

# WORLD CHANGERS

BIBLE



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# WORLDCHANGERS

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For more information on the 'World Changers Bible Project' see [spdyouth.com](https://spdyouth.com) or search Facebook for 'World Changers Bible Project' or visit <https://discipleship.adventistchurch.com>

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## WHAT IS A WORLD CHANGER?

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### **How would you define a World Changer?**

The mass media has influenced people's perceptions on what it takes to change the world. Often the media highlights that World Changers are people with money, fame, or power. But this is far from the truth.

Jesus was able to change the world, yet He lacked money and political power. Instead, He connected with His Father in Heaven, and followed the Spirit's leading to impact people in His circle of influence one meeting at a time and He became a World Changer. You have the same opportunity to be a World Changer.

**A World Changer is a disciple of Jesus on a journey to becoming more like Jesus in every way—and who seeks to live as a disciple who makes more disciples.**

In your hands, you hold a Bible that is a testimony to the life Jesus lived as a human being. Yet there is so much more to this story. The Bible shares the life, death and resurrection of our Creator, Saviour

and Lord. By sharing His story with people you come in contact with, you also have the opportunity to be a World Changer!

In the next few pages, we invite you to begin the journey of being a World Changer. Philippians 4:13 states "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." You will need to spend Time Alone with God (TAG) and become familiar with God's Word. As the stories in this World Changer Bible become more real to you, try to share your discoveries with others. As you talk about Jesus more and more, you will find that sharing Him with your friends becomes easier to do. So enjoy your journey to becoming a World Changer within the space God has placed you.

It is our hope and prayer that you will be able to use this Bible and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, make a difference in people's lives and become a World Changer.

**Go change your world!**

It doesn't take much to be a World Changer! It does not take much to make a huge difference in the world you live in. There is power in just one person. You!

If you had the choice of receiving a one-off payment of one million dollars or one cent doubled weekly for a year, which would you choose? If you do the arithmetic, you would be much better off to have just one cent that would double each week for a year.

In fact, on the final week of the year, you would be owed \$22 trillion!!

If an evangelist was able to preach to 100,000 people daily over the course of 35 years of ministry—and after the sermon, every person gave their hearts to God and never struggled again with their spiritual walk—that evangelist would win the souls of 1.27 billion people.

However, an alternative would be for you to pray, spend time with,

encourage and study scripture with one person for a period of a year. Then at the end of the year, get that person to do exactly the same for another friend while you did the same for another person. If this chain reaction continued for a period of 35 years, there would be a total of 6.1 billion people brought to Christ!

Which do you think is more effective? The 20-minute sermon from a travelling preacher? Or you spending time loving, caring and nurturing one person spiritually for a whole year?

With this in mind, remember the "Power of One" and see how you as one person with God can become a World Changer.

Think of five people in your network of friends who might not understand Jesus. List their names below.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Now commit to praying for each of these individuals daily. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts to be more receptive to God. Look for ways to love and impact their lives as a friend. In addition, use these opportunities to give them a better understanding of who God is and why God is important in your life.

Use this page as a reminder to continually pray for your friends. James 5:16 says:

**"...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power."**

If you commit to praying for your friends daily, and look for opportunities to love and share with them, you can be a World Changer.

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*So you've decided to be a World Changer? Now, you need to spend time with the greatest World Changer ever.*

What characteristics come to your mind when you think about what makes a true friend? How can these characteristics be nurtured?

Without doubt, one of the best ways you can nurture the characteristics that make a true friend is by spending quality time with those you want to befriend.

To be a powerful World Changer, it is important that you spend quality time alone with God and quality time with the people you are wishing to make a difference with.

How often are you able to spend quality time alone with God? This is called TAG time. How often are you making contact with the people you want to make a difference with? Jesus spent quality time with both. Mark 1:35–39 tells the story of how

Jesus daily spent time alone with God and that this helped remind Him of His purpose. He also spent time daily with His disciples. Mark 3:14 describes how Jesus chose the 12 disciples and that they were chosen to “be his regular companions.” TAG time is simply finding time to get away from all the busy distractions in our lives so we can spend time both talking and listening to God.

It is important that prayer not be only a one-way conversation. John 10:3–4 says that “the sheep hear his voice . . . . And they follow him because they recognise his voice.” It might take time to discern His voice, but take the time to try.

A number of models of prayer can be found in the Bible. However, the best illustration of a prayer to become a World Changer is the prayer Jesus prayed in John 17.

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**1. PRAY FOR YOURSELF:** Jesus prayed, “Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you.” He asked for God to glorify Him with His presence. This gave Him the ability and power to give glory to God in fulfilling His purpose on earth.

**2. PRAY FOR DISCIPLES:** Jesus prayed for His friends that He was working with to make a difference in their lives. He prayed for God to protect them, for wisdom to help make them holy and that they, too, would make a difference to change their world.

**3. PRAY FOR FUTURE BELIEVERS:** Jesus then prayed for people who were not even in His network, that they would come to know God and also be World Changers.

Make a commitment to pray for these three areas often:

1. Pray for yourself.
  2. Pray for your listed friends to become disciples.
  3. Pray for more people to become World Changers.
-

***Spending time alone with God is great, now you need to read His Word.***

If you are travelling to somewhere you have never been, a map or a Global Positioning System (GPS) is helpful. A GPS looks at where you are and where you want to go. Then it provides directions for the most efficient way of getting there.

This is the role of Bible study in our lives with God. So a World Changer needs to "Be in the Word!"

In 2 Timothy 3:14–17, Paul gives two reasons why we should know the scriptures. The first purpose is to get to know Jesus and discover how to receive salvation (see verse 15). The second purpose is to help us grow spiritually, so we can be equipped to do whatever God wants us to do (see verse 17).

Bible truths can transform you into a World Changer by shaping you with the character and ways of Jesus. This is because "the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than

the sharpest two-edged sword . . . It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires . . . Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes" (Hebrews 4:12).

There are different ways to study the Bible. Some will appeal to you more than others:

- 1. SUMMARY:** Choose a book of the Bible and read through chapter-by-chapter, asking God to give you insights to help in your spiritual journey.
- 2. BIOGRAPHICAL:** Read about a Bible character and make notes on how that person related to God. Discover what things would be good for you to apply in your own life and what to stay away from.
- 3. THEMATIC:** Choose a topic or theme you are interested in and look through a concordance to discover what the Bible says about that particular topic.
- 4. JOURNALING:** Read a passage of Scripture and write down your thoughts as you reflect on it.

The Six Step Bible-study plan: Here are six steps that might guide you on your journey in the Word:

step 1 - Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

step 2 - Meditating on the verse(s) you have chosen to study. Take time to read slowly and reflect on the words, meaning and story in the texts

step 3 - See how these verses can apply to your spiritual journey.

step 4 - Memorise key verses from your time of Bible study.

step 5 - Talk to God about what you've discovered and ask Him to help you to be His follower.

step 6 - Share what you have learnt with someone else.

An exercise book devoted to writing down your thoughts or ideas might be beneficial. If you like drawing pictures, diagrams or researching on the internet, these can be included to help you better understand your Bible-study journey.



*You are not alone, invite someone you respect to share the discipleship journey with you!*

While God grants you the power to change the world, even a World Changer needs an **accountability partner—there's Power in Two**. This individual is a person you respect who will encourage you and pray with and for you as you become a World Changer. You need to be on God's team and follow Jesus' model. But you also need an accountability partner to help you stay on track. The Bible says, "For where two or three are gathered together as my followers, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20).

Can you think of someone in your network who you would be willing to connect with regularly so they can hold you accountable? This person would ask questions to see how you are developing in some of the following areas: your spiritual life; relationships with others; lifestyle issues you are facing; and your commitment to using your time and talents the way God would expect. This is why there is Power in Two.

Why is it beneficial to have someone do this for you?

**1. Relationship:** We all thrive in genuine caring relationships. It is better to have someone alongside us rather than try to do it alone (see Ecclesiastes 4:9–12).

**2. Accountability:** Few things in life get done without accountability. You need to find someone to cheer you on and encourage you, as well as speak kind words of reprimand when you go off course (see Hebrews 12:7–13).

**3. Spiritual support:** You will benefit from spiritual nurture and emotional support (see Philippians 4:4–9; Ecclesiastes 4:12).

**4. Confidentiality:** Having an accountability partner gives the opportunity for honest talk, knowing it won't go anywhere else (see Matthew 18:15–17).

When you meet with your accountability partner, you will need to make the time spent together meaningful and helpful, not just a social catch up. Maybe encourage one another to pray and read a passage of scripture in the Word before meeting each time.

**Here are some questions that you might consider asking each other:**

**1.** How are the most important relationships in your life going currently? (God/spouse/friends/family/future World Changers)

**2.** How did your Bible reading go? What are you going to apply in your life?

**3.** Have you been a good example of a "Christian" since we met last? Why/why not?

**4.** Have you lacked integrity in any way in your dealings with people since we saw each other (coveting, gossiping, anger, etc)?

**5.** Have you had victory over your addictive behaviour/s since the last time I asked?

**6.** Have you been completely honest with me?

**7.** What would you like me to pray for regarding your journey?

*Since you've spent time with God and read His Word, now you've got to tell somebody!*

The first time you talk to someone about Jesus can be stressful. The emotions you feel might range from nervous excitement to feeling “sick-in-your-stomach” fear! Don't worry—this is your body's way of telling you that you are beginning a new adventure.

You might feel like a fake or unfit to be having the Jesus conversation because you are a sinful person. Don't worry—we are told in the Bible that “everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23).

You are not alone. Talking about Jesus is an adventure, and the best part of it all is that Jesus promises to be with you (see Matthew 28:20).

Remember, you will feel less like a sales person “selling” Jesus if you build your own personal connection with Him. Your personal TAG time is important. You will be confident to speak about Jesus because you have seen what He has done in your own life. Share and talk about Jesus from your personal experience.

Be aware of current events in the news or in the world around you. Starting the Jesus talk can begin from an everyday conversation.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you, then go and talk about Jesus with those you meet. Below are some possible conversation starters! Some are more direct than others, and each of them works on the premise that you have a relationship with the person you are sharing with.

#### Indirect starters:

“Hey, I just got this World Changer Bible . . .” “It's amazing how God . . .” “On Saturday mornings, I go to church . . .”

“Thanks—but I have a regular date on Friday night with the King of the Universe . . .”

“Yes, of course your body is a temple . . .”

“Jesus is one of my best friends because . . .”

“I'm going to church/ay's/Pathfinders/a youth rally . . .”

#### Direct starters:

“Have you ever read a Bible?”

“Do you believe in God? Why or why not?”

“How do you see the world ending?”

“What does your church believe about Jesus coming back?”

“As an Adventist, I believe that . . .”

“What do you think happens after we die?”

#### Word Stack:

**A Big Brass Nameplate:** My name is \_\_\_\_\_, what's your name?

Around the nameplate is a **House With a Roof:** Where do you live?

On the roof is a **Family Waving:** Tell me about your family?

They are wearing a **Big Round Watch:** What do you do with your time?

Taking off from the watch is a **Plane Flying:** Where have you travelled? Or where would you like to travel?

The plane has **Propellers Made of Tennis Rackets:** “How do you use your spare time?”

Above the plane is a **Red Flashing Light:** “Tell me your story”—share your testimony. See page ix for more details.

