

In Depth

Booklet 1: # 1-4



Bible Studies for Genesis Design Disciples



NAME: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Genesis Design Organisation has tried to be as diligent as possible in crediting sources used in this publication. We gratefully acknowledge the work of others whom we have learned from and leaned on their expertise to accomplish this publication.

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In-Depth is now a successful tool helping thousands of people all over the world to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ through the study and knowledge of the Word of God.

Christ's Hope International uses In-Depth in this current format to disciple small groups and individuals involved in the Genesis Design sexual purity programme. It consists of three booklets, each containing four studies.

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GENESIS DESIGN



The Genesis Design heart represents the person that is YOU.

"Genesis" means beginnings or origins. "Design" refers to the plan that shows how something is made with a particular purpose, how it will look and how it will work.

In Genesis Design we will be learning our original plan and purpose for manhood | womanhood | sexuality | marriage.

Just as an official would examine the original document before certifying a copy, so you can examine your original design as a human being in Genesis chapters 1, 2 and 3 and find out what is true and real.

Genesis Design will help you to discover what the Creator's plan and true purpose was for sexuality and marriage when He created male and female in His image.



"... at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' "

Matthew 19:4-5 (NIV)

Before you begin In-Depth . . . A question:

CAN YOU REALLY BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

Are you like George who would like to go to heaven? So, he tries very hard to earn eternal life. He goes to church, does good deeds and tries very hard not to sin. But in his heart, he knows that he is a sinner and does not know how he can be good enough for God.

George says: "I'm afraid to die. I hope God accepts me, but I'm really not sure."

Imagine you had to fill in an application form for heaven. How would you list your qualifications? Maybe your list of qualifications would look like the list of various things that George and his friends have written down.

Heavenly Pass

Name _____

Accepted ☐

Denied ☐

Book
of
life

My Application to Enter Heaven



I want to be accepted by God. I think I am a Christian. I hope He will accept my application. Here are my qualifications . . .

I go to church, I know Bible stories, I have Christian parents, I live a good life, I have been confirmed, I believe that God exists, I do good things for others, I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't practice traditional spiritual customs, I talk about God, I have been baptised, I pray every day, I sing in the church choir, I am a youth leader, I try not to sin . . .

George's application was not accepted!!

His "qualifications" are unacceptable to God because these things are external actions called religion. Religion is worthless *if we depend on it to make us right with God*. Religion is not bad, but it is not good enough to bring you salvation.

External actions are not what make a person acceptable to God. They do not make you a Christian. The right qualifications to be a Christian are in the Bible. *Keep reading to find out more.*

It is possible to know a lot about someone without actually knowing him or her. You know a lot about the president of your country from TV and newspapers but do you actually know him as a person? Would he greet you by name? Maybe you know a lot about God from the Bible but have you ever met God? Do you know Him personally?

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you know him better." Ephesians 1:17.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT KNOWING GOD

To truly know someone, you need 2 things:

1. You must first actually MEET them.
 2. You must keep having a MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP with them.
- * *Mutual means from both sides: God's side and my side.*

I know about the president but I have not met him. I don't have an ongoing relationship with him.

I know my best friend from school. I first met him in grade 6 and we have had an ongoing mutual relationship since then. We see each other often, talk a lot and love doing things together.

Do you say that you are a Christian? If you have never had any first meeting with God and you do not have any relationship with Him, then you are not a Christian. Even if you do all the things in George's application, you are not a Christian because you have not met God and you do not have a relationship with Him.

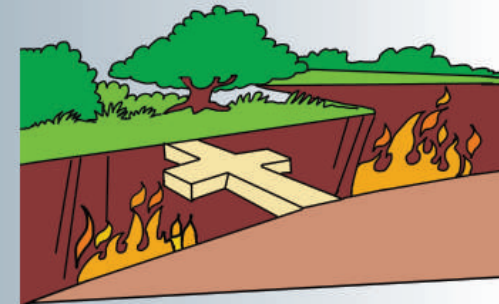
JESUS SAID: "SOME WILL CALL ME 'LORD, LORD'BUT I WILL SAY TO THEM: "DEPART FROM ME FOR I NEVER KNEW YOU." MATTHEW 7:22&23.

1. MEETING GOD

God wants a relationship with you! In Genesis 3:9, the Lord God called to the man: "Where are you?"

BUT there is a PROBLEM....

SIN has separated people from God.



"Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God." Genesis 3:8.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.

"But your sins have separated you from your God, your sins have hidden His face from you, so He will not hear." Isaiah 59:2.

How can you meet God and be in a relationship with Him when your sin has separated you?

The only meeting point for sinful people with a holy and righteous God is at the cross of Christ

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."...."to reconcile them to God through the cross." John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:16



The cross is the bridge between people and God.

