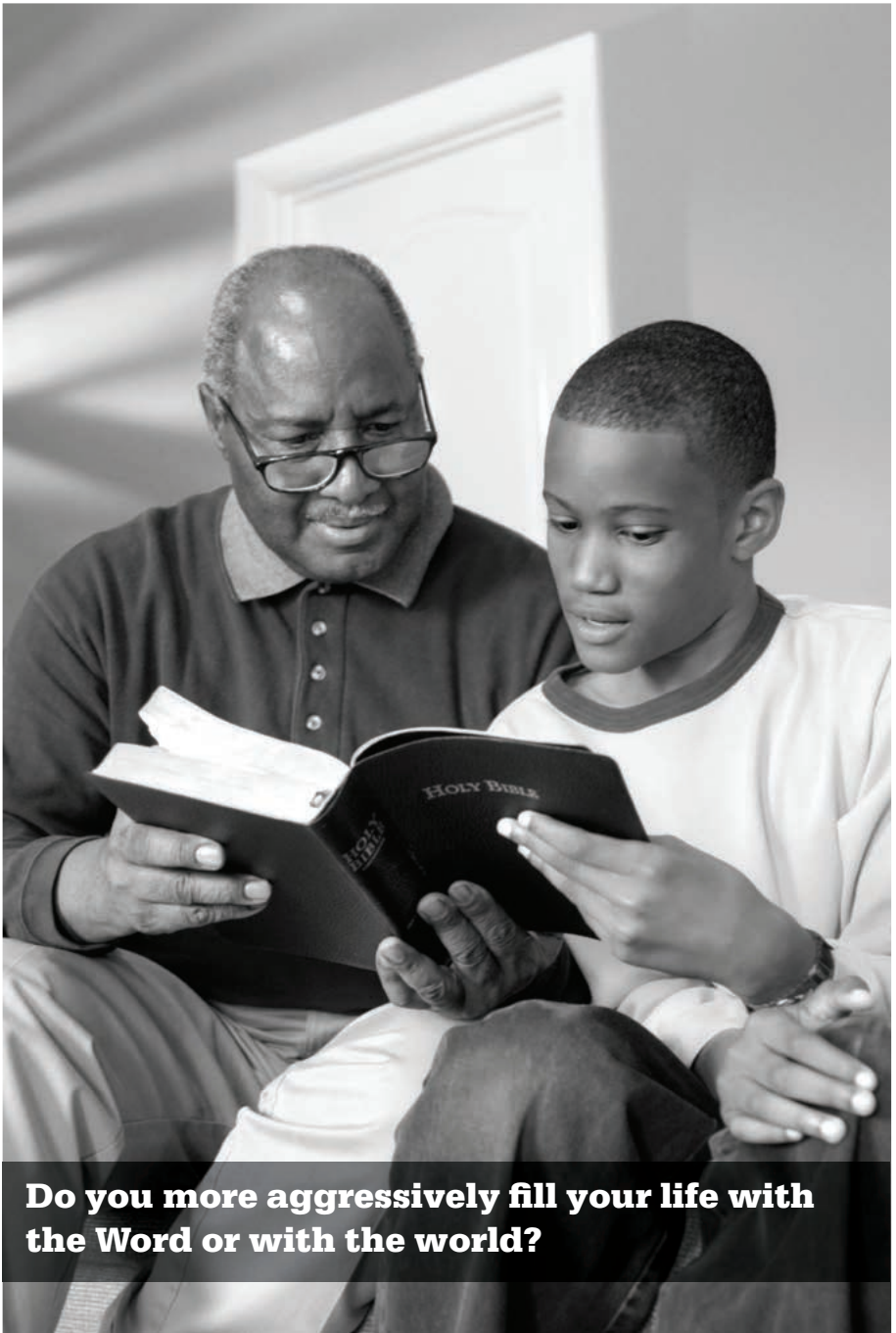
(Preached at the Metropolitan Tabernacle on July 13, 1871.)

<http://www.spurgeon.org/sermons/3478.htm>

What would the world be like without Christians? How does your presence in the world make a difference?

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.

¹ Piper, John. *The Renewed Mind and How to Have It*. (Preached at Bethlehem Baptist Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 15, 2004).



**Do you more aggressively fill your life with
the Word or with the world?**

Fear God, Not Man

FOCUS STATEMENT:

The believer must resist the fear of man, knowing that he has been accepted in Christ and that the opinion of God is infinitely more important than the opinion of man.