*Leading someone to Jesus—it's as easy as one, two, three!*

There are a few simple steps to remember when you lead people to Jesus, but the most fundamental element in this journey is that you pray daily for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Step 1****To be able to lead others to Jesus, you need to be a follower of Jesus!**

Make sure you are spending TAG time with Jesus daily. This is where your wisdom and discernment will come from. If you want people to believe in the “product,” you need to be using the “product.” Psalm 34:8 states, “Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in Him!” To lead someone to Jesus is to have a person follow you on a spiritual journey. That person needs to see you as a spiritual being. **You must be credible.**

**Step 2**

**Build relationships.** It is important you care for and nurture your relationships. The ways in which you connect with people will help you discuss various issues. Be a friend first, get to know the person and share in their interests. Perhaps you may both enjoy a sport or hobby. Try to mix within a group setting and build a genuine relationship with the person. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, “Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.” When the time is right, you will be able to lead the conversation toward a spiritual focus. **You must be relational.**

**Step 3**

**Bring Jesus into your everyday conversation.** When talking with your friend, listen for an opening in the discussion that will help you introduce Jesus naturally into the flow of the conversation. For example, your friend might say, “It’s a beautiful day today!” You could respond with, “Isn’t it amazing how God made beauty in the world?” When you first speak in this way, you might feel uncomfortable and perhaps receive some strange looks, but persevere. Every chance you get, praise God and be positive. If you want your friends to notice that God is a part of your life, you need to include Him in your everyday conversations. **You must be intentional.**

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***Here are some things you need to know when you are reading the Bible together!***

You are about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. Leading someone to Jesus is one of the most rewarding aspects of being a World Changer! Remember, your end goal is to introduce Jesus to the person you are sharing with. Further, every time you read together, your goal is to discover the next step to take, so you can know Jesus better. As you begin your time of sharing, focus on Jesus. Pray that your friends will enjoy reading the Bible so much that they will want to introduce Jesus to someone they know.

**Before reading the Bible, you need to . . .**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading.</li> <li>2. Follow the Discovery Bible Reading format (see page xiii) or read through the entire Bible Bookmark. (Make sure you are familiar with the content of the Bookmark study</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guide or Discovery Bible Reading card.)</li> <li>3. Organise the place where you will meet. Make sure everyone who is coming knows the time you will begin, the place the group will be happening and that they are comfortable with the setting.</li> </ol> |
|--|---|

**During the Bible reading, you need to . . .**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Start and finish on time.</li> <li>2. Start with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading.</li> <li>3. As you begin, ask questions that show you are interested in what's been happening in the lives of your friend. For example, "How has your week been?" or "What have you been up to today?" Listen to their response and try to reflect back to</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>them what they have said during the sharing time.</li> <li>4. Explain what you plan to do during Bible reading.</li> <li>5. Check for understanding by asking questions and allowing them to ask questions.</li> <li>6. Close with prayer.</li> <li>7. Agree on when you will next meet.</li> </ol> |
|--|--|

**After the Bible reading, you need to...**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pray for your friend and ask the Lord to help you as you prepare for your next group session.</li> <li>2. Connect with your friend at some point through the week . . . just to see how they're going.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Pray for divine appointments, so you can share Jesus with others.</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

*Share your story, and your friends will be more comfortable to share their story with you.*

One of the easiest ways to be a World Changer for Jesus is to tell your personal story (called a testimony) to those you come into contact with. Describe your first memory/recollection when your faith became your own. Your story is important for three reasons:

1. People are interested in stories.
2. People can relate to stories.
3. It is difficult to argue with someone's story.

In Acts 26, we find Paul giving his testimony. Paul's story can be broken into three simple sections:

#### **SECTION 1: Before Christ**

(Acts 26:4–11)

#### **SECTION 2: Conversion**

(Acts 26:12–18)

#### **SECTION 3: After Christ**

(Acts 26: 19–23)

You, too, can design and share your testimony using this simple plan.

For section one, think of what your life was like before you met Christ. Remember, we are not talking about going to church, we are talking about having a relationship with Jesus. Use one word to describe how you felt at the time: lonely, afraid, searching, angry before you made a commitment to Jesus? Do not dwell on or glorifying on your past. The focus should always be on Jesus.

For section two, think of how you specifically came to know Jesus. Where were you? What happened? What was the process? How did it feel for you? It might have been a

gradual process over time and that's OK too.

For section three, think of how your life has changed as a result of knowing Jesus and making a decision to follow Him. Use one word to describe the change: easy, hard, healing, exciting. What difference has He made in you? What benefit has Jesus brought to you?

Here are some other tips to consider when constructing your story:

- Is there one text in the Bible that has helped give you a reason for why you believe/act as you do?
  - Is my story easy to understand and avoids religious clichés?
  - How long does my story take to tell? An ideal length is 2 to 4 minutes. Less time is probably not enough to make an impact, more is possibly too long. It might vary depending on the situation and that's OK too.
  - Does your story relate to where other people's concerns and interests are? Or is it too self-focused? The point of telling your story is that the person listening might identify with how God has worked in their life as well.
- Look to ask the question—"Does any of this relate to you?" or "Does it make sense?"—at the end of your story.
- It might help you to write out your story first to help structure it. Take the time to practice telling your story.
- Remember, your role is simply to share your story with others. It is the Spirit's role to convict those who are listening. Be bold and be strong for God is with you (see Joshua 1:9).

1. Adapted from Mark Mittelberg, Lee Strobel & Bill Hybels, *Becoming a Contagious Christian Leader's Guide* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995), Pages 122–49.

*You're about to tell God's story? Here are some simple ways you can share the gospel story with someone.*

Once your friend has heard your testimony, they might be willing to know and learn more about what you believe and why. If so, it is great to know an easy and effective way to present the gospel. You might want to try one of the following methods:

## A. Gospel message in four points

### 1. GOD

I Is *Loving* (1 John 4:16b); *Holy* (1 Peter 1:15-16); and *Just* (2 Thessalonians 1:6).

### 2. US

I We were *created good* but became *sinful* (Romans 3:23).

II We *will die*, both physically and spiritually (Romans 6:23).

### 3. CHRIST

I Christ died as our *substitute* (1 Peter 2:24).

II Christ offers His *forgiveness as a gift* (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

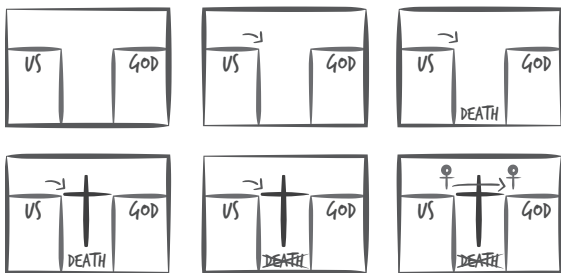
### 4. YOU

I You can *ask Christ to forgive* and *lead* in your life (1 John 1:9).

II You can *pray for transformation* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

One of the most effective ways to share the gospel is by using a visual illustration. Here is an illustration that could be used to share the gospel with your friend.

## B. The Bridge Connection: A Pictorial Illustration<sup>3</sup>



2. Mittelberg, *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, Pages 122–49.

3. *Ibid.*, P 170–5.

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*Here are more ways to share the Gospel story with others.*

## C. Gospel in Colours

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**Black** - Everyone messes up and falls short of God's glory (Romans 3:23).

**Red** - The blood of Jesus shed at the cross is evidence of the lengths God is willing to go to show His love (John 3:16).

**White** - If we are willing to apologise, God is willing to forgive and cleanse us (1 John 1:9).

**Green** - We can continue to grow in a relationship with Him (2 Peter 3:18).

**Yellow** - God has promised to take anyone who has a relationship with Him home to heaven (John 14:1-3).

## D. The ABCs of the Gospel

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**A**-dmit you are a sinner.

**B**-elieve completely that Jesus died for you, so that by asking for forgiveness, you can accept the gift of eternal life.

**C**-hoose to turn away from anything that keeps you from having a strong ongoing relationship with Jesus, and share His story with others.

## E. The Gospel in Three Circles (see next page)

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**Circle 1:** We're all born broken. We live in a broken world. (Brokenness)

**Circles 2:** But God originally designed us with a purpose (God's design) and we lived in God's purpose unbroken for a while.

**Arrow 1:** But when humanity sinned (arrow from God's design to our brokenness), which led to our brokenness. We try to get out of our brokenness by being good, successful, going to church, addictions.

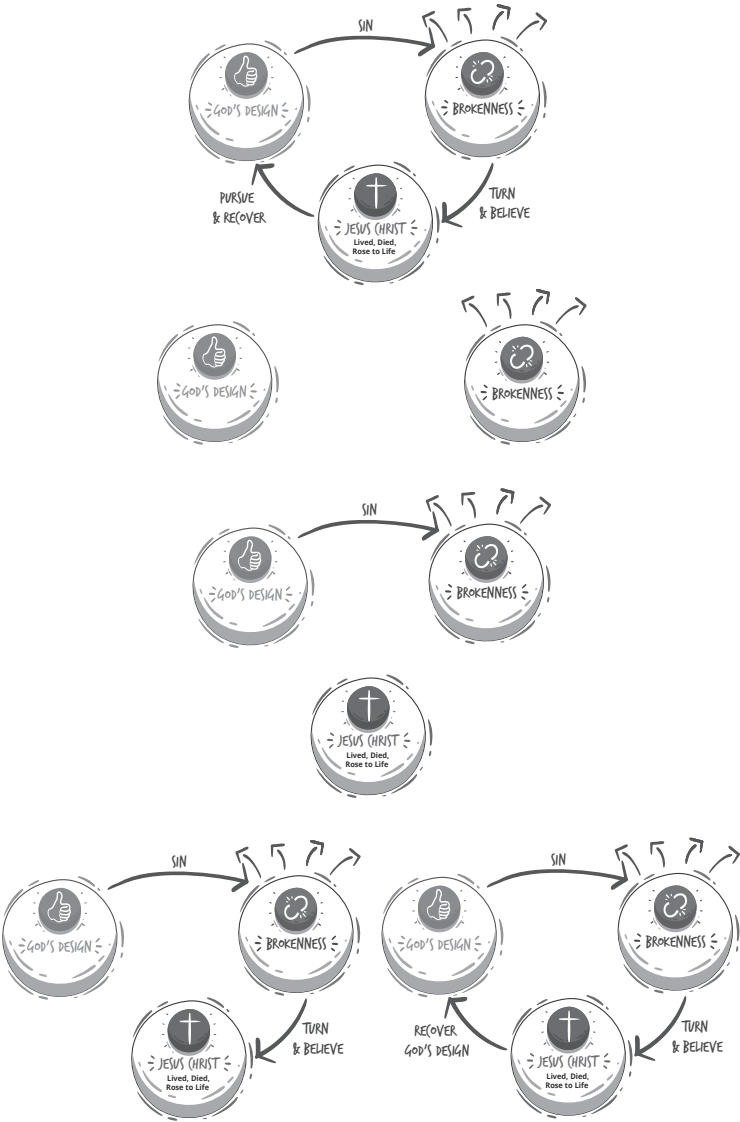
**Circle 3:** We cannot get out of our brokenness, so God sent Jesus Christ. He led a perfect life and He willingly died on a cross in our place. He rose again and conquered death, then returned to heaven.

**Arrow 2:** The Bible says, if we turn from our sin and believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again, we will live.

**Arrow 3:** As believers in Jesus, we will be able to recover God's design and pursue His purpose for our life. Our role is to share the gospel with others who also need salvation and restoration.