"Christ also suffered. He died once for the sins of all of us guilty sinners, although He Himself was innocent of any sin at the time, that He might bring us safely home to God." 1 Peter 3:18

At the cross, the blood of Christ cleanses us from our sin and makes us ready for a relationship with God.

How can you be sure that you have eternal life?

- ✝ ADMIT that you are a sinner and turn away from your sin.
- ✝ CALL on the Name of the Lord and you will be saved. Acts 2:21
- ✝ BELIEVE that Jesus died for you. Trust in Him and not in yourself.

GEORGE PRAYED

Lord Jesus Christ, I know that I am a sinner and that no matter what I do, I cannot earn eternal life. I believe that you died for my sins. I confess my sin and place my trust in you. Lord, forgive my sin and take control of my life.

George says: "Now I know that God accepts me! I have eternal life because I believe God! Jesus brought me safely home to God."



2. A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Keep having an *ongoing relationship* with God by *listening* to Him (Bible reading) and *talking* to Him (in prayer).

Jesus rose from the dead therefore: "He is able to completely save those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them."

Hebrews 7:25

REMEMBER: RELIGION IS IMPORTANT!!

The Bible is full of religious practices. They point us to God and help us to express our relationship with Him. Religion *must* be an outward action which shows 3 things: that you believe in Jesus, that you have reverence for God and that you desire to please God.

THE NEW YOU



God says in his book, the Bible, that when you ask Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour, you are a **BRAND-NEW PERSON** inside. 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Just as a baby has a lot to learn in order to grow up, so a new Christian has a lot to learn to grow up spiritually. The In-Depth Bible Study Course will help you and encourage you as you learn to become a disciple of Jesus.

In-Depth is a course which consists of 12 Bible Studies. Each study gives you questions to answer and the answers are in the Bible.

- Read the question. Ask God to help you to understand.
- Look up the verse given and find the answer to the question.
- Write only the answer in the space provided. Do not write the whole verse down. Just answer the question.
- There is also a lot of other material that you can simply study and put into practice.



HOW TO FIND A VERSE IN THE BIBLE

JOHN	3	16
the name of the book. Look it up on the index page in the Bible.	This number is the chapter in the book.	This number is the verse in the chapter.



If there is a number before the name of the book, e.g. 1 John, it is a different book. Look for it in the index in the front of your Bible.

The letter (a) or (b) after the verse, refers to the first (a) or second (b) part of the verse.

Proverbs 11:12b means the second part of verse 12.

God cannot lie, so you can trust what He says. Let us see what God, who cannot lie, says about eternal life. Keep reading . . .

1. Who has sinned and not kept to God's standards? Romans 3:23.
_____ have sinned and fall short of His glory. (Fill in the missing word.)
2. Does this mean that you have sinned too? Yes ☐ No ☐
3. What is the penalty for your sin? Romans 6:23 _____
4. What do you need to do about the Kingdom of God? Mark 1:15.

5. Who is the only way to the Father? John 14:6 _____
6. Read 1 John 5:11&12 and answer the following:
 - What has God given us? _____
 - Who do you need in order to have life? _____
7. Jesus is speaking to us in Revelation 3:20.
 - What does Jesus do? I stand at the _____ and I _____
 - Who can open the door? Anyone ☐ No-one ☐ Only some ☐
8. What will Jesus do if anyone opens the door to Him? _____

People who eat together are friends! Will Jesus come in if you open the door of your life to him? Yes ☐ No ☐

**YOU JUST NEED TO
PRAY AND ASK**



9. What did Jesus do for you so that you can have eternal life? 1 Peter 3:18
Christ _____ for _____ once for all. He was put to _____
in the body, but _____ by the Spirit.
10. What happens when you believe and trust in Jesus Christ? John 5:24

11. Romans 10:9 says, you must say that Jesus is _____.
This means that Jesus is God.
12. Do you believe that Jesus took your punishment? Yes ☐ No ☐
13. Have you opened the door of your life to Him? Yes ☐ No ☐
14. Are you willing to turn away (repent) from your sin? Yes ☐ No ☐
15. Will you follow Jesus as your Lord? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have answered *yes* to all the questions 12 -15, you can now put your own name in John 3:16. Write your own name in the spaces. Then read it out aloud.

**For God so loved _____ that He gave His only Son
so that _____ who believes in Him,
can have eternal life. John 3:16**

16. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. What three great real historical events in the life of Jesus does the Christian faith stand on?

These events are really important. The disciples saw Jesus die and be buried. Then on the third day, they went to the tomb and found it empty. No dead body could be found anywhere. Instead they saw Jesus, touched Him and talked with Him personally and even ate with Him. They knew that He had risen from the dead because they saw the risen Lord. He defeated death and lives today!



