FREE PRINTABLE · KING JAMES VERSION · FOR ADULTS

Bible Study Lessons

with Questions and Answers

8 printable lessons for personal study or a small group · passage printed in full background · discussion questions · leader's answer key · application · prayer

1 Planted by the Rivers
2 Strong and of a Good Courage
3 Peace, Be Still
4 Abide in the Vine
5 Saved by Grace
6 The Peace of God
7 Charity Never Faileth
8 Clothed with Kindness

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."
PSALM 119:18 (KJV)

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How to Use These Bible Study Lessons

These eight lessons walk through well-loved passages of the King James Bible: God's Word, courage, faith in the storm, abiding in Christ, grace, peace, love and forgiveness. Each lesson prints the whole passage, so you do not need to look anything up. Page one gives the passage, a short background, a few older words explained and a key verse. Page two has questions to answer, one step to live out this week and a prayer. Answers and leader notes are at the back (pages 20 to 23).

1 ON YOUR OWN · ABOUT 30 MINUTES

Pray first. Ask God to open your eyes to His Word (Psalm 119:18).

Read the passage twice, once straight through and once slowly, underlining what stands out.

Answer the questions in the space given. Try "Look at the text" before you check the answer key.

Live it and pray it. Choose your one step for the week, then pray the prayer or write your own.

2 IN A SMALL GROUP · ABOUT 60 MINUTES

5 min	Welcome and opening prayer
10 min	Read the passage aloud (one reader, or a few verses each)
10 min	"Look at the text": questions 1-3, answered from the passage
25 min	"Think it through": questions 4-6, the heart of the discussion
10 min	"Live it this week" and closing prayer, praying for one another

3 TIPS FOR LEADERS

- Print pages 4 to 19 for each person. Keep the answer key (pages 20 to 23) for yourself.
- Let the group answer first. The leader notes are there to help, not to end the conversation.
- Questions 4 to 6 rarely have one right answer. Welcome honest doubts and different experiences.
- No one has to read aloud, share or pray aloud. Silence is fine; give people time to think.
- Stay close to the passage. If a side question comes up, note it and come back to it later.
- Keep to time, and end by praying for one another. Some topics are tender; follow up kindly during the week.

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

ACTS 17:11 (KJV)

CONTENTS

The 8 Lessons

#	LESSON	PASSAGE (KJV)	THEME	PAGES
1	**Planted by the Rivers** *Why we study the Bible*	Psalm 1:1-3 2 Timothy 3:14-17	God's Word	4-5
2	**Strong and of a Good Courage** *Courage that rests on God's presence*	Joshua 1:5-9	Courage	6-7
3	**Peace, Be Still** *Faith when the storm comes*	Mark 4:35-41	Faith	8-9
4	**Abide in the Vine** *Staying connected to Jesus*	John 15:1-5, 7-11	Abiding in Christ	10-11
5	**Saved by Grace** *The gift we could never earn*	Ephesians 2:4-10	Grace	12-13
6	**The Peace of God** *Trading worry for prayer*	Philippians 4:4-9	Peace	14-15
7	**Charity Never Faileth** *What real love looks like*	1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13	Love	16-17
8	**Clothed with Kindness** *Forgiving one another as Christ forgave us*	Colossians 3:12-17	Forgiveness	18-19

Leader's answer key: pages 20-23 · Study any passage (SOAP): page 24 · Keep going: page 25

OUR STUDY SCHEDULE

One lesson a week works well for groups; on your own, try one lesson over two or three days.

WEEK	DATE	LESSON	HOST / NOTES
1		Planted by the Rivers	
2		Strong and of a Good Courage	
3		Peace, Be Still	
4		Abide in the Vine	
5		Saved by Grace	
6		The Peace of God	
7		Charity Never Faileth	
8		Clothed with Kindness	

Group name: _____ *Meets:* _____

Planted by the Rivers

Why we study the Bible

Psalm 1:1-3 · 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (KJV)

READ THE PASSAGE

Psalm 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of
sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in
his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of
water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever
he doeth shall prosper.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing
of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures,
which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All
scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for
correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly
furnished unto all good works.

