

**1. ETERNAL SPIRIT: Read Psalm 90:2 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read John 4:24 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

God is not limited by a physical body as we are. God is not limited by time or by space. God is always and everywhere at once. God is the only self-existent, eternal being. He always was and will always be. He is worthy of our devotion and praise. He is more than big enough to handle the challenges of our lives.

**2. HOLY TRINITY: Read Genesis 1:26 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read Matthew 3:16-17 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

There is only one God! Yet, God is also three Persons within Himself. In Genesis 1:26 God says, “Let US make man in OUR image”. At His baptism Jesus heard the voice of the Father and saw the Holy Spirit descend. The three Persons of the Trinity are equal and yet have roles that differ. It has been said that the Father directs, the Son reflects, and the Spirit directs. In other words, all three together are one: One God, existing eternally in three Persons. It is OK that we can’t fully conceptualize this. God is bigger than our understanding.

**3. SOVEREIGN LORD: Read Isaiah 46:9-10 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read Ephesians 1:11 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

God is King of the universe. There are no limits to His rule over all. He is never helpless, never frustrated, never overwhelmed. God is always in control. God is the authority to whom we owe respect and obedience. Just as a child feels most secure in the care of a loving and strong parent, so believers feel secure in our sovereign God.

**4. CREATOR & SUSTAINER: Read Psalm 139:7-10 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read Colossians 1:17 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Not only did God create the world, it is His continued powerful presence that holds the universe together. God is fully present everywhere at once. He is infinite, He is omnipresent! This truth should both encourage us and challenge us.

**5. HEAVENLY FATHER: Read Isaiah 64:8 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

God is not an impersonal spiritual force or presence. In the Bible, God describes Himself as a Father. As our Father He created us, cares for us, provides for us, disciplines us, and seeks to guide us into a true and vital Father-child relationship with Him. Just like any parent, God desires that we love Him and trust Him.

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. FAITHFUL PROVIDER: Read Matthew 6:31-33 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read Acts 14:16-17 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Loving fathers care for their kids. Our heavenly Father cares for our needs. His provision for us is not a reward but a gift. He cares not because we are good but because we are His creation. He provides so as to give us joy. He provides for all regardless of whether they love Him back or not. We honor God when we trust in His provision and prioritize Him first above all else!

**2. CONSTANT FRIEND: Read Exodus 33:11 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read John 15:15 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

In the Old Testament only Moses and Abraham were called the friend of God. But now, after Jesus came, we can have a new status with God – we can, in connection with Jesus, be the friends of God. What a privilege, and what a responsibility! Friends have one another's back! Friends care for each another! Friends pursue common interests! True friendship never fades, it only grows stronger and stronger!

**3. WONDERFUL COUNSELOR: Read Isaiah 9:6 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read John 16:7 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Counselors bring much needed insight and wisdom into our lives. They see into us, and help us see into ourselves. They give us understanding of ourselves and God, and they give us the guidance we need to move forward toward victory and joy. God is the best counselor of all. God has given us His Word (the Bible) to teach us; the Holy Spirit to encourage and guide us; and other gifted believers to help us.

**4. RIGHTEOUS JUDGE: Read Ecclesiastes 12:14 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

God is holy! He is perfectly pure and totally right in all He does and thinks. And God loves what is good and right. He will judge anything that varies in the slightest degree from His divine perfection. This truth comforts us in that we know that one day God will judge all injury and injustice. This truth challenges us in that we know that we ourselves have been the source of injury and injustice. God is a righteous Judge. He must judge wrong and He must convict and condemn the guilty. We all are guilty, yet God loves us. Is there any way that God can be both just and yet also save the guilty?

**5. STRONG REDEEMER: Read Jeremiah 50:34 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read Galatians 3:13-14 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

A redeemer is a rescuer! Somehow a redeemer defeats an enemy in order to rescue a friend. God is more than strong enough to rescue us. Not only does God defeat the enemy of our souls (Satan), God also rescues us from ourselves, from our own sin and selfishness and smallness. God redeemed the nation of Israel from Egypt and exile, and God has redeemed us from sin and Satan by sending His own Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins.

