



New Life Christian Growth Series

“Jesus Is Alive Today”

Booklet #15

Mountain State Ministries
P.O. Box 217
Springfield, WV 26763
www.mountainstateministries.org

Today's Date: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

General Instructions:

1. Please fill in the blanks on the following pages using a King James Version of the Bible. Please read the detailed instructions for the individual lessons on page 6 before you begin to put pen to paper. NOTE: The individual lessons are designed to be completed daily so you can meditate on the material.
2. When you are done, return the **Test & Review Sections (Pages 35-38) of this booklet** to the address provided below. Keep the rest of this Booklet (Pages 1-34) for your own use. Review Sections returned less than 30 days from the time it was mailed, will not be accepted. Please spend time with the Lord in prayer and ask Him to help you learn the material.
3. As soon as we receive your completed review pages, we will grade it (Pass or Fail) and send a letter confirming your status, along with Booklet #16.
4. You will also receive a Certificate of Completion for this Booklet.

Please mail the completed Review Section to:

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Mountain State Ministries was started in January of 2017 to continue the legacy of Country Wide Prison Ministry. CWPM's purpose was to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to prison inmates and their families, and to edify them through the teaching of the Word of God through Bible correspondence courses. MSM will continue this legacy and expand the Bible correspondence courses to anyone in world via the internet. This will provide anyone the opportunity to study God's word, become more closely imitate with Jesus, and be more sensitive and obedient to God's Holy Spirit. Our goal is to Exalt the King and to Expand the Kingdom!

Ray Witmer Jr., author of this Bible study curriculum, founded Country Wide Prison Ministry in 2003. His New Life Christian Growth Series has been administered to thousands of prison inmates throughout ever state in the Union. Mr. Witmer retired due to heath issues on 1 January 2017 and has provided Mountain State Ministries all rights to continue his legacy.

We are very grateful and appreciate Brother Ray's heart for God and his willingness to let us use this resource to spread God's Word among this generation of people.

“Verily, Verily, I say to you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” John 12:24

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******* INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR BIBLE LESSONS *******

- A. The Bible verses used in this study are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.
- B. Before doing each lesson, take time to ask God to open your understanding and show you the truth.
- C. For the best results, do only one lesson each day. Meditate on each day's lesson. (There are four weeks of lessons per book.)
- D. Keep in mind that these lessons are based on what the Bible says, and not on man's opinion.
- E. These lessons are designed to help you to know the truth, to know the Lord in a personal way, and to trust what the Bible says and teaches you.
- F. Remember, it is not what you, I, or any preacher says, but what the Bible says.
- G. You must learn to stand on what the Bible says to "study to show yourself approved unto God, workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)
- H. Who wrote the Bible? (II Peter 1:21)
- I. All Scripture is inspired by God. (II Timothy 3:16)
- J. Regardless of what man says, the believer (Christian) has direct access to the throne of God and is responsible directly to God. This access is through Jesus Christ and Him only. (I Timothy 2:5)
- K. These studies are to help you have peace of mind. (Isaiah 26:3-4)
- L. These studies will help you know if you are going to Heaven or Hell. (Romans 10:13)
- M. These lessons will help you with assurance and security; these are not the same. The securing of the believer is God's work. It is a part of God's great work of Salvation depending solely upon His infinite grace. Assurance is the believer's acceptance of the security provided for him in Christ. It is the result of the human soul resting in what God has promised in His Word to accomplish. This is why it is important to know what the Bible says. (I John 5:11-13)



TAKE TIME TO READ BELOW BEFORE
DOING THIS LESSON

Meditate on the Scriptures of this Lesson and Ask Yourself These Questions:

1. What do these verses teach me about God and myself?
2. Is there an example here to follow or avoid?
3. Is this a command, a promise, or a warning that I need to apply?
4. What action do I need to take to align my life with this truth?



The Bible is the Word of God

NO HOPE WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION

New Life Christian Growth Series

Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #1

This week's verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

In today's lesson, you will see the Bible challenging people in the Corinthian church, who denied a foundational truth of the faith. Some Christians at the church rejected the idea that believers would one day experience a bodily resurrection. Because they assumed there was no life beyond this earthly one, they sought as much pleasure as they could with no thought about eternity. "Death is the end, so live it up while you can," was their way of thinking.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, _____
_____ according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, _____
_____ according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then
of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this
present, but some are fallen asleep. After that he was seen of James _____
_____. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time (I Corinthians 15:3-8).

Throughout the centuries, many individuals have embraced this short-sighted philosophy. The Bible rebukes this belief today just as it did then; to deny the truth of resurrection means that one's faith is worthless.

Now if Christ be preached _____, how say some
among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if _____
_____, then is Christ not risen: And if _____
_____, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God;

whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then _____
_____: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain: ye are yet in your sins (I Corinthians 15:12-17).

If Christ had remained in the grave 2,000 years ago, He would have been nothing more than a travelling preacher. This religion that we call Christianity would have died with Him because believers would have nothing in which to place their hope; but He did triumph over the grave — we have eyewitnesses, testimonies, and the assurance of the Holy Spirit to confirm it.

If in this life _____, we are of all men most
miserable. But _____, and
become the first fruits of them that slept (have died). For since by man came death, _____
_____. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming (I Corinthians 15:19-23).

Your Motto should be: "Live for the glory of the risen Lord."

Do you believe that Jesus is alive today? If so, upon what do you base your belief? _____

Today's Bible reading is I Corinthians chapter 15.

JESUS' RESURRECTION DOES MATTER

New Life Christian Growth Series

Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #2

This week's verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Believing that the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead is essential for Christians. Merely recognizing that He died for your sins is not enough; you must accept His resurrection in order to receive eternal life. Christ paid your debt, but His sacrifice on the cross means nothing if He possesses no power over the grave. In vanquishing evil and death, the Lord made your salvation possible.

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee _____
_____: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That _____
_____, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead,
_____ (Romans 10:8-9).

Jesus' resurrection proved that He was able to remove sin and its penalty. Assuming that Christ remained dead would mean accepting the opposite — that believers are still in sin. The inevitable end of a sinful life is death. Consequently, a person who denies Christ's eternal nature has nothing but an empty future to look forward to.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth _____
_____. For the scripture saith, _____
_____. For there is no difference between the Jew
and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For _____
_____ shall be saved (Romans 10:10-13).