KEY VERSES:

The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe. PROVERBS 29:25

MAIN IDEAS:

- > We cannot be submitted to God in areas where we are controlled by something else.
 - > The fear of man causes us to sin; it controls our behavior and keeps us enslaved to sin.
 - > We are motivated to fear man because we fear others can expose or humiliate us, and because others can reject or ridicule us.
 - > To fight the fear of man, we must see God as big; we must see the greatness and holiness of God.
 - > To fight the fear of man, we must focus on God and not on ourselves; we must see ourselves as a reflector of Christ and ask Him to break our need to satisfy our self-serving needs.
-

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Luke 23:13-25 | 4) Proverbs 29:25 | 7) Isaiah 6:1-4 |
| 2) Mark 15:5 | 5) Romans 3:23 | 8) Galatians 1:9-10 |
| 3) Galatians 2:11-12 | 6) Isaiah 6:9-12 | |
-

In Class

Discussion 36a

Read Luke 23:13-25; Mark 15:15.

Read Galatians 2:11-12.

The fear of man:

Discussion 36b

Read Isaiah 6:9-12.

Read Isaiah 6:1-4.

I fear other people because...

Main Ideas

At Home

We are all to some degree or another susceptible to the fear of man. Think of an incident in your life that illustrates a fear of man. Jot down the incident. Write down your heart issues motivating the fear of man. Then seek God's help in conquering the fear of man.

Lord, help
me to fear You
alone!

Can you think of a verse that will help you fight the underlying heart attitude that causes fear of man in you?



The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.

PROVERBS 29:25

Read and meditate on the following quote from Puritan writer Thomas Watson.

*Let this content:
no matter with what oblique eyes
I am looked upon in the world,
if God thinks well of me.
It is better that God approve,
than man applaud.
The world may put us in their rubric
and God put us in His black book.
What is man the better
that his fellow-prisoners commend him,
if his judge condemn him?
O labour to keep in with God;
prize His love!
Let my fellow-subjects frown,
I am contented,
being a favourite of the king of heaven.¹*

How can you apply this quote to your life? Write your answer below.

¹ Watson, Thomas. *The Art of Divine Contentment*. (Morgan, Penn.: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2001).

How can I tell if I fear man more than I fear God?

Ask yourself the following questions:

- § Am I afraid to tell others about Jesus?
- § How do I react when something good is taken from me or I am disappointed?
- § Do I allow others to pressure me into doing things I don't think are right?
- § Do I embarrass easily?
- § Do I seek recognition and attention?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:4 and Matthew 22:16. What can you learn from these passages?

Acts 4:1-24 is an inspiring story of the boldness of the apostles and a good picture of their fear of God. Read this story and then think of a situation in your life where you can share the Gospel with others. Pray for God to give you the courage to be a bold witness for Him.

Think about the following quote:

