

BAPTISTWAY PRESS
Dallas, Texas
baptistwaypress.org

**Adult
Bible Study
in
Simplified
English**

**Study
Guide**



Living Faith in Daily Life

Marcia Miller

Adult Bible Study in Simplified English Study Guide

Living Faith in Daily Life

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First edition: May 2010

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Introduction

Living Faith in Daily Life

Sunday is a special day. It is not like the other days of the week. On Sunday we go to church. We pray and sing songs to honor God. We study the Bible and enjoy being with our church family.

Then we go home. We feel good about our time at church. We have been to God’s house. We have been with people who love God. We have felt God’s presence in our lives. We feel good about ourselves. We have done the right thing.

Then comes Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday follow. There are six days until the next Sunday. Will we think of God during those days? Will we talk with Him each day? Will our lives show others that we love God?

During this Bible study we will talk about living a life of faith. We will think about God watching over us everyday. We will learn to live by God’s rules. We will find ways to let God lead our lives.

These Bible lessons are to comfort us. They should remind us that God is always near. They should remind us that we must answer for our actions. God is always with us. We must do our best in all things. We must be all that we can be. This is only possible when God is a part of our lives.

We are to live our faith in our daily lives. This is the right thing to do.

Lesson 1	Knowing God in Daily Life	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Proverbs 3:5-6
Lesson 2	Using Work Skills	Exodus 35:30-35; Proverbs 6:6-11; Colossians 3:23-34; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13
Lesson 3	Resting Is Not a Choice	Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 127:1-2; Mark 6:30-32
Lesson 4	Enjoying God’s Gift of Life	Psalm 16:7-11; Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; Luke 7:31-35
Lesson 5	Reaching Out to Others	2 Kings 7:3-9, 16; Nehemiah 2:17-18, 4:6; Luke 10:30-37
Lesson 6	Welcoming Strangers into Our Lives	Deuteronomy 10:17-19; Matthew 25:34-40; Luke 14:12-14; Hebrews 13:1-2
Lesson 7	Forgiving Others	Matthew 6:12, 14-15, 18:21-35; Colossians 3:12-14
Lesson 8	Spending Money Wisely	Luke 12:15-31; 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19
Lesson 9	Doing the Right Thing at Work	Proverbs 11:1; Micah 2:1-3, 6:8-15
Lesson 10	Keeping Wedding Promises	Genesis 2:18-25; Hebrews 13:4
Lesson 11	Leading Children to God	Psalm 128; Matthew 19:13-15; Ephesians 6:1-4
Lesson 12	Being Sick and Getting Well	Psalm 116; Luke 4:38-40; James 5:13-16
Lesson 13	Hope in Dying	John 11:17-26; Romans 8:38-39; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Living Faith in Daily Life

Word List

Lesson 1

meditation: being deep in thought about something

missionary: a person who tells others about Jesus.

psalm: a religious song; a hymn of praise to God

understanding: the meaning of what you know; the way that knowledge applies to your daily life

unique: not like anyone or anything else; one of a kind

Lesson 2

skills: learned abilities

talents: natural abilities

Lesson 3

honor: respect

Lesson 4

basic: the things that are necessary to help us stay alive

demon: a bad spirit

happiness: joy

harsh: hard or severe

secure: safe

Lesson 5

destiny: for the Christian, God's plan; for the non-Christian, fate

captives: prisoners captured in war

Lesson 6

charity: helping those in need

hospitality: a friendly welcome

stranger: someone you do not know

Lesson 7

forgive: to excuse an act wrongly done to you

mercy: favor that is not deserved; for example, forgiveness

pardon: to refuse to punish someone for a bad act

repent: to say “I am sorry” and stop doing wrong

revenge: paying someone back evil for evil; getting even; harming a person because they harmed someone

Lesson 8

consumer: a person who buys thing or uses services

greed: the desire to have more, much more than you already have

tithe: to give a portion of your income as an offering to God

Lesson 9

holiness: perfect goodness; the state of being without sin; righteousness

humble: not being proud or prideful

morally responsible: being required to ensure that something happens; a duty

stray: to go away from a set course; for the Christian, to look away from God, or to sin

Word List

Lesson 10

companion: a faithful friend, a person who stays with you

purity: faithfulness in marriage

spouse: partner in life; husband or wife

vows: an oath a person makes to another; a promise

Lesson 11

parenting: the act of being a parent; raising children

role model: a person who teaches through their actions, as well as words

Lesson 12

eternity: time without end; forever

Lesson 13

rapture: the gathering of Christians at the time of the Jesus' return

Second Coming: the time when Jesus returns to earth to take Christians to heaven

temporary: something that is not permanent



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Psalms 139:1-12,
23-24; Proverbs 3:5-6

Memory Verse

“Trust in the Lord
with all your heart,
and do not trust in
your own
understanding.”
(Proverbs 3:5)

Word List

meditation: being
deep in thought about
something

missionary: a person
who tells others about
Jesus.

psalm: a religious
song; a hymn of praise
to God

understanding: the
meaning of what you
know; the way that
knowledge applies to
your daily life

unique: not like
anyone or anything
else; one of a kind

Knowing God in Daily Life

Bill Wallace (1908-1951) was a medical doctor. He knew God wanted him to be a medical **missionary**. The International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) chose him to go to China. He never doubted that this was God’s plan for his life.

Dr. Wallace ministered in a hospital in Wuchow. He spent 15 years healing the sick. While he helped the sick, Dr. Wallace told people about Jesus.

A war began while Dr. Wallace was in China. People urged him to leave the country. People feared for his safety. Dr. Wallace knew God wanted him to stay.

There were times when Dr. Wallace would perform surgery. He could hear bombs exploding outside. Still he stayed. He trusted God. This was where God wanted Dr. Wallace to be. He obeyed God.

The Chinese loved Dr. Wallace. One Christian said, “He lived before us the life of Christ.”

Dr. Wallace kept working in China. The Communist Army came. They took him away. The army tortured him. He died a painful death. Bill Wallace suffered in his final days. He continued to live daily for God.

Marcia Miller wrote the study guide for Living Faith in Daily Life. She is a graduate of the University of Texas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Marcia started doing missions as a young Girls’ Auxiliary member at her home church, First Baptist Church, Dallas. She has served as a volunteer missionary in Canada and the United States. She has worked as a Service Corps Volunteer with the International Mission Board in Southeast Asia (Malaysia and Singapore) and in the Caribbean Christian Publications office, where she wrote and edited Sunday School lessons for young children and their teachers.

**Things to
Think About**

1. In what ways can you find God in your daily life?
2. How can you become more aware of God's presence in His world?
3. What can you do to help others see God working in their daily living?

Dr. Wallace could have stayed in the United States. He could have been rich. He could have had a comfortable life. He could have helped people in the United States. Instead Bill Wallace went to China. Dr. Wallace chose to follow God's plan for his life. He trusted God. He obeyed God.

The Power of God (Psalm 139:1-12)

This **psalm** is a clear statement about God's identity. It answers two important questions: Who is God? How can I come to know God? The writer of this psalm was thinking about these questions when he wrote these words. He was thinking deeply about God's character. Thinking deeply about something is sometimes called **meditation**.

In today's world, meditation is a search for inner peace. It is a focus on self. Many people meditate in this way. Their attitude seems to be this: It is all about me.

For the Christian, meditation is simply time spent with God. It is a person talking with God. A Christian asks God for things he needs. This is a person who listens to God. He seeks God's advice. A Christian focuses on God. This focus allows God to speak. This focus is needed in order to hear Him.

The psalmist thought about how God created every person on earth. God makes people in His image. Each person is **unique**. Every person is one of a kind. There is no one on earth like you. We are all different. We are His special creation.

We look around us. We see some people are short. We see some tall people. Some people have brown eyes. Others have blue eyes. This shows us that God is interested in each person.

He carefully created each of us so that none are the same.

God knew who we would be before we were born. He knows us better than we know ourselves. The Bible says God knows how many hairs are on our heads.

God promises that He is always present in the world. He loves each of us in a very personal way. God knows how to love us. As a parent loves each child, God loves us. A parent knows each child has different needs. God knows our needs.

God's love is great. It is difficult to understand. How is such love possible? God's love is so great that He gave His only Son to the world. God's Son, Jesus, died so that people could live.

Wherever we go, we can remember that we are not alone. God is with us. We are never beyond God's reach.

I Will Pray (Psalm 139:23-24)

God knows our names. He knows everything about us. Others may know our name. They may know our age. They may know where we live or shop. They will never know all there is to know about us.

God knows everything about us. He

knows the good things we have done. He knows the bad things we have done. He loves us anyway. He loves us the way we are. He created each of us. He knows our secret thoughts. Only God can see souls.

A Christian talks to God daily. He listens to God daily. He wants to do the right thing. He tries to live a God-led life.

This kind of prayer is greatly needed in the world today. As we pray, God shows us how He wants us to live.

I Will Trust God (Proverbs 3:5-6)

It is clear that we should trust God. We should trust Him with all that we are. We trust Him to lead us through life. We show our trust in Him when we pray. We trust Him to answer our prayers.

We must trust God's answer. It might not be the answer we want. We trust that God knows what is best for us. We trust that He wants the best things for us.

A Christian must agree with God's will and follow Him. We cannot believe that God should follow us. If God followed people, He would not be God! We must follow God's path and trust Him everyday. This is right living that honors God.

Psalm 139:1-12

1 O Lord, You have looked through me and have known me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I get up. You understand my thoughts from far away.

3 You look over my path and my lying down. You know all my ways very well.

4 Even before I speak a word, O Lord, You know it all.

5 You have closed me in from behind and in front. And You have laid Your hand upon me.

6 All You know is too great for me. It is too much for me to understand.

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I run away from where You are?