Instead of enjoying Christian liberty and anticipating a home in heaven, those who reject the resurrection are slaves to the present with no real hope or meaning in life. Careers, family, and good works can offer brief pleasure, but not the kind of joy that comes from knowing that you are right with the Lord and working in His will.

How then shall they call on him _____
_____? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And
how shall they hear without a preacher. And how shall they preach _____
_____? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that
preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:14-15).

The resurrection is not a denominational issue or point for theological debate. Either you believe Christ rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, or you do not. If you reject His victory over the grave, you deny yourself a place in eternity; but if you accept the truth, the Bible assures you that you will be saved.

Do you believe that Christ rose from the dead? Yes _____ No _____

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 10.

A FAITH WORTH PRACTICING
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #3

This week's verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

A person's attitude about the resurrection is important any time of the year, and not just at Easter. If you are going to accept or reject a scriptural truth, you should understand how that principle impacts not only your faith, but also your witness.

Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have not _____
_____ : whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.
For if the dead rise not, _____ : And if Christ be not raised,
_____ ; ye are yet in your sins (I Corinthians 15:15-17).

The greatest implication of claiming that Jesus remained in the grave is that you are left with no hope of salvation. This in turn makes telling others about the Lord pointless. Jesus is the One Who brings life-giving force to the Gospel message. Without him, sharing the word would have as much effect on someone as reciting, "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in _____
_____, we are of all men most miserable. But now is _____
_____, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death,
_____ came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so _____
_____ (I Corinthians 15:18-22).

Further, if the Father didn't resurrect the Son, then He must also be dishonest about the eternal nature of believers. How could you ever hope to be "absent from the body and...at home with the Lord" upon death, if the blameless Son Himself did not receive such treatment?

We are confident, I say, and willing _____
_____, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether _____
_____, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear _____
_____ ; that every one may receive the things done in his body,
_____, whether it be good or bad (II Corinthians 5:8-10).

Without Christ's resurrection, you have no saving Lord, no powerful Word, no hope of eternity, and a dead faith. A wise believer studies the Bible, and therefore recognizes how God's salvation plan fits together from Genesis to Revelation.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, _____ ; behold, all things
are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us _____
_____, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was
in Christ _____,
not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:17-19).

The only legitimate basis for eternal hope is accepting Jesus Christ's sacrifice for your transgressions and believing that He conquered sin and death and rose again.

Today's Bible reading is II Corinthians chapter 5.

SHARING IN THE RESURRECTION

New Life Christian Growth Series

Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #4

This week's verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Thanks to Jesus Christ's victory over the grave, every believer can anticipate eternal life with God. Your share in the resurrection also means that you will one day take part in Jesus' return and His future reign.

But every man in his own order: _____; afterward they are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, _____, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For _____, till he hath put all enemies under his feet (I Corinthians 15:23-25).

A popular but very wrong theology says that deceased saints experience "soul sleep" and remain in the grave until Christ returns. The truth is, however, that when the trumpet blows, Jesus will bring with Him those souls who have already entered heaven, including every single believer who has died since Adam. Graves will open, and bodies will be gloriously transformed as they rise to meet their spirit selves in the air. Finally, the faithful who remain alive will ascend to join Jesus and the saintly host.

But I would _____, concerning them which are asleep (dead), that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For _____, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you _____, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For _____, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain _____, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord (I Thessalonians 4:13-17).

*If you pass from this life before Christ comes to earth again, you will not sleep in a casket. **YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY BE WITH HIM!***

One problem believers sometimes face is tunnel vision. If you become focused on your personal problems and needs, you can forget who you are in Christ and what He has in store for you. This world with all its troubles will pass away. Then, you will revel in your new position as a heaven-bound saint and a partaker in the return and reign of Christ.

Take notice of this promise in scripture: _____, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, _____ (II Corinthians 5:8).

Today's Bible reading is I Thessalonians chapter 4.

WALKING WITH JESUS IN A STORM

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Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #5

This week's verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

It was the middle of the night, there were high winds, crashing waves, low visibility, and only a small boat on the Sea of Galilee. For the disciples, the situation had reached crisis proportions, and Jesus was not with them; He was on the mountainside praying. The disciples were all alone.

And straightway he (Jesus) constrained his disciples _____,
and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people And when _____
_____, he departed into a mountain to pray (Mark 6:45-46).

Hidden by the storm, perhaps the disciples thought that Jesus had forgotten them. However, He knew exactly where the disciples were and what they were experiencing. Though you can't see Jesus, He is omniscient and can identify where you are at every moment. No darkness or trial can hide you; you are always seen, known, and understood!

And when even was come, _____, and he alone
on the land. And he (Jesus) saw them toiling in rowing; _____
_____: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking
upon the sea, and would have passed by them (Mark 6:47-48).

Leaving His place of prayer, Jesus sought out the disciples, and He will do the same for you. However, the disciples did not recognize Him because He went to them by walking on the water. Jesus often does not come the way you might expect. Your preconceived idea of how He works can cause you to wonder where He is or fail to recognize His nearness.

But when they saw him walking upon the sea, _____
_____, and cried out: For they all saw him, and were troubled. And _____
_____, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid (Mark 6:49-50).

Experiencing Jesus' presence in hard times can teach you precious truths. During an earlier rough sea adventure, the disciples observed both Jesus' trust in God and His authority over nature.

And when he (Jesus) was entered into a ship, _____.
And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the _____
_____: but he (Jesus) was asleep. And his disciples came to him, _____
_____, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, _____?
_____?

Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm (Matthew 8:23-26).

When turmoil hits, ask for spiritual eyes to discern the Lord's presence. Then, you must listen for His voice and obey.

My sheep _____ and I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27).

Today's Bible reading is Mark chapter 6.

JESUS — TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE

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Lesson #6

This week's verse to memorize: Psalm 145:8

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Jesus is often referred to with titles such as Savior, Messiah, Christ, and High Priest. The most important and accurate description of Jesus, though, is one that we do not often understand: Jesus is God.

In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, _____
_____. The same was in the beginning with God. All _____
_____ ; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In _____
_____ ; and the life was the light of men. And the _____
_____ ; and the darkness comprehended it not (John 1:1-5).