Sometimes we would prefer to die for Jesus than to live for Him.¹

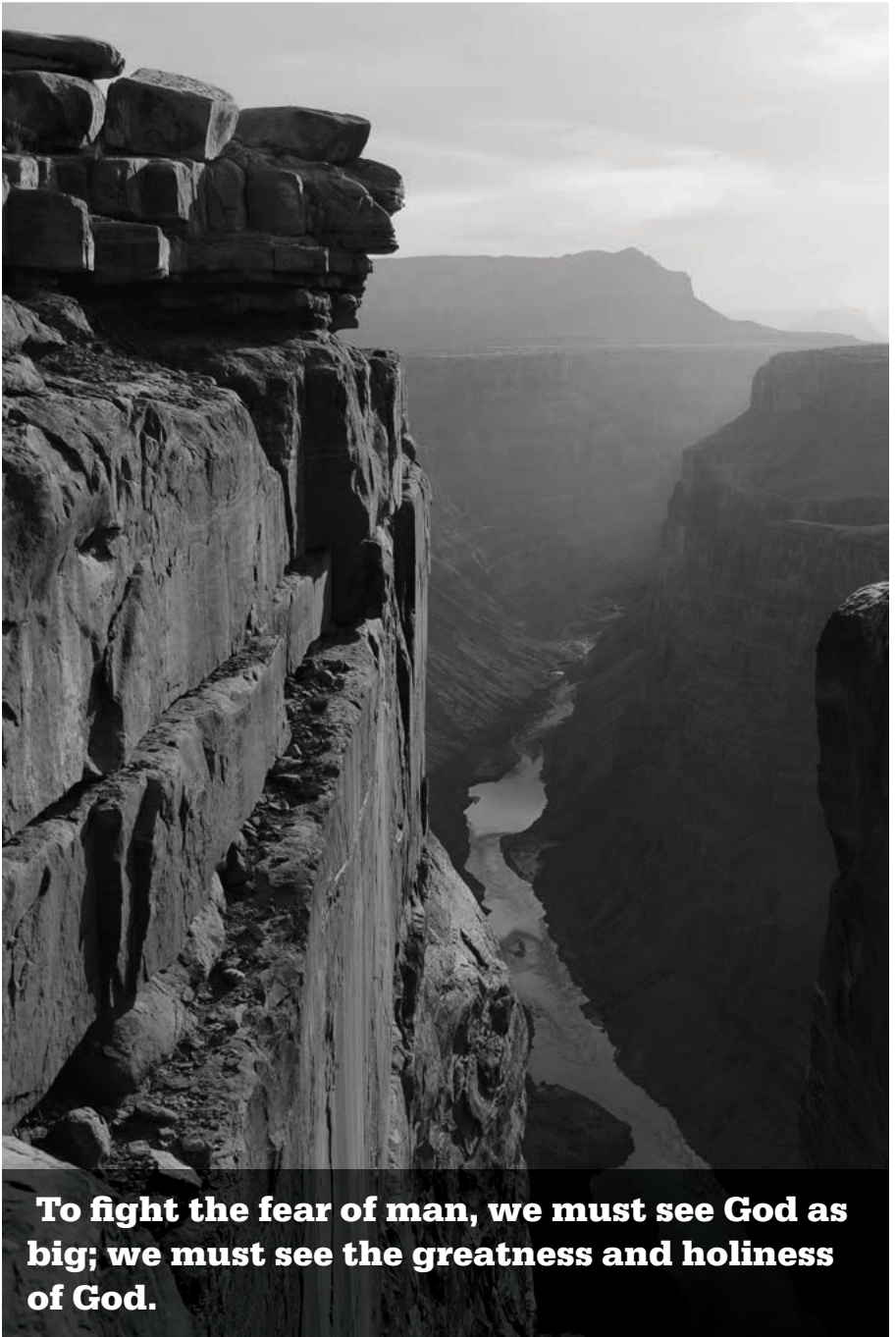
¹ Welch, Ed. *When People are Big and God is Small*. (Phillipsburg, New Jersey: P&R Pub., 1997), 39.

Was there something in this lesson that touched your heart enough to seek God and change? If so, note this below.

[illegible]

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.





To fight the fear of man, we must see God as big; we must see the greatness and holiness of God.

The Folly of Sin

FOCUS STATEMENT:

The Christian must submit to Christ, his true Master, and fight against the foolishness of the slavery to sin.

KEY VERSES:

If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it. GENESIS 4:7

Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? PROVERBS 6:27

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. JAMES 1:14-15

MAIN IDEAS:

- > As a result of the Fall, sinful man is controlled by his heart, passions, desires, and lusts.
- > The Christian must fight to be governed by his mind and by the truth.
- > The nature of sin is that:
 - Sin enslaves.
 - Sin offers fleeting pleasure.
 - Sin is aggressive and destructive.
 - Sin cannot be hidden forever.
 - Sin grows and is far-reaching.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1) James 1:13-15 | 4) Genesis 4:6-7 | 7) Proverbs 6:27 |
| 2) Matthew 6:22-23 | 5) Hebrews 11:24-25 | |
| 3) Romans 6:6-7, 12 | 6) Numbers 32:23 | |

In Class

Discussion 37a

Read Romans 6:6-7, 12.

Discussion 37b

Read Hebrews 11:24-25.

The Progression of Sin:

The Nature of Sin:

Focus Statement:

**The Christian must submit
to Christ, his true Master,**

**and fight against the foolishness
of the slavery of sin.**

How can
I fight sin
this week?

How can
I fight sin
this week?



What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

How have I
seen the effects
of sin?

Read Hebrews 4:13.

What will it be like to give an account to God?

Write your own proverb about sin on the lines below.