8 If I go up to heaven, You are there! If I make my bed in the place of the dead, You are there!

9 If I take the wings of the morning or live in the farthest part of the sea,

10 even there Your hand will lead me and Your right hand will hold me.

11 If I say, "For sure the darkness will cover me and the light around me will be night,"

12 even the darkness is not dark to You. And the night is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are the same to You.

Psalm 139:23-24

23 Look into me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts.

24 See if there is any sinful way in me and lead me in the way that lasts forever.

Proverbs 3:5-6

4 So you will find favor and good understanding in the eyes of God and man.

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not trust in your own understanding.

6 Agree with Him in all your ways, and He will make your paths straight.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Exodus 35:30-35;
Proverbs 6:6-11;
Colossians 3:23-24;
2 Thessalonians 3:10-13

Memory Verse

“Whatever work you do, do it with all your heart. Do it for the Lord and not for men.” (Colossians 3:23)

Word List

skills: learned abilities

talents: natural abilities

Using Work Skills

Here is some good advice: Find the thing you most enjoy doing. Find a way to make money by doing that thing. This advice can lead you to find your life’s work.

James wanted to be an actor. He was talented. He took acting classes. But James had bills to pay. He wanted to eat. To make money, he became a cook in a local café. It was there that James found his life’s true calling. James went to school to learn to be a chef. He became one of the top pastry chefs in his hometown.

James had not planned to be a chef. He did not know the joy he would find in the kitchen. He found what he loved doing. He found a way to make money by doing what he loved.

James is happy with his life. He is happy because he is doing what he loves to do. James is an example of this saying: Happy is the person who has found his cause.

God Gives Everyone Gifts (Exodus 30:30-35)

Some people have many **talents**. It seems that they can do anything. It seems that every task comes easy for them. Give them a job. They will find a way to get it done.

There are also those who work hard. Everything is difficult for them. Their work is only good enough. They are not the best people at their workplace. They work hard. They do not often receive rewards or recognition for their work..

Some people are in full-time church work. They speak of being *called* to their position. God also calls people to jobs that

**Things to
Think About**

1. What are some of your work skills?
2. How are you using your talents for God?
3. Have you found a way to make money doing something you enjoy doing?

are not in full-time church work.

God gives every person the ability to learn work **skills**. We must find the best job for us to do.

God Tells Us We Should Use Our Gifts (Proverbs 6:6-11)

Think about the ant. To most people ants are nothing but pests. Ants can ruin the best of picnics. They can ruin a bag of sugar. They can damage a house by eating the wood. Some people say that Noah should not have allowed ants on the ark!

We do not think of ants as our friends. In Proverbs we read that we can learn from ants. This is God's lesson for us.

Ants work hard. They work to gather food. This is their job on earth. Their work is to prepare food for the future. In the summer the ants gather their food. They save their food for the winter.

Ants are wise. People should learn from ants. People should work. People should prepare for the future. People should work to meet their needs.

God provides the ability to work. People work. God provides the job. People use their skills to do their job. Jobs provide people with money to buy what they need. Work is a divine relationship between God and man.

God Tells Us How to Use Our Gifts (Colossians 3:23-24)

Our job should not determine who we are. How we do our job shows what kind of people we are. Whatever job we have should be done with all our hearts.

God gives every person a special task to do in life. We

should find the job God wants us to do. We should discover our calling. We should use our talents to praise God. We should use our gifts to honor God.

Our calling is to follow Jesus. Our work should reflect that calling. We serve God when we do the job He wants us to do.

God Wants Us to Work
(2 Thessalonians 3:10-13)

Paul said it simply: If you do not work, you will not eat.

Each person has a place in the world. Each person has a job to do. If we do not do our jobs, we do not eat. All who can work must do so.

Of course there are those who cannot work. Young children cannot work. But they can learn to work by watching adults around them. The old cannot work. They have already done their jobs. Some are physically unable to work. These are people who must be cared for.

We should be productive. We should earn what we can. We should not be a burden to others. Being able to work is a blessing from God.

We should be happy that there is a

job for us to do. Others should see our joy. We should make our co-workers happy that they are working with us. Our place of work should be a place to honor God.

We should work as if Jesus was our boss. We must show our co-workers that we love God. This is the right thing to do.

Exodus 35:30-35

30 Then Moses said to the people of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the family of Judah.

31 The Lord has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, understanding, much learning, and in all work.

32 So he can make plans for working in gold, silver and brass,

33 and cut stones to be set, cut wood, and do good work of every kind.

34 The Lord has given him the power to teach also, both he and Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the family of Dan.

35 He has made them able to do every work: writing words in stone, gold, silver and brass, planning, sewing beautiful work on blue, purple and red cloth and fine linen, making cloth, and all kinds of work done by able workmen.

Proverbs 6:6-11

6 Go to the ant, O lazy person. Watch and think about her ways, and be wise.

7 She has no leader, head or ruler,

8 but she gets her food ready in the summer, and gathers her food at the right time.

9 If I take the wings of the morning or live in the farthest part of the sea,

10 even there Your hand will lead me and Your right hand will hold me.

11 If I say, "For sure the darkness will cover me and the light around me will be night,"

Colossians 3:23-24

23 Whatever work you do, do it with all your heart. Do it for the Lord and not for men.

24 Remember that you will get your reward from the Lord. He will give you what you should receive. You are working for the Lord Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-13

10 When we were with you, we told you that if a man does not work, he should not eat.

11 We hear that some are not working. But they are spending their time trying to see what others are doing.

12 Our words to such people are that they should be quiet and go to work. They should eat their own food. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we say this.

13 But you, Christian brothers, do not get tired of doing good.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 127:1-2; Mark 6:30-32

Memory Verse

“Remember the Day of Rest, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God told you.”
(Deuteronomy 5:12)

Word List

honor: respect

Resting Is Not a Choice

Over 125 years ago Anna Elneich taught her children something important. “Do not do work on Sunday,” she said. “If you work on Sunday you will have to do it again on Monday,” she warned. Anna believed that God set apart Sunday as an important day of rest. She believed that working on the Day of Rest did not **honor** God. Anna wanted her children to learn this. She wanted her children to see this in her daily life.

It was clear to her that Sunday is God’s special day. God designed people to have a need for rest. He wants people to take time to rest. We honor God when we rest.

Anna’s words have been remembered by four generations.

God’s Word to His People (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

It is a part of God’s Law for His people to worship Him. We are told to worship only the God who created the world. God wants us to honor Him. We do this by taking one day a week to worship Him.

We take a break from work to worship and rest. God wants us to work. He also wants us to rest. Rest, like work, is a part of God’s plan for human life.

God has always meant for people to rest. Rest is not just for the rich. It is for everyone in the house. This includes the women, the children, everyone who works in the house. It includes the day laborers and the office workers.

God created Sundays for His people. People are to work six days. People are to rest one day. This is God’s plan.

**Things to
Think About**

1. Why does God tell us to rest?
2. How do you **honor** God on Sunday?
3. What are the benefits of time off from work?

God Plans for Us to Do More Than Work (Psalm 127:1-2)

There are people who work too little. There are people who work too much. God cares about how many hours people work. People must learn to balance work time with rest time. Work is something we need to do. Rest is something we must do.

Neither work nor rest is possible without God. If what you are doing is not God's plan, then it is worthless. God will not bless it.

God cares. God is interested in everything we do. God cares why we are working. He cares why we are resting. He cares about what we are doing. He cares why we are doing it. He cares when we are doing it.

God wants to be a part of our life. He wants to guide us in all that we do. We must trust God in our work. We must trust God when we rest. Work is an honorable thing. Rest is also honorable.

People often die with regrets about how they lived. They might say, "I should have spent more time with my family." They may also say, "I should have taken more vacations with the children." No one ever died saying, "I should have spent more time at the office."

Jesus Teaches the Disciples to Rest (Mark 6:30-32)

Jesus sent His disciples to preach to the people. They preached the need for their sins to be forgiven. They healed the sick. They ministered to the people.

When the day ended, they met Jesus. They told Him about the things they had done. They were excited about their work.

They had stories to share.

Jesus told the disciples they needed to rest. They needed rest so they could work the next day. Without rest the disciples could become sick. Without rest the disciples might have become tired of working. Jesus understood that rest after a time of working is needed.

A poet wrote: "Do not burn your candle at both ends." This expression refers to people who work too much. They stay up late working. They get up early to work some more. They steal work time from rest time.

These are things that people need: rest, relaxation, food and a time alone with God. Many people do not get enough sleep each night. There are too many things to do. Some think sleep is a waste of time.

Lack of sleep can affect how people work during the day. Many people are too tired to do their jobs well. They cannot pay attention to the details of their work. This can cause mistakes. These mistakes can be costly.

People who are not rested often do not show respect for their co-workers. This can cause problems among the staff and

with customers, as well.

Lack of sleep can cause sickness. A sick person misses a lot of work. People need to get enough sleep on a regular basis. Most adults need six to eight hours of sleep a night.

There should be a time for total rest. Sundays are a special day of rest. God wants our rest to be more important than running errands. He wants it to be more important than football games or golf tournaments. This is a day for total relaxation. It is a time for families to be together.

Sunday is the Day of Rest. We are to stop, rest and pray. God created the world. It took Him six days to complete His work. He rested on the seventh day, and so should we.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

12 Remember the Day of Rest, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God told you.

13 Six days you will do all your work.

14 But the seventh day is a Day of Rest to the Lord your God. You, your son, your daughter, your man servant, your woman servant, your bull, donkey or any of your cattle, or the traveler who stays with you, must not do any work on this day. So your man servant and woman servant may rest as well as you.