You may say “Jesus is Lord,” but what exactly does that mean? If Jesus were not alive today and fully God, then it would be blasphemous to ascribe total lordship and sovereignty to Him. However, the Bible clearly shows that Jesus is, in fact, wholly God.

I and my _____ (John 10:30).

Jesus Himself spoke of the complete unity and harmony that He shared with the Father. He asserts, “I and the Father are one” in the scripture verse above.

Then said the Jews unto him, _____,
and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, verily, verily, I say unto you _____
_____, I am (John 8:57-58).

Jesus shocked the Jews by claiming to have seen Abraham. When they asked Him to explain Himself, He replied, “Before Abraham was born, I am.” “I AM” is the divine name that the Father used to communicate with Moses; by using this expression, Jesus claimed to be God.

But when the Comforter is come, _____
_____, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And
ye also shall bear witness, _____
_____ (John 15:26-27).

Finally, Jesus shows His involvement within the Trinity. He explains the unified purpose with which the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit function.

If you trust in God’s Holy Word, then you must recognize that Jesus is fully God. Praise Him today for His sacrificial love for you.

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 8.

HOW THE RESURRECTION AFFECTED THE DISCIPLES

New Life Christian Growth Series

Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #7

This week's verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

What did it feel like for the disciples when Jesus died? They left everything for this man, followed Him for three years, and built all their hopes and dreams on His ideas. Then, all of a sudden (according to their perspective) He was gone.

In the end of the Sabbath as it began to draw toward the first day of the week came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary _____ . And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for _____ , and sat upon it. His countenance _____ , and his raiment white as snow (Matthew 28:1-3).

The disciples had heard all the incredible things Jesus said: He told them He "was" even before Abraham lived, He said that He and the Father were one, and He declared He was the only way to God. He had told them such amazing things, but now there he was, hanging on a cross, dead. How could this be?

And for fear of him the keepers _____ .
And the angel answered and said unto the women, _____ , which was crucified. He is not here: _____ , as he said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay (Matthew 28:4-6).

The disciples were confused, scared, mournful, and completely distraught. Only one thing could have turned them around. Only one thing could have breathed new life into their downtrodden spirits. Praise God that one vital thing came in the cry of an excited friend running toward them, shouting, "He's alive! He's alive!"

And go quickly, _____ ; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they (women) departed quickly from the _____ ; and did run to bring his (Jesus') disciples word (Matthew 28:7-8).

For mankind, death had always been the final word or the inescapable end. By achieving victory over death, Jesus proved He was Who He claimed to be. By demonstrating His power over man's greatest fear, He showed Himself to be mankind's greatest Friend, Savior, and Lord. Jesus is alive today!

Do you believe Jesus is alive today? Please explain why you believe this: _____

If Jesus is alive today, please tell us what He is doing for you now: _____

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 28.

OUR VERY BEST FRIEND
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #8

This week's verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Have you ever longed for someone to understand and accept you just as you are? Do you desire a friendship that is built on unconditional trust and acceptance? Friends can bring great joy to your life, but they can also cause misunderstanding and feelings of rejection and disappointment.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, _____
_____. This is my commandment, _____
_____, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a
man _____.
Ye are my _____, if ye do whatsoever I command you (John 15:11-14).

Jesus is a friend who will never disappoint, reject, or misunderstand you. He is alive today, and He will never leave you. Your dearest friend on earth is a mere shadow compared to Jesus Christ.

Do you think of Jesus as your Friend? He is your Savior and Lord, but if you will allow Him, He will also be the best friend you could ever desire to have.

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: _____
_____ ; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made
known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but _____
_____, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should
remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things _____
_____ (John 15:15-17).

Jesus takes the initiative in your friendship. His relationship toward you is not based on your worthiness, but on His unchanging love. When you turn to Him, He becomes your friend unconditionally. He accepts you just as you are. He will never leave you or forsake you.

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: _____
_____ ;
he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Joseph M. Scriven wrote a song that you might want to learn. The song's words go like this: "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!"

Accept Jesus' friendship, and you will experience the joy of a lasting relationship today.

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 15.

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
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Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #9

This week's verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

What difference does it make who Jesus is? Why should I take Him seriously? The answer to these questions will impact your belief system, mold your character, and influence your lifestyle. They will also determine where you spend eternity.

When Jesus came into the coast of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, _____
_____.? And they said, some say that thou art _____
_____, some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He (Jesus) saith unto them, _____
_____.? And Simon Peter answered and said, _____
_____. (Matthew 16:13-16).

Jesus testified that He is the Son of God, and that He and the Father are one.

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip? _____
_____.? Believest thou not that I
am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you _____
_____.: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works (John 14:9-10).

If you desire to know God, then you must draw near to Jesus. Only He reveals the Father.

Even as the Son of man _____
_____, and to give his life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28).

Jesus' mission from His Father is focused and concentrated on humankind. Why? To rescue humankind from slavery to sin and to make them ready for their heavenly home, where they will spend eternity.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, _____
_____. (Matthew 28:18).

You are to live in submission to Jesus. Jesus said He didn't come to be served, but to serve. In the same way, those who belong to Jesus are to imitate His life of service. Jesus always did what the Father commanded Him.

But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, _____
_____. Arise, let us go hence (John 14:31).

Jesus' life of obedience shows you the way to please God. Jesus knew exactly why He came, and He did what the Father asked in order to bring glory to God.

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, _____
_____, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As _____
_____, over all flesh that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him (John 17:1-2).

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 20.

JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

New Life Christian Growth Series

Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #10

This week's verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Why is it that some people face life's hardships with confidence and boldness, while others find themselves plagued with doubts and failure? One reason for this is that too many people have an inadequate view of who Jesus is. Some know Him as the Bread of Life and the Living Water, but how many know Him as their great High Priest?

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, _____, let us hold fast our profession (Hebrews 4:14).

The Bible says that Jesus "had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest."

Wherefore in all things it behoved him (Jesus) to be made like unto his brethren, _____ in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that _____, he is able to succour them that are tempted (Hebrews 2:17-18).