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. Totally God: Read John 1:1 and John 1:14 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus, as the second person of the Trinity, has always existed. Before you and I were conceived, we didn't exist, but when Jesus was conceived, God Himself entered our world. Jesus truly is God with us! God Himself became human in order to experience what life is like for us. God Himself became human to give us a perfect example of how we can live. And God Himself became human in order to die for our sins. Jesus is our perfect example, Savior and Lord.

**2. Totally Human, except for sin: Read Hebrews 4:15 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus was tempted. But Jesus never gave in to temptation. Being tempted does not make you a sinner. Giving in to temptation does. Jesus never sinned. If Jesus had ever sinned, ever disobeyed the Father, in any way, then Jesus could not have died for our sins. He would have had to die for His own sin. Jesus is worthy to be worshiped. Jesus is worthy to be imitated.

**3. What was He like? Read Matthew 11:28-30 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus was strong. Jesus could and did respond in anger. He was angered by anything that dishonored the Father. Jesus could and did confront those who pretended to be righteous but weren't. Yet, in all of this Jesus, in the core of His character, was gentle. He was gentle with sinners who came to Him for help. Never run from Jesus. His arms are wide to accept you!

**4. What He came to do: Read Mark 10:45 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and John 18:37-38 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Before the world was created, God had a plan to save sinners. Jesus was and is the central pillar of that plan. Jesus did not come just to show us the best way to live. He came to show us what is true. And He came to die for our sins. Jesus came into our world knowing full well that He was here to sacrifice Himself for us! This is love!

**5. The Great Commandment: Read Matthew 22:34-40 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

For years Jewish religious leaders argued over which of all the commandments was the greatest. Jesus answered this question in one word: Love! If we truly love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and also love our neighbor as ourselves, then we will live correctly before God. Laws can help guide us toward what is right, but only love not only guides but also empowers us to do what is right.

**6. The Great Commission: Read Matthew 28:18-20 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Just before Jesus left this earth to return to heaven, He gave a clear and central commission to His disciples, and through them, to us. He commanded us to make disciples. A disciple is someone who has devoted their life to following Jesus and who is learning to obey all that Jesus told us to do. Baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is a powerful symbol of that initial decision to follow Jesus. Baptism initiates a life of learning to love, serve and obey our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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**7. His Teaching: Read Matthew 7:28-29 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus taught with authority. His words were not just opinion, they were and are truth straight from God. Jesus' teaching challenges us at the very core of our thinking and behavior. Jesus' teaching guides us into living in a way that is honoring to God and a blessing to ourselves and others. Jesus' teaching is worthy of our full attention and effort to understand and apply it.

**8. His Death: Read John 19:28-30 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus really died. He didn't just feint or pretend to die. When a spear was thrust into His side, both water and blood flowed out. His heart was pierced, He really died. He died for us. The Bible says that sinners are not able to enter heaven. The Bible calls this eternal death – hell. But Jesus took that punishment for us so that we can be right with God. This is good news! Because of this we can live for Him and look forward to eternity with Him.

**9. His Resurrection: Read John 20:1-9 on page \_\_\_\_\_**

Jesus truly rose from the dead. There is no other historically reasonable explanation for the empty tomb. Both the Jewish religious leaders and the Romans government wanted Jesus dead. They knew where His tomb was. If Jesus really didn't rise from the dead, then one quick glance at the tomb would have put an end to any resurrection rumors. But the tomb was empty. And that changes everything!

**10. Where is Jesus now? Read Romans 8:34 on page \_\_\_\_\_**

After Jesus rose from the dead He spent some time with His followers preparing them to be His witnesses. Then He returned to heaven where He is now sitting at the right hand of God (authority) and He is praying (interceding) for us. He watches us. He knows our challenges. And He prays perfectly for us. Remember this when life is tough!

**11. His Return! Read Acts 1:6-11 on page \_\_\_\_\_**

After His resurrection, Jesus spent some time with His disciples, preparing them for the tasks ahead. Then He simply ascended up into heaven. But one day He will return. This promise should motivate us to be prepared to meet Him. This also encourages us that one day we will be with Him and with all of our friends and loved ones who have known Him.