15 Remember that you were servants in the land of Egypt. The Lord your God brought you out of there by a powerful hand and a long arm. So the Lord your God told you to keep the Day of Rest.

Psalms 127:1-2

1 Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders work for nothing. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the men who watch over it stay awake for nothing.

2 You rise up early, and go to bed late, and work hard for your food, all for nothing. For the Lord gives to His loved ones even while they sleep.

Mark 6:30-32

30 The followers of Jesus came back to Him. They told Jesus all they had done and taught.

31 He said to them, "Come away from the people. Be by yourselves and rest." There were many people coming and going. They had had no time even to eat.

32 They went by themselves in a boat to a desert.



Adult Bible Study in
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Bible Text

Psalm 16:7-11;
Ecclesiastes 5:18-20;
Luke 7:31-35

Memory Verse

“You will show me
the way of life. Being
with You is to be full
of joy. In Your right
hand there is
happiness forever.”
(Psalm 16:11)

Word List

basic: the things that
are necessary to help
us stay alive
demon: a bad spirit
happiness: joy
harsh: hard or severe
secure: safe

Enjoying God's Gift of Life

How can I find **happiness**? This is a question people ask throughout their lives. Some people are always happy. Some people can never find happiness.

Miguel is a painter. He paints people's houses. He goes to work smiling. No matter what problem he faces, he faces it with a smile.

Ask Miguel why he is so happy. He will tell you, “I paint each house as if I was painting God's house.”

Bob is a plumber. He laughs at the things he faces while on the job. He has done the same job for twenty years. Every day is a new day.

Bob says, “No matter what kind of day I have it is a good day.”

Miguel's happiness is found in the joy he has in his heart. Bob's happiness is found in the joy he has in his heart.

How did they find joy? It comes from this simple formula:

J = Jesus	Put Jesus first
O = Others	Put others second
Y = Yourself	Put yourself third

If you follow this formula you will live a happy life.

God Wants Us to Have a Joyful Life (Psalm 16:7-11)

This is a psalm praising God for the gift of joy. We are led by God to have a beautiful life. God is the giver of life. We praise Him for the life He gives us.

When facing difficult times, God is with us. His

**Things to
Think About**

1. How joyful are you?
2. What brings joy into your life?
3. How can you share the joy of God's gift of life with others?
4. Can a person who does not know God be happy?

presence makes us **secure**. Because God is with us, we feel secure within our body, mind and soul.

It is through our choice that we keep God before us. It is our duty to always be aware of His presence in our lives. We keep God in our hearts. All that we do is a praise song to Him.

God Gives Us the Joy That We Need (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20)

God gives us the **basic** needs of life. He sees to it that we have the things we need. We are to enjoy these gifts from God.

All humans need food and water. All humans need a place to live. All humans need fresh air to breathe. These are the basic needs. God provides these gifts to us.

God provides us with more than the basics. God provides us with the ability to find joy in our lives. The power to enjoy life comes from God. To find true joy in life, we must find God.

When God is present, we will live in joy. This is where we find true happiness. Finding joy means understanding God's presence in our daily lives.

Money does not bring us joy. Being praised by others does not bring us joy. Those things may bring us temporary happiness. Lasting joy is found only in doing what God wants us to do.

Worry can rob us of joy in our daily life. Life is too short to worry. No one knows how long they will live. People who find the joy of God do not worry about the length of life. Each of us might live a long life. We might have a short life. Joy comes in learning to live with God day by day.

Death will come to each of us. We are to enjoy each day. We should live every day as if it will be our last. We should live

life to be the best we can be. Only God can bring joy into our hearts and our lives.

**Jesus Speaks to Us about Joy
(Luke 7:31-38)**

John the Baptist preached that Jesus was coming. Some people did not like his sermons. John the Baptist lived a very **harsh** life. People felt he wanted them to give up too much. They did not follow John. They did not like his message.

Some people said, "John has a **demon** inside of him." They thought he had lost his mind. They thought he was crazy.

Jesus preached to the same people who heard John the Baptist. Some of these people did not like the friends of Jesus. They thought Jesus spent too much time with sinners. He ate His meals with tax collectors. He spoke with all who came to Him. He showed His love to everyone.

Some people said, "Jesus eats too much. Jesus drinks too much."

Jesus said these people were like spoiled children. Spoiled children think only of themselves. Spoiled children only want to play with children just like themselves. Spoiled children only play the

games they like to play. Spoiled children make up their own rules. Spoiled children do not play well with others.

Some people did not like Jesus. Jesus did not play by their rules. Jesus was not who they wanted Him to be. He didn't do the things they thought He should do.

John the Baptist did not try to please people. He lived to please God. Jesus did not try to please people. He lived to please God.

People who did not follow Jesus did not have joy in their lives. They did not want others to find joy. If they could not be happy, they did not want others to be happy.

Christians are different. We are to be joyful in all our actions. This is God's will for all Christians.

Psalm 16:7-11

7 I will give honor and thanks to the Lord,
Who has told me what to do. Yes, even at
night my mind teaches me.

8 I have placed the Lord always in front of
me. Because He is at my right hand, I will
not be moved.

9 And so my heart is glad. My soul is full of
joy. My body also will rest without fear.

10 For You will not give me over to the
grave. And You will not allow Your Holy
One to return to dust.

11 You will show me the way of life. Being
with You is to be full of joy. In Your right
hand there is happiness forever.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

18 This is what I have seen to be good and
right: to eat and to drink and be happy in all
the work one does under the sun during the
few years of his life which God has given
him. For this is his pay.

19 As for every man to whom God has giv-
en riches and many good things, He has also
given him the power to eat from them, re-
ceive his pay and be happy in his work. This
is the gift of God.

20 For he will not think much about the

years of his life, because God keeps him
happy in his heart.

Luke 7:31-35

31 Then the Lord said, "What are the people
of this day like?"

32 They are like children playing in front of
stores. They call to their friends, 'We have
played music for you, but you did not dance.
We have had sorrow for you, but you did
not have sorrow.'

33 John the Baptist did not come eating
bread or drinking wine and you say, 'He has
a demon.'

34 The Son of Man came eating and drink-
ing and you say, 'See! He likes food and
wine. He is a friend of men who gather tax-
es and of sinners!'

35 Wisdom is shown to be right by those
who are wise."



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

2 Kings 7:3-9, 16;
Nehemiah 2:17-18,
4:6; Luke 10:30-37

Memory Verse

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart. You must love Him with all your soul. You must love Him with all your strength. You must love Him with all your mind. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.” (Luke 10:24)

Word List

destiny: for the Christian, God's Plan; for the non-Christian, fate

captives: prisoners captured in war

Reaching Out to Others

In July of 1865 William Booth walked the streets of London. He saw people trying to make sense of their lives. He saw poverty. He saw hunger. He saw terrible living conditions. William Booth knew he had to act. He had to do something about what he had seen. God spoke to Mr. Booth.

Mr. Booth went home. He told his wife, “I have found my **destiny**.” Mr. Booth knew God was calling him to help people in need. Together Mr. and Mrs. Booth reached out to those in need. Together they did what God wanted them to do. They started a special ministry for the poor. They started the Salvation Army. Their ministry continues today.

Four Men Bring Food to a City (2 Kings 7:3-9, 16)

Four men had a bad skin disease. People were afraid of these men. People thought they might get the same disease. The men were ordered out of the city. They had no place to go. They did not have any food. They were very hungry.

The men thought about what they should do. If they did not eat, they would die. If they returned to the city they might be killed.

The Syrian army surrounded the city. The army would not allow food to come into the city. The people who lived in the city were also hungry.

The four men were starving to death. The Syrian army had food. The men decided to go to the army. The Syrians would either feed them or kill them. The sick men would die if they did not eat. They had nothing to lose by going to the Syrian's camp.

**Things to
Think About**

1. Who is your neighbor?
2. How can you prove yourself to be a good neighbor?
3. What does God want you to do?

The men entered the Syrian's camp. No one was there. The army was gone. They had left quickly and did not take their food with them. The sick men ate until they were full. They looked around. They saw that there was a lot of food left.

The sick men had a choice. They could have forgotten about the people in the city. After all, they were not wanted in the city. Why should they help the people who mistreated them?

The sick men thought about the people living in the city. The women and children living in the city were hungry. The workmen in the city were hungry. The people needed food. The sick men knew they could not be selfish. They chose to share.

They decided to do the right thing. They went to the city. They told the people that the Syrians were gone. They told the people where to find food. Everyone got to eat.

The men reached out to help the city. By making a good choice these four men saved their city. God used them to help.

A Man Who Brought His City Together (Nehemiah 2:17-18)

Nehemiah lived in Babylon. His family had been taken to that land as **captives**. Nehemiah had never lived in Jerusalem. He had heard about it. He thought of Jerusalem as being his home.

Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem needed a new wall. Nehemiah knew he had to do something. He knew he had to rebuild the wall. Nehemiah gathered some men together. They went to Jerusalem. They made plans to rebuild the wall.

People Who Wanted to Work (Nehemiah 4:6)

People in Jerusalem wanted the wall to be rebuilt. They needed someone to lead. They needed someone to guide them.

God gave them Nehemiah. God knew Nehemiah was the leader they needed. Nehemiah inspired people to work. The people were excited by what they were doing. When the wall was finished the people said, "We did it together."

Nehemiah knew what needed to be done. He asked God to be with him. He committed to get the job done. He found people to work. The people knew they had to act. The workers gladly rebuilt the wall.

A Man Who Helped a Stranger (Luke 10:30-37)

A man was robbed. He was beaten. He needed medical attention. He was left for dead. He needed someone to take care of him.