Then the Bible adds, "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet was without sin." This means that Jesus enters into your life, and He experiences your pain, hurt, and guilt right along with you.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; _____, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may _____, to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Have you ever been totally misunderstood when you did your best and gave your all? Consider this question: was anybody more misunderstood on this earth than Jesus? He is personally acquainted with that kind of pain; after all, even His own people rejected Him.

Does Jesus, the sinless One, understand your guilt feelings? Yes. The Bible says that the Father laid all the sins of the world on Him. He bore the guilt of all mankind.

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree _____ by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; _____ and Bishop of your souls (I Peter 2:24-25).

No matter what you are facing, realize that Jesus can identify with your circumstance and can feel what you are feeling.

Today's Bible reading is I Peter chapter 2.

FALLING IN LOVE WITH JESUS
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Lesson #11

This week's verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

When you fall in love, you want to spend all of your time with the object of your affection, and you are willing to give your full attention to the relationship. Falling in love with Jesus should be no different, but believers often hurry through Bible reading and prayer. The result is a superficial faith kept alive by habit rather than worship. To attain lasting intimacy, you must approach God with a sense of purpose and determination.

O God, thou art my God; _____,
my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirst land, where no water is; To see _____
_____, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy _____
_____, my lips shall praise thee (Psalm 63:1-3).

King David advised the leaders of Israel to set their hearts and souls on seeking the Lord their God. Believers have a choice and must choose whether to pursue God or chase after idols.

Now _____
_____ ; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the Lord God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the Lord (I Chronicles 22:19).

If you desire intimacy with Him, it is necessary for you to approach the spiritual disciplines purposefully. Before opening the Bible, ask the Lord what He wants to say to you. Pray to understand His ways; He loves answering that plea. Enter these lessons with the intention of learning a new truth from the Lord.

When _____, and meditate on thee in the night watches.
Because _____, therefore in the shadow of thy wings
will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee: _____
_____. But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth (Psalm 63:6-9).

Even when you do not feel like putting time into your relationship with Christ, you must determine to do so. A revelation from God will not come every day, but a believer need not despair. Those who diligently seek the Savior experience His presence frequently in their worship.

Thou wilt _____ : because he trusteth
in thee. Trust _____ :
for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength (Isaiah 26:3-4).

Getting to know Jesus brings pure joy into a believer's life. However, you must be willing to offer Him your best time, and not just your leftover minutes.

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 63.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TRINITY

New Life Christian Growth Series

Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #12

This week's verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

The Trinity consists of three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — each fully God, yet together one single Being. The Trinity has the same divine attributes, but the three separate parts have distinct functions:

- God the Father — Whose holiness demanded we pay for sin and whose love provided the payment.
- God the Son — Who willingly sacrificed His sinless life and intercedes from heaven for us.
- God the Spirit — Who lives as a Helper and Guide within forgiven sinners.

Jesus called Him the “Spirit of truth.” Let’s look more closely at God the Spirit.

Howbeit when he, the _____: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come (John 16:13).

It is the Trinity who helps you understand the Bible, who reveals how the Bible applies to your life, and who works conviction in you.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, _____, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you (John 14:26).

By bringing to your remembrance all that Jesus has said through the recollection of the Bible, the Holy Spirit guides and encourages you.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: but if I go not away _____: but if I depart, I will send him unto you (John 16:7).

The Holy Spirit is so important that Jesus said, “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; . . . if I go, I will send (the Holy Spirit) to you.”

He shall glorify me: _____ and shall shew it to you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, _____, and shall shew it unto you (John 16:14-15).

It is the Holy Spirit who interacts with you in your earthly life. He takes no glory for Himself and always seeks to bring attention to Jesus; that is why He seems harder to know, but if you look closely, you will see His loving fingerprints all over your life, just as a potter’s are on the clay guiding you, challenging you, and transforming you.

Explain where each one of the Trinity is today: _____

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 16.

THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #13

This week's verse to memorize: John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Praying in Jesus' name states both your relationship with Christ and your right, through Him, to approach the Father directly.

Believe me that I am in the Father, _____: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, _____
_____; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father (John 14:11-12).

Association with the Savior — what makes it possible for you to approach God through prayer is your relationship with Jesus. At salvation, you went from being foreigners and aliens to being children of God.

Now therefore ye are no more _____
_____, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, _____
_____ (Ephesians 2:19-20).

Your Creator has become your heavenly Father. He hears your requests because you have been made family through the redemptive work of His Son. The presence of Christ's Spirit within you proves that you are one of His own.

Access to the Father — Jesus' death opened the way for you to have immediate, unhindered admittance to the Father's presence. When Jesus finished His work in making the final priestly sacrifice, the veil in the temple, which closed off the Holy of Holies from man, was torn in two.

And Jesus _____, and gave up the ghost. And the
_____ from the top to the bottom (Mark 15:37-38).

This symbolized the spiritual truth that access to God was now open to all who believe. Through the Holy Spirit, you have the right to talk to God directly without a human intermediary.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, _____ that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask _____, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments (John 14:13-15).

Because of Jesus Christ, your sins are paid for, you are in a new family relationship, and you have unhindered access to the Father. Please stop right now and give thanks to God for the incredible privilege of prayer!

Today's Bible reading is Mark chapter 15.

JESUS — OUR LIFE PRESERVER
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #14

This week's verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Picture a muddy river, overflowing with rain and rushing rapidly over rocks. You have fallen into that dirty water and cannot fight the current for long. Your head goes under once, then twice, and both times you come up sputtering after swallowing some of the filth; a third dunking might kill you. Suddenly, from the shore, someone throws a life preserver, which floats toward your chest. Will you grab it?

For God so loved the world, _____,
_____, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

*The answer seems obvious. Of course you would grab the life preserver! **But too often, people drowning in the world's fast-moving current refuse to grab onto the spiritual life preserver—Jesus Christ. He died on the cross for all of humanity, but individuals have a responsibility in salvation. A person must recognize his or her own helplessness and acknowledge the need for Christ. That means the new Christian must accept Jesus' sacrifice as true and personal, believing that there is no other way to be rescued.***

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world ; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: _____,
_____, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (John 3:17-18).

It isn't necessary to understand everything about faith and the Bible in order to be saved; God will ensure that His children learn whatever they need from the Holy Spirit. However, it is critical to realize that you cannot save yourself.

