

GOD'S way

PLEASE NOTE!

The CD for this lesson series with PowerPoint, printable visuals and handouts in colour can be purchased from CEF of Ireland.

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GOD'S way

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Introduction



Helping teens to know God's way

The manual *God's Way* was produced by *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® of

Europe for the Junior

Youth Challenge ministry. It is part of a 5-year cycle and provides enough material for 12-24 sessions.

The lessons were written for the 11-15 year olds but can be adapted for an older age group. It can meet the needs of both saved and unsaved teens. Some lessons give a clear presentation of the Gospel, others help young Christians in their walk with God, but several are a combination of both.

Aiming at heads, hearts & hands

Clear objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson, focusing on three aspects:

 *knowledge*  *emotions*  *actions.*

It is vitally important to not only teach doctrine but also to apply it faithfully. Teens need to be encouraged to put the lessons into practice in their everyday life.

An additional objective is given  to indicate how the unsaved should respond to the teaching.

Using a variety of methods

Notes for the teachers are inserted in italics

in the lesson text. They provide

a variety of methods that can facilitate the teens' involvement: case studies, role plays, sketches, interviews, workgroups, etc.

Some methods require a lot of time. It is recommended to divide the lessons into two parts in order to make full use of the methods.

LESSON BREAK

This break indicates where to split the lesson. If the teacher needs to cover the lesson in one go, he will have to select the ideas that will be the most useful to his group and leave the rest aside.

Preparing visuals & handouts

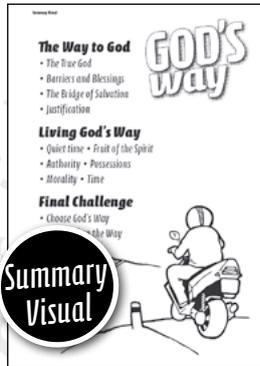
Visuals and handouts are supplied for all

lessons. They are numbered and

gathered at the end of the manual. The lesson text indicates when to use them. Please note that they are protected by copyright and can be used only by the owner of the manual.

If visuals are to be used in a small group, they can be enlarged on paper or card. In a larger group, it is better to photocopy them on acetate and use an overhead projector.

Some visuals should not be revealed all at once. The teacher can position covers and remove them progressively as he teaches the lesson. This helps keep the teens' attention. The "summary visual" should be used to



recap previous lessons and explain the progression. Again it is better to reveal it one section at a time.

The handouts should be photocopied and given out to the teens.

They include some creative ideas: wordsearches, crosswords, charts, questions, etc. Teens can fill them in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lessons and memorise the main points.

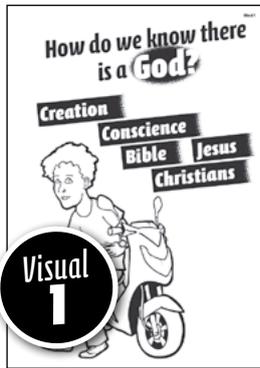
The True God

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to think about how they know there is a God.
-  to marvel at His amazing characteristics.
-  to be ready to speak to others about Him.
-  to seek to know Him and put their trust in Him.

Introduction: I don't see God!

How can we know that something invisible truly exists, e.g. wind or electricity? We know they exist because of what they do. [Show



visual 1. You need covers on the five proofs. You will remove each one as you progress through the lesson.] If you have a scooter, electricity coming from the battery is what makes it start. As you drive,

you can feel the wind's strong resistance. Even though you cannot see the electricity or the wind, you have no doubt they are there. In this study, we want to think about the existence of God. A friend may tell you, "I can't see God, so I don't believe He exists." Maybe this is the way you think yourself. But we can see what God does. Let us consider the evidence which suggests there is a God.

How do we know there is a God?

Creation - Psalm 8:1, Psalm 19:1, Psalm 24:1

Let me tell you about my watch. Many years ago all the parts of this watch were in boxes on a shelf in a watch factory. All the different

parts were there – boxes of cogs, springs, hands, pieces of the strap. Then one night the shelf fell off the wall. All the different pieces fell to the floor – and amazingly, they all came together to make this watch!

Do you believe this story? Of course not! When you look at something like a watch and see how all the various pieces work together, it is obvious that someone has designed and made it. It could not come together simply by chance.

It is amazing that many people look at the world we live in with all its beauty and amazing design, and believe that it all came together by accident. When we think of the order and precision of this world and indeed the whole universe, it should be obvious to us that it could not have simply come into existence by chance. We should ask the question, "Who designed and made it?" The Bible tells us that it was God. This explanation fits with all the evidence we see around us, which points to an intelligent Designer Who created the universe.

The Bible also tells us that God created man. It is interesting that most anthropologists (anthropology is the study of man) agree that mankind has a desire to worship, even in the most primitive situations. He will worship the moon, the sun, trees. Even in our society people worship rock artists, sports personalities and great leaders. Mankind has a desire to worship because he was created by God.

Conscience – Romans 2:15a

Have you ever been in a situation where you've been asked to take part in something and you're not sure whether or not it is OK to? Perhaps to take a cigarette or to watch an obscene DVD? As you wonder if you should, something inside seems to tell you that it is wrong. That is your conscience at work. In Romans 2:15a we read of people whose consciences directed them to act in a way that was pleasing to God even though they had never had the opportunity to read God's laws. Conscience is the in-built voice of God which tells us what is right and wrong.

Bible – Genesis 1:1

The Bible does not argue the existence of God. It begins with the words, "In the beginning God created ..." (Genesis 1:1). God's existence is stated as a fact to be believed, not as a theory to be proved! The Bible begins with the fact that God exists, and then goes on to show us what God is like. It tells how God dealt with men in the Old Testament (like Moses and Abraham), how He dealt with a nation like Israel, and how He dealt with disciples and apostles in the New Testament. The Bible reveals God and His greatness!

Jesus – John 8:28-30, Hebrews 1:1-3

The Lord Jesus Christ is God the Son. When He came to Earth His life and works revealed God to us. At twelve years old, teachers in the temple were amazed at His wisdom (Luke 2:46-47). During His life He performed miracles and healed many people. People who listened to Him teach had never heard anyone teach like this before (Matthew 7:28). He spoke the words of God, and clearly taught that anyone who had seen Him had seen God (John 14:8-9). He was

the brightness of the glory of God on Earth. And, after He died on the Cross, God raised Him from the dead, proving that He is indeed God the Son (Romans 1:4).

Christians – 2 Corinthians 5:17

There are many people today who claim to have come to know God through trusting the Lord Jesus. Their testimony, their answered prayers and the changes which have taken place in their lives are all evidence of the existence of God.

It is not possible to prove or disprove the existence of God scientifically. The evidence we have considered clearly shows that God does indeed exist.

Method: Postcard



Divide the teens into groups of two or three. Photocopy handout 1 and give them to each group. Teens will have to imagine they received postcard A from a friend who says there is no God. They will have to answer with postcard B. Whenever they are finished, ask volunteers to read their text aloud.

LESSON BREAK

What is God like?

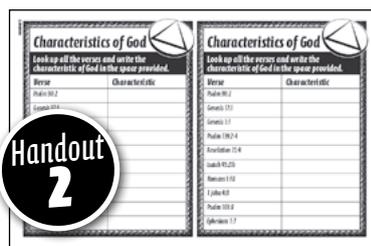


The Bible tells us some things about God which are impossible for us to understand fully. [Show visual 2.] It teaches that God is a Trinity – God the Father loves us, God the Son paid the price

for our sin, God the Holy Spirit dwells in the lives of Christians. In Matthew 3:16-17 we see all three persons of the Trinity – God the Father speaks, the Son is baptised and the Spirit descends. Yet there is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). The Bible also teaches that God is a Spirit (John 4:24). He does not have a body like ours. These things are too much for our human minds to understand!

However, the Bible does help us to understand what God is like by showing us some of the characteristics of God. Each of the verses on the worksheet tells us something about God. Note what each verse says about God in the space provided.

Method: Workgroups on God's attributes



Handout 2

Divide the teens into groups of two or three and give each group handout 2. Allow

approximately ten/fifteen minutes for them to look up the verses. Then bring them back together and go through the answers, comparing



Visual 3

them with visual 3. The following notes may be of help in summarising the attributes of God. The first four characteristics relate to God alone. The next ones are attributes we should reflect in our lives.

Psalm 90:2: Eternal

God has always existed and will always exist. He is without beginning and without end. This great truth about God should fill us with awe.

Genesis 17:1: All-powerful

Nothing is too difficult for God. Sometimes we are in despair. There seems to be no way out. Let us remember that God is not limited as we are. His power is infinite. We must trust Him.

Genesis 1:1: Creator

God made our world and everything in it. He only had to speak to bring the world into existence. Let us not forget that we were created by Him and for Him. Our lives should be in an attitude of worship to Him.

Psalm 139:2-4: All-knowing

God knows everything, therefore we have to be careful about our thoughts, actions and motives. He knows the past, present and future, therefore He can guide us. He knows our needs, problems and weaknesses, therefore we should be content.

Revelation 15:4: Holy

This is the characteristic most emphasised in Scripture. God is totally separate from sin. He is therefore very different from us. Our response should be worship, coupled with a great sense of our sinfulness and unworthiness.

Isaiah 45:21b: Just

God is totally just and fair in all He does.

Romans 1:18: Wrath

God has a deep anger against sin which demands that it must be punished. This is the only possible reaction of a righteous God against sin.

1 John 4:8: Love

God showed His love for us in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. He loves the Christian with a special love. What a comfort for us to know that this great God deeply loves us.

Psalm 103:8: Mercy

God does not give us what we deserve. He forgives rather than punishes. He can do this because of the work of His Son. He is merciful when we repent.

Ephesians 1:7: Grace

God blesses us although we do not deserve it. He gives us God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

What a wonderful God we have! And how wonderful that it is possible for us to know Him! At our next meeting we will look at some things which prevent us knowing God, as well as some of the blessings which come from knowing Him. ●

Barriers and Blessings

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that sin prevents us from knowing God.
-  to be aware of the wonderful blessings of knowing Him.
-  to thank God because in Christ barriers are removed and blessings flow.
-  to turn away from sin and put their faith in God.

Introduction: Stopped at the border!

In our last meeting, we thought about how we know there is a God and what God is like. [Ask the teens if they remember the five evidences and the ten characteristics.] In our journey of life, we should be heading towards God. Our goal is to know Him.



[Show visual 4 progressively as you move on in the lesson.]

When we travel a long

distance, we sometimes cross a border. If a customs officer stops us, he might ask several questions to determine if we can go through or not. What might prevent us from going through? Outdated passport, forbidden products, etc. Today we want to think about barriers on the way to God.

What prevents us from knowing God?

Sin

Look up Isaiah 59:2 to find out what the barrier is between us and God. It is our sin. God is holy and we are sinful and our sin separates us from God. It is a barrier to knowing Him. We cannot deny that we are sinners because we were born in sin (Psalm 51:5). That means every part of us is affected by sin and therefore we have an in-built inclination to sin. We do sinful things every day. Maybe you sin in your thought life, or by something you say or do. Isaiah 59:2 is really telling us that God cannot accept sin – He hides His face from us and He will not hear us.

Idols

Look up Exodus 20:3, read it silently, and then put it into your own words. Unfortunately we do not obey this basic commandment God has given us. We have idols in our lives. An idol is anything which takes the place of God and therefore prevents us getting to know Him.

Method: Magazines

Give magazines to the teens and ask each one to cut out an image that represents a modern idol. Then let each one present the image chosen and explain how this can take God's place in someone's life. Encourage the teens to examine their own lives as they look at these images.

Do you have idols in your life? Could they be pop stars, sports personalities, a football

team, playing sport, a person, a group of friends, our computer, TV or even our schoolwork? Some of these things may be good in themselves.

So there are barriers in our way which prevent us from knowing God. These are barriers we can never remove ourselves, no matter how hard we try. But the good news is that God wants you to know Him, and He has made it possible! God loves you so much that He sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ into this world. Having lived a perfect life, the Lord Jesus died on the cross at Calvary to take the punishment for all the sin in your life that is preventing you from knowing God.

Look up Acts 3:19 and see what you need to do. Are you willing to turn away from your sin? Are you going to take idols away from the first place in your life and give God the first place? Then God will forgive your sin and enable you to come to know Him. This is the only way to pass through the barrier and live with God for ever. When that happens, you will discover that knowing God brings so many blessings.

LESSON BREAK

What are the blessings of knowing God?



[Reveal visual 5 progressively.]

Suppose you examine the map of the country you

want to visit. You notice scenic roads, lakes, castles, etc. After crossing the border, you will discover many amazing things in this new land. In a similar way, if you enter God's kingdom, you will be amazed by what

you will discover. God is good to us in giving us so many blessings. Let us look at some and praise God for His love and mercy!

Pardon for sin: Hebrews 9:22b

If you have turned away from sin and trusted in Christ as Saviour, you are now fully pardoned. God has thrown your iniquities into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19). He will remember them no more (Jeremiah 31:34). You will not be punished for your sin because Christ has taken the punishment by His death on the cross. What an amazing assurance!

Peace that lasts: Philippians 4:7

When we are made right with God, through faith in Christ, then we know a deep peace. Only Jesus can forgive sin and only Jesus can give this deep peace. When we become Christians the Holy Spirit lives in our lives (John 14:16-17). The result is peace that lasts. The pleasures of the world can give a certain amount of peace, but it does not last and it does not satisfy. We can look for peace and satisfaction in all the idols that we mentioned earlier, but it is not there. We can search all our lives for peace but it can only be found in Jesus. Don't settle for the emptiness Satan offers.

Purpose for life: Proverbs 3:5-6

Without God, we wander with no goal in life. But as we get to know God and His Word, we find out that we are on this Earth for a purpose. That purpose is to bring glory to God. We have to give our lives to Him first of all. Then we should want to worship God. We should also have a desire to serve Him. This is our purpose for life. To help us achieve our purpose in life, God has a special plan for each one of us. If we trust

Him He will show it to us and keep us in that plan.

Power to win: 1 John 4:4

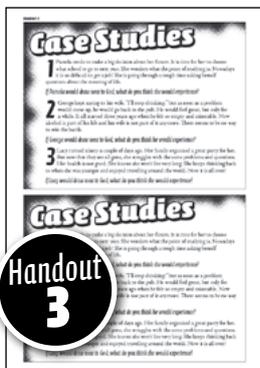
Even as young believers we are in a constant battle against sin, but God will help us triumph over sin by the power of His Holy Spirit. Satan wants to defeat us, but the Holy Spirit lives in us and He is greater than Satan. So don't give up in the Christian life! Remember we are on the winning side! We must trust God to give us the power to live for Him, but we still have our part to play by getting to know Him through the Bible and prayer.

Privilege of Heaven: 1 Thessalonians 4:17

This is the reward for faithful believers. We will be with the Lord for ever. When Christians die they are absent from the body and immediately present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).

There will be no more battling against sin, no more difficulties, no sorrow or illness and no more rejection by those who don't know God. Heaven is where Jesus is and we will be with Him for ever. We are sure of that. Will you be there?

Method: Case studies



Give handout 3 to all the teens. Read the stories together and discuss the questions. This will help teens realise how wonderful the blessings are that we have in Christ. They meet our deepest needs.

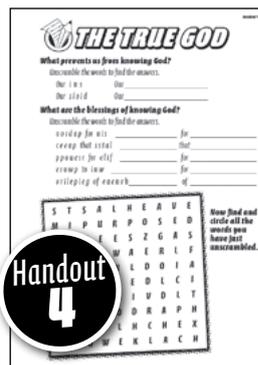
- Pamela needs to make a big decision about her future. It is time for her to choose what

school to go to next year. She wonders what the point of studying is. Nowadays it is so difficult to get a job! She is going through a tough time asking herself questions about the meaning of life. If Pamela would draw near to God, what do you think she would experience?

- George kept saying to his wife, "I'll stop drinking," but as soon as a problem would come up, he would go back to the pub. He would feel great, but only for a while. It all started three years ago when he felt so empty and miserable. Now alcohol is part of his life and his wife is not part of it anymore. There seems to be no way to win the battle. If George would draw near to God, what do you think he would experience?
- Lucy turned ninety a couple of days ago. Her family organised a great party for her. But now that they are all gone, she struggles with the same problems and questions. Her health is not good. She knows she won't live very long. She keeps thinking back to when she was younger and enjoyed travelling around the world. Now it is all over! If Lucy would draw near to God, what do you think she would experience?

We have looked at some great blessings of knowing God: Pardon for sin, Peace that lasts, Purpose for life, Power to win, Privilege of Heaven. Do you know these blessings? Or are you missing out on God's blessing?

Method: Quiz

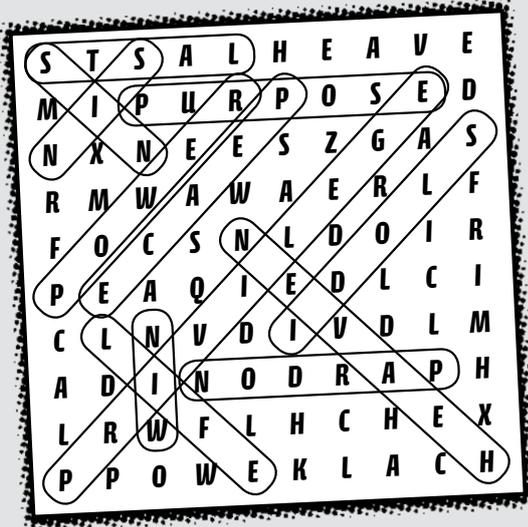


Photocopy handout 4 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lesson and memorise the main points. ●



HANDOUT 4 ANSWERS

Unscramble the words: sins; idols; pardon for sin; peace that lasts; purpose for life; power to win; privilege of Heaven.



The Bridge of Salvation

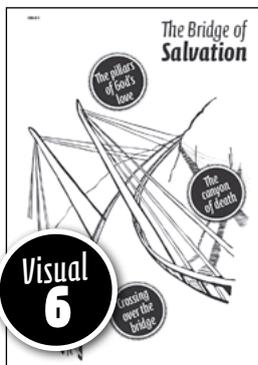
Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to consider how deep the canyon is that separates sinners from the holy God.
-  to realise that God in His love has provided a bridge so we may go to Him.
-  to praise God for His salvation and strive to live for Him.
-  to cross the bridge of salvation by repentance and faith.

Introduction: Bridges

Do you know some famous bridges that were built in different parts of the world? [Let the teens share. Find images of some famous bridges – e.g. the Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco, the Tower Bridge of London, the bridge of Millau in France, the Tsing Ma bridge in Hong Kong, etc.] These are amazing constructions!

As we started our journey towards God, we realised there is a border to cross before enjoying God's many blessings. Today we will see that the way to God can also be



compared to a bridge. [Show visual 6 but keep the text covered.] Over a deep canyon, the road is suspended by cables on great pillars. Crossing the bridge of salvation is the only way to God.

Method: Sword drill

When you want to look up a Bible verse with the teens in this study, ask them to “draw their swords” (hold their Bible up high). Give the Bible reference and have them repeat it. On the command, “Attack!” they will compete to find the verse. The first teen to find it stands up. Give a few moments for others to find it and then ask the winner to read the verse aloud.

The canyon of death

A holy God created us

Sword drill: Genesis 1:26. When God created man, they first lived in harmony. God made man to worship Him, to glorify Him, to have fellowship with Him and to serve Him. Are you doing these four things which God made you for?

Sword drill: Isaiah 6:3. This great God Who made us is holy. That means He is pure and perfect. He cannot sin. Are we pure like God wants us to be?

We are sinners by nature and act

Sword drill: Romans 5:12. Sin came into the world when Adam and Eve sinned. This is called “the fall” and because of “the fall” we are all born sinners as we discovered in our last lesson. There is no escaping this fact and the proof of it is that we sin every day. We break the Ten Commandments in thought, word and deed.

We are separated from God by our sin

Sword drill: Romans 6:23. We are sinners and a holy God cannot have sin in His

presence. Throughout the Old and New Testaments the punishment for sin is death – separation from God for ever. Before it is too late, we must put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. If we reject God throughout our lives and end up in eternal death (i.e. separation from Him) then there is no second chance.

We cannot please God by ourselves

Sword drill: Isaiah 64:6. There is nothing we can do to gain forgiveness and acceptance with God. How could we when we consider the first two facts we looked at? All our efforts and good works are like filthy rags in God's sight. The canyon is too big for us to cross.

The pillars of God's love *God loves us*

A well-known theologian travelled the world speaking to young people training to be missionaries, ministers and pastors. He knew his Bible very well and after one lecture he was asked the question, "Sir, what is the greatest thought that has ever passed through your mind?" The audience probably expected a very profound intellectual statement. The ageing professor paused for a long time as he obviously thought about his answer. Then he said with great simplicity, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Sword drill: Romans 5:8. The highest demonstration of His love is the death of Jesus Christ. It is really amazing that the God Who created us, the God Who is holy, loves you and me in all the ugliness of our sin.

Jesus, the Son of God, came to us

Sword drill: Philippians 2:6-8. Jesus always existed. He is the eternal Son of God. He left Heaven to live among us. His birth was

miraculous. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of a virgin. Although tempted, He lived a perfect life among us.

The Lord Jesus took our punishment

Sword drill: 1 Peter 3:18. He Who is just suffered for us, the unjust, to bring us to God. His perfect life enabled Him to pay the penalty for my sin by dying on the cross in my place. He arose and was the victor over sin and death and Satan. He lives for ever. That is what God the Son has done for you and me.

Crossing over the bridge

We must repent

Sword drill: Acts 3:19. "Repenting" is admitting we are sinners and being sorry for that sin. But that is not enough. It also means having a change of attitude to our sin. We should hate our sin and turn from it to God.

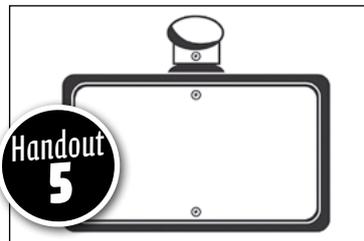
We must trust in Christ for salvation

Sword drill: Acts 16:31. We may know in our minds about Christ and believe the facts to be true but that is not enough. We must put our trust in Jesus, believe in His promises, cast ourselves on His mercy and rely entirely on what He has done for our salvation. Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus to save you?

LESSON BREAK

Advancing into new territory

Method: *New number plate*



Photocopy handout 5 on thick paper and hand it out to all the teens.

Also provide markers. Explain that now that the scooter has crossed the bridge, it should get a brand new number plate. Give them a couple of minutes to think about what they could write on the number plate. It could be a short text that refers to the blessings of salvation or to the objective of the Christian life. Teens might be creative enough to mix letters and numbers, e.g. "Way2Heaven", "Live4Him", "Life4ever2", etc. Then you could show a plate with "Please Him and be like Him" to introduce the last part of the lesson.

We must seek to live to please Him

Sword drill: Philippians 3:14. Salvation is not an end but a beginning. You must keep on going with God. The Holy Spirit now lives in those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus. We must rely on the Holy Spirit to give us the daily strength we need to live lives which are pleasing to God. We also have a part to play by reading the Bible, praying, telling others and meeting for fellowship with other believers.

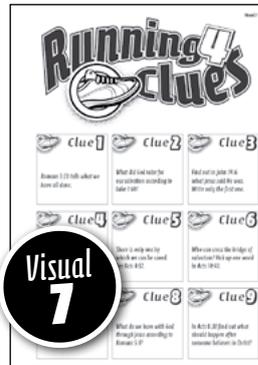
One day we will be like Him

Sword drill: 1 John 3:2. As we live depending on the Holy Spirit we should become more like Christ, but we will not be perfect until we are in Heaven. Think how special that will be!

What we have just studied leaves many questions for you to answer. Do you recognise that a great canyon keeps you far from the holy God? Do you realise how much God loves you and what He has done for you? Do you believe that the only way to go to God is through Jesus Christ? If so, have you done anything about it, or do you wish to ignore the bridge of salvation and stay away from your Creator? It would be foolish to ignore what the Lord Jesus Christ has

done for you. The consequence of rejecting this message is that you will be punished by separation from God for all of eternity.

Method: Running for clues



Divide the teens into groups of three. They are going to find out about Bible characters who crossed over the bridge of salvation. Photocopy visual 7 onto cardboard and cut out the nine cards. Position them around the walls, although not in the correct order. Photocopy handout 6 and make sure each teen has a clue sheet, a pen and a Bible. Start the groups at thirty second intervals. They will have to run around, read the cards and fill in their sheet as quickly as possible.

The questions for Running for Clues are:

1. Romans 3:23 tells what we have all done.
2. What did God raise for our salvation, according to Luke 1:69?
3. Find out in John 14:6 what Jesus said He was. Write only the first one.
4. Look up Romans 3:25 and see what God demonstrated through His Son's death.
5. There is only one by which we can be saved. See Acts 4:12.
6. Who can cross the bridge of salvation? Pick out one word in Acts 10:43.
7. If we have trusted Christ, we can now put it on – Ephesians 6:17.
8. What do we have with God through Jesus, according to Romans 5:1?

9. In Acts 8:38 find out what should happen after someone believes in Christ. ●



HANDOUT 6 ANSWERS

Running for Clues: sinned; horn; way; righteousness; name; whoever; helmet; peace; baptism.

Justification

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand what justification is – God's act of declaring a sinner righteous before Him.
-  to realise that, when justified, we are no longer under condemnation but have a right standing before God.
-  to praise God for His amazing grace.
-  to put his faith in Jesus Christ.

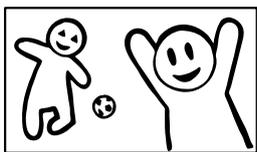
Introduction: Comic strip



Photocopy handout 7 for all the teens. Before you hand it out, cut apart the comic strip. Give the teens five minutes to find out what the story is about and to try to put it in the right order. They can work on their

own or in pairs. Let them share what story they came up with. Then tell them the following story of Jim and Chuck.