Two separate groups of men walked by the man. They did not stop. They did not want to help the man who was hurt.

A third man walked by. He stopped. He took care of the wounds. He took the man to an inn. He paid the innkeeper to take care of the hurt man.

The man who stopped to help was from Samaria. He was from another country. He was helping a stranger.

He spent time with the man. He spent his money on the man. He saw this as something he should do. The Good Samaritan did not want a reward. He did not expect to be repaid. He did what he needed to do. He did what was right and saved the life of a stranger.

2 Kings 7:3-9, 16

3 Now there were four men at the city gate with a bad skin disease. They said to one another, "Why do we sit here until we die?"

4 If we go into the city, there is no food there and we will die. And if we sit here, we will die also. So now come, let us go over to the tents of the Syrians. If they do not kill us, we will live. And if they kill us, we will die there."

5 So they got up in the evening to go to the Syrians. When they came to the tents of the Syrians, there was no one there.

6 For the Lord had made the Syrian army hear a sound of warwagons and horses and an army of many soldiers. So they said to one another, "The king of Israel has paid the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to fight against us."

7 And they ran away in the evening. They left their tents and their horses and donkeys. They left everything just as it was, and ran for their lives.

8 Then the men with a bad skin disease came

to the tents. They went into one tent and ate and drank. They carried away silver and gold and clothing, and hid them. Then they returned and went into another tent and carried things away from it, and hid them.

9 They said to one another, "We are not doing right. This is a day of good news, but we are keeping quiet. We will be punished if we wait until morning. So now let us go and tell those of the king's house."

16 So the people went out and took what the Syrians had left. Then a basket of fine flour was sold for a piece of silver. And two baskets of barley sold for a piece of silver, just as the word of the Lord had said.

Nehemiah 2:17-18

17 Then I said to them, "You see the problem we have. Jerusalem lies waste and its gates are destroyed by fire. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem again, that we may no longer be put to shame."

18 I told them how the hand of my God had brought good to me, and the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us get up and build." So they put their hands to the good work.

Nehemiah 4:6

4:6 But we built the wall, and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

Luke 10:30-37

30 Jesus said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to the city of Jericho. Robbers came out after him. They took his clothes off and beat him. Then they went away, leaving him almost dead.

31 A religious leader was walking down that road and saw the man. But he went by on the other side.

32 In the same way, a man from the family group of Levi was walking down that road. When he saw the man who was hurt, he came near to him but kept on going on the other side of the road.

33 Then a man from the country of Samaria came by. He went up to the man. As he saw him, he had loving-pity on him.

34 He got down and put oil and wine on the places where he was hurt and put cloth around them. Then the man from Samaria put this man on his own donkey. He took him to a place where people stay for the night and cared for him.

35 The next day the man from Samaria was ready to leave. He gave the owner of that place two pieces of money to care for him. He said to him, 'Take care of this man. If you use more than this, I will give it to you when I come again.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who was beaten by the robbers?"

37 The man who knew the Law said, "The one who showed loving-pity on him." Then Jesus said, "Go and do the same."



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Deuteronomy 10:17-19; Matthew 25:34-40; Luke 14:12-14; Hebrews 13:1-2

Memory Verse

“Keep on loving each other as Christian brothers. Do not forget to be kind to strangers and let them stay in your home. Some people have had angels in their homes without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:1-2)

Word List

charity: helping those in need

hospitality: a friendly welcome

stranger: someone you do not know

Welcoming Strangers into Our Lives

For many years Texas Baptists held an evangelism conference. The conference was held in January. Most years it was held in either Dallas or Fort Worth.

Pastors, staff members and church leaders would come for three days. They filled the convention center. They sang. They prayed. They heard evangelistic sermons. The power of God was felt. People went home with a renewed spirit. They were encouraged in their ministries.

One year it snowed on the first day of the conference. The weather was terrible. The highways were icy.

One couple had driven to Dallas from West Texas. The trip had been difficult. They were glad to arrive safely.

They had planned to return home after the conference that night. The highway was too slippery to make the trip. They did not have enough money for a hotel room. They were going to spend the night in their car.

A Dallas family heard their story. The family insisted the couple should follow them home. The family gave them a late-night snack. The family gave them a warm bed for sleeping.

The next morning the couple had breakfast with the family. The family gave them food for their trip home. The sun was shining. The snow was melting. It was safe for the couple to drive home. The couple was glad for the **hospitality**.

The daughters of that family learned a life lesson. They saw their parents helping people they did not know.

**Things to
Think About**

1. When did you help a stranger?
2. When did a stranger help you?
3. What is the benefit of welcoming strangers?

God Reveals Himself to Us (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)

We have all been **strangers** in some situation. We have visited a new church. We have enrolled in a new school. We have started a new job. We wanted someone to show us kindness. We wanted to feel that someone cared we were there. We wanted someone to show us hospitality.

We should show kindness to others because God has shown kindness to us. Sharing with strangers is a way of showing them God's love.

Our God is a great God. He is powerful. He is mighty. We show others His greatness when we offer hospitality to people we do not know.

Hospitality means welcoming people who do not look like us. It makes us focus on the visitor and not on ourselves. Showing hospitality is an outer sign of an inner thought. Showing hospitality shows that we love God. We are to welcome others as God welcomes us.

God loves His people. He cares what happens to us. He is a personal God. He wants us to do our best. Doing our best means doing the things He has taught us to do.

He has taught us to welcome strangers into our lives.

Our Actions Reveal God to Others (Matthew 25:34-40)

God is love. He wants us to show His love to the world. Christians should take care of others. We should give what we can give. We should care for those who need Him most.

The beggar should be helped. The person living in bad conditions should be helped. This is the right thing to do. This is

what God tells us to do.

We see people who are in need. We should remember this saying: There but for the grace of God, go I.

Jesus Teaches Us to Welcome Strangers (Luke 14:12-14)

Coming to someone's aid is being kind. It is an act of **charity**. You should not expect a reward for your act. Some people show kindness in order to earn a reward. That is not charity.

Charity is more than helping friends and family. It is easy to help people you love. It is much harder to show love to strangers. People who share real charity show God's love to even strangers. God rewards real charity.

Charity is an act of love. If we love God, we will love the people He puts in our lives. Of course we should care for family and friends. Take care of those who can love and help you. But most of all take care of those who need your help.

This Is Our Duty (Hebrews 13:1-2)

A stranger comes to your house. You do not know this person. You can tell that

the person needs something to eat. You might say, "I cannot help you." You might say, "Come in. I will feed you. I will give you a place to sleep."

You do not know why this person came to your house. It could be an angel. We do not expect a messenger of God to knock on our front door. The Bible tells us that angels are not always easily recognized.

Remember this: The person knocking on your door may be sent by God. God may have placed this person in your life for an important reason. He might be bringing you a special message from God. He might be there to offer you encouragement.

It is up to you to learn why God put this person in your life. Giving our hearts to others is a pleasing thing to God.

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

17 For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords. He is the great and powerful God and is to be honored with fear. He does not show favor, and cannot be bought with money.

18 He does what is right and fair for the child without parents and the woman whose husband has died. He shows His love for the stranger by giving him food and clothing.

19 So show your love for the stranger. For you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Matthew 25:34-40

34 "Then the King will say to those on His right side, 'Come, you who have been called by My Father. Come into the holy nation that has been made ready for you before the world was made.

35 For I was hungry and you gave Me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave Me water to drink. I was a stranger and you gave Me a room.

36 I had no clothes and you gave Me clothes to wear. I was sick and you cared for Me. I was in prison and you came to see Me.'

37 "Then those that are right with God will say, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You? When did we see You thirsty and give You a drink?

38 When did we see You a stranger and

give You a room? When did we see You had no clothes and we gave You clothes?

39 And when did we see You sick or in prison and we came to You?'

40 Then the King will say, 'For sure, I tell you, because you did it to one of the least of My brothers, you have done it to Me.'

Luke 14:12-14

12 Then Jesus said to the man who asked Him to eat in his house, "When you have a supper, do not ask your friends or your brothers or your family or your rich neighbors. They will ask you to come to their place for a supper. That way you will be paid back for what you have done.

13 When you have a supper, ask poor people. Ask those who cannot walk and those who are blind.

14 You will be happy if you do this. They cannot pay you back. You will get your reward when the people who are right with God are raised from the dead."

Hebrews 13:1-2

1 Keep on loving each other as Christian brothers.

2 Do not forget to be kind to strangers and let them stay in your home. Some people have had angels in their homes without knowing it.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Matthew 6:12, 14-15,
18:21-35; Colossians
3:12-14

Memory Verse

“Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against
us.” (Matthew 6:12)

Word List

forgive: to excuse an
act wrongly done to
you

mercy: favor that is
not deserved; for
example, forgiveness

pardon: to refuse to
punish someone for a
bad act

repent: to say “I am
sorry” and stop doing
wrong

revenge: paying
someone back evil for
evil; getting even;
harming a person
because they harmed
someone

Forgiving Others

Eva Mozes Kor is a Holocaust survivor. She was a ten-year-old Jewish girl during World War II. She lived in Poland. The Germans came. Her family was taken to Auschwitz.

Eva had a twin sister, Miriam. They were identical twins. At Auschwitz they became a part of The Mengele Experiment.

The twins were used in human experiments. They were injected with germs. They were injected with chemicals. They had their blood tested many times. These tests were to see how much a human body could endure.

At the end of the war, the prisoners of Auschwitz were freed. The twins were still alive. They were angry about what had been done to them. The anger and the hatred stayed with them for many years.

As a senior adult, Mrs. Kor wanted to know about the experiments. She looked into the issue. She met Dr. Hans Munch.