**Appeal:** You can close the conversation with a question like: "Which circle would you like to be in, brokenness or God's design?" If your friend is still in a state of brokenness, invite your friend to recover God's design for his or her life by turning and believing that Jesus died for their sin and brokenness. If they are willing or interested, begin Discovery Bible Readings with them and lead them into a better understanding of God and His will for their lives. You can also ask them to share their story with a friend, for example: 'who will you tell now that you have become a follower of Jesus?'

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*You came, you've read the Bible, now go and share Jesus with your friends!*

Now that we've discussed with you several ways to share Jesus, choose a method that suits you and—in partnership with the Holy Spirit—have a go! Sometimes we can feel uncomfortable or unworthy to share the gospel with friends and family, because we might feel we don't know enough. Remember, it is not us who convict but the Holy Spirit. Everyone has a conscience that the Holy Spirit can use to help them understand and grow in spiritual truths. We just need to provide the opportunities.

John 14:26, 27 states, **“But when the Father sends the Counselor and as my representative— and by the Counselor I mean the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I myself have told you.v I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.”**

Ephesians 1:17 also reminds us that we should **“asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.”**

Therefore, if we give people the opportunity to read the Bible for themselves and guide their thinking with questions, it gives the opportunity for the Spirit to do His work of teaching and growing.

One strategy might be to get friends to read about the life of Jesus story by story, then ask them questions about their thoughts on what they have read. Perhaps Mark as it is the shortest or Luke as it is written for unbelievers, is the best place to start.

This could be done one-on-one, with a small group of friends or family members. Read the story twice and have one person retell the story in their own words.

Once the story has been read and shared, follow on by asking the reflection questions below, that help to promote discussion and provide a personal application to the story.

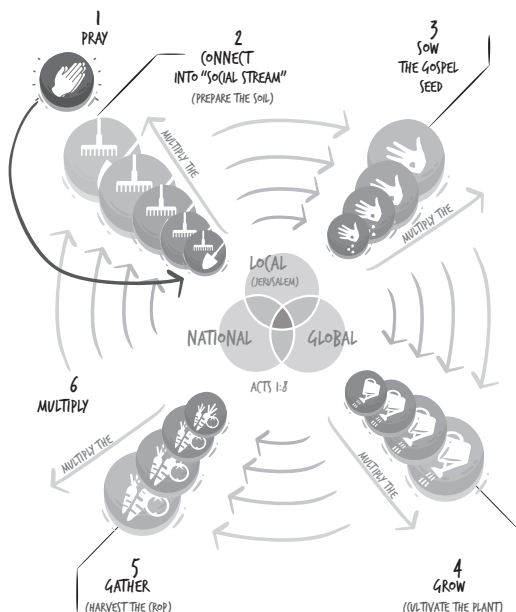
1. What is new?
2. What surprises you?
3. What don't you understand?
4. What will you obey or apply?
5. What will you share with someone this week?

So now you're ready to become a World Changer. When you put into practice the skills you have learned in these pages, you will see the Lord's hand in your life in mighty ways. Remember to get into the Word, pray for the guidance of the Spirit and work with your accountability partner as you go. God is waiting for you to follow His lead in changing the world forever.

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<b>MONTH 1</b> <i>Pick &amp; Pray for 5 People (TAG)</i>	<b>MONTH 2</b> <i>Be in the Word</i>	<b>MONTH 3</b> <i>Accountability Partners (P2)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A look at the book</li> <li>• Godhead</li> </ul>
<b>MONTH 4</b> <i>Talking about Jesus</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Father</li> <li>• Son</li> <li>• Holy Spirit</li> </ul>	<b>MONTH 5</b> <i>Steps to Jesus</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation</li> <li>• Nature of Man</li> <li>• The Great Controversy</li> </ul>	<b>MONTH 6</b> <i>Starting Out in the Word</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life, Death, Resurrection in Christ</li> <li>• The Experience of Salvation</li> <li>• Growing in Christ</li> </ul>
<b>MONTH 7</b> <i>Your story?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church</li> <li>• The Remnant Church &amp; its Mission</li> <li>• Unity in the body of Christ</li> </ul>	<b>MONTH 8</b> <i>Friend Bring a Friend</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baptism</li> <li>• Lord's Supper</li> <li>• Gifts of the Holy Spirit</li> </ul>	<b>MONTH 9</b> <i>Easy ways to share the Gospel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gift of Prophecy</li> <li>• Law of God</li> <li>• Sabbath</li> </ul>
<b>MONTH 10</b> <i>Just do it</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewardship</li> <li>• Christian behaviour</li> <li>• Marriage &amp; Family</li> </ul>	<b>MONTH 11</b> <i>It all belongs to Him</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christ Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary</li> <li>• Second Coming</li> </ul>	<b>MONTH 12</b> <i>Reap and Sow</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death &amp; Resurrection</li> <li>• Millennium &amp; the End of Sin</li> <li>• New Earth</li> </ul>

As you get your friends together to read and discuss the Bible in groups, God could use this as a basis of starting something more than just a new group. World Changers could start a new church. If this is the case, what should you do? What does the Bible say about what a new church is?



Jesus taught us how to enter new fields and make disciples (see Luke 10:1–24). In Jesus' *harvest model* (Mark 4:26–29), we can identify steps for planting new groups or churches that multiply: (1) Prepare, (2) Sow, (3) Cultivate, (4) Harvest/Gathering, and (5) Multiply.

The harvest model of church planting involves:

1. Prepare: Developing relationships with our friends and neighbours.
2. Sow: Sharing our faith in Jesus in relevant ways that allows our friends to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
3. Cultivate: Growing young disciples through Bible reading, training, mentoring and modeling a missional lifestyle.
4. Harvest: Gathering our friends together to form small groups and begin new churches.
5. Multiply: As our friends develop their faith and discipleship skills, they will in turn begin to mentor others who will repeat the process of discipling their friends. They will continue to multiply the harvest and form new groups of believers.

## What is church planting?

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Church is a gathering of disciples! New Testament churches were gatherings of new disciples, not buildings, institutions or denominations. Church buildings were not introduced until the fourth century after Jesus. So as we gather a group of disciples to learn together, we need to remember that the church is people. Eph 2:19-22; 4:2-16.

## Why plant new churches?

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Planting new churches puts us in tune with God's missionary heart, where His Spirit is active. We are compelled to engage with community, connect with new people, focus on disciple-making and equip new leaders. By being involved, taking full responsibility for making disciples among peers and raising up a new generation of churches, World Changers experience a fresh relationship with God, developing spiritual maturity and resilience.

## Who is the planting team?

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Jesus taught His disciples to work in teams. It is good to have at least four in a church-planting team. Here are some important pointers for the team:

1. Learn to pray together conversationally.
2. Read and re-read the book of Acts. This is your church-planting textbook.
3. Put into practice Jesus simple three-step process (Luke 10:8, 9) to make disciples engaging the harvest model p. XV:
  - Eat with people—and listen to their stories.
  - Heal people—offer practical help where needed and share your story.
  - Share God's good news—and introduce *Discovery Bible Reading*.
4. Identify your values or attitudes that will determine how you will relate.
5. Put into practice what the Holy Spirit is saying to the team.
6. Look for a "person-of-peace"—a person with relationships and connections who might be interested in the good news about Jesus—in your community.
7. Share with other believers, encourage them to make disciples and form more church-planting teams or groups.

## What do you do to start a new church?

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Planting a church is not only about organising Bible classes and a worship service. Each church exists to make disciples—to serve the community; provide fellowship; give teaching, prayer and worship opportunities; and plant new churches. Here are some steps to take in preparation:

1. Form a prayer support team—and share with them prayer needs and answers.
  2. Start a *Discovery Bible Reading* group straight away.
  3. From the start, equip all new disciples to share their story and invite people to Jesus.
  4. Invite an experienced church planter to be a coach or mentor.
  5. Start a community-service project that meets the needs of people.
  6. Write a project plan and discuss this with your church and leaders.
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## How will you plan worship services?

Weekly worship times will include:

- Prayer and praise.
- Bible discussions, learning and application for all, including children.
- Worship and teaching, using *Discovery Bible Reading* preaching and training.
- Opportunities for all to participate.
- Celebration of the Lord's Supper on a regular basis.
- Baptisms by water and the Holy Spirit each time a person is ready.
- Weekly giving of tithes and offerings.
- Prayer and anointing for healing.
- Encouragement.
- Fellowship around shared meals, keeping the food simple.

## How do you plant a new church?

The team will connect with people to make new disciples. To do this, you might have *Discovery Bible Reading* groups, home Bible studies and *Bible Making Classes*, and conduct seminars and evangelistic meetings. When some are ready for "harvest", it is time to gather them into a new church group. Some might join existing churches, but they will be more active in a new church plant. Here are some important things to think about:

1. **Who will lead the new church?** The church-planting team might provide leadership for the new church, but it is important for new disciples to be equipped and involved. There are *natural leaders*, such as the heads of households, especially if you meet in a home.
2. **What about a leadership team?** Involve the new disciples in prayer and conversation to select those who will provide leadership. Provide simple job descriptions and outline the processes for decision-making. But, do not allow meetings to distract from God's mission!
3. **Who will teach?** It does not strengthen the new church if there are too many visiting preachers who do not know the people. And do not rely on videos. Every new plant can have worship services using the *Discovery Bible Reading* approach in the place of a sermon.
4. **Where will the new church meet?** New Testament churches met in the houses of new believers. Other good places are: community houses or halls; meeting rooms in public libraries; lecture theatres on the campuses of schools, colleges, or universities; or conference rooms in hotels; or outdoors in parks or gardens. Choose places that cost little or nothing. If there is a cost, ensure the new church can cover it without relying on allocations from others.
5. **What is "zero-dollar" church planting?** With a team of dedicated disciples, it costs little or no money to start a *Discovery Bible Reading* group, conduct home Bible studies or readings, or to launch a branch Sabbath school. When it is time to gather as a new church, the key is to use a venue that costs little or nothing. Of course, if the church planter is an employed pastor, there are added expenses.

**6. What structures are important?** It is important to have a simple structure for decision-making and review, to ensure the church plant is faithful to God's purpose and mission. Talk with your pastor and leaders to get guidance on simple structures and processes:

- Will this plant relate directly to a mission/conference or through a "parent" church?
- Pastor: Who will be the coach or mentor? Will this be the district pastor?
- Finances: How will tithes and offerings be collected, recorded and dispersed?
- What moral, legal and ethical responsibilities need to be met for working with children, providing safe places for vulnerable people and liability insurance for gatherings and activities?

### What factors ensure the new plant is sustainable?

1. Leaders are equipped from within the new church group.
2. A clear purpose (see Matthew 28:16–20; Acts 2:42–45; Revelation 14:6–13).
3. Focus on making and equipping new disciples.
4. Each one: (1) shares their story, and (2) invites others to follow Jesus.
5. A clear understanding of guiding values or attitudes.
6. Central beliefs shared in the language of the community.
7. Structures are simple, functional and open to all.
8. Facilities do not create a debt burden.
9. Able to conduct worship without a visiting preacher.

### When will this new church multiply and plant again?

Every healthy church reproduces and multiplies. For Jesus' disciples, involvement meant *participation* in mission, not running the structures and systems of the church. Like the church in Ephesus, your church could be a church-planting hub, equipping church planters and other teams (see Acts 19:1–20). Here are some key planning questions for your leadership team to consider in each meeting:

1. Who are we equipping to plant another church?
2. What community-service projects have they started?
3. How many Discovery Bible Reading groups are they cultivating?
4. Where will they plant?
5. How are we multiplying spiritual leaders and new prayer teams?