Jim and Chuck

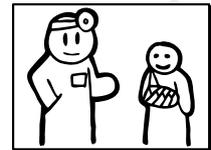


Jim was the son of a judge and Chuck the son of a barman. When they were young, they were great friends [pictures 1-2]. They really liked each other and played together a lot. But they were very different. Jim studied hard and went to university. Chuck was

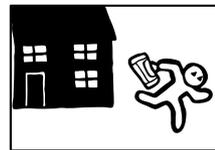
lazy. He preferred having a good time and started smoking and drinking [3-4].



Time went by and they lost contact [5]. Jim became a doctor and committed his life to helping others



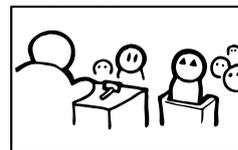
[6]. Chuck made no effort to get a job and began to



steal. At first he stole small things, but gradually it became worse. One day he broke into a

house [7-8]. But some people saw him and the police caught him [9].

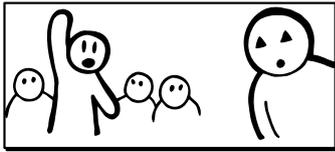
Chuck was taken to court [10]. Guess who the judge was on that day? Jim's father! And



Jim himself was in the gallery because he liked going to see his father at court. Both Jim and his father recognised Chuck although he had changed a lot. Now what could they do for Chuck? They listened to the witnesses and saw the evidence produced by the police. Obviously Chuck was guilty. Could Jim's father let Chuck go free? No, it would have been unfair!

The audience was waiting impatiently for the sentence and could not understand what was going on. Jim and his father looked at each other and nodded, because they both had the same idea.

The judge said to Chuck, "I declare you guilty," and condemned him to pay a large amount of money.



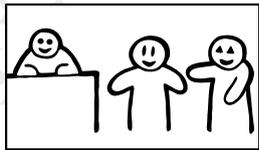
Then Jim stood up and announced that he wanted to pay

the penalty for his friend [11]. A murmur arose from the crowd because it was a very heavy fine.



Jim came forward, pulled out his wallet and handed the amount over to the

court [12-13]. His father was very proud of him. Chuck would have not been able to pay all this. It was the only way to save him. The judge declared that Chuck was not under



condemnation anymore and was free to go because someone had paid the penalty [14].

Method: Finish the comic strip

Give each teen a blank sheet of paper and some glue. They will now glue the comic strip in the correct order. Then ask them to add two speech bubbles to the comic strip and fill them in.

The first one is when Jim says he wants to pay instead of Chuck. The second one is when the judge declares Chuck not under condemnation any more.

What is justification?

What is JUSTIFICATION?
Justification is God's act of declaring a sinner righteous before Him.

What happens when we are justified?

- 1 God forgives us: Hebrews 9:22
we are no longer under condemnation: Romans 8:1
- 2 Christ's righteousness is imputed to us: Romans 4:6
We have a right standing before God: Romans 5:1-2

Salvation made possible?
Romans 8:33

Righteousness:
Romans 2:8-9

Righteousness:
Romans 3:9

Living faith: Romans 4:5

Visual
8

[Show visual 8 progressively as you progress through the lesson.] This story can help us understand what God does for those who put their trust in Him. He does something much

greater than what Jim and his father did for Chuck. The Bible calls it "justification".

Remember Chuck who was guilty. We are also guilty and not only of stealing. We have done so many things against God, and we deserve punishment. The sentence should be spiritual death, which is separation from God for ever.

But Jim was willing to pay for his friend. In a similar way, the Lord Jesus was willing to pay for us. On the cross, He took the punishment for our sins. As a result God the Father could declare us just in His sight. Justification is God's act of declaring a sinner righteous before Him.

Perhaps you have heard the Gospel and you feel you should do something about what Christ has done. That is God speaking to you. Don't ignore what the Lord Jesus has done for you. Put your trust in Him in order to be justified!

What happens when we are justified?

God forgives us: Hebrews 9:22

Our past, present and future sins are forgiven. This does not give us an excuse to live as we please. We will still sin and as a result feel guilty. If we confess our sin God will forgive us and restore our fellowship with Himself (1 John 1:9). To have our sins forgiven is a miracle.

Result: We are no longer under condemnation: Romans 8:1

God's judgement will not fall on us. We are not punished, because Christ took the punishment for sin on the cross. It is, however, important to note that God does not overlook our sin but deals with it.

Christ's righteousness is imputed to us: Romans 4:6

Our account of sin is settled the only way it can be – through the work of Christ. It is paid in full, because Christ's righteousness is put to our account of sin. Christ paid a debt we couldn't pay.

Result: We have a right standing before God: Romans 5:1-2

We don't stand condemned, but stand in Christ's righteousness. Important! This is not our own righteousness because we have none. We are not made perfect but declared righteous in God's eyes because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jim's father acquitted Chuck, he was free from punishment but that didn't make Chuck perfect. Acquittal is a legal declaration made outside of someone. The same idea can be applied to justification. It is a legal declaration about our standing before God, but it doesn't change us inwardly. God is our Judge and declares us righteous through Christ but that doesn't make us perfect. It is the start of getting to know God and growing to be like Him day by day.

LESSON BREAK

Method: Role play

If you divide this lesson into two parts, you could have the teens act out the story of Jim and Chuck as an introduction to the second part. You would need several actors – Jim, Chuck, some policemen, a judge and an audience. You could be the narrator. This would help the teens think back about this story and would give you the opportunity to reinforce what was taught in the first part of the lesson.

How is justification made possible?

By God: Romans 8:33

It is His work. It is not something we do. It is God Who declares us righteous in His sight and, by the work of His Holy Spirit, claims us as His own. This guarantees our salvation. If you have truly trusted in Christ you can be completely sure that you are right with God. Don't let Satan cause you to doubt what God has done.

By grace: Ephesians 2:8-9

Grace is something we don't deserve. Think about Old Testament characters who sinned against God, e.g. Jacob, Abraham, Moses and David. Why did God forgive them? They didn't deserve it. God is holy and just, yet for centuries He has been refusing to condemn man and instead has actually been justifying men and women, such as those listed, when they put their trust in Him. God justifies men even though they don't deserve to be in a right standing with God.

By Christ's righteousness: Philippians 3:9

God's law demands our punishment and it is also impossible for us to achieve the high standard it sets. The law is like a mirror. A mirror shows us where we are dirty and need to wash, but it doesn't wash us. So the law shows us where we are wrong and need to be cleansed, but it cannot cleanse us. But Christ satisfied all the demands of the law. He was perfect and so could pay the price for our sin by dying in our place, and give cleansing or forgiveness (2 Corinthians 5:21).

By saving faith: Romans 4:5

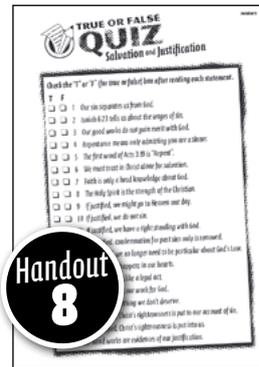
Some people think they can gain acceptance with God by keeping God's laws. As we

already discovered it is impossible to keep the law by ourselves. It is by faith in Christ only. Justification happens in an instant when we come to Christ by faith. So, from being lost, the justified person is in right standing before a Holy God.

Then what?

Consider James 2:17. There should be a life of obedience to God. If not, there is something seriously wrong. We are not justified by good works, but good works should be the result if someone is truly justified. [You may want to expand this part if you have a number of young Christians present in the group.]

Method: True or false



Photocopy handout 8 for all the teens. Read the text aloud and ask the teens to mark either "T" or "F" next to each statement. When you have finished reading, the teens should stop writing – they can't

modify their answers. Then discuss each statement with the group and give the correct answer. Take the opportunity to reinforce your teaching. Make sure they grasped the doctrine of justification well. Then teens could count their mistakes and you could give a prize to the winner(s). ●

HANDOUT 8 ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1. Our sin separates us from God. | T | 12. If justified, condemnation for past sins only is removed. | F |
| 2. Isaiah 6:23 tells us about the wages of sin.
(Isaiah 6:23 does not exist. It is Romans 6:23 which specifically mentions "wages of sin".) | F | (Present and future as well.) | |
| 3. Our good works do not gain merit with God.
(They are like filthy rags - Isaiah 64:6.) | T | 13. If justified, we no longer need to be particular about God's law.
(God's law is still for us today.) | F |
| 4. Repentance means only admitting you are a sinner.
(Also sorrow at sin, hatred of sin and a change of attitude - i.e. turning from it.) | F | 14. Justification happens in our hearts.
(A legal declaration about our standing before God.) | F |
| 5. The first word of Acts 3:19 is "Repent". | T | 15. Justification is like a legal act. | T |
| 6. We must trust in Christ alone for salvation. | T | 16. Justification is our work for God.
(No! It is God's work.) | F |
| 7. Faith is only a head knowledge about God.
(Cast ourselves on God and rely on what Christ has done.) | F | 17. Grace is something we don't deserve. | T |
| 8. The Holy Spirit is the strength of the Christian. | T | 18. If justified, Christ's righteousness is put to our account of sin. | T |
| 9. If justified, we might go to Heaven one day. | F | 19. If justified, Christ's righteousness is put into us. | F |
| 10. If justified, we do not sin. | F | 20. Good works are evidences of our justification. | T |
| 11. If justified, we have a right standing with God. | T | | |

Quiet Time

Objectives: *We would like the teens:*

-  *to think about when, where and how to have a quiet time.*
-  *to realise that it is vital to regularly spend time alone with God.*
-  *to read God's Word and pray every day.*
-  *to turn to God by repentance and faith, and start getting to know Him.*

Introduction: *Out of petrol!*

Have your friends or family ever run out of petrol? Maybe the driver thought, "I think we can wait for the next petrol station." Then, a few kilometres later, he or she had to pull over to the side of the road. Postponing it was not a good idea! [Show visual 9 but have



covers over the text; you will remove them as you progress through the lesson.]

In past lessons, we compared life to a trip on a scooter. We crossed the border and crossed over the bridge of salvation. Our last lesson was about justification. Can you remember some of the things which happen when a person trusts Christ? [Encourage answers from the teens and summarise briefly.] Yet we finished our lesson by asking the question, "Then what?" You see, justification is only the beginning of a life of obedience to God. We need to realise we won't go far on the journey of life if we don't "fill our tank" regularly. If we are to live a life which pleases God, we need to get to know Him better.

This involves spending time alone with Him – what we call our "quiet time". Every Christian should seek to have a quiet time each day.

Method: *Brain storming*

Write at the top of a large board "Having a quiet time". Then divide the rest of the board in two parts – "Importance" and "Difficulties". Ask the girls to think about the importance of having a quiet time. They will give you whatever words or expressions come to their mind. You will write them down on the board. Then ask the boys to think about the difficulties we meet when trying to spend time daily with God. Again they will throw out words or expressions. At first do not evaluate the ideas, just write them down. When the brain storming is over, discuss with them what they shared. Here is an example of what the group may come up with.

Having a quiet time	
Importance	Difficulties
Fill the tank	Tiredness
Getting to know God	Television
Thinking	Lack of motivation
Dependence on God	Difficult to understand
Start the day well	No discipline
Pray	No time
Read the Bible	Friends
Getting connected	Internet
Friendship with God	Wrong priorities
Breathing	Ups and downs

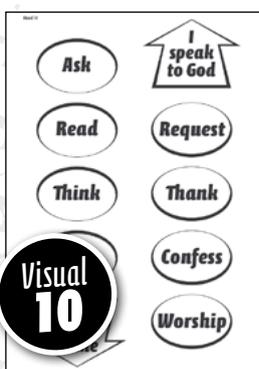
When should I have my quiet time?

Have your quiet time at the time which suits you best. Many people choose first thing in the morning and this is good because it means you can spend time with God before the day's activities begin. For other people, early evening or even lunch time is the most suitable. It is not a good idea to have your quiet time late at night, as tiredness may mean you are not at your best. The important thing is, however, that you set time aside during each day to be alone with God.

Where should I have my quiet time?

Somewhere you can be alone and away from distractions. It is impossible to concentrate in a room where the TV is on, or where brothers and sisters keep interrupting! If you have your own room, that is ideal. If not, find somewhere you can be alone and where you will not be disturbed.

What should I do in my quiet time?



[Reveal visual 10 progressively.] There are two main parts to a quiet time – reading God's Word, and talking to Him in prayer. It is a two-way communication. God speaks to me through

His Word and I speak to Him in prayer. Let's think about each part individually.

Read God's Word

Reading the Bible is a vital part of getting to know God better. The Bible is God's own Word, and He speaks to us through it. The Bible tells us what God is like and shows us how He wants us to live. Here are some practical tips for reading the Bible in your quiet time.

- Before you begin, pray and ask God to speak to you as you read (Psalm 119:18).
- Don't try to read too much. Reading just a few verses and really thinking about them is better than reading several chapters without really concentrating.
- Think carefully about what you have read. What is God saying to you? Is He teaching you something about Himself or telling you something about how you should live as a Christian? Perhaps He is showing you some sin from which you must turn away. Bible reading notes can help you understand the passage. A good Christian bookshop will have a selection for you to choose from. However, be sure to concentrate on the Bible, not on your notes. Remember it is what God's Word is saying to you that is important.
- When God speaks to you through His Word, be obedient to what He says. It is vital to put into practice the teaching you found in the passage. God will help you do so. He will use His Word to mould you into Christ's image.

LESSON BREAK

Talk to God in prayer

Getting to know God involves talking to Him in prayer as well as listening to what He has to say to us through His Word, so spend the rest of your quiet time in prayer. Don't forget, though, that prayer is more than just asking God for what we want. Here are four things which should form part of your prayer time.

Worship

Begin by praising God. He is a wonderful God – there is so much to praise Him

for! Perhaps you could think back to the research we did on God's characteristics (lesson 1) and praise Him for His holiness, love, mercy, etc.

Confession

Confess your sins to God. Be specific. Tell Him the wrong things you have done, thought or said, and ask for His forgiveness. God promises to forgive Christians when they confess (1 John 1:9).

Thanksgiving

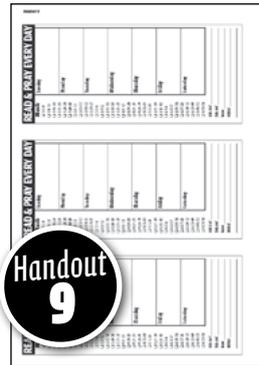
Thank God for all His goodness to you in providing food, clothes, family, home, etc. Thank Him for answered prayer. And never forget to thank Him most of all for giving you salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Request

Tell God about your needs and concerns. Pray for your family and friends, and for those who are not yet saved. Remember to pray for those serving God as missionaries in your country as well as abroad. It is a good idea to keep a little "prayer diary" in which you can note things to pray for each day.

A regular quiet time alone with God is essential if you are to grow as a Christian. Just as you get to know your friends by talking and listening to them, so you need to talk to and listen to God if you are to get to know Him. Remember too that it is important for Christians to meet together to study God's Word and talk to Him in prayer, so regular church attendance is another essential for the young Christian. Fellowship with others who love the Lord helps you to grow strong, but if you really love the Lord you will not want to miss out on your daily quiet time alone with Him. "Fill your tank" or you will not go far!

Method: A month of reading and praying



If some teens in your group do not have a daily quiet time, here is something that could help them get started. Photocopy handout 9 on coloured paper for all the teens and cut out the "read and pray" strip.

Bible reading: Teens will read a few verses from Mark each day, following the four steps suggested in the lesson, and they will tick the box next to the reference on their project sheet.

Prayer: Teens can think of various people to pray for during the week (family, friends, teachers, etc) and write their names down in the squares on the project sheet. Every day they will pray for the names written on that day. But they should also try to worship, confess and thank God as we said in the lesson.

A month later, teens who succeeded can give the project sheet back to you with the bottom part filled in. You could have a special reward for them.

Method: Handout



Photocopy handout 10 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lesson and memorise the main points. ●



HANDOUT 10 ANSWERS

Bible reading: 1. pray 2. read too much 3. think carefully, Bible reading notes 4. do, obey

Prayer: 1. worship 2. confession, confess, forgive 3. thanksgiving 4. requests

Fruit of the Spirit

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that they should become more and more like the Lord Jesus.
-  to realise that the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives developing the “fruit of the Spirit”.
-  to depend on Him and seek to bear this fruit in their everyday life.
-  to repent and let God transform them.

Introduction: What fruit?



[Show visual 11 with covers on the text.] Here is a question. What sort of fruit would

you expect from an apple tree? Apples, of course! And a pear tree? Pears! The fruit shows us to which tree it belongs. Now, what sort of fruit would you expect from a believer? [Let the teens make a few suggestions.] There should be evidence of fruit in our lives to show that we belong to the Lord Jesus.

In our last meeting, we said how essential it is to have a daily quiet time. As a scooter needs to be filled regularly at the petrol station, we need to draw near to God every day. Do you remember the four things we can do as we read God's Word? What about the four things we should do when we pray? Today, we will see that, as we remain close to God, He moulds us into the person He wants us to be. He wants us to bear fruit that shows we belong to God.

More and more like Him

God has not left us wondering how we should be and how we should live. The Bible tells in different ways what we should aim for.

God's characteristics

We have already looked at God's character. Our goal should be to become like Him. Of course we cannot be all-powerful, all-knowing, etc, but we should reflect God's moral characteristics – become holy as He is holy, love others as He loves them, etc. We will not reach perfection while on Earth, but we should try to become more and more like God.

Example of the Lord Jesus

Jesus has all the characteristics we just mentioned because He is God. When He lived among men, He gave us a perfect example to follow. Remember His compassion, His goodness, His patience, etc. You should examine Jesus' life in the Gospels and ask Him to help you walk in His footsteps as much as possible.

Fruit of the Spirit

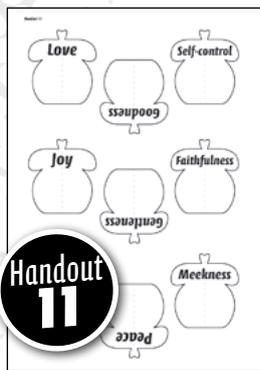
The Holy Spirit lives in those who believe and is at work in their lives. He can produce in you the “fruit of the Spirit”. As we consider its characteristics, we will realise it is a description of Jesus' character.

Galatians 5:22-23

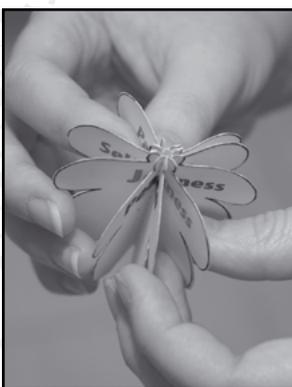
There is a very good description of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23, so

we will examine that passage of Scripture. Just remember as we look at these different words that we cannot be a perfect example of these. However, that should not be an excuse for not trying to be like Jesus. We should be striving to please Him. Remember Philippians 3:14? We should be pressing towards the goal God has set before us. We should also depend on God, knowing that it is His Spirit Who can make this happen in our lives. *[You may need to adapt the list of characteristics according to the Bible version you are using.]*

Method: Handwork



Photocopy handout 11 on thick coloured paper and give one to each teen. They will have to cut and fold each piece, and then glue them together so that it makes one fruit. Encourage them to keep this in their pocket in the coming days and to learn by heart the nine characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit.



Love

[Remove covers progressively on visual 11 as you progress through the lesson.] Nowadays what does the word “love” refer to? We use it to speak about the feelings we have for someone. But the Bible teaches that love is more than feelings. It involves

action! John 15:12 commands us to love one another as the Lord Jesus has loved us. Jesus didn’t just send “love notes” from Heaven to us. He came to save us at a high price. You and I need to learn to also love in action those we live with. For example, we should love those who do not yet know Jesus as their Saviour. We can do it by sharing the Gospel with them. Love is the first characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit. Ask God to give you much love for others. *[Ask teens to write on the fruit they made, under the word “love”: “Not just feelings but action!”]*

Joy

How do you think we can be joyful? Some teens think that buying a new mobile phone or new clothes or a new video game will make them happy. But such happiness doesn’t last long. Only God can give you deep and lasting happiness. In John 15:11 Jesus told us that He wanted our joy to be full. The way to have this joy is to keep His commandments and abide in His love. If you disobey God you will lose your joy. Obey Him and remain close to Him to experience full joy. It is a contradiction to be a Christian without joy, so let us have and show the joy of the Lord. Others will then see that Christianity really works and be drawn to Jesus. Let the Spirit of God fill you with joy. *[Ask teens to write on the fruit they made: “Joy comes from obedience!”]*

Peace

Nowadays where do people search for peace? Some listen to music all day long. Others drink alcohol and take drugs to forget about their problems. They are searching in the wrong place for peace. Jesus gives His followers peace (John 14:27). We have already discovered it is one of the blessings of the Christian life. But is it really

evident in your life? Or do you worry about everything? You have the answer, so show it. *[Ask teens to write on the fruit they made: "No worries – God takes care of me!"]*

LESSON BREAK

Patience

Can you think of situations in which we are impatient? When somebody makes a mistake repeatedly, when something is delayed, etc. We are naturally impatient. We do not want to wait for anything, but God tells us to be patient with other people (1 Thessalonians 5:14). God is patient with us as we slowly grow to be like Him. We should therefore be patient with others. When we are, it is a good witness to the work of Jesus in our lives. Again it is not a quality we can develop with our own strength but the Spirit of God can help us. We must play our part by depending on Him and letting Him transform us. *[Ask teens to write on the fruit they made: "God is so patient with me!"]*

Gentleness

It is easy to be gentle with close friends. With whom do we lack gentleness? People who are different, a younger brother or sister, etc. One of the things we should possess as servants of the Lord is gentleness (2 Timothy 2:24). As we serve the Lord we should be gentle to everyone. This means that people who hurt us, insult us, hate Christianity, tease us and even ignore us must be treated gently. It is difficult not to be harsh and angry. The work of the Spirit produces gentleness. *[Ask teens to write on the fruit they made: "With everyone, not just friends!"]*

Goodness

Your parents and teachers do a lot for you. In return are you good to them? No-one is perfectly good except God. Jesus said this in Matthew 19:17. When goodness or good works appear in the Bible it almost always refers to God. But look at Acts 9:36. Dorcas was full of good works. We should try to be "good" people. Let God's goodness be shown in your good works so that glory will be brought to God (Matthew 5:16). *[Ask teens to write on the fruit they made: "It brings praise to God!"]*

Faithfulness

In the parable of the talents each servant received a certain number of talents (money) and was responsible for them. Those who worked hard and did well heard these words, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). Because they were faithful in small things they were trusted with bigger responsibilities. We too must be faithful in all things – small and big. Can you think of areas in which this is important? Quiet time, obedience, church attendance, friendship, preaching the Gospel ... The Holy Spirit produces faithfulness in our lives but we must also work at being faithful. Is it worth it? Yes, because a faithful person will be blessed (Proverbs 28:20). *[Ask teens to write on the fruit they made: "It leads to great blessings!"]*

Meekness

What do you think this means? This means being quietly submissive to God, gentle to those around us and humble. Today the world says to be self-confident, and to put yourself first. Pride and arrogance are accepted. But the fruit of the Spirit is meekness, which is the opposite of the

world's attitudes. However meekness is not weakness – it actually takes a strong person to be meek. Numbers 12:3 tells us about a very meek or humble man. Was he weak? No! He was the leader of a great nation. It was Moses. Meekness therefore is not something to be scorned but something to be desired. [Ask teens to write on the fruit they made: "Meekness is not weakness!"]

Self-control

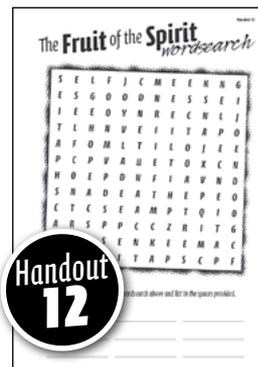
When Paul wrote to Titus with lots of instructions from God one thing he told Titus was to encourage the young believers to be self-controlled, (Titus 2:6). When is self-control necessary? We need to be self-controlled in our TV viewing, in what we say when things don't go our way, in keeping our temper when things go wrong, in keeping ourselves pure in any form of sexual temptation, and in the time we give to an enjoyable hobby or sport, plus a whole host of various temptations which we have to face. In our own strength we cannot be self-controlled but we can do it with the Holy Spirit's enabling. [Ask teens to write on the fruit they made: "God enables it!"]

It is important to note that in the Bible Paul speaks of the "fruit" of the Spirit, not "fruits". We cannot say, "I'll be good and faithful but forget self-control." All of these qualities should be developing in our lives. Remember also that it is the fruit "of the Spirit", not the fruit of only our efforts. During this study, you have learned you are not capable of having all these qualities. But the Spirit can give them to you. Depend on God and seek to bear the fruit of the Spirit so that others may know you belong to the Lord. Remember, "It is not great talents that God blesses so much as a great likeness to Jesus" (Robert Murray McCheyne).

Method: Zoom in on Jesus' life

If time allows, divide the teens in three groups and give each one a different Bible passage – Matthew 8:23-27, John 6:1-14 and John 8:1-11. Ask them to read the passage and think about which aspect of the fruit of the Spirit could be seen in Jesus' character in these circumstances. Then bring the teens all together and have them share. This will help the teens realise that Jesus had all the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit. Underline the fact that the Spirit that lived in Jesus is now living in us (Galatians 4:6) and is transforming us into His image.