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. The Holy Spirit is God: Read Mathew 28:19 on page \_\_\_\_.**

The Holy Spirit is one of the three Persons in the Trinity. God is one God existing eternally as three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. As such, the Holy Spirit is not a force or an “it” but a Person. Believers are baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**2. The Holy Spirit has always been part of godly living: Read Psalm 51:11 on page \_\_\_\_.**

King David was aware of God the Holy Spirit living in him. David feared losing the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit in him. Today, in relationship with Jesus Christ, we need no longer fear that God might remove the Holy Spirit from our lives.

**3. The Holy Spirit inspired the Biblical authors: Read 2 Peter 1:16-21 on page \_\_\_\_.**

The Bible was written by human authors, but the human authors were guided in their writing by the Holy Spirit. Just think of it, believers have the author of the Bible living inside them, helping them to understand and apply the Bible correctly.

**4. The Holy Spirit prepares hearts to accept Jesus: Read John 16:7-11 on page \_\_\_\_.**

Even before a person decides to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is speaking to their hearts, convicting them and convincing them of their need to be saved. God the Holy Spirit spoke to your heart to help prepare you for salvation. Now, you can pray for friends and loved ones that the Holy Spirit will speak to their hearts as well.

**5. The Holy Spirit indwells believers: Read Titus 3:4-7 on page \_\_\_\_.**

When someone becomes a follower of Jesus, the Bible says that they are washed, regenerated and renewed by the Holy Spirit who was poured out generously on you. The Holy Spirit acts like a personal mentor, leading, guiding, correcting, comforting, and empowering. The Holy Spirit is God in you!

**6. The Holy Spirit indwells the church: Read 1 Corinthians 3:16 on page \_\_\_\_.**

This verse says “you are God’s temple” and that God’s Spirit (the Holy Spirit) “dwells in you.” In this verse “you” means the church. 1 Corinthians 3 is about the church and each use of the word “you” in verse 16 is plural, sort of like “y’all.” Each time you gather with your church (not the building but the people) you are, all together, indwelt by the Holy Spirit who works among us!

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**7. The Holy Spirit directs our praise and attention to Jesus: Read John 16:12-15 on page \_\_\_\_.**

The Holy Spirit supports our relationship with and service to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit does not seek attention for Himself but directs attention to Jesus who is our Savior and Lord. A healthy Christian life does not either under emphasis or over emphasis the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**8. The Holy Spirit assures us that we are truly children of God: Read Romans 8:15-17 on page \_\_\_\_.**

Satan is the great enemy of our souls. If he can't prevent you from becoming a Christian, he will seek to sow doubt in your heart and mind that you are truly saved. The Holy Spirit in you will assure you that you truly are a child of the King. The Holy Spirit in you will cry out in joy and praise to the Father!

**9. The Holy Spirit helps us grow: Read Galatians 5:22 on page \_\_\_\_.**

Not only does the Holy Spirit work in us to develop these character qualities, the Holy Spirit also helps us understand the Bible, worship, and pray. Each day the Holy Spirit comforts, empowers and leads us.

**10. The Holy Spirit can be grieved: Read Ephesians 4:30 on page \_\_\_\_.**

Just as a loving parent can be saddened by the actions of a rebellious child, just so, when a believer lives in such a way that is contrary to the love and truth of Jesus, the Holy Spirit who indwells them can be saddened (grieved). At such times the Holy Spirit will work to convict us of our sin and bring us back to a right relationship with God.

**11. The Holy Spirit gives special abilities: Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 on page \_\_\_\_.**

Verse 7 says "to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for common good". These are special abilities to be used to build the church as well as to help others. Just as children gradually come to learn their abilities, just so believers come to know their spiritual gifts and abilities.

**12. We should always seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit: Read Ephesians 5:18 on page \_\_\_\_.**

The Christian life can be successfully lived only with the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. The verse tells us not to fill ourselves with things that can destroy us, but rather to fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit. This daily, ongoing process of spiritual filling takes place as we evaluate our lives, confess and deal with any sin, and spend time with God in the Bible and prayer. In this way we cleanse ourselves from anything that would grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) and draw close to the Holy Spirit for His empowering and leading in our lives.

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. God created mankind in His image: Read Genesis 1:26-28 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

God created us. He created us as male and female. God created us in His image. That means that just as God is rational, we are rational; God is moral, we are moral; God is social (He, as a Trinity, exists in community with Himself); we are social; God is creative, we are creative; God is spiritual, we are spiritual. Our status as image bearers gives us both a dignity and a responsibility. We are to know and reflect our Creator. We must treat one another as valuable. And we are to care for the rest of creation.