### What environments cultivate multiplication movements?

New churches multiply in environments of encouragement where every spark of interest and kingdom initiative is fanned; people are equipped and released; simple, reproducible models of church are followed; the Holy Spirit's presence is celebrated and affirmed; disciples are made in relational streams; and where they are constantly on the lookout to disciple persons of peace (see Luke 10:1–24).

## CANONICAL LISTING OF BIBLE BOOKS

### THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis.....3	2 Chronicles.....277	Daniel.....547
Exodus.....37	Ezra.....301	Hosea.....557
Leviticus.....66	Nehemiah.....308	Joel.....564
Numbers.....87	Esther.....318	Amos.....567
Deuteronomy.....116	Job.....323	Obadiah.....572
Joshua.....140	Psalms.....344	Jonah.....573
Judges.....156	Proverbs.....397	Micah.....575
Ruth.....172	Ecclesiastes.....415	Nahum.....579
1 Samuel.....175	Song of Songs.....420	Habakkuk.....581
2 Samuel.....195	Isaiah.....424	Zephaniah.....583
1 Kings.....213	Jeremiah.....468	Haggai.....585
2 Kings.....234	Lamentations.....510	Zechariah.....586
1 Chronicles.....255	Ezekiel.....514	Malachi.....593

### THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew.....597	Ephesians.....731	Hebrews.....749
Mark.....620	Philippians.....734	James.....756
Luke.....635	Colossians.....736	1 Peter.....759
John.....660	1 Thessalonians..739	2 Peter.....762
Acts.....678	2 Thessalonians..741	1 John.....764
Romans.....700	1 Timothy.....742	2 John.....766
1 Corinthians.....711	2 Timothy.....745	3 John.....767
2 Corinthians.....721	Titus.....747	Jude.....767
Galatians.....727	Philemon.....748	Revelation.....768

## ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF BIBLE BOOKS

Acts.....	678	James .....	756	Nehemiah .....	308
Amos.....	567	Jeremiah.....	468	Numbers.....	87
1 Chronicles .....	255	Job.....	323	Obadiah.....	572
2 Chronicles .....	277	Joel .....	564	1 Peter .....	759
Colossians .....	736	John .....	660	2 Peter .....	762
1 Corinthians .....	711	1 John .....	764	Philemon .....	748
2 Corinthians .....	721	2 John .....	766	Philippians.....	734
Daniel.....	547	3 John .....	767	Proverbs .....	397
Deuteronomy.....	116	Jonah .....	573	Psalms .....	344
Ecclesiastes .....	415	Joshua.....	140	Revelation.....	768
Ephesians.....	731	Jude.....	767	Romans .....	700
Esther .....	318	Judges.....	156	Ruth .....	172
Exodus .....	37	1 Kings .....	213	1 Samuel.....	175
Ezekiel .....	514	2 Kings .....	234	2 Samuel.....	195
Ezra.....	301	Lamentations....	510	Song of Songs .....	420
Galatians .....	727	Leviticus.....	66	1 Thessalonians ...	739
Genesis.....	3	Luke .....	635	2 Thessalonians ...	741
Habakkuk.....	581	Malachi.....	593	1 Timothy .....	742
Haggai .....	585	Mark .....	620	2 Timothy .....	745
Hebrews .....	749	Matthew .....	597	Titus .....	747
Hosea .....	557	Micah .....	575	Zechariah.....	586
Isaiah .....	424	Nahum .....	579	Zephaniah.....	583





## *Introduction to the* **NEW LIVING TRANSLATION**

### ***Translation Philosophy and Methodology***

English Bible translations tend to be governed by one of two general translation theories. The first theory has been called “formal-equivalence,” “literal,” or “word-for-word” translation. According to this theory, the translator attempts to render each word of the original language into English and seeks to preserve the original syntax and sentence structure as much as possible in translation. The second theory has been called “dynamic-equivalence,” “functional-equivalence,” or “thought-for-thought” translation. The goal of this translation theory is to produce in English the closest natural equivalent of the message expressed by the original-language text, both in meaning and in style.

Both of these translation theories have their strengths. A formal-equivalence translation preserves aspects of the original text—including ancient idioms, term consistency, and original-language syntax—that are valuable for scholars and professional study. It allows a reader to trace formal elements of the original-language text through the English translation. A dynamic-equivalence translation, on the other hand, focuses on translating the message of the original-language text. It ensures that the meaning of the text is readily apparent to the contemporary reader. This allows the message to come through with immediacy, without requiring the reader to struggle with foreign idioms and awkward syntax.

The translators of the New Living Translation set out to render the message of the original texts of Scripture into clear, contemporary English. As they did so, they kept the concerns of both formal-equivalence and dynamic-equivalence in mind. On the one hand, they translated as simply and literally as possible when that approach yielded an accurate, clear, and natural English text. Many words and phrases were rendered literally and consistently into English, preserving essential literary and rhetorical devices, ancient metaphors, and word choices that give structure to the text and provide echoes of meaning from one passage to the next.

On the other hand, the translators rendered the message more dynamically when the literal rendering was hard to understand,

was misleading, or yielded archaic or foreign wording. They clarified difficult metaphors and terms to aid in the reader’s understanding. The translators first struggled with the meaning of the words and phrases in the ancient context; then they rendered the message into clear, natural English. Their goal was to be both faithful to the ancient texts and eminently readable.

### ***Translation Process and Team***

To produce an accurate translation of the Bible into contemporary English, the translation team needed the skills necessary to enter into the thought patterns of the ancient authors and then to render their ideas, connotations, and effects into clear, contemporary English. To begin this process, qualified biblical scholars were needed to interpret the meaning of the original text and to check it against our base English translation. In order to guard against personal and theological biases, the scholars needed to represent a diverse group of evangelicals who would employ the best exegetical tools. Then to work alongside the scholars, skilled English stylists were needed to shape the text into clear, contemporary English.

With these concerns in mind, the Bible Translation Committee recruited teams of scholars that represented a broad spectrum of denominations, theological perspectives, and backgrounds within the worldwide evangelical community. Each book of the Bible was assigned to three different scholars with proven expertise in the book or group of books to be reviewed. Each of these scholars made a thorough review of a base translation and submitted suggested revisions to the appropriate Senior Translator. The Senior Translator then reviewed and summarized these suggestions and proposed a first-draft revision of the base text. This draft served as the basis for several additional phases of exegetical and stylistic committee review. Then the Bible Translation Committee jointly reviewed and approved every verse of the final translation.

The New Living Translation was first published in 1996. Shortly after its initial publication, the Bible Translation Committee began a process of further committee review

and translation refinement. The purpose of this continued revision was to increase the level of precision without sacrificing the text's easy-to-understand quality. This second-edition text was completed in 2004, and an additional update with minor changes was subsequently introduced in 2007. This printing of the New Living Translation reflects the updated 2007 text.

### **The Texts behind the New Living Translation**

The Old Testament translators used the Masoretic Text of the Hebrew Bible as represented in *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (1977), with its extensive system of textual notes. The translators also took into account the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint and other Greek manuscripts, the Samaritan Pentateuch, the Syriac Peshitta, the Latin Vulgate, and any other versions or manuscripts that shed light on difficult passages.

The New Testament translators used the two standard editions of the Greek New Testament: the *Greek New Testament*, published by the United Bible Societies (UBS, fourth revised edition, 1993), and *Novum Testamentum Graece*, edited by Nestle and Aland (NA, twenty-seventh edition, 1993). These two editions, which have the same text but differ in punctuation and textual notes, represent, for the most part, the best in modern textual scholarship. However, in cases where strong textual or other scholarly evidence supported the decision, the translators sometimes chose to differ from the UBS and NA Greek texts and followed variant readings found in other ancient witnesses. Significant textual variants of this sort are always noted in the textual notes of the New Living Translation.

### **Translation Issues**

The translators have made a conscious effort to provide a text that can be easily understood by the typical reader of modern English. To this end, we sought to use only vocabulary and language structures in common use today. We avoided using language likely to become quickly dated or that reflects only a narrow subdialect of English, with the goal of making the New Living Translation as broadly useful and timeless as possible.

But our concern for readability goes beyond the concerns of vocabulary and sentence structure. We are also concerned about historical and cultural barriers to understanding the Bible, and we have sought to translate terms shrouded in history and culture in ways that can be immediately understood. To this end:

- We have converted ancient weights and measures (for example, “ephah” [a unit of dry volume] or “cubit” [a unit of length]) to modern English (American) equivalents, since the ancient measures are not generally meaningful to today’s readers. (In the textual footnotes we offer the literal Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek

measures, along with modern metric equivalents. The same general principle of giving the literal in a footnote was also applied to the other issues listed below.)

- Instead of translating ancient currency values literally, we have expressed them in common terms that communicate the message. For example, in the Old Testament, “ten shekels of silver” becomes “ten pieces of silver” to convey the intended message.
- Since the names of Hebrew months are unknown to most contemporary readers, and since the Hebrew lunar calendar fluctuates from year to year in relation to the solar calendar used today, we have looked for clear ways to communicate the time of year the Hebrew months (such as Abib) refer to. Where it is possible to define a specific ancient date in terms of our modern calendar, we use modern dates in the text. A textual footnote then gives the literal Hebrew date and states the rationale for our rendering. (See, for example, the text and note at Ezra 6:15.)
- Since ancient references to the time of day differ from our modern methods of denoting time, we have used renderings that are instantly understandable to the modern reader. Accordingly, we have rendered specific times of day by using approximate equivalents in terms of our common “o’clock” system.
- When the meaning of a proper name (or a wordplay inherent in a proper name) is relevant to the message of the text, its meaning is often illuminated with a textual footnote. For example, in Exodus 2:10 the text reads: “The princess named him Moses, for she explained, ‘I lifted him out of the water.’” The accompanying footnote reads: “Moses sounds like a Hebrew term that means ‘to lift out.’”
- Many words and phrases carry a great deal of cultural meaning that was obvious to the original readers but needs explanation in our own culture. For example, the phrase “they beat their breasts” (Luke 23:48) in ancient times meant that people were very upset, often in mourning. In our translation we chose to translate this phrase dynamically for clarity: “They went home in deep sorrow.”
- Metaphorical language is sometimes difficult for contemporary readers to understand, so at times we have chosen to translate or illuminate the meaning of a metaphor. For example, the ancient poet writes, “Your neck is like the tower of David” (Song of Songs 4:4). We have rendered it “Your neck is as beautiful as the tower of David” to clarify the intended positive meaning of the simile.
- When the content of the original language text is poetic in character, we have rendered it in English poetic form. Hebrew poetry often uses parallelism, a literary form where a second phrase (or in some instances a third or fourth)

echoes the initial phrase in some way. Whenever possible, we sought to represent these parallel phrases in natural poetic English.

- The Greek term *hoi Ioudaioi* is literally translated “the Jews” in many English translations. In the Gospel of John, however, this term doesn’t always refer to the Jewish people generally. In some contexts, it refers more particularly to the Jewish religious leaders. We have attempted to capture the meaning in these different contexts by using terms such as “the people” (with a footnote: Greek *the Jewish people*) or “the Jewish leaders,” where appropriate.
- One challenge we faced was how to translate accurately the ancient biblical text that was originally written in a context where male-oriented terms were used to refer to humanity generally. We needed to respect the nature of the ancient context while also trying to make the translation clear to a modern audience that tends to read male-oriented language as applying only to males. Often the original text, though using masculine terms, clearly intends that the message be applied to both men and women. A typical example is found in the New Testament letters, where the believers are called “brothers” (*adelphoi*). Yet it is clear from the content of these letters that they were addressed to all the believers—male and female. Thus, we have usually translated this Greek word as “brothers and sisters” in order to represent the historical situation more accurately.