17. Read Hebrews 7:25.
What is Jesus able to do _____

Why is He able to do this? _____

18. How do we know that the gospel about Jesus is not just a made-up story?
2 Peter 1:16

Peter says: "We were _____ to His majesty."



God's Word is much more trustworthy than your feelings

Your faith is not in how you feel! Believe what the Word of God says. You don't need to just feel like you are going to heaven. His Word says that you know that you have eternal life. When you doubt, go back to the Bible and read the facts.

**Read God's Word daily. The book of Mark is a good place to start.
Talk to the Lord in prayer all day.**

Briefly tell your own story of how you came to Jesus and became a Christian.

JESUS SAYS: "COME AND FOLLOW ME" Matthew 4:19

NEW LIFE MEANS A NEW BEGINNING

Have you ever wanted to start over again? Starting over means becoming a new person. From the very beginning, God has always loved you. But your wall of sin kept you locked away from God's love.

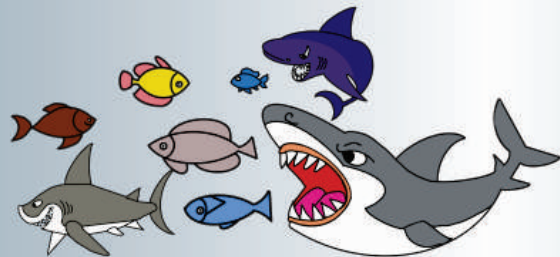
If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

When you confess your sins, and believe that Jesus died for you, you are set free. Jesus opens the door to a new life! Now you can begin to enjoy God's forgiveness and the good things that come with new life. Just as a caterpillar changes into a beautiful butterfly, so Jesus forgives our sins and makes us into new creations when we come to Him.

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die." John 11:25

NEW LIFE MEANS CHANGES IN THOUGHT, ACTION, ATTITUDE

Read **Ephesians Chapters 4 and 5**. Put off the old self and put on the new self. Becoming a new person means change. When you were locked behind a wall of sin, you only cared about one thing. You wanted the best for yourself.

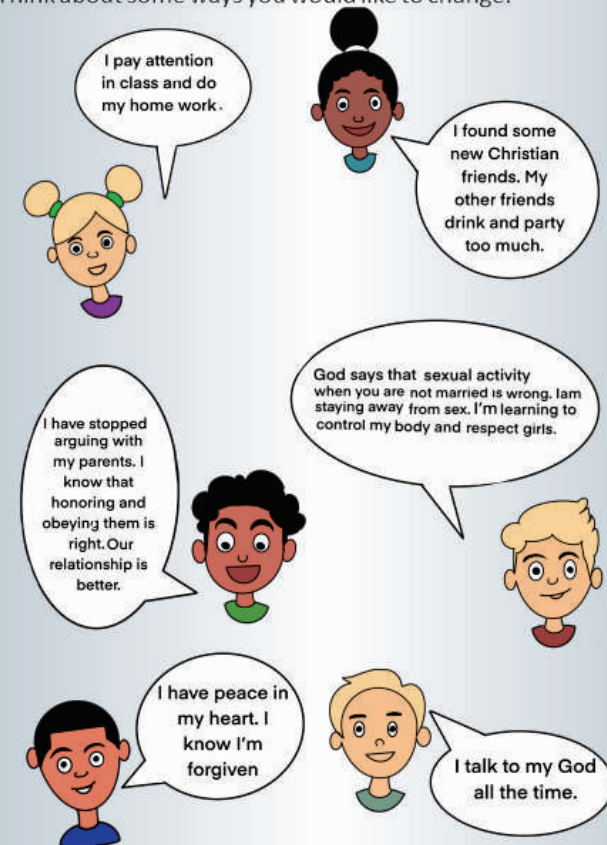


You wanted to be first, to put others second and God last. Now you are a Christian, God is in control of your new life. You are His servant. Now you must bring your thoughts, actions and attitudes in line with His commands.

Because you do what He wants, He promises to help you begin this new life. **Philippians 2:13** tells us that God is at work within us, helping us to want to obey Him and then helping us to actually do what He wants.

Ephesians 4:23-24 describes you now and says that: "Now your thoughts and attitudes must be constantly changing for the better. Yes, you must be a new and different person, holy and good. (Living Bible TLB)

Now you can be the new person God wants you to be! These people are changing in positive ways. Think about some ways you would like to change.



HAVE YOU FAILED?

Don't be discouraged and give up when you fail. Jesus offers you a new start every day. Come to Him daily with your sin and find mercy.

Lamentations 3:22-23 says that God loves you steadfastly and eternally. His mercies are new every morning. God has new mercy for you every day.

OLD YOU – NEW YOU

Read **Galatians 5:19-24**. It compares the old sinful you to the new you. Look at the characteristics listed in the box below. Cross out the things which do not belong to your new life and underline the things which the Holy Spirit will produce in your life.