**2. God created Adam and Eve: Read Genesis 2:5-7 and 2:18-25 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Genesis chapter one relates how God created the universe. Genesis chapter 2 relates the story of the creation of the first man and woman in more detail. God breathed life into Adam and formed Eve thus highlighting the value and dignity of mankind. We learn that they had a job to do and thus work is good. We learn that they were made to complement one another in their respective roles, thus completing one another. We learn that the marriage of one man and one woman is a holy gift from God, and that the deepest and best relationships are marked by transparency and acceptance.

**3. God gave Adam and Eve a choice: Read Genesis 2:15-17 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

God loves us and desires that we love Him. Love can't be forced and so God gave Adam and Eve a choice. Adam was commanded not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This gave them a choice to trust and obey or to do it their own way. The tree itself was not the issue, rather, it was an opportunity to love God by trusting and obeying Him.

**4. We were created to glorify God: Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Our highest purpose and joy is found in knowing, loving, serving and rejoicing in God. Anyone, male or female, married or single, rich or poor can find joy in fulfilling this high purpose.

**5. We are both physical and spiritual: Read 2 Corinthians 7:1 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

We have a spirit and a body. Both are valuable. The words soul and spirit are similar but the word soul seems to embrace both our physical and spiritual parts. We are responsible to pursue holiness.

**6. Our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit: Read 2 Corinthians 6:19-20 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Our bodies are not our own. They are a gift from God to be used for His glory and our joy.

**7. We are given one life to live: Read Hebrews 9:27 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

The concept of reincarnation is not found in the Bible. God calls us to live for Him in the one life we are given. When we die we will then stand before God to make account of our life and receive our reward for eternity.

**8. In heaven we will have glorified bodies: Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

After His resurrection Jesus had a glorified body. He walked through walls. He ate but didn't need to. Followers of Jesus will be given such a body for eternity. We will still be us, but better!

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. Inspired by God, Authoritative for Us: Read 2 Peter 1:20-21 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Bible is God's word to us. God inspired people to write the Bible. Although God wrote the Bible through various people at different times, the words of the Bible are God's words, not just their own. God is the ultimate author of the Bible, and because of that, the Bible is our ultimate authority and guide.

**2. Useful in Our Lives: Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Bible is inspired by God; it is "God-breathed." God gave His Word to us for certain purposes: to teach us what we need to know; to point out our mistakes when we sin and go wrong; to correct us and turn us around; and to coach us on living the right way. God uses the Bible to make us complete Christians, people who are equipped to do God's good work.

**3. Pure Truth: Read Psalm 12:6 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

God's words in the Bible are truth, and nothing but truth; there are no errors or mistakes in them. They are precious, and they are pure. This verse compares God's words to "silver refined seven times." In the Bible, the number seven can often represent "completeness" or "perfection." The poetry in this verse tells us that God's words are perfectly pure.

**4. Good for Deep Reflection: Read Psalm 119:11 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Bible, God's Word, is like delicious and nutritious food for our souls! We should cherish and store up God's Word in our hearts. That way we can think about it throughout the day and enjoy it. We can even memorize it! When the Bible's words are stored in our minds, it helps us to avoid sin and do the right thing.

**5. Good for Spiritual Warfare: Read Matthew 4:10 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

When Satan tempted Jesus, Jesus responded by quoting the Bible! There is spiritual power and authority in the Bible's words. Jesus rebuked Satan—he told Satan to go away and stop tempting Him because the Bible says, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." And Satan left Him! If we are committed to obeying God's word, just as Jesus was, we too can use the Bible in the same way.

**6. The Bible Diagnoses Us: Read Hebrews 4:12 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

God speaks to us through the Bible, and the Bible's words are alive with His power. It is a sharp, surgical tool that reaches the depths of our hearts. God's Word shows us who we really are: it reveals our deepest thoughts and motives. Just as a doctor wants what's best for the health of your body, God wants what's best for the health of your soul. The Bible is God's instrument that helps us be honest with ourselves.

