

What Would You Sell?



“...they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need” (Acts 2:45).

What do you possess that you would be willing to sell to help a church member pay for medical care? What do you possess that you would not sell to help a church member buy groceries?

Instructions: *In the appropriate columns, list items you own that you would be willing to sell to meet the needs of a church member and those you wouldn't be willing to sell for that purpose.*

Sell

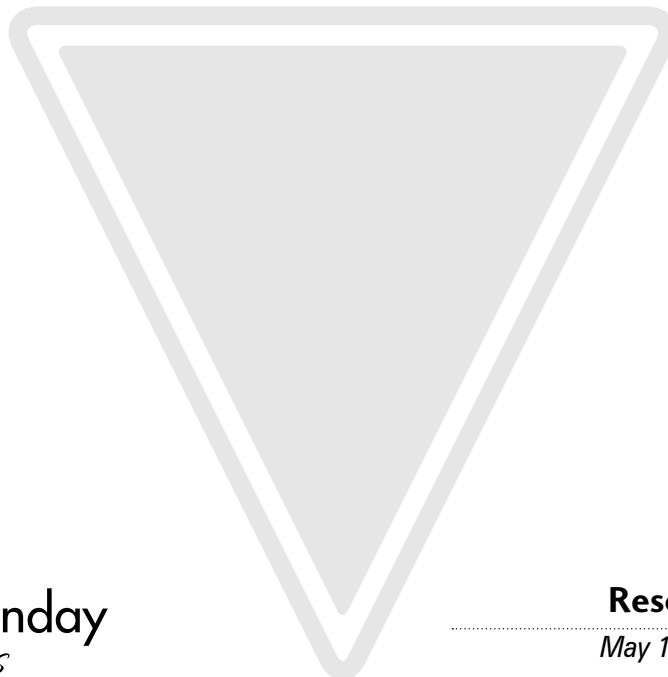
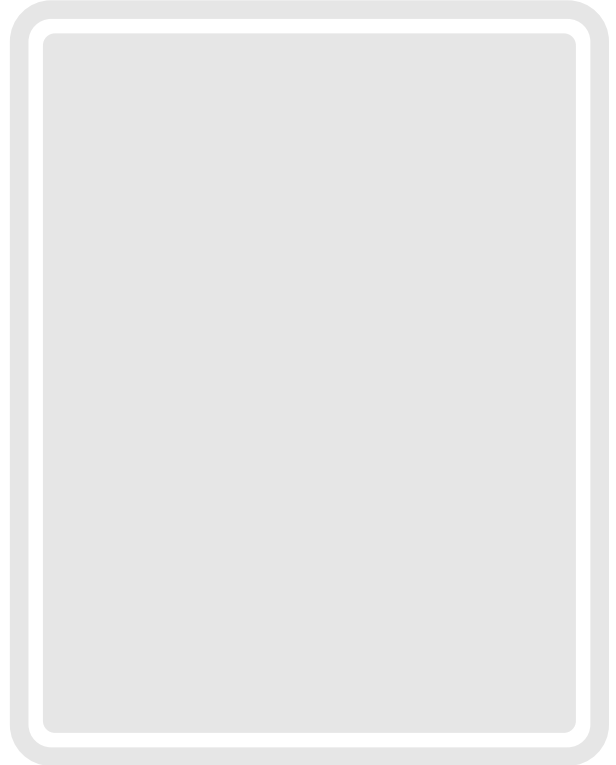
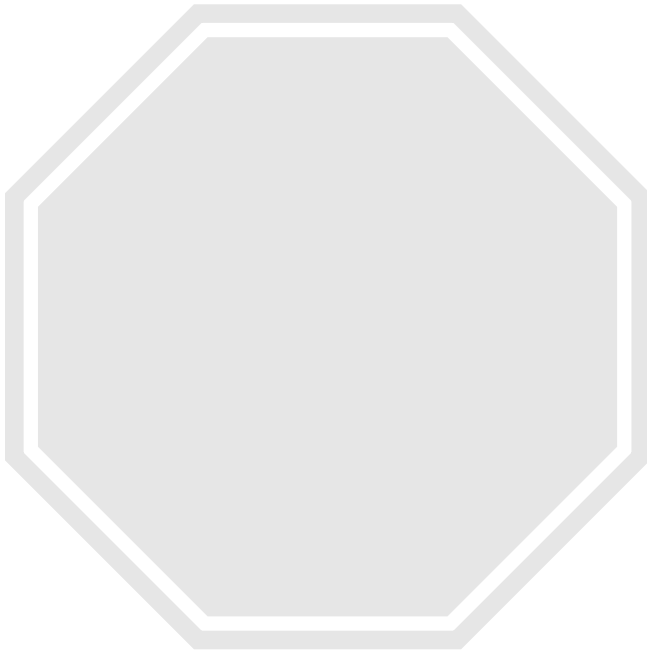
Keep

Signs of God's Faithfulness



“The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did...” (Acts 8:6).