Dr. Munch was a German officer during World War II. He was at Auschwitz. He signed the death certificates. This was the job he was ordered to do.

Dr. Munch had bad dreams. He could not forget the things that he saw at Auschwitz. Mrs. Kor listened to Dr. Munch’s story. She realized some Germans were also victims of the war.

Mrs. Kor did a remarkable thing. She wrote Dr. Munch a letter. In her letter she said, “I **forgive** you.”

The letter helped Mrs. Kor to heal. She said, “I felt a burden of pain lifted from my shoulders. I was no longer a victim of Auschwitz. I was no longer a prisoner of my tragic past.”

**Things to
Think About**

1. When is forgiveness the right thing to do?
2. When has someone forgiven you?
3. How do you show someone they are forgiven?
4. How do you know God wants His people to **forgive** others?

“Forgive your worst enemy,” she says. “It will heal your soul and set you free.”

Asking God to Forgive Us (Matthew 6:12, 14-15)

The Lord’s Prayer is a model prayer. It is a teaching prayer. It teaches us that we need to pray. It helps us learn how to pray.

Our prayers are words spoken directly to God. Our words should praise Him. We should ask Him to provide our needs. We should ask Him to forgive our sins.

Before we pray, we must forgive. Receiving God’s forgiveness requires us to forgive others. God has shown us His **mercy**. We must show mercy to others.

Forgiveness means letting go of being hurt. Many people know this saying: Let go and let God. When we give our pain to God, then God can heal our hearts.

Forgiving others does not secure God’s forgiveness. God’s forgiveness is not something to be earned. It is something that He freely gives us. Forgiveness comes when we confess our sins and **repent**. God wants us to understand what forgiveness truly means. He wants us to honor the act of forgiveness.

God’s Forgiveness Does Not End (Matthew 18:21-35)

Forgiving is not excusing bad behavior. Forgiving is not pretending an action did not happen. Forgiving is not saying we are not hurt.

By forgiving we are saying that we are not looking back at the past. We are looking forward to the future. We are letting go

of something bad that happened to us.

To forgive is to **pardon**. Something bad happened to us. We are choosing not to punish that bad act. Forgiving is an act of mercy.

Forgiving Is the Christian Thing to Do (Colossians 3:12-14)

Forgiving is a choice. We choose to pardon the person who harmed us. We choose not to take **revenge**. If we do not take revenge, we can break the cycle of hurt. Some people believe this saying: An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. They believe in repaying an evil act with another evil act.

Christians should act differently. If we have harmed someone, we should seek out that person. We should talk to that person. We should try to make things right.

It takes courage to ask for forgiveness. You may fear being rejected. What if that person does not forgive you? This is a decision you cannot make. The important thing is that you try to make things right.

Forgiving is a Christian act. God's people are called to forgive each other.

Love holds everyone together. Love holds everything together. Forgiving is an act of love.

When we forgive others we become peacemakers. We show that forgiving is possible. Where there is peace there is love.

When we forgive others we show God's love. What happens when we forgive others?

- We stop the pain.
- We show mercy to others and we receive mercy.
- We extend mercy and stop the cycle of revenge.
- We explain by example the love of God.

If we forgive one another we will be rewarded with a wonderful gift. We will have peace. We will show others how to forgive. We will make the world a better place in which to live. Always choose to forgive others.

Matthew 6:12, 14-15

12 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

14 "If you forgive people their sins, your Father in heaven will forgive your sins also.

15 If you do not forgive people their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and said, "Lord, how many times may my brother sin against me and I forgive him, up to seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I tell you, not seven times but seventy times seven!

23 "The holy nation of heaven is like a king who wanted to find out how much money his servants owed him.

24 As he began, one of the servants was brought to him who owed him very much money.

25 He could pay nothing that he owed. So the king spoke the word that he and his wife and his children and all that he had should be sold to pay what he owed.

26 The servant got down on his face in front of the king. He said, 'Give me time, and I will pay you all the money.'

27 Then the king took pity on his servant and let him go. He told him he did not have to pay the money back.

28 "But that servant went out and found one of the other servants who owed him very little money. He took hold of his neck and said, 'Pay me the money you owe me!'

29 The other servant got down at his feet and

said, 'Give me time, and I will pay you all the money.'

30 But he would not. He had him put in prison until he could pay the money.

31 "When his other servants saw what had happened, they were very sorry. They came and told the king all that was done.

32 Then the king called for the first one. He said, 'You bad servant! I forgave you. I said that you would not have to pay back any of the money you owed me because you asked me.

33 Should you not have had pity on the other servant, even as I had pity on you?"

34 The king was very angry. He handed him over to men who would beat and hurt him until he paid all the money he owed.

35 So will My Father in heaven do to you, if each one of you does not forgive his brother from his heart."

Colossians 3:12-14

12 God has chosen you. You are holy and loved by Him. Because of this, your new life should be full of loving-pity. You should be kind to others and have no pride. Be gentle and be willing to wait for others.

13 Try to understand other people. Forgive each other. If you have something against someone, forgive him. That is the way the Lord forgave you.

14 And to all these things, you must add love. Love holds everything and everybody together and makes all these good things perfect.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Luke 12:15-31;
1 Timothy 6:6-10,
17-19

Memory Verse

“The love of money is the beginning of all kinds of sin. Some people have turned from their faith because of their love of money. They have made much pain for themselves because of this.” (1 Timothy 6:10)

Word List

consumer: a person who buys thing or uses services

greed: the desire to have more, much more than you already have

tithe: to give a portion of your income as an offering to God

Spending Money Wisely

Once there was a seven-year-old girl. She said, “When I grow up I want to own all the money in the world.” She made a list. The list named the things she would do with all of her money. First, she promised to give money to her church’s building fund. Second, she promised to give to missionaries all over the world. Next, she promised to build a hospital for sick children. Finally, she promised to help children who did not have parents.

The little girl grew up. She did not own all the money in the world. She did not get rich. She gives what money she can give. She spends her money wisely. She buys the things she needs. She saves for her future needs.

Every week she **tithes**. She gives to special mission funds. She visits the sick. She donates to her local food pantry. She provides clothes for the homeless. She shares what she has with others. She wisely uses the money God has given to her.

The Story of a Rich Man (Luke 12:15-31)

We are all **consumers**. We use products that we buy. We live in a material world. There are so many products available to us. We have many choices when it comes to spending money. How should we spend the money we have?

Christians should remember one important thing about money. You cannot take it with you. When we die all of the things we own will stay here on earth.

People often buy too much. And then they want more. This

**Things to
Think About**

1. How do you know God cares what you do with your money?
2. Why should Christians spend their money wisely?
3. Why should Christians invest money to provide for the future?
4. If you were given a large sum of money, how would you spend it?

is called **greed**. Bad things can happen to greedy people. A man's greed can show how poor his heart and soul are.

A Story of the Birds and the Flowers (Luke 12:22-31)

Think about the birds. They are free from worry. They do not plant seeds. They do not store grain. They depend on God to provide them with food.

Think about the flowers. They do not work. They do not have fancy clothes. They are beautiful the way they are. They bring beauty into people's lives.

Worry is the opposite of faith. A person who looks to God does not have to worry about the future.

Freedom from worry comes with trust in God. A person who has faith in God has no need for earthly wealth. There is no need for worldly treasures. True treasures are heavenly ones. They will last forever. We should invest in eternity.

A Christian looks to God in all matters. He depends on God to meet the needs of daily life. God provides the things we need. He wants to give us good things. Real happiness comes when we allow Him to give us what we should have.

Worry shows a lack of faith. A God-focused life has no room for worry. God can be trusted to provide all of life's needs. The goal of life is to seek God in daily life.

A person seeking God focuses on Him. Nothing should turn our eyes from God. He is our single most important treasure. He is the most important thing we can have in our lives.

A faithful person has complete dependence on God. God leads the way through life's journey. God leads. The believer

follows. Christians need not worry.

**The Dangers of Too Much
(1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19)**

A rich person can face many temptations. Having a lot of money can cause a person to make foolish choices. People may buy things that God does not want them to have.

People often buy things for the wrong reasons. It might be something they do not need. It might be something they do not want. They spend money just because they have it.

Other times people do not have money to spend. They spend it anyway. Surveys tell us that many Americans live on credit cards. People spend the money they have right now. They spend money they may have in the future. This is not how God wants us to use money.

Many Americans live from paycheck to paycheck. This is a sign they might be over spending. They are not prepared for emergencies.

Money is not bad. Money is the root of bad things. Christians can overcome bad by doing good. A Christian can spend

money wisely. Having money is not a sin. The sin is not spending it wisely.

We should be happy with what we have. All we have comes to us as a gift from God. We should not hate the gifts God gives us. We should use them wisely.

Talk to God about your money. A person should ask God how to spend money. We should obey God in our spending. We avoid sadness when we obey.

It does not matter how much money we have. It does not matter how little money we have. We are to share with one another.

Luke 12:15-31

15 Then Jesus said to them all, "Watch yourselves! Keep from wanting all kinds of things you should not have. A man's life is not made up of things, even if he has many riches."

16 Then He told them a picture-story, saying, "The fields of a rich man gave much grain.

17 The rich man thought to himself, 'What will I do? I have no place to put the grain.'

18 Then he said, 'I know what I will do. I will take down my grain building and I will build a bigger one. I will put all my grain and other things I own into it.'

19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many good things put away in your building. It will be all you need for many years to come. Now rest and eat and drink and have lots of fun." '

20 But God said to him, 'You fool! Tonight your soul will be taken from you. Then who will have all the things you have put away?'

