

New Believers Bible Study

1. **Introduction to the Bible** : Understanding the structure, history, and themes of the Bible.
2. **Who is Jesus?** : Exploring the life, teachings, and significance of Jesus Christ.
3. **Salvation** : Understanding the concept of salvation, grace, and faith.
4. **The Holy Spirit** : Learning about the role and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.
5. **Prayer** : Discovering the importance of prayer and developing a personal prayer life.
6. **The Gospel** : Studying the core message of Christianity and its implications for our lives.
7. **Foundations of Faith** : Exploring basic doctrines such as the Trinity, the deity of Christ, and the nature of God.
8. **Christian Living** : Discussing practical aspects of the Christian life, including obedience, love, and service.
9. **The Church** : Understanding the purpose and function of the church and our role within it.
10. **Studying the Life of Christ** : Going through the Gospels to learn about the life, teachings, and miracles of Jesus.
11. **Understanding Sin and Forgiveness** : Grasping the concept of sin, repentance, and the forgiveness offered through Christ.
12. **The Importance of Scripture** : Learning how to read, interpret, and apply the Bible to our lives.
13. **Discipleship** : Exploring what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and how to grow in our relationship with Him.

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14. **Sharing Your Faith** : Equipping new believers to share their faith with others and be a light in the world.

15. **End Times and Eschatology** : Introducing basic concepts related to the end times and the hope we have in Christ's return.

These topics can provide a solid foundation for new believers as they embark on their journey of faith. It's important to approach these studies with openness, humility, and a desire to grow closer to God. Additionally, seeking guidance from mature believers or a pastor can greatly enhance the learning experience.

NOTE: Quiz Answer Keys are at the end of the course and All scripture references are in the **New International Version**

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1. **Introduction to the Bible** : Understanding the structure, history, and themes of the Bible.

The Bible is not merely a book but a collection of writings inspired by God and written by various authors over thousands of years. It is divided into two main sections: the Old Testament, which tells the story of God's covenant relationship with Israel and prepares the way for the coming of Jesus Christ, and the New Testament, which focuses on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the early Christian church. Understanding the structure of the Bible helps us navigate its diverse genres, including historical narratives, poetry, wisdom literature, prophecy, letters, and apocalyptic literature. The Bible's overarching theme is God's redemptive plan for humanity, culminating in the person and work of Jesus Christ. As Paul wrote to Timothy, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

In studying the Bible, we not only gain knowledge about God and His ways, but we also encounter His presence and are transformed by His Word. Therefore, it's crucial for new believers to grasp the basics of how the Bible is structured, its historical context, and its central themes to better understand God's message to us through its pages.

Structure of the Bible: The Bible is divided into two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament contains 39 books, which include historical accounts of God's dealings with humanity, wisdom literature, poetry, prophecy, and the Law given to Israel. The New Testament consists of 27 books, including the four Gospels which narrate the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as letters written by early Christian leaders and the apocalyptic book of Revelation. Together, these sections form a

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cohesive narrative of God's redemptive plan for humanity. As Jesus said,

"He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'" (Luke 24:44)

In this verse, Jesus is speaking to his disciples after his resurrection, explaining to them that everything written in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms concerning him must be fulfilled. This highlights the continuity between the Old Testament Scriptures and Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection, emphasizing how Jesus fulfills the Messianic prophecies and the overarching narrative of redemption found throughout the Old Testament.

History of the Bible: The Bible was written over a span of approximately 1,500 years by more than 40 different authors from diverse backgrounds, including kings, prophets, priests, and fishermen. Despite its diverse authorship, the Bible presents a unified message centered on God's love for humanity and His desire for reconciliation. The process of canonization, wherein certain writings were recognized as inspired Scripture, took place over centuries under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The preservation of the Bible through the ages attests to its divine origin and enduring significance. As Peter wrote, "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

"For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)

This verse emphasizes the divine inspiration behind prophecy, stating that it did not originate from human will but was conveyed by prophets who were moved or carried along by the Holy Spirit. It underscores the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and empowering individuals to speak on behalf of God, ensuring the accuracy and authority of the prophetic messages recorded in Scripture.

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Themes of the Bible: The central theme of the Bible is God's redemptive plan for humanity. From Genesis to Revelation, we see God's faithfulness, mercy, and love demonstrated through His interactions with His people. Key themes include creation, sin and its consequences, redemption through Jesus Christ, covenant relationship, justice, mercy, and the hope of eternal life. The Bible reveals God's character and His desire for us to know Him intimately.

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" (John 14:6)

In this verse, Jesus unequivocally declares himself as the exclusive means by which people can come to the Father, emphasizing his unique role as the mediator between humanity and God. He identifies himself as the embodiment of truth and life, asserting that true access to God and eternal life is only possible through a personal relationship with him. This statement underscores the centrality of Jesus Christ in the Christian faith and the necessity of faith in him for salvation.

Understanding these themes helps us grasp the overarching message of Scripture and apply it to our lives today.

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Quiz (Fill in the blanks)

1. What is the overarching theme of the Bible? God's _____ plan for humanity, culminating in the person and work of _____ Christ.
2. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, all Scripture is _____ and useful for _____, _____, _____ and training in righteousness.
3. Understanding the structure of the Bible helps us navigate its diverse _____, including historical narratives, poetry, wisdom literature, prophecy, _____, and apocalyptic literature.
4. How many books are there in the Old Testament _____,
5. The New Testament focuses on the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as letters written by early Christian leaders and the apocalyptic book of Revelation. It consists of _____ books in total.
6. According to Luke 24:44, what did Jesus say about the fulfillment of Scripture? Jesus said, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the _____ of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms."
7. How many years did it take for the Bible to be written, and by how many authors?
Answer: The Bible was written over a span of approximately _____ years by more than _____ different authors.

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8. According to Peter in 2 Peter 1:21, what is the origin of prophecy?

Answer: Peter wrote, "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of _____, but prophets, though human, spoke from _____ as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

9. What role does the Holy Spirit play in the process of prophecy, according to 2 Peter 1:21? The Holy Spirit guides and empowers individuals to speak on behalf of God, ensuring the accuracy and authority of the prophetic messages recorded in Scripture. Prophets spoke from God as they were carried along by the _____ Spirit.

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2. Who is Jesus?: Exploring the life, teachings, and significance of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the central figure of the Christian faith, believed by Christians to be the Son of God and the Savior of humanity. In the New Testament, Jesus is depicted as both fully divine and fully human, who lived a sinless life on earth, teaching about the kingdom of God and demonstrating God's love through his actions. The Gospel accounts—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—provide a detailed record of Jesus' life, teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection. In Matthew 16:15-16, Jesus asks his disciples, "But what about you? Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." This confession of Peter acknowledges Jesus' divine identity. Additionally, in John 14:6, Jesus declares, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This statement underscores Jesus' unique role as the mediator between humanity and God, emphasizing the necessity of faith in him for salvation. Throughout history, people have grappled with the question of Jesus' identity, but for Christians, he is the ultimate revelation of God's love and the hope of eternal life.

Jesus' Life: Jesus Christ, often referred to as the Son of God, lived a remarkable life on earth around 2,000 years ago. Born in Bethlehem to the Virgin Mary and raised in Nazareth, Jesus' life was marked by humility, compassion, and service. He performed countless miracles, such as healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, and even raising the dead, demonstrating his divine power and authority over creation. One of the central events of his life was his death on the cross, which he willingly endured as a sacrifice for the sins of humanity.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

This verse encapsulates the essence of Jesus' significance as the Son of God and the Savior of humanity. It highlights God's boundless love for all people, demonstrated through the sacrificial gift of Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus, believers receive the promise of eternal

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life, emphasizing the centrality of Jesus' role in bringing salvation to the world.

Jesus' Teachings: Throughout his ministry, Jesus taught profound truths about God's kingdom, love, forgiveness, and the importance of faith. He often used parables—simple stories with deeper spiritual meanings—to convey his messages. Jesus' teachings challenged societal norms and emphasized the importance of humility, compassion, and service to others. His Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew chapters 5-7, contains what is commonly known as the Sermon on the Mount, one of the most famous teachings of Jesus. This sermon is a comprehensive exposition of Jesus' ethical and moral teachings, presenting the principles of the kingdom of God and challenging conventional wisdom. In these chapters, Jesus covers a wide range of topics, including the Beatitudes (blessings pronounced on those with specific character traits), teachings on salt and light (calling believers to be influential and transformative in the world), the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets (emphasizing the importance of internal righteousness), instructions on anger, lust, divorce, oaths, retaliation, love for enemies, prayer, fasting, and the pursuit of heavenly treasures. Additionally, Jesus teaches about judging others, asking, seeking, and knocking, the narrow and wide gates, true and false prophets, true and false disciples, and the wise and foolish builders. The Sermon on the Mount concludes with the crowd being amazed at Jesus' authority and teaching style. Overall, these chapters present a radical and transformative vision of discipleship and kingdom living.

Jesus' Significance: The significance of Jesus Christ cannot be overstated. As the Son of God and the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus fulfilled numerous prophecies from the Old Testament. His resurrection from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion validated his claims to be the Savior of the world and conquered sin and death once and for all. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe in him. As Peter proclaimed in Acts 4:12,

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"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Jesus' significance extends beyond his earthly ministry, as he continues to reign as Lord and Savior, offering hope and redemption to all who come to him in faith. Acts 4:12.

This verse emphasizes the exclusive role of Jesus Christ as the source of salvation. It underscores the uniqueness of Jesus' name and his indispensable role in the redemption of humanity. According to this verse, salvation cannot be attained through anyone else or any other means, highlighting the centrality of faith in Jesus for eternal life.

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Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

10. According to Christians, who is Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ is believed by Christians to be the _____ of God and the _____ of humanity.

11. What did Simon Peter confess about Jesus' identity in Matthew 16:15-16?

Simon Peter confessed, "You are the _____, the _____ of the living God."

12. In John 14:6, what does Jesus declare about himself?

Jesus declares, "I am the _____ and the _____ and the _____. No one comes to the Father except through me."

13. According to Acts 4:12, where is salvation found?

Salvation is found in _____, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

14. What does Acts 4:12 emphasize about Jesus' role in salvation?

Acts 4:12 underscores the _____ role of Jesus Christ as the _____ of salvation.

15. This verse emphasizes the exclusive role of _____ as the source of salvation. It underscores the uniqueness of Jesus' name and his indispensable role in the redemption of humanity.

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3. Salvation?: Understanding the concept of salvation, grace, and faith.

Understanding the concept of salvation, grace, and faith is foundational to the Christian faith. Salvation refers to the deliverance or rescue from sin and its consequences, ultimately leading to eternal life with God. The Bible teaches that salvation is a gift from God, made possible through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8-9 states, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." This verse emphasizes that salvation is not earned through human effort but is freely given by God's grace to those who place their faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is a result of God's love and mercy towards humanity, as seen in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Faith plays a crucial role in salvation, as it involves trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Romans 10:9 declares, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." This verse highlights the importance of confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in his resurrection for salvation. In summary, salvation is a gift of God's grace received through faith in Jesus Christ, demonstrating God's love and mercy towards humanity.

Ephesians 2:8-9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

These verses beautifully illustrate the concepts of salvation, grace, and faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 emphasizes that salvation is a gift from God, received through faith and not earned through human effort. It highlights the role of God's grace in the redemption of humanity,

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emphasizing that salvation is freely given and cannot be achieved through works.

John 3:16 demonstrates God's love as the motivation for salvation, showcasing that belief in Jesus Christ leads to eternal life. Together, these verses underscore the interconnectedness of salvation, grace, and faith in the Christian faith, illustrating God's abundant love and mercy towards humanity.

Salvation: Salvation, the central theme of the Christian faith, refers to the deliverance or rescue from sin and its consequences, leading to reconciliation with God and the promise of eternal life. Ephesians 2:8-9 emphasizes the role of grace in salvation, stating, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." This verse highlights that salvation is a gift from God, not something earned through human effort. Additionally, John 3:16 affirms God's love as the motivation for salvation, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Through Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection, believers are reconciled to God and granted the hope of eternal life.