Instructions: Recall times when a sign from God has strengthened your faith. Draw or describe those experiences in the sign shapes below.



American Idols



Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way” (Acts 17:22).

Broadly speaking, we all possess time, talent, and treasure. We may not have them in the same quantity, but we all have them. How we use them can indicate what we worship.

Instructions: How have you used your time, talent, and treasure over the past week? Try to remember at least one way you used them on each day of the week. Then answer the three questions at the bottom of the page.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

1. How has your use of your time, talent, and treasure deepened your connection to God?
2. How has your use of your time, talent, and treasure helped you bear effective witness to who God is?
3. How might you need to rethink the ways you use your time, talent, and treasure?

Stand By Me



In our lesson text, two men dressed in white robes ask the disciples why they are looking up at the sky. Their question helps the disciples move forward after Jesus' departure. There are times in our lives when we need help to process events, grieve losses, and move forward. When have you stood by someone at such a time? When has someone stood by you in such a time?

Use the table below to name such experiences in your life.

Me standing by a friend.

A friend standing by me.



What Is My Gift?



Instructions: Reflect on and answer the following questions.

1. What needs in the church or the community stir you to get involved?
2. Think back on times and places you have served. What areas brought you joy? What activities left you feeling energized?
3. Has there ever been a time of service when you were particularly aware of God's presence and power working in you? What were you doing? What happened?
4. How can you help encourage, strengthen, serve, or teach the other members of our congregation?
5. What gifts and abilities do other people recognize in you?
6. What do your answers to the above questions have in common? How can they help you identify your spiritual gift(s)?

Personal Covenant



This worksheet is a tool you can use to prayerfully reflect on your life and identify areas where you need to grow. Set aside an hour to read a few of the passages listed for each topic area. As you consider each topic, ask God to reveal to you where you are living faithfully and areas where you need to grow in your faithfulness. Ask God to help you identify one or two goals to work toward over the next month. Create a plan to help you achieve these goals.

My relationship with God

Matthew 22:37; 1 Peter 3:15; Psalm 119:10-11; Matthew 6:9-13

My relationship with my loved ones

Matthew 22:39; Matthew 6:14-15; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:14-15

My work life

Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:23-24; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; Genesis 2:15; Deuteronomy 25:13; Psalm 112:5

My finances

1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Matthew 6:24; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 23:23; 1 Timothy 6:10; Proverbs 30:7-9

My health

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; James 5:13-15

My rest

Exodus 20:8; Matthew 12:1-8; Matthew 11:28; Matthew 11:29; Hebrews 4:1, 9-11; 1 John 3:19

The goals I feel God wants me to work toward over the next month are:

- (1)
- (2)

I will reach these goals by:

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)

My Letter of Hope



Dear _____,

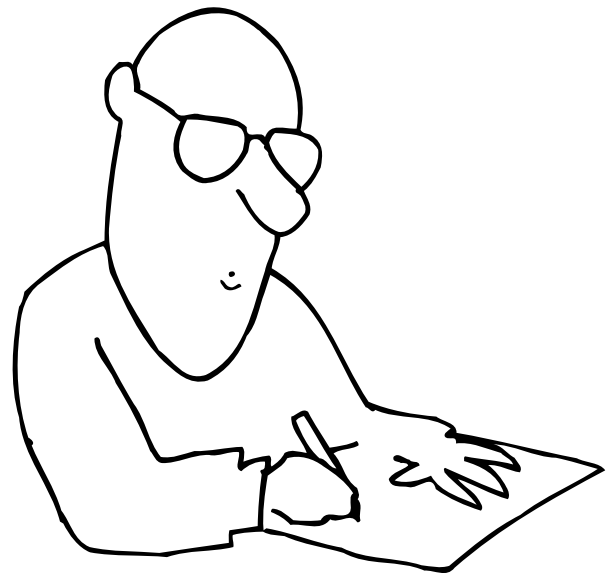
I know you sometimes get discouraged. Sometimes you may even start to lose hope.

But based on my study of Romans 5:1-11, I know you can have hope. I know this because those verses teach us to remember the following things that will help us maintain hope in the Lord:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

I hope that you will always hope in the Lord, no matter what comes your way!