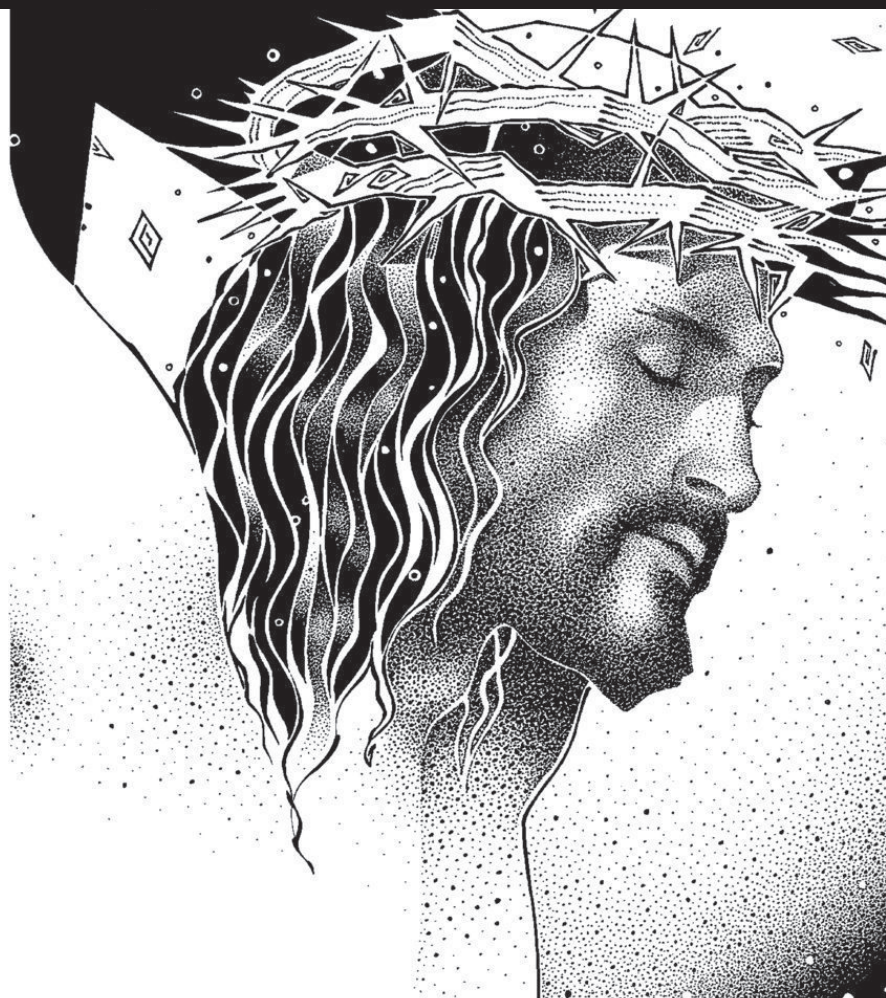
Read Romans 6 and then go back and pray through some of the verses.

*Always be killing sin
or sin will be killing you.¹
John Owen*

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.

1 Owen, John. *The Mortification of Sin*. (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2004).

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. JOHN 8:36



Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin." JOHN 8:34

Exhort One Another Every Day

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Because sin is very deceitful, we must actively fight for our own faith and the faith of those around us using the Word of God.

KEY VERSES:

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today", that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. HEBREWS 3:12-13

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Sin is deceitful and can harden the heart.
- > The hearts, even of Christians, are prone to wander from God.
- > The Christian must watch over his heart with vigilance and fight the fight of faith.
- > Christians are a community and are called to keep watch over each other's souls; Christians are admonished to exhort one another daily.
- > If we hold our confidence in Christ firm to the end, we will share in Christ's heavenly inheritance.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Hebrews 3:12-14 | 3) Proverbs 4:23 | 5) Ephesians 4:26-27 |
| 2) Deuteronomy 29:18-20 | 4) 2 Samuel 12:1-9, 13 | 6) Galatians 6:1 |

In Class

Discussion 38a

Read Deuteronomy 29:18-20.

Discussion 38b

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-9, 13.

Accountability Questions:

How are you actively fighting against sin in your life this week?

Have you been intentional in your efforts to pray and read the Bible this week?

What has encouraged you from God's Word this week?

How can I pray for you this week?

Main Ideas

At Home

Struggle against sin is an evidence of conversion. The true Christian will make war on the sin in his life. If you are not struggling against sin, if sin is no concern for you, you may not be truly converted.

Read 1 Timothy 6:12. Why does Paul tell Timothy to “take hold of the eternal life” to which he was called? Does this passage sound like life will ever be easy?

Is there any sin in your life that you need to engage in battle? Write down one area of sin in your life which you need to fight against. Then write down a battle plan for fighting against that sin.



Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Read the words to a verse of the hymn, *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* below:

*O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.¹*

Why are we daily in debt to grace?

Is the song writer correct in saying that our hearts, even as Christians, are “prone to wander”?

Read Hebrews 3:12-14. What agreement do you see between this song and these verses?

Where is your heart prone to wander? Spend some time asking the Lord to reveal your heart to you and in asking Him to “seal” your heart for Him alone.