And this is the condemnation, _____,
_____, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, _____,
_____, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, _____,
_____, that they are wrought in God (John 3:19-21).

Can you point to a time in your life when you turned from self and sin and to Jesus alone for salvation? _____

God is offering you a life preserver and is waiting to pull you to eternal safety. The choice is yours. Will you choose Christ and live? Will you ask Him now to save you if you haven't already? Yes _____ No _____

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 3.

JESUS RELATES TO MAN
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #15

This week's verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

There is no higher privilege than this: Jesus wants to have a personal relationship with you. Some people get the idea that the Lord is some distant deity who is busy with other problems. Others believe that He is a vaporous being that created mankind and then cut them loose. The truth is, however, that Jesus deeply desires the friendship of His followers.

Greater love hath no man than this, _____
_____. Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: _____
_____ ; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you (John 15:13-15).

If the Lord's purpose in creating mankind had been simply to get something done, He would have fashioned you like a robot with no initiative or free will. Instead, you are uniquely designed to receive your Father's love and to choose whether or not you will love Him in return. God cares for His creation and wants to share an intimate relationship with every single one of the human beings He creates.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, _____
_____, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, _____
_____ (John 15:16-17).

Jesus Christ poured His life into twelve men that he called to be His disciples. Modern believers tend to focus on Jesus' miracles and preaching, overlooking the fact that He spent every day with the disciples. Jesus' priority was to teach and prepare the twelve so that when He returned to the Father, they could continue reaching the world with the Gospel. You are the spiritual descendants of the Lord's disciples, and God pours Himself into you just as He did with them. He imparts His Spirit to you as your closest companion and comforter.

If the world hate you, _____
_____. If ye were of the world, _____
_____, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you (John 15:18-19).

Make yourself available to the Lord, and He will be closer to you than a brother, loving you and showing you His will.

What is your relationship with God like? _____

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 15.

JESUS, VIRGIN BORN — DOES IT MATTER?

New Life Christian Growth Series

Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #16

This week's verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

There are times when you need to be reminded of who Jesus is. There are also times when you need to be reminded of what He deserves: your best. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ serves as a constant reminder of what God deserves from His children.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel _____, named Nazareth, to a _____ espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and _____, and the angel came in unto her, and said, _____: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, _____, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be (Luke 1:26-29).

God never does anything halfway or poorly. Every word from the mouth of God is perfect. Every action He takes from His throne is the best. Every path He places before you is excellent.

And the angel said unto her, fear not, Mary: _____. And, behold, thou shalt _____, and shalt call his name Jesus (Luke 1:30-31).

When God sent His unblemished Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die for the sins of the world, He sent Him through Mary, a virgin woman.

Then said Mary unto the angel, _____.? And the angel answered and said unto her, _____: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God (Luke 1:34-35).

Along with demonstrating the awesome power of God, the virgin birth of Christ shows that God's character is consistent with His words. God never fails to deliver on His promises to you. God has already given you His best through His perfect Son, Jesus Christ.

Do you believe that Jesus was born of a virgin? Yes _____ No _____

Why do you think it was so significant and important for Jesus to be born of a virgin? _____

Today's Bible reading is Luke chapter 1.

MAKING JESUS KNOWN
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #17

This week's verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

There are three questions that everyone needs to know how to answer correctly: Who is the one true God? What is He like? Is it possible to have a personal relationship with him? Throughout the history of mankind, countless people from every nation have been haunted by these questions; do you know the answers to them?

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, ye men of Athens, _____
_____. For as I passed by, _____
_____, I found an altar with this inscription _____
_____. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto
you. God that made the world and all things therein, _____
_____, dwelleth not in temples made with hands (Acts 17:22-24).

Today, Christians must continue to share about Jesus because it is God's will that every single person have the correct answer to the three questions at the beginning of this lesson.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who _____
_____, _____
_____ of the truth. For there is _____, and
on mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who _____
_____, to be testified in due time (I Timothy 2:3-6).

Imagine that you are walking into church Sunday morning and must sit before a giant statue of bronze or gold. You might sing a few songs, then take up an offering to lay at the foot of the statue. After singing several additional melodies, you return to your house. What would you carry home with you? What assurance could you claim? There could be no joy, peace, or assurance in this life or the life to come because you bowed down to something that is lifeless and unable to hear you.

That they _____ if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not
far from every one of us: For _____
_____; as certain also of your own poet have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch
then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that _____
_____, graven by art and man's device (Acts 17:27-29).

You, as a believer, know the true God. There is a world full of people who long to know Jesus. Find a way to share your peace and joy with someone else today.

Today's Bible reading is Acts chapter 17.

JESUS — WE CAN TRUST HIM
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #18

This week's verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

You must be careful whom you trust in this world. People make promises they cannot keep, break confidences on a whim, and come out with statements that are untrue. There is Someone, however, who keeps every promise, refuses to break a confidence, and never lies — the almighty Son of God, Jesus.

Fret not _____, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they _____, and wither as the green herb. Trust _____; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed (Psalm 37:1-3).

You serve a faithful Father. Throughout the Bible, God guarantees to His children that He will pardon their sins, supply all their needs, protect them, answer their prayers, and be with them.

If we confess our sins, _____, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9).

But my God shall _____ according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

He that _____ shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, _____: my God; in him I trust (Psalm 91:1-2).

Be strong and of a good courage, _____: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; _____ nor forsake thee (Deuteronomy 31:6).

With so many divine guarantees, a promise can be applied to every aspect of your life. Spending time recalling Jesus' faithfulness in fulfilling His promises is an important exercise for believers because it builds trust.

Delight thyself also in the Lord; _____. Commit thy way unto the Lord; _____; and he shall bring it to pass (Psalm 37:4-5).

The Lord's character is perfectly consistent with trust. Because of His love, He commits to fulfilling His promises to every generation of believers. You can trust God to do all He says He will do and so much more. He will never fail you.

Rest in the Lord, _____: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from _____: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers _____: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth (Psalm 37:7-9).

Jesus demonstrated at the cross and continues to prove on a daily basis that He loves you, and that you can trust Him.

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 37.