We should emphasize that all masculine nouns and pronouns used to represent God (for example, “Father”) have been maintained without exception. All decisions of this kind have been driven by the concern to reflect accurately the intended meaning of the original texts of Scripture.

### Lexical Consistency in Terminology

For the sake of clarity, we have translated certain original-language terms consistently, especially within synoptic passages and for commonly repeated rhetorical phrases, and within certain word categories such as divine names and non-theological technical terminology (e.g., liturgical, legal, cultural, zoological, and botanical terms). For theological terms, we have allowed a greater semantic range of acceptable English words or phrases for a single Hebrew or Greek word. We have avoided some theological terms that are not readily understood by many modern readers. For example, we avoided using words such as “justification” and “sanctification,” which are carryovers from Latin translations. In place of these words, we have provided renderings such as “made right with God” and “made holy.”

Many individuals in the Bible, especially the Old Testament, are known by more than one

name (e.g., Uzziah/Azariah). For the sake of clarity, we have tried to use a single spelling for any one individual, footnoting the literal spelling whenever we differ from it. This is especially helpful in delineating the kings of Israel and Judah. King Joash/Jehoash of Israel has been consistently called Jehoash, while King Joash/Jehoash of Judah is called Joash. A similar distinction has been used to distinguish between Joram/Jehoram of Israel and Joram/Jehoram of Judah. All such decisions were made with the goal of clarifying the text for the reader. When the ancient biblical writers clearly had a theological purpose in their choice of a variant name (e.g., Esh-baal/Ishbosheth), the different names have been maintained with an explanatory footnote.

### The Rendering of Divine Names

In the Old Testament, all appearances of *’el*, *’elohim*, or *’eloah* have been translated “God,” except where the context demands the translation “god(s).” We have generally rendered the tetragrammaton (YHWH) consistently as “the LORD,” utilizing a form with small capitals that is common among English translations. This will distinguish it from the name *’adonai*, which we render “Lord.” When *’adonai* and YHWH appear together, we have rendered it “Sovereign LORD.” When *’elohim* and YHWH appear together, we have rendered it “LORD God.” When YH (the short form of YHWH) and YHWH appear together, we have rendered it “LORD GOD.” When YHWH appears with the term *tseba’oth*, we have rendered it “LORD of Heaven’s Armies” to translate the meaning of the name. In a few cases, we have utilized the transliteration, *Yahweh*, when the personal character of the name is being invoked in contrast to another divine name or the name of some other god (for example, see Exodus 3:15; 6:2-3).

In the Gospels and Acts, the Greek word *christos* has been translated as “Messiah” when the context assumes a Jewish audience. When a Gentile audience can be assumed (which is consistently the case in the Epistles and Revelation), *christos* has been translated as “Christ.” The Greek word *kurios* is consistently translated “Lord,” except that it is translated “LORD” wherever the New Testament text explicitly quotes from the Old Testament, and the text there has it in small capitals.

### Textual Footnotes

The New Living Translation provides several kinds of textual footnotes, all designated in the text with an asterisk:

- When for the sake of clarity the NLT renders a difficult or potentially confusing phrase dynamically, we generally give the literal rendering in a textual footnote. This allows the reader to see the literal source of our dynamic

rendering and how our translation relates to other more literal translations. These notes are prefaced with “Hebrew,” “Aramaic,” or “Greek,” identifying the language of the underlying source text. For example, in Acts 2:42 we translated the literal “breaking of bread” (from the Greek) as “the Lord’s Supper” to clarify that this verse refers to the ceremonial practice of the church rather than just an ordinary meal. Then we attached a footnote to “the Lord’s Supper,” which reads: “Greek *the breaking of bread*.”

- Textual footnotes are also used to show alternative renderings, prefaced with the word “Or.” These normally occur for passages where an aspect of the meaning is debated. On occasion, we also provide notes on words or phrases that represent a departure from long-standing tradition. These notes are prefaced with “Traditionally rendered.” For example, the footnote to the translation “serious skin disease” at Leviticus 13:2 says: “Traditionally rendered *leprosy*. The Hebrew word used throughout this passage is used to describe various skin diseases.”
- When our translators follow a textual variant that differs significantly from our standard Hebrew or Greek texts (listed earlier), we document that difference with a footnote. We also footnote cases when the NLT excludes a passage that is included in the Greek text known as the *Textus Receptus* (and familiar to readers through its translation in the King James Version). In such cases, we offer a translation of the excluded text in a footnote, even though it is generally recognized as a later addition to the Greek text and not part of the original Greek New Testament.
- All Old Testament passages that are quoted in the New Testament are identified by a textual footnote at the New Testament location. When the New Testament clearly quotes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament, and when it differs significantly in wording from the Hebrew text, we also place a textual footnote at the Old Testament location. This note includes a rendering of the Greek version,

along with a cross-reference to the New Testament passage(s) where it is cited (for example, see notes on Psalms 8:2; 53:3; Proverbs 3:12).

- Some textual footnotes provide cultural and historical information on places, things, and people in the Bible that are probably obscure to modern readers. Such notes should aid the reader in understanding the message of the text. For example, in Acts 12:1, “King Herod” is named in this translation as “King Herod Agrippa” and is identified in a footnote as being “the nephew of Herod Antipas and a grandson of Herod the Great.”
- When the meaning of a proper name (or a wordplay inherent in a proper name) is relevant to the meaning of the text, it is either illuminated with a textual footnote or included within parentheses in the text itself. For example, the footnote concerning the name “Eve” at Genesis 3:20 reads: “*Eve* sounds like a Hebrew term that means ‘to give life.’ ” This wordplay in the Hebrew illuminates the meaning of the text, which goes on to say that Eve “would be the mother of all who live.”

AS WE SUBMIT this translation for publication, we recognize that any translation of the Scriptures is subject to limitations and imperfections. Anyone who has attempted to communicate the richness of God’s Word into another language will realize it is impossible to make a perfect translation. Recognizing these limitations, we sought God’s guidance and wisdom throughout this project. Now we pray that he will accept our efforts and use this translation for the benefit of the church and of all people.

We pray that the New Living Translation will overcome some of the barriers of history, culture, and language that have kept people from reading and understanding God’s Word. We hope that readers unfamiliar with the Bible will find the words clear and easy to understand and that readers well versed in the Scriptures will gain a fresh perspective. We pray that readers will gain insight and wisdom for living, but most of all that they will meet the God of the Bible and be forever changed by knowing him.

The Bible Translation Committee

*A full introduction to the NLT can be found at [tyndale.com/nlt/process](http://tyndale.com/nlt/process).*

*A complete list of the translators can be found at [tyndale.com/nlt/scholars](http://tyndale.com/nlt/scholars).*



## BIBLE PROMISES FOR LIFE

God loves each one of us and is concerned about our lives, and he has expressed his love for us throughout the Scriptures. The Bible is filled with promises that God wants us to read and embrace as our own. The following index will help you find the promises that God offers for the different situations and concerns listed by the topic headings and questions below. *Each section has several Bible verses to look up so that God can speak directly to the situations you are facing today.*

### ABANDONMENT

*Will God abandon me during my hard times?*  
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*Does God promise to be with me at some times, but not at others?*  
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*How do I ask God to help me be free of an addiction?*  
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*Why does God allow challenges in our lives?*

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Lamentations 5:19 . . . page 514

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## DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

There are many plans to help you read through the Bible library. You can even start at page 1 and read straight through. The approach taken here, however, is designed to help you gain an understanding of the whole Bible by reading selections from it throughout a year. You will be reading the best-known stories and many important lessons. Some parts of the Bible offer so much help that they can be read every day. Among these are the Gospels, Psalms, and Proverbs. One way or another, you need to spend time reading God's Word!

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Notice that each day's reading has a title and a question. These are important application questions that will help you as you read. Always pray before you read and ask God to help you understand, apply, and obey his Word. And remember, this is only the start of the great adventure of reading God's Word and getting to know him.

### OLD TESTAMENT

**Genesis 1:1–2:3** How It All Started (page 3)  
*Why do human beings have value and worth?*

**Genesis 2:15–3:24** Adam and Eve (page 4)  
*In what ways are you like those first humans?*

**Genesis 4:1–16** Cain and Abel (page 5)  
*How do you handle anger?*

**Genesis 6:9–22** Noah Builds a Boat (page 6)  
*What is the most difficult act that God has asked you to do?*

**Genesis 7:1–24** All Aboard! (page 6)  
*If you were alive at this time, would you have been invited to get on the boat? Would you have accepted?*