PATIENCE	lying	Love	self-control
JEALOUSY	IDOLS	Wild Parties	goodness kindness
hatred	DRUNKENNESS	Peace	
Sexual sin	Joy	gentleness	

GROW

1 Peter 2:2: As new born babies
desire the sincere milk of the
Word that you may grow thereby.

You have been born again!

In order to grow, a baby Christian needs the following:

DAILY FOOD: "The pure milk of the Word must be read, studied and absorbed. 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:2.

FRESH AIR: This is obtained through daily prayer, the 'oxygen' of the soul. Without enough of this, you will 'faint'. Luke 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17.

EXERCISE: Get busy in Christian service. Tell others what Christ has done for you. Help others to do good. Psalm 100:2; Matthew 10:32.

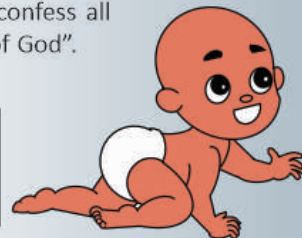
REST: This is found by relying on God in simple faith at all times.
Psalm 37:7; Matthew 11:29.

CLEAN SURROUNDINGS: Stay away from evil companions. Stay away from places that mess up your heart and mind. 1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

LOVING CARE: Find a church home where you will benefit from the friendship and support of other believers. Hebrews 10:25; 1 John 1:7.

REGULAR CHECK-UPS: Regularly examine your heart and confess all known sin. In this way, you will "keep yourself in the love of God".
Jude 1:20-21; 2 Corinthians 11:3.

FOLLOW ALL THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND YOU WILL
"GROW IN GRACE AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF
OUR SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST"

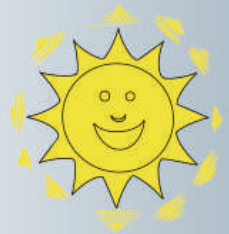


IN-DEPTH #2

RELATIONSHIP (NOT RELIGION)

BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS THAT YOU HAVE BEGUN A VERY PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVING GOD

Christianity is not a religion that is practiced by obeying rules. It is not being baptized, joining a youth group or singing in the choir. This is a wrong idea of being a Christian.



1. What is the way to have eternal life? John 17:3

GET TO KNOW GOD! COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY

To get to know someone, you must spend time with them and communicate with them. That's how we get to know God. He speaks to us through His Word and we speak to Him through prayer. Set aside a regular time to spend with the Lord. During this "Quiet Time", you can communicate with Him and your relationship can grow.

PRAYER: YOU SPEAK TO GOD



2. What does the Lord think of our prayers, if we are not wicked? Proverbs 15:8b. **The 2nd part of verse 8 is 8b**
3. In whose name, should we pray? Ephesians 5:20

IMPORTANT: John 14:14 says we will receive anything we ask in Jesus name. Be careful!! Don't concentrate on receiving. The Name of Jesus is the Name above all Names. Do not use His Name lightly! The Bible teaches that there are times when God does not give what we ask.

4. Why don't we always receive what we ask for? James 4:3
5. What happens if you hold on to sin in your life? Psalm 66:18

6. Jesus tells us NOT to pray like pagans (heathens). What is wrong with their prayers? Matthew 6:7.

7. List two reasons why you should pray according to the will of God? 1 John 5:14,15.

8. Should I give up if my answer doesn't come immediately? Luke 18:1.

Yes ☐ No ☐

THE BIBLE: GOD SPEAKS TO YOU

9. What four things is the Bible useful for in our lives? (2 Timothy 3:16)

4

10. What is the result of these 4 things in your life? 2 Timothy 3:17.

Ephesians 6:17b tells us that the Bible is our Sword. Fight the lies of Satan with the TRUTH of God's Word.



11. What is the command to you concerning God's Word in Colossians 3:16a? (The first part of verse 16 is 16a).

12. In what ways is God's Word useful to you? (Do not write out the verse – answer the question)

Psalms 119:11

Psalms 119:105

Matthew 4:4

Romans 15:4

13. Read Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus tells us that the wise man and the foolish man both experience a terrible rainstorm. Now examine the table below:

ROCK FOUNDATION	SAND FOUNDATION
The wise man hears God's word	The foolish man hears God's Word
The wise man obeys God's Words	The foolish man does not obey

14. What must you do to have a foundation of rock, like the wise man?

15. Which house **did not** fall down in the storm? (Tick one).

☒ The life that was built on obeying God's Word. ☐

☒ The life that was built on NOT obeying God's Word. ☐

**BUILD YOUR HOUSE ON THE ROCK:
OBEY THE WORD AND YOU WILL SURVIVE THE STORMS OF LIFE**

FRIENDSHIP: GETTING TO KNOW SOMEBODY

When you meet someone, you like, you need to spend time with them to get to know them. When Sara met Anna, they liked each other at once. Soon they were sitting together at break, sharing their food and talking. They visited each other daily and told each other all their secrets, their dreams for the future, their problems, and their memories. They became the best of friends. So, it is with Jesus. If you want to get to know God, you need to spend time with him every day, talking to Him in prayer and listening to His voice in His Word, the Bible. Build a friendship with God by having a daily Quiet Time. Praying and reading your Bible is called Quiet Time. You set a special time aside to be still before God.

What is a Quiet Time?

- ☒ A specific and personal meeting with God where you speak to Him and He speaks to you.
- ☒ It is a time of finding God's guidance in your everyday life.
- ☒ It is a time of praise, confession, thanksgiving, renewal and growth.
- ☒ It is devotional time with God – just sharing with Him and being with Him.



Why is a Quiet Time important?

✚ For spiritual growth

God's Word is spiritual food to help you grow into a mature Christian:
1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:14.

✚ For spiritual cleansing

You have been cleansed and forgiven of your past sins by the power of Jesus, but day by day you need to come back for cleansing from the daily sins. 1 John 1:9.

✚ For spiritual counsel

You can never know how to be righteous if you don't learn God's Word. It will keep you from sin and teach you to walk in His ways. Sin keeps you from the Bible and the Bible keeps you from sin.
2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:9-11; Psalm 119:105.

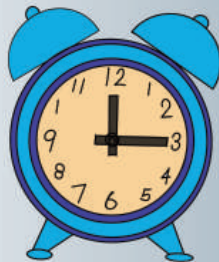
✚ For spiritual conflict

Jesus overcame temptation in the wilderness. He used the truth of God's Word to reject the lies of Satan. If you know the Word you will be able to deal with temptation. Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 4:4.

HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME (QT)

Requirements for a Quiet Time

- ✚ A definite Time and Place
- ✚ Notebook and Pen
- ✚ Bible
- ✚ An Expectant Heart



1. Read the Bible: God speaks to you



It is helpful to read through one Bible book at a time instead of skipping from one book to another. Some books that are quite easy for a new Christian to study are *Mark, James, the Psalms and Proverbs*. Try reading a paragraph a day from one of these books. Start at the beginning of the book and work through it slowly. Try to discover what God is saying to you through the passage you have read and meet God in His Word.

2. Pray: You speak to God

God's children can talk to Him at any time and any place. He likes us to talk to Him. Proverbs 15:8b says: "The prayer of the upright is His delight." You can pray anywhere at any time: When you are working, walking to school, playing a game or riding in a bus. God is with you and is listening to you.

Jerry prays sometimes. He usually prays when he is in big trouble! Other times he thinks God is there just to take his orders. But praying as God wants it to be, is much more than staying out of trouble or getting things. God does not always give you what you want. Sometimes He says "no" or "not yet" because He knows what's best for you and because He loves you.

THE A-C-T-S METHOD: A GUIDE TO PRAYING

IMPORTANT!! The ACTS method is a guide to praying. It is not the only way to pray. It shows the different aspects of prayer so that you can practice and learn how to pray according to His will. Then your prayers will have good content – you will not "babble as the heathen do."



ADORATION: Acknowledge who God is, praise Him and worship Him for who He is and for what He has done. Don't say thank you here.
Psalm 145:1-3; 144:1-2; Rev 15:3-4.

CONFESSION: Admit your sins to God and ask Him for forgiveness. Remember to forgive others!! Matthew 6:12,14,15; Psalm 51:1-12, Ezra 9:7, Daniel 9:4-6.

THANKSGIVING: Now you can say thank you! There are *always* things to be thankful for. Psalm 136:1; 107:21-22; 118:19-21.

SUPPLICATION: This big word simply means asking. Ask God for specific needs for others and for yourself.



1 Timothy 2:1-3 says that this is good and pleases God. Don't only ask for things. Ask for physical needs: "Give us this day our daily bread" and spiritual needs: "Your kingdom come"; "Your will be done"; "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." Give all your worries and problems to God.

LET'S TALK TO GOD USING THE A-C-T-S METHOD

Adoration. Worship and praise God for who He is and what He does for you. What do the following verses say about who God is?

Psalm 145:8 _____

Psalm 46:1 _____

Now write a verse of praise to God: Psalm 145:1-2-3.

Confession. Admit your sins to the Lord and ask for forgiveness. Don't hide anything or blame anyone else for your sins. Admit the things you have done wrong and admit that you need God all day long. Write down Psalm 51:1.

Thanksgiving. There's always something to be thankful for! Write down 3 things that you are thankful to God for:

Thank you, Lord, for: _____

Thank you, Lord, for: _____

Thank you, Lord, for: _____

Supplication. This big word means asking. Ask God for your needs and the needs of others. Write down the names of 2 people who need God's help:

Lord, please help _____ with _____

Lord, please help _____ with _____

Now write down a prayer request for yourself: Father, I ask in Jesus' name for

YOU HAVE WRITTEN A PRAYER! Now read everything you have written out loud and make it your prayer to God.

THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY

In Matthew 6: 5-15, Jesus gives us a pattern of prayer not just to repeat the well-known words without thinking. Below is a personal prayer based on that prayer. See if you can identify the pattern that Jesus set for us.

"My Father in heaven, I will honour Your name with my life today. I submit to You as my King. May I do only your will today, show me Your way. Lord please supply my needs for today and forgive me for I have sinned by being unkind to my Mom. Lord I forgive my uncle. You know he hurt me.

Help me to overcome the temptation to be lazy and not study. Please rescue me from any evil attack because You are stronger than the devil, and You are One who owns all power and You are my glorious King."



PRAY THE WORD. HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF A PRAYER BASED ON PSALM 23:

- A Adoration:** Lord you are my Shepherd, I have everything I need. You guide me and keep me safe. You comfort me. I praise You!!
- C Confession:** I have sinned by not trusting you and being afraid. Please forgive me for wanting more than I really need.
- T Thanksgiving:** Thank you Lord for all the good things you have given me, for protecting me, for restoring my soul and giving me life.
- S Supplication:** Please comfort me today with the knowledge of your presence and lead me in the right paths in the Name of Jesus.

Hebrews 10:19 tells us that "We have confidence to enter the most holy place by the blood of Jesus." Remember that it is because Jesus died for you that you can come into God's presence to pray.

Mark 11:25 says that you should not come before God with an unforgiving heart. First forgive others so that He can forgive you.



"Take Twenty" A Quiet Time Guide

Here is a guide to help you get started on having a regular QT.
Set aside twenty minutes and follow the guide below:

- 1. Focus on God:** Spend 5 minutes in prayer. Do Adoration. Worship God. Revelation 15:3-4 and do Confession of your sins for daily cleansing. 1 John 1:9.
- 2. Find God's truth:** Spend 3 minutes reading a passage from the Scripture for the day.
- 3. Feed on God's Word:** Spend 4 minutes thinking about what God is saying to you. (Psalm 1:2-3) As you read, ask yourself questions like this:
 - ✚ What is the Lord saying to me today?
 - ✚ Is there a promise to believe, a command to obey, a warning?
 - ✚ Is there a sin that I must avoid?
 - ✚ What must I do because of all that I have read?
 - ✚ What does it tell me about the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit?
- 4. File God's truth:** Keep a small notebook and take 3 minutes to write down what God has said to you. Proverbs 7:3.
- 5. Freely talk to God:** Spend 5 minutes praying. Do Thanksgiving Psalm 136:1 and Supplication: Ask God for your needs and the needs of others. Matthew 7:7
- 6. Follow God's truth:** Spend the rest of your life doing what you have learnt! Obey God's Word in your everyday living.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT I AM PRAYING ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL?
YOU CAN BE SURE THAT THE THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BIBLE ARE GOD'S WILL.

Togetherhness

When you accept Jesus as your Lord, you have millions of brothers and sisters all over the world! God's family includes all those who confess Jesus as their Lord. Because you believe, you are now also a part of the Church.

What is the Church?

The believers who are children of God are the Church. The Church IS NOT the building, although the people usually meet together in a building. A group of believers who fellowship under a tree in a field is also the Church.



FACT 1

THE CHURCH IS OUR SPIRITUAL HOME. BELIEVERS COME TOGETHER TO WORSHIP AND TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD.

1. What 4 things did the first disciples continue to do? Acts 2:42

- Listen to the apostle's _____ (God's Word)
- The _____ (being together)
- The _____ (Communion)
- _____

2. According to Colossians 3:16, what should we do together?

3. How does the Father want us to worship Him? John 4:23

In s _____ and in t _____.

4. We should worship Him in truth. The truth is clearly stated in

1 Timothy 2:5. Read it and complete the following:

There is only _____ God and _____ *mediator
between God and man. The man J _____ C _____.

***A MEDIATOR IS THE ONE WHO
STANDS BETWEEN YOU AND GOD**



FACT 2

**THE CHURCH IS OUR SPIRITUAL HOME:
WE ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER.**



5. From the following verses, write down some of the ways in which we have fellowship with each other:

Hebrews 10:25a: _____

Ephesians 4:25: _____

James 5:16a: _____

FACT 3

THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Romans 12:4-8 says that all the believers are like different parts of a body with Jesus as the Head. As different parts of the body, we all have a special function. You also have been given a gift (special ability) in order to help your fellow believers. Not everybody has the same gifts and some people have more gifts than others, but all of them are important.