WHEN WE SEEK JESUS
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #19

This week's verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Stop for a moment and try to clear your mind. Ask Jesus to help you focus on your time alone with Him. Now, ask yourself this question with the intention of being completely honest: What am I seeking most in life?

Josiah was eight years old _____, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. And he did _____, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left. For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, _____ and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images (II Chronicles 34:1-4).

The majority of people in the world are seeking things that they will never be able to hold onto once this lifetime is over. However, true fulfillment comes only through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and that is eternal. It helps to remember that seeking the Lord involves a strong desire to do the following:

- Find out what He is like— Examining God’s Word in depth will give you the best understanding of Who Jesus is and how He deals with His creation.
- Fellowship with Him more intimately— Seeking Jesus means spending quality time alone with Him regularly. Rushing through your daily quiet time is like taking a perfume bath every day; before long, the inadequate results will be evident.
- Follow Him more closely— The more time you spend in God’s Word, the better you will know Jesus. The more you allow the Holy Spirit to work His Word in your heart, the more you will want to obey and please your heavenly Father.
- Faithfully claim His promises, and trust Him to fulfill them— The only way you can claim Jesus’ life-changing promises is if you know them.

You will have to dig into God’s Word and practice the previous four points before you can succeed.

But his _____ Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, _____; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper (Psalm 1:2-3).

Will you set aside a special time each day where you can get alone with Jesus? Yes _____ No _____

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 1.

WHEN WE SEEK GOD
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #20

This week's verse to memorize: Acts 16:31

And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

You will find God when you seek Him with all your heart; that is a Biblical promise. The question is, however, What is the proper approach to seeking God?

But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him _____
_____. When thou art in tribulation,
_____, even in the latter days, if
thou turn to _____, and shalt be obedient unto his voice (Deuteronomy 4:29-30).

First, you must exhibit certain attitudes. The Bible implores you to pursue God, not just wholeheartedly, but also diligently, continually, confidently, and humbly; these are prerequisites to learning all you can about Him and embarking upon a course with the greatest spiritual growth.

For the Lord thy God is a merciful God; _____
_____, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them (Deuteronomy 4:31).

In addition to those attitudes, there are also certain actions that you must take. Step one after salvation is to get into His word, studying and meditating upon it with a receptive heart. You must also pray. God's Word is the primary way He speaks to you, and prayer is the primary way you speak back to Him.

For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, _____
_____, and ask from the one side of heaven
unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it? (Deuteronomy 4:32).

The next step is to consider how God is operating in your circumstances. Rather than having a pity party during a difficult time, think back on God's patterns of faithfulness to you in the past. Then, you will begin to grasp how He works even during times of adversity in your life. Also, being alert to recognize His involvement in the lives of other believers can enrich your understanding of His ways.

Know therefore this day, _____, that
the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else. Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes,
and his commandments, which I command thee this day _____
_____, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth,
which the Lord thy God giveth thee, for ever (Deuteronomy 4:39-40).

God wants you to seek Him. He will reward sincere searchers with understanding as well as increased capacity to love and serve Him. Remember, however, that all roads must lead through the Bible. That is, God will never use circumstances or people to lead you to do anything contrary to His Word.

Today's Bible reading is Deuteronomy chapter 4.

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #21

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you,
than he that is in the world.

Life demands proof. Sometimes it seems as though no matter what you say, people simply will not believe you without some definite verification. Did you know that you already have evidence to back up the most important news in the world? That important news is the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the proof is your own personal testimony.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men _____
_____ which is in heaven. But whosoever _____
_____, him _____
_____ before my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 10:32-33).

Every single believer has an irrefutable account of how Christ saved him from sin. It is disheartening when people downplay their faith story as boring or ordinary. How could this story ever be ordinary? This is not some narrative about how you spent your day; you are talking about a supernatural event! This is the chronicle of how almighty God entered your heart. This news is far from boring.

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to _____: but rather fear
him which is able to _____
in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the
_____. Fear ye not
therefore, ye are _____ than the sparrows (Matthew 10:28-31).

Moreover, no one can ever discount your testimony. It is your own story and the truthful telling of how God has worked in your life. A testimony is similar to a fingerprint, since no two are the same. Regardless of the details, no one can ever deny your personal experience. Even if some people do not believe in the power of Christ, they cannot refute what He has done in your life.

Behold, I send you forth _____; be ye
therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. _____,
for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before
governors and kings for my sake, _____
Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, _____
_____ : for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that
speak, _____ which speaketh in you (Matthew 10:16-20).

God gave you a special gift with your unique testimony. Are you sharing that gift with others?

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 10.

THE BIBLE TELLS IT LIKE IT IS
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #22

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you,
than he that is in the world.

Have you ever considered the sheer power in your simple testimony? The Bible tells a wonderful story of a blind man whom Jesus healed. If the story ended with the man opening his eyes and praising God, it would certainly be powerful. However, John carries the account a bit further; as a result, you can witness the events that happened next.

When he (Jesus) had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, _____
_____ with the clay, And said unto him,
Go wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went _____
_____, and came seeing (John 9:6-7).

The Jewish authorities did not know what to make of this miraculous healing. They had all the facts before them: a man they knew was born blind could now see, the crowd overheard his interaction with Jesus, and the man's parents provided proof of identity. Yet, they refused to believe what was clear to so many; they challenged the man's testimony.

Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him _____
_____: we know that this man is a sinner. He answered and said, _____
_____, that, whereas I was blind, now I see (John 9:24-25).

In this way, the religious authorities voiced their disbelief: "We know that this man {Jesus} is a sinner." The assumption is that He could therefore perform no miracle. The response of the healed blind man was brilliant in its simplicity: "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

The man answered and said unto them, _____
_____, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that _____
_____, but if any man be a
worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began _____
_____ of one that was born blind. If this _____
_____, he could do nothing. They answered and said unto him, _____
_____, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out (John 9:30-34).

No matter what else was said, the man knew that the Pharisees could not refute the basic fact that the blind man had been healed; the Bible shows that the authorities lost their tempers because they could not argue their way around that fact. In the same way, people simply cannot argue against the truth of your experience with Jesus. Rejoice that the Lord has given you such a powerful weapon in the midst of so great a spiritual battlefield.

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 9.