21 It is the same with a man who puts away riches for himself and does not have the riches of God."

22 Jesus said to His followers, "Because of this, I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you are going to eat. Do not worry about your body, what you are going to wear.

23 Life is worth more than food. The body is worth more than clothes.

24 Look at the birds. They do not plant seeds. They do not gather grain. They have no grain buildings for keeping grain. Yet God feeds them. Are you not worth more than the birds?

25 "Which of you can make yourself a little taller by worrying?

26 If you cannot do that which is so little, why do you worry about other things?

27 Think how the flowers grow. They do not work or make cloth. Yet, I tell you, that King Solomon in all his greatness was not dressed as well as one of these flowers.

28 God puts these clothes on the grass of the field. The grass is in the field today and put into the fire tomorrow. How much more would He want to give you clothing? You have so little faith!

29 Do not give so much thought to what you

will eat or drink. Do not be worried about it.

30 For all the nations of the world go after these things. Your Father knows you need these things.

31 Instead, go after the holy nation of God. Then all these other things will be given to you.

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

6 A God-like life gives us much when we are happy for what we have.

7 We came into this world with nothing. For sure, when we die, we will take nothing with us.

8 If we have food and clothing, let us be happy.

9 But men who want lots of money are tempted. They are trapped into doing all kinds of foolish things and things which hurt them. These things drag them into sin and will destroy them.

10 The love of money is the beginning of all kinds of sin. Some people have turned from the faith because of their love for money. They have made much pain for themselves because of this.

17 Tell those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money. Money cannot be trusted. They should put their trust in God. He gives us all we need for our happiness.

18 Tell them to do good and be rich in good works. They should give much to those in need and be ready to share.

19 Then they will be gathering together riches for themselves. These good things are what they will build on for the future. Then they will have the only true life!



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Proverbs 11:1;
Micah 2:1-3; 6:8-15

Memory Verse

“O man He has told you what is good. What does the Lord ask of you but to do what is fair and to love kindness and to walk without pride with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Word List

holiness: perfect goodness; the state of being without sin; righteousness

humble: not being proud or prideful

morally responsible: being required to ensure that something happens; a duty

stray: to go away from a set course; for the Christian, to look away from God, or to sin

Doing the Right Thing at Work

All My Sons is a play by Arthur Miller. The story takes place in the late 1940s. A man’s company sold airplane parts to the U. S. Army. This happened during World War II. The man knew the parts may be bad. They could work, but they might not. They could be safe, but they might not be safe. The man decided to ship the parts anyway.

The parts were used on airplanes that flew combat missions. The bad parts were not safe. Twenty-one planes crashed. Twenty-one pilots died.

The play is just a story. The message is real. It reminds us the things we do can sometimes bring harm to others. It shows that businesses, like people, should do what is right.

Where We Are, God Is Also There (Proverbs 11:1)

We are **morally responsible** for how we act in the business world. God demands us to show honesty in our business decisions.

A person may be foolish in day-to-day decisions at work. A person may overlook an unfair practice in his work life. God is aware of those actions. God is with us in our places of work.

God cares about our honesty in all we do. He wants us to show responsibility in our business dealings.

God Watches Our Actions (Micah 2:1-3)

God knows when a person decides to do wrong to another.

**Things to
Think About**

1. How can you show your faith to your co-workers?
2. Have you been tempted to take short cuts in your business?
3. How can you honor God in your place of work?

Doing bad things to someone is wrong. This does not please God.

We might think that we can get away with bad actions. Our co-workers might not notice those actions. They might see what we did and decide not to tell. We can think, “I am in a position to do this thing. I will do it because I can.”

We are warned not to show our power over our co-workers. This is not pleasing to God. He expects better of us.

Some people might stay up late at night planning wrong acts. These people are greedy. They only care about their own interests. They only care about what they want. They do not consider what is best for others.

God’s judgment will be on those who think this way. God is watching. He knows what we are doing. He is not always pleased with what He sees. He remembers our thoughts. He remembers our actions.

God Saves Us from Ourselves (Micah 6:8-15)

We are always protected by God’s love. Once God saves us, nothing can take us out of His hands. God promises this. Many people try to take advantage of God’s promise. They still choose to do wrong things. They think it does not matter because they are protected by God’s love.

That is wrong thinking. It matters to God how you live your life. The person who loves God wants to be in fellowship with Him. To fully enjoy His gifts, life must be lived to honor God. Our lives must show others His **holiness**.

Life is about having good relationships with others. Life is about love. It is about being loyal to family, friends and the

company you work for. It is about being faithful to God and family. Life is about keeping our eyes on God.

This is what God expects of us:

- *Mercy*-We should show love to the unlovely.
- *Walking with God*- We should trust in Jesus as Savior and live daily for Him.
- *Humbleness*-We should remember that God is our creator and sustainer.
- *Wisdom*-We should act with respect for God's name and His ways.

Israel was not living up to these expectations. Israel was in ruin. People were not conducting business honestly. Dishonesty was everywhere. The people did not trust each other.

God was no longer worshiped in Israel. He was not loved. People did not make God a part of their lives.

God will always love His people. Like the nation of Israel, people sometimes fail to meet God's expectations. Then we cannot be near Him. We cannot hear Him. We **stray** from Him.

We should be honest in everything we do. We should be honest in our daily lives and our work place.

We should not say we worked hours that we did not work. We should not call in sick if we are not sick. We should not take office supplies for our personal use. God will judge us by what we do at work.

God cares about our work. He cares about our character. He cares about our honesty. He wants us to honor Him wherever we are. He wants others to see our good example. When they watch us, our actions should show that we love God.

Honesty means we should humbly worship God on Sunday. It also means we should be **humble** every other day of the week. We should be humble at work and in our daily lives.

It takes courage to live a life of faith while at work. Co-workers might make fun of us, but they are watching what we do. They notice how we react to situations. Our actions should show God's love in our day-to-day living.

It takes wisdom to live a life of faith. We should make business decisions based on our obedience to God. We must be honest in our work life. This is the right thing to do.

Proverbs 11:1

1 The Lord hates a false weight, but a true weight is His joy.

Micah 2:1-3

1 It is bad for those who make plans to do wrong, who lie on their beds thinking of something sinful to do! When morning comes, they do it, because it is in their power.

2 They want fields that belong to someone else, and take them. They want houses, and take them. They rob a man and his house, a man and what has been given to him.

3 So the Lord says, "I am planning trouble against this family, from which you cannot save yourselves. You will no longer walk in pride, for it will be a time of much trouble.

Micah 6:8-15

8 O man, He has told you what is good. What does the Lord ask of you but to do what is fair and to love kindness, and to walk without pride with your God?

9 The voice of the Lord is calling to the city, and it is wise to fear Your name: "Listen, O family of Judah, you who are gathered in the city.

10 O sinful house, can I forget the riches you got by wrong-doing? You lied about the weight of things, which I hate.

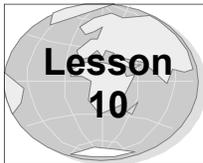
11 Can I make a man not guilty who lies and has false weights in his bag?

12 The rich men of the city have hurt many people. Her people are liars. Their tongues in their mouths speak false words.

13 So I have begun to punish you, to destroy you because of your sins.

14 You will eat, but you will not be filled. Your stomachs will still be empty. You will store up, but save nothing. And what you save I will give to the sword.

15 You will plant, but you will not gather. You will crush the olive, but you will not pour oil on yourself. You will crush the grapes, but you will not drink wine.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Genesis 2:18-25;
Hebrews 13:4

Memory Verse

“Marriage should be respected by everyone. God will punish those who do sex sins and are not faithful in marriage.”
(Hebrews 13:4)

Word List

companion: a faithful friend, a person who stays with you

purity: faithfulness in marriage

spouse: partner in life; husband or wife

vows: an oath a person makes to another; a promise

Keeping Wedding Promises

The words of the traditional wedding **vows** are simple:

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my husband/wife. To have and to hold, from this day forward. For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to honor, for as long as we both shall live. I promise you this: my love and my faithfulness.

These words are easy to say. Living these words in daily life is not always easy. Keeping marriage vows can become a challenge. These challenges should be accepted as part of daily life. God wants people to keep the promises they make to their **spouse**.

God’s Purpose in Marriages (Genesis 2:18-25)

God created the world. He looked at it. He said it was good. God was not finished creating. He made man. He called the man *Adam*. But Adam was not complete. Adam was lonely. God knew this was not good.

God wanted Adam to be happy. Adam needed a **companion**. Adam needed someone to enjoy life with him. Everything God made was good. Still there was something missing, so God created woman.

God took Adam’s rib. From Adams’s rib God created a woman. God called this woman *Eve*. Eve was to be Adam’s helper. Together they would help each other through life.

Eve was to be Adam's wife. She was not his servant. Her role in the marriage was much bigger than that. Her role included

**Things to
Think About**

1. If you are married, what promises did you make?
2. Have you kept those promises?
3. If you are not married, what promises are you willing to make when the time comes?
4. How can you show respect for the wedding vows of others?

more than preparing meals and keeping the house clean. Eve was to walk side-by-side with Adam. She was to be his companion. They were to be faithful partners.

God created this first marriage. He gave Eve to Adam. He meant for Adam and Eve to have a joyful relationship. He meant for them to be faithful to each other. God meant for this to be a life-long partnership.

Adam knew that Eve was a gift from God. Eve was created just for Adam. Eve was the perfect partner for Adam.

A wife is given to be the spiritual partner for her husband. She is to help in his ministry. She is part of his spiritual life.

A wife is given to provide friendship to her husband. She is to offer him comfort. She is to enjoy fellowship with him.

A wife is given to encourage her husband. She is to inspire him to be the best person he can be. She should support him.