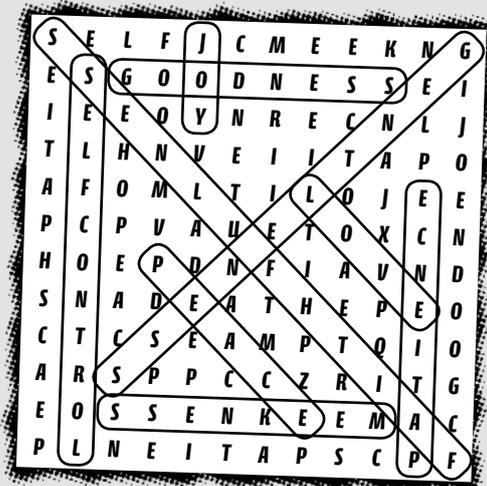
Method: Wordsearch



Photocopy handout 12 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lesson and memorise the main points. ●



HANDOUT 12 ANSWERS



Love; joy; peace; patience; gentleness; goodness; faithfulness; meekness; self-control.

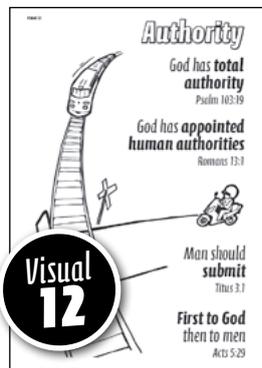
Authority

7

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that God has appointed human authorities to whom men should submit.
-  to realise that He did it for our education and protection.
-  to ask God for forgiveness for their lack of obedience and change their attitude at home, at school, etc.
-  to repent and submit their lives to God.

Introduction: Signposts



[Show part of visual 12. At first the text and the train should be covered.] As we ride on our scooter, we meet signposts on the side of the road. Look at these ones. What do they indicate and

what should the driver do? They tell there is a train crossing and the driver should check there is no train coming before going through. What may happen if the driver doesn't obey? [Now reveal the train on visual 12.] This high-speed train will not stop in time. The consequences could be dramatic. So why did the public authorities put this signpost at the side of the road? They did it for our safety. Today we will talk about "authority". I don't know how you feel when you hear this word. Many people don't like it. They challenge authority, sometimes even rebel. Have you ever thought about the fact that authorities exist for our good?

We have gone a long way in our journey towards God. Remember we had to pass through the barrier of sin, cross over the bridge of salvation and get brand new number plates now that we are justified in Christ. In order to keep our tank full, we decided to have a daily quiet time. Now remember our last lesson. How should this ride affect our lives? [See if the teens managed to memorise the nine characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit.] So we looked at the basics of living God's way. Now we are going to spend a few weeks looking practically at what this means for us in various aspects of our lives. One thing that will be affected if we seek to live God's way is our attitude to authority. Let us see what the Bible says about authority.

God has total authority

Psalm 103:19 speaks about God's throne in Heaven and the great extent of His kingdom. He rules over the entire universe! God created all things. There is nothing in Heaven or on Earth that is not under His mighty control. Can you think of Bible stories in which God's total authority was clearly manifested? We can see His authority throughout the Bible – e.g. in the garden of Eden and in the Ten Commandments.

God has appointed human authorities

According to Romans 13:1, human authorities like policemen, government, teachers and parents were established by God. Why do you think He did so? We

know what would happen if there were no policemen on the roads, no government leading the country, no teachers in the classroom or no parents at home – it would be chaos! God knows what we need and has appointed authorities for our good. We should be thankful for them and obey them knowing they come from God. Disobedience to God-appointed authorities is disobedience to Him.

Man should submit

Titus 3:1 teaches that we should be subject to our rulers. Is this our natural reaction to authority? Unfortunately, right from the beginning of history people have rebelled against God's authority and standards. Instead of authority, words like "rebellion", "disobedience", "disrespect", "defiance", "lawlessness" and "people's rights" reflect the world's attitude. People often say, "How dare you correct me!" or, "Do it my way." These rebellious standards are often hurled at us in music or films. We must go God's way with regard to authority.

First to God then to men

In Acts 5, when the apostles were strictly commanded not to speak about Jesus anymore, they said (verse 29) that they had to obey God rather than men. It is important to realise that the authority which parents, governments, etc have is given by God and therefore those in authority should set their standards according to the Word of God. It is only right to disobey these authorities if they are clearly commanding us to do something which God forbids or clearly forbidding us to do something which God commands. During World War II, Corrie Ten Boom was right to hide Jews despite the orders of the Nazi regime. Today a Christian

salesman should refuse to give wrong information to his customers in order to sell, despite pressure from his boss. But be careful: this should not be used as an excuse for disobedience.

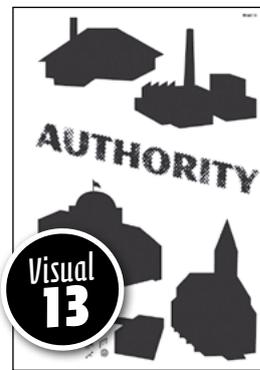
Method: Newspapers

Divide the teens into groups. Cut out articles from newspapers (corruption, road accident, etc) and give one to each group. Ask them to read the article and answer two questions.

1. What attitude did the people mentioned in the article have towards authority?
2. What were the consequences in their lives and others' lives?

Bring the groups together and let them share. Underline how needed authorities are and how crucial it is to obey them.

LESSON BREAK



Visual
13

Christians need to learn to obey what God teaches in His Word. Let us see how this affects us at home, at school, at work, in the local church and in public life. [Show visual 13 progressively as you

progress through the lesson.]

At home

According to Ephesians 6:1-3, God wants you to obey your parents. God has appointed them over you for your good. They educate you and take care of you. The fifth commandment is mentioned in Ephesians 6:2. This isn't an option for some but is a command from God for all Christians. If we do not submit, we are sinning against God. Colossians 3:20

tells us that obedience to parents pleases the Lord. It also pleases our parents! To “honour” involves not only obedience but also respect and love. Parents are not perfect but they sacrifice much for their children, therefore children should honour and obey. The Lord Jesus set the perfect example (Luke 2:51). Christian young people should also be obedient to their parents today.

At school

According to 1 Peter 2:13-14, Christians should submit to those in authority. These verses refer to all human authority and so we must include those with authority over us in school. We can thank God because he has appointed teachers from whom we can learn a lot. They are helping to equip you for your future job. Obedience to, and respect for teachers and the headmaster, etc will be a tremendous witness not only to the staff but also to other pupils. Colossians 3:23 says, “Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” Christian pupils should always be humble, hardworking and polite. If these principles are learned and applied in school they will be more easily carried into the world of employment later.

At work

According to Colossians 3:22, God wants us to obey our employers. In today’s world, this would include both full and part-time employment. We obey, not because we want to please men but rather that we always seek to please the Lord. Even if an employer is difficult to respect, 1 Peter 2:18-20 tells us to submit to his authority. If these commands are memorised and obeyed, the outcome is not only helpful as far as our witness to the unsaved is concerned but, more importantly, God will be glorified.

In your local church

According to Hebrews 13:17, we should also obey those in authority over us in the local church. The Lord Jesus has set some in authority in the local church and we are told in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 to have a high regard for such people. How does this compare to our attitudes when we often feel that we know better! Many problems in churches could be avoided if Christians submitted to those set in authority over them. As a young Christian, you can learn a lot from older people who have been Christians much longer than you have.

In public life

According to Romans 13:1-7 it is essential to obey those in authority over us in public life. We must obey this authority unless it is against the clear teaching of God’s Word. Whether this is government, police, local authorities, etc we submit for “the Lord’s sake”. Christian humility is still a witness in all these areas of life.

Method: TV show

Nowadays many teens resist authority. Here is an idea that could help them realise the consequences of their attitude. Try to invite a couple of Christians who are in a position of authority, maybe a teacher or a policeman or an employer or even an elder from the church. Have them take part in a “TV show”. They will sit in front of the whole group and you will ask them questions such as, “In what position of authority are you? How do people under your leadership generally respond? What difficulties do you face? What are the consequences? How do you try to solve them? What would you like to say to today’s teenagers?” If teens would like to ask questions, they could write them down on pieces of paper and pass them on to you.

This way you can ask their questions whenever you feel it is suitable, and the questions are kept anonymous.

George Washington, who was the first President of the USA, was one of ten children. He had an informal education and at the age of twenty-one he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the army. He was eventually given command of the American forces where he displayed great skill as a leader and strategist. His mother was once asked by a distinguished French officer, "How did you manage to raise such a splendid son?" She replied, "I taught him to obey."

God has put authorities over our lives for our protection and education. We know whom we should obey and how we should obey. James 1:22 reminds us not just to listen to God's Word but to act upon it and do it. If we submit to authorities, we will grow into the person God wants us to be. Our obedience is a vital part of living God's way.

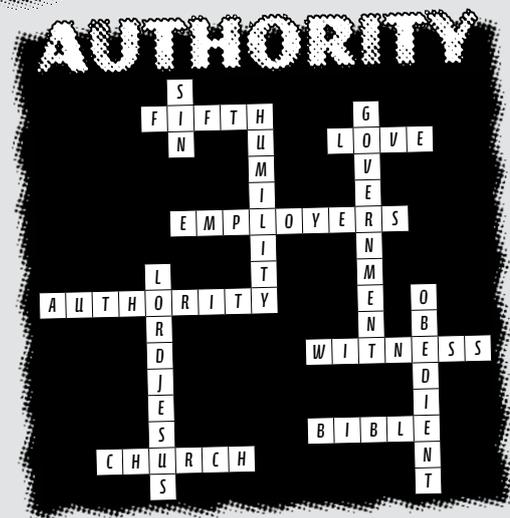
Method: Crossword



Photocopy handout 13 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lesson and memorise the main points. ●



HANDOUT 13 ANSWERS



Possessions

8

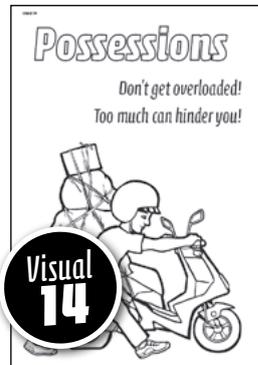
Objectives: *We would like the teens:*

-  to understand how money and possessions can drive someone far away from God.
-  to realise that they need to be transformed and to learn contentment and generosity.
-  to generously give some of their pocket money for the Lord's work.
-  to repent from the love of money and turn to God.

Introduction: *What is necessary?*

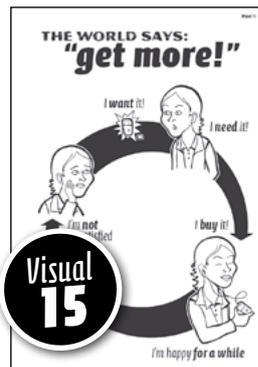
Begin this lesson by asking the young people for a list of five material items they possess. List these on a board or on an overhead transparency. They will probably come up with their favourite possessions (mobile phone, computer, bike, etc). Then ask how vital these are for everyday living and arrange the items in order of importance. Now ask for a list of five items that are absolutely necessary for day to day living (clothes, tooth brush, lamp, etc). Help teens realise that they have everything they need and even much more!

When we ride on a scooter, there are some rules to follow. We need to fill up the tank regularly – have a daily quiet time. We should follow the signposts that are on the side of the road. What did we learn about authorities in our last meeting? God has established authorities over us. He did this for our good and we must submit to them in public life, at home, at school, at work and in church. Today we will consider another important principle [show visual 14.] – don't



overload your scooter or you won't go far! The world today encourages getting so many things. You need to realise that possessions can hinder your journey with God.

The world says, "Get more!"



The world has an attitude to possessions that is like a "vicious circle". The five stages or points on the circle are as follows. [Reveal progressively visual 15 as you progress through the lesson.]

"I'm not satisfied!"

Why do people feel dissatisfied? Because someone else has something they want and they think having it would make them happy. The people who work in advertising aim at producing dissatisfaction in our lives. For example, the latest computer game or package is advertised in such a way as to make us feel we are missing out if we don't have it. Maybe one of your friends gets a new mobile phone or MP3 player and you become dissatisfied with what you have.

"I want it!"

Dissatisfaction turns to wanting. After seeing an advertisement we begin to visualise ourselves with the product. We

long for the happiness and deep satisfaction that could be ours.

"I need it!"

Want turns to need. At this stage all arguments that may have been raised against buying the item are swept aside. We have fooled ourselves that we really need the item and in our minds this has become a legitimate reason for having it.

"I buy it!"

We don't always have the money (fortunately!), but if we do have it, we rush off to the shop. There is such excitement! And the item is secured.

"I am happy for a while!"

Dissatisfaction is replaced by satisfaction, at least for a time. Then what happens gradually?

"Fashion changes!"

You see an advertisement for a new product with extraordinary new features. Some of your friends get this brand new item. Satisfaction becomes ... guess what?!

"I'm not satisfied!"

We have now come full circle and are back to dissatisfaction! It is an ongoing cycle in which most people are caught.

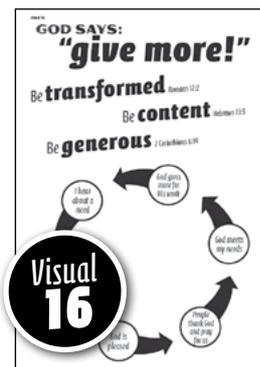
Why is it dangerous to be in this vicious circle? Most of the time we are dissatisfied. We spend a lot of money. Money is the fuel that keeps the circle moving. Somebody was asked, "How much money does it take to be happy?" He answered, "Just a little bit more!" We always want more to satisfy our desires. But there are greater consequences – we might live for money and possessions

instead of living for God. Money and possessions are not bad in themselves but they can drive us away from God. A love of money itself can easily develop and this love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10).

In Luke 12:16-20, the rich farmer left God out of his earthly plans – and he died a fool! Note how many times "I" and "my" are mentioned in this reading. He put his possessions and money before a right relationship with God. But they could not save his soul. Will you heed the warning? Do not let possessions take God's place in your life!

LESSON BREAK

God says, "Give more!"



Let us see what the Bible says about the right attitude towards possessions. [Reveal progressively visual 16 as you progress through the lesson.]

Be transformed

Read Romans 12:2. As we described the vicious circle, maybe you realised that you are caught in that circle and are not living for God as you should. You wonder how it is possible to stop conforming to this world. The verse we read says that you need to be transformed. Ask God to forgive you and let Him transform you, renew your mind, and enable you to live according to His will.

Materialism is something we continually need to fight against in our Christian lives. But we can count on God's help. God desires that our lives be different. One aspect of this is having a love for the Lord

Jesus rather than a love of money. Thomas Watson once said that when the ship was in the sea that was fine, but when the sea got into the ship that was a major problem. In this illustration the ship represents the believer and the sea represents the "world". The Christian has to live in the world but when the world gets into the Christian that leads to problems and potential disaster. Are you transformed or are you still conformed?

Be content

Paul says in Hebrews 13:5 that we should be content with what we have – not what we hope to have. What should you do when you are filled with dissatisfaction because of something you want to buy? Think about all that God has already given to you. Take a few minutes to thank Him and ask Him for wisdom as to what to do with your money. We are told in Matthew 6:33 that if we put God first, all that we need (but not all we want!) will be supplied.

Method: Count your privileges

Read the following points and ask teens to put their thumbs up whenever a statement applies to their life, and down when it doesn't.

- ✦ You live in a house or a flat bigger than a hut.
- ✦ You just need to turn on a tap to get some water.
- ✦ You don't eat rice every day.
- ✦ You don't go to bed famished.
- ✦ You get toys at Christmas.
- ✦ Your parents and a doctor take care of you.
- ✦ You go to school with a pencil case and a school bag.
- ✦ You brush your teeth with toothpaste.

Most teens in the third world do not have such privileges.

Then ask teens to estimate how much the clothes they wear cost. They should include the cost of trousers, skirt, shoes, jumper, underwear, jewellery, watch, and glasses. Most teens in the third world wear rags only. As we realise how much more we have, we should be thankful and content.

Be generous

While the person in the world strives for more and more and is concerned only with "I" and "my", the Christian should be concerned with being generous to the work of the Lord and to those in need. The Bible teaches that Christians should give a minimum of one tenth of their income (Leviticus 27:30). This includes pocket money, part-time job or full-time employment. But the Bible encourages us to give more – according to our abilities. The world says, "Get more!" but God says, "Give more!" We shall now look at another circle that, instead of beginning and ending with dissatisfaction, begins and ends with joy and blessing! Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-14. Here are the stages of the circle of generosity.

"I hear about a need"

The Corinthians had heard from Paul that some brothers and sisters in Jerusalem were in great need. Today we also hear about people in need. Missionaries need support to continue spreading the Gospel. The local church needs offerings to pay their pastor and for other expenses.

"I give willingly"

We decide to give, not because others force us, but because we want to. We realise everything we have is from the Lord and we want to contribute to the Lord's work.

"God is pleased"

God is especially attentive to the way we give. He loves the joyful giver. It is a joy for us to contribute to God's work but it is also a joy for Him to see the cheerful attitude with which we give.

"People thank God and pray for us"

In verses 11 and 12, Paul says that the Corinthians' offerings would not only meet the needs of the saints, but also gave much thanksgiving to God. Today brothers and sisters can thank God for our obedience. Our generosity contributes to the glory of God. And those who benefit also pray for us.

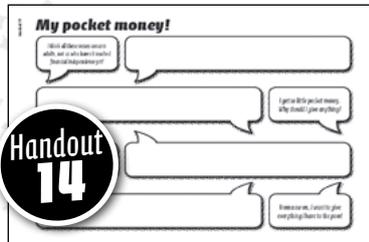
"God meets my needs"

God continues to supply our needs. We have sufficient bread. We do not worry because the Lord takes care of us day after day.

"God gives me more for His work"

But then, what does God do according to what we read? He gives in abundance. He doesn't do it for our personal enrichment. He multiplies the seed so we may sow more. He gives us more so we may be able to contribute more to the Lord's work.

Method: My pocket money!



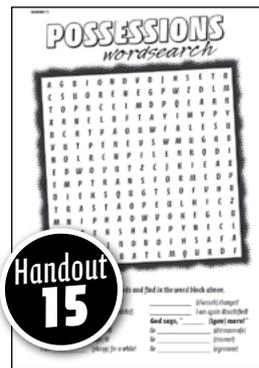
is going on among teens about pocket money. What is their opinion? They will have to fill in the speech bubbles. After a few minutes, bring all the teens together, listen to their suggestions and strengthen your teaching. This is the opportunity to explain several things.

Divide the teens into groups and give handout 14 to each group. Tell them that a discussion

- Giving is something important to learn when we are young.
- The attitude with which we give is more important to God than the amount – He can multiply.
- God has set up a minimum – the tenth of what we get.

Which way do you want to turn? Are you going to be always dissatisfied and wanting to get more? Or have you decided to experience the joy of giving? John Wesley said, "The real value of a thing is the price it will bring in eternity." We should weigh all our "things" on these scales!

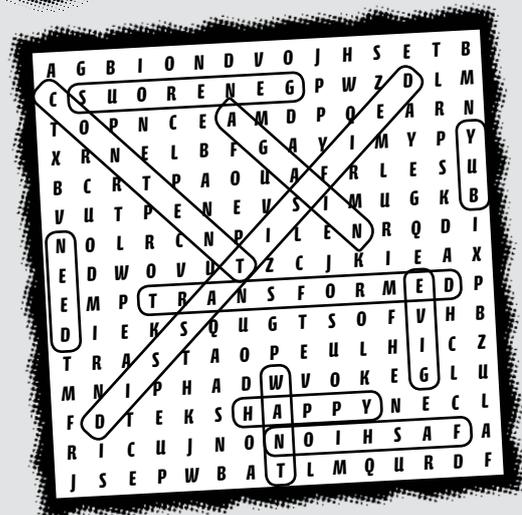
Method: Wordsearch



Photocopy handout 15 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lesson and memorise the main points. ●



HANDOUT 12 ANSWERS



Dissatisfied; want; need; buy; happy; fashion; again; give; transformed; content; generous.

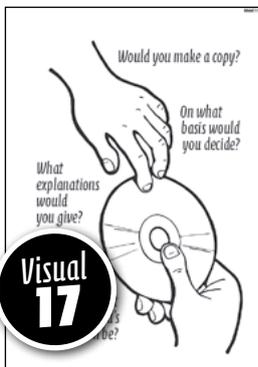
Morality

9

Objectives: We would like the teens:

- ✎ to understand that God has given them clear moral standards in His Word.
- ♥ to realise the danger of being caught in the world's view, under the influence of friends and media.
- ✎ to seek for guidance in Scripture when confronted with a moral issue, and obey courageously.
- 🙏 to acknowledge their sinful moral attitude and ask God for forgiveness.

Introduction: Pirating



[Show visual 17.] Suppose a friend is interested in one of your CDs or DVDs, and asks you to make him a copy. He explains that it is not available at the store anymore and he

promises he will use it only for a week or two and then destroy it. Would you make a copy? On what basis would you decide? What explanations would you give? What might your friend's reaction be? [Discuss with the teens.]

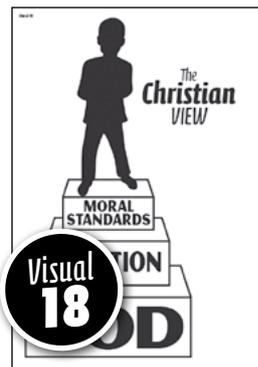
Moral issues

Today we will talk about morality – what is right and what is wrong. In everyday life, we are confronted with many moral issues. Here are some you will face sooner or later.

- ✦ Can I drive my scooter slightly over the speed limit?
- ✦ Is it OK to go shopping on Sundays?
- ✦ Can I tell a “half-truth” to get out of trouble?
- ✦ Is wearing a short skirt acceptable?
- ✦ Can I live with someone before getting married?

In today's society, we find all kinds of viewpoints on these topics. Some say, “Yes, it is right,” others, “No, it is wrong,” or, “It depends.” On what basis do people make a decision? It depends on what they believe. Beliefs always influence behaviour. That is why it is so important to sort out what we believe. It affects our whole lifestyle.

The Christian view



[Reveal visual 18 progressively.] Christian belief is based on the holy Bible. The Bible teaches us that God is real, powerful and knowledgeable and that He created the world and all that is in

it (Genesis 1:1).

When God created man, He also gave him clear instructions as to how he should behave (Genesis 2:16-17). Later He gave His people the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). In the Bible we find God's standards of right and wrong.

These standards, set by God, are the basis of morality. Because we have been created by God we are accountable to Him for the way we behave. If we keep His statutes, we walk in His ways and experience His blessings (Psalm 119:1-3).

Method: Complete the sentences (part 1)

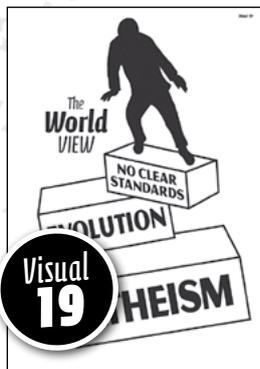
Ask the teens to look up the verses and finish the sentences.

- Exodus 20:15 and Romans 13:1 – “I decide not to copy a CD or DVD, because ...”
- Exodus 20:8 – “I decide not to encourage shopping on Sunday, because ...”
- Proverbs 6:16-17 – “I decide not to lie, even when in trouble, because ...”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 – “I decide not to have sex before marriage, because ...”

It is vital to remain within the limits set by God for our good. God’s way is best.

The Christian viewpoint has influenced many human societies, but things have changed a lot. Certain Christian morals are still held, but sadly many are being disregarded as a more humanist viewpoint is being accepted.

The world view



[Reveal visual 19 progressively.] For many people, there is no god. Atheism is disbelief in the existence of any god. Despite the many evidences we considered in lesson 1, they do not believe

that there is a creator.

They think that we have not been created

but are here merely by chance. For them, man is the result of evolution. As a consequence, they reject God’s law. They do not accept that there are clear standards of right and wrong. They want no absolutes.

Then, how do they decide what is right or wrong? The standards taught in the Bible are replaced by human views. Instead of listening to God, they listen to others and to the media. They depend on human thinking rather than on Christ (Colossians 2:8). Instead of submitting to their Creator, they feel free to decide what they should or should not do according to their own feelings – “I feel this is good, I will do it.” This viewpoint can be seen very clearly in our society today.

Method: Complete the sentences (part 2)

Now ask volunteers to expose common world views by finishing the following sentences.

- “I will copy a CD or DVD, because ...”
- “I will go shopping on Sunday, because ...”
- “I will have sex with my girlfriend, because ...”

Then ask the teens what are the consequences of ignoring God’s law in these three areas.

LESSON BREAK

Be prepared

The Christian viewpoint on behaviour and morals, and the world viewpoint on behaviour and morals are clearly opposed to one another. As a young person growing up in today’s society, you can expect to find yourself in situations where it will be difficult to decide what you should do. Here are some issues that affect young people today. How would you react if faced with these situations?

Method: Group discussion

Give out handout 16 to all the teens. Divide them into groups of approximately five with a leader assigned to each group. Experienced, sensitive leaders are required for this exercise and good preparation is

essential. Discuss the problems one at a time for about three to five minutes. Encourage the teens to think critically about TV viewing, friends, dress, etc. Bring the groups together again and allow each group to share its findings.

Problem 1: "All my friends follow various TV series. I know some involve things that are immoral, but surely there is no harm in just watching. What do you think?"

Problem 2: "I'm 13 and this really good-looking boy has asked me out. My friends say I would be crazy not to go but mum says I'm too young. She says that she doesn't mind if I go in a crowd but not alone. I think she is being old-fashioned. What do you think?"

Problem 3: "I like to dress fashionably. Last week my dad scolded me because I wore a short skirt. Surely there is nothing wrong with keeping up with the fashion trends?"

Problem 4: In school my mates meet some of the girls behind the bicycle sheds at lunchtime. We have a good laugh but sometimes I get a bit uncomfortable when

there are a lot of 'double meanings' and 'smutty jokes'. My friend, who is also a Christian, says that I'm making a fuss about nothing and that there is no harm in it. What do you think?"