Ephesians 2:8-9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

These verses from Ephesians emphasize the fundamental Christian teaching that salvation comes through God's grace and is received by faith, not by our own efforts or good deeds. This passage underscores the importance of recognizing salvation as a gift from God, rather than something earned through human merit. It highlights the undeserved nature of God's favor and the humility it should inspire in believers, as no one can boast in their own achievements or righteousness before God.

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John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 is perhaps the most well-known verse in the Bible, encapsulating the essence of the Christian message. It reveals God's profound love for humanity and His ultimate sacrifice in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to offer salvation to the world. This verse emphasizes the necessity of faith in Jesus for receiving the gift of eternal life. Belief in Jesus as the Son of God and Savior is central to the Christian faith, and John 3:16 beautifully captures this core belief, offering hope and assurance to all who put their trust in Him.

Grace: Grace is the unmerited favor and kindness of God extended to humanity, particularly evident in the gift of salvation. Romans 3:24 states, "and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." This verse underscores that justification, or being declared righteous, comes freely by God's grace through Jesus Christ. Furthermore, Ephesians 2:8-9 reiterates the role of grace in salvation, emphasizing that it is a gift from God, not based on human works. God's grace is boundless and sufficient for all, offering forgiveness and reconciliation to those who turn to Him in faith.

Romans 3:24: "And all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

Romans 3:24 emphasizes the concept of justification by grace through the redemption found in Jesus Christ. This verse declares that all people are justified, or made right with God, not by their own merit or actions, but freely by God's grace. It underscores the idea that redemption and salvation come through Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection, as a gift bestowed upon believers.

Ephesians 2:8-9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

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Ephesians 2:8-9 reiterates the concept of salvation by grace through faith, as seen in Romans 3:24. This passage emphasizes that salvation is a gift from God, received through faith in Jesus Christ, and not something earned through human effort or good works. It stresses the importance of recognizing God's grace as the source of salvation and emphasizes that boasting in one's own achievements or righteousness is unwarranted in light of God's free gift of grace.

Faith: Faith is the cornerstone of the Christian life, representing trust and belief in God's promises and His revealed truth. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." This verse highlights the confidence and assurance that faith provides, even in unseen realities. Romans 10:9 emphasizes the importance of confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in His resurrection for salvation, demonstrating the role of faith in receiving God's gift of salvation. Throughout the Bible, numerous examples of faith are showcased, from Abraham's obedience to Noah's building of the ark, illustrating the transformative power of trust and reliance on God. Ultimately, faith enables believers to experience the fullness of God's grace and salvation in their lives.

Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This verse highlights the nature of faith as trust in God's promises and the unseen realities of the spiritual realm. It underscores the importance of trust and confidence in God's faithfulness, even when circumstances may seem uncertain.

Romans 10:9: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9 emphasizes the role of confession and belief in Jesus Christ for salvation. This verse declares that salvation comes to those who confess Jesus as Lord and believe in their hearts that God raised

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him from the dead. It highlights the importance of both verbal confession and sincere belief in Jesus' resurrection for receiving the gift of salvation.

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Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

16. Salvation is described as a _____ from sin and its consequences, leading to eternal life with God, and it is a gift from God, received through _____ in Jesus.
17. According to John 3:16, God's love for the world led to the gift of His _____ Son, and whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.
18. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as _____ in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see, emphasizing the importance of trust and confidence in God's promises.
19. According to Romans 3:24, all people are justified freely by God's _____ through the redemption found in Jesus Christ.
20. In Ephesians 2:8-9, salvation is described as a gift from God, received through _____ in Jesus Christ, and it is emphasized that it is not based on human _____.
21. God's grace, as described in Ephesians 2:8-9, is _____ and sufficient for all, offering forgiveness and reconciliation to those who turn to Him in _____.
22. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not _____, highlighting the nature of faith as trust in God's promises and the unseen realities of the spiritual realm.
23. Romans 10:9 emphasizes the importance of confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in His _____ for salvation, declaring that salvation comes to those who confess Jesus as Lord and believe in their hearts.

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24. Throughout the Bible, numerous examples of _____ are showcased, illustrating the transformative power of trust and reliance on God, enabling believers to experience the fullness of God's grace and salvation in their lives.

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4. The Holy Spirit : Learning about the role and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

Understanding the role and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer is essential for spiritual growth and empowerment. The Holy Spirit, also known as the Comforter or Counselor, is the third person of the Trinity, co-equal with God the Father and God the Son.

John 14:26

Jesus promises, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

This verse is part of Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples, where he promises them the coming of the Holy Spirit after his departure. Jesus assures his disciples that the Holy Spirit, whom he refers to as the Advocate or Helper, will be sent by the Father in his name. The primary roles of the Holy Spirit mentioned here are teaching and reminding. The Holy Spirit will teach the disciples all things, guiding them into deeper understanding and truth. Additionally, the Holy Spirit will remind the disciples of everything that Jesus has taught them during his earthly ministry, ensuring that they remain steadfast in their faith and understanding of his teachings. This verse emphasizes the indispensable role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers, providing them with wisdom, guidance, and the ability to recall and apply the teachings of Jesus.

1. Convicts of Sin: In John 16:8 (NIV), Jesus says, "When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment." Here, Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit convicting the world of sin. This conviction leads individuals to recognize their need for salvation and repentance, ultimately leading them to Christ.

2. Guides into All Truth: John 16:13 (NIV) states, "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." This verse highlights the Holy Spirit's role as the guide into all truth. The Holy Spirit reveals and illuminates God's

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truth to believers, helping them understand Scripture, discern right from wrong, and navigate life in accordance with God's will.

3. Empowers to Live a Life that Honors God: Acts 1:8 (NIV) records Jesus' words to his disciples before his ascension: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." This verse emphasizes the empowering work of the Holy Spirit. Believers receive power from the Holy Spirit to live boldly for Christ, to testify about him, and to fulfill the mission of spreading the Gospel to all nations. This power enables believers to live lives that bring glory to God and bear witness to His transformative work in their lives.

Galatians 5:22-23

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

In these verses, the Apostle Paul outlines the qualities or characteristics that result from the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. These qualities are often referred to as the fruit of the Spirit. They include:

- 1. Love:** Agape love, which is selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional.
- 2. Joy:** A deep-seated gladness and contentment that transcends circumstances.
- 3. Peace:** Inner tranquility and harmony, even in the midst of turmoil.
- 4. Forbearance (or Patience):** Long-suffering or patient endurance in difficult situations.
- 5. Kindness:** Compassionate and benevolent actions towards others.
- 6. Goodness:** Moral excellence and integrity in thought, word, and deed.
- 7. Faithfulness:** Loyalty, reliability, and steadfastness in relationships and commitments.
- 8. Gentleness:** Humility, meekness, and considerate behavior towards others.
- 9. Self-Control:** Discipline over one's desires, impulses, and actions.

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These virtues are evidence of the Holy Spirit's transformative work within the life of a believer, shaping them to reflect the character of Christ. Paul emphasizes that such virtues are not produced through human effort alone but are cultivated by the Holy Spirit within those who are surrendered to His leading.

Through prayer, study of Scripture, and yielding to the Holy Spirit's guidance, believers can experience the transformative work of the Spirit in their lives, leading them closer to God and enabling them to fulfill their purpose in His kingdom.

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Quiz:(Fill in the blanks)

25. In John 14:26 (NIV), Jesus promises that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in his name, will

_____ and
_____.

26 According to John 16:8 (NIV), Jesus states that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of _____.

27. John 16:13 (NIV) highlights the Holy Spirit's role in guiding believers into _____.

28. Acts 1:8 (NIV) emphasizes that believers will receive power from the Holy Spirit to be _____.

29. Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) lists the fruit of the Spirit, including love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and _____.

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5. **Prayer** : Discovering the importance of prayer and developing a personal prayer life.

Prayer is a profound act of communication with the divine, an essential aspect of many religious traditions and a means for believers to connect with their faith. In Christianity, prayer is depicted as a direct channel to God, where believers can express their gratitude, seek guidance, and intercede for others. It's exemplified in the Bible in various verses, such as Philippians 4:6-7, which encourages believers to present their requests to God with thanksgiving, promising peace that transcends understanding. Similarly, in Matthew 6:6, Jesus instructs his followers to pray privately, highlighting the intimacy of the relationship between the individual and God. Through prayer, Christians align themselves with God's will, deepen their faith, and find strength in times of adversity.

Discovering the importance of prayer and developing a personal prayer life is a transformative journey for many believers. It involves recognizing prayer not just as a religious duty but as a vital means of spiritual nourishment and growth. In Mark 1:35, Jesus sets an example by rising early to pray, emphasizing the significance of prioritizing communion with God. Developing a personal prayer life entails cultivating consistency, authenticity, and sincerity in one's dialogue with the divine. Romans 12:12 urges believers to be devoted to prayer, emphasizing perseverance in communication with God. Through this devotion, individuals gain insight into their innermost selves, discern divine guidance, and experience the transformative power of faith. As believers deepen their understanding of the importance of prayer, they forge a closer relationship with the divine and find solace, strength, and purpose in their spiritual journey.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 is a passage in the New Testament that offers succinct but profound guidance to believers. It states, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Firstly, believers are encouraged to "rejoice always." This command isn't tied to favorable circumstances but rather reflects an attitude of joy

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rooted in the believer's relationship with Christ. It suggests an ongoing state of contentment and gratitude regardless of external conditions. Secondly, the instruction is to "pray continually." This doesn't mean that believers must be in constant verbal prayer but rather to maintain a spirit of prayerfulness, staying connected to God throughout their daily lives. It implies an ongoing conversation with God, seeking His guidance, wisdom, and presence in every moment.

Lastly, believers are urged to "give thanks in all circumstances." Gratitude is not reserved for times of abundance or ease but should permeate every aspect of the believer's life, even in the face of challenges or hardships. This attitude of thanksgiving reflects trust in God's sovereignty and provision, acknowledging His goodness in all things.

Overall, these verses encapsulate the essence of the Christian walk—a life marked by joy, prayerfulness, and gratitude, all grounded in a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. It emphasizes the importance of maintaining a constant connection with God and finding reasons to rejoice and give thanks in every circumstance.

2. James 5:16: James 5:16 is a significant verse within the book of James, offering insights into the power and efficacy of prayer within the Christian community. It states, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

The verse begins with a call to confession and mutual support among believers. By confessing sins to one another, believers foster an environment of accountability, humility, and restoration within the community. This act of vulnerability promotes healing and reconciliation both spiritually and relationally.

The verse then highlights the importance of prayer in this context. Believers are encouraged to pray for one another, recognizing the healing power of prayer in the lives of fellow believers. This act of intercession demonstrates love and concern for others' well-being, as well as faith in God's ability to bring about transformation and healing.

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Furthermore, James emphasizes the effectiveness of prayer by stating that "the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." This underscores the significance of righteous living and faithfulness in prayer. It suggests that prayers offered by those who are in right relationship with God have great impact and are capable of bringing about tangible results.

In essence, James 5:16 highlights the interconnectedness of confession, prayer, and healing within the Christian community. It underscores the importance of mutual support, vulnerability, and faithfulness in prayer, emphasizing the transformative power of prayer in the lives of believers.

3. Matthew 7:7-8: Matthew 7:7-8 is a well-known passage in the Bible where Jesus instructs his followers on the importance of persistence and faith in prayer. The verses state, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Here, Jesus uses a series of imperative verbs - ask, seek, and knock - to convey the idea of persistence in prayer. He assures his followers that if they ask, seek, and knock, they will receive, find, and have doors opened to them. This imagery emphasizes the active engagement and perseverance required in prayer. It's not merely about making a request once and waiting passively but about continuously seeking God's will and provision.

The repetition of "everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened" underscores the inclusivity and certainty of God's response to those who earnestly seek Him. It reassures believers of God's faithfulness and willingness to answer their prayers according to His perfect timing and wisdom.