¹ Robinson, Robert. *A Collection of Hymns Used by the Church in Angel Alley, Bishopgate, 1759.*

Are you teachable?

Observe this week how you receive instruction, suggestions, and correction. Record your observations below.

How could I
grow in this
area?



Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing!

Read Hebrews 3:15-4:2.

This passage is not just about the Israelites in the wilderness; it can also be applied to us. If you are not a Christian, you may be hardening your heart against the call of God. If you are a Christian, you may be hardening your heart against the correction or against the will of God.

What was the consequence for the unbelieving Israelites in the wilderness? What does the writer mean when he says that the message they heard did not benefit them? Why didn't it benefit them?

What is the writer speaking of when he refers to the promise of entering God's rest? What is the key to entering God's rest?

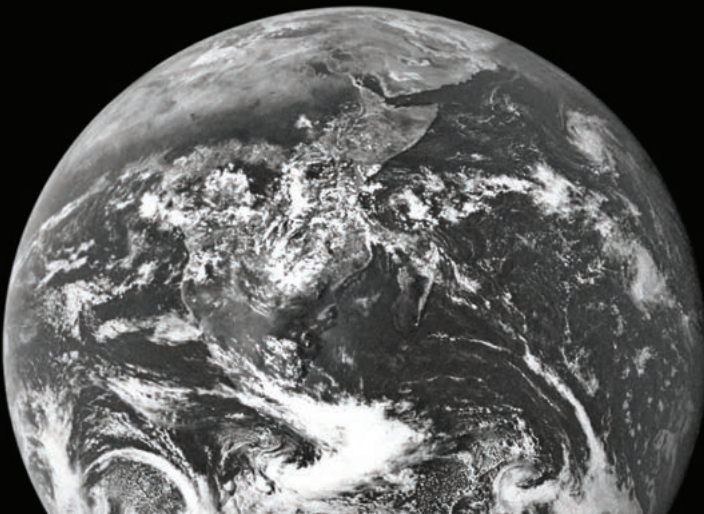
Do you usually benefit from admonition, correction, and counsel? Why or why not?

Who are those people whose souls you are most responsible to watch over? Do you encourage them in their faith? Do you help them live righteously? Is there any area in anyone's life you must confront? Do you exhort them daily?

Write below how you can encourage or exhort one of these people today. Then act on what you have written.

Who could I
encourage this
week?

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.



For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ... TITUS 2:11-13

Submit Daily

FOCUS STATEMENT:

The Christian should submit his mind, heart, and will daily to King Jesus, who promises a great reward in the coming kingdom.

KEY VERSES:

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. MATTHEW 16:25

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Satan tempts us to take our worship from the Creator to the creature.
- > Desires, even good desires, can be held too tightly and lead to sin; desire becomes demand, leading to need, leading to expectation, leading to disappointment, leading to punishment.
- > We must submit our hearts and our desires daily to Christ.
- > We must submit our wills daily to Christ.
- > Everything we do must be for Christ's sake; the reward for submitting to Jesus will be a hundredfold in the kingdom to come.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Matthew 4:8-9 | 5) Titus 3:2 | 9) 2 Corinthians 10:5 |
| 2) Proverbs 4:23 | 6) 1 Thessalonians 5:18 | 10) Matthew 16:24-26 |
| 3) Romans 13:12 | 7) 1 Peter 2:13 | 11) Matthew 10:37-39 |
| 4) Colossians 3:12-13 | 8) Romans 12:17 | 12) Matthew 19:28-29 |

In Class

Discussion 39a

Take a desire (such as wanting to get together with your friends) and trace it through the steps that Paul Tripp outlines. You should be able to see by the end of this process that we are all given to idolatry. We are all sinners in need of grace. We all need to be on our faces in repentance before a holy God.

WANT—DEMAND—NEED—EXPECTATION—DISAPPOINTMENT—PUNISHMENT

Discussion 39b

What is an example of a temptation you face?

Can you think of a verse the Holy Spirit can use to help you fight against this temptation?

What would an appropriate response of obedience look like in the face of this temptation?

Temptation/Desire "I want..."	Verses From God's Word "God says..."	Response of Obedience "I will..."