Suggested verses to help:

- *Basis of marriage: Genesis 2:20-24 (for problem 1)*
- *Basis of loyalty (i.e. in marriage, and with opposite sex): Exodus 20:14, Matthew 5:27-32 (for problem 1)*
- *Basis of conduct: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Ephesians 5:3-4, 1 Peter 1:15, Galatians 5:19-23, Colossians 3:23 (for problems 1, 2, 3 and 4)*
- *Basis of dress: 1 Timothy 2:9-10 (for problem 3)*
- *Basis of thoughts: Philippians 4:8 (for problem 1 and 4)*
- *Basis of family obedience: Ephesians 6:1-4 (for problem 2 and 3)*

Now you need to make a choice. Are you going to live by the world's standards – led by your friends, by the media and by your own feelings? Or are you going to live by God's standards that we find in the Bible? You are accountable to God and should therefore be obedient to the Bible, even when its standards are different to those of society. Remember that God has set limits for your own good because He loves you and wants the best for you. Be courageous and make decisions based on the standards of His Word. God honours those who honour Him (1 Samuel 2:30). ●



Time

Lesson 10

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to think about the way they use their time.
-  to realise that time on Earth is precious but short.
-  to take every opportunity to serve the Lord.
-  to seek the Lord for salvation before it is too late.

Introduction: At the starting line



[Show visual 20 with covers on the text, which you will remove as you progress through the

lesson.] Two scooters are at the starting line. They are about to take off for a long race. Who do you think will win the race? One competitor needs to realise that it is time to wake up and go! The other one is ready to pounce but he will have to remain alert and not lose time on the way.

On our journey towards God, we crossed the border and crossed the bridge of salvation. We learned many important principles – fill up the tank daily, let God transform us into His image, submit to signposts placed by authorities, do not overload our scooter with possessions. Remember the last lesson. When we face a moral issue, what should we do? [Have a little review.]

Today we want to think about time and how to best use our time. Let us see what the Bible teaches about this topic.

Method: Sword drill

Ask the teens to “draw their swords” (hold their Bible up high). Give the first Bible reference and have them repeat it. Then command, “Attack!” and they compete to find the verse. The first teen to find it stands up. Give a few moments for the others to find it, and then ask the winner to read the verse aloud.

- Psalm 39:5, Psalm 90:10-12 and James 4:14 – What is the main truth taught in these verses? Time is short!
- Ephesians 5:15-17 and Colossians 4:5 – What is the main truth taught here? Redeem the time!

Now, realising how important time is, what should we be doing with our lives and with our time? Firstly and the most important thing in your life:

Time to seek the Lord

People have spent time praying for you and telling you the way of salvation. You put time into coming to our meetings. If you are not yet saved then it is time you seriously considered your need of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible clearly tells us in 2 Corinthians 6:2 that the day of salvation is now, today. It is too important to put off. Why? Because we do not know what will happen to us tomorrow. Our life on this Earth will end in one of two ways.

- ✦ We will die (Hebrews 9:27). We do not know when this will happen so it is important to be ready to face the Lord in judgement. You may ask, “How long can I put off coming to Jesus Christ?” “Until the day you die,” is one possible answer. The problem with this answer is that you don’t know when you will die, so trust in Christ today.
- ✦ The Lord will return for the believers (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). As with death, we do not know when the Lord will return, so it is absolutely vital to be ready (Matthew 24:44). Our time on this Earth should be spent preparing for eternity. That is why we are here.

Death and the second coming of Jesus Christ should make us seriously consider our salvation. Hosea urged the people to seek the Lord. His words are still relevant today. “It is time to seek the Lord” (Hosea 10:12).

We should, however, not want to be saved just to get to Heaven, vitally important as that is. If you put your faith in the Lord Jesus then it is not only a soul saved for eternity but a life saved to serve God and bring glory to God.

Method : Case study



Photocopy handout 17 for all the teens. Have them read the case study and discuss the questions. (Another possibility would be to show part of the film of Joni’s life.)

Joni was born in Baltimore, USA, in 1950. She grew into a young adult surrounded by love, happiness and security in her parents’ home.

In 1967, on a hot July day, she met her sister, Kathy, and some friends at the beach on the Chesapeake Bay to swim. She dove in quickly, and immediately knew something was wrong. Though she felt no real pain, a tightness seemed to encompass her. Her first thought was that she was caught in a fishing net and she tried to break free and get to the surface. Panic seized her as she realised she couldn’t move and she was lying face down on the bottom of the bay. Kathy ran to Joni and managed to pull her out of the water. She yelled for someone to call an ambulance and Joni was rushed to the hospital. Joni’s life was changed for ever that July day in 1967. She had broken her neck – a fracture between the fourth and fifth cervical levels. She was now a quadriplegic, paralysed from the shoulders down. While her friends were busy preparing to go to college in the autumn, Joni was fighting for her very life and having to accept the fact that she would have to live out the rest of her life in a wheelchair.

Joni raged against her fate. She struggled with depression and often she wanted to end her life. She could not understand how God could let this happen to her. Before the accident she had felt that she wasn’t living the life she should be, so she had prayed that God would change her life.

After months of staring at the ceiling, Joni began to wonder if this was God’s answer to her prayer. This realisation that God was working in her life was the beginning of Joni’s journey to wholeness as a disabled person.

She learned to live with her disabilities and she immersed herself in God’s Word to become spiritually strong. Being naturally creative, she learned to draw and paint

holding her utensils with her teeth. She sold her artwork and it was a great success. She was also able to share Christ's love in her drawings. She always signed her paintings "PTL" which stood for "Praise the Lord". Joni became a sought-after conference speaker, author, and actress, portraying herself in the World Wide Pictures production of "Joni". She wrote several books. But her most satisfying and far-reaching work is her advocacy on behalf of disabled people. In 1979, Joni moved to California to begin a ministry to disabled people around the globe, called "Joni and Friends". In 1982, Joni married Ken Tada and they continued serving the Lord together.

- What kind of life did Joni have before her accident?
- How did the accident affect her life?
- What became her new priorities?

LESSON BREAK

Time to serve the Lord

Jesus said to His disciples that the time of harvest had come. He had to do the will of His Father and finish His work (John 4:34-35). Today you and I should work in the harvest, doing the will of the Lord and serving Him. One day it will be too late. In what sort of work or service can you be involved?

In your local church

Generally for you this will mean regular attendance at church services and organisations such as youth fellowship (Hebrews 10:25). You can also be involved in other ways – for example, in the prayer life of the church, or in an open air outreach meeting. You are at present learning what

the Bible teaches about a wide variety of the doctrines of our faith. You should also be learning how to put this into practice in daily Christian living. You are being taught the foundations of your faith so that you will be prepared for service in your local church. Use this time wisely.

In your personal life

Being a teenager is a great advantage in serving God because you are meeting people who may not go to church. If we really believe John 3:18, which speaks of condemnation for the unbeliever, then we will want to warn those who are unbelievers. Our life must be pleasing to God. Our Christianity must be lived out in front of our unsaved friends. Then we must take opportunities for witnessing about the Lord Jesus and what He has done for us. See Acts 1:8. Your "Jerusalem" is in your home and in your school. It will not be easy as people are often antagonistic towards God and His people. The Lord has promised to be with us (Hebrews 13:5b). If even one person came to Christ it would be worth it all. And even if no-one does then you may be a contact with the Gospel that someone else can build on. Be patient and use your time for eternity.

In special outreach

This should not take the place of service in the church or personal witnessing. However, God has really used special times of mission to spread His Word. Summer holidays are great, but when you are planning what to do with the long time off school don't forget the Lord's command. One area you could help in is reaching lost children with the Gospel. You may not be standing at the front of a meeting but you could help look after younger children. You could also take

on jobs such as marking the roll or holding choruses. Never think there is nothing for you to do with your time.

In your future

Good News Clubs® need good leaders and you may be able to be used by God if you dedicate time to that. Perhaps the Lord will call some of you to serve Him full-time. This could be at home or overseas. Remember Acts 1:8? You could go further than your “Jerusalem”. Millions of people around the world have never heard the Gospel. You could be a missionary to these people. What a great way to use your time on this Earth.

There are three things we can do with time.

1. We can waste it. Don't waste it because it is too precious and there is too much to be done for the Lord.
2. We can spend it. Some of the things we spend time doing may be necessary but many are not.

3. We can invest it in service for God. This will count for eternity. It is only what is done for Jesus that will last.

We are only here for a short time so don't waste it but invest it.

Method: Help Fred manage his time



Divide the teens in groups of three or four and give them handout 18 with Fred's Saturday programme. They will put arrows in front of each line of his programme to help Fred manage it better.

Method: Opportunities

Present to the group different opportunities of service with churches or mission organisations. You could hand out some leaflets, have testimonies, show some photos, etc. ●

Choose God's Way

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to consider how various Bible characters responded to the Gospel.
-  to realise what the consequence of their choice was – eternal life with God or eternal separation from Him.
-  to share the Gospel with others and urge them to make the right decision.
-  to choose God's way – repent and believe in the Lord Jesus.

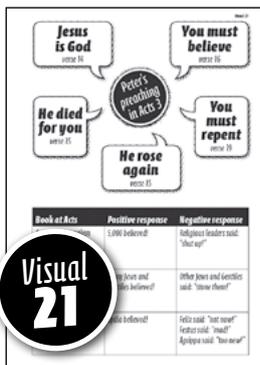
Introduction: What is your response?

Ask the teens to respond aloud to the following news.

- ✦ Your mum made soup for dinner!
- ✦ The price of cigarettes has gone up!
- ✦ There will be one extra week of holiday this summer!
- ✦ Medicine found as a new way to fight against cancer!

Today we want to think about how we should respond to much more important news – the good news of salvation. You heard the Gospel but did you respond to

it? Did you decide which way you want to go? Let us review the Gospel message and think about our response. [Reveal the speech bubbles and the chart of visual 21 progressively.]



Book of Acts	Positive response	Negative response
verse 16	5,000 believed!	Religious leaders said: "Whoa!"
verse 17	Others and Gentiles said: "Somehow!"	
verse 18	Seller said: "Not now!"	Religious said: "No!"
verse 19	Religious said: "You never!"	

The Gospel of Christ

The Book of Acts reports tremendous events that took place after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Peter and John went to the Temple and met a crippled man at the gate. This man was healed in the name of Jesus Christ. Taking advantage of the crowd of amazed onlookers, Peter preached a sermon. In the space of just a few sentences Peter outlined the Gospel. Read Acts 3:12-20.

Jesus is God: Acts 3:14

Peter called Jesus "the Holy One and the Just". He was saying that Jesus is God. This is something the Jews would not accept, and they showed their anger at this fact many times. Do you accept that Jesus is God? The main evidences are the Scriptures and changed lives.

He died for you: Acts 3:15

He Who was the Author of life was killed. He accepted sufferings and death for us sinners. He died as our substitute taking our punishment. Only the perfect Son of God could do it. Have you realised what the Lord Jesus did for you?

He rose again: Acts 3:15

This is another fact of history that the Jews did not believe. They had a cover up story going right from the morning of the resurrection (Matthew 28:11-15). Do you believe in the resurrection? Jesus was seen by at least eleven different groups of people. With God anything is possible!

You must repent: Acts 3:19

This is a well-known text, but is it put into effect in your life? "Repent" means to hate sin and turn away from it towards God. Are you sorry enough to want to stop sinning against God?

You must believe: Acts 3:16

Belief is necessary not just in your head, but in your heart too, so that you really put your trust in the Lord Jesus. John Paton, a Scottish missionary to the New Hebrides, was looking for a way to explain exactly what faith was. One day he came in from a hard day's work and just collapsed into a comfortable chair. He didn't check the chair to see if it would hold him or sit wondering if it was going to hold him. He realised that this was a picture of faith in the Lord Jesus – totally trusting, throwing ourselves on His mercy without question or doubt.

Responses to the Gospel

This is the message that Peter and Paul preached to a wide variety of audiences in many cities. Did people believe their message? Let us find out how different groups and individuals responded to the Gospel message, starting with the crowd who heard Peter in Jerusalem.

Acts 4: In Jerusalem

We read in Acts 4:1-3 that Peter and John were arrested. The Jewish leaders did not like the message, especially the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead. They did not like the people listening to it, so they put Peter and John in prison. Too late! Read Acts 4:4. The number of believers grew to about 5,000.

The next day Peter and John were questioned by the Jewish leaders. Peter

answered by witnessing to them about Christ. They were amazed at their courage and how well they could speak, but what was the response of the Jewish leaders? They ordered Peter and John not to speak about or to teach the Gospel (Acts 4:18). The Jewish leaders tried to silence the ambassadors of Christ and therefore tried to silence God's voice. They did not like the message as it would have affected their popularity.

Have you ever tried to silence His voice? Perhaps God has spoken to you through what you have heard this year, but you have tried to put God out of your thinking. Today we always seem to be busy doing something. Could this all be a subtle attempt by Satan to cut down on our time to think about important matters? Don't give in to Satan by trying to block out God. Were Peter and John silenced? No! They said they must continue, and they did.

Acts 14: In Iconium

Here we meet Paul and Barnabas who had just arrived in Iconium to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They met with a mixed reaction. Firstly they went to the synagogue and preached with the Lord's help. What happened? See Acts 14:1 – a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed. A Gentile is anyone who is not born a Jew.

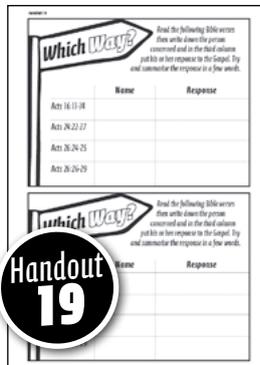
Not everyone was happy. The Jews who did not believe caused an uprising against Paul and Barnabas. Some people sided with Paul and Barnabas and others opposed them. In Acts 14:5 we see that some of the Jews and Gentiles who did not believe planned to have Paul and Barnabas stoned to death. The reaction of some people to the Gospel was openly hostile and violent. So we have two crowds of people. One was made up of Jews

and Gentiles who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and left their old ways behind. The other crowd was opposed to Christ and tried to influence everyone else to be the same.

How do you react to the Gospel? Which way do you go? It is probably easier to be with the crowd who are against the message of the Bible as it is bigger and more popular. But what will happen to them at the end of their life? Proverbs 16:25 reminds us that there is a way which seems right to us but the end of it is death, i.e. separation from God for ever. Will you not come and follow in Christ's way? If you do you will know forgiveness and one day have a home in Heaven. It is a smaller crowd but it is the only way.

LESSON BREAK

Method: Group study



Photocopy handout 19 for all the teens. Divide them into small groups of three or four with a group leader in each. They will sort out some more responses to the Gospel from the Bible references supplied on

the worksheet. The verse is given and they have to find the name of the person involved and summarise their response in a few words. As the groups report back, comment using the notes below and the last row of visual 21.

Acts 16:11-14: Lydia

Paul met Lydia on his second missionary journey. Silas and Paul had just arrived in Philippi. There were few Jews in Philippi, since it was a Roman colony, so on the Sabbath day they went to the place where they expected to find the Jews meeting

together for prayer – at the river bank. The women there believed in God but had not heard of the Lord Jesus. As Paul preached, God spoke to Lydia's heart and she responded to the message of salvation. She turned to Christ. She heard the right way and followed Christ. If God speaks to you and you know that you must repent and believe as Lydia did, then do something about it.

Acts 24:22-27: Felix

At the end of Paul's third missionary journey he preached in Jerusalem where he was arrested and was given the chance to defend his teachings. However, there was a plot to kill him and the commander of the Roman army heard of it and sent him by night with a guard of two hundred soldiers to the governor Felix in Caesarea. Who says the Bible is not interesting? Felix heard the accusations of Ananias the high priest against Paul. Then Paul gave his account of how things happened and spoke to Felix about the Lord. Felix heard him several times – partly, it seems, out of a genuine interest – and because he thought Paul had a lot of money and might offer him a bribe. One day as Paul spoke of righteousness and the judgement to come, Felix became afraid, probably as he thought of his past life. Then his response came in some of the saddest words in Scripture. Here was a man who knew the right way (Acts 24:22), but he said in Acts 24:25, "That's enough for now. You may leave. When I find it convenient I will send for you." He was really saying to the message of salvation, "Not now." Don't be like Felix and put off following Christ. This is one of Satan's most subtle weapons – "Trust Christ when you are older – enjoy yourself first." Instead, be like Timothy who was converted as a young man, or Rhoda who was a believer, probably from her early teens.

Acts 26:24-25: Festus

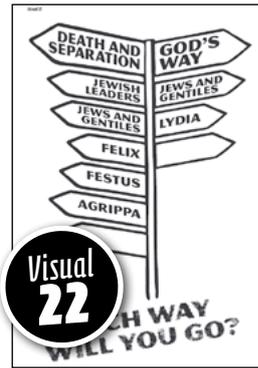
After two years Felix was replaced by Governor Festus. Festus was not too sure how to deal with this prisoner called Paul. There was a repeat of the trial but Festus could see nothing wrong with Paul. Then King Agrippa arrived in Caesarea. They discussed Paul's case and both heard him speak. Paul gave his testimony and explained the Gospel. Festus interrupted Paul, (Acts 26:24) and told him too much studying had made him insane. "You are mad," was his response. Up to now he could see nothing wrong with Paul and his message, but suddenly he changed. Again Satan had blinded his mind from seeing the right way. Maybe like Festus you are very opposed to the Gospel. Why are you so opposed to the Gospel? If you stay that way Satan is happy because he has blinded your mind from seeing the right way. Don't let Satan keep you on the wrong way.

Acts 26:26-29: Agrippa

King Agrippa stated in Acts 26:28 that he was not persuaded. Perhaps there was an excuse for Agrippa. See verse 28 again. Although he knew what the prophets had written, the Gospel was new to him, but it is sad that he did not want to hear more. "Too new," was his response. The Gospel is not new to you, is it? You know the truths of the Gospel so well but yet some of you are not persuaded. Don't fight against what you know is right but accept Christ.

Which way will you go?

[Show visual 22.] These people we considered were heading one way or the other. The Jewish leaders, some of the Jews and Gentiles, Felix, Festus and King Agrippa were sadly heading the wrong



way – to death and separation from Christ. They may have trusted Christ at a later date – we don't know. If you have not trusted Christ you too are travelling the wrong way. You may

have another opportunity to accept Christ but that is something no-one can guarantee.

Some other Jews and Gentiles and Lydia were going the right way – to Heaven, through trusting in Christ alone. You can join them on that way and know the joy of sins forgiven, peace with God and a purpose in life. You will also know the joys of the Christian life and one day be with the Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven.

Which way will you go? If you had to write your name on one of these two blank signposts, on which side would it be written? Which way will you go? May God speak to you and give you the grace to answer and follow the right way.

Method: Quiz



Photocopy handout 20 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lesson and memorise the main points. ●



HANDOUT 20 ANSWERS

Words: died; He; rose; Jesus; for; God; He; must; you; is; again; you; repent; must; you; believe. **Sentences:** Jesus is God; He died for you; He rose again; You must repent; You must believe.

Trust God on the Way

12

Objectives: We would like the teens:

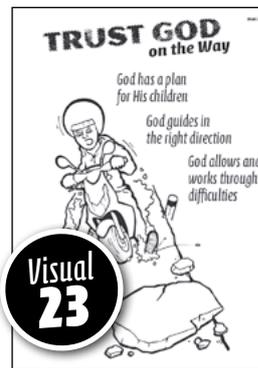
-  to think about difficulties they may face on the journey of life.
-  to realise that God can help them, guide them and bring them to their final destination.
-  to depend on God entirely and seek His guidance.
-  to stop wandering in life and submit to God.

Introduction: Traffic signs

As we travel we see many traffic signs on the side of the road. Some warn us about dangers on the way. [Show images of some road signs.] In life we may also meet with various difficulties. Look at the following warning signs and tell what difficulties in life they make you think about.

- ♦ **Crossroads:** You need to make a big decision concerning the future and don't know which way to go.
- ♦ **Falling or fallen rocks:** You fail at major exams and cannot continue in the direction you wanted.
- ♦ **Double bend:** You make difficult turns like changing job or moving house.
- ♦ **Side winds:** Some people have a bad influence on you and try to make you get off the road.
- ♦ **Road narrows:** You lose several of your friends and feel lonely.
- ♦ **Wild animals:** Someone aggrieves you unexpectedly and you are hurt.

- ♦ **Slippery road:** You fall in love with someone but it doesn't work out.
- ♦ **Steep hill downwards:** You have health problems and worry about them.



[Show visual 23 progressively as you progress through the lesson.] If you chose God's way, it's the best way, but don't think it will be an easy way. God never promised an easy ride,

quite the contrary! Jesus told His disciples that they would have troubles in this world (John 16:33). The Christian life is not easy. Satan, the adversary, will attack you and try to make you get off the road. But the Bible teaches several wonderful truths that can help you whenever you meet with difficulties along the way.

God has a plan for His children

We don't know what can happen tomorrow. We make plans but do not know if any of them will come to reality. You may be anxious as you think about your studies, future job, family, health, etc.

But God's ways and thoughts are much higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). Remember Bible history. God had a plan to set His people free from bondage in Egypt. Then He had a plan to bring His people exiled in Babylon back to Israel. He also had a plan to save men from sin. Ephesians 3:11 says that He accomplished His "eternal purpose" in Christ Jesus. Do you know that

God also has a plan today for each one of His children? According to Ephesians 2:10, He has prepared in advance good works for us to practise. Isn't this amazing and reassuring?

This truth should encourage you not to worry about tomorrow, but to seek God and depend on Him (Matthew 6:33-34). He knows the best way for you and has prepared it before you. Do not be anxious about what may happen. Remember that God has a perfect plan for your life.

God guides in the right direction

Would you go into a major city with no guide, no map, no sign, no GPS, nobody to show you the way? You would get totally lost! Many people get lost in life. But Christians have a wonderful Guide Who not only knows the way but also shows them the way to go. According to Psalm 48:14, God is our guide. Many verses in Scripture promise that God will make His plan known to His people so they may walk in the right direction.

Method: Mixed-up words

Before the meeting, write on the board or a poster or a transparency the following verses. Show them at this stage of the lesson and ask teens to identify the mixed-up words.

Psalm 32:8 – “I will tsnuirc you and ahtec you in the way you should go; I will duige you with My eye.”

Isaiah 58:11 – “The droL will guide you nylciotanlu ...”

Psalm 25:9 – “The humble He guides in iusctje, and the humble He cteseha His way.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own dusnergnatdni; in all your ways adwgcneole

Him, and He shall edticr your paths.”

God has given you a mind and wants you to use it, but be careful not to lean on it. You need to submit all your projects to God (James 4:13-16). They can succeed only when they are consistent with His purpose (Proverbs 19:21). Ask Him to reveal His perfect will to you.

God uses many different ways to guide us. He does it through His Word, through His Spirit living in us, through other Christians, etc. So you can seek His guidance by reading Scriptures, praying and listening to advice from mature believers.

God allows and works through difficulties

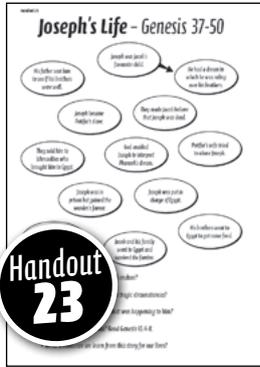
In the introduction, we thought about many difficulties that may appear on the road of life – failing at a major exam, losing a close friend, having health problems, etc. When we are confronted with these difficult circumstances, we wonder why God allowed them. We may even begin to doubt God's control over our lives.

We must remember that God is infinitely wise and all-powerful. Scriptures often associate these two characteristics of God (Job 9:4, Job 12:13, Job 36:5; Daniel 2:20). God knows perfectly what is the best and He has the power to carry it out. We may not understand why He allows us to suffer, but He knows and remains in full control (Lamentations 3:37-38). Trust Him!

The Bible teaches that one reason why God permits difficulties is to make us grow. Through trials we learn perseverance and become more mature. We should be thankful for that (James 1:2-4). As we said in the lesson on the fruit of Spirit, God works in our lives and conforms us little by little to the likeness of His Son

(Romans 8:29). So keep trusting God, count on His help and allow Him to mould you.

Method: Joseph's life



Photocopy handout 23 for all the teens. Divide them into groups of four or five. They will have to put the events of Joseph's life in the right order by drawing arrows from one circle to another.

Then they will discuss the questions. After a few minutes, bring all the teens back together and have them report.

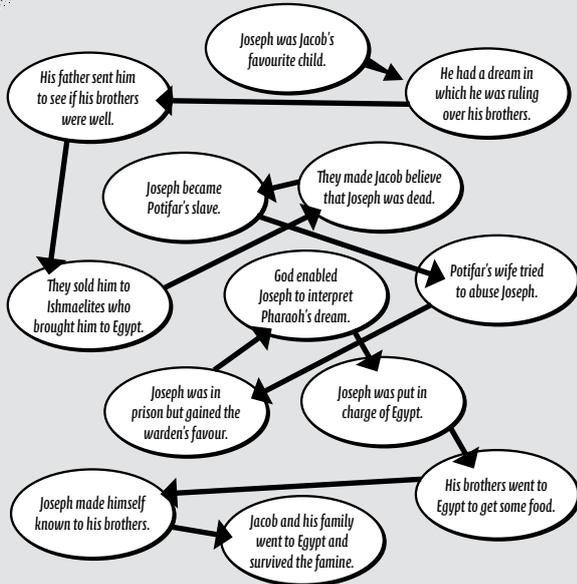
waiting for us (2 Corinthians 4:17). God will bring us to our final destination. He will take us into His glory (Psalm 73:24). On that day we will be with Him, surrounded by His glory for ever (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

We can look forward to the joys of Heaven. There will be no more difficulties, nor mourning, nor crying, nor death (Revelation 21:4). God will complete His work in our lives and we will shine in His kingdom for ever (Philippians 3:21, Matthew 13:43).

All the truths we looked at in this lesson should encourage you to fully trust Him! Let God take care of you, let Him guide you, but also mould you and bring you to your final destination – eternal glory in His presence.



HANDOUT 20 ANSWERS



LESSON BREAK

Method: Board review game

This game gives the opportunity to review all the lessons of the manual.