**Genesis 8:1–22** A Long Wait (page 7)  
*How would you have spent your time on the boat?*

**Genesis 9:1–17** Rules and Rainbows (page 7)  
*What could you do the next time you see a rainbow?*

**Genesis 11:1–9** The Tower of Babel (page 8)  
*Whom do you trust more than God?*

**Genesis 12:1–9; 17:1–8** God's Promises to Abraham (pages 9, 11)  
*How does God affect the way you make decisions?*

**Genesis 18:1–15** Unusual Visitors (page 12)  
*What is your basic attitude toward strangers?*

**Genesis 19:15–29** Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (page 13)  
*How does God feel about sin?*

**Genesis 21:8–21** Hagar and Ishmael (page 14)  
*How does God deal with the messes in your life?*

**Genesis 22:1–19** Abraham's Painful Decision (page 15)  
*What do you have trouble giving up to God?*

**Genesis 24:1–27** A Man Named Eliezer (page 16)  
*How do you approach difficult tasks?*

**Genesis 24:28–67** Isaac and Rebekah (page 16)  
*What unexpected good thing has God done for you recently?*

**Genesis 25:19–34** Jacob and Esau (page 17)  
*How do you treat your brothers or sisters?*

**Genesis 27:1–40** Jacob Tricks His Father (page 19)  
*How honestly have you treated your parents?*

**Genesis 28:10–22** Jacob Meets God (page 20)  
*In what places in your life has God been the most real?*

**Genesis 29:14–30** Jacob's Marriages (page 20)  
*What are the qualities that make up the way you love others?*



**Genesis 32:1–33:16** Jacob Returns Home (page 23)

*What happens inside you when you try to avoid a problem?*

**Genesis 37:1–36** Jacob's Children (page 27)  
*How are disagreements settled in your family?*

**Genesis 39:1–23** Joseph in Trouble (page 28)  
*How do you feel about getting in trouble for doing right?*

**Genesis 40:1–23** Dreams in Prison (page 29)  
*When have you helped someone even though you had your own problems?*

**Genesis 41:1–36** Dreams in the Palace (page 29)  
*Whom has God used to give you guidance?*

**Genesis 41:37–57** Joseph in Charge (page 30)  
*How well do you handle big responsibilities?*

**Genesis 42:1–38** Joseph Sees His Brothers Again (page 30)  
*What would you do with a chance for revenge?*

**Genesis 43:1–34** Back to Joseph (page 31)  
*How well do you know how to forgive?*

**Genesis 44:1–34** Crisis in the Palace (page 32)  
*How do you react when someone points out a mistake you've made?*

**Genesis 45:1–28** Finding a Lost Son (page 33)  
*When did you last let your parents know you appreciate them?*

**Genesis 49:1–33** Jacob's Final Words (page 36)  
*What's the strongest impression you've made on your parents?*

**Exodus 1:8–2:10** Moses Is Born (page 37)  
*How have you appreciated the gift of birth?*

**Exodus 2:11–25** Moses on the Run (page 38)  
*When was the last time you found yourself running from God?*

**Exodus 3:1–22** God's Burning Bush (page 38)  
*In what ways has God made himself known to you?*

**Exodus 4:1–17** Moses Isn't Sure (page 39)  
*How willing are you to do what you feel God wants you to do?*

**Exodus 5:1–23** Resistance (page 40)  
*What have people said when you've tried to obey God?*

**Exodus 6:1–13** Rejection (page 40)  
*What would it cost you to do what God wants?*

**Exodus 7:1–14** A Stubborn Ruler (page 41)  
*How does stubbornness affect your relationship with God?*

**Exodus 7:15–9:7** Five out of Ten Plagues (page 41)  
*When do you try to bargain with God?*

**Exodus 9:8–10:29** Four More Plagues (page 43)  
*How does God get your attention?*

**Exodus 11:1–10; 12:29–36** The Ultimate Plague (page 44)  
*What does it mean to fear God in your life?*

**Exodus 13:17–14:31** A Narrow Escape (page 46)  
*When have you experienced God's protection?*

**Exodus 15:22–27; 17:1–7** God Provides Water (pages 48, 49)  
*What do you complain to God about?*

**Exodus 16:1–36** God's Unusual Food Supply (page 48)  
*For what specific gift did you last say thanks to God?*

**Exodus 18:1–27** Helpful Advice (page 49)  
*Who are the dependable advisers in your life?*

**Exodus 19:1–25** An Appointment with God (page 50)  
*How would you prepare to meet with God?*

**Exodus 20:1–22** The Ten Commandments (page 50)  
*How often do you think about God's standards?*

**Exodus 32:1–29** The Gold Calf (page 59)  
*What distracts you from obeying God?*

**Exodus 40** Instructions about God's Tent (page 66)  
*When are you most aware of God's presence in your life?*

**Numbers 12:1–16** Moses under Fire (page 97)  
*What do you do when you find yourself feeling jealous of someone?*

**Numbers 13:1–14:4** Spying on the Promised Land (page 97)  
*How does God affect the word "impossible" in your mind?*

**Numbers 14:5–45** A Majority That Was Wrong (page 98)  
*How often are your decisions based on peer pressure?*

**Numbers 21:4–9** Another Hard Lesson (page 103)  
*What can you do to avoid repeating mistakes?*

**Numbers 22:5-38** Balaam and His Donkey (page 104)

*What happens when you do what you know you shouldn't do?*

**Deuteronomy 29:1-29** Moses Reviews God's Actions (page 135)

*How do you keep track of what God has done for you?*

**Deuteronomy 30:1-20** Moses Challenges the People (page 136)

*How do you show that you love God?*

**Deuteronomy 31:1-8** Moses Appoints New Leaders (page 136)

*If you were Joshua, who would be "Moses" in your life?*

**Deuteronomy 34:1-12** The Death of Moses (page 140)

*How would you most like to be remembered?*

**Joshua 1:1-18** God Takes Over (page 140)

*Which of these qualities would you most need to be like Joshua?*

**Joshua 2:1-24** Spies Visit Jericho (page 140)

*What persons has God used in your life unexpectedly?*

**Joshua 3:1-17** The Invasion of Canaan (page 141)

*How would you illustrate God's guidance in your life?*

**Joshua 5:13-6:27** The Battle of Jericho (page 142)

*How serious are you about having God use you?*

**Joshua 7:1-26** Ultimate Consequences (page 143)

*What strongly negative or positive consequences have you experienced?*

**Joshua 10:1-15** The Longest Day (page 145)

*How do you know God is powerful?*

**Joshua 23:1-16** Joshua Warns the Leaders (page 155)

*Which of Joshua's warnings do you most need to obey?*

**Joshua 24:1-31** Joshua's Last Words (page 155)

*How can you get hope from history?*

**Judges 4:4-24** Judge Deborah (page 159)

*How do people know that you care about them?*

**Judges 6:1-40** Gideon Becomes a Judge (page 160)

*What examples of obedience can be found in your life?*

**Judges 7:1-25** Gideon and the Midianites (page 161)

*In what area of your life do you need to trust God more?*

**Judges 13:1-25** The Birth of Samson (page 166)

*In which part of your life do you need more discipline?*

**Judges 14:1-20** Samson's Riddle (page 166)

*How carefully do you consider the wisdom of your parents?*

**Judges 15:1-20** Samson and the Jawbone (page 167)

*What proof do you have that mistakes usually don't correct themselves?*

**Judges 16:1-21** Samson and Delilah (page 168)

*In what situations do you find yourself flirting with disaster?*

**Judges 16:22-31** Samson's Death (page 168)

*How well do you understand God's patience?*

**Ruth 1:1-22** Ruth and Naomi—A Friendship (page 172)

*How do difficulties affect your friendships?*

**Ruth 2:1-23** Ruth Meets Boaz (page 173)

*When have you found your reputation to be an advantage?*

**Ruth 3:1-18** Ruth Finds a Husband (page 173)

*What unexpected methods has God used in your life?*

**Ruth 4:1-22** A Happy Ending (page 174)

*What future reasons could there be for obeying God today?*

**1 Samuel 1:1-28** A Serious Prayer (page 175)

*What promises have you made to God lately that you have kept?*

**1 Samuel 3:1-21** God Calls Samuel (page 176)

*When you read God's Word, what do you expect him to say to you?*

**1 Samuel 8:1-3** Samuel's Disappointing Sons (page 179)

*What positive lessons have you learned from your parents' mistakes?*

**1 Samuel 8:4-22** The People Want a King (page 179)

*What has God taught you about being responsible for your own choices?*

**1 Samuel 9:1-21** Saul and the Lost Donkeys (page 179)

*What is God's part in your daily decisions?*

**1 Samuel 10:1-27** Saul Becomes King  
(page 180)

*How do you evaluate people?*

**1 Samuel 14:1-23** A Son to Make a Father  
Proud (page 182)

*What would it mean to have a friend like Jonathan?*

**1 Samuel 16:1-13** Samuel Appoints David  
(page 185)

*What people do you appreciate for something other than how they look?*

**1 Samuel 17:1-31** David and Goliath's  
Challenge (page 185)

*How does your confidence in God affect your decision to accept challenges?*

**1 Samuel 17:32-58** David Kills Goliath  
(page 186)

*What "giants" need to be defeated in your life?*

**1 Samuel 18:1-30** Trouble between Saul and  
David (page 187)

*How do you treat your friends who succeed?*

**1 Samuel 20:1-42** David and Jonathan  
(page 188)

*How much can your friends trust you?*

**1 Samuel 24:1-22** David Spares Saul's Life  
(page 190)

*Do you treat others the way you want to be treated?*

**1 Samuel 25:1-42** David and Abigail  
(page 191)

*How does God keep you from making big mistakes?*

**1 Samuel 28:1-25** Saul and the Occult  
(page 193)

*What kinds of things could be considered "occult practices"? How would God feel about your involvement in such things?*

**2 Samuel 5:1-12** David Becomes King over All  
Israel (page 198)

*How could you become a person who is more pleasing to God, as David was?*

**2 Samuel 9:1-13** The King's Kindness  
(page 200)

*What promises need to be kept in your life?*

**2 Samuel 11:1-27** David and Bathsheba  
(page 201)

*How often are you tempted to correct one sin by committing another?*

**2 Samuel 12:1-25** David and Nathan  
(page 202)

*Which of your friends love you enough to correct you?*

**2 Samuel 13:1-19** Family Consequences of  
Sin (page 203)

*What actions do you take to avoid temptation?*

**2 Samuel 13:20-39** Family Revenge  
(page 203)

*Are you more likely to have committed David's sin or Absalom's?*

**2 Samuel 15:1-37** Family Betrayal (page 204)

*Who helps you keep your motives clear?*

**2 Samuel 18:1-18** The Death of Absalom  
(page 207)

*In what situations are you most likely to lose control?*

**1 Kings 1:5-27** Conflict over the Throne  
(page 213)

*What happens when you don't make good decisions?*

**1 Kings 1:28-53** David Gives Solomon the  
Crown (page 214)

*When things in your world get confusing, how do you know God is still in control?*

**1 Kings 3:1-15** Solomon's Wisdom (page 216)

*Which of Solomon's choices would you have made?*

**1 Kings 3:16-28** Solomon Solves a Problem  
(page 216)

*In what situation in your life do you presently need God's wisdom?*

**1 Kings 6:1-38** Solomon Builds the Temple  
(page 218)

*What can you learn from Solomon about making and carrying out plans?*

**1 Kings 10:1-13** Solomon and the Queen of  
Sheba (page 222)

*When are you tempted to try to impress people?*

**1 Kings 12:1-24** Solomon's Unwise Son  
(page 224)

*Who are the people you know will give you good advice?*

**1 Kings 17:1-24** God Takes Care of Elijah  
(page 228)

*How do obeying and trusting God go together in your life?*

**1 Kings 18:16-46** Elijah versus the Priests of  
Baal (page 229)

*How would you describe your attitude toward God's power today?*

**1 Kings 19:1-21** Spiritual Burnout (page 230)

*When was the last time you felt sorry for yourself?*

**1 Kings 21:1-29** The Stolen Vineyard

(page 232)

*How important is justice in your life?*

**1 Kings 22:29-40** The Death of King Ahab  
(page 233)

*When are you tempted to think that you can hide from God?*

**2 Kings 2:1-12** Elijah's Chariot (page 235)

*When you make a commitment, how far will you go to carry it out?*

**2 Kings 2:13-25** Elisha's Miracles (page 235)

*How would someone else know that you have a deep respect for God?*

**2 Kings 5:1-27** The Healing of Naaman  
(page 237)

*What "small" things have you refused to do for God?*

**2 Kings 11:1-21** The King Who Was Seven Years Old (page 243)

*Who were your best examples in childhood?*

**2 Kings 22:1-23:3** Discovery of the Lost Book (page 252)

*What happens in your life when the Bible is a "lost book"?*

**Ezra 3:7-13** Rebuilding the Temple (page 302)

*How do you feel when you're working on a large, important project?*

**Nehemiah 2:1-20** Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem (page 308)

*What relationships in your past need to be rebuilt?*

**Nehemiah 5:1-19** Nehemiah's Concern for the Poor (page 310)

*How do you express your concern for the poor?*

**Nehemiah 8:1-18** Reading God's Word (page 312)

*What are your expectations when you open God's Word?*

**Esther 1:1-22** The Fall of a Queen (page 318)

*How often do you take the important people in your life for granted?*

**Esther 2:1-23** A Strange Way to Become Queen (page 319)

*When have difficult or confusing events in your life actually been a preparation for something you would later experience?*