In Christ,



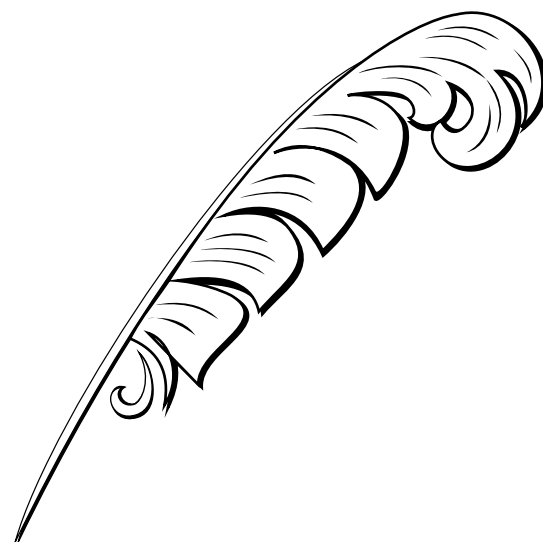
Death, be not proud



Death, be not proud (Holy Sonnet 10)

—John Donne (1572–1631)

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou are not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.



+++++

My poem, paragraph, or picture:

Free to Serve



Answer the following questions:

1. In what area of your life do you need to grow in righteousness?
2. What strategy will you use to help you grow in obedience?
3. How will growing in righteousness and obedience make you freer?

+++++

Responsive Prayer of Commitment

Leader: For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

All: Lord, you have set us free.

Leader: You, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

All: Lord, you have set us free.

Leader: Present yourselves as slaves to righteousness.

All: Lord, you have set us free.

Leader: Live as those who have been brought from death to life.

All: Lord, you have set us free.

Leader: Use your freedom to serve and to love one another.

All: Lord, you have set us free.

Rest for the Weary



Instructions: Read Matthew 12:1-14. These verses immediately follow Jesus' invitation to find rest by taking on his easy yoke and light burden (11:28-30). Group One will identify ways Jesus offers rest to the hungry and sick in the text and in our time. Group Two will identify ways Jesus offers rest to the guardians of morality in the text and in our time. Both groups will discuss and answer the question at the bottom of the page.

Rest for the Hungry and Sick
(Group One)

Rest for the Guardians of Morality
(Group Two)

How can the church continue to make Jesus' offer available, both to those who have physical needs and to those who have spiritual needs? How can we help people find relief from conditions that oppress them physically and spiritually?

Spreading the Good News



We are to continue Jesus' work of spreading the good news of the kingdom of God. What kinds of "seeds" should we sow if people are to know that the news we are spreading is actually good?

Instructions: List ways that we can spread the good news. Offer a brief explanation of how each way communicates good news.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



A Name, a Blessing, and a Wound



Instructions: Consider your life. Especially consider your relationships with yourself, with other people, and with God. Think about mistakes you've made along the way. Ponder the ways you have experienced God's grace. Imagine that you have an experience with God similar to the one Jacob had. (It doesn't have to be a wrestling match. It can be any kind of experience that you know is an encounter with God.) Then answer the following questions.

1. What name might God give you? What would that name mean? What expectations would the name place upon you?

2. What blessing might God give you? How would you know it is a blessing? What expectations would the blessing place upon you?

3. What wound might God give you? How would you know it is a wound given by God? What expectations would the wound place upon you?

Lessons Learned in a Pit

Instructions: *Imagine that the difficult, challenging, or low points in your life are like a pit. With that image in mind, answer the following questions.*

1. When have you found yourself in a pit?
2. What led to your being in a pit?
3. How did you get out of the pit?
4. What lessons did you learn from your experience in the pit?
5. How did your experience in the pit prepare you for the next pit?



Giving and Receiving Forgiveness

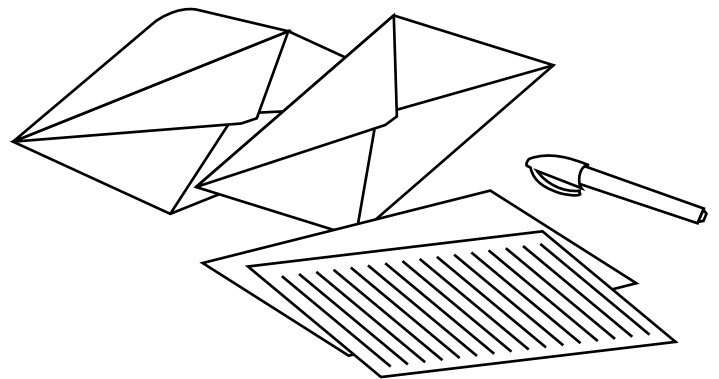


Instructions: Without using any names, write a letter beginning with the words “I am sorry” to someone who needs to hear that from you. Then write a letter beginning with “I forgive you” to someone you need to forgive. Finally, write a brief prayer for grace to offer and to receive forgiveness.