**7. The Bible Encourages Us: Read Romans 15:4 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Although God spoke the words of the Bible to specific people in various places and times, God also spoke those words with us in mind. God gave the Bible for our benefit! The Bible encourages us to keep on the right path and gives us hope. God loves us, and the Bible reveals that Christians have a lot to look forward to after death. But our new life has already begun, so God's Word also gives us encouragement and hope right now!

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. Read Matthew 5:48 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read Romans 3:23 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Sin means that our conduct is not as perfect as God's. God's perfect righteousness is His standard for us; when our actions, words, thoughts, attitudes, and motivations fall short of that standard, they are sinful. Everyone has sinned, and the only exception to that rule was Jesus.

**2. Read James 4:17 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Sin is not limited to "the bad things that we do." Sin also includes not doing the good things that God wants us to do.

**3. Read Isaiah 59:2 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Sin breaks our relationship with God. We cannot communicate with God effectively, and we cannot have a relationship with Him, until we deal with the issue of our sin.

**4. Read Romans 5:12 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Adam, the first human being, is the "one man" in this verse who let sin enter the human race. Physical and spiritual death (separation from God) are consequences of our sin. Death has come to the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

**5. Read Ephesians 2:1-2 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Even though we are physically alive, sin makes us spiritually dead until we come to Jesus and deal with our "sin problem." Before we became Christians, we followed the ways of the world around us. The "prince of the power of the air" is Satan; we may not have realized it, but Satan was deceiving us and we were actually following him before we became followers of Jesus. Some of us actively rebelled against God and knew that we didn't want to follow His ways. Before we turned to Jesus, our sinful ways of living showed that we were dead on the inside.

**6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus never sinned; He is "the One who knew no sin" in this verse. For our sakes, God made Jesus take our place, and when Jesus was crucified, God treated Him as if He were all our sin. In an incredible exchange, God treats us as if we were all of the righteousness that is in Jesus! We deal with our "sin problem" when we ask God to apply Jesus' payment for sin to our case.

**7. Read 1 John 1:8-9 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

If we ever think that we don't have any sin, we are kidding ourselves. As Christians, we are in the process of dealing with whatever sin remains in us. If we confess our sins to God—tell God about them so that we can turn away from them—God will forgive us and work in our lives to make us clean. God is faithful—He loves us! And God is also just and fair—He will not let Jesus' payment for our sins go to waste!

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. Read Psalm 103:20 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Angels are spiritual beings, God's special agents who carry out His word. They obey God's will completely and perfectly. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "May Your Kingdom come: may Your will be done on earth just like it is done in heaven." In other words, one of our prayer requests is to carry out God's plans as perfectly as the heavenly angels do.

**2. Read Hebrews 1:13-14 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read Revelation 19:10 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Hebrews 1:13 quotes Psalm 110, which is a prophecy about Jesus. Jesus our Lord is higher than all the angels, and angels are ministering spirits who serve God for our sake! We are not to worship angels, only God. In the book of Revelation, the angel who shows John around some of the visions describes himself as a "fellow servant with you and all those who are witnesses for Jesus."

**3. Read Isaiah 6:1-3 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

In a vision of God enthroned in His glory, Isaiah saw angels who are called "seraphim." The Bible does not say that all angels have wings, but these particular angels are described this way. The seraphim are angels who praise and worship God, proclaiming His utter holiness. They cover themselves before the majesty of God's presence. These angels are an example for us in our worship.

**4. Read Luke 2:8-14 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Angels serve God in many ways, and they often communicate God's messages to people. Many times their appearance radiates God's glory, and the first thing an angel needs to say to a person is, "Don't be afraid!" In this passage, an angel announces Jesus' birth to a group of shepherds. Then a whole host of angels appears and praises God for giving us a Savior.

**5. Read 1 Corinthians 6:3 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Some people think, incorrectly, that people become angels after they die. The Bible doesn't teach that, but it does teach that Christians will judge angels! The apostle Paul mentions this briefly in 1 Corinthians 6:3 without giving any details. Since Christians will judge angelic beings one day, that means we can't become angels ourselves. Even though we won't become angels after we die, our position of being united to Jesus Christ is so high that we won't miss out on anything!