BACKGROUND

Psalm 1 opens the whole book of Psalms like a front door. Before a single song of praise, it sets out two ways to live and pictures the person who delights in God's Word as a well-watered tree. Centuries later Paul wrote 2 Timothy, very likely his last letter, to his younger co-worker Timothy. Paul reminds him that he had known the Scriptures "from a child" (his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois shared their faith with him, 2 Timothy 1:5) and that all Scripture is given by God and useful for everyday life.

WORDS TO KNOW

counsel: advice · **scornful**: people who mock God · **throughly furnished**: completely equipped

KEY VERSE

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (KJV)

MY NOTES · WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME?

Questions for Study and Discussion

1 LOOK AT THE TEXT *answer from the passage*

1. Psalm 1:1 names three things the blessed man does not do. What are they?

2. What does he do instead, and how often (Psalm 1:2)?

3. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what is all Scripture profitable for, and why?

2 THINK IT THROUGH *talk it over; no single right answer*

4. Psalm 1 moves from walking to standing to sitting. What might that teach about how other voices slowly shape us?

5. A tree by the rivers keeps its leaves in dry seasons. What does "his leaf also shall not wither" look like in a hard season?

6. Paul says Scripture is for "reproof" and "correction," not only comfort. How do you respond when a passage challenges you?

3 LIVE IT THIS WEEK

Pick one short passage (Psalm 1 works well) and read it once a day for seven days. Each day, write down one word or phrase that stood out.

4 PRAY

Lord, give me a real delight in Your Word. Root me deep, so that my life bears fruit in every season. Open my eyes when I read, correct me when I wander, and make me ready for the good works You have prepared. In Jesus' name, amen.

Answers and leader notes for Lesson 1: page 20

Strong and of a Good Courage

Courage that rests on God's presence

Joshua 1:5-9 (KJV)

READ THE PASSAGE

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with
Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 6 Be strong and of a good
courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto
their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest
observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not
from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.
8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day
and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then
thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I
commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:
for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

BACKGROUND

Moses had died, and the people of Israel were camped on the east side of the Jordan River, ready to enter the land God had promised to their fathers. Joshua, who had served Moses since his youth, now had to lead them. Before anyone took a step, God spoke to Joshua. Three times in these few verses He tells him to be strong and courageous, and He ties that courage to two things: God's presence and God's Word.

WORDS TO KNOW

sware: swore, promised with an oath · **dismayed**: discouraged, losing heart · **good success**: success in what God called him to do

KEY VERSE

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

JOSHUA 1:9 (KJV)

MY NOTES · WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME?

Questions for Study and Discussion

1 LOOK AT THE TEXT *answer from the passage*

1. What promise does God give Joshua in verse 5?

2. How many times does God tell Joshua to be strong or courageous in verses 6-9? Find each one.

3. What was Joshua to do with "This book of the law" (verse 8)?

2 THINK IT THROUGH *talk it over; no single right answer*

4. Why do you think God connects courage with keeping His Word (verses 7-8), not only with feelings?

5. Verse 9 begins, "Have not I commanded thee?" How can a command to be brave also be a comfort?

6. What river are you standing beside right now: a new job, a move, a diagnosis, a hard conversation?

3 LIVE IT THIS WEEK

Write Joshua 1:9 on a card and put it where you will see it just before the hardest part of your day. Read it aloud each time.

4 PRAY

Lord, You know the things that make me afraid. Thank You that You will not fail me or forsake me. Help me to keep Your Word close, to take the next faithful step, and to remember that You are with me wherever I go. In Jesus' name, amen.