- Make teams of two players. If someone missed many meetings, he or she would need to be with someone who attended regularly.
- Four teams can play on the same board with a referee. Provide four pawns, a dice, handouts 21 and 22, and the list of questions and answers for the referee.
- One after another teams play the dice and move their pawn on the board.
- If they land on an empty circle, nothing happens. If they land on a number (e.g. 4) the referee will ask the team a question to review lesson 4.
- When the team gives a correct answer, they stay where they are. When they give a wrong answer, they must go six circles back.



God promises to bring us to our final destination

[Show visual 24.] The difficulties we experience today are very little compared to the weight of glory

two answers. *Possible answers: By God, by grace, by Christ's righteousness, by saving faith.*

5. When and where should we have our quiet time? *Answer: It is good to do it first thing in the morning because it means you can spend time with God before the day's activities begin. Do it somewhere you can be alone and away from distractions.*

5. How to read God's Word everyday? Give at least three pieces of advice out of the four we looked at. *Answer: Pray and ask God to speak to you, read just a few verses, think carefully about what you have read, be obedient to what God teaches you.*

5. What are the four aspects of prayer? *Answer: Worship, confession, thanksgiving, request.*

6. Where in the Bible do we learn about the fruit of the Spirit? Give at least the book and the chapter. *Answer: Galatians 5:22-23.*

6. What are the aspects of the fruit of the Spirit? Give at least five out of the nine. *Answer: Love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control.*

6. Why does the apostle Paul speak about "the fruit" of the Spirit and not "fruits"? *Answer: All of these qualities should be developing in our lives.*

7. Give five examples of authorities that exist nowadays. Who is the supreme One and why? *Possible answers: God, police, teachers, parents, governments, employers. God has total authority – He is the Creator.*

7. What should be our attitude towards authority? Explain why. *Answer: We should submit, knowing that God established them for our good.*

7. Are there circumstances in which we should not obey an authority? *Answer: It is only right to disobey authorities if they are*

clearly commanding us to do something which God forbids or clearly forbidding us to do something which God commands.

8. What is the world's attitude towards possessions? Describe the vicious circle in which many people are caught.

Answer: I am not satisfied! I want it! I need it! I buy it! I am happy for a while! Fashion changes! I am not satisfied!

8. What is the danger of being caught in materialism? *Answer: To live for money and possessions instead of living for God. Do not let possessions take God's place in your life!*

8. What attitude should Christians have towards possessions? *Answer: Be content and generous knowing that God takes care of their needs and gives them even more so they may contribute to God's work.*

9. What moral issues can we be confronted with in life? Give three examples. *Possible answers: Can I drive my scooter slightly over the speed limit? Is it OK to go shopping on Sundays? Can I say "half a lie" to get out of trouble? Is wearing a short skirt acceptable? Can I live with someone before getting married?*

9. How does the world decide what is right or wrong? *Answer: They listen to others and to the media. They feel free to decide what they should or should not do according to their own feelings.*

9. How can Christians know what moral conduct is right and what is wrong? Give an example. *Answer: The Word of God is the basis of morality. For example, I decide not to lie, even when in trouble, because the Bible says God hates a lying tongue (Proverbs 6:16-17).*

10. Why does the Bible say that we should redeem time? *Answer: Life is short and we must make the best use of our time to seek the Lord and serve Him.*

10. Why is it vital to put our trust in God today and not procrastinate? *Answer: We do not know what will happen to us tomorrow. We could die or the Lord could return. We must be ready to face Him.*

10. How can we use our time to serve the Lord? Give three examples of service. *Possible answers: Witness to our friends, take part in an outreach, teach children in a club, etc.*

11. What are the basic gospel truths Peter presented to the crowd in Acts 3? *Answers: Jesus is God, He died for you, He rose again, you must repent, you must believe.*

11. Give the name of a person who rejected the Gospel in the Book of Acts? *Possible answers: Felix, Festus, King Agrippa.*

11. Give the name of one person who responded positively to the Gospel in the Book of Acts? *Possible answer: Lydia.*

12. How can we seek God's guidance for our lives? Make three suggestions. *Answers: By reading Scriptures, praying for guidance and listening to advice from mature believers.*

12. When we are confronted with difficult circumstances, what should we remember and what should be our attitude? *Possible answers: God has a plan for His children. He is infinitely wise and all-powerful. He may permit difficulties to make us grow, or for other reasons we do not understand. We must keep trusting Him.*

12. What will Christians experience when they get to their final destination? *Possible answers: They will be with the Lord. No more difficulties, no mourning, no crying, no death. God will complete His work in their lives and they will shine in His kingdom for ever. ●*

Visuals

Appendix

1

The Way to God

- The True God
- Barriers and Blessings
- The Bridge of Salvation
- Justification

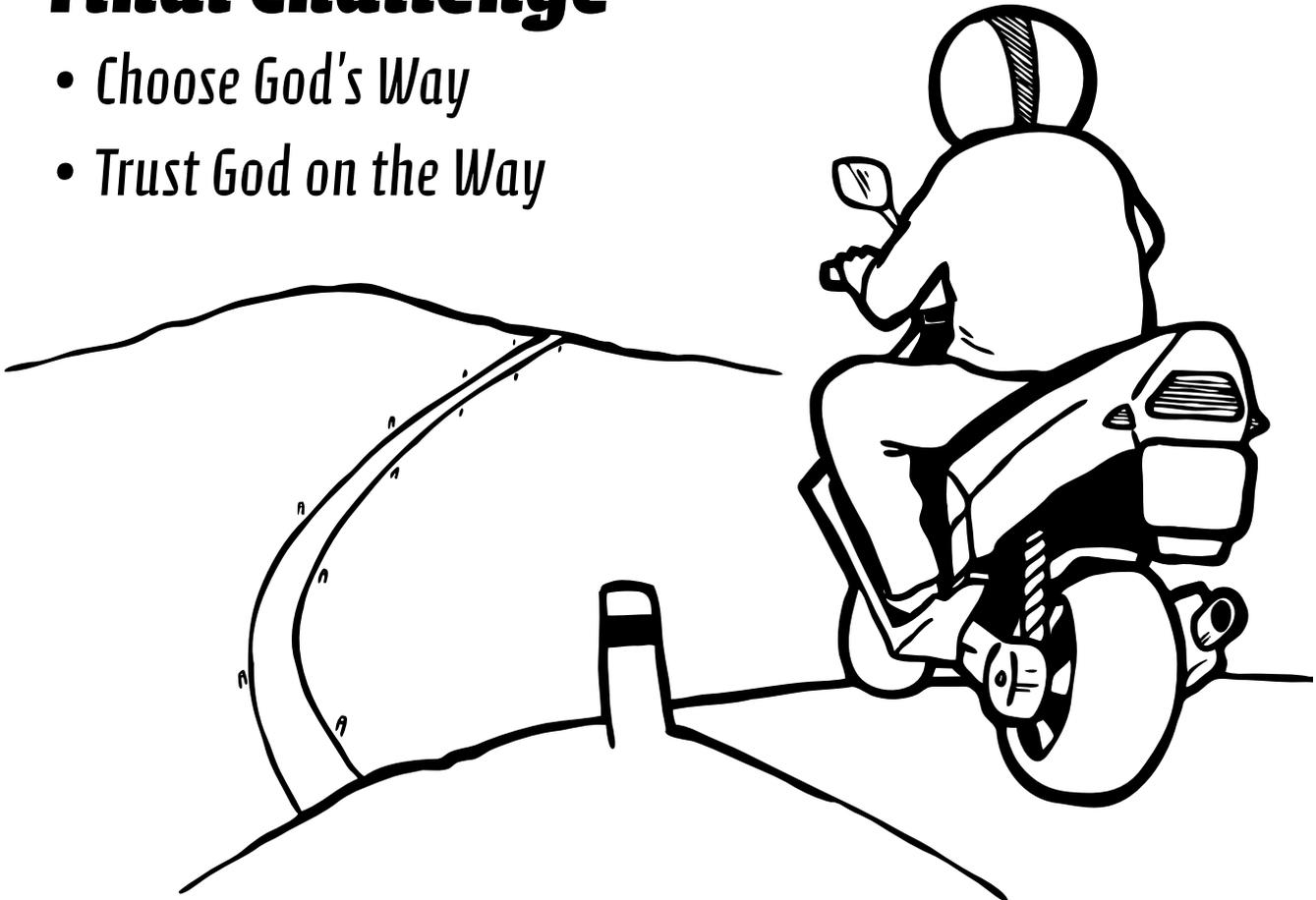
GOD'S way

Living God's Way

- Quiet Time • Fruit of the Spirit
- Authority • Possessions
- Morality • Time

Final Challenge

- Choose God's Way
- Trust God on the Way



How do we know there is a **God?**

Creation

Conscience

Bible

Jesus

Christians



What is **God** like?



Trinity: *Matthew 3:16-17*

One God: *Deuteronomy 6:4*

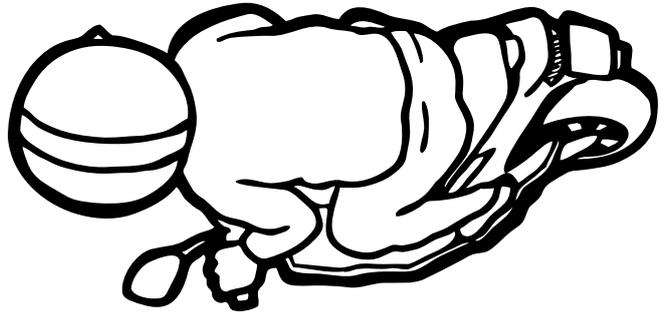
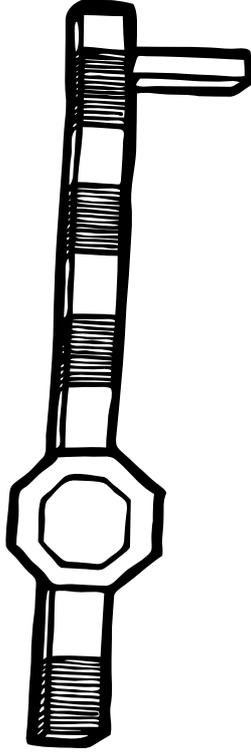
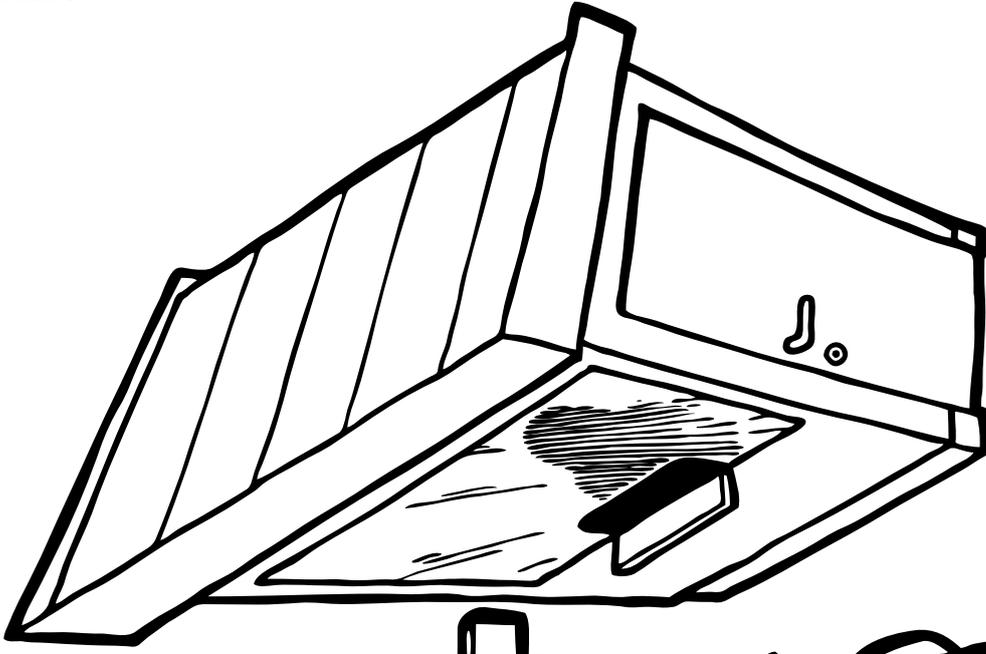
Spirit: *John 4:24*

Characteristics of God

Verse	Characteristic
Psalm 90:2	Eternal
Genesis 17:1	All-powerful
Genesis 1:1	Creator
Psalm 139:2-4	All-knowing
Revelation 15:4	Holy
Isaiah 45:21b	Just
Romans 1:18	Wrath
1 John 4:8	Love
Psalm 103:8	Mercy
Ephesians 1:7	Grace

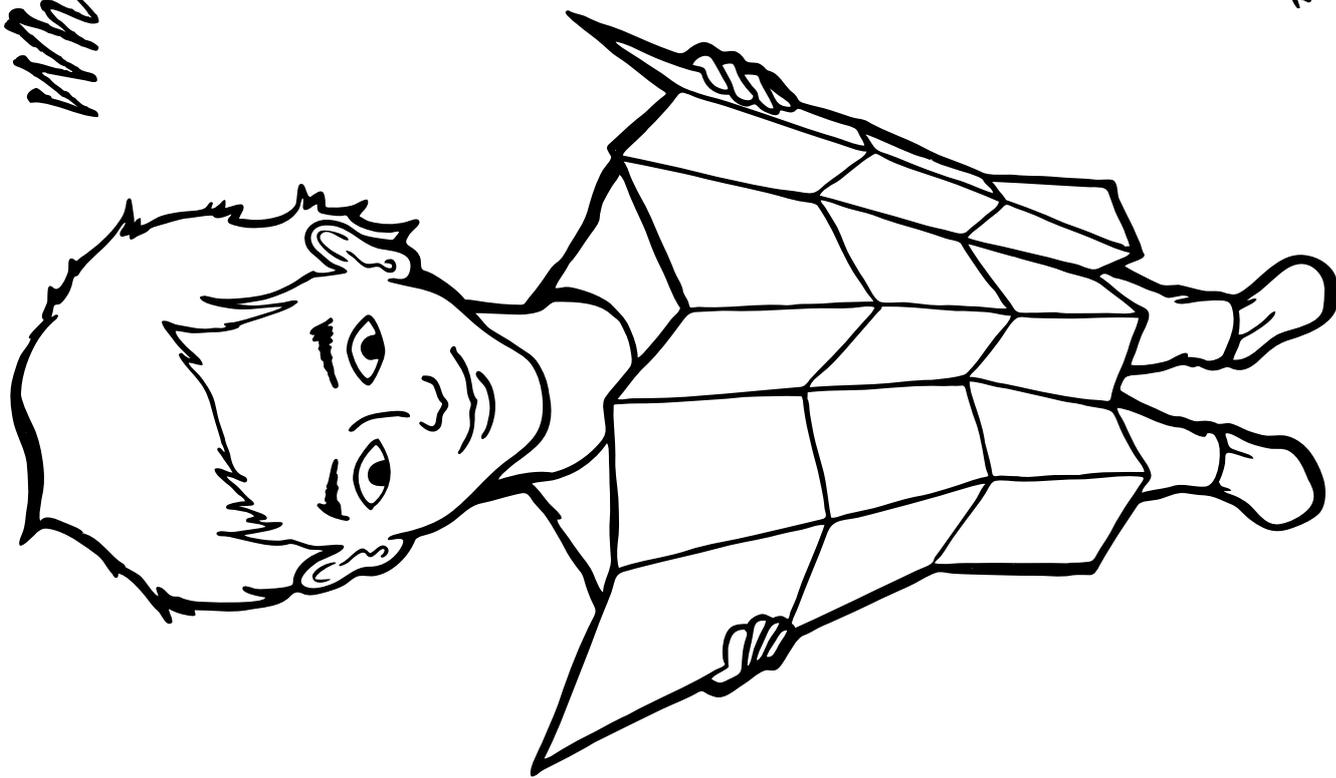
What prevents us from
Knowing God?

2020



What are the blessings of

Knowing God?



Pardon for sin

Peace that lasts

Purpose for life

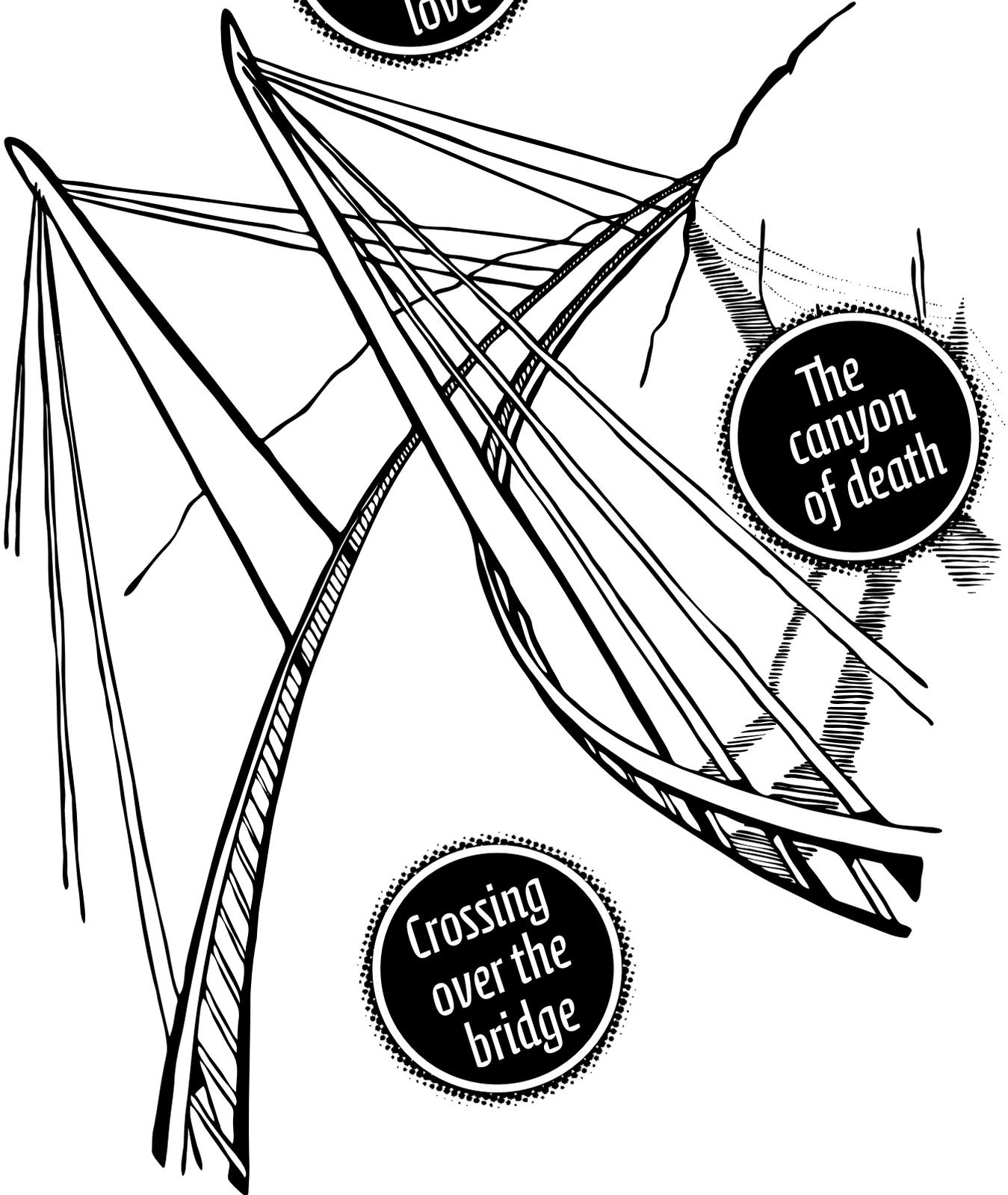
Power to win

Privilege of Heaven

Do you have them?

The Bridge of Salvation

The pillars
of God's
love



The
canyon
of death

Crossing
over the
bridge

Running 4 clues




Clue 1

Romans 3:23 tells what we have all done.



Clue 2

What did God raise for our salvation, according to Luke 1:69?



Clue 3

Find out in John 14:6 what Jesus said He was. Write only the first one.



Clue 4

Look up Romans 3:25 and see what God demonstrated through His Son's death.



Clue 5

There is only one by which we can be saved. See Acts 4:12.



Clue 6

Who can cross the bridge of salvation? Pick out one word in Acts 10:43.



Clue 7

If we have trusted Christ, we can now put it on – Ephesians 6:17.



Clue 8

What do we have with God through Jesus, according to Romans 5:1?



Clue 9

In Acts 8:38 find out what should happen after someone believes in Christ.

What is **JUSTIFICATION?**

Justification is **God's act** of declaring a sinner **righteous** before Him.

What happens when we are justified?

1 **God forgives us:** Hebrews 9:22
We are no longer under condemnation: Romans 8:1

2 **Christ's righteousness is imputed to us:** Romans 4:6
We have a right standing before God - Romans 5:1-2

How is justification made possible?

1 **By God:** Romans 8:33

2 **By grace:** Ephesians 2:8-9

3 **By Christ's righteousness:**
Philippians 3:9

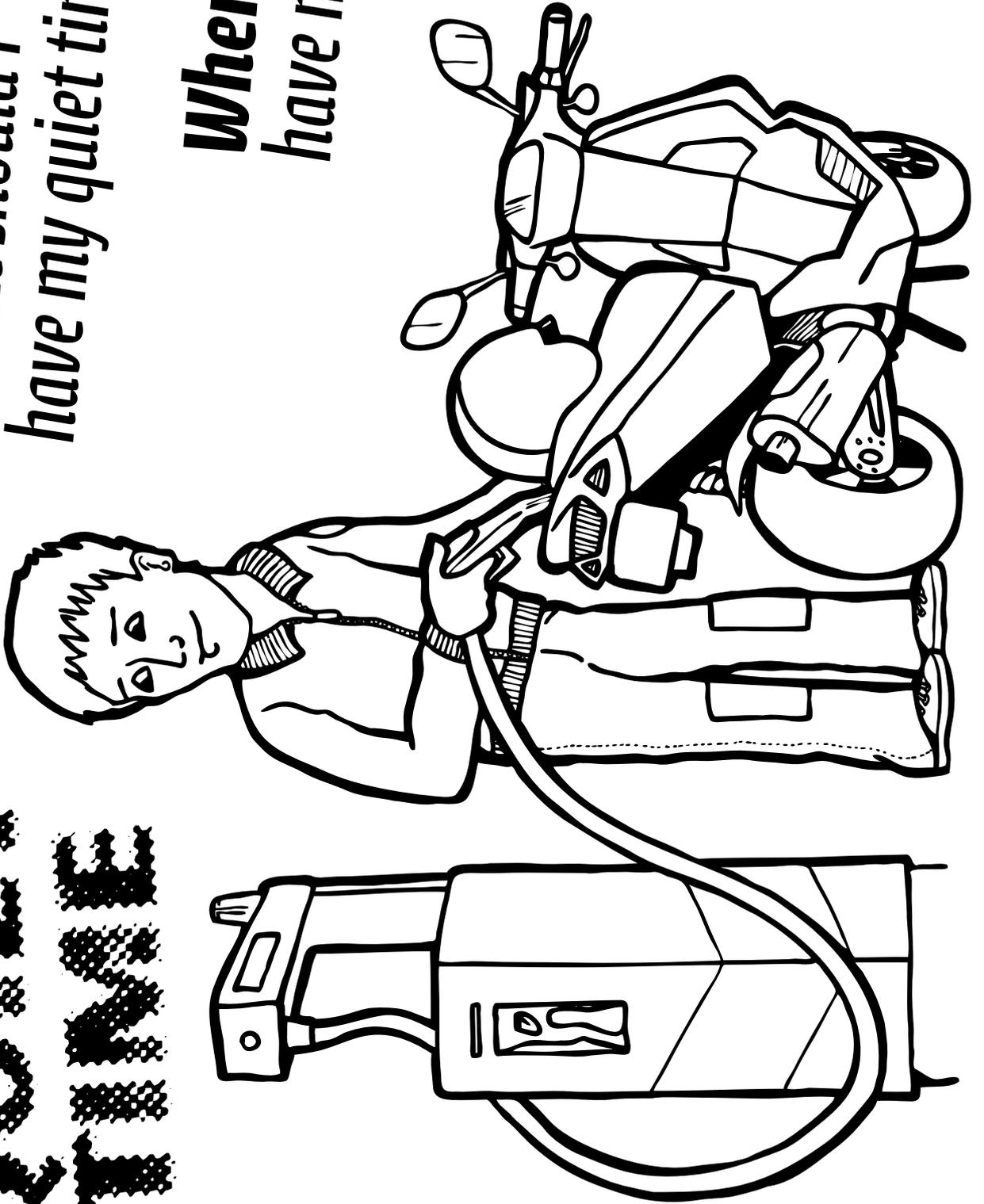
4 **By saving faith:** Romans 4:5

QUIET

When should I have my quiet time?

Where should I have my quiet time?

What should I do in my quiet time?