**6. Read Matthew 24:30-31 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

At the end of the age, the angels have a special ministry. Jesus will return, and those who believe in Him will be raptured and resurrected. God's angels will gather this group together and unite them to be with Jesus.

**7. Read Luke 15:10 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Whenever a person repents and becomes a Christian, the angels rejoice over it!

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. Read Ezekiel 28:13-16 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

These verses are part of a difficult passage of prophecy, but they give us some information about Satan's origins. Satan is a created being (verse 13); he is NOT the exact opposite of God, and he is not equal with God in any way! God created Satan as an angel; he was originally perfect and beautiful, and he had intimate fellowship with God. The passage does not say what Satan's initial sin was. But once Satan was found to be unrighteous, he was cast out of God's presence and friendship and he became the leader of the demons.

**2. Read Revelation 12:9-10 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Bible refers to Satan by several names: "the devil," "Satan," "the dragon," "the serpent." The word "Satan" means "enemy" or "adversary." When Satan turned against God, some angels followed him in that rebellion, and Satan and his angels became the demons. (Revelation 12:4) Satan accuses Christians before God of sinful actions and motives; but one day God will kick Satan out of heaven's courtroom and He will refuse to listen to Satan any longer.

**3. Read Genesis 3:13 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read John 8:44 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Satan and his demons are liars and deceivers. They will tell you lies to make you doubt the truth about God and His Word. Satan lies and deceives in order to tempt people into sin.

**4. Read Job 1:6-12 on page \_\_\_\_\_. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Satan needed God's permission to attack Job! Sometimes Satan and his demons discourage, harass, or persecute Christians and churches; but nothing that happens to us falls outside of God's control. When we are tempted or tested, 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that God is not testing us to break us. God will provide a way out so that we can stand up under the temptation. Seek God and rely on His strength when you are tempted or tested; you will be strengthened and you will gain victory!

**5. Read 2 Corinthians 11:14 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Satan is a deceiver. He used to be an angel of light, and he can still pretend to be one! Books about people's encounters with angels, or visions and prophecies supposedly received from angels, are very popular in some circles. Many of these books actually come from demons; be skeptical about these stories. All the spiritual truth you need to know is in the Bible.

**6. Read 2 Corinthians 2:11 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Know your enemy! It is important to know Satan's tactics and be prepared for them. One tactic is to stir up divisions and factions in a church congregation, such as through gossip or lack of forgiveness.

**7. Read 1 John 4:4 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

The One who is in us—the Holy Spirit—is greater than the one who is in the world—Satan. Every Christian has the Holy Spirit living within them; Satan has no power that can match that! Because of the Spirit's presence and because of Jesus' finished work on the cross, we are already overcomers and victors! If we learn truth from God's Word and depend on God for the victory, we will win!

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. Heaven is real. Read John 14:1-3 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and Revelation 21:10-16 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus assured His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them, and that promise applies to us as believers in Him as well. In the Revelation passage, we see some measurements of the New Jerusalem, part of Heaven – a real place and a real big place – 1500 miles long, wide and high; this is about the same distance as from San Diego to Houston!

**2. In Heaven there will be no more sadness. Read Revelation 21:1-5 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and Isaiah 25:6-9 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

These passages note that God will wipe away all tears, and there will be no more pain or death. In the Isaiah passage, it also tells of a lavish banquet – a party prepared by God for us. We will not miss what we have here, because there will be so much more in Heaven.

**3. God will be with us in Heaven. Read Revelation 21:22-23 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

This was seen in the previous passages, but here it also tells us that there will be no temple because God Himself will be with us, and that His glory will be the light for all of Heaven, and it will never go out.

**4. Heaven is forever. Read Matthew 6:19-21 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and Isaiah 65:17-19 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Here again, we see that there is no sadness in Heaven, and we also see that there is no sin, and no decay. Things in Heaven are made to last.

**5. Heaven was God's plan from the beginning. Read Matthew 25:32-36 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Heaven, like Jesus' death and resurrection, is not God's plan B, it has been prepared from the beginning. We also see in this passage that not everyone goes to Heaven.

**6. Heaven will be amazing. Read Revelation 22:1-5 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

We don't know exactly what Heaven will be like, but we have a bit of a description here. We do know that it will be amazing. Here we see that there will be 12 different kinds of fruit from the same tree, one kind each month. There will be a lot of things that are different in Heaven, some the same.