Main Ideas

What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Ponder the following quotes from Elisabeth Elliot's book titled *Passion and Purity*:

*When the will of God crosses the will of man,
somebody has to die.* ADDISON LEITCH

*Life requires countless "little deaths"—
occasions when we are given the chance
to say no to self and yes to God.* ELISABETH ELLIOT

Is it dishonest to say yes to God when you don't really feel like it? Is it lying to Him to say, "I'll do Your will" when your heart tells you you really want something else? You recognize that "rebel sigh" that the hymn writer mentions. Those questions often troubled me. Now I see it this way. If you love someone, there are many things you will do for that person because you love him—not because it's what you'd prefer if love did not enter the picture. Therefore, in your heart, you can be very honest when you tell Him you really prefer to do what He wants, because, more than your own pleasure, you want His. When obedience to God contradicts what I think will give me pleasure, let me ask myself if I love Him. If I can say yes to that question, can't I say yes to pleasing Him? Can't I say yes even if it means a little sacrifice? A little quiet reflection will remind me that yes to God always leads me in the end to joy. We can absolutely bank on that.
ELISABETH ELLIOT

Sometimes we sing the words of familiar hymns without much thought, but some hymns are worthy of our deep reflection. Read the words of *Take My Life and Let It Be* by Frances Havergal and reflect on each section. Write in the space below each section what obedience to these words would mean for your life.

Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee

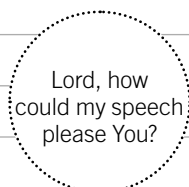
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise



Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee

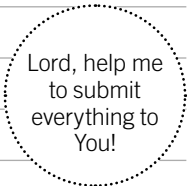


Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold



Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose

Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart; it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne



Take my love; my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only all for Thee



Obedience

I said, "Let me walk in the field."

He said, "No; walk in the town."

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said: "But the skies are black;
There is nothing but noise and din."

**And He wept as He sent me back—
"There is more," He said; "there is sin."**

I said, "But the air is thick
And fogs are veiling the sun."

**He answered, "Yet souls are sick,
And souls in the dark undone."**

I said, "I shall miss the light,
And friends will miss me, they say."

**He answered, "Choose tonight
If I am to miss you, or they."**

I pleaded for time to be given.

**He said, "Is it hard to decide?
It will not seem hard in Heaven
To have followed the steps of your Guide."**

I cast one look at the fields,
Then I set my face to the town;

**He said: "My child, do you yield?
Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"**

Then into His hand went mine;
And into my heart came He;
And I walk in a light Divine,
The path I had feared to see.

George McDonald

[illegible]

Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life." Matthew 19:28-29

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.

Lord, help
me to believe
Your Word!

The Glory to Come

FOCUS STATEMENT:

Focusing on the glory to come enables the Christian to endure the groaning of this world's trials.

KEY VERSES:

Wait for the LORD and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off. PSALM 37:34

MAIN IDEAS:

- > All of creation groans awaiting its redemption.
- > The dual experiences of groaning and hope characterize the life of the Christian in this world.
- > Focusing on the glory to come enables the Christian to navigate the difficulties of this world.
- > When Jesus returns we will be like Him; we will reflect the perfection of the character of Christ.
- > What matters most when Christ returns is whether you are His child.

MORE SCRIPTURE:

1) Romans 8:18-27
2) Hebrews 12:2

3) Revelation 11:15
4) 1 John 3:1-2

5) Matthew 25:31-34
6) Psalm 37:34

In Class

Discussion 40a

Read Romans 8:18-27.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we await for it with patience.²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.²⁷ And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Discussion 40b

Read Revelation 11:15.

Main Ideas

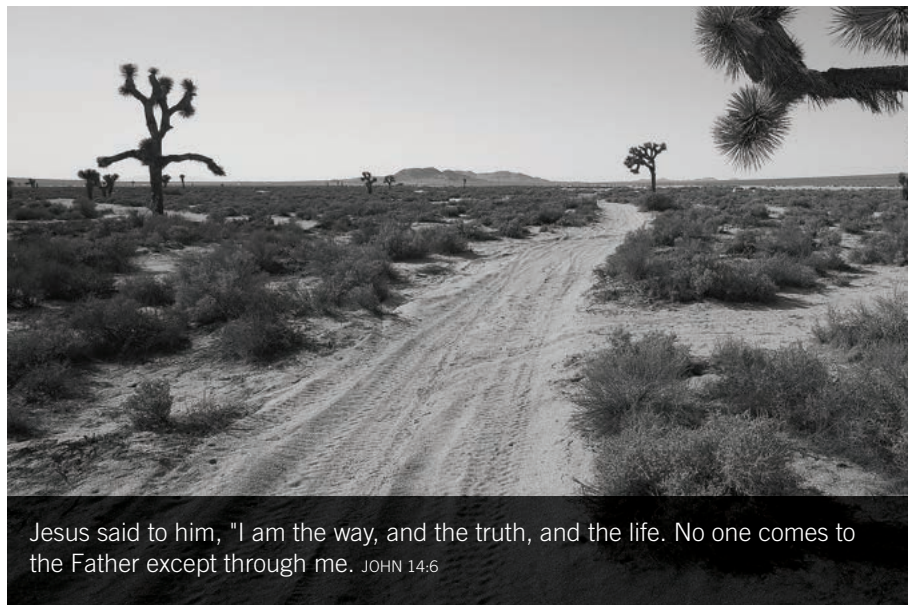
What application can I make of this lesson?