Ask

**I
speak
to God**

Read

Request

Think

Thank

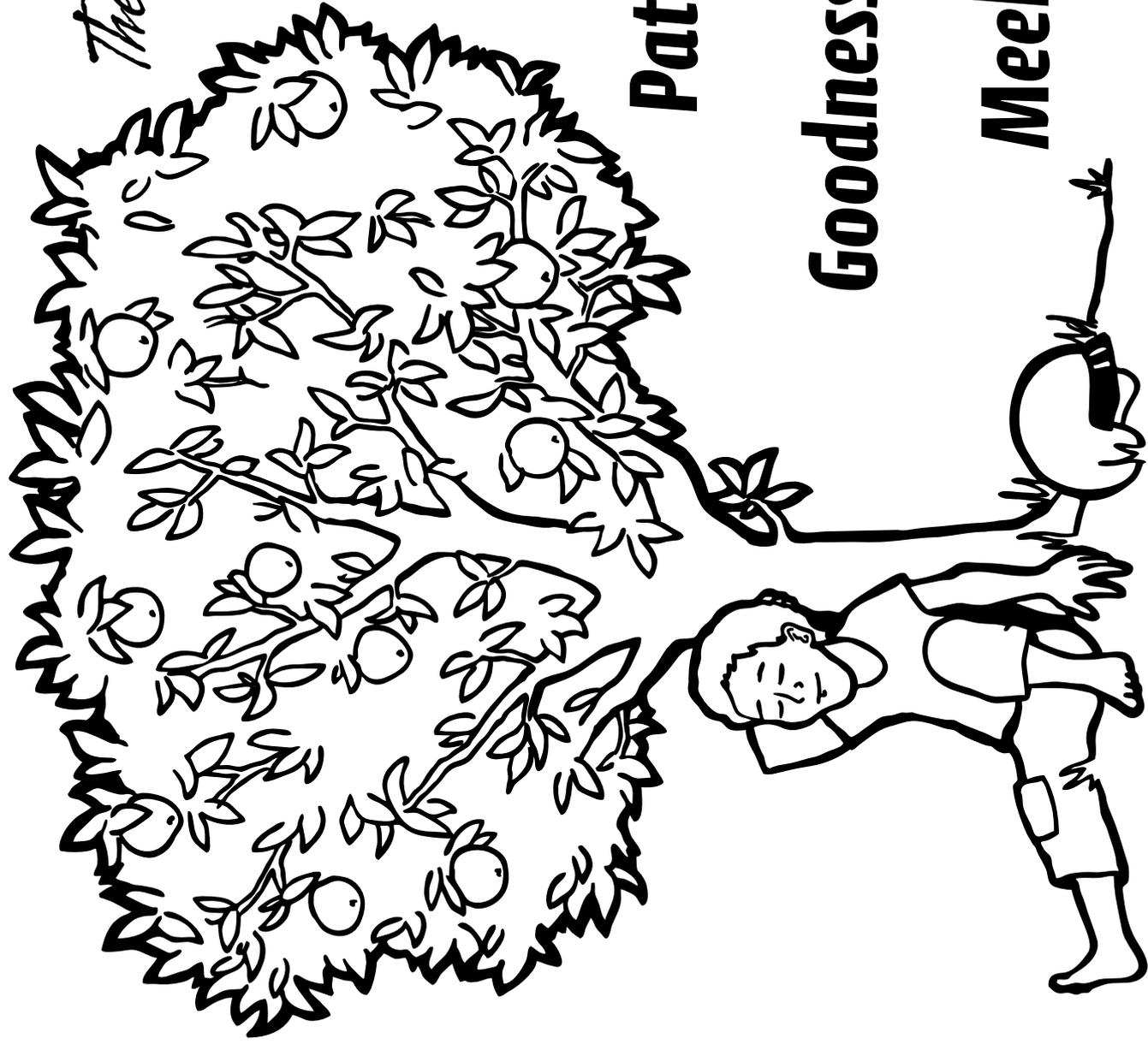
Obey

Confess

**God
speaks
to me**

Worship

The fruit of the Spirit is ...



Love Joy Peace

Patience Gentleness

Goodness Faithfulness

Meekness Self-control

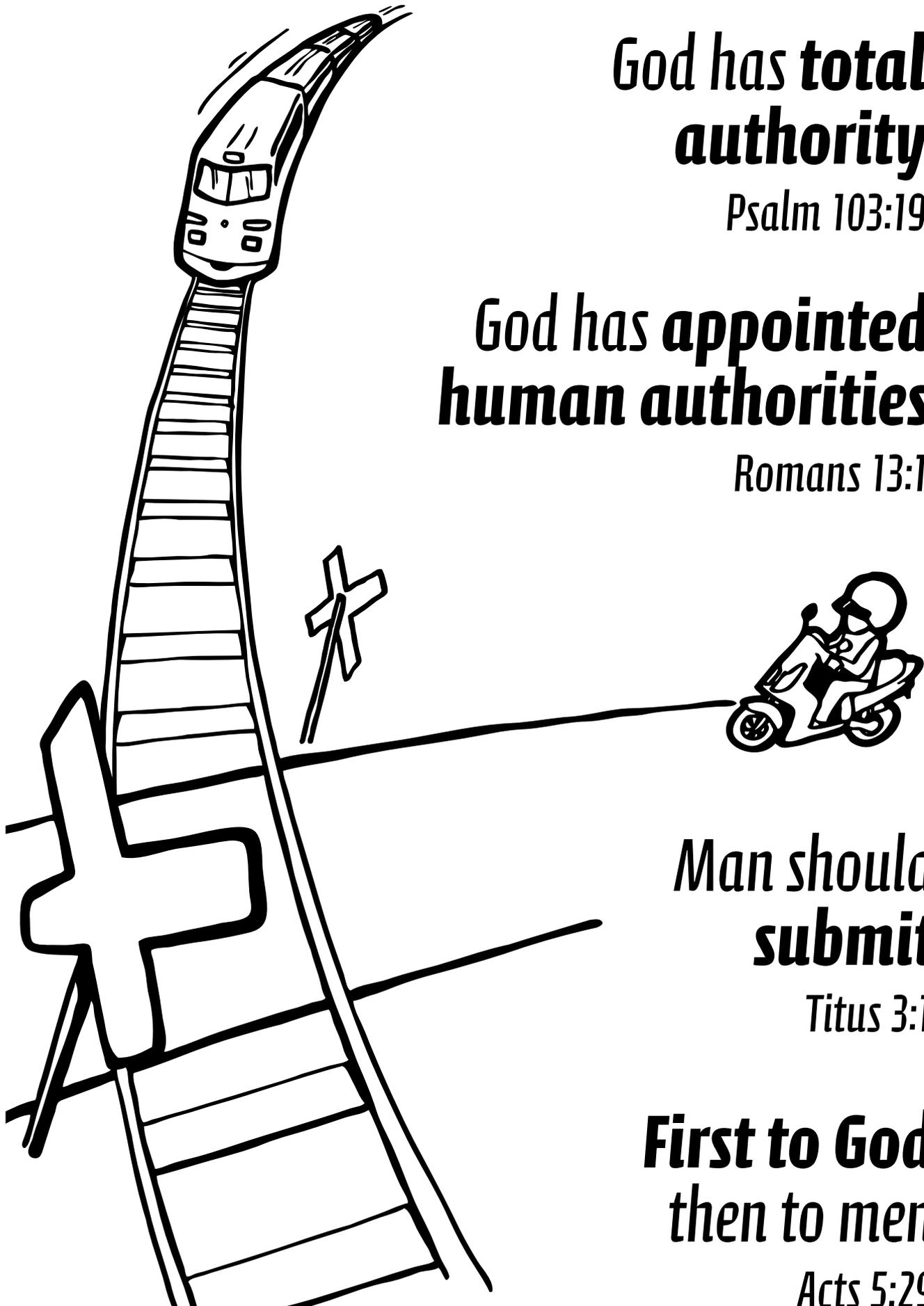
Authority

God has **total authority**

Psalm 103:19

God has **appointed human authorities**

Romans 13:1

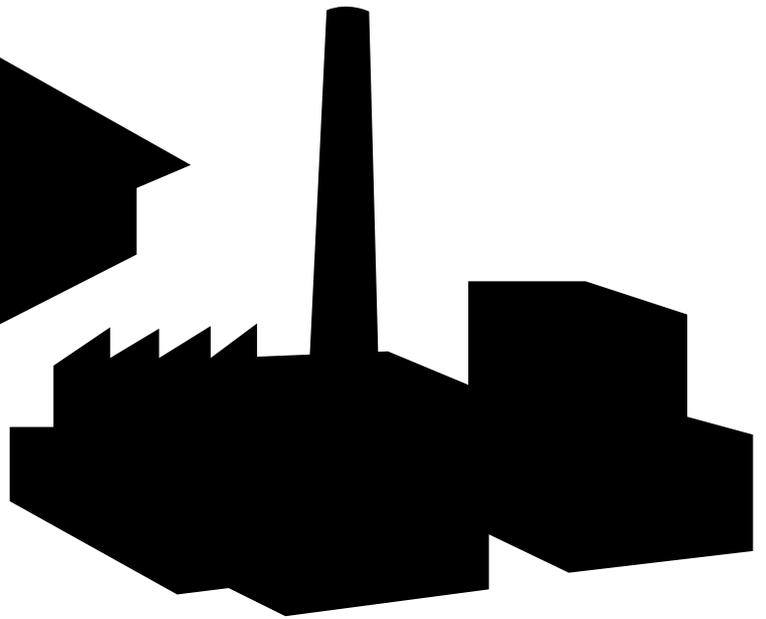
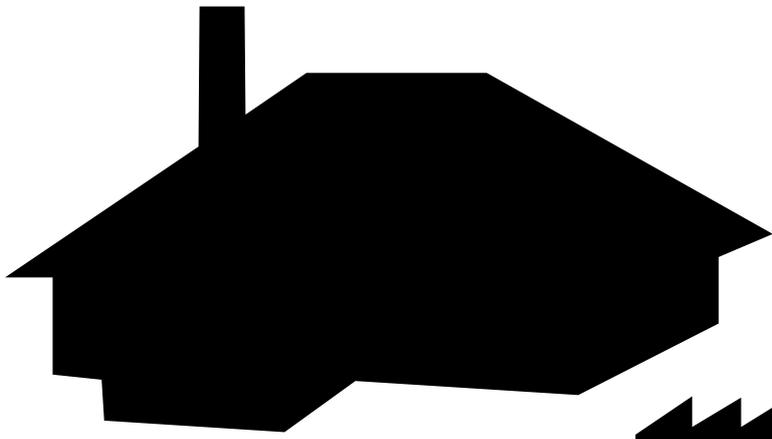


Man should **submit**

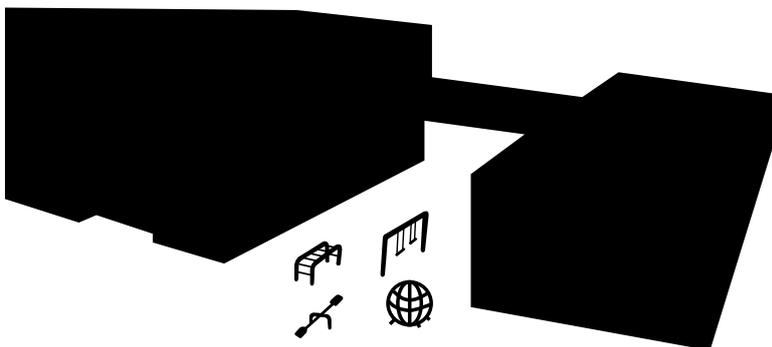
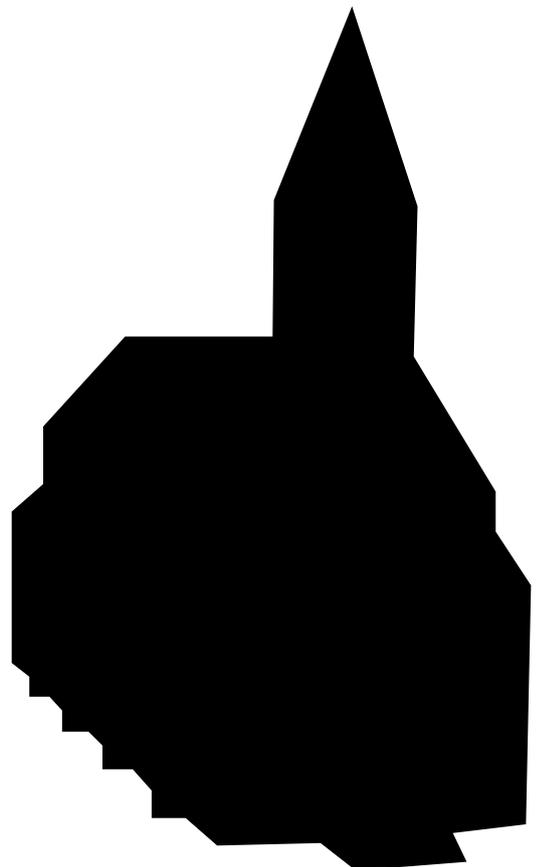
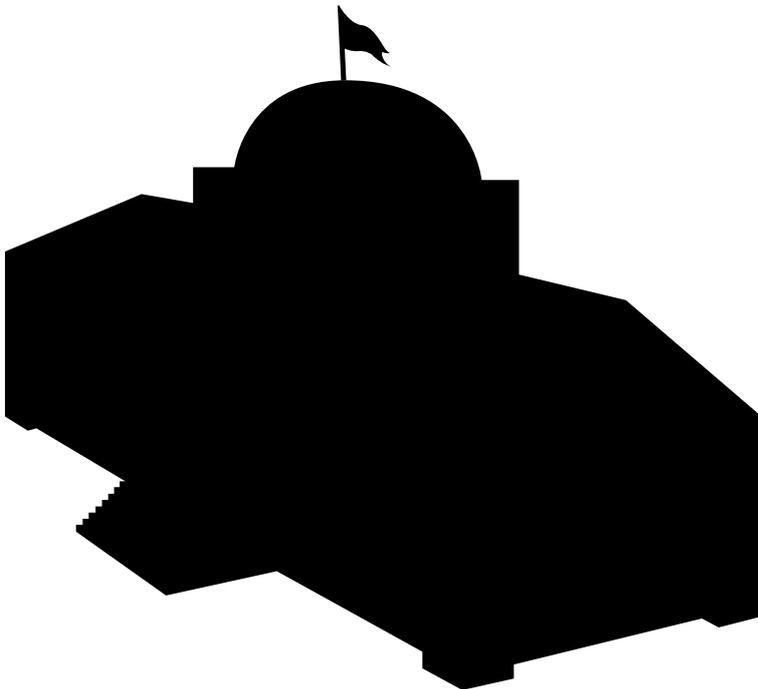
Titus 3:1

**First to God
then to men**

Acts 5:29



AUTHORITY



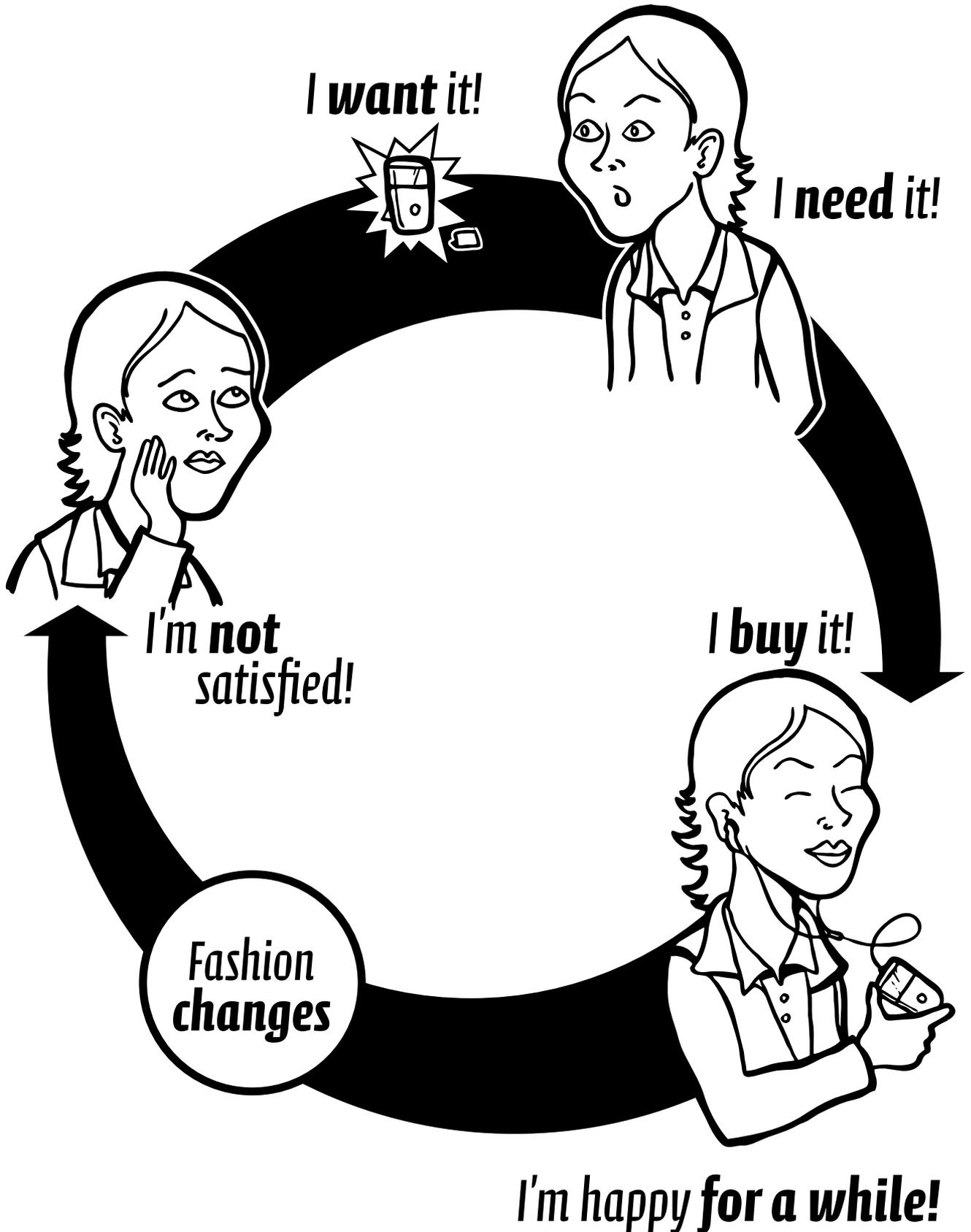
Possessions

*Don't get overloaded!
Too much can hinder you!*



THE WORLD SAYS:

“Get more!”



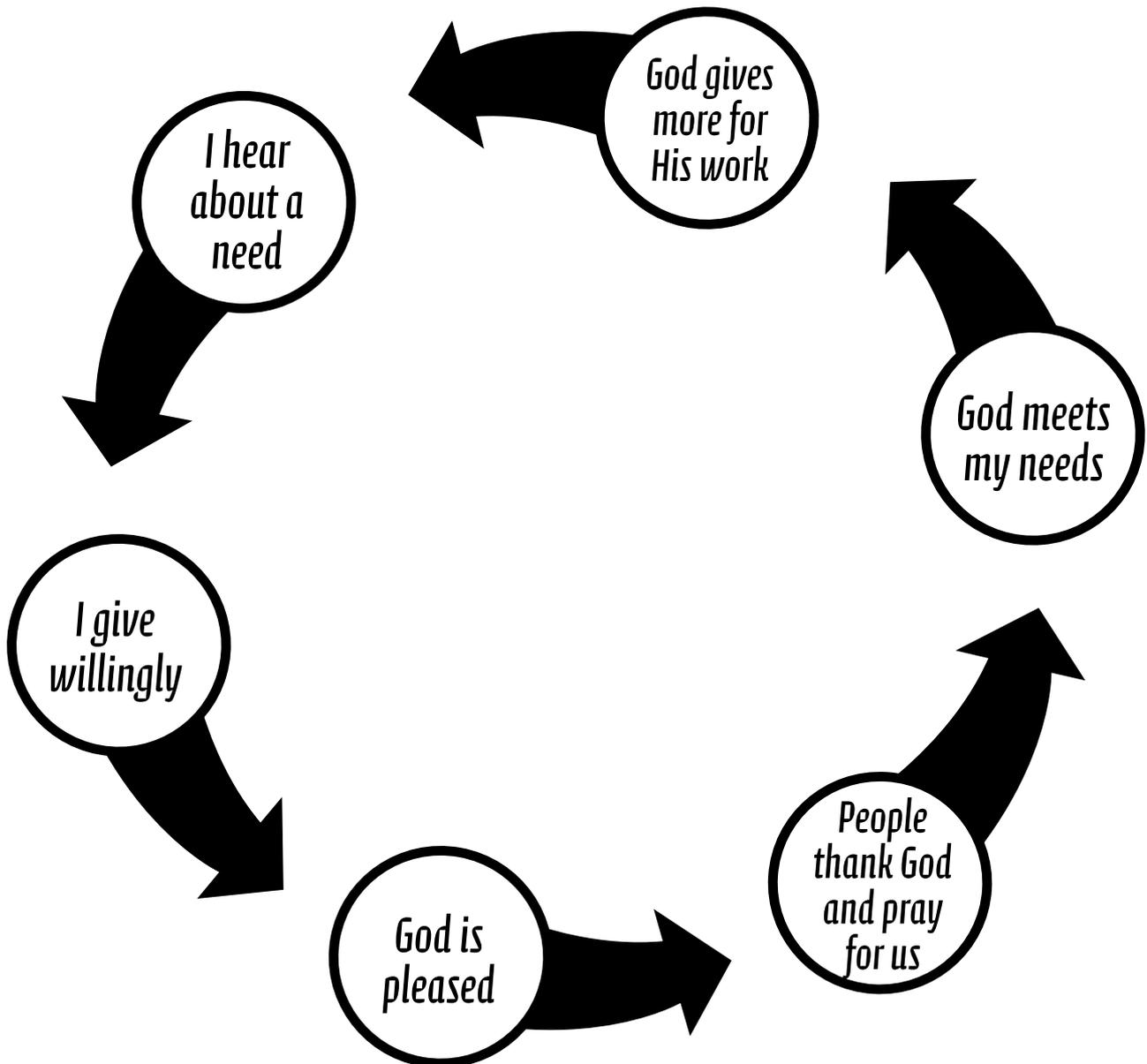
GOD SAYS:

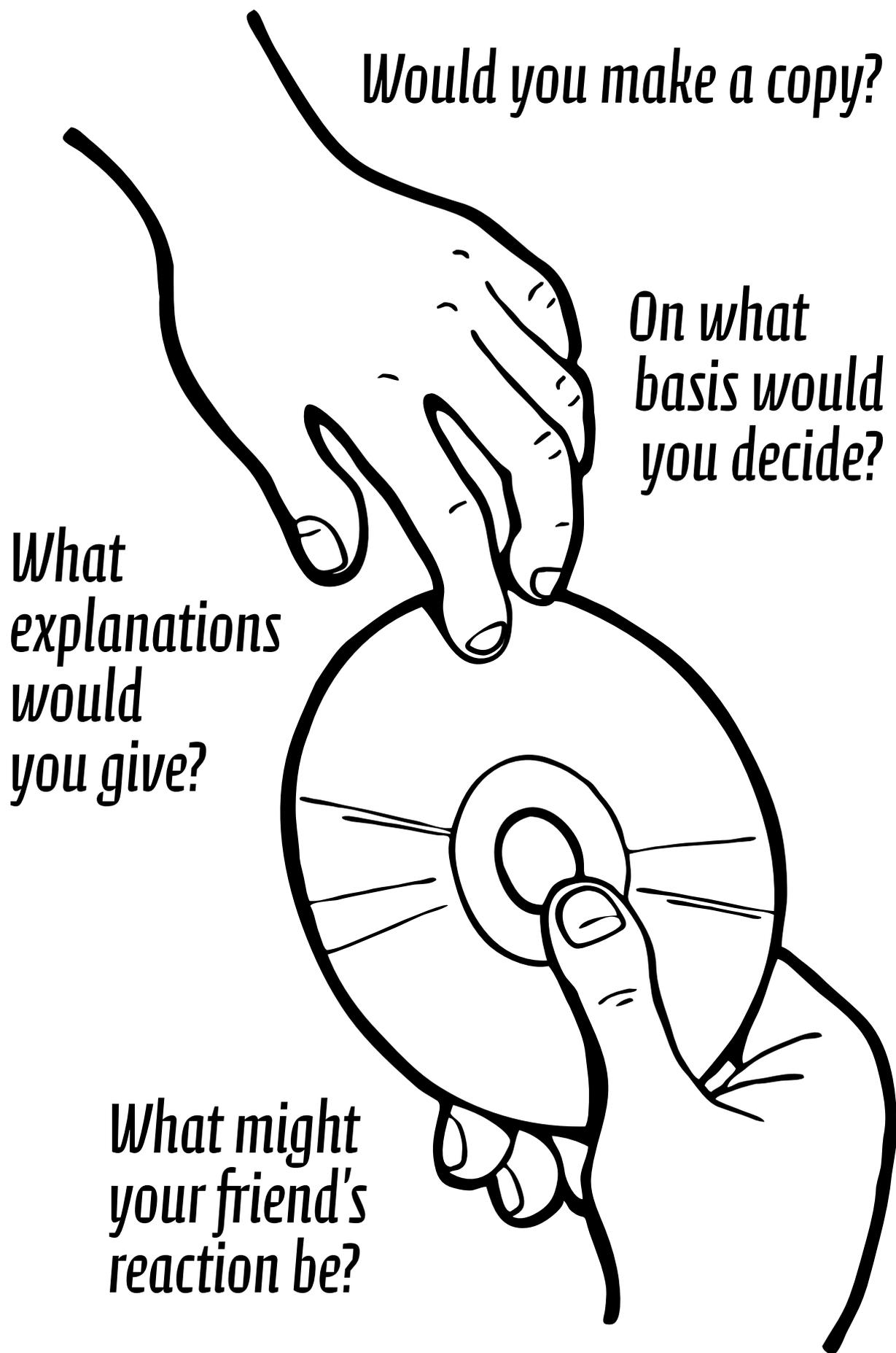
"Give more!"

Be **transformed** Romans 12:2

Be **content** Hebrews 13:5

Be **generous** 2 Corinthians 9:6-14





Would you make a copy?

On what basis would you decide?

What explanations would you give?

What might your friend's reaction be?