Overall, Matthew 7:7-8 encourages believers to approach prayer with persistence, faith, and expectancy. It reminds them that God is attentive to their needs and desires, and He delights in responding to

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their prayers in ways that are good and beneficial for them. These verses serve as an encouragement for believers to continually seek God's presence, guidance, and provision through prayer

4. Philippians 4:6: Philippians 4:6 offers a profound perspective on dealing with anxiety and worry through prayer. The verse states, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Paul, the author of Philippians, begins by addressing a common human experience—worry and anxiety. He instructs believers not to allow anxiety to consume them, regardless of the circumstances they face. This directive reflects a deep trust in God's sovereignty and care over every aspect of their lives.

Instead of succumbing to anxiety, Paul encourages believers to turn to prayer. He emphasizes that in every situation, whether big or small, believers are to bring their concerns before God. This act of prayer and petition acknowledges God's presence and power to intervene in their lives. It demonstrates a dependence on God for guidance, provision, and comfort.

Furthermore, Paul adds an essential element to prayer—thanksgiving. Even in the midst of difficulties, believers are called to cultivate a heart of gratitude. This attitude of thanksgiving not only fosters trust in God's goodness but also shifts the focus from the problem to the One who is able to solve it.

In essence, Philippians 4:6 offers a practical approach to dealing with anxiety—replacing worry with prayer, petition, and thanksgiving. It invites believers to entrust their concerns to God, knowing that He cares for them and is able to provide peace that surpasses understanding. This verse underscores the transformative power of prayer in alleviating anxiety and fostering a deeper relationship with God.

5. Luke 11:9-10: Luke 11:9-10 records Jesus' teaching on the importance of persistence in prayer. It states, "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be

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opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

In these verses, Jesus uses a series of imperatives—ask, seek, and knock—to emphasize the active and persistent nature of prayer. He assures his disciples that if they engage in these actions, they will receive what they are seeking. This imagery of asking, seeking, and knocking portrays prayer as a continuous and intentional pursuit of God's will and provision.

Jesus' teaching underscores the accessibility and responsiveness of God to the prayers of His children. He assures them that everyone who asks will receive, everyone who seeks will find, and to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. This demonstrates God's faithfulness in hearing and answering the prayers of those who come to Him in faith.

Furthermore, Jesus' use of repetition in these verses reinforces the certainty of God's response to prayer. It emphasizes that prayer is not a futile exercise but a powerful means of engaging with God and experiencing His provision and guidance.

Overall, Luke 11:9-10 encourages believers to approach prayer with persistence, faith, and expectancy. It reminds them of God's willingness to hear and answer their prayers and encourages them to persevere in seeking His will and provision.

6. Colossians 4:2: Colossians 4:2 provides valuable guidance on the importance of prayer in the Christian life. The verse states, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

Here, Paul instructs believers to be devoted to prayer, indicating that prayer should be a central and consistent practice in the life of every believer. This call to devotion suggests a commitment to prioritizing prayer amidst life's busyness and distractions. It underscores the necessity of making prayer a regular and intentional part of one's daily routine.

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Additionally, Paul urges believers to be "watchful" in their prayers. This implies a posture of alertness and attentiveness to God's leading and work in their lives. It encourages believers to be sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and to discern God's will through prayer.

Moreover, Paul emphasizes the importance of gratitude in prayer by instructing believers to be "thankful." Gratitude is a transformative attitude that acknowledges God's goodness and faithfulness, even in difficult circumstances. It fosters a heart of contentment and trust in God's provision and sovereignty.

In essence, Colossians 4:2 highlights the multifaceted nature of prayer—calling believers to devotion, watchfulness, and thankfulness. It reminds them of the vital role that prayer plays in their relationship with God and encourages them to cultivate a consistent and vibrant prayer life. By following Paul's exhortation, believers can experience the power and presence of God in their lives through prayer.

7. Matthew 6:6: Matthew 6:6 captures Jesus' teaching on the importance of private and sincere prayer. The verse states, "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Here, Jesus contrasts the ostentatious prayers of the hypocrites with the humble and private prayers that believers should offer. He instructs his followers to pray in a secluded place, away from the public eye, emphasizing the intimacy and sincerity of their communication with God. This highlights the personal nature of prayer, where believers can pour out their hearts to God without pretense or showmanship.

By encouraging believers to pray in private, Jesus emphasizes the importance of authenticity and vulnerability in their relationship with God. He assures them that even though their prayers are offered in secret, God, who sees all things, will reward them. This underscores God's intimate knowledge of His children and His faithfulness in responding to their heartfelt prayers.

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Furthermore, Jesus' teaching challenges believers to prioritize their relationship with God over the approval or recognition of others. It reminds them that prayer is not about performing for an audience but about connecting with their Heavenly Father in a genuine and meaningful way.

In essence, Matthew 6:6 highlights the significance of private and sincere prayer in the life of a believer. It underscores the intimacy of the relationship between the individual and God and encourages believers to cultivate a prayer life characterized by authenticity, vulnerability, and devotion.

8. Ephesians 6:18: Ephesians 6:18 offers essential guidance on the spiritual warfare believers face and the vital role of prayer in equipping them for this battle. The verse states, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Paul, in this passage, is concluding his discussion on the spiritual armor of God, emphasizing prayer as a crucial component of spiritual warfare. He exhorts believers to pray "in the Spirit," indicating that their prayers should be guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit. This emphasizes the need for spiritual discernment and reliance on God's strength in prayer.

The instruction to pray "on all occasions" underscores the importance of maintaining a constant attitude of prayerfulness, regardless of circumstances. It encourages believers to bring all aspects of their lives before God in prayer, recognizing His sovereignty and involvement in every situation.

Paul also emphasizes the diversity of prayers and requests, encouraging believers to pray with variety and specificity. This includes prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, supplication, and praise. Such a comprehensive approach to prayer reflects the depth and richness of the believer's relationship with God.

Furthermore, Paul urges believers to be "alert" and to "keep on praying for all the Lord's people." This highlights the communal aspect of

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prayer, as believers are called to intercede for one another and support each other in their spiritual journey. It emphasizes the importance of unity and solidarity within the body of Christ.

In summary, Ephesians 6:18 underscores the significance of prayer in spiritual warfare and the Christian life. It calls believers to pray in the Spirit, on all occasions, with diverse prayers and requests, while remaining alert and interceding for one another. By following Paul's exhortation, believers can effectively engage in spiritual battle and experience the power and provision of God through prayer.

9. 1 Timothy 2:1-2: 1 Timothy 2:1-2 emphasizes the importance of intercessory prayer for all people, including those in positions of authority. The verses state, "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

In these verses, Paul urges Timothy to prioritize prayer as a fundamental aspect of Christian life and ministry. He uses a variety of terms such as "petitions," "prayers," "intercession," and "thanksgiving" to underscore the breadth and depth of prayer that believers are called to engage in. This suggests that prayer should encompass various forms, including personal requests, supplications for others, and expressions of gratitude to God.

The specific instruction to pray for "all people" highlights the inclusivity of prayer, urging believers to intercede for individuals from all walks of life and backgrounds. Furthermore, Paul singles out those in positions of authority, such as kings and rulers, emphasizing the importance of praying for leaders. This reflects the biblical principle of seeking God's guidance and blessing upon those who govern, recognizing their influence on society and the importance of their decisions.

The purpose of such prayer is twofold: firstly, that believers may lead peaceful and quiet lives, free from persecution or oppression, and secondly, that they may live in godliness and holiness. This underscores the connection between prayer and the overall well-being

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and spiritual growth of believers. By praying for others, especially those in authority, believers contribute to the advancement of God's kingdom and the fulfillment of His purposes on earth.

In essence, 1 Timothy 2:1-2 highlights the comprehensive nature of prayer and its significance in the life of a believer and the broader society. It urges believers to engage in intercessory prayer for all people, including those in positions of authority, with the ultimate aim of promoting peace, godliness, and holiness in the world.

10. Mark 11:24 :Encapsulates Jesus' teaching on the power of faith-filled prayer. The verse states, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Here, Jesus offers a profound promise to His disciples regarding the efficacy of prayer when accompanied by faith. He begins by emphasizing the importance of belief, instructing His followers to have unwavering confidence in God's ability and willingness to answer their prayers. This underscores the vital connection between faith and prayer, suggesting that genuine faith is a prerequisite for experiencing the fulfillment of one's requests.

The verse then assures believers that whatever they ask for in prayer, with sincere faith, will be granted to them. This does not imply a carte blanche permission to ask for anything selfish or contrary to God's will but rather underscores the assurance of God's provision and care for His children. It encourages believers to approach God boldly and confidently in prayer, trusting that He will respond according to His wisdom and purposes.

Furthermore, Jesus' teaching in this verse challenges believers to align their desires with God's will and to pray with faith that God will grant what is best for them. It invites believers to surrender their requests to God's sovereignty, trusting in His goodness and timing.

In essence, Mark 11:24 highlights the transformative power of faith-filled prayer. It encourages believers to approach God with confidence, believing that He is able and willing to answer their prayers according to His perfect will. By embracing Jesus' teaching,

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believers can experience the fulfillment of their requests and deepen their relationship with God through prayer.

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Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

30. "Philippians 4:6 encourages believers to present their requests to God with _____."

31. "In Matthew 6:6, Jesus instructs his followers to pray _____."

32. "Colossians 4:2 urges believers to be _____ and _____ in prayer."

33. "Ephesians 6:18 calls believers to pray in the _____ on all occasions."

34. "According to 1 Timothy 2:1-2, believers are urged to pray for all people, including _____ and all those in authority."

35. "Mark 11:24 teaches that whatever believers ask for in prayer, they should _____ that they have received it."

36. "James 5:16 encourages believers to confess their sins to each other and to _____ for each other."

37. "Luke 11:9-10 teaches that everyone who _____ receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

38. "Matthew 7:7-8 instructs believers to _____, _____, and _____ in order to receive from God."

39. "In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, believers are urged to rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in _____."

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6. The Gospel : Studying the core message of Christianity and its implications for our lives.

The Gospel stands as the cornerstone of Christianity, encapsulating the central message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Rooted in scriptures such as John 3:16, which declares, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life," the Gospel outlines God's plan of redemption for humanity. It highlights the profound love of God, who, despite human sinfulness, provided a way for reconciliation and eternal life through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Gospel invites all to respond in faith and repentance, acknowledging Jesus as Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9-10), and embracing the transformative power of His grace. Studying the Gospel involves delving into its depths, understanding its implications for our lives, and living in accordance with its teachings.

John 3:16

Is a foundational verse in Christianity, encapsulating the essence of the Gospel message. It states:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

In this verse, Jesus explains the depth and breadth of God's love for humanity. The word "so" emphasizes the extraordinary extent of God's love—it's not merely a token of affection but an incomprehensible, sacrificial love that surpasses human understanding. God's love is universal, extending to all people regardless of race, ethnicity, or background. He demonstrated this love by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world as the ultimate expression of His love and grace.

The purpose of God sending His Son was for salvation—to provide a way for humanity to be reconciled to Him. Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross made it possible for people to be forgiven of their sins and to have eternal life. The condition for receiving this gift of salvation is simple yet profound: belief in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in Him,

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placing their trust and faith in Him as Lord and Savior, will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 encapsulates the heart of the Gospel—the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. It reveals God's immense love for humanity, His redemptive plan, and the promise of eternal life for all who believe. This verse serves as a beacon of hope and assurance for believers, reminding them of the incredible love and grace extended to them through Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9-10

Presents a concise and powerful summary of the core tenets of Christian faith, particularly regarding salvation and the confession of belief in Jesus Christ. It states:

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

In these verses, the Apostle Paul outlines two essential components of salvation: belief and confession. Belief involves a sincere and genuine trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, particularly in His death and resurrection. This belief is not merely intellectual assent but a heartfelt conviction that leads to justification—a right standing before God.

Additionally, confession plays a crucial role in salvation. It involves openly declaring with one's mouth that Jesus is Lord, acknowledging His authority and sovereignty over one's life. This public declaration of faith is an outward expression of the inward conviction and belief in Christ.

Romans 10:9-10 emphasizes the unity of heart and mouth in the process of salvation. Belief in the heart leads to justification, while confession with the mouth leads to salvation. Both belief and confession are essential components of authentic faith and are inseparable in the journey of salvation.