A woman is not less than her husband is. She is not more than he is. They are equal in their partnership. They are united in their marriage. They have become one.

God created marriage for the benefit of His people. A marriage is to be honored by everyone. Marriage is sacred. Marriage is forever. A marriage is a special relationship. It must be protected.

No one should ever step into another person's marriage. No person should ever be allowed to come between two spouses. It is wrong for someone to destroy another's marriage. This is a sin. God will judge the person who becomes a part of another's marriage.

A marriage involves the couple leaving their former lives.

They must recognize that their relationships with others have changed. A husband and a wife must make their marriage a priority in their lives.

It is an important thing when a couple announces their marriage. They are making a public commitment to live as one. They become legally and spiritually bonded to each other.

A new marriage is a new social unit. Every care should be taken to keep it honest and pure.

A marriage requires the couple to hold on to each other. They must love each other tenderly. They must be faithful to each other.

A marriage means two people have joined together to become one unit. A couple must learn to work together within the marriage.

Marriage vows include these words: *As long as we both shall live.* Another way to say this is *until death do us part.* The promises made in a wedding are meant to last forever.

Respect in Marriage (Hebrews 13:4)

This verse is the clearest writing on

what is expected of the marriage union. A marriage is to be respected because God has blessed it.

God wants there to be **purity** within the marriage. For God there is no exception. A man should not look at other women the way he looks at his wife. A woman should not look at other men the way she looks at her husband.

When a person is not faithful in marriage, that person does not respect their spouse. A husband who is not faithful is not respecting his wife. A wife who is not faithful is not respecting her husband.

God will judge a person who is not faithful in marriage. God will punish all unfaithfulness in marriage.

Joy within a marriage is possible. It is possible when the spouses remain true to each other. It is possible when each person stays close to God. Couples must be faithful to each other. Faithful marriages bring many blessings.

Genesis 2:18-25

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper that is right for him."

19 Out of the ground the Lord God made every animal of the field and every bird of the sky. He brought them to the man to find out what he would call them. And whatever the man called a living thing, that was its name.

20 Adam gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every animal of the field. But there was no helper found that was right for Adam.

21 So the Lord God put the man to sleep as if he were dead. And while he was sleeping, He took one of the bones from his side and closed up the place with flesh.

22 The Lord God made woman from the bone which He had taken from the man. And He brought her to the man.

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She will be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother, and will be joined to his wife. And they will become one flesh.

25 The man and his wife were both without clothes and were not ashamed.

Hebrews 13:4

4 Marriage should be respected by everyone. God will punish those who do sex sins and are not faithful in marriage.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Psalm 128; Matthew 19:13-15; Ephesians 6:1-4

Memory Verse

“See, children are a gift from the Lord. The children born to us are our special pay.” (Psalm 127:3)

Word List

parenting: the act of being a parent, raising children

role model: a person who teaches through their actions, as well as their words

Leading Children to God

Brittany was six. Her sister, Victoria, was five. Their father, Todd, was telling them about the Ten Commandments.

“These are the laws of God,” Todd said. “There are ten laws.”

Brittany responded by asking, “Only ten?”

Victoria asked, “Ten of them? Ten? That is too many.”

The two girls are growing up in the same house. Todd and Kristi dearly love each daughter. Each daughter has a different view of life. Each has a unique personality.

The girls will have separate needs as they grow and become young women. Their parents must learn how to parent each girl.

God Rewards Faithful Parents (Psalm 128)

Bringing a child into a home is a life-changing event.

Parents must change their lives to meet the needs of their children. The way the parents spend their money changes. The amount of time they are alone changes. What they do with their free time changes. Parents must think of the children in everything decision they make.

Children belong to God. They are special gifts to a family. Children are not owned by their parents. They are on loan to their parents. God shows His love when He gives children to a home.

Children are a blessing to the home. Parents care for them by teaching them about God. A happy home is built when God is allowed into the home. A happy home has God as its foundation.

Children continue family traditions. They are the bridges

**Things to
Think About**

1. What kind of a role model are you for your children?
2. Do your children see God in the way you live your life?
3. How can you lead your children to God?

from generation to generation. Children are important to the future. Parents are accountable to God for the care of their children.

Parents are responsible for each child in the family. They must provide food for each child. They must provide clothing for each child. They must provide a safe place to live for each child.

Parents must learn the art of good **parenting**. Children do not come with an instruction book. There are no one-size-fits-all rules for parenting. Parenting is hard work.

Families do not just happen. God carefully plans every family. He has a special reason for each family. Every child is carefully placed in the family. They are a part of God's plan for that family.

A child may be born into a family. A child may be adopted into a family. Regardless of how a family is put together, God has planned the family.

Jesus Loves the Little Children (Matthew 19:13-15)

The parents who came to hear Jesus brought their children. They wanted Jesus to bless their little ones. Jesus wanted the children to know they were loved. Jesus wanted the children to see God.

The disciples tried to keep the children away from Jesus. They did not want the children to bother Jesus. They thought Jesus was too important to spend His time on little ones. He had too much to do.

Jesus wanted to be with the children. He called the children to be with Him. Jesus said that children should be taught

about God. Jesus was very tender with the children. Jesus wanted people to see that He loved all the children of the world.

Parents should teach their children about God. They should take their children to church. Together the parents and the church provide for the spiritual growth of the children. Together the parents and the church encourage the children to believe in Jesus. Together they teach the children to follow Him.

Good Parenting (Ephesians 6:1-4)

Children should be trained by their parents. Well-trained children are a joy to their parents.

Children should obey their parents. If children are disciplined, they will obey. It is the right thing for children to do. God commands that children should obey their parents.

Children should respect their parents. God has a special promise to the children who obeys their parents. Their reward is well-being and a long life.

Parents are warned not to keep their children from God. Parents should train their children. Parents should be careful to

teach their children well. Parents should be **role models** for their children. Children should want to be just like their mom and dad when they grow-up.

This is why children need both their mother and father in their lives. Even when parents divorce, children need meaningful relationships with both their mom and dad.

A child grows up. He leaves his parent's house. He is an adult. He is still his parent's child. Children must have the freedom to become an adult. Parents are to respect that freedom. Parents of adult children can look at their children with pride. This is their reward from God.

Raising children is a difficult task. It is a serious job. Raising children is easier when God is worshiped in the home.

Children are like bowls. They can be filled with many things. They can be filled with anger, hate and selfishness. They can be filled with love, kindness and joy. Parents fill the bowl. Parents must be careful what they put into the bowl.

Good parenting can bless many generations of a family. Good parenting is part of God's plan for families.

Psalm 128:1-6

- 1** Happy are all who honor the Lord with fear, and who walk in His ways.
- 2** For you will eat the fruit of your hands. You will be happy and it will be well with you.
- 3** Your wife will be like a vine with much fruit within your house. Your children will be like olive plants around your table.
- 4** This is the good that will come to the man who honors the Lord with fear.
- 5** May the Lord do good things for you from Zion. And may you see good come to Jerusalem all the days of your life.
- 6** Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.

Matthew 19:13-15

- 13** Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray for them. The followers spoke sharp words to them.
- 14** But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me. Do not stop them. The holy nation of heaven is made up of ones like these."
- 15** He put His hands on them and went away.

Ephesians 6:1-4

- 1** Children, as Christians, obey your parents. This is the right thing to do.
- 2** Respect your father and mother. This is the first Law given that had a promise.
- 3** The promise is this: If you respect your father and mother, you will live a long time and your life will be full of many good things.
- 4** Fathers, do not be too hard on your children so they will become angry. Teach them in their growing years with Christian teaching.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Psalm 116;
Luke 4:38-40;
James 5:13-16

Memory Verse

“The prayer given in faith will heal the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.” (James 5:15)

Word List

eternity: time without end; forever

Being Sick and Getting Well

Helen had a heart attack. Almost immediately, word went around the world by email. People began praying. People asked God to be with Helen. They prayed for the family. They prayed for the doctors, nurses and other caregivers. All prayers asked one thing: God’s Will be done.

Everyone wanted Helen to live. They wanted Helen to have the same good health she had been enjoying. They knew that God was in charge of Helen’s life. They wanted God’s will for Helen’s life.

Helen is a retired missionary. She has friends living in all parts of the world. Another former missionary said, “I am sure that God meant for email to be invented. It keeps missionaries closer to their prayer partners.”

Many people who prayed did not know Helen. They prayed because they were asked to pray. They prayed because Christians are told to pray for one another. They were doing what Christians know to do.

Everyone Will Die (Psalm 116)

There is one thing certain in life: death follows life.

Life will come to an end for each person. Unless we are alive when Jesus comes again, we will die. This is something that will happen. Each person’s life is unique. Each person’s death is unique.

There are two kinds of death. There is a physical death. There is a spiritual death. Physical death happens when the body

**Things to
Think About**

1. Does God answer our prayers?
2. Why should you pray for the sick?
3. When have you seen God answer prayer?
4. Does your faith require you to talk with God daily?

is separated from the soul. Spiritual death is when the soul is separated from God. A person can spend **eternity** with or without God. Eternal salvation comes by trusting Jesus as Lord.

How we face life after death depends on how we face life while we are living. After physical death the body is buried. The coffin that contains our body holds our earthly remains. The soul of a believer is not in a coffin. The soul exists eternally.

Death is separation. It is separation of body from soul. It is separation from the people we know and love. Death is not the end. A Christian who dies is welcomed into heaven. Our loved ones who have gone before us will meet us. We will see God.

We must prepare ourselves for physical death. It will certainly come. The most important preparation is spiritual. We must prepare to meet God. We must get our hearts right with Him. We must be ready for eternity.