The
Christian
VIEW

**MORAL
STANDARDS**

CREATION

GOD

The
World
VIEW



**NO CLEAR
STANDARDS**

EVOLUTION

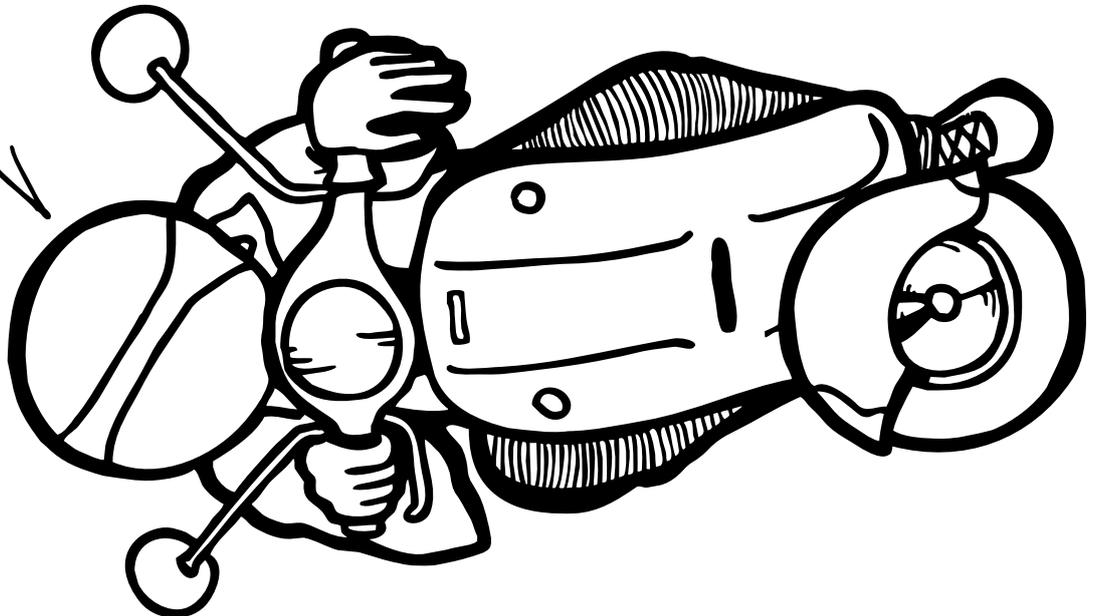
ATHEISM

Time
to **seek**
the
Lord

Time
to **serve**
the
Lord



zzzzzzzz



**Jesus
is God**
verse 14

**You must
believe**
verse 16

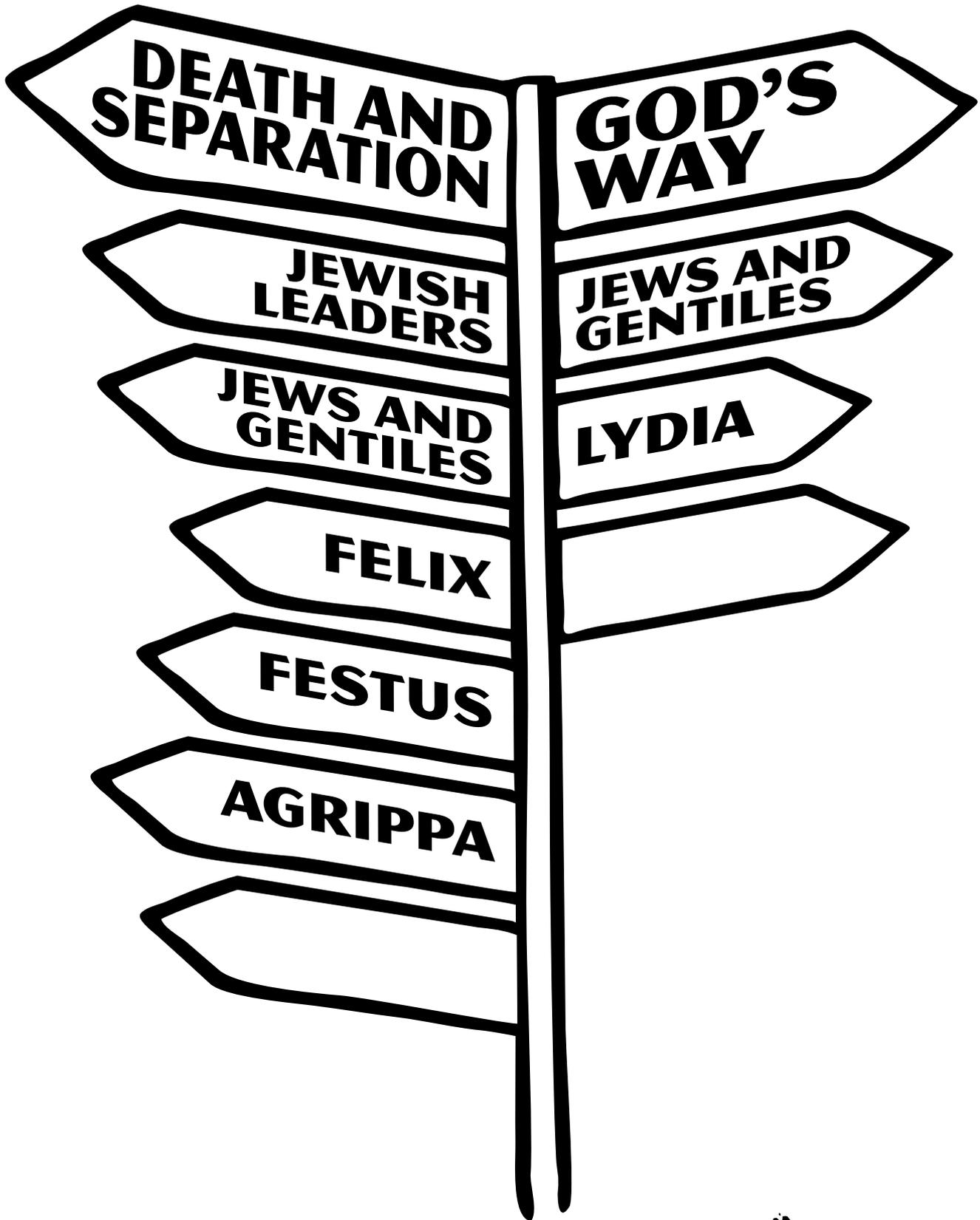
**Peter's
preaching
in Acts 3**

**He died
for you**
verse 15

**You
must
repent**
verse 19

**He rose
again**
verse 15

Book of Acts	Positive response	Negative response
<i>Acts 4 – in Jerusalem</i>	<i>5,000 believed!</i>	<i>Religious leaders said, "Shut up!"</i>
<i>Acts 14 – in Iconium</i>	<i>Many Jews and Gentiles believed!</i>	<i>Other Jews and Gentiles said, "Stone them!"</i>
<i>In the next chapters</i>	<i>Lydia believed!</i>	<i>Felix said, "Not now!" Festus said, "Mad!" Agrippa said, "Too new!"</i>



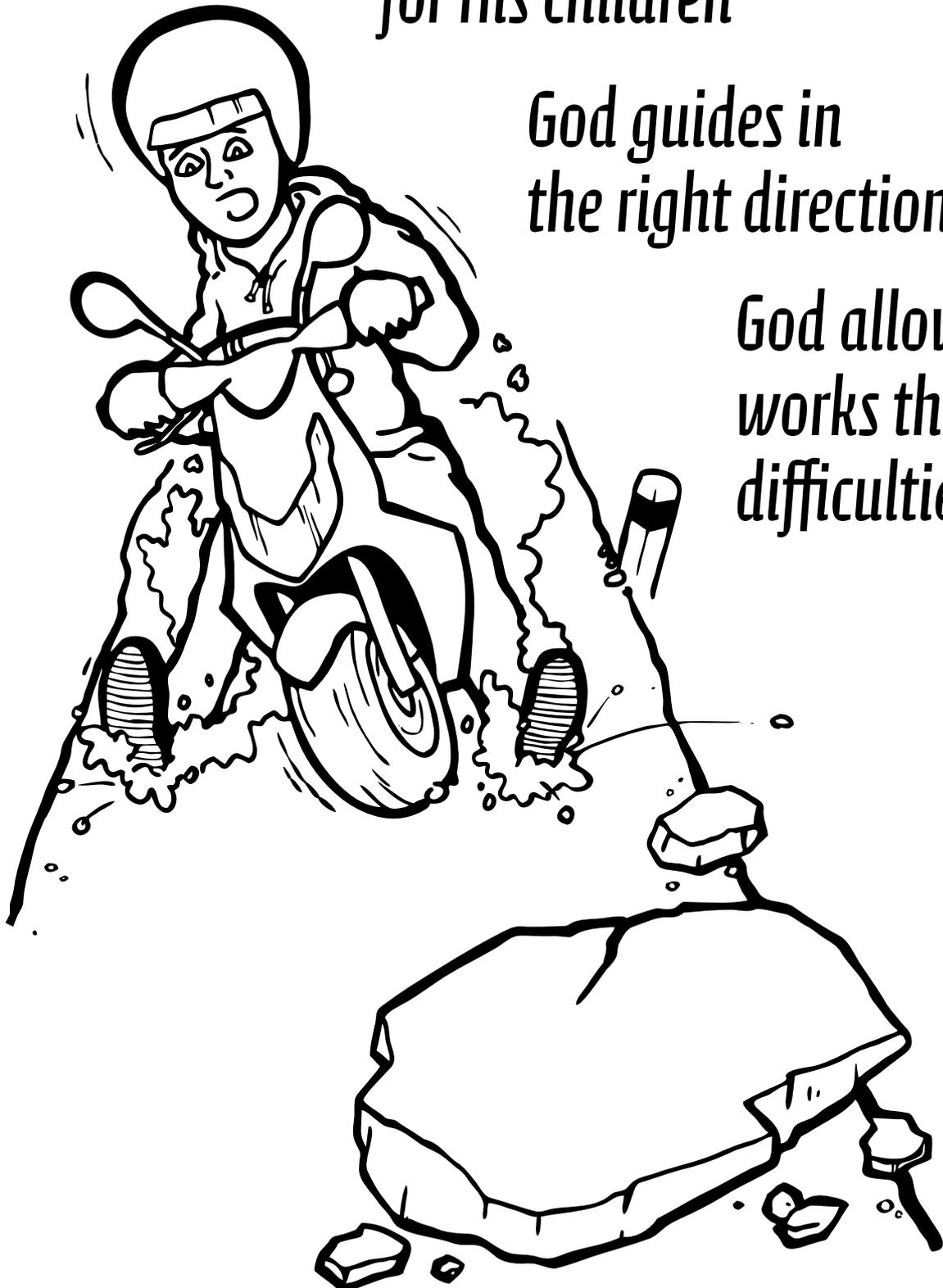
**WHICH WAY
WILL YOU GO?**

TRUST GOD on the way

*God has a plan
for His children*

*God guides in
the right direction*

*God allows and
works through
difficulties*



God promises to bring us to our final destination

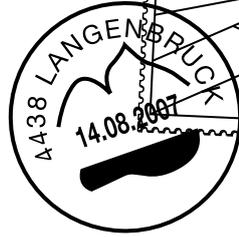


Handouts

Appendix

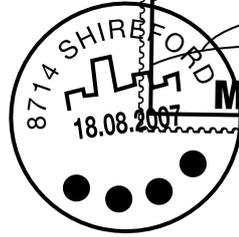
2

Hi! I'm having a great holiday. The first day we had terrible weather with thunderstorms and strong winds. But now it is sunny and we can go and visit many places. I wish you could be here with us! By the way, I thought about what you told me concerning God. I'm surprised you believe there is a God! I can't believe in someone I do not see. I don't think there is a God. See you in three weeks when I get back!



My friend
12 Barrington Place
8714 Whitfield
Shireford

Hello, I'm glad you are having a great time. You say you don't believe there is a God. I believe there is a God because ...



My friend
11 Cocoa Avenue
Hershey, PA 17033
Rivendell

Characteristics of God



Look up all the verses and write the characteristic of God in the space provided.

Verse	Characteristic
Psalms 90:2	
Genesis 17:1	
Genesis 1:1	
Psalms 139:2-4	
Revelation 15:4	
Isaiah 45:21b	
Romans 1:18	
1 John 4:8	
Psalms 103:8	
Ephesians 1:7	

Characteristics of God



Look up all the verses and write the characteristic of God in the space provided.

Verse	Characteristic
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Genesis 17:1	
Genesis 1:1	
Psalms 139:2-4	
Revelation 15:4	
Isaiah 45:21b	
Romans 1:18	
1 John 4:8	
Psalms 103:8	
Ephesians 1:7	

Case Studies

1 Pamela needs to make a big decision about her future. It is time for her to choose what school to go to next year. She wonders what the point of studying is. Nowadays it is so difficult to get a job! She is going through a tough time asking herself questions about the meaning of life.

If Pamela would draw near to God, what do you think she would experience?

2 George kept saying to his wife, "I'll stop drinking," but as soon as a problem would come up, he would go back to the pub. He would feel great, but only for a while. It all started three years ago when he felt so empty and miserable. Now alcohol is part of his life and his wife is not part of it anymore. There seems to be no way to win the battle.

If George would draw near to God, what do you think he would experience?

3 Lucy turned ninety a couple of days ago. Her family organised a great party for her. But now that they are all gone, she struggles with the same problems and questions. Her health is not good. She knows she won't live very long. She keeps thinking back to when she was younger and enjoyed travelling around the world. Now it is all over!

If Lucy would draw near to God, what do you think she would experience?

Case Studies

1 Pamela needs to make a big decision about her future. It is time for her to choose what school to go to next year. She wonders what the point of studying is. Nowadays it is so difficult to get a job! She is going through a tough time asking herself questions about the meaning of life.

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If Lucy would draw near to God, what do you think she would experience?



THE TRUE GOD

What prevents us from knowing God?

Unscramble the words to find the answers.

Our i n s Our _____

Our sloid Our _____

What are the blessings of knowing God?

Unscramble the words to find the answers.

nordap for nis _____ for _____

ceeap that sstal _____ that _____

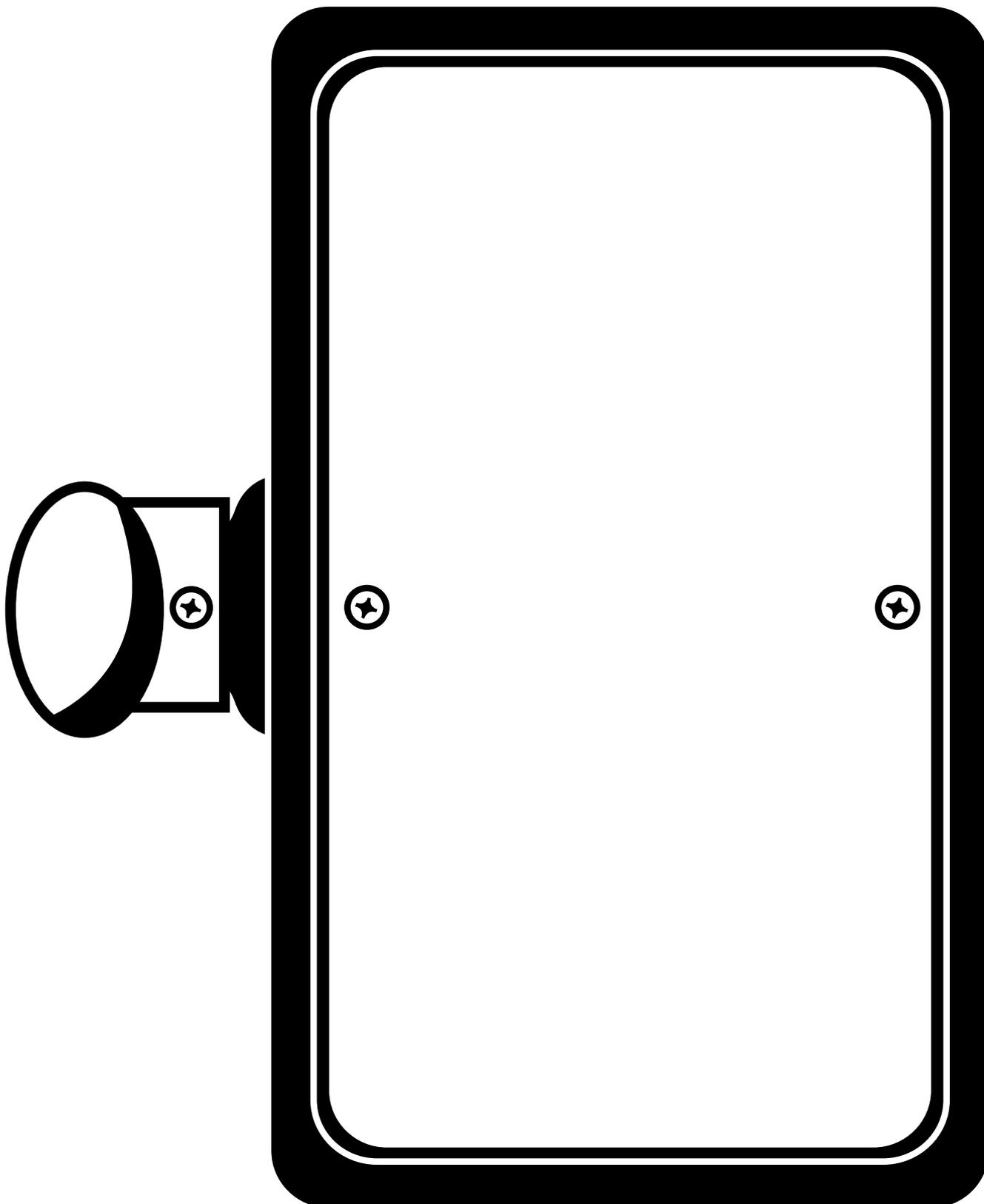
ppouesr for elif _____ for _____

erowp to inw _____ to _____

vrilepieg of eaenvh _____ of _____

S	T	S	A	L	H	E	A	V	E
M	I	P	U	R	P	O	S	E	D
N	X	N	E	E	S	Z	G	A	S
R	M	W	A	W	A	E	R	L	F
F	O	C	S	N	L	D	O	I	R
P	E	A	Q	I	E	D	L	C	I
C	L	N	V	D	I	V	D	L	M
A	D	I	N	O	D	R	A	P	H
L	R	W	F	L	H	C	H	E	X
P	P	O	W	E	K	L	A	C	H

Now find and circle all the words you have just unscrambled.





Running 4 Clues Clue Sheet

Follow the cards on the wall in the right order. Fill in the answers below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____



Running 4 Clues Clue Sheet

Follow the cards on the wall in the right order. Fill in the answers below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

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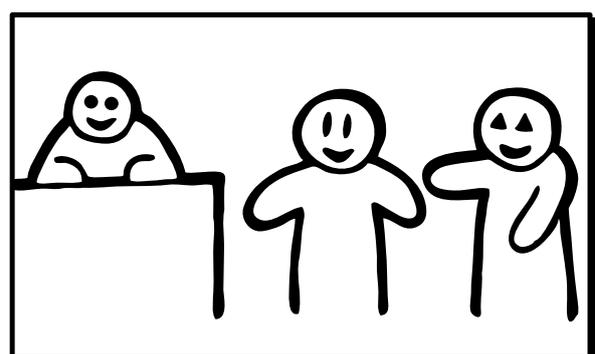
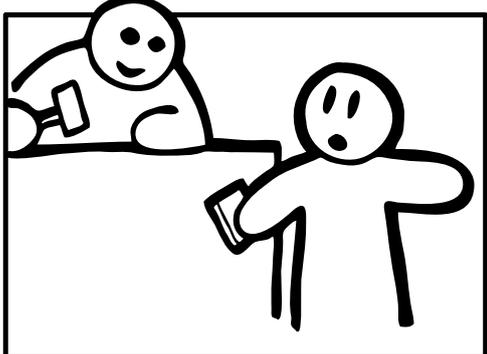
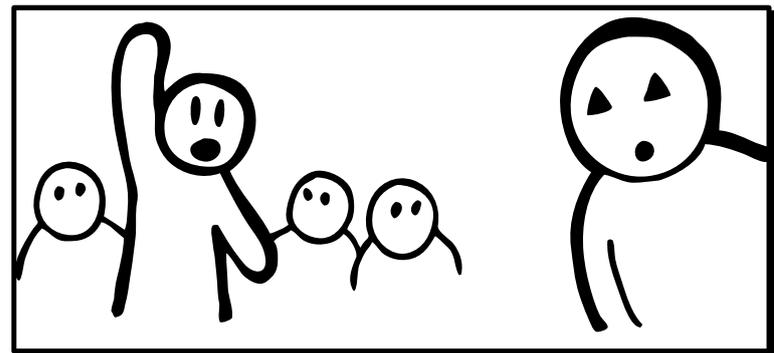
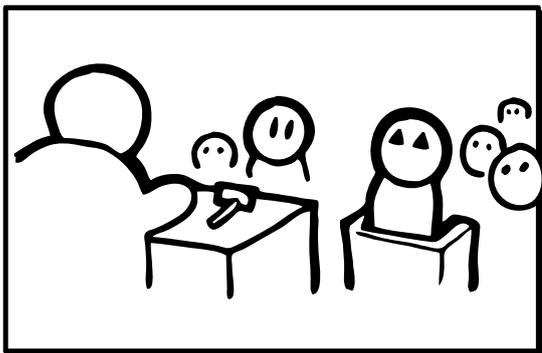
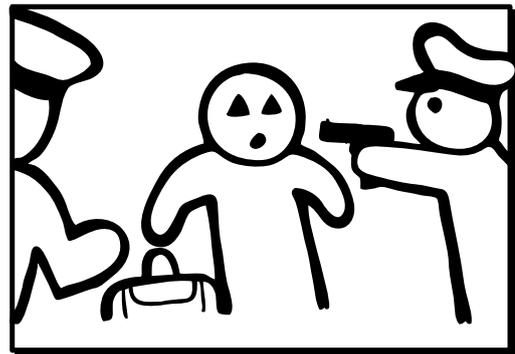
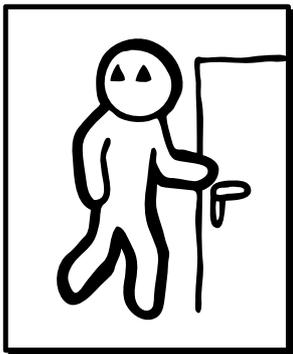
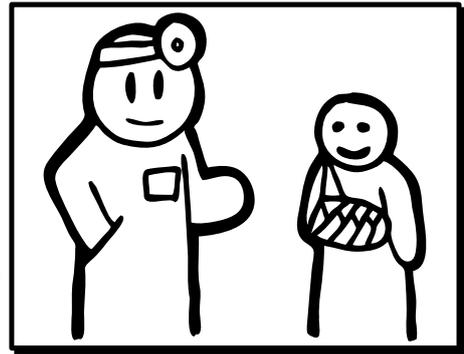
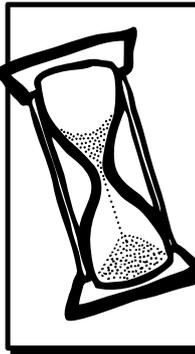
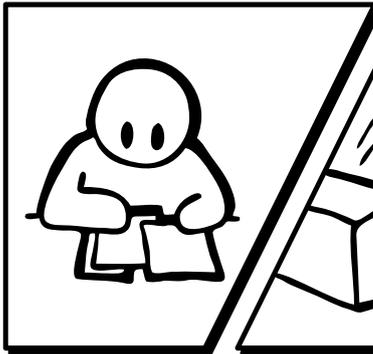
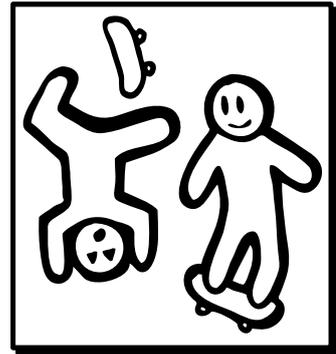
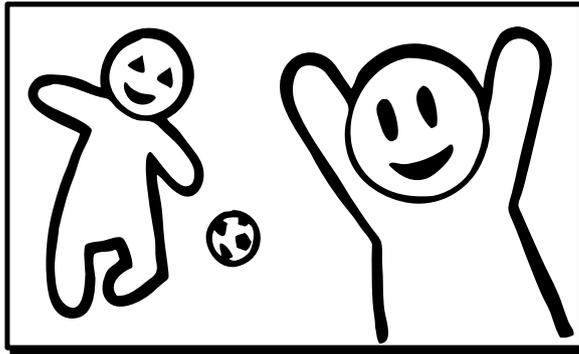
6. _____

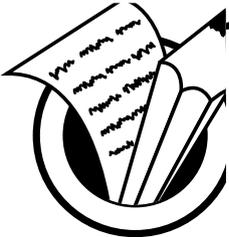
7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

Jim & Chuck





TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ

Salvation and Justification

Check the "T" or "F" (for true or false) box after reading each statement.

T F

- 1 Our sin separates us from God.
- 2 Isaiah 6:23 tells us about the wages of sin.
- 3 Our good works do not gain merit with God.
- 4 Repentance means only admitting you are a sinner.
- 5 The first word of Acts 3:19 is "Repent".
- 6 We must trust in Christ alone for salvation.
- 7 Faith is only a head knowledge about God.
- 8 The Holy Spirit is the strength of the Christian.
- 9 If justified, we might go to Heaven one day.
- 10 If justified, we do not sin.
- 11 If justified, we have a right standing with God.
- 12 If justified, condemnation for past sins only is removed.
- 13 If justified, we no longer need to be particular about God's law.
- 14 Justification happens in our hearts.
- 15 Justification is like a legal act.
- 16 Justification is our work for God.
- 17 Grace is something we don't deserve.
- 18 If justified, Christ's righteousness is put to our account of sin.
- 19 If justified, Christ's righteousness is put into us.
- 20 Good works are evidences of our justification.