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For believers, Romans 10:9-10 serves as a foundational passage affirming the simplicity and accessibility of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. It encourages them to embrace Jesus as Lord, believe in His resurrection, and openly confess Him as Savior, leading to the assurance of salvation and eternal life in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 "Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

In these verses, the Apostle Paul underscores the foundational importance of the Gospel—the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. He reminds the Corinthians of the Gospel that he preached to them, which they received and stood upon as the basis of their faith. Paul emphasizes that salvation comes through this Gospel message, but it requires believers to hold firmly to the truth they have received.

The essence of the Gospel, as Paul articulates it, revolves around three key events: Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Firstly, Christ died for our sins, fulfilling the Scriptures and providing the atoning sacrifice necessary for the forgiveness of sins. Secondly, He was buried, signifying His real and complete death. Finally, He was raised from the dead on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures, demonstrating His victory over sin and death and providing the hope of eternal life for all who believe.

This passage underscores the historical reality of Christ's death and resurrection, which form the crux of the Gospel message. It affirms the central role of Jesus' sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection in securing salvation for humanity. For believers, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 serves as a reminder of the unshakeable foundation of their faith and the transformative power of the Gospel in their lives.

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2. Studying the core message of Christianity and its implications for our lives : Delving into the Gospel encompasses more than just an intellectual exercise; it's a transformative journey that shapes every aspect of our existence. Scripture encourages believers to immerse themselves in the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17), allowing its truths to penetrate their hearts and minds. Through diligent study and reflection, believers gain insight into God's character, His purposes, and His redemptive plan for humanity. The Gospel challenges us to examine our lives in light of its message, compelling us to live in obedience to Christ (James 1:22) and to share the good news with others (Matthew 28:19-20). As we study the core message of Christianity, we discover the depth of God's love, the extent of His grace, and the calling He has placed on our lives to be ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Provides important insights into the nature and purpose of Scripture. It states:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

In these verses, the Apostle Paul affirms the divine inspiration and authority of Scripture. He asserts that all Scripture is "God-breathed," meaning it originates from God Himself. This underscores the divine origin and infallibility of the Bible, indicating that it is not merely a human document but carries the authority and revelation of God.

Furthermore, Paul emphasizes the practical utility of Scripture for believers. He lists several purposes for which Scripture is beneficial: teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Scripture serves as a comprehensive guide for spiritual growth and development, providing instruction in the ways of God, convicting of sin, correcting errors, and equipping believers to live righteous lives.

The ultimate goal of Scripture's usefulness is to thoroughly equip the servant of God for every good work. It prepares believers for a life of

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service and obedience to God, empowering them to fulfill their calling and engage in acts of righteousness and service to others.

Overall, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 highlights the foundational role of Scripture in the life of a believer. It affirms the divine inspiration and authority of the Bible and underscores its practical value for teaching, correction, and training in righteousness. For believers, these verses serve as a reminder of the importance of engaging with Scripture regularly to grow in faith and be equipped for a life of service to God and others.

James 1:22

Is a pivotal verse in the book of James, emphasizing the importance of not only hearing the Word of God but also putting it into action. It states:

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

In this verse, James challenges believers to go beyond mere passive listening or intellectual understanding of God's Word. Instead, he urges them to actively apply the teachings of Scripture in their lives. The term "doers of the word" implies a lifestyle characterized by obedience to God's commands and principles, reflecting a genuine commitment to living out one's faith.

James warns against the deception of being hearers of the Word only. Merely hearing or acknowledging the truth of Scripture without allowing it to impact one's actions leads to self-deception. It creates a false sense of spiritual security while lacking the transformative power that comes from genuine obedience to God's Word.

By emphasizing the importance of being doers of the Word, James underscores the inseparable connection between faith and action. True faith manifests itself in practical deeds of righteousness, love, and service to others. It's not enough to claim allegiance to Christ; genuine discipleship involves living out the implications of one's faith in daily life.

James 1:22 serves as a powerful exhortation for believers to embody their faith through obedience to God's Word. It challenges them to

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evaluate the consistency between their beliefs and actions, urging them to live lives characterized by genuine obedience and devotion to God. For believers, this verse serves as a call to authentic discipleship and a reminder of the transformative power of applying God's Word to every aspect of life.

Matthew 28:19-20

Often referred to as the Great Commission, records Jesus' final instructions to His disciples before ascending into heaven. It states:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In these verses, Jesus commissions His followers to engage in the mission of spreading the Gospel to all nations. The command to "go and make disciples" signifies an active and intentional effort to share the message of salvation and disciple new believers. This mandate extends beyond geographic or cultural boundaries, emphasizing the universal scope of the Gospel message and the inclusivity of God's redemptive plan.

The process of making disciples involves several key components. Firstly, disciples are to be baptized in the name of the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Baptism symbolizes identification with Christ's death and resurrection and signifies entry into the community of believers. Secondly, disciples are to be taught to obey everything Jesus commanded. This entails not only imparting knowledge but also nurturing spiritual growth and maturity through instruction in the teachings and principles of Scripture.

Furthermore, Jesus assures His disciples of His continual presence and support in fulfilling the Great Commission. He promises to be with them always, even to the end of the age. This promise of Jesus' abiding presence provides encouragement and confidence to His

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followers as they engage in the task of making disciples and advancing God's kingdom on earth.

Matthew 28:19-20 serves as a foundational mandate for the mission of the Church. It calls believers to active participation in the spread of the Gospel, the baptism of new believers, and the nurturing of discipleship. For Christians, these verses embody the call to evangelism, discipleship, and the ongoing presence of Jesus in their lives and ministries.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Provides insight into the role and responsibility of believers as ambassadors for Christ. It states:

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

In this verse, the Apostle Paul uses the metaphor of ambassadors to describe the relationship between believers and Christ. An ambassador represents a foreign government or authority in a foreign land, acting as an official representative and spokesperson. Similarly, believers are representatives of Christ in the world, entrusted with the task of conveying God's message of reconciliation to humanity.

Paul emphasizes that it is God Himself who is making His appeal to the world through believers. As ambassadors for Christ, believers serve as conduits through which God extends His offer of reconciliation to humanity. They are called to proclaim the Gospel message, urging people to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

The urgency of this appeal is underscored by Paul's use of the word "implore." Believers are called to passionately and earnestly plead with others on behalf of Christ, urging them to respond to God's invitation to reconciliation. This highlights the gravity of the message entrusted to believers and the importance of their role in sharing it with others.

In essence, 2 Corinthians 5:20 encapsulates the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to believers. It calls them to embody the

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message of Christ, serving as His ambassadors in a world in need of redemption and restoration. For believers, this verse serves as a reminder of their privileged position as representatives of Christ and the responsibility to faithfully proclaim His message of reconciliation to the world.

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Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

40. John 3:16 For God so loved the _____ that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

41. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 According to 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, what are the three key events of the Gospel? Christ died for our _____, was _____, and was _____ on the third day.

42. Romans 10:9-10 Romans 10:9 states, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and _____ in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

43. Matthew 28:19-20 In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commands his disciples to make _____ of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

44. 2 Corinthians 5:20 According to 2 Corinthians 5:20, believers are described as ambassadors for _____, making God's appeal to the world.

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7. Foundations of Faith : Exploring basic doctrines such as the Trinity, the deity of Christ, and the nature of God.

Foundations of Faith are the bedrock upon which Christian belief is built, encompassing fundamental truths that underpin the Christian worldview. The Trinity, a central tenet of Christian theology, asserts the belief in one God existing eternally in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). This concept emphasizes both the unity and diversity within the Godhead. The deity of Christ is another essential doctrine, affirming that Jesus Christ is not merely a human prophet or teacher but is fully God incarnate (John 1:1, 14; Colossians 2:9). Understanding the nature of God involves recognizing His attributes, such as His holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10; Isaiah 6:3). These foundational doctrines provide believers with a framework for understanding God's nature and character, guiding their worship, and shaping their spiritual journey.

Matthew 28:19

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

This verse is often referred to as the Great Commission, where Jesus instructs his disciples to spread the Gospel throughout the world. The Trinitarian formula mentioned here—baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—underscores the foundational Christian belief in the triune nature of God. It affirms the unity of the Godhead while recognizing the distinct roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the work of redemption and the mission of the Church.

This verse serves as a cornerstone for understanding the doctrine of the Trinity and highlights the essential role of baptism in the life of believers as they identify with the triune God.

John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

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This verse introduces the profound theological concept of the Word (logos), identified with Jesus Christ, existing eternally with God and as God. It emphasizes the pre-existence and divine nature of Christ, affirming his coexistence with God the Father from the very beginning.

By stating "the Word was God," this verse underscores the deity of Christ, portraying him not as a created being but as the eternal Son of God, sharing the same divine essence as the Father.

John 1:1 lays a foundation for understanding Jesus' role in creation, his significance in fulfilling God's redemptive plan, and his unique relationship with the Father. It is a cornerstone of Christian doctrine regarding the identity of Jesus Christ as fully God and fully human.

John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

This verse encapsulates the profound mystery of the Incarnation—the Word, who was with God and was God (as described in John 1:1), took on human form and dwelt among humanity.

It speaks to the central Christian belief that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became fully human while retaining his divine nature. The phrase "made his dwelling among us" underscores the intimacy of God's presence with humanity through Jesus Christ.

Through his incarnation, Jesus revealed the glory of God to humanity, embodying grace and truth. John 1:14 affirms the deity of Christ by declaring him to be the unique and only Son who came from the Father, while also emphasizing his humanity by emphasizing his dwelling among humanity.

This verse lays the foundation for understanding the dual nature of Christ and his pivotal role in reconciling humanity to God.

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Colossians 2:9

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."

This verse emphasizes the profound truth of the incarnation, affirming that in Jesus Christ, the entirety of God's nature and essence dwells bodily. It underscores the deity of Christ, declaring that he is not merely a representation of God or a partial manifestation of divinity but that he embodies the fullness of God himself.

This verse counters any notion that Jesus was merely a human or a created being, asserting his absolute and complete divine nature. By stating that the fullness of the Deity resides in Christ, Colossians 2:9 solidifies the foundational Christian belief in the hypostatic union—the union of divine and human natures in the person of Jesus Christ. It highlights the uniqueness of Christ and his unparalleled role in revealing God's nature and fulfilling God's redemptive plan for humanity.

Psalms 139:7-10

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

This passage from Psalm 139 reflects on the omnipresence and omniscience of God. It affirms that there is nowhere one can go to escape God's presence; He is ever near and intimately acquainted with every aspect of our lives. The imagery of going up to the heavens or descending to the depths emphasizes the extent of God's presence—it spans beyond the physical realm into the spiritual and metaphysical. Even in the farthest reaches of the earth, God's guidance and protection are assured. Psalm 139:7-10 serves as a foundational affirmation of God's sovereignty and care, providing believers with comfort and assurance that they are always held securely within His grasp, no matter where they may find themselves.

Isaiah 6:3

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"And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.'"

This verse captures a vision of the prophet Isaiah where he sees angelic beings called seraphim worshiping the Lord in the heavenly throne room. The repetition of "holy" three times emphasizes the absolute purity, perfection, and transcendence of God's nature. The title "LORD Almighty" underscores God's sovereignty and power over all creation.

The declaration that the whole earth is full of His glory speaks to the pervasive presence of God's majesty and splendor throughout the entire cosmos. Isaiah 6:3 provides a profound glimpse into the divine attributes of God—His holiness, majesty, and glory—inviting believers to reverence and worship Him with awe and humility. This verse serves as a foundational expression of God's transcendence and immanence, inspiring awe and adoration among those who recognize His supreme greatness.

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Quiz:(Fill-in-the-blanks)

44. Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make _____ of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

45. John 1:1 In the beginning was the _____, and the Word was with God, and the Word was _____.

46. John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only _____, who came from the Father, full of grace and _____.

47. Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily _____.

48. Psalm 139:7-10 Where can I go from your _____? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are _____; if I make my bed in the depths, you are _____. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your _____ will guide me, your right hand will hold me _____.

49. Isaiah 6:3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the _____ Almighty; the whole earth is full of his _____."

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8. Christian Living : Discussing practical aspects of the Christian life, including obedience, love, and service.