Answers and leader notes for Lesson 2: page 20

LESSON 3 OF 8 · FAITH

Peace, Be Still

Faith when the storm comes

Mark 4:35-41 (KJV)

READ THE PASSAGE

35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the
other side. 36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the
ship. And there were also with him other little ships. 37 And there arose a great storm of wind,
and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. 38 And he was in the hinder part of the
ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that
we perish? 39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And
the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful?
how is it that ye have no faith? 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What
manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

BACKGROUND

Jesus had spent the day teaching by the Sea of Galilee. So many people came that He taught them from a boat (Mark 4:1). That evening He told His disciples to cross to the other side. The Sea of Galilee is a freshwater lake that lies far below sea level and is ringed by hills, and sudden, violent windstorms can sweep down on it. Several of the disciples were experienced fishermen, yet this storm terrified them. Only Mark mentions the pillow and the other little ships.

WORDS TO KNOW

even: evening · **hinder part**: the back (stern) of the boat · **rebuked**: spoke sharply to, commanded

KEY VERSE

"And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

MARK 4:39 (KJV)

MY NOTES · WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME?

Questions for Study and Discussion

1 LOOK AT THE TEXT *answer from the passage*

1. Who suggested crossing the lake, and what exactly did He say (verse 35)?

2. Where was Jesus during the storm, and what did the disciples ask Him (verse 38)?

3. What two questions did Jesus ask after the calm, and what did the disciples ask one another (verses 40-41)?

2 THINK IT THROUGH *talk it over; no single right answer*

4. The disciples were in the storm because they obeyed Jesus. What does that tell us about storms in a faithful life?

5. The disciples asked, "carest thou not"? Have you ever felt that God was asleep in your storm? How does this passage answer that feeling?

6. Before the calm they feared the storm; afterwards "they feared exceedingly" (verse 41). What changed?

3 LIVE IT THIS WEEK

Name your current storm in one sentence. Each morning this week, pray it to Jesus and finish with the words of Mark 4:39.

4 PRAY

Lord Jesus, You are never asleep to my needs. When the wind is loud and the waves are high, help me to trust that You are in the boat with me. Speak Your peace over my heart, and grow my faith in who You are. Amen.

Answers and leader notes for Lesson 3: page 21

Abide in the Vine

Staying connected to Jesus

John 15:1-5, 7-11 (KJV)

READ THE PASSAGE

John 15:1-5

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not
fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth
more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me,
and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can
ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in
him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:7-11

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done
unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my
commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments,
and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you,
and that your joy might be full.

BACKGROUND

These words come from the long talk Jesus had with His disciples on the night before He was crucified (John 13-17). Vineyards were part of everyday life in Israel, and in the Old Testament God's people are sometimes pictured as His vine (Psalm 80:8). Here Jesus calls Himself the true vine. The key word is abide: to remain, to stay, to make your home. Watch how often it appears. (Verse 6 is left out here for space; read it in your Bible.)

WORDS TO KNOW

husbandman: gardener, vinedresser · **purgeth**: prunes, cleans · **abide**: remain, stay, make your home

KEY VERSE

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

JOHN 15:5 (KJV)

MY NOTES · WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME?

Questions for Study and Discussion

1 LOOK AT THE TEXT *answer from the passage*

1. Who is the vine, who is the husbandman, and who are the branches (verses 1 and 5)?

2. What does the husbandman do to a branch that bears fruit (verse 2)?

3. Why does Jesus say He has told them these things (verse 11)?

2 THINK IT THROUGH *talk it over; no single right answer*

4. Jesus says, "without me ye can do nothing" (verse 5). Where are you most tempted to live as if you can manage on your own?

5. A gardener prunes even healthy branches so they bear more fruit. How might God be pruning something in your life?

6. Verses 9-10 link abiding with love and obedience. How does keeping Jesus' commands help us "continue ye in my love"?

3 LIVE IT THIS WEEK

Choose one daily connection point (morning coffee, the commute, lunch) and use it to read a few verses and pray for five minutes.

4 PRAY

Lord Jesus, You are the true vine and I am a branch. Keep me close to You. Prune what needs to go, fill me with Your words, and let Your joy be full in me, so that my life brings glory to the Father. Amen.

Answers and leader notes for Lesson 4: page 21

LESSON 5 OF 8 · GRACE

Saved by Grace

The gift we could never earn

Ephesians 2:4-10 (KJV)

READ THE PASSAGE

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we
were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath
raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the
ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us
through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is
the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk
in them.