Prayer Requests

At Home

Read John 14:1-6. Think about what it must be like to live in God's house. For example, in God's house there would never be any fighting. You would never run out of anything in God's house. No one would ever get hurt in God's house. Write some of your ideas below:

Will you live in God's house? Think about Jesus' words in John 14:6.



There will be many who have no hope of heaven or future glory. They are the goats that will be separated out. Do you have any responsibility for them? Jesus said we must work while it is still day (John 9:4). Consider the following words.

Friendship with the world is enmity with God. JAMES 4:4

Notice what this statement says. It does not suggest that we should treat the people of the world as enemies. Jesus never made hostility to the world a condition for loving Him. I mean, though, that when you become a believer, former deep friendships and intimate relationships can no longer exist exactly as they did before. You may still love a former friend, but your desire now is to win him to Christ. You may go out to him, but with the new purpose of sharing with him the good news that has brought you such release. This is what Cornelius did in inviting his relatives and close friends to his home to hear Peter speak.

Tell your former friends what has happened. Tell them you have believed in the Lord Jesus. Should they act unfavorably, know that it is better to be unwelcome than to be drawn by them away from the Lord. If possible maintain some association, for this is good, but do not crave for intimate friendship. You belong to the Lord Jesus and are there to represent Him. Sooner or later you will see them either turn to Him themselves or forsake you. Rarely is it any other way.¹

¹ Nee, Watchman. *The Joyful Heart*. (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Pub., 1987), 20.


Read 1 Corinthians 15:24-28. What will it be like when Jesus destroys every rule and every authority and power? Think of those who stubbornly refuse to acknowledge Jesus. What will it be like for them on that day?

Have you bowed your knee to Jesus? Are you living in daily surrender to Him? Is He your Lord?

Work on memorizing the Sermon on the Mount.

This week as you note your reactions to things, the way you spend your time and your money, the potential conflicts, everyday occurrences, the choices that are before you, etc. ask yourself the following question:

Will it matter in the end?



Only what's
done for Christ
will last!

TRUE RELIGION¹

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY,

*I ask not to be enrolled amongst the earthly great and rich,
but to be numbered with the spiritually blessed.*

*Make it my present, supreme, persevering concern
to obtain those blessings which are
spiritual in their nature,
eternal in their continuance,
satisfying in their possession.*

*Preserve me from a false estimate of the whole
or a part of my character;
may I pay regard to
my principles as well as my conduct,
my motives as well as my actions.*

*Help me never to mistake the excitement of my passions
for the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
never to judge my religion by occasional
impressions and impulses, but by my
constant and prevailing disposition.*