THE HEART OF THE CROSS
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #23

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:4

**Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you,
than he that is in the world.**

“Could God not have come up with a better idea for salvation than the cross?” This question is sometimes posed during debates regarding the purpose for the brutal punishment that Jesus endured at Golgotha on the cross.

He is _____; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; _____, and we esteemed him not. Surely _____, and carried our sorrows: yet _____, smitten of God, and afflicted (Isaiah 53:3-4).

Apart from your human understanding and in His infinite wisdom, God had a perfect plan for the cross. The circumstances of the day were never out of His control or in conflict with His will.

But he was wounded for _____, He was bruised _____: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All _____; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:5-6).

The Cross revealed who God is and what He is like — compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth.

And the Lord passed before him, and proclaimed, the Lord, the Lord God, _____ (Exodus 34:6).

The Cross exposed Satan for what he is, and at the same time, took away his power. The Cross invalidated the need for a physical payment for sin for those who would accept Christ's ultimate sacrifice made for us all. Finally, the Cross unveiled a new covenant relationship with God, which gives all people the opportunity to experience eternity through Jesus Christ.

Jesus, _____, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, _____; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; _____ (Matthew 27:50-52).

This act signified the beginning of a new type of access to God through Jesus Christ, our Intercessor.

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 27.

JESUS IS IN CONTROL
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #24

This week's verse to memorize: I John 4:4

**Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you,
than he that is in the world.**

Oftentimes in the Bible, Jesus is portrayed in ways that are easy to understand. Perhaps the most touching and poignant representation of Jesus is found in Psalm 23. In this passage, the Bible describes Jesus as a Shepherd.

The Lord _____; I shall not want. He (Jesus) maketh _____
_____ : he leadeth me beside the still waters (Psalm 23:1-2).

In ancient times, shepherds had special relationships with their flocks. They spent each day with their animals, guiding their paths, protecting them from danger, and corralling those who went astray. To the sheep, the shepherd was a constant companion to the extent that the sheep actually grew to recognize the shepherd's voice, and therefore, eventually responded only to his call.

He restored my soul: _____
_____ for his name's sake. Yea, though _____
_____, I will fear no evil: _____
_____ ; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me (Psalm 23:3-4).

In Psalm 23, the Bible acknowledges a sinner's position as a wandering sheep under the direction of the Great Shepherd. As such, he rejoices that he can become a part of the Lord's "flock," and that Jesus is such a gracious, loving Guide.

Thou preparest _____ in the presence of mine enemies: thou
anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall _____
_____ : and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever (Psalm 23:5-6).

Because of the assurance of Jesus' protection and guidance, the Bible is able to boldly exclaim, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with Me." This is truly a remarkable statement because it reveals that God was aware that you would face hard times, and yet, you are able to rest in the confidence that Jesus will safely see you through the ordeal. Just as a shepherd knows his flock, God knows you. Thank Him today for allowing you to graze in the pasture of His blessing.

Tell us where you think that Jesus is leading you? _____

Will you try to hide the 23rd Psalm in your heart? Yes _____ No _____

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 23.

WHY CALL ME “LORD”?
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #25

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Speaking to a group of followers, Jesus asked a pointed question: “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord’ and do not do what I say?” Using His illustration, you can see four key truths:

- Profession without performance is pretense — If, on Sunday, you say you love Christ but show no signs of a Spirit-led life all week, you are living a lie; there is no other way to say it.
- Profession followed by performance has a price — Most people just wander through life without any real focus, giving their attention to the loudest voice or brightest star. In contrast, living intently and passionately for Christ is rarely easy. Making wise choices may require extra effort, but the reward is well worth it.
- Profession followed by performance will prevail — Everyone on earth faces trials. Sometimes there is one devastating storm after another. However, if you build your life on the strong foundation of Jesus, reading His Word and applying His truth in your life, then you will be able to stand firm when the waves crash against you.
- Profession without performance results in ruin — While the “easy way” of the world may seem more enjoyable at times, it results in living with no foundation; when trouble comes, such a life simply crumbles. That is a far cry from the victory and strength Jesus wants you to experience.

And why call me, _____ and do not the things which I say? _____

_____, I will shew you to whom he is like (Luke 6:46-47).

He is like a man _____ : and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock (Luke 6:48).

But he that heareth, and doeth not _____ ; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great (Luke 6:49).

Do your actions reflect your faith? Explain: _____

Be a wise builder. Construct your house on the strong foundation of Christ, and let your performance match your profession.

Today's Bible reading is Luke chapter 6.

THE COMING OF JESUS
New Life Christian Growth Series
Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #26

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Since Creation, God was orchestrating world affairs to set the stage for the arrival of His Son. In the meantime, He used prophecy to keep people's hopes alive for a fresh beginning and a new relationship with Him.

But when the fullness of the time was come, _____,
made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them _____
_____, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, _____,
_____, crying, Abba, Father.
Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son, _____
_____ through Christ (Galatians 4:4-7).

So many Messianic predictions are recorded in the Old Testament that the likelihood of one man fulfilling them all was slim. However, Jesus Christ's birth, life, and death happened exactly as the prophets had foretold.

Isaiah predicted the circumstances of Christ's birth.

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, _____
_____, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us) (Isaiah 7:14).

Micah predicted that the Jewish people would one day have a leader who would come from the tiny town of Bethlehem.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, _____
_____; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting (Micah 5:2).

The timing of the Messiah's arrival was revealed to Daniel, who recorded the timeline in his writings.

Know therefore and understand, _____

unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. (This actually has the meaning of "seven years"—just as in Genesis 29:27) (Daniel 9:25).

A careful comparison of Jesus' life with prophecies of the Bible leads to but one conclusion: Jesus is the promised Messiah, who brings every willing person into a new covenant relationship with the Father.

Those who have received Jesus as Savior have an unbreakable covenant relationship with God. If you are saved, you have the promise of what? _____

Today's Bible reading is Galatians chapter 4.

THE PURPOSE OF JESUS' COMING

New Life Christian Growth Series

Jesus Is Alive Today - Booklet #15

Lesson #27

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

If believers are living under grace, why is the Old Testament, or the Law, still part of the Bible? The reason it still exists is that the life and death of Jesus Christ fulfilled God's Law, and the Old Testament is needed to show that. Also, we can learn much from the Old Testament about right and wrong, morality, judgment, and so much more. All of the Bible is profitable for us.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets, _____,
_____, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass,
_____ till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach
men so, _____:
_____ : but whosoever shall do and teach them, _____ (Matthew 5:17-19).