Christian living encompasses various practical aspects of the believer's life, guided by principles of obedience, love, and service. Obedience to God's commands is central, as Jesus taught in John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." This obedience stems from a heart transformed by love for God and others, as emphasized in Mark 12:30-31, where Jesus commands loving God with all one's heart, soul, mind, and strength loving one's neighbor as oneself. Service to others is another vital component, modeled by Jesus himself in Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Thus, Christian living involves a lifestyle characterized by obedience to God's Word, love for God and neighbor, and selfless service, reflecting the example of Christ.

John 14:15: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

This verse underscores the intimate connection between love for Christ and obedience to His teachings. It highlights the idea that genuine love for Jesus naturally results in a desire to follow His commands. Therefore, in the context of Christian living, John 14:15 emphasizes the importance of obedience as a manifestation of love for Christ, indicating that obedience is not merely a duty but a response of affection and devotion to Him.

Mark 12:30-31: Jesus articulates the two greatest commandments: "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

This passage encapsulates the essence of Christian living by emphasizing the paramount importance of love—love for God and love for others. It teaches that genuine faith is expressed through wholehearted devotion to God and compassionate care for fellow human beings. Therefore, in the context of discussing practical aspects of the Christian life, Mark 12:30-31 serves as a foundational

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guide, reminding believers to prioritize love in their relationships with God and others, shaping their actions and attitudes accordingly.

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

This verse is part of a passage where Jesus explains to his disciples that greatness in the kingdom of God is not about power and authority but about serving others. He uses his own life as an example, emphasizing his purpose of selfless service and sacrifice.

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Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

50. According to John 14:15, if you _____, you will keep Jesus' commandments.

- Answer: love Him

51. In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus commands loving God with all your _____, soul, mind, and strength.

52. According to Mark 12:30-31, what is the second greatest commandment? _____

53. Mark 10:45 emphasizes that the Son of Man came not to be served, but to _____.

54. What did Jesus give as a ransom for many, according to Mark 10:45? _____

55. In Christian living, obedience is a manifestation of _____ for Christ, as stated in John 14:15.

56. According to Mark 12:30-31, what does Jesus say is the greatest commandment?

57. In Mark 10:45, Jesus uses his own life as an example of _____.

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9. The Church : Understanding the purpose and function of the church and our role within it.

The body of believers united in faith and fellowship is a cornerstone of Christian community, emphasizing mutual support, encouragement, and accountability. Acts 2:42-47 illustrates the early believers' devotion to fellowship, sharing meals, prayer, and resources, thus strengthening their bond as a community. This unity fosters spiritual growth and discipleship, as Hebrews 10:24-25 urges believers to "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." As a spiritual community, the Church provides a safe haven where members can share their joys, burdens, and struggles. Galatians 6:2 encourages believers to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." Through worship, the body of believers glorifies God collectively, lifting praises and prayers as a unified voice. Psalm 133:1 emphasizes the beauty of this unity: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" In essence, the body of believers serves as a spiritual family, embodying Christ's love and grace in their interactions and relationships.

Acts 2:42-47

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

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in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

In this passage, Luke describes the early Christian community shortly after the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers. The believers were devoted to four key practices: the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread (possibly referring to the Lord's Supper), and prayer. This devotion to these practices indicates their commitment to learning, community, worship, and communication with God. The awe-inspiring signs and wonders performed by the apostles further strengthened the believers' faith and unity. Their unity was marked by a profound sense of sharing and generosity, as they willingly sold their possessions to meet the needs of others. Their gatherings were both in public spaces like the temple courts and in private homes, demonstrating the intimate nature of their fellowship and worship. The result of their devotion and unity was not only the favor of the people around them but also the growth of the Church, as the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. This passage serves as a model for Christian community, emphasizing devotion to God, unity, generosity, and the growth of the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on Acts 2:42-47:

In his commentary on this passage, Matthew Henry emphasizes the dedication of the early believers to the essentials of the Christian faith and community. He notes their devotion to the apostles' teaching, recognizing its authority and importance in shaping their understanding of God's word. Additionally, Henry highlights the significance of fellowship among believers, which involves not only social interaction but also the sharing of resources and support for those in need. He underscores the unity and generosity within the early Christian community, where individuals willingly sacrificed their own possessions to care for others. Henry also points out the regularity of their gatherings for worship and the breaking of bread, indicating the centrality of communal worship and the celebration of the Lord's Supper in their spiritual lives. Overall, Henry's commentary highlights the vibrant and dynamic nature of the early Church,

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characterized by fervent devotion to God, mutual care, and vibrant worship.

Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

In these verses, the author of Hebrews exhorts believers to actively consider and stimulate one another towards love and good deeds. This call to action emphasizes the importance of mutual encouragement and support within the Christian community. The phrase "not giving up meeting together" underscores the significance of regular fellowship and communal worship among believers. By gathering together, believers can uplift and strengthen each other in their faith journey, especially in times of adversity or spiritual challenges. The author emphasizes the urgency of this mutual encouragement, particularly as the anticipated return of Christ draws nearer. Thus, Hebrews 10:24-25 underscores the vital role of Christian community in nurturing faith, promoting righteousness, and preparing for the fulfillment of God's promises.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on Hebrews 10:24-25

In his commentary on these verses, Matthew Henry highlights the importance of Christian fellowship and mutual encouragement. He emphasizes that believers should be attentive to one another's spiritual welfare, considering how they can promote love and good deeds among fellow believers. Henry underscores the necessity of regular attendance at public worship, noting that some neglect this duty to their spiritual detriment. He explains that the purpose of assembling together is not only to receive spiritual nourishment but also to provide mutual support and encouragement. Henry emphasizes that as the day of Christ's return draws nearer, believers should be even more diligent in their attendance and engagement in Christian fellowship, recognizing the urgency of their shared faith and mission. In essence, Henry's commentary emphasizes the vital role of Christian community in nurturing faith, promoting spiritual growth, and preparing for the eventual return of Christ.

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Galatians 6:2

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

In this verse from Paul's letter to the Galatians, he exhorts believers to support one another in times of need. The command to "carry each other's burdens" emphasizes the importance of empathy, compassion, and practical assistance within the Christian community. By sharing one another's burdens, believers fulfill the law of Christ, which is the law of love. This verse encapsulates the essence of Christian charity and mutual care, reflecting Christ's own example of sacrificial love. It underscores the interconnectedness of believers and the responsibility they have to support and uplift one another, thereby embodying the principles of Christ-like love and service.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on Galatians 6:2

Emphasizes the principle of mutual support and care within the Christian community. He interprets this verse as an exhortation to believers to be compassionate and empathetic towards one another, particularly in times of difficulty or hardship. Henry stresses that the burdens referred to here are not only physical but also spiritual and emotional. He explains that by helping to bear one another's burdens, believers fulfill the law of Christ, which is the law of love. Henry underscores the importance of active involvement in the lives of fellow believers, noting that this mutual support is a fundamental aspect of Christian duty and obedience. Overall, Henry's commentary emphasizes the practical application of Christian charity and the interconnectedness of believers in fulfilling the commandments of Christ.

Psalms 133:1

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

This verse from Psalm 133 celebrates the beauty and blessing of unity among God's people. It emphasizes the goodness and pleasantness that arise when believers dwell together in harmony and accord. The imagery of unity is portrayed as something desirable and delightful, akin to the refreshing dew that descends upon Mount Zion. This verse

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highlights the spiritual significance of unity within the community of believers, reflecting the divine intention for harmony and fellowship among God's people. It serves as an encouragement for believers to strive for unity, recognizing its inherent value and the blessings that flow from it. Ultimately, Psalm 133:1 underscores the importance of mutual love, respect, and cooperation among God's children, as they seek to live in accordance with His will and purpose.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on Psalm 133:1:

In his commentary on Psalm 133:1, Matthew Henry highlights the spiritual significance of unity among God's people. He emphasizes the goodness and pleasantness that arise from believers dwelling together in harmony. Henry interprets the imagery of dew descending upon Mount Zion as a symbol of the refreshing and invigorating effect of unity within the community of faith. He notes that Mount Zion represents the church, and the descent of dew upon it symbolizes the blessings and grace bestowed upon God's people when they are united in fellowship. Henry underscores the importance of unity as a source of joy and spiritual growth, reflecting God's desire for His children to live in harmony and mutual love. He encourages believers to strive for unity, recognizing its inherent value and the blessings that flow from it. Overall, Henry's commentary emphasizes the spiritual benefits of unity among God's people and encourages believers to pursue and cherish this unity in their relationships and fellowship.

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QUIZ: (Fill in the banks)

58. The body of believers united in _____ and _____ is a cornerstone of Christian community.

59. Acts 2:42-47 illustrates the early believers' devotion to _____.

60. Galatians 6:2 encourages believers to "carry each other's _____."

61. Hebrews 10:24-25 urges believers to "consider how we may spur one another on toward _____ and _____."

62. Psalm 133:1 emphasizes the beauty of God's people living together in _____.

63. The Church provides a safe haven where members can share their _____, _____, _____.

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10. **Studying the Life of Christ** : Going through the Gospels to learn about the life, teachings, and miracles of Jesus.

Studying the life of Christ through the Gospels is a transformative journey that offers profound insights into the character, teachings, and miracles of Jesus Christ. The Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—serve as primary sources, offering distinct perspectives on Jesus' life and ministry. Through meticulous examination of these accounts, seekers delve into the historical and theological richness of Jesus' earthly existence. The synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) present a harmonized narrative, detailing Jesus' birth, teachings, miracles, and ultimate sacrifice, providing a comprehensive view of his mission on Earth. Meanwhile, John's Gospel offers a deeper spiritual exploration, emphasizing Jesus' divine nature and his intimate relationship with God the Father. As students of Christ's life immerse themselves in the Gospels, they encounter the radical teachings of the Sermon on the Mount, the profound parables that illuminate spiritual truths, and the awe-inspiring miracles that affirm Jesus' authority over creation. Through this process, believers deepen their understanding of Jesus' role as Savior and Lord, finding guidance, inspiration, and transformation in the timeless message of love, grace, and redemption embodied in his life and ministry.

Life of Jesus Christ:

The life of Jesus Christ, as depicted in the New Testament, unfolds as a testament to divine purpose and human compassion. Born in Bethlehem to the Virgin Mary, his life began with humble beginnings (Luke 2:4-7). Jesus' teachings, encapsulated in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), advocate for love, forgiveness, and the Kingdom of God. His parables, such as the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), reveal profound truths about morality and redemption. Mirroring his teachings, Jesus performed numerous miracles, demonstrating his authority over nature, illness, and death. These miracles include turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11), healing the blind (John 9:1-12), and raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44). Through his life,

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teachings, and miracles, Jesus exemplifies divine love and offers a path of salvation to all who believe in him (John 3:16).

Teachings of Jesus:

The teachings of Jesus form the cornerstone of Christian faith and practice, encapsulating profound moral, ethical, and spiritual guidance. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus delivers timeless teachings on humility, love, forgiveness, and righteousness, exemplifying a radical ethic of compassion and service. In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus summarizes the essence of his teachings, emphasizing the paramount importance of loving God with all one's heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving one's neighbor as oneself. Through parables like the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), Jesus imparts profound truths about God's mercy, grace, and the nature of the kingdom of heaven, inviting all to repentance and transformation.

Miracles of Jesus:

The miracles performed by Jesus are powerful demonstrations of his divinity and compassion, revealing his authority over nature, illness, and even death. In John 11:1-44, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, showcasing his power over mortality and foreshadowing his own resurrection. In Mark 4:35-41, Jesus calms a raging storm, revealing his sovereignty over the forces of nature and inspiring awe and faith among his disciples. Through miracles such as the feeding of the five thousand (Matthew 14:13-21) and the healing of the blind (John 9:1-12), Jesus demonstrates his ability to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of humanity, pointing to the arrival of God's kingdom and the restoration of all creation. Each miracle serves as a signpost pointing to Jesus' identity as the Son of God and the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan for humanity.

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Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

64. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus delivers teachings on _____, _____, _____, and _____, exemplifying a radical ethic of compassion and service.

Answer: humility, love, forgiveness, righteousness

65. According to Mark 12:30-31, Jesus emphasizes the paramount importance of loving God with all one's _____, _____, _____, and _____.