READ & PRAY EVERY DAY

Mark	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-8 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:9-13 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:14-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:21-28 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:29-39 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:40-45 <input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 2:13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> 2:18-22 <input type="checkbox"/> 2:23-28 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:7-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:13-19 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:20-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:31-35 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-13 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:14-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:21-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:26-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:35-41 <input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 5:21-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 5:35-43 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:7-13 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:14-16 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:17-29 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:30-32 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:33-44 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:45-52 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:53-56
Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	

Start date _____
 End date _____
 Name _____
 Address _____

READ & PRAY EVERY DAY

Mark	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-8 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:9-13 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:14-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:21-28 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:29-39 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:40-45 <input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 2:13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> 2:18-22 <input type="checkbox"/> 2:23-28 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:7-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:13-19 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:20-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:31-35 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-13 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:14-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:21-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:26-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:35-41 <input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 5:21-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 5:35-43 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:7-13 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:14-16 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:17-29 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:30-32 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:33-44 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:45-52 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:53-56
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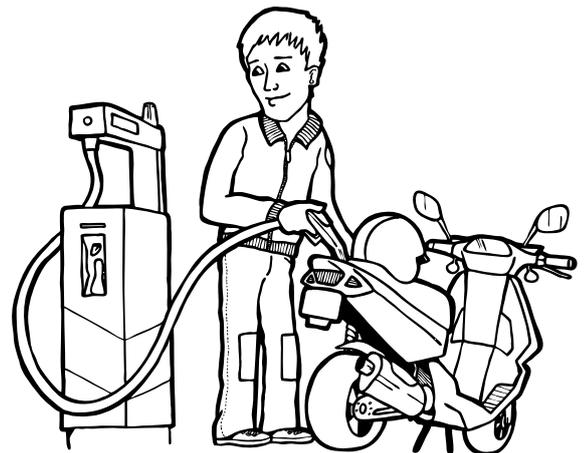
QUIET TIME

Read God's Word

- 1** Before beginning to read we should (Psalm 119:18).
- 2** Don't try to .
- 3** about what you have read and use to help you.

Asking some questions about the passage you have read may help you think about it. Here are some possible questions.

- What does it teach about God the Father, the Lord Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a sin for me to turn away from?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a warning for me to heed?
- Is there a good example for me to follow?
- What does it teach about my relationship to others?



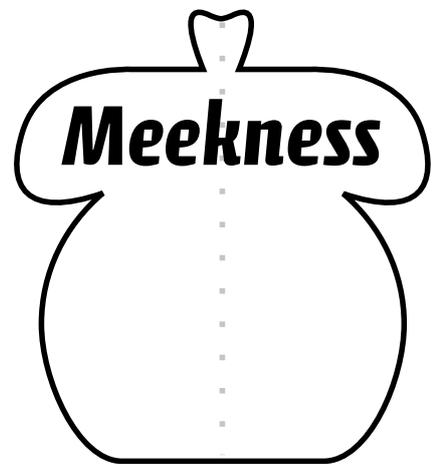
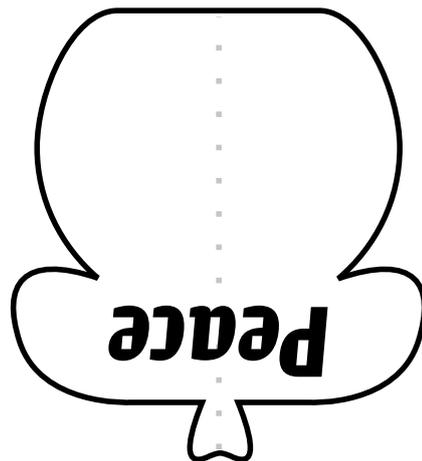
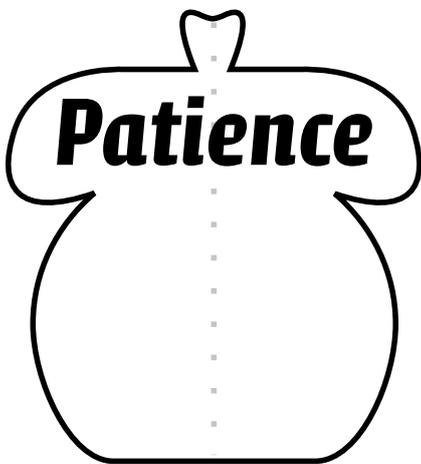
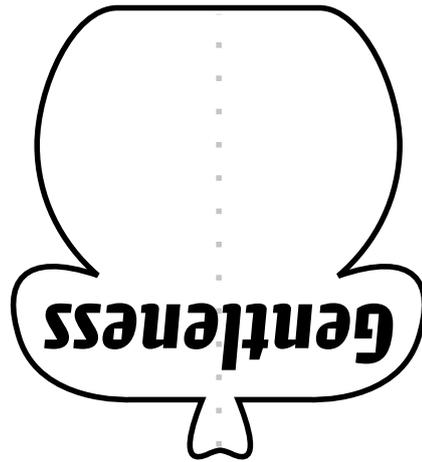
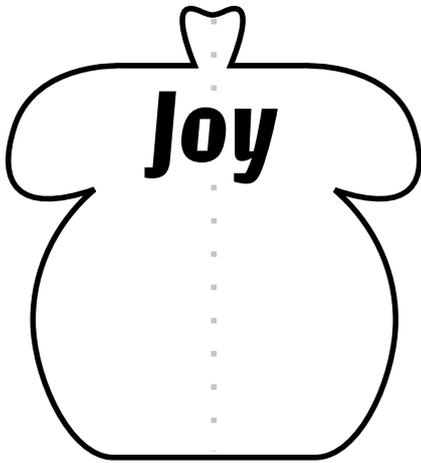
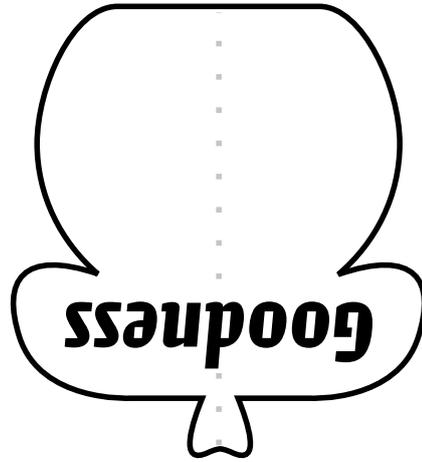
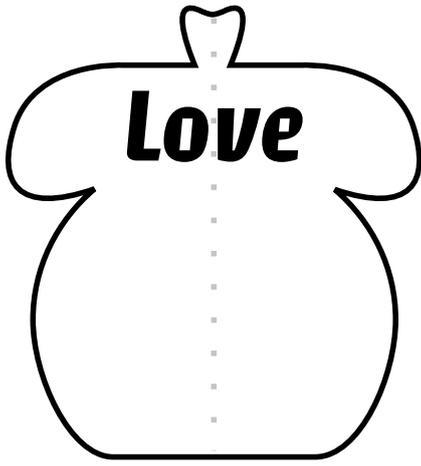
- 4** Whatever God asks you to , you must .

Talk to God in prayer

What four things should form part of our prayer time?

- 1** IHORWPS
What things should you praise God for? _____
- 2** FISNSOCENO
When Christians their sins, God promises to (1 John 1:9).
- 3** KIGNNTAIHGVSU
What things are you grateful for? _____
- 4** SEQRUSET
List some things you could ask God for. _____

Don't miss out your daily quiet time alone with God!



The Fruit of the Spirit

Wordsearch

S	E	L	F	J	C	M	E	E	K	N	G
E	S	G	O	O	D	N	E	S	S	E	I
I	E	E	O	Y	N	R	E	C	N	L	J
T	L	H	N	V	E	I	I	T	A	P	O
A	F	O	M	L	T	I	L	O	J	E	E
P	C	P	V	A	U	E	T	O	X	C	N
H	O	E	P	D	N	F	I	A	V	N	D
S	N	A	D	E	A	T	H	E	P	E	O
C	T	C	S	E	A	M	P	T	Q	I	O
A	R	S	P	P	C	C	Z	R	I	T	G
E	O	S	S	E	N	K	E	E	M	A	C
P	L	N	E	I	T	A	P	S	C	P	F

Find the fruit of the Spirit in the wordsearch above and list in the spaces provided.



Across

- 2 This commandment tells us to obey our parents
- 5 _____ without obedience is not true
_____ at all
- 6 We must obey these people at work
- 8 The subject of this lesson
- 10 Every Christian is called to be a _____
- 11 We follow the guidance from this book
- 12 Where a group of believers meet

Down

- 1 Disobedience
- 3 Another word for meekness
- 4 Obedience is important to this ruling body
- 7 The perfect example (two words)
- 9 God demands this type of life when we are saved

My pocket money!

I think all these verses concern adults, not us who haven't reached financial independence yet!

I get so little pocket money. Why should I give anything?

*How much do you think I could give?
Who to?*

From now on, I want to give everything I have to the poor!

POSSESSIONS

wordsearch

A G B I O N D V O J H S E T B
 C S U O R E N E G P W Z D L M
 T O P N C E A M D P Q E A R N
 X R N E L B F G A Y I M Y P Y
 B C R T P A O U A F R L E S U
 V U T P E N E V S I M U G K B
 N O L R C N P I L E N R Q D I
 E D W O V U T Z C J K I E A X
 E M P T R A N S F O R M E D P
 D I E K S Q U G T S O F V H B
 T R A S T A O P E U L H I C Z
 M N I P H A D W V O K E G L U
 F D T E K S H A P P Y N E C L
 R I C U J N O N O I H S A F A
 J S E P W B A T L M Q U R D F

Unscramble the following words and find in the word block above.

The world says, "Get more!"

I am _____ (idiasedstisf)

I _____ (nwta) it

I _____ (edne) it!

I _____ (uyb) it!

I am _____ (phayp) for a while!

_____ (iFansoh) changes!

_____ I am (naiag) dissatisfied!

God says, " _____ (igev) more!"

Be _____ (dtrnrasmofe)

Be _____ (tcnenot)

Be _____ (egeosnur)

Problem 1:

“All my friends follow various TV series. I know some involve things that are immoral, but surely there is no harm in just watching. What do you think?”

Problem 2:

“I’m 13 and this really good-looking boy has asked me out. My friends say I would be crazy not to go but mum says I’m too young. She says that she doesn’t mind if I go in a crowd but not alone. I think she is being old fashioned. What do you think?”

Problem 3:

“I like to dress fashionably. Last week my dad scolded me because I wore a short skirt. Surely there is nothing wrong with keeping up with the fashion trends?”

Problem 4:

In school my mates meet some of the girls behind the bicycle sheds at lunchtime. We have a good laugh but sometimes I get a bit uncomfortable when there are a lot of ‘double meanings’ and ‘smutty jokes’. My friend, who is also a Christian, says that I’m making a fuss about nothing and that there is no harm in it. What do you think?”

Case Study

Joni Eareckson Tada

Joni was born in Baltimore, USA, in 1950. She grew into a young adult surrounded by love, happiness and security in her parent's home.

In 1967, on a hot July day, she met her sister, Kathy, and some friends at the beach on the Chesapeake Bay to swim. She dove in quickly, and immediately knew something was wrong. Though she felt no real pain, a tightness seemed to encompass her. Her first thought was that she was caught in a fishing net and she tried to break free and get to the surface. Panic seized her as she realised she couldn't move and she was lying face down on the bottom of the bay. Kathy ran to Joni and managed to pull her out of the water. She yelled for someone to call an ambulance and Joni was rushed to the hospital. Joni's life was changed for ever that July day in 1967. She had broken her neck - a fracture between the fourth and fifth cervical levels. She was now a quadriplegic, paralysed from the shoulders down. While her friends were busy preparing to go to college in the autumn, Joni was fighting for her very life and having to accept the fact that she would have to live out the rest of her life in a wheelchair.

Joni raged against her fate. She struggled with depression and often she wanted to end her life. She could not understand how God could let this happen to her. Before the accident she had felt that she wasn't living the life she should be, so she had prayed that God would change her life.

After months of staring at the ceiling, Joni began to wonder if this was God's answer to her prayer. This realisation that God was working in her life was the beginning of Joni's journey to wholeness as a disabled person.

She learned to live with her disabilities and she immersed herself in God's Word to become spiritually strong. Being naturally creative, she learned to draw and paint holding her utensils with her teeth. She sold her artwork and it was a great success. She was also able to share Christ's love in her drawings. She always signed her paintings "PTL" which stood for "Praise the Lord". Joni became a sought after conference speaker, author, and actress, portraying herself in the World Wide Pictures production of "Joni". She wrote several books. But her most satisfying and far-reaching work is her advocacy on behalf of disabled people. In 1979, Joni moved to California to begin a ministry to disabled people around the globe, called "Joni and Friends". In 1982, Joni married Ken Tada and they continued serving the Lord together.

- ✦ What kind of life did Joni have before her accident?
- ✦ How did the accident affect her life?
- ✦ What became her new priorities?

FRED'S Saturday programme

Help Fred manage his time.

Use one of three arrows to show how Fred spent his time:

↓ Time wasted. Fred could spend less time doing this.

→ Time spent. Fred could keep doing this.

↑ Time invested. Fred could devote more time to this.

8:30	Get up, take a shower, get dressed
9:00	Eat breakfast reading a magazine
9:30	Talk on the phone with a friend
10:00	Do part of his homework
11:00	Chat with friends on internet
12:30	Eat meal with his family
12:55	Quickly help to clear the table
13:00	Watch TV
14:30	Play computer game
15:30	Bring homework to Daniel who was sick
16:00	Play football with friends outside
17:55	Have an opportunity to witness when asked to play football Sunday morning
18:00	Eat in front of TV – parents away
20:30	Arrive 30 minutes late at church youth group
22:00	Back home, get ready for bed
22:15	Read magazine in bed
22:57	Read a Bible verse and say a quick prayer
23:00	Sleep

Which Way?

Read the following Bible verses then write down the person concerned and in the third column put his or her response to the Gospel. Try to summarise the response in a few words.

	Name	Response
Acts 16:11-14		
Acts 24:22-27		
Acts 26:24-25		
Acts 26:26-29		

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Acts 26:24-25		
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WHICH WAY?

Use the symbols to find the sixteen words.

C	R	D	A	X	H	L	J	Z	B	U	V	S
G	N	W	F	O	I	P	M	E	T	Y	Q	K

Now arrange the words into the five short sentences that summarise Peter's message to the crowd in Jerusalem in Acts 3.

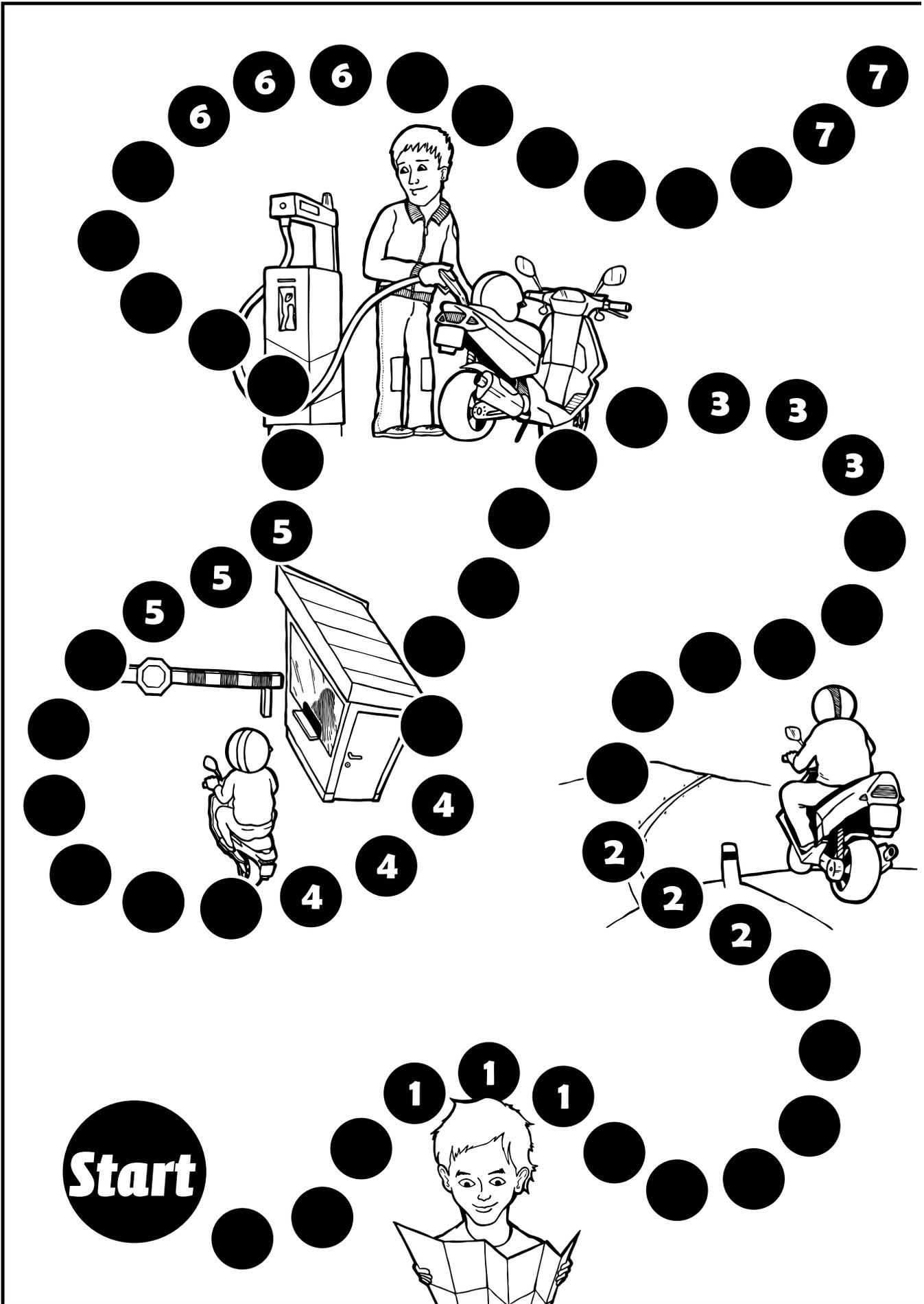
1 _____

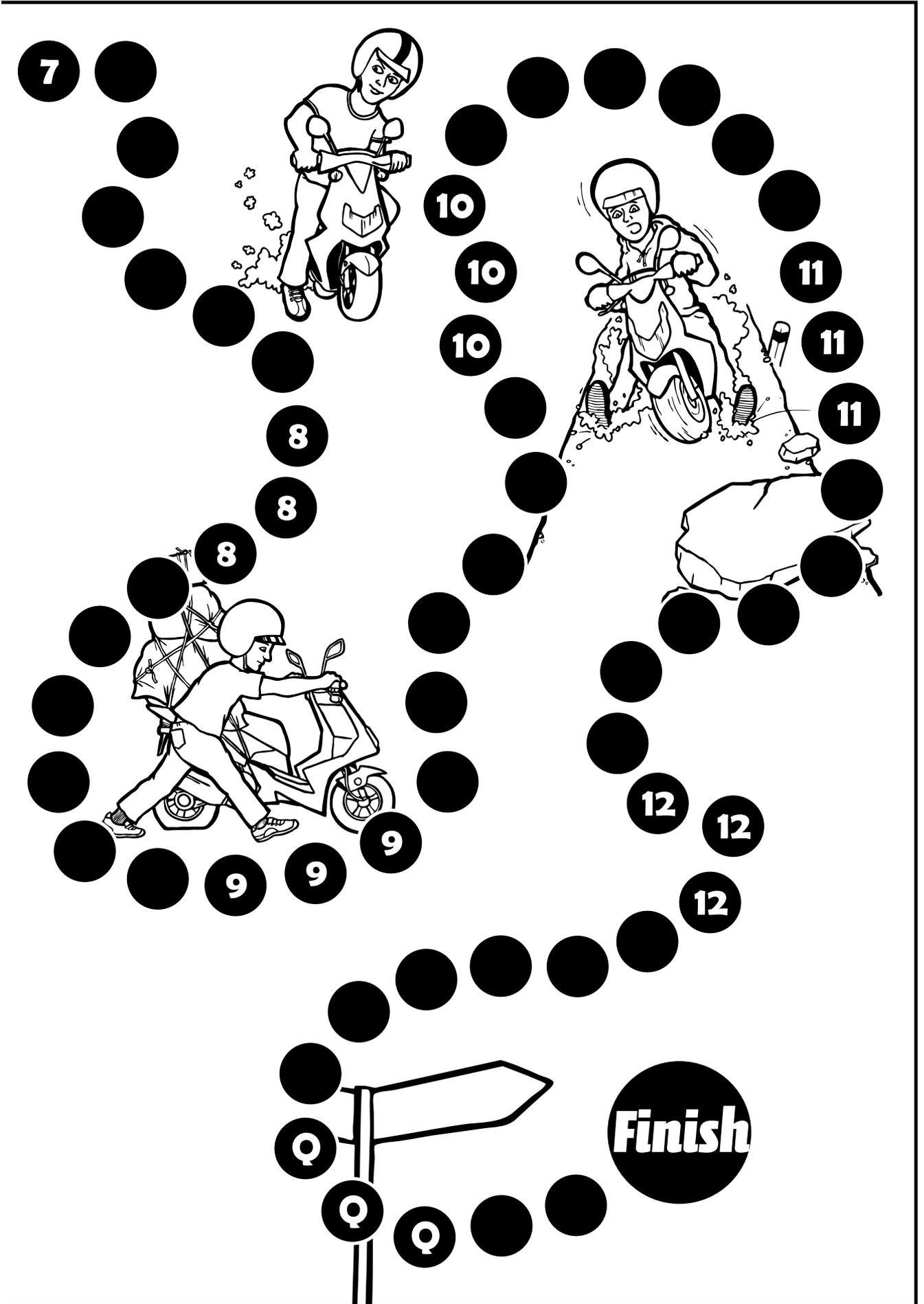
2 _____

3 _____

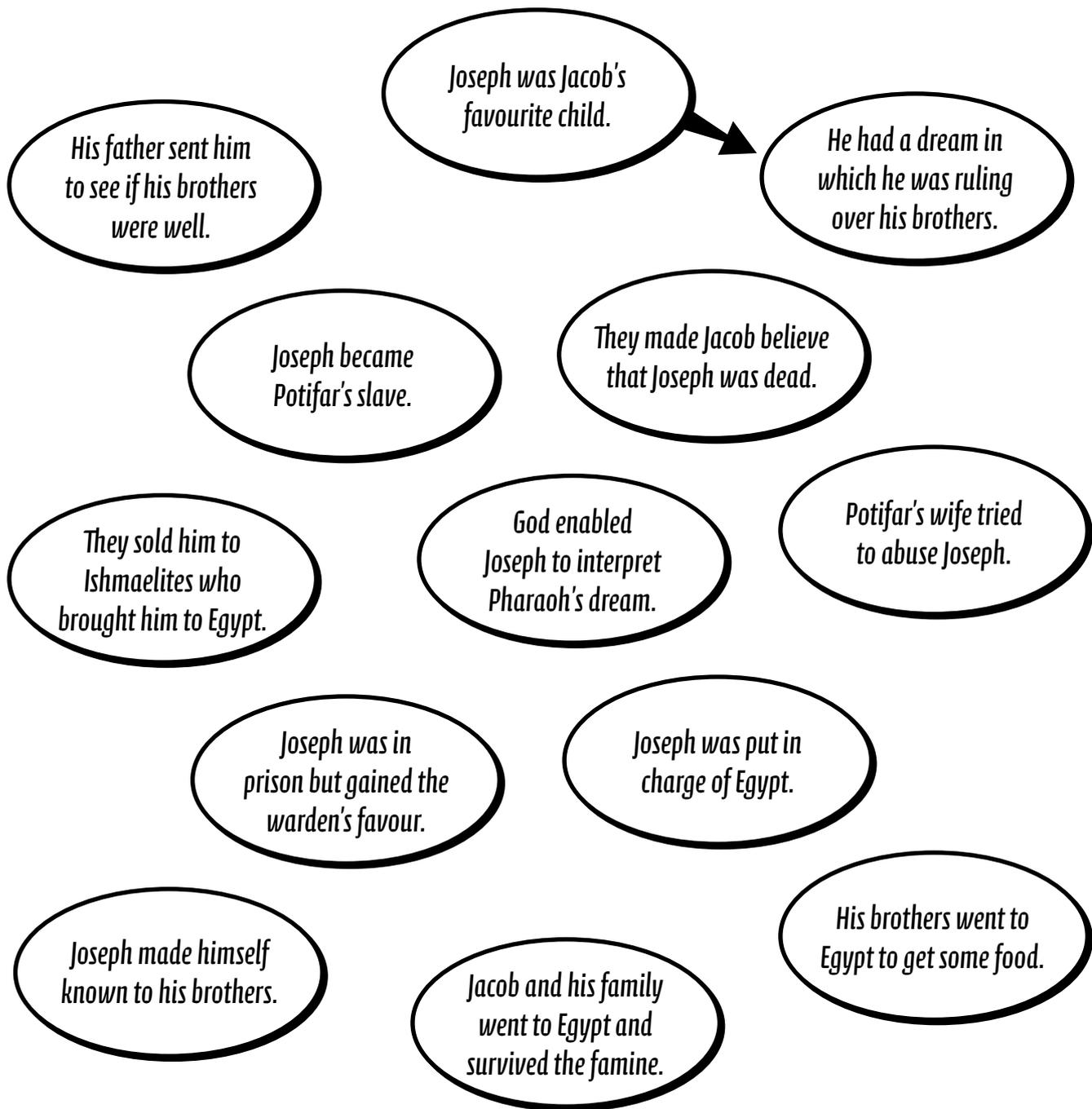
4 _____

5 _____





Joseph's Life – Genesis 37-50



- *What great difficulties did Joseph endure?*
- *How do you think he felt in these tragic circumstances?*
- *Do you think he understood what was happening to him?*
- *What was God's great plan? Read Genesis 45:4-8.*
- *What lessons can we learn from this story for our lives?*