**7. There will be all kinds of people in Heaven. Read Revelation 7:9 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Here we read that there will be people from all nations, tribes and languages in Heaven. This is amazing to think about since there will be peace and harmony in Heaven – will we all speak one language? How will we recognize one another? There are a lot of questions that remain, and it will be amazing to find out the answers when we get there!

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. Hell is real. Read Matthew 10:28 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and Matthew 5:22, 29-30 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Just as Heaven is a real place, so is hell. These are just two passages of many where Jesus talks about hell.

**2. Hell is forever. Read Matthew 25:46 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and Revelation 20:10 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

These passages show us that the torment of hell goes on forever.

**3. Hell was not meant for people. Read Matthew 25:40-41 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Here we see that God made hell as a place to punish the devil and his angels. It was made for them, not for people, but those who choose not to accept Jesus will end up in hell.

**4. God does not want anyone to go to hell. Read 2 Peter 3:9 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

God wants everyone to be in Heaven with Him, but sin separates us from Him and when people reject His provision for sin, justice must be served.

**5. Many people will go to hell. Read Matthew 7:13-14 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and Matthew 13:41-42, 49-50 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

While some like to say that all roads lead to Heaven, the Bible is clear that there is only one way – Jesus, and not all will follow Him.

**6. There are degrees of hell. Read Matthew 11:20-24 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and Hebrews 10:29 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Just as there are degrees of punishment for crimes here on Earth, there are degrees of punishment in hell. Some sins are worse than others and deserve greater punishment. We see this in the law God gave to Israel (Exodus 21-23, for example), and these New Testament passages indicate that the same is true about hell.

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. Salvation is through Jesus alone. Read John 10:9 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and John 14:6 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Though the world may tell you that there are many roads to heaven, the Bible is clear that there is only one, and that is Jesus. It is through Jesus' death on the cross that we are forgiven and freed from the penalty for sin.

**2. Salvation is by faith alone. Read John 3:16 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and Acts 16:31 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus completed the work needed for our salvation; there is nothing more we can do. We need only to believe in Him and accept the work He did on our behalf. This faith (belief) is more than a simple factual belief (that Jesus died for us); it is a trust and confidence in the power of God to save us.

**3. Salvation is by grace alone. Read Ephesians 2:8-9 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

There is nothing we can add to what Jesus did; if there were, then we would be earning salvation rather than it being a gift. We do not deserve to be saved – that is the whole point of the Gospel – God loved us first, before we could even think of loving Him, and He sent His Son, Jesus, to die so that we don't have to.

**4. Salvation is a one-time event. Read Hebrews 10:11-14 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

When Jesus died on the cross, His death paid for all of our sins: past, present and future. We do not need to get saved again every time we sin; as Jesus said on the cross, "It is finished." This is the equivalent of receiving the pink slip for your car in the mail once you have made the last payment – it is finished, you stop paying the bank for your car because it is now really yours. In the same way, on the cross, Jesus paid the whole price for your salvation and, when you receive it, it is really yours – forever. Christians call this justification.

**5. Salvation is an ongoing process. Read Ephesians 2:10 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and Philippians 2:12-13 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Even though our sins are paid for, and we cannot add to it, or pay God back by doing good works, part of salvation is renewing our minds and becoming more like Jesus by doing good works. It is not that these works save us, but that we do them because we love God and because we are grateful for what He has done for us. We also do good works because it is God's will for us, and as a witness to others of who God is.

**6. Salvation gives us hope for the future. Read John 14:1-3 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

We don't know exactly what heaven will be like, but we do know that, as a result of accepting Jesus' sacrifice for us, we will be with Him in heaven forever. We also know that it will be amazing, a time to enjoy everything God has planned for us, without sin messing things up.

**7. Salvation is permanent. Read John 10:27-29 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Just as there is nothing that we can do to add to our salvation, there is nothing we can do to take away from it or to lose it. If we are truly saved, no one, not even ourselves, is able to take us out of God's hands.