BACKGROUND

Paul wrote this letter to the believers at Ephesus, a large city in what is now western Turkey, while he was a prisoner (Ephesians 3:1; 4:1). The first three verses of chapter 2 describe life without God in honest terms. Then come two of the most hopeful words in the Bible: "But God." Paul explains that salvation is God's gift, received by faith, not a reward we earn, and that this gift sets us free for a new life of good works.

WORDS TO KNOW

quickened: made alive · **workmanship**: handiwork, something made · **ordained**: planned, prepared

KEY VERSE

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (KJV)

MY NOTES · WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME?

Questions for Study and Discussion

1 LOOK AT THE TEXT *answer from the passage*

1. Verse 4 gives two reasons God acted for us. What are they?

2. According to verses 8-9, how are we saved, and what is salvation not?

3. What does verse 10 call believers, and what were they created for?

2 THINK IT THROUGH *talk it over; no single right answer*

4. Why does it matter so much that salvation is "Not of works"? What would change if we had to earn it?

5. The Greek word behind "workmanship" (poiema) is the root of our English word poem. How does it feel to see your life as God's handiwork?

6. Verses 8-9 say we are not saved by good works; verse 10 says we are saved for good works. How do these fit together?

3 LIVE IT THIS WEEK

Write down one good work God may have prepared for you this week (a call, a meal, a kind word). Do it as a thank-you, not to earn anything.

4 PRAY

Father, thank You that You are rich in mercy and that You loved me before I loved You. Thank You for the gift of grace in Jesus. Keep me from boasting and from despair, and lead me into the good works You prepared for me. Amen.

Answers and leader notes for Lesson 5: page 22

LESSON 6 OF 8 · PEACE

The Peace of God

Trading worry for prayer

Philippians 4:4-9 (KJV)

READ THE PASSAGE

4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. 5 Let your moderation be known unto all
men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of
God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever
things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things
are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and
the God of peace shall be with you.

BACKGROUND

Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, the first church he planted in Europe (Acts 16), while he was in chains (Philippians 1:13). Even so, joy runs all through the letter. Just before these verses, Paul gently urges two women in the church, Euodias and Syntyche, to settle a disagreement (Philippians 4:2). Then he gives a short, practical path from anxiety to peace: rejoice, be gentle, pray with thanksgiving, think on what is good, and put into practice what you have learned.

WORDS TO KNOW

moderation: gentleness, a forbearing spirit · **careful**: full of care, anxious · **supplication**: humble, earnest request

KEY VERSE

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 4:7 (KJV)

MY NOTES · WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME?

Questions for Study and Discussion

1 LOOK AT THE TEXT *answer from the passage*

1. What does Paul say twice in verse 4?

2. Instead of being "careful" (anxious), what should we do, and with what attitude (verse 6)?

3. List the things Paul tells us to think on in verse 8.

2 THINK IT THROUGH *talk it over; no single right answer*

4. When the KJV was published in 1611, "careful" meant full of care. What worries could you turn into specific requests?

5. Why do you think Paul adds "with thanksgiving"? How does gratitude change the way we pray about problems?

6. Verse 7 promises "the peace of God"; verse 9 promises "the God of peace." What is the difference?

3 LIVE IT THIS WEEK

Each evening this week, write down three things from verse 8 you noticed that day: something true, something lovely, something worth praising.

4 PRAY

Lord, You know every worry I carry. I bring them to You now, one by one, with thanks for all You have already done. Let Your peace guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus, and teach me to think on what is true and lovely. Amen.

Answers and leader notes for Lesson 6: page 22

LESSON 7 OF 8 · LOVE

Charity Never Faileth

What real love looks like

1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13 (KJV)

READ THE PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as
sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand
all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains,
and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and
though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Charity
suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no
evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all
things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be
prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be
knowledge, it shall vanish away.