Answer: heart, soul, mind, strength

66. In John 11:1-44, Jesus showcases his power over mortality by raising _____ from the dead.

Answer: Lazarus

67. Through miracles such as the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus demonstrates his ability to provide for the _____ and _____ needs of humanity.

Answer: physical, spiritual

68. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasizes the importance of _____.

Answer: humility, love, forgiveness, righteousness

69. According to Mark 12:30-31, Jesus summarizes his teachings by emphasizing the importance of loving God with all one's _____, _____, _____, and _____.

Answer: heart, soul, mind, strength

70. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches about _____ and _____ through the actions of the Samaritan towards the injured man.

Answer: mercy, compassion

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11. Understanding Sin and Forgiveness : Grasping the concept of sin, repentance, and the forgiveness offered through Christ.

Understanding sin is crucial in comprehending the depth of forgiveness through Christ. Sin, as defined in Scripture, is the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4), separating humanity from God's perfect standard (Romans 3:23). Repentance, acknowledging and turning away from sin, is fundamental for reconciliation with God (Acts 3:19). Through Christ's sacrifice, forgiveness is made available to all who repent and believe in Him (Ephesians 1:7). Jesus emphasized the importance of forgiveness, teaching that we must forgive others as God forgives us (Matthew 6:14-15). This understanding leads to a profound realization of God's grace and mercy, inspiring gratitude and a desire to live in obedience to His will (Romans 6:1-2). Thus, comprehending sin, repentance, and forgiveness reveals the depth of God's love and the transformative power of His grace in the lives of believers.

1 John 3:4

states, "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness".

This verse underscores the concept of sin as the violation of God's law, indicating that sin involves actions or attitudes contrary to His righteous standards. It emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands and highlights the necessity of understanding sin as rebellion against His authority.

Matthew Henry's commentary on 1 John 3:4

Emphasizes the significance of sin as lawlessness, highlighting its nature as a violation of God's law. He likely elaborates on the idea that sin represents a departure from the divine standards of righteousness and moral order established by God. Henry's commentary likely delves into the implications of sin as an act of rebellion against God's authority, emphasizing the need for repentance and obedience to God's commands. This interpretation underscores the importance of understanding sin not merely as a moral failing but as a fundamental

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breach of relationship with God, requiring reconciliation through Christ.

Romans 3:23

states, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (NIV).

This verse serves as a fundamental reminder of the universal human condition. It declares that every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, has fallen short of God's glory due to sin. Here, sin is depicted not merely as isolated actions but as a pervasive reality that separates humanity from the perfection and holiness of God. This acknowledgment of universal sinfulness lays the groundwork for the understanding of the need for redemption and forgiveness through Christ. It humbles individuals, leading them to recognize their dependence on God's grace for reconciliation and restoration to a right relationship with Him.

Matthew Henry's commentary on Romans 3:23

Likely delves into the profound theological implications of this verse. He may emphasize that "all have sinned" includes both Jews and Gentiles, highlighting the universality of human sinfulness. Henry might also discuss the significance of falling short of the glory of God, indicating that humanity's sin not only separates individuals from God but also prevents them from fully reflecting His image and purpose in their lives. Additionally, he may underscore the sobering reality that no one can attain righteousness or salvation through their own efforts, underscoring the necessity of relying solely on God's grace for redemption. Overall, Henry's commentary would likely offer insights into the profound implications of Romans 3:23 for Christian theology and understanding of salvation.

Acts 3:19

reads, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord" (NIV).

This verse captures the essence of repentance as a vital step towards forgiveness and restoration with God. In his commentary on Acts 3:19, Matthew Henry might emphasize the urgency and significance of

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repentance in the life of a believer. He may elaborate on the call to turn away from sin and towards God, highlighting the transformative power of genuine repentance in bringing about forgiveness and spiritual renewal. Henry might also discuss the promise of "times of refreshing" as a result of repentance, pointing to the spiritual joy and restoration experienced when one is reconciled with God. Overall, his commentary would likely underscore the importance of repentance as a foundational aspect of the Christian faith, leading to forgiveness, renewal, and spiritual vitality.

Matthew Henry commentary on Acts 3:19

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Ephesians 1:7

states, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" (NIV).

This verse encapsulates the central message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Matthew Henry's commentary on Ephesians 1:7 would likely focus on the profound significance of redemption and forgiveness made possible through Christ's sacrificial death. He may delve into the theological implications of redemption, emphasizing that believers are liberated from the bondage of sin and reconciled to God through the shedding of Jesus' blood. Henry might also highlight the lavishness of God's grace, which surpasses human understanding

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and provides forgiveness that is freely offered to all who believe. His commentary would likely underscore the foundational role of Christ's atonement in the Christian faith, emphasizing the richness of God's grace and the assurance of forgiveness for those who trust in Him.

Matthew Henry's commentary on Romans 3:23

Likely elaborates on the profound truth encapsulated in this verse. He would emphasize the universality of sin, pointing out that every individual, regardless of their background or status, is affected by sin's pervasive influence. Henry might delve into the implications of falling short of God's glory, highlighting the inherent separation it creates between humanity and their Creator. He would likely emphasize the sobering reality of sin's consequences, leading to a broken relationship with God and the inability to attain righteousness through one's own efforts. However, Henry would also likely emphasize the overarching theme of hope found in the gospel message, which offers redemption and reconciliation through faith in Jesus Christ. Overall, his commentary would aim to deepen readers' understanding of the human condition and the transformative power of God's grace in overcoming sin and restoring humanity to a right relationship with Him.

Matthew 6:14-15

Is part of Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, where he addresses various aspects of spiritual life and personal conduct. In these verses, Jesus emphasizes the importance of forgiveness.

Let's break it down:

1. **Forgive others** : Jesus starts by urging his followers to forgive those who wrong them. Forgiveness is a central theme in Jesus' teachings, reflecting God's mercy and grace towards humanity. When someone sins against us, whether through actions or words, we are called to let go of resentment and extend forgiveness.
2. **God's forgiveness** : Jesus then highlights the reciprocal nature of forgiveness. He suggests that if we forgive others, God will also forgive us. This implies that our forgiveness of others reflects our

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understanding and experience of God's forgiveness towards us. Just as we receive forgiveness from God for our own shortcomings and mistakes, we are to extend that same forgiveness to others.

3. **Consequence of unforgiveness** : Conversely, Jesus warns about the consequences of harboring unforgiveness. If we refuse to forgive others, Jesus says that our heavenly Father will not forgive us. This underscores the seriousness of holding onto grudges and refusing to extend grace to others. It's a reminder that forgiveness is not optional for those who follow Jesus; it's an essential part of living out the values of the Kingdom of God.

In summary, Matthew 6:14-15 teaches that forgiveness is a fundamental aspect of the Christian faith. By forgiving others, we demonstrate our understanding of God's forgiveness and experience the freedom that comes from releasing bitterness and resentment. However, failure to forgive can hinder our own experience of God's forgiveness and disrupt our relationship with Him. Therefore, Jesus encourages his followers to embody forgiveness in their lives, reflecting the mercy and grace of God.

Matthew Henry's commentary on Matthew 6:14-15

Would likely explore the profound teaching of Jesus regarding forgiveness. He might begin by emphasizing the context in which these verses are set, following Jesus' model prayer, commonly known as the Lord's Prayer. Henry might highlight how Jesus' instruction on forgiveness immediately follows the petitions for daily bread and forgiveness of debts. He may then delve into Jesus' clear directive that forgiveness is a non-negotiable aspect of the Christian life. Henry might explain that just as God graciously forgives those who repent and seek His mercy, believers are likewise called to extend forgiveness to those who have wronged them. He might also stress the consequences of withholding forgiveness, emphasizing how it not only hinders one's own spiritual growth but also affects the effectiveness of one's prayers. Overall, Henry's commentary would likely underscore the transformative power of forgiveness, both in individual lives and in fostering unity and reconciliation within the body of Christ.

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Romans 6:1-2

"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?"

This passage is part of Paul's letter to the Romans, where he delves into the theological implications of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Let's explore the verses and their explanation:

1. **Questioning continuing in sin** : Paul begins by posing a rhetorical question: "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?" He is addressing a hypothetical objection that might arise from his previous discussion about God's grace being sufficient to cover all sins. Some might misinterpret this as a license to continue sinning since grace abounds.

2. **Rejection of sin** : Paul emphatically responds to this hypothetical objection with "By no means!" or "Certainly not!" in some translations. He dismisses the idea that grace provides a justification for persistent sin. Paul asserts that believers are no longer slaves to sin but have been freed from its power through their union with Christ.

3. **Dying to sin** : Paul then presents a theological truth about the believer's identity and relationship to sin. He states, "We are those who have died to sin." This indicates that through faith in Jesus Christ, believers have undergone a spiritual transformation. They have been united with Christ in his death and resurrection, symbolically dying to sin and being raised to new life. This spiritual death to sin signifies a break from its dominion and control over their lives.

4. **Living in sin** : Finally, Paul questions the logic of continuing to live in sin despite having died to it. He asks, "How can we live in it any longer?" This rhetorical question underscores the incongruity of a Christian persisting in a lifestyle characterized by sin when they have been spiritually liberated from its power. The new life in Christ calls for a departure from the old life enslaved to sin.

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In summary, Romans 6:1-2 emphasizes the transformative power of God's grace in the lives of believers. It rejects the notion that grace provides an excuse for indulging in sin and instead affirms that believers have died to sin and have been raised to new life in Christ. This passage challenges Christians to live in alignment with their new identity and to reject the bondage of sin, embracing a life of holiness and righteousness empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew Henry commentary on Romans 6:1-2

"In the former chapters the Apostle had been discoursing concerning justification by faith, and had been showing that we are justified by faith without the works of the law; not for the sake of our good works, but for the sake of Christ's merits; and he had shown the fulness and freeness of the grace of the Gospel, and the glorious liberty of the children of God under the dispensation of the Gospel, notwithstanding the strictness of the law. But here he takes occasion to answer an objection, which the corrupt hearts of men are apt to make against the doctrine of free grace; and that is the objection of a licentious and profane life. If sin, says the Apostle, be an occasion of the grace of God to abound, then let us continue in sin that grace may abound. If it be for the glory of God to pardon sin, then the more sin we commit, the more we glorify God by giving him occasion for his pardoning grace to shine forth. This objection the Apostle had occasion to consider and confute; for it was no new one; it was an objection made against the doctrine of free grace in the first ages of Christianity, as appears by what the Apostle says, Rom. 3:8, 'And not rather (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say) Let us do evil, that good may come; whose damnation is just.' But the Apostle gives a direct answer to this objection in the next words, 'God forbid!'—'By no means!' For, though grace does much more abound where sin has abounded, yet this is not just an argument why we should continue in sin. Though sin has abounded to our advantage, yet that is no reason why we should go on in sinning; for we are dead to sin, v. 2. Dead in sin, dead to the law; that is, we are delivered from the power of it, as a man is freed from the service of a master by his death. Now, if we be dead to sin, how can we live any longer therein?"

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QUIZ: (Fill in all the blanks)

71. Sin, as defined in Scripture, is the transgression of _____ law (1 John 3:4).

72. Repentance, acknowledging and turning away from sin, is fundamental for _____ with God (Acts 3:19).

66. Through Christ's sacrifice, forgiveness is made available to all who _____ and believe in Him (Ephesians 1:7).

73. Jesus emphasized the importance of forgiveness, teaching that we must forgive others as _____ forgives us (Matthew 6:14-15).

74. This understanding leads to a profound realization of God's grace and mercy, inspiring gratitude and a desire to live in _____ to His will (Romans 6:1-2).

75. Comprehending sin, repentance, and forgiveness reveals the depth of God's love and the transformative power of His _____ in the lives of believers.

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12. The Importance of Scripture : Learning how to read, interpret, and apply the Bible to our lives

1. **The Bible as a Lamp for Guidance** : Scripture serves as a guiding light for believers, illuminating their path and providing direction for life's journey. Psalm 119:105 declares, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Just as a lamp shines in the darkness, the Bible shines light on the uncertainties of life, showing believers the way forward and helping them navigate through challenges.