**Esther 3:1-15** The Jews in Danger (page 319)

*In what situations are you tempted to compromise your faith?*

**Esther 4:1-17** The Queen Decides to Help (page 320)

*In what ways has your faith cost you?*

**Esther 5:1-14** Esther Risks Her Life (page 320)

*When was the last time you did something scary to obey God?*

**Esther 6:1-7:10** God Protects His People (page 321)

*When is it helpful to remember that God is still in control of the world?*

**Job 1:1-22** The Testing of Job (page 323)

*In what situations do you most quickly question God's care?*

**Job 2:1-13** Job and His Friends (page 324)

*How do you normally respond to someone else's pain? How should you respond?*

**Job 38:1-41** God Speaks to Job (page 341)

*What things around you remind you of God's greatness?*

**Job 42:1-17** The Rest of Job's Story (page 343)

*What difference does it make to know and remember that God always has the last word?*

**Psalms 1:1-6** Two Kinds of Lives (page 344)

*What kind of person do you really want to be?*

**Psalms 8:1-9** The Value of Humans (page 346)

*How do you know you have worth?*

**Psalms 23:1-6** A Sheep's Song (page 351)

*What is the most comforting phrase to you in this psalm?*

**Psalms 51:1-19** A Confession (page 361)

*What examples of repentance have been part of your life?*

**Psalms 103:1-22** What God Is Like (page 380)

*Which picture in this psalm helps you understand God better?*

**Psalms 139:1-24** How Well God Knows Us (page 394)

*What do you feel when you read this psalm?*

**Psalms 145:1-21** God for All People and Time (page 395)

*Which of God's qualities do you most need today?*

**Proverbs 4:1-27** Wise Words about Life (page 399)

*What priority have you given finding wisdom?*

**Proverbs 5:1-23** Wise Words about Sex (page 399)

*How do these words match what you hear around you every day?*

**Ecclesiastes 12:1-14** A Summary of Life (page 420)

*In what way can you remember your Creator today?*

**Isaiah 6:1-13** God Chooses Isaiah (page 428)  
*When did you last realize your continuing need for God's forgiveness?*

**Isaiah 53** The Suffering Servant (page 459)  
*How would you describe what Jesus did for you?*

**Jeremiah 1:1-9** God Calls a Prophet (page 468)  
*What is your reaction to the possibility of God using your life?*

**Jeremiah 36** The Book Burning (page 495)  
*How much risk is involved in your relationship with God?*

**Jeremiah 38:1-13** Jeremiah in the Well (page 497)  
*What part of your life compares in any way with Jeremiah's time in the well?*

**Ezekiel 37:1-14** A Valley of Dry Bones (page 538)  
*What can you do to help you understand God's plan for the world?*

**Daniel 1:1-21** Coping with Pressure to Conform (page 547)  
*How might Daniel react to the pressure situations in your life?*

**Daniel 2:1-24** A King's Dream (page 548)  
*What do you do in seemingly hopeless situations?*

**Daniel 2:25-49** The Meaning of the Dream (page 548)  
*Who gets the credit when things go right in your life?*

**Daniel 3:1-30** Three Friends in a Furnace (page 549)  
*What examples can you give of God's protection in your life?*

**Daniel 5:1-30** The Writing on the Wall (page 551)  
*What reasons would God have for passing judgment on the society in which you live?*

**Daniel 6:1-28** Daniel and the Lions (page 552)  
*When do you pray regularly?*

**Jonah 1:1-2:10** Bending God's Directions (page 573)  
*When did you last try to avoid doing what you knew God wanted you to do?*

**Jonah 3:1-4:11** Wrong Motives (page 574)  
*About what things do you complain to God?*

## NEW TESTAMENT

*You will be reading various parts of the four Gospels in order to have a fairly chronological biography of Jesus' life.*

**Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-18** Beginnings (pages 635, 660)  
*Have you personally received Jesus as your Savior and become a child of God?*

**Luke 1:5-25** The Angel and Zechariah (page 635)  
*How would you react to an angel's visit?*

**Luke 1:26-56** Mary and Elizabeth (page 636)  
*What gives you joy in your life?*

**Luke 1:57-80** John the Baptist Is Born (page 636)  
*When did you last say thank you to your parents?*

**Matthew 1:1-25** A Family Tree (page 597)  
*Which of these people have you read about in the Old Testament?*

**Luke 2:1-20** Jesus Is Born! (page 637)  
*What does Christmas mean to you?*

**Luke 2:21-39** Jesus' First Trip to Church (page 637)  
*How would you react to holding Jesus when he was a baby?*

**Matthew 2:1-12** Foreign Visitors (page 597)  
*What gifts have you ever given Christ?*

**Matthew 2:13-23** Escape and Return (page 598)  
*How has knowing God brought excitement into your life?*

**Luke 2:41-52** Jesus in the Temple Again (page 637)  
*What four words would summarize your teenage years?*

**Mark 1:1-13** Baptism and Temptation (page 620)  
*What are your most difficult temptations? Compare them to Jesus' temptations.*

**John 1:19-34** John the Baptist and Jesus (page 660)  
*To whom did you last talk about Christ?*

**John 1:35-51** Jesus' First Disciples (page 661)  
*How would someone know that you're a disciple of Jesus?*

**John 2:1-25** Jesus and Surprises (page 661)  
*How has Christ been unpredictable in your life?*

**John 3:1-21** Jesus and Nicodemus (page 662)  
*When did you first meet Jesus? How?*

**John 3:22-36; Luke 3:19-20** John Gets into Trouble (pages 662, 638)  
*When has knowing Christ ever gotten you into trouble?*

**John 4:1-42** Jesus Changes a Town (page 662)  
*In what ways has Jesus affected your town?*

**John 4:43-54** Jesus Preaching and Healing (page 663)  
*Why do you believe in Christ?*

**Luke 4:16-30** Jesus Rejected (page 639)  
*How would Jesus be received in your church next Sunday?*

**Mark 1:16-39** Jesus Calls People to Follow (page 620)  
*What specific things have you left behind to follow Christ?*

**Luke 5:1-39** Miracles and Questions (page 640)  
*How do Jesus' miracles affect you today?*

**John 5:1-47** Jesus Demonstrates He Is God's Son (page 663)  
*What do you find most attractive about Jesus?*

**Mark 2:23-3:19** Jesus and Disciples (page 622)  
*How would Jesus treat your personal traditions?*

**Matthew 5:1-16** Jesus Gives the Beatitudes (page 599)  
*Which of these attitudes most needs to be in your life today?*

**Matthew 5:17-30** Jesus on Law, Anger, and Lust (page 599)  
*How do Jesus' views compare with yours?*

**Matthew 5:31-48** Jesus on Relationships (page 600)  
*What part of your life could be most radically changed by these words?*

**Matthew 6:1-18** Jesus on Doing Good Things (page 600)  
*How do your public and private lives compare?*

**Matthew 6:19-34** Jesus on Money and Worry (page 600)  
*In what ways are money and worry related in your life?*

**Matthew 7:1-12** Jesus on Criticizing and Praying (page 601)  
*Which one are you most persistent in doing? Why?*

**Matthew 7:13-29** How Jesus Looks at Us (page 601)  
*What is your foundation in life?*

**Luke 7:1-17** Jesus and Foreigners (page 642)  
*What is your attitude toward foreigners? How can you show them God's love?*

**Matthew 11:1-30** Jesus Describes John (page 604)  
*How would you want Jesus to summarize your life?*

**Luke 7:36-8:3** Jesus and Women (page 643)  
*How would you have fit into the group that followed Jesus?*

**Matthew 12:22-50** Troubles for Jesus (page 605)  
*When are you tempted to have Jesus prove himself to you?*

**Mark 4:1-29** Jesus Seeks, Seeds, and Weeds (page 622)  
*What kind of soil is your life right now?*

**Matthew 13:24-43** More of Jesus' Parables (page 606)  
*How concerned are you about the eternal fates of the people you know?*

**Matthew 13:44-52** Even More Parables (page 607)  
*How and where did you find the hidden treasure?*

**Luke 8:22-56** Jesus in Control (page 644)  
*Which of these examples gives you the greatest comfort?*

**Matthew 9:27-38** The Concerns of Jesus (page 603)  
*How do you picture Jesus caring for you?*

**Mark 6:1-13** Some Don't Listen; Some Need to Hear (page 624)  
*How clear an idea do you have of what God wants you to do?*

**Matthew 10:16-42** Jesus Prepares His Disciples (page 603)  
*In what ways do Jesus' words speak to the fears you have?*

**Mark 6:14-29** Herod Kills John the Baptist (page 624)  
*How do you most want to be like John the Baptist?*

**Matthew 14:13-36** Jesus: Cook, Water Walker, Healer (page 607)

*Would you have been more likely to step out with Peter or to stay in the boat? Why?*

**John 6:22-40** Jesus Is the Bread from Heaven (page 665)

*How is Jesus “bread” to you?*

**John 6:41-71** Jesus Criticized and Deserted (page 665)

*How do you react when you hear critical or derogatory comments about Jesus?*

**Mark 7:1-37** Jesus Teaches and Creates Purity (page 625)

*What would God have to do to improve the purity of your life?*

**Matthew 15:32-16:12** Jesus Feeds and Warns (page 608)

*How do you evaluate what you hear?*

**Mark 8:22-9:1** Peter Identifies Jesus (page 627)

*In what specific ways have you come to understand Jesus better in the last few weeks?*

**Luke 9:28-45** Jesus Is Transfigured (page 645)

*Would you rather leave the world and be with Christ or be with Christ in the world?*

**Matthew 17:24-18:6** Who’s the Greatest? (page 610)

*When do you worry about status?*

**Mark 9:38-50** Who’s on Our Side? (page 628)

*How do you respond to the beliefs of others?*

**Matthew 18:10-22** Jesus as He Teaches (page 610)

*How do you react to the failures of others?*

**John 7:1-31** Jesus Out in the Open (page 665)

*Which of Jesus’ teachings are difficult for you to accept?*

**John 7:32-53** A Warrant for Jesus’ Arrest (page 666)

*What does it mean to have “rivers of living water” flowing from within you?*

**John 8:1-20** Jesus: Forgiveness and Light (page 666)

*Who is the last person you had to forgive?*

**John 8:21-59** Jesus: Giver of Freedom (page 667)

*How has Christ made you free?*

**Luke 10:1-24** Jesus Sends Seventy Messengers (page 646)

*What would have been most exciting about this trip for you?*

**Luke 10:25-42** Jesus Tells a Story and Visits Friends (page 646)

*Who has been a good Samaritan to you?*

**Luke 11:1-13** Jesus Teaches about Prayer (page 647)

*How could your prayer habits be improved?*

**Luke 11:14-32** Accusations and Unbelief (page 647)

*What are your strongest reasons for being a faithful follower of Christ?*

**Luke 11:33-54** Real Spirituality versus Unreal Spirituality (page 648)

*Who has noticed light in your life recently?*

**Luke 12:1-21** Religious and Rich Fools (page 648)

*In what situations do you get too caught up in the goals of this world?*

**Luke 12:22-48** Jesus Warns about Worry (page 648)

*Do you feel worried or hopeful when you think about the future? Why?*

**Luke 12:49-59** Jesus Warns about Troubles (page 649)

*What examples have you seen of the problems Jesus mentions?*

**Luke 13:1-21** Jesus and the Kingdom of God (page 649)

*When in your life would Jesus have to call for your repentance?*

**John 9:1-41** Jesus and a Blind Man (page 668)

*What different stages of “seeing” have been part of your life?*

**John 10:1-18** Jesus Is the Good Shepherd (page 668)

*How have you experienced God’s guidance in your life?*

**Luke 13:22-35** Jesus: The King Who Grieves (page 650)

*How do you feel about those around you who don’t know Christ?*

**Luke 14:1-14** Jesus on Seeking Honor (page 650)

*When would others say that you look out for yourself too much?*

**Luke 14:15-35** Jesus on Being His Disciple (page 650)

*What is it going to cost you to be a follower of Jesus? Are you willing to pay the price?*