1 Corinthians 13:13

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

BACKGROUND

The church in Corinth had many gifts but also many divisions. In chapters 12-14 Paul writes about spiritual gifts, and in the middle he pauses to show them "a more excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31): love. The King James Version says charity, which in 1611 meant Christian love, the self-giving love that comes from God (Greek agape). The chapter is often read at weddings, but Paul first wrote it to a church family learning to get along.

WORDS TO KNOW

charity: love (Greek agape) · **vaunteth not itself**: does not brag · **unseemly**: rudely, improperly

KEY VERSE

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 (KJV)

MY NOTES · WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME?

Questions for Study and Discussion

1 LOOK AT THE TEXT *answer from the passage*

1. In verses 1-3, what impressive things does Paul say are worth nothing without charity?

2. Verses 4-7 say what charity does and does not do. List at least four of each.

3. Which three things abide, and which is the greatest (verse 13)?

2 THINK IT THROUGH *talk it over; no single right answer*

4. Read verses 4-7 aloud, putting your own name in place of "charity." Which line is hardest to say honestly?

5. Why might Paul rank love above even faith and hope (verse 13)?

6. "Beareth all things" and "endureth all things" (verse 7). Does love mean putting up with anything, even harm?

3 LIVE IT THIS WEEK

Pick one line from verses 4-7 and practice it on purpose with one person each day this week. Note what happens.

4 PRAY

God of love, thank You that Your love never fails. Make me patient and kind. Take away envy and pride, and teach me to love the way You love me, not with words only but with my whole life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Answers and leader notes for Lesson 7: page 23

Clothed with Kindness

Forgiving one another as Christ forgave us

Colossians 3:12-17 (KJV)

READ THE PASSAGE

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness,
humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one
another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the
peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye
thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and
admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your
hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

BACKGROUND

Paul wrote to the believers at Colossae, a town in the Lycus River valley in what is now Turkey. It seems he had never visited them in person (Colossians 2:1). In chapter 3 he uses the picture of changing clothes: take off old habits like anger and lying (verses 8-9) and "Put on" a new set of clothes that look like Christ. These verses show what life together in a church family can look like, and they end with worship full of thanks.

WORDS TO KNOW

bowels of mercies: deep, tender compassion · **longsuffering**: patience · **forbearing**: bearing with, putting up with

KEY VERSE

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

COLOSSIANS 3:13 (KJV)

MY NOTES · WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME?

Questions for Study and Discussion

1 LOOK AT THE TEXT *answer from the passage*

1. List the qualities believers are to "Put on" in verse 12.

2. What is the pattern for our forgiveness in verse 13?

3. What should "rule" in our hearts, and what should "dwell" in us richly (verses 15-16)?

2 THINK IT THROUGH *talk it over; no single right answer*

4. Paul says to put these qualities on, like clothes we choose each morning. What helps you put on kindness when you do not feel kind?

5. How does remembering how much you have been forgiven make it easier (or harder) to forgive someone else?

6. "be ye thankful" (verse 15) and "giving thanks" (verse 17) frame this passage. Why does thankfulness keep showing up in a passage about getting along?

3 LIVE IT THIS WEEK

Is there someone you need to forgive, or thank? Write their name here, pray for them by name each day, and take one small step: a note, a call, a prayer.

4 PRAY

Lord Jesus, You forgave me freely. Clothe me with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Help me to forgive as I have been forgiven, let Your peace rule in my heart, and make me thankful in all I do. Amen.

Answers and leader notes for Lesson 8: page 23

LEADER'S ANSWER KEY

Lessons 1 and 2: Answers and Leader Notes

Let the group answer first. Questions 1-3 have answers in the passage; for questions 4-6 these are notes to guide the conversation, not the only right answers.

LESSON 1 Planted by the Rivers

Psalm 1:1-3 · 2 Timothy 3:14-17 · questions on page 5

LOOK AT THE TEXT: ANSWERS

1. He does not walk "in the counsel of the ungodly," stand "in the way of sinners" or sit "in the seat of the scornful" (v1).

2. His "delight is in the law of the LORD"; he meditates on it "day and night" (v2).

3. For doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness (v16), so that the believer may be "throughly furnished unto all good works" (v17).