Letter Seeking Forgiveness

Letter Offering Forgiveness

Prayer for Grace to Offer and to Receive Forgiveness



God Works Through the People

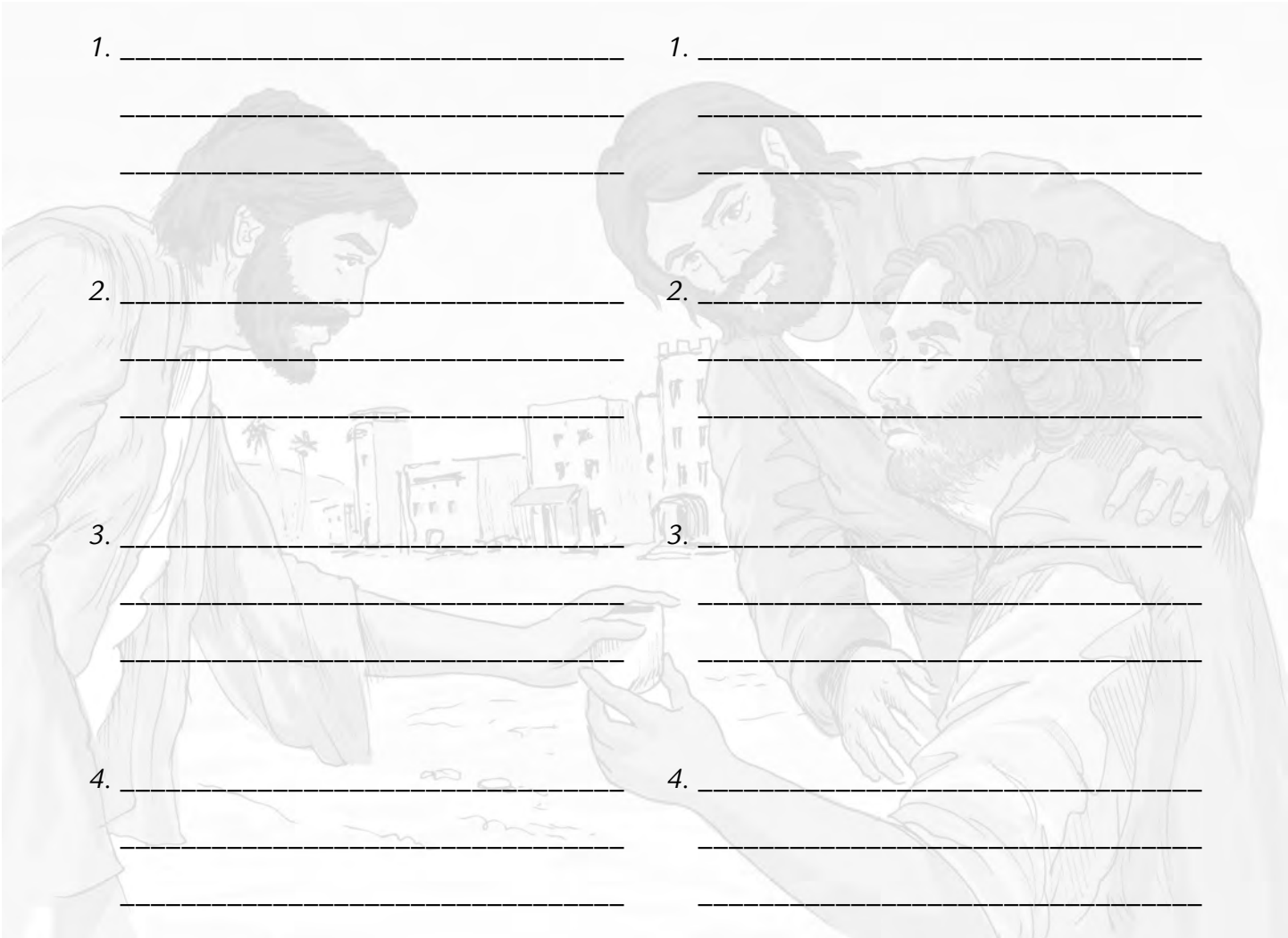


Part One

Instructions: Make a list of people you know who play or have played a vital role in God's purposes. Beside each name, write a phrase describing how she or he played that role.

Part Two

Instructions: List lessons you are learning or have learned from these people's lives about how you can live out God's grace in your life, whether or not you are consciously aware of it.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

5. _____