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. Read Matthew 16:13-20 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Who is Jesus? He is “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” What did Jesus come to do? Jesus came to build His church. In the Bible the word “church” never refers to a building, but to any group of people who gather regularly to love, obey, follow and serve Jesus! Followers of Jesus commit themselves to helping Jesus build His church. Satan hates the church and fights against it, but Jesus will win!

**2. Read John 17:11 and John 17:20-21 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Church is not a place you visit but a community where you belong! God Himself is a community: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit make up an eternal community among themselves. God desires that His children (believers) be a community together with each other and also with Him. In this way we can enjoy and display love, truth, service, joy and many other characteristics of God.

**3. Read Acts 2:42-47 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

For many centuries the primary community God used to make an impact in the world was the Jewish nation. But after Jesus returned to heaven God expanded His community to include any follower of Jesus. He called His new community “the church.” From the beginning the church was filled with God’s powerful presence. Qualities of a God-filled church include devotion (verse 42), power (verse 43), care (verse 44), connection (verse 46), joy (verse 46), and growth (verse 47).

**4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

This verse is one of many passages where the Bible speaks of a particular group of believers who meet in a particular location. In one sense God’s church is composed of ALL believers of ALL time, EVERYWHERE! We call this the Universal Church. This “everywhere” church is made up of thousands of groups of believers all over the world who meet together in what we call “local” churches.

**5. Read Ephesians 3:10 and Ephesians 3:20-21 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

No matter how large or small, rich or poor, influential or unknown, your church is a tool in the hand of God to reach out with the gospel, to mature believers and care for people. Your church has significance far beyond what we can see. A godly church honors God!

**6. Read Ephesians 4:11-16 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Church leaders are to equip every believer to identify and develop what they each can do best for the Lord. In addition we are all to speak the truth in love! We are to grow ever more and more to look like Jesus. We are to display the love of Jesus. In this way we will truly honor God and the church can grow in every way.

**7. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-15 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Churches are to be led by qualified individuals who care for and guide the church. The two primary leadership roles in a church are that of elder (men who give overall direction and oversight) and deacons, men and women who help lead the service ministries of the church. These leaders help each local church fulfill its role as “the pillar and support of the truth.”

***.Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***

**1. Read Genesis 3:15 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

When Adam and Eve sinned against God, they had to leave the garden of Eden, but all was not lost. God gave a promise that one day Satan would be crushed, and all would be well. The first part of the Bible (the Old Testament) reveals God's plan to bring a Savior who will one day make all well.

**2. Read John 14:1-3 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Throughout His ministry Jesus gave us many wonderful promises. One of the greatest promises is that He is preparing a place for us in heaven and one day will return. One way or another, whether through death or at His return, believers will be with Him forever.

**3. Read Matthew 24:3-14 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

In this passage the disciples displayed an understandable interest in the timing of God's plan to return and make all things well. Jesus refocused their attention on the responsibility they (and we today) share in that plan. We are to stay faithful to Jesus (verses 3-5), stay calm (verses 6-8), be willing to suffer for His name (verses 9-13), continue to preach the good news of Jesus until He comes (verse 14).

**4. Read Acts 1:6-11 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

The angels promised that Jesus would return in the same way as He left. Sincere believers differ regarding some of the details of the Lord's return. But all agree that we are to remain faithful to Jesus while we wait and tell others about Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**5. Read 2 Peter 3:1-13 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

Although nearly 2000 years have passed since Jesus left, His promise still stands. He will return! While we await His return, we should live in such a way as to be ready to meet Him.

**6. Read Matthew 24:15-22 on page \_\_\_\_\_ and 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

The next major step in God's plan to make all things right will be a difficult time called the tribulation. This will be a seven-year period when God uses pain to get the attention of mankind. This time period is described in Revelation chapters 4 to 19.

**7. Read Revelation 20:1-3 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

The next major step in God's plan is called the Millennium. For 1,000 years we will participate with Jesus as He rules the earth as it was originally intended. There will be peace and joy.

**8. Read Revelation 20:11-15**

Just before God finally makes all eternally well, He will judge everyone. Those whose names are not in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire.

**9. Read Revelation 21:1-8 on page \_\_\_\_\_.**

One often hears about heaven, but God has promised not only a new heaven but a new, remade earth. God will remake everything. Those who have loved Him will go to live with Him.

***Was anything in this material new to you? What encouraged you? What challenged you?***