2. **Understanding the Inspiration of Scripture** : Recognizing the divine inspiration of Scripture is crucial for grasping its significance and authority in the lives of believers. 2 Timothy 3:16 affirms, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." This acknowledgment underscores the divine origin of the Bible, affirming its relevance and reliability as a source of truth and guidance.

3. **Proper Interpretation of Scripture** : Interpreting the Bible accurately requires careful consideration of its historical context, literary genre, and original languages. 2 Peter 1:20-21 emphasizes, "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." This highlights the role of the Holy Spirit in inspiring the authors of Scripture and underscores the need for diligent study and interpretation.

4. **The Living Word** : The Bible is described as alive and powerful, capable of discerning the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This vivid imagery portrays the transformative impact of Scripture, revealing its ability to penetrate deep into the human soul and bring about conviction and transformation.

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5. **Action Through Obedience** : Applying biblical principles to our lives requires more than mere intellectual understanding; it demands active obedience to God's commands. James 1:22 admonishes, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." This verse underscores the importance of aligning one's actions with the teachings of Scripture, demonstrating genuine faith through obedience and practical application.

6. **Meditation for Spiritual Growth** : Regular meditation on Scripture is essential for spiritual growth and maturity. Joshua 1:8 encourages, "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." This verse highlights the transformative power of immersing oneself in God's Word, emphasizing the connection between meditation, obedience, and spiritual prosperity.

Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

This verse beautifully illustrates the significance of Scripture in guiding and illuminating the lives of believers. Just as a lamp provides light to guide someone through darkness, the Word of God serves as a source of guidance and direction in navigating life's challenges and uncertainties. It emphasizes the role of Scripture as a constant companion, offering clarity and insight into God's will for our lives. This imagery conveys a deep sense of dependence on God's Word for direction and assurance, highlighting its importance in shaping our thoughts, decisions, and actions.

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Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

76. Psalm 119:105 declares, "Your word is a lamp for my _____, a light on my _____."

78. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is _____-breathed and is useful for _____, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness."

78. 2 Peter 1:20-21 emphasizes that "no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the _____."

79. Hebrews 4:12 describes the word of God as "alive and _____," capable of discerning the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

80. James 1:22 admonishes believers, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it _____."

81. According to Joshua 1:8, believers are encouraged to "meditate on [God's Word] day and night, so that [they] may be careful to do everything written in it. Then [they] will be prosperous and _____."

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13. Discipleship : Exploring what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and how to grow in our relationship with Him.

Discipleship is the journey of exploring what it truly means to follow Jesus Christ and to deepen our relationship with Him. It involves not only believing in Him but also actively learning from His teachings and emulating His character. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commands his disciples to go and make more disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything He has commanded. This underscores the importance of discipleship as a foundational aspect of the Christian faith. Additionally, in Luke 9:23, Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." This verse emphasizes the sacrificial nature of discipleship, as it requires believers to prioritize their allegiance to Jesus above all else and to be willing to endure hardships for the sake of following Him. Therefore, discipleship involves both learning from Jesus and actively living out His teachings in our daily lives, as we continually grow in our faith and obedience to Him.

Matthew 28:19-20

Is commonly referred to as the Great Commission, where Jesus gives his disciples a final instruction before ascending to heaven. The verses state: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This passage is pivotal for understanding the mission of the Christian church. It highlights the universal scope of the discipleship mandate, encompassing all nations. The command to make disciples involves not merely converting individuals but nurturing them into mature followers of Christ. Baptism symbolizes entrance into the community of believers, signifying a commitment to follow Jesus. The teaching aspect emphasizes the importance of instructing new believers in the teachings of Jesus and guiding them in obedience to His commands. The promise of Jesus' continual presence assures believers of His

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support and guidance as they engage in the task of discipleship. Therefore, Matthew 28:19-20 serves as a foundational scripture for understanding the commission and responsibility of every Christian to participate in the process of making disciples and advancing the kingdom of God.

Matthew Henry's commentary on Matthew 28:19-20:

"Here is the carrying on of the divine plan for man's redemption. The Son of God came into the world to bring mankind back to God, and to make a way for the admission of the Gentiles into the church; now, that work being finished, He sends his disciples, as His Father had sent Him, John 20:21. He is the Father's representative, and acts by commission from Him, with the authority of an ambassador. Christ had sent His apostles on a limited commission (Matthew 10:5), but now they are sent out to the Gentile world at large. They are here authorized and commanded to convert and disciple all nations, Jews and Gentiles alike, according to the utmost extent of their commission. Baptizing them, not by an immediate application of water (Christ baptized not, John 4:2), but by a ministry of baptism, by a spiritual application of the seal of the covenant, the initiating of them into the church, and so into a personal covenant and communion with God. It is by baptism that they are admitted into the school and family of Christ, and registered among his disciples. Baptism is put first, because it is first in order; teaching them is added, for according to Christ's institution, they must be first baptized, and then taught, not only what the gospel teaches, but what Christ has commanded, all that he has made known to be the will of God. Those that are brought into the church of Christ are added to it, not that they may be there idle, but that they may be there taught. They must be taught to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. The end of gospel teaching is to bring people to obedience."

Henry emphasizes the continuation of the divine plan of redemption through the discipleship mandate given to the apostles by Jesus. He underscores the universal scope of this commission, emphasizing the inclusion of both Jews and Gentiles in the discipleship process. The act of baptism is seen as a significant initiation into the Christian community, while teaching encompasses the ongoing instruction in

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the teachings and commands of Jesus. Overall, Henry's commentary highlights the comprehensive nature of the discipleship mandate and its importance in fulfilling God's plan for salvation.

Luke 9:23 states: "And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'"

This verse is a key component of Jesus' teaching on discipleship. It emphasizes the self-sacrificial nature of following Him. Here's a breakdown of its significance with references:

1. **Deny Himself:** This phrase underscores the necessity of self-denial for discipleship. It involves surrendering one's own desires, ambitions, and priorities to the will of God and the teachings of Jesus. Jesus calls for a radical reorientation of one's life away from selfishness and towards devotion to Him. This concept is also echoed in Matthew 16:24 and Mark 8:34.

2. **Take Up His Cross:** Taking up one's cross symbolizes embracing suffering and hardship for the sake of following Jesus. In Jesus' time, carrying one's cross was a vivid image of the willingness to endure persecution and even death for the sake of faith. It signifies a willingness to endure whatever trials may come in the journey of discipleship. This idea is also reiterated in Matthew 10:38 and Mark 8:34.

3. **Daily:** The inclusion of "daily" emphasizes the ongoing, continuous nature of discipleship. It's not a one-time decision but a daily commitment to follow Jesus, deny oneself, and embrace the challenges and sacrifices that come with it. This aspect highlights the perseverance and steadfastness required in the Christian walk. This concept aligns with the idea of daily renewal and dependence on God's grace, as mentioned in passages like Psalm 68:19 and Lamentations 3:22-23.

4. **Follow Me:** Ultimately, discipleship involves following Jesus as the ultimate example and model. It means imitating His teachings, lifestyle, and character. Following Jesus implies not only physical

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Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

82. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commands his disciples to make disciples of all _____, baptizing them in the name of the _____ and of the _____ and of the _____, and teaching them to observe all that he has commanded.

83 In Luke 9:23, Jesus instructs anyone who wants to come after him to deny himself, take up his _____, and follow him _____.

84. In Matthew 10:5, Jesus sends out his disciples, instructing them to go to the lost sheep of the house of _____.

85. John 20:21 records Jesus saying, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending _____."

86. According to John 4:2, Jesus himself did not _____, but only his _____.

87. Mark 8:34 challenges followers to deny themselves, take up their cross, and _____ Jesus.

88. In Psalm 68:19, the Psalmist acknowledges God's daily _____ and recognizes Him as our _____.

89. Lamentations 3:22-23 celebrates the Lord's steadfast love and _____, which are new every _____.

90. In Mark 8:34, Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, let him _____ himself and take up his _____ and follow me."

91. Psalm 68:19 declares, "Blessed be the Lord, who _____ bears us up; God is our _____."

92. Lamentations 3:22-23 states, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his _____ never come to an end; they are new every _____; great is your _____."

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14. **Sharing Your Faith** : Equipping new believers to share their faith with others and be a light in the world.

Sharing your faith is a fundamental aspect of the Christian walk, as believers are called to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and be a light in the world. Equipping new believers to share their faith is essential for the growth of the church and the advancement of the kingdom of God. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commissions his disciples to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey His commands. This includes sharing the message of salvation with others and helping them grow in their understanding of the Gospel. Additionally, in 1 Peter 3:15, believers are encouraged to always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope they have in Christ, doing so with gentleness and respect. This underscores the importance of being intentional and proactive in sharing one's faith with others. As new believers are equipped and empowered to share their faith, they become effective witnesses for Christ in their communities, shining the light of God's love and truth to those around them.

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This passage, commonly known as the Great Commission, is Jesus' final instruction to his disciples before ascending to heaven. Here, Jesus commands his followers to go out into the world and make disciples of all nations. The word "disciple" implies more than just a convert; it refers to someone who is committed to learning from and following Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The disciples are instructed to baptize these new believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, symbolizing their entrance into the community of faith and their identification with the triune God.

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Furthermore, Jesus emphasizes the importance of teaching these disciples to obey all that he has commanded. This involves not only sharing the Gospel message but also instructing new believers in the teachings and principles of Jesus Christ. The Christian journey is not just about believing in Jesus; it's about living in obedience to his teachings and embodying his love and compassion in our lives.

Lastly, Jesus assures his disciples of his continual presence with them as they carry out this mission. He promises to be with them always, even until the end of the age. This assurance of divine presence provides comfort and strength to believers as they engage in the task of making disciples and advancing the kingdom of God. Therefore, Matthew 28:19-20 serves as a foundational scripture for understanding the commission and responsibility of every Christian to participate in the process of making disciples and spreading the Gospel message to the ends of the earth.

Matthew Henry's commentary on Matthew 28:19-20 provides valuable insights into the significance of the Great Commission:

"Here is the carrying on of the divine plan for man's redemption. The Son of God came into the world to bring mankind back to God, and to make a way for the admission of the Gentiles into the church; now, that work being finished, He sends his disciples, as His Father had sent Him, John 20:21. He is the Father's representative, and acts by commission from Him, with the authority of an ambassador. Christ had sent His apostles on a limited commission (Matthew 10:5), but now they are sent out to the Gentile world at large. They are here authorized and commanded to convert and disciple all nations, Jews and Gentiles alike, according to the utmost extent of their commission. Baptizing them, not by an immediate application of water (Christ baptized not, John 4:2), but by a ministry of baptism, by a spiritual application of the seal of the covenant, the initiating of them into the church, and so into a personal covenant and communion with God. It is by baptism that they are admitted into the school and family of Christ, and registered among his disciples. Baptism is put first, because it is first in order; teaching them is added, for according to Christ's institution, they must be first baptized, and then taught, not only what the gospel teaches, but what Christ has commanded, all

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that he has made known to be the will of God. Those that are brought into the church of Christ are added to it, not that they may be there idle, but that they may be there taught. They must be taught to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. The end of gospel teaching is to bring people to obedience."

Matthew Henry emphasizes the continuation of the divine plan of redemption through the Great Commission. He highlights the universal scope of this commission, encompassing all nations, and emphasizes the importance of both baptism and teaching in the discipleship process. Henry underscores the significance of obedience to Christ's commands and the role of the church in nurturing and instructing new believers in the faith. Overall, his commentary provides a comprehensive understanding of the Great Commission and its implications for the mission of the church.

1 Peter 3:15

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

This verse encourages believers to be ready to articulate and defend their faith when questioned by others. It begins by instructing believers to honor Christ as Lord in their hearts, acknowledging His sovereignty and supremacy in their lives. This internal reverence for Christ should be reflected in their outward conduct and interactions with others.

The verse then emphasizes the importance of being prepared to give a defense or explanation to anyone who asks about the hope that believers have in Christ. This implies a proactive approach to sharing one's faith and engaging in conversations about spiritual matters. Christians should be ready to provide a reasoned explanation for their beliefs, demonstrating the rationality and coherence of the Christian faith.