Jesus Heals Simon Peter's Mother-In-Law (Luke 4:38-40)

Jesus preached to a large crowd. It was time for resting and eating. Simon invited Jesus to his house.

Simon's mother-in-law had stayed home that day. She did not go to hear Jesus teach. She was sick. Jesus went to her room. He talked with her. Then He did something remarkable. Jesus healed her.

The mother-in-law got up from her bed. She went into the kitchen. She prepared a meal for Jesus and the others.

The news spread quickly. By nighttime many people were at Peter's mother-in-law's house. They wanted to be healed.

They may have said, "Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law.

Why would He not heal me?"

Sick people can be desperate. They are tired of not being well. They are willing to do anything to escape pain. They might try to keep smiling. They might decide to give up the fight. They might say, "Take me, God. Let me die."

Does God heal people today? Yes, of course. How can we get Him to heal us? He heals us when we pray. We must ask to be healed.

We should be humble when we pray. We must have faith that He will hear our prayer. We must trust that our prayer will be answered. We must willingly accept His answer. We must be faithful whatever His answer is.

A Prayer for Healing (James 5:13-16)

Prayer is talking to God. Jesus taught us to pray. We pray for many things. One thing people often ask God for is healing.

Many churches have prayer meetings on Wednesday nights. Usually they pray for church members who are sick. The sick person might be in the hospital. The sick person might be at home. He might be in hospice care.

Church members care about those who are sick. They tell God about their concerns. They show they care about those who are sick.

Prayer shows our trust in God. It shows we depend on God. He wants us to depend on Him. He wants us to ask for the things we need and want. God wants to be a part of daily life. If we pray, God will hear our prayers.

God can heal the sick. He can heal with or without medicine. If medicine is available, God has provided it. He will use the medicine to heal.

We pray. That does not mean that we should not use medicine and doctors. God gives us medicine. God provides us with the doctors. God uses medicine and doctors to help Him answer prayers.

People of faith pray. God hears their prayers. A sick person may or may not be healed. We must trust that God answers our prayers according to His will.

We must pray in God's name. We must believe that He is in control. We do not always get the answers we want. We must give the matter over to Him. We must always seek God's will in all things.

Psalm 116:1-19

1 I love the Lord, because He hears my voice and my prayers.

2 I will call on Him as long as I live, because He has turned His ear to me.

3 The strings of death are all around me. And the fear of the grave came upon me. I suffered with trouble and sorrow.

4 Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I beg You, save my life!"

5 The Lord is loving and right. Yes, our God is full of loving-kindness.

6 The Lord takes care of the childlike. I was brought down, and He saved me.

7 Return to your rest, O my soul. For the Lord has been good to you.

8 For You, O Lord, have saved my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

9 I will walk with the Lord in the land of the living.

10 I believed when I said, "I am very troubled."

11 I said in my fear, "All men are liars."

12 What should I give to the Lord for all the good things He has done for me?

13 I will show Him my thanks for saving me with a gift of wine and praise His name.

14 I will keep my promises to the Lord before all His people.

15 The death of His holy ones is of great worth in the eyes of the Lord.

16 For sure I am Your servant, O Lord. I am Your servant, the son of the woman who served You. You have set me free from my chains.

17 I will give a gift of thanks to You and call on the name of the Lord.

18 I will keep my promises to the Lord before all His people,

19 in the holy place of the Lord, and in the center of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

Luke 4:38-40

38 Jesus went away from the Jewish place of worship and went into Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, very sick. They asked Jesus to help her.

39 He stood by her and told the disease to leave. It went from her. At once she got up and cared for them.

40 As the sun went down, the people took all that were sick with many kinds of diseases to Jesus. He put His hands on all of them and they were healed.

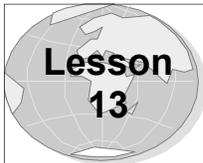
James 5:13-16

13 Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone happy? He should sing songs of thanks to God.

14 Is anyone among you sick? He should send for the church leaders and they should pray for him. They should pour oil on him in the name of the Lord.

15 The prayer given in faith will heal the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

16 Tell your sins to each other. And pray for each other so you may be healed. The prayer from the heart of a man right with God has much power.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

John 11:17-26;
Romans 8:38-39;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Memory Verse

“For I know that nothing can keep me from the love of God. Death cannot! Life cannot! People cannot! Any other power cannot! Hard things right now or in the future cannot!” (Romans 8:38)

Word List

rapture: the gathering of Christians at the time of the return of Jesus

Second Coming: when Jesus returns to earth to take Christians to heaven

temporary: something that is not permanent

Hope in Dying

Hugh Kennedy was a Christian living in Scotland. He was on his deathbed. He knew he was going to die. He asked for a Bible. His eyesight was failing. He could not see the words. He asked someone to open the Bible to Romans 8. He pointed to verse 38.

He said, “God be with you, my children. I had breakfast with you this morning. I will eat supper tonight with Jesus.”

With those words he died.

Romans 8:38-39 were the verses he lived by. They were the verses he was quoting when he died.

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead (John 11:17-26)

It is through Jesus that we have everlasting life. Those who give their lives to Him do not die. They do not face the final death. Christians will live with Jesus through all eternity.

Death comes to the person who does not know Jesus. For the non-believer, death is the final act. People who do not know Jesus do not enjoy an everlasting life with God. For Christians, death is a step toward eternity with God.

Lazarus had two sisters, Mary and Martha. Lazarus died. Mary and Martha mourned Lazarus’ death. He had been dead for four days. Their friend Jesus came to visit.

The sisters wanted Jesus to come while Lazarus was sick. They knew that Jesus could heal Lazarus. Jesus would make everything right. But Jesus did not come before Lazarus died.

Jesus came to Mary and Martha. Jesus surprised the sisters.

**Things to
Think About**

1. What keeps you from God?
2. What do you do when you do not feel God is near?
3. Are you prepared for death?

He raised Lazarus from the dead.

Had Jesus come when the sisters wanted, He could have performed a miracle. Lazarus would have been healed.

Jesus came when it was time for Him to come. He performed an even greater miracle. He brought Lazarus back to life! Jesus came in God's timing. God knew what was best.

Jesus brought His friend back to life. This teaches us that death is not final. Jesus has power over death. The hope of life after death is possible.

Relying on God is an act of faith. We believe in God. We believe He has power. If we did not believe, we would not ask Him to provide for our needs.

Faith Overcomes the Fear of Death (Romans 8:38-39)

Nothing can keep us from the love of God. God's love is consistent. It is always there. The love of God comes to us through Jesus.

We have faith. We know that God's love is always there for us. We have nothing to fear. We do not fear the things that happen to us. We do not fear the things that will come. We know that God is love.

Life is a journey. Our destination is heaven. Many good things will happen to us. Bad things happen will also happen to us. We are not promised a life without problems. We are promised a safe journey.

We must stay faithful to God. He is with us. We are not alone. We will come through the bad times.

What can come between God and us? Nothing. Nothing is

strong enough to come between God and us except sin. Jesus conquered sin so we do not have to be separated from God. Even death will not separate the Christian from God.

The Coming of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

When a Christian dies he does not stay dead. It is a **temporary** state. This is the hope of all believers. Those who do not have faith in Jesus do not have this hope.

Jesus will come back to earth. This is called the **Second Coming**. The Second Coming is the next big event in God's plan for His world. This is the reason for His creative work. This is God's purpose for His people.

Many people talk about what will happen when Jesus returns. Most people seem to talk about when it will happen. The Bible tells us that it will happen in God's timing. No person knows when that will be.

Early Christians thought the Second Coming would happen soon. They thought they would be alive to see it. That was 2,000 years ago.

Christians have always anticipated

the **rapture**. This is when the Christians who are still living will see Jesus.

When Jesus returns those who have died will come to Him. When Jesus returns, those who are alive will rise. The Bible says their souls will be caught up in His glory. These believers will not die. They will immediately go to heaven. Their bodies will be changed. It will happen quickly. The rapture will usher believers into God's presence.

Jesus is coming again. The faithful should look forward to that day. It could be soon. It could be years from now.

The early Christians thought it would happen in their lifetime. That did not happen. We are still here.

It could happen while we are still alive. It could happen long after we have left the world. One thing is certain. It will happen when God wants it to happen.

Looking toward the return of Jesus is the Christian's special hope. We wait for Jesus. This is what God wants us to do.

John 11:17-26

17 When Jesus got there, He heard that Lazarus had been in the grave four days.

18 Bethany was about one-half hour walk from Jerusalem.

19 Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to give words of comfort about their brother.

20 Martha heard that Jesus was coming and went to meet Him. Mary stayed in the house.

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 I know even now God will give You whatever You ask."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again when the dead are raised from the grave on the last day."

25 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again when the dead are raised from the grave on the last day."

26 Anyone who lives and has put his trust in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I know that nothing can keep us from the love of God. Death cannot! Life cannot! Angels cannot! Leaders cannot! Any other power cannot! Hard things now or in the fu-

ture cannot!

39 The world above or the world below cannot! Any other living thing cannot keep us away from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 Christian brothers, we want you to know for sure about those who have died. You have no reason to have sorrow as those who have no hope.

14 We believe that Jesus died and then came to life again. Because we believe this, we know that God will bring to life again all those who belong to Jesus.

15 We tell you this as it came from the Lord. Those of us who are alive when the Lord comes again will not go ahead of those who have died.

16 For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a loud call. The head angel will speak with a loud voice. God's horn will give its sounds. First, those who belong to Christ will come out of their graves to meet the Lord.

17 Then, those of us who are still living here on earth will be gathered together with them in the clouds. We will meet the Lord in the sky and be with Him forever.

18 Because of this, comfort each other with these words.