THINK IT THROUGH: LEADER NOTES

4. Many readers notice a slowing down: passing by, then stopping, then settling in. Wrong counsel rarely takes over all at once. Invite honest, practical answers (media, friendships, habits) without shaming anyone.

5. This is not a promise of a trouble-free life. The point is the roots: they reach water that a drought cannot touch. Ask if anyone has a verse that carried them through a difficult time.

6. Reproof shows where we are off the path; correction shows the way back. Both are gifts. Scripture corrects the reader first, not the people we wish would read it.

LESSON 2 Strong and of a Good Courage

Joshua 1:5-9 · questions on page 7

LOOK AT THE TEXT: ANSWERS

1. God promised, "as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (v5).

2. Three times: "Be strong and of a good courage" (v6), "Only be thou strong and very courageous" (v7) and "Be strong and of a good courage" (v9).

3. Keep it in his mouth (it "shall not depart out of thy mouth"), meditate on it "day and night," and observe to do all that is written in it (v8).

THINK IT THROUGH: LEADER NOTES

4. Courage here is steady obedience: "turn not from it to the right hand or to the left." Fear can still be present while we obey. Note that "good success" is success in God's purpose for Joshua, not a promise of wealth.

5. God commands what He also supplies. The reason He gives is His presence, "for the LORD thy God is with thee," not Joshua's own strength.

6. Allow silence and never push anyone to share. Point back to verses 5 and 9. If the group is comfortable, pray for one another by name. Courage can include asking others for help.

LEADER'S ANSWER KEY

Lessons 3 and 4: Answers and Leader Notes

LESSON 3 Peace, Be Still

Mark 4:35-41 · questions on page 9

LOOK AT THE TEXT: ANSWERS

1. Jesus did: "Let us pass over unto the other side" (v35).

2. He was "in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow." They asked, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" (v38).

3. "Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?" (v40). They asked, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (v41).

THINK IT THROUGH: LEADER NOTES

4. Obedience does not guarantee calm weather. But Jesus was in the boat the whole time, and the trip was His idea.

5. The question is honest, and Jesus does not send them away; He answers with action. Honest lament is part of Scripture (many Psalms). Fear and faith often sit side by side in the same heart.

6. Their fear moved from the wind to awe at who Jesus is. A bigger view of Jesus makes other fears smaller.

LESSON 4 Abide in the Vine

John 15:1-5, 7-11 · questions on page 11

LOOK AT THE TEXT: ANSWERS

1. Jesus is "the true vine," the Father is "the husbandman," and His disciples are the branches: "I am the vine, ye are the branches" (v1, v5).

2. "he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (v2): He prunes it so it can bear more.

3. "that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (v11).

THINK IT THROUGH: LEADER NOTES

4. Abiding is daily dependence, like a branch drawing life from the vine. Ask for practical answers: prayer before work, Scripture before the phone.

5. Keep this gentle. Pruning is the care of a gardener who wants more fruit, not a punishment (verse 2 is about fruitful branches). Never tell someone their hardship is pruning; let people name it for themselves.

6. Jesus kept His Father's commandments and abides in His love (v10). Obedience is how we stay at home in His love, not how we earn it.

Lessons 5 and 6: Answers and Leader Notes

LESSON 5 Saved by Grace

Ephesians 2:4-10 · questions on page 13

LOOK AT THE TEXT: ANSWERS

1. He is "rich in mercy," and He acted "for his great love wherewith he loved us" (v4).

2. "by grace are ye saved through faith." It is "not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (v8-9).

3. "his workmanship," created "unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (v10).

THINK IT THROUGH: LEADER NOTES

4. Earning leads either to pride ("lest any man should boast") or to despair (never sure we have done enough). Grace puts everyone on the same ground.

5. Let people respond personally. Some find this hard to believe about themselves; point back to verse 4 ("rich in mercy") and verse 7 ("his kindness toward us").

6. Good works are the fruit of salvation, not its root. Compare the vine in Lesson 4: fruit grows because the branch is already connected.