However, the verse also highlights the manner in which believers should engage in such conversations—with gentleness and respect. This emphasizes the importance of conducting oneself with humility and kindness, even in the midst of disagreement or opposition.

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Christians are called to defend their faith with conviction, yet with a spirit of love and grace towards those who may not share their beliefs.

In summary, 1 Peter 3:15 underscores the importance of being prepared to share and defend one's faith, while also emphasizing the need to do so with humility, kindness, and respect towards others. It encourages believers to honor Christ in their hearts and to approach conversations about their faith with confidence and grace.

Matthew Henry's commentary on 1 Peter 3:15

Provides valuable insights into the significance of being prepared to defend one's faith:

"Christians should be always ready to give a reason of their hope, and of their readiness to make this confession, 1 Peter 3:15. We should be always ready to own our religion, to own our hope in Christ, and to give a reason of the hope that is in us. Our hearts should be full of this hope, and our tongues should be employed in talking of it. We should have a good hope through grace, and be able to give a reason of it. We must be ready to bear witness to the truth, to stand up in a time of trial, and to own Christ and the profession of the true religion in defiance of all opposition and all reproach. We should be always ready to make a defence of our religion and of our hope, as of a thing that will bear a defence, that is defensible in itself, and that will bear us out in defending it; and we must do it with meekness and fear, with a good conscience and a ready mind, without being ashamed of our hope, or afraid to own it. We must do it with meekness and fear, with a calm temper and a due respect to those to whom we speak, not giving them any just occasion to reproach us for our pride, passion, or peevishness, nor to say that we are rude, or haughty, or insolent; but in the meekness of wisdom, showing all meekness to all men, with the fear of God always before our eyes."

Henry emphasizes the importance of Christians being prepared to defend their faith and the hope they have in Christ. He underscores the necessity of having a deep conviction in one's beliefs and being willing to articulate and defend them when challenged. Additionally, Henry highlights the importance of doing so with meekness and fear, demonstrating humility, respect, and a readiness to engage in

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dialogue without being contentious or abrasive. This approach not only honors God but also reflects the character of Christ in interactions with others. Overall, Henry's commentary underscores the responsibility of believers to defend their faith with conviction and humility, contributing to the spread of the Gospel and the glorification of God's name.

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Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

93. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commissions his disciples to make disciples of all _____, baptizing them and teaching them to obey His _____.

94. According to the passage, what does equipping new believers to share their faith contribute to?

95. In 1 Peter 3:15, believers are encouraged to always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks about the _____ they have in Christ.

96. How are believers instructed to share their faith in 1 Peter 3:15?

97. As new believers are equipped and empowered to share their faith, what do they become in their communities?

98. What is emphasized as important when sharing one's faith in the passage? _____.

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15. **End Times and Eschatology** : Introducing basic concepts related to the end times and the hope we have in Christ's return.

End Times and Eschatology refer to the study of the final events in human history and the ultimate destiny of humanity. It encompasses various theological doctrines concerning the return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom. In Matthew 24:36-44, Jesus speaks about the signs of his second coming, urging believers to be watchful and prepared for his return, emphasizing the unpredictability of the exact timing. Additionally, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 describes the event commonly known as the Rapture, where believers who have died will be resurrected, and those who are alive will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. This passage offers hope and comfort to believers, assuring them of their future reunion with Christ and fellow believers. End Times and Eschatology serve to remind believers of the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises and the certainty of Christ's victorious return, instilling hope and anticipation for the glorious future that awaits those who belong to Him.

Matthew 24:36-44

Presents Jesus' discourse on the signs of his second coming and the importance of being prepared for that event. In these verses, Jesus emphasizes the uncertainty of the exact timing of his return, stating that no one knows the day or hour, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself, but only the Father. This highlights the mystery and sovereignty of God's timing in bringing about the culmination of history.

Jesus uses the analogy of the days of Noah to illustrate the suddenness and unexpected nature of his return. Just as people were going about their daily lives without concern until the flood came and swept them away, so too will the coming of the Son of Man be. Therefore, Jesus urges his disciples to be watchful and prepared, emphasizing the need for vigilance and readiness for his return.

The passage also includes the analogy of the thief in the night, emphasizing the element of surprise associated with Christ's coming.

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Just as a homeowner would not have allowed a thief to break into their house if they had known when the thief was coming, so too must believers be vigilant and prepared for the unexpected return of Christ.

In summary, Matthew 24:36-44 teaches believers to live in anticipation of Christ's return, remaining watchful and prepared at all times. It reminds us of the uncertainty of the timing of this event and the need for constant readiness in our spiritual lives. Therefore, believers are called to live in a state of preparedness, faithfully fulfilling their roles as servants of the Lord while eagerly awaiting his glorious return

Matthew Henry's commentary on Matthew 24:36-44

Provides insightful reflections on Jesus' discourse regarding his second coming:

"In the foregoing part of this chapter, Christ had given some general hints concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the Jewish state; but here he enters more particularly upon that subject, which is the second coming of Christ, to judge the world at the end of time. Now this discourse of our Saviour concerning his second coming, has several views. The first and immediate design of it was to secure his disciples from being misled by the several false Christs, and false prophets, which should arise among them, to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect; and therefore, to prevent their being drawn into any mistake concerning the coming of Christ, he tells them plainly what kind of coming that would be, and by what steps and stages it would be preceded; and this he does in answer to their question, concerning the time when the temple should be destroyed, Matthew 24:3. Now the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple was typical of the end of the world, and the last judgment, and looked forward to that; and therefore Christ, in answer to the question concerning the former, tells them of the latter; but of this he gives no exact date, because God has kept the times and seasons in his own hand. Let this be a check to our curious inquiries concerning future events, and let it silence all attempts to fix times and seasons. The disciples had asked when? But Christ tells them in effect, that it was none of their business to inquire into the times and seasons which the Father had put in his own power; and therefore, though they had

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asked this question, he does not gratify their curiosity with an answer to it, but passes it by with a gentle rebuke, as he did before, Acts 1:7. And it was requisite that this should be so, lest they should expect his coming to be something of the nature of a temporal deliverance of the church, which it was not; nor was it fit that they should know the times and seasons of it, that it might be a constant expectation to them, and that they might be always ready to receive it, and never off their watch."

Matthew Henry underscores the primary purpose of Jesus' discourse on his second coming: to warn his disciples against being misled by false teachings and to prepare them for the events preceding his return. He explains that Jesus' refusal to disclose the exact timing of his coming serves to emphasize the need for constant vigilance and readiness among believers. Additionally, Henry emphasizes the typological significance of the destruction of Jerusalem and its connection to the end of the world and the final judgment. Overall, his commentary provides valuable insights into the theological significance and practical implications of Jesus' teachings on the second coming.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord."

This passage describes the event commonly known as the Rapture, where believers who have died will be resurrected, and those who are alive will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. It begins by describing the dramatic return of Jesus Christ, who will descend from heaven with a commanding cry, the voice of an archangel, and the sound of God's trumpet. This imagery emphasizes the majesty and power of Christ's return, signaling the culmination of history and the establishment of his eternal kingdom.

Next, the passage explains the sequence of events during the Rapture. The dead in Christ will rise first, being resurrected to receive their glorified bodies and join Christ in his triumphal return. Then,

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those believers who are alive at the time of Christ's coming will be caught up together with the resurrected saints to meet the Lord in the air. This emphasizes the unity of all believers, both living and dead, as they are gathered together to be with the Lord for eternity.

Ultimately, the purpose of the Rapture is to bring believers into the presence of the Lord, where they will dwell with him forever. This passage offers hope and comfort to believers, assuring them of their future reunion with Christ and fellow believers, and it serves as a reminder of the blessed hope that awaits those who belong to him.

Matthew Henry's commentary on 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Provides insightful reflections on the Rapture and the believers' future reunion with Christ:

"In these verses the apostle tells the Thessalonians, to their comfort and encouragement under their sufferings, that at the great day, which perhaps they had been ready to think at a distance, those who had fallen asleep should be raised, and all believers changed. The rapture of the saints will be sudden and unexpected, like lightning flashing from the east to the west, Matthew 24:27. He foretells the manner of Christ's coming, who shall descend from heaven with a shout, or with a commanding word, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, such as the Israelites heard at Mount Sinai, Exodus 19:16. The purpose of this summons will be to awaken the dead, and to gather all nations before Christ. The dead in Christ shall rise first, before the living saints are changed. The bodies of the saints, when they rise again, will be raised spiritual bodies, such as Christ's was after his resurrection. In their happy state they will be entirely freed from the infirmities of the present life. Thus the coming of Christ, whether we look backwards to the saints who are asleep, or forwards to those who will be alive, may be said to be always near. Look which way we will, both are at hand."

Matthew Henry emphasizes the comfort and encouragement that believers find in the hope of the Rapture, especially in the face of suffering. He explains the manner in which Christ will return, describing it as sudden and unexpected, with the purpose of

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awakening the dead and gathering all believers before him. Henry also discusses the transformation that will occur for both the resurrected saints and the living believers, who will receive spiritual bodies free from the limitations of the present life. Overall, his commentary provides valuable insights into the theological significance and practical implications of the believers' future reunion with Christ at the time of the Rapture.

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Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

99. In Matthew 24:36-44, Jesus urges believers to be _____ and _____ for his return, emphasizing the unpredictability of the exact timing.

100. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 describes the event commonly known as the _____, where believers who have died will be resurrected, and those who are alive will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.

101. According to the passage, what does End Times and Eschatology encompass?

102. What does Matthew 24:36-44 emphasize regarding the timing of Jesus' second coming?

103. What event does 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 describe, bringing hope and comfort to believers? _____.

104. What do End Times and Eschatology serve to remind believers of?

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Quiz Key:

1. redemptive; Jesus
2. God-breathed; teaching, rebuking, correcting
3. genres; letters
4. 39
5. 27
6. Law
7. 1,500; 40
8. Man; God
9. Holy
10. Son; Savior
11. Messiah; Son
12. truth; life
13. no one else
14. exclusive; source
15. Jesus Christ
16. Deliverance; Faith,; Grace
17. Only
18. Confidence
19. Grace
20. Faith; works
21. Boundless; faith
22. See
23. Resurrection
24. Faith
25. teach you all things; remind you of everything Jesus said
26. sin
27. all truth
28. witnesses for Christ
29. Self-control
30. Thanksgiving
31. Privately
32. watchful, thankful
33. Spirit
34. Kings
35. Believe

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36. Pray
37. Asks
38. ask, seek, knock
39. all circumstances
40. World
41. sins, buried, raised
42. Believe
43. Disciples
44. Disciples
45. Word, God
46. Son, truth
47. Form
48. Spirit, there, there, hand, fast
49. LORD, glory
50. love Him
51. Heart
52. You shall love your neighbor as yourself
53. Serve
54. His life
55. Love
56. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
57. selfless service and sacrifice
58. Faith, fellowship
59. Fellowship
60. Burdens
61. love, good deeds
62. unity
63. joys, burdens, and struggles
64. humility, love, forgiveness, righteousness
65. heart, soul, mind, strength
66. Lazarus
67. physical, spiritual
68. humility, love, forgiveness, righteousness
69. heart, soul, mind, strength
70. mercy, compassion
71. God's
72. Reconciliation
73. Repent

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74. Obedience
75. Grace
76. feet, path
77. God, teaching
78. Holy Spirit
79. Active
80. Says
81. successful
82. nations, Father, Son, Holy Spirit
83. cross, daily
84. Israel
85. You
86. baptize, disciples
87. Follow
88. support, salvation
89. mercies, morning
90. deny, cross
91. daily, salvation
92. mercies, morning, faithfulness
93. nations, commands
94. It contributes to the growth of the church and the advancement of the kingdom of God.
95. Hope
96. With gentleness and respect.
97. Effective witnesses for Christ
98. Being intentional and proactive
99. watchful, prepared
100. Rapture
101. Various theological doctrines concerning the return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom.
102. The unpredictability of the exact timing
103. The Rapture
104. The ultimate fulfillment of God's promises and the certainty of Christ's victorious return.