*May my heart be right with Thee,
and my life as becometh the Gospel.*

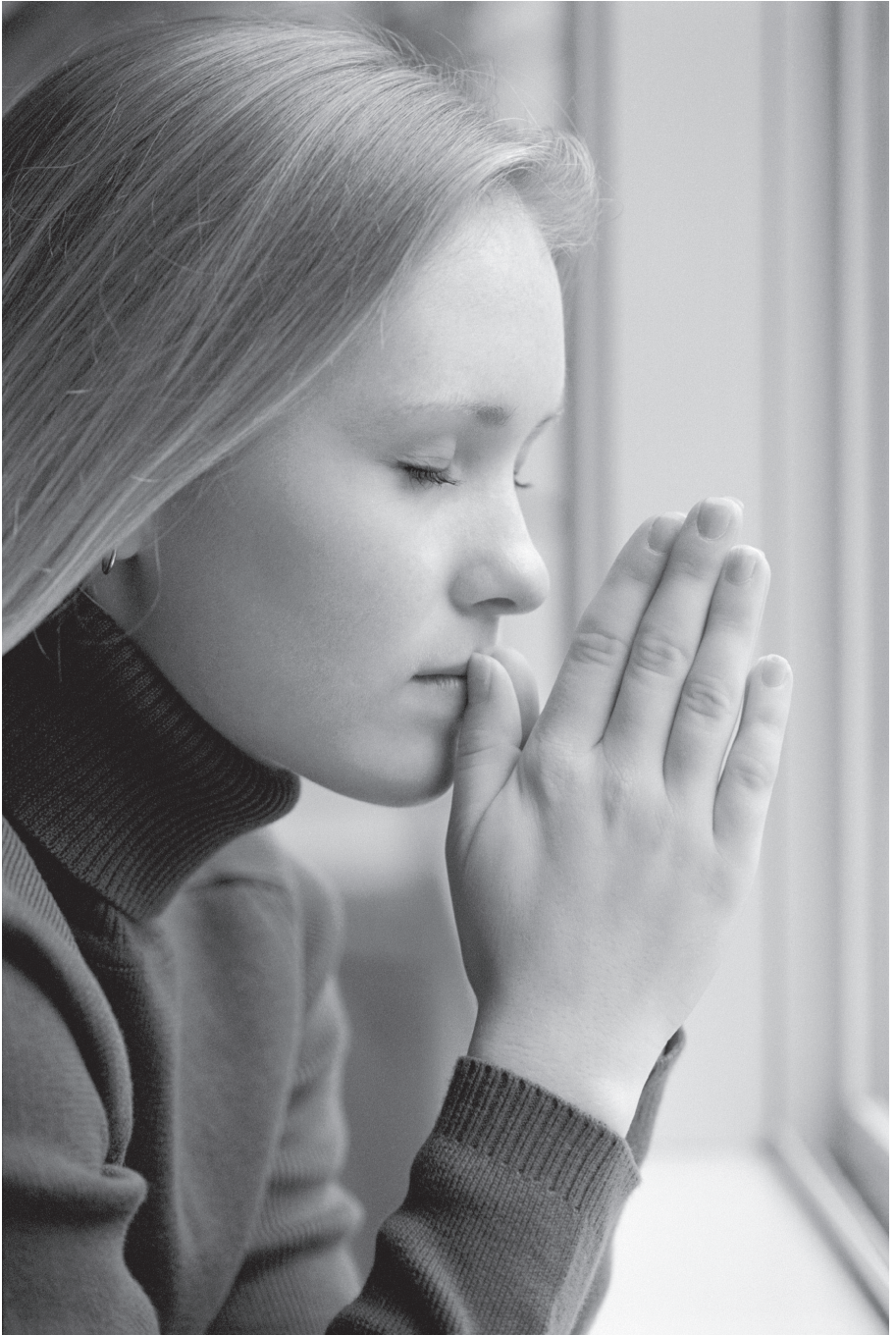
*May I maintain a supreme regard to another and better world,
and feel and confess myself a stranger
and a pilgrim here.*

*Afford me all the direction, defense, support,
and consolation my journey hence requires,
and grant me a mind stayed upon Thee.*

*Give me large abundance of the supply of
the Spirit of Jesus,
that I may be prepared for every duty,
love Thee in all my mercies,
submit to Thee in every trial,
trust Thee when walking in darkness,
have peace in thee amidst life's changes.*

*Lord, I believe, help Thou my unbelief
and uncertainties.*

¹ From *The Valley of Vision—A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*, edited by Arthur Bennet (Edinburgh, Scotland: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2002), 118-119.



Epilogue

Though this study on “surrender to Jesus and submission to His way is “officially over”, there is no end to the need for the Christian to die daily. There is no end to the need to grow in sanctification or to have our minds transformed by the Word of God. The Gospel truly involves the whole person—mind, heart, and will.

David’s prayer in Psalm 86:11 reflects that he understood this:

Teach me Your way, O LORD, **(His mind)**
that I may walk in Your truth; **(His will)**
unite my heart to fear Your name. **(His heart)**

If you are a Christian, you may want to make this your daily prayer. The poster on the next page can be removed from your journal and used as a prayer reminder. You may want to keep it in your Bible or in a prominent place in your room where you will see it each morning as you wake up.

If you are not a Christian, consider Jesus. Physical bread is temporary and does not satisfy. Jesus, the Bread of Life, is the source of true satisfaction. He is the way to the Father and eternal life. May you surrender your mind, heart, and will to Him and find Him to be the truest Friend and your Righteousness. May you find like Paul that “to live is Christ and to die is gain”.

*The Gospel involves the whole person
—mind, heart, and will.*

*Teach me Your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in Your truth;
unite my heart to fear Your name.*

PSALM 86:11