LESSON 6 The Peace of God

Philippians 4:4-9 · questions on page 15

LOOK AT THE TEXT: ANSWERS

1. "Rejoice": "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice" (v4).

2. Make our requests known to God "by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving" (v6).

3. Whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report, plus anything of virtue and anything worthy of praise: eight in all (v8).

THINK IT THROUGH: LEADER NOTES

4. Paul is not shaming anxious feelings; he shows where to take them. If worry is constant or overwhelming, seeing a doctor or counselor is wise, not a lack of faith. In a crisis in the US, call or text 988.

5. Thanksgiving remembers God's past faithfulness and changes our focus before anything else changes.

6. One is His gift, the other is His presence. The peace "passeth all understanding": it can come before circumstances change.

LEADER'S ANSWER KEY

Lessons 7 and 8: Answers and Leader Notes

LESSON 7 Charity Never Faileth

1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13 · questions on page 17

LOOK AT THE TEXT: ANSWERS

1. Speaking with the tongues of men and of angels, prophecy, understanding all mysteries and all knowledge, faith that could remove mountains, giving all his goods to feed the poor, even giving his body to be burned (v1-3).

2. Does: suffers long, is kind, rejoices in the truth, bears, believes, hopes and endures all things. Does not: envy, brag (vaunt itself), get puffed up, behave unseemly, seek her own, get easily provoked, think evil, rejoice in iniquity (v4-7).

3. "faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" (v13).

THINK IT THROUGH: LEADER NOTES

4. This humbles all of us. Then read it with the name of Jesus: He fits every line. That leads straight back to grace (Lesson 5).

5. Many teachers note that faith will one day become sight and hope will be fulfilled, but love goes on forever: "Charity never faileth" (v8).

6. Love carries burdens and keeps hoping, but it never requires anyone to stay in danger or to excuse abuse; love also "rejoiceth in the truth" (v6). If someone is being hurt at home, the National Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-7233.

LESSON 8 Clothed with Kindness

Colossians 3:12-17 · questions on page 19

LOOK AT THE TEXT: ANSWERS

1. Bowels of mercies (tender compassion), kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness and longsuffering (v12).

2. "even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (v13).

3. "the peace of God" should rule in our hearts (v15), and "the word of Christ" should dwell in us richly (v16).

THINK IT THROUGH: LEADER NOTES

4. Choices and habits come first; feelings often follow. Prayer, a pause before speaking, and remembering how kind God has been to us all help.

5. Forgiveness releases the debt into God's hands and is often a process. It does not mean pretending nothing happened, and it does not always mean trust returns at once or that anyone must stay in an unsafe situation.

6. It is hard to be bitter and thankful at the same time. Gratitude softens the heart toward God and toward people.

KEEP STUDYING

Study Any Passage with the SOAP Method

Finished the eight lessons? Use this page for any passage. Read it slowly, then write: **S**cripture (copy the verse that stood out), **O**bservation (what it says), **A**pplication (what it means for you today) and **P**rayer.

Passage: _____ Date: _____

S SCRIPTURE

Copy the verse or phrase that stood out.

O OBSERVATION

Who? What? Where? What does it say about God?

A APPLICATION

What will I believe, change or do because of this?

P PRAYER

Talk to God about what you read.

PASSAGES TO STUDY NEXT

Romans 8:28-39 · Romans 12:1-2 · Matthew 5:1-12 · James 1:2-8
Hebrews 11:1-6 · Isaiah 40:28-31 · Micah 6:6-8 · 1 John 4:7-12

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"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
PSALM 119:105 (KJV)

WELL DONE

Keep Growing in God's Word

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

JAMES 1:22 (KJV)

You have read eight passages, asked good questions and prayed through what you learned. The best next step is simple: keep opening your Bible a little every day, and keep doing what it says. Here are some tools to help.

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A PRAYER FOR THE ROAD

Lord, thank You for speaking to me through Your Word. Keep me reading and listening, and help me to be a doer of the word and not a hearer only. Grow in me a deeper love for You and for the people around me. In Jesus' name, amen.

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