**Luke 15:1-10** Two Parables of Losing and Finding (page 651)

*How do these stories help you understand God’s love for you?*



**Luke 15:11-32** A Son Who Was Found (page 651)  
*In what ways is this story like your life?*

**Luke 16:1-18** The Parable of the Shrewd Accountant (page 651)  
*What does it mean to be an honest person?*

**Luke 16:19-31** The Rich Man and the Beggar (page 652)  
*Where are the poor people in your community? Whom do you know who is poor? How can you help the poor?*

**John 11:1-36** Lazarus Dies (page 669)  
*In what situations have you been disappointed with God?*

**John 11:37-57** Jesus Raises Lazarus (page 670)  
*How would you have felt watching Lazarus walk out of the tomb?*

**Luke 17:1-19** Jesus and Ten Lepers (page 652)  
*For what are you thankful to God?*

**Luke 17:20-37** Jesus and the Kingdom of God (page 652)  
*What difference would it make in your life if Jesus returned today?*

**Luke 18:1-14** Jesus Teaches about Prayer (page 653)  
*What is the attitude of your prayers?*

**Mark 10:1-16** Jesus on Family Matters (page 628)  
*How far will you go to keep your word?*

**Mark 10:17-31** Jesus and the Rich Man (page 628)  
*What is the most difficult thing Jesus could ask you to give up?*

**Matthew 20:1-19** A Parable about Equal Pay (page 629)  
*How often are you jealous of what God has given to someone else?*

**Mark 10:35-52** Jesus on Serving Others (page 629)  
*In what ways are you learning to be a servant?*

**Luke 19:1-27** Jesus and Zacchaeus (page 654)  
*What personal physical characteristic has most affected how you feel about yourself?*

**John 12:1-11** A Woman Anoints Jesus (page 670)  
*What have you ever “wasted” as an expression of love for Christ?*

**Matthew 21:1-17** Jesus Rides into Jerusalem (page 612)  
*If you had been part of the crowd that day, what would have been your most lasting memory?*

**John 12:20-36** Jesus Explains Why He Must Die (page 671)  
*How would you explain to someone why Jesus had to die on the cross?*

**John 12:37-50** Jesus and His Message (page 671)  
*What kinds of pressures make you hesitant to tell others about your belief in Christ?*

**Mark 11:20-33** Permission to Pray for Anything (page 630)  
*How bold is your prayer life?*

**Matthew 21:28-46** Two Parables (page 613)  
*Which son do you resemble most?*

**Matthew 22:1-14** Jesus Tells about the Wedding Feast (page 613)  
*At what point in your life did you realize that you were invited? How did you respond?*

**Luke 20:20-40** Jesus Answers Questions (page 655)  
*How do you really feel about living forever?*

**Mark 12:28-37** Questions Given and Taken (page 631)  
*Whom do you know who is not far from the Kingdom of God?*

**Matthew 23:1-39** Jesus: Warnings and Grieving (page 614)  
*Which of these seven warnings most directly relate to your life?*

**Luke 21:1-24** Jesus Talks about the Future (page 656)  
*What do your giving habits say about your level of trust in God?*

**Luke 21:25-38** Jesus on Being Prepared (page 656)  
*What does your schedule today say about your watchfulness?*

**Matthew 25:1-30** Parables about Being Prepared (page 616)  
*With which of the people in these two stories do you identify most?*

**Matthew 25:31-46** Jesus on the Final Judgment (page 616)  
*What people in your life are you treating in ways you would want to treat Christ?*

**Luke 22:1-13** Preparing the Last Supper (page 656)  
*How do you prepare yourself for Communion?*

**John 13:1-20** Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet (page 671)  
*What is the greatest service someone has done for you? How do you serve others?*



**John 13:21-38** A Sad Prediction (page 672)  
*How well do you feel Christ knows you?*

**John 14:1-14** Jesus Is the Way (page 672)  
*How would you rate your present level of understanding of Christ and his teachings?*

**John 14:15-31** Jesus Promises the Comforter (page 672)  
*How have you experienced the Comforter?*

**John 15:1-16** Jesus on the Vine and the Branches (page 673)  
*What kind of fruit has the Gardener produced in you?*

**John 15:17-16:4** Jesus Warns about Troubles (page 673)  
*What have you learned recently about loving others?*

**John 16:5-33** Jesus on the Holy Spirit and Prayers (page 673)  
*Where in these verses do you find peace of heart and mind?*

**John 17:1-26** Jesus Prays (page 674)  
*Where do you find yourself in this prayer?*

**Mark 14:26-52** A Repeated Prediction (page 632)  
*What practical prayer problems do you need to work on?*

**John 18:1-24** Jesus Betrayed and Abandoned (page 674)  
*How close have you come to Peter's denial of Christ?*

**Matthew 26:57-75** Trial and Denial (page 618)  
*In what ways has being a follower of Jesus complicated your life?*

**Matthew 27:1-10** The Religious Trial and Judas's Death (page 618)  
*When you think of sin's consequences, what personal examples come to mind?*

**Luke 23:1-12** Two Political Trials (page 658)  
*In what ways did your childhood and background prepare you to respond to Jesus?*

**Mark 15:6-24** Sentencing and Torture (page 634)  
*Was there a time you chose to do the wrong thing on purpose? Why? What happened?*

**Luke 23:32-49** Jesus Crucified (page 658)  
*What do you feel when you read the description of the Crucifixion?*

**Matthew 27:57-66** Jesus' Body Laid in a Guarded Tomb (page 619)  
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**John 20:1-18** Jesus Is Alive! (page 676)  
*What makes Easter an important celebration in your life?*

**Matthew 28:8-15** Reactions to the Resurrection (page 620)  
*What would be your first words to Jesus if he appeared to you?*

**Luke 24:13-43** Appearances of Jesus (page 659)  
*Would you recognize Jesus if you saw him today? How?*

**John 20:24-21:14** More Appearances of Jesus (page 677)  
*How has Christ answered your doubts?*

**John 21:15-25** Jesus Talks with Peter (page 677)  
*What difference would it make to you to read these verses with your name in the place of Simon Peter's?*

**Matthew 28:16-20** Jesus Gives the Great Commission (page 620)  
*What are you doing specifically to obey Christ's words?*

**Luke 24:44-53** Jesus Says Farewell (page 660)  
*How do you find Christ opening your mind as you read the Bible?*

**Acts 1:1-11** The Departure of Jesus (page 678)  
*What one thing would you be sure to do if you knew Jesus was coming back today?*

**Acts 1:12-26** First Things First (page 678)  
*What is your idea of the right amount of time for prayer?*

**Acts 2:1-13** An Amazing Gift (page 678)  
*What is the main purpose of any gift God might have given you?*

**Acts 2:14-40** Peter's First Sermon (page 678)  
*How would you put this sermon into your own words?*

**Acts 2:41-3:11** Daily Life in the Early Church (page 679)  
*What part of these early days would you have enjoyed the most?*

**Acts 3:12-4:4** Peter's Second Sermon (page 679)  
*If you were given three minutes to tell the story of your spiritual life, what would you say?*

**Acts 4:5-22** Hostile Reactions (page 680)  
*What excuses are you most likely to use to keep from sharing your faith?*

**Acts 4:23-37** Praying and Sharing (page 680)  
*When was the last time you shared something with someone else?*

**Acts 5:1-16** Strange Events (page 681)  
*How often are you tempted to take God lightly?*

**Acts 5:17-42** Arrested! (page 681)  
*How do you react when you are treated unfairly?*

**Acts 6:1-15** Stephen: Special Servant (page 682)  
*What specific responsibilities do you have in your local church?*

**Acts 7:1-29** History Review I (page 682)  
*How familiar are you becoming with “his story” in history?*

**Acts 7:30-60** History Review II (page 682)  
*In what ways would you want to be more like Stephen?*

**Acts 8:1-25** Benefits of Persecution (page 683)  
*Which difficulties in your life has God used to help you grow spiritually?*

**Acts 8:26-40** Unexpected Appointment (page 683)  
*What have you done about baptism?*

**Acts 9:1-19** Paul Meets Jesus (page 683)  
*What unusual events has God used to catch your attention?*

**Acts 9:20-31** Paul’s New Life (page 683)  
*What are three ways that Christ has changed your life?*

**Acts 9:32-42** God Uses Peter (page 685)  
*This past week, what special ability did you use to meet someone’s need?*

**Acts 10:1-23** Peter Sees a Lesson (page 685)  
*What lessons has God had to repeat in your life?*

**Acts 10:24-48** Peter Learns a Lesson (page 685)  
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**Acts 11:1-18** Gentiles Get a Chance (page 686)  
*On which of your prejudices is God still working?*

**Acts 11:19-29** Christians Helping One Another (page 686)  
*What do you do when you hear stories of extreme poverty or hardship among Christians in other parts of the world?*

**Acts 12:1-25** A Great Escape and Capital Punishment (page 687)  
*How do you react when God answers your prayers?*

**Acts 13:1-12** Paul and Barnabas: Travel Preaching (page 687)  
*What Christians do you know who might help you discover more clearly how God wants you to invest your time and abilities?*

**Acts 14:1-28** Response and Reaction (page 688)  
*How does the gospel act like Good News in your life?*

**Acts 15:1-21** A Church Conference (page 689)  
*How important is it for you to talk problems over with other Christians?*

**Acts 15:22-41** The Gentiles Are Accepted (page 690)  
*In what ways is God affecting the way you live and plan?*

**Acts 16:1-15** Paul, Silas, and Timothy (page 690)  
*How would you describe the spiritual team of which you are a part?*

**Acts 16:16-40** Adventures in Jail (page 690)  
*How would you react to God using a difficult situation of yours to help another person discover him?*

**Acts 17:1-15** Different Responses from Two Cities (page 691)  
*What part does the Bible play in your evaluation of what you hear and read?*

**Acts 17:16-34** Paul in Athens (page 691)  
*What unconscious symbols of God’s presence do you see around you in society?*

**Acts 19:1-20** Paul in Ephesus (page 692)  
*In what situations are you most likely to become discouraged?*

**Acts 19:21-41** The Riot (page 693)  
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**Acts 20:1-12** Sleeping in Church (page 693)  
*How does God respond to your human weaknesses?*

**Acts 20:13-38** Saying Good-bye to Ephesus (page 694)  
*When have painful good-byes worked for the best in your life?*

**Acts 21:1-17** Difficult Decision (page 694)  
*What hard decisions do you have to make?*

**Acts 21:18-36** Paul in Jerusalem (page 694)  
*How important is it to respect the consciences of others?*

**Acts 21:37-22:29** Paul Speaks (page 695)  
*How can you relate what Paul is saying to what God has done in your life?*

**Acts 22:30-23:22** A Plan to Kill Paul (page 695)  
*How well do you know your rights and fulfill your responsibilities as a citizen of your country?*

**Acts 23:23-24:27** Paul in Prison (page 696)  
*What would be harder for you, the pressure or the prison?*

**Acts 25:1-27** Paul Speaks to Festus (page 697)  
*If Christianity were outlawed, what evidence could be brought against you to prove you are a Christian?*

**Acts 26:1-32** Paul Speaks to Agrippa (page 698)  
*How comfortable are you in explaining your faith?*

**