6. Tick 1 or more of the gifts that God has given **you** the ability to do:

Serving	Teaching	Encouraging others	Pastoring
Giving messages of wisdom or knowledge			Leadership
Giving to the needs of others	Preaching	Healing	Faith
Doing acts of kindness	Knowing when something is good or bad		

Most of the gifts are listed in Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:7-11;
1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 and 1 Peter 4:10-11.
You can look for more gifts in these verses

7. How can you help other believers when you practice your gifts?

Ephesians 4:12 _____

8. What is the final goal for us? Ephesians 4:13 _____

BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN WORSHIP

I was glad when they said to me: "LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD". Psalm 122:1. There are no churches or believers that are perfect. Do not have a critical attitude, but get the most out of the church service by doing the following:

PREPARE YOUR HEART: Don't be discouraged, reluctant or afraid. Trust in Jesus who brings you into the presence of God.

9. Why can we come boldly into God's presence?

Hebrews 10:19



BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED: Focus on God and His greatness and mercy when you are singing. Pray silently in agreement when someone prays out loud.

10. What sacrifice can we offer to God? Hebrews 13:15

LISTEN: Openly receive the teaching of the Word and hear what the Lord is saying to you. Apply the truths you learn to your life.

11. What is it that the wise man does to ensure that his house is built on a rock?

Matthew 7:24

He hears the Word and

TOGETHERNESS WITH FRIENDS

New Christians often have problems because friends who are not Christians have a negative influence on their lives. God wants our closest friends to be good for us.

12. How can Christian friends help us? (Hebrews 3:13)

Encourage one another today so that you will not

be

by the _____ of sin.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: _____



Church is not only going to a building at 9h00 on a Sunday morning. Make friends with other Christians at school or work. Go to a good youth group or Bible Study. Start a prayer meeting. You are The Church!

13. Read 1 Corinthians 15:33 and answer the following: Do you think you can walk in God's ways if you spend all your time with non-Christians?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Why? _____

14. Why does Paul warn us not to be partners with unbelievers?

(2 Corinthians 6:14) _____

15. Read Proverbs 13:20 and complete the following:

The result of associating with fools: _____

The result of associating with the wise: _____

Church means: Being together, sharing, singing, praying, learning and discussing the Word & growing in the Lord.

16. Read Acts 2:42-47 and see if you can find what the first Christians did on a regular basis. Check the things that you are doing:

✚ Hearing good Bible teaching with other believers. ☐

✚ Breaking bread (the Lord's Supper) with others. ☐

✚ Praying with others. ☐

✚ Having fellowship with others. ☐

✚ Sharing your resources with others. ☐

✚ Enjoying favour with others. ☐

Ecclesiastes 4:8-12

We are stronger together than when we are alone. When the Holy Spirit joins us together, we are like a strong rope that cannot break easily. Spend time with your fellow believers. Pray together, share your problems and help each other. Pray: "Holy Spirit, weave me together with other believers, like a really strong rope!"

Ephesians 2:19-22

God's people are like a building or a house that belongs to God. Jesus makes the building grow and He makes it a Holy place where His Spirit can live. If you believe in Jesus, then you are a part of this wonderful building: the place where God lives through His Spirit. What an honour to be the home of the Holy Spirit!

YOUR REAL FRIENDS ARE THOSE WHO WANT TO HELP YOU TO LIVE FOR JESUS

STRONGER



TOGETHER

FAILURE

Do you stop being a Christian when you sin?

God's Word says that you have become a brand-new person because Jesus Christ lives in you. But sometimes it seems difficult to believe this fact because you still continue to sin. Many Christians ask themselves, "Am I really a Christian?" when they sin, especially when they fall again and again.



1. Read John 1:12 and fill in the missing words. To all who _____ Him to those who _____ in His name He gave the right to become the _____ of God.

Just as you never stop being the child of your parents, so you never stop being a child of God. When you sin, you do not stop being a Christian. God still loves you and His Spirit lives in you. But your relationship with Him is disturbed. You are a naughty and disobedient child. He has shown us what to do when we sin.

DAVID SINNED!! He was a man chosen and loved by God, yet he was not perfect. 2 SAMUEL 11 and 12 tell about how David lusted after Bathsheba, another man's wife. He tried to hide his sin and then had her husband killed. In Psalm 32 and 51 David tells us how he was feeling:

2. How did David feel when he tried to hide his sin? (Psalm 32:3-4)

3. Why do you think he felt so bad? (Look at the first part of the verse where David is talking to God.) _____

4. What did David do about his sin? Complete Psalm 32:5
I _____ my sin to you.
I did not _____ my iniquity (sin).
I said: "I will _____ my transgressions to the Lord."
How did God respond? (The last part of vs. 5)

**FOLLOW DAVID'S EXAMPLE WHEN YOU SIN SO
THAT YOU CAN BE FORGIVEN AND MAKE A NEW START**

When the Holy Spirit points out sin in your life, you have a CHOICE. You can confess it to God OR you can go your own way and refuse to humble yourself before Him.



OR



5. What attitude does God want you to have when you sin? (Psalm 51:17)
A _____ spirit and a _____ heart.
6. Read 1 John 1:9. What must you do when you sin? _____
7. According to the promise in 1 John 1:9, what 2 things is God faithful and just to do if we confess our sins?
a) _____
b) _____
8. If you confess your sin, how much of your sin is forgiven?

Some ☐ None ☐ All ☐



9. Confession is NOT:

- ✦ Feeling sorry for yourself.
 - ✦ Blaming other people.
 - ✦ Blaming circumstances.
 - ✦ Feeling sorry for the consequences of your sin.
- 2 Corinthians 7:10b: Worldly sorrow brings.

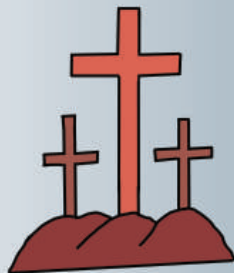
10. Confession IS:

- ✦ Agreeing with God that you have done wrong.
 - ✦ Being sorry for your sin.
 - ✦ Believing that Jesus paid for your sin.
 - ✦ Turning away from your sin.
- 2 Corinthians 7:10a. Godly sorrow brings.



BELIEVE THE TRUTH OF THE WORD

Sometimes even though we know God has forgiven us, we do not forgive ourselves. Many Christians are worried by memories of things they have done. We have an enemy, the devil. He is "the accuser." He constantly tries to accuse us of our past sins. If God forgives and forgets, it is wrong for us not to do so as well. The Word of God will help us experience freedom from the memory of past sins. Believe that what God says about forgiveness, is true.



Read Revelation 12:10 to see what the destiny of the accuser is. Use the Word of God as a weapon against the devil. Learn to say these verses out loud when the devil accuses you:

1 John 1:9; Psalm 103:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

11. Why does God forgive us? 1 John 2:1-2.

J _____ C _____, the Righteous
One speaks in our defence He is the _____ for our sins.

BE RECONCILED TO YOUR FELLOW MAN

If you know that someone has something against you, God wants you to make peace with him/her. Ask the people that you have wronged to forgive you. Make restitution by giving back what you have stolen, paying for things you have damaged and changing your behaviour.

Honestly admit your sins so that you can be friends again.

12. If you have wronged your fellow man, what must you do before you come to worship God? Matthew 5:23-24

First go and be _____ to your brother.

13. Mark 11:25: When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone,

_____ him, so that your Father in heaven may _____ your sins.

DEAL WITH THE SIN IN YOUR LIFE

Nathan said, "I feel so far away from God when I have sinned!"

Maria replied, "Me too! I feel like a naughty child who hides from her father. But then I always take out the rubbish."

"What do you mean by that?" asked Nathan.

In big towns people put all the rubbish in big plastic bags. The big rubbish truck comes and takes it away to a place where it is burnt.



The rubbish collectors do not come into their yards to get it. The people have to put their rubbish in the bags, take them out and put them next to the road ready for the rubbish truck when it comes past. They never see their rubbish again. When you confess your sin, it is like taking out the rubbish. God takes your sin away just as the rubbish truck takes away the rubbish.

Don't hide the rubbish

Nobody hides rubbish away all over their house. It would become a terrible stinky mess! If you want the truck to take away the rubbish you must put it in a big plastic bag and take it to the road.

14. Proverbs 28:13 says he who conceals (hides) his sins, does not prosper (do well), but whoever confesses and renounces (stops) them finds mercy (forgiveness). Now fill in the missing words:

What must you NOT do? I must not hide my _____

What will happen if you hide your sin? _____

If I hide my sin I will not _____

There are 2 things that you must do: I must _____

and _____ my sin.

What will you find when you do this? _____

15. What does God do with your sins? Answer in your own words

Psalm 103:12 _____

Isaiah 1:18 _____

How to take out the rubbish

- ✓ Make a list of the things that you know you have done wrong; the things you have not done that you should have done.
- ✓ Honestly confess your wrongdoing and ask God to forgive you.
- ✓ Write "1 John 1: 9" across your list.
- ✓ Ask those people that you have wronged, to forgive you.
- ✓ If someone has done wrong to you, forgive him or her.
- ✓ Accept His forgiveness. Say thank you and start anew.
Tear up your list and throw it away.



The steadfast love of the Lord never ends. His mercies are new every morning. Lamentations 3:23



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Know Truth - Recognise Lie