First, Jesus was personally obedient. The Pharisees accused Jesus of disobeying some of their man-made additions to the legal code, but He flawlessly followed Mosaic Law as given by God; this is an important distinction, since Jesus could not be called a holy and blameless sacrifice unless He was totally submissive to the Father.

But of the tree of the _____:
_____ :
in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die (Genesis 2:17).

Secondly, Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice. The Law clearly stated that death is the penalty for sin, but that one who was perfect in keeping the Law could receive the punishment in place of another who had sinned; this is exactly what Jesus Christ did for every believer. Through His death, Christ fulfilled God's lawful requirement.

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her _____
_____ in his heart (Matthew 5:28).

Thirdly, Christ amplified God's moral law. Through His example and teaching, Jesus explained that the moral law was more than just a set of rules to follow; the Father's commands are guiding principles for a successful life. For example, the Israelites avoided adulterous acts in order to keep the seventh commandment, but in the Bible, the Lord said that someone who lusts after another person has already committed adultery in his heart. Old Testament reading is essential for all believers today. You cannot truly understand the story of Jesus Christ until you become familiar with the Law He came to fulfill.

Can you tell us why Jesus had to come and die? _____

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 5.

New Life Christian Growth Series—Jesus Is Alive Today

*****Booklet #15 Test & Review (Pages 35-38)*****

Instructions: After you complete pages 7-34 of this Booklet, please answer the following questions to share what you have learned. When you are all done, please mail pages 35-36 ONLY, back to: Mountain State Ministries, P.O. Box 217, Springfield, WV 26763. When we receive it, we will review your answers and grade it (Pass or Fail).

Today's Date: ____/____/____

My Full Name: _____

My Address: _____

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Section #1: Multiple Choice

Each question below is followed by three answers, only one of the answers is correct. Read each question carefully; then, select the correct answer and circle it. Each of these questions are taken from Scripture and the lessons in this book.

1. You have no hope of heaven:
(A) Without the Resurrection
(B) Because you are human
(C) If you do not go to church
2. You shall confess:
(A) That you are a sinner
(B) With thy mouth the Lord Jesus
(C) When you do something wrong
3. To be absent from the body is:
(A) To be dead
(B) To be in the spirit
(C) To be present with the Lord
4. Without Christ's resurrection:
(A) You are nothing
(B) There is no hope of eternity
(C) There is no life on earth
5. For the Lord himself shall:
(A) Be waiting in heaven
(B) Descend from heaven with a shout.
(C) Watch for us to come to Him
6. Jesus constrained his disciples to:
(A) Get into the ship
(B) Go fishing
(C) Go for a walk
7. In the beginning was:
(A) The earth and water
(B) The Word
(C) Man
8. Jesus said, "I and my Father are _____":
(A) Always in agreement
(B) One
(C) Most powerful
9. The angel from heaven:
(A) Rolled back the stone
(B) Came to help people
(C) Came to help the disciples
10. Greater love hath no man:
(A) Than to lay down his life for his friends
(B) Than to be rich and share his wealth with others
(C) Than to help others when they have needs
11. Be strong and of good:
(A) Will toward others
(B) Works toward others
(C) Courage
12. Jesus said, He that has seen me:
(A) Will see me in heaven
(B) Has seen the Father
(C) Will never die

Today's Bible reading is Hebrews chapter 13.

New Life Christian Growth Series—Jesus Is Alive Today

*****Booklet #15 Test & Review (Pages 35-38)*****

This week's verse to memorize: Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Section #2: True or False

Each question below is followed by a blank. Read each question carefully. If the statement is true, write the word, "true" in the blank. If the statement is false, write the word "false" in the blank. Each of these questions are taken from Scripture and the lessons in this book.

1. Jesus bore our sins on his body on the cross. _____
2. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee. _____
3. The Spirit of truth is come but will not guide you. _____
4. The Holy Ghost will teach you all things. _____
5. The Holy Spirit is the chief corner stone. _____
6. Jesus cried with a loud voice on the cross. _____
7. God gave His only Son. _____
8. Ye have not chosen Jesus, but Jesus has chosen you. _____
9. If the world loves you, you know that it loves Jesus too. _____
10. Jesus was born from a married woman named Mary. _____
11. God would have all men to be saved. _____
12. Jesus will not fail you or forsake you. _____
13. You shouldn't fear those who kill the body but not the soul. _____
14. Behold, God sends you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. _____
15. Jesus was despised and rejected of men. _____

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 10.

*******Booklet #15 Test & Review (Pages 35-38)*******

Are you alive in Jesus today? Have you been made new in Him? _____

Do you take time daily to know Jesus more? How? _____

Do you believe that Jesus understands and cares about your struggles and problems? Should you then take everything to God in prayer, knowing that He cares? Do you? _____

Do you give God your best time or your leftover time? _____

Knowing that Jesus loves you and died for you, how much do you love Him? _____

Explain your relationship with Jesus. Was there a time in your life when you were born again—made new by the Holy Spirit? _____

Do you tell others around you about the truth and love of Jesus? Do you pray for your unsaved family members, neighbors, and friends? What are some of your difficulties and struggles in living for God and trying to lead others to Him? _____

New Life Christian Growth Series—Jesus Is Alive Today

*****Booklet #15 Test & Review (Pages 35-38)*****

Do you tell others around you about the truth and love of Jesus? Do you pray for your unsaved family members, neighbors, and friends? What are some of your difficulties and struggles in living for God and trying to lead others to Him? _____

What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus—between religion and true Christianity? _____

The Bible says that many call Jesus “Lord,” but He does not know them. How can this be? How can so many people go to church, pray, do good things, and yet not be known by Jesus? _____

Does Jesus know you as a child of God, or are you one of those who call Jesus “Lord,” but are a stranger to Him? Explain. _____

Do you have any comments or questions about what you have studied in this lesson or anything else? Is there any way that we can pray for you? _____

If it is your desire to have this Bible lesson series sent to a family member and/or friend, please fill out the following:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Relation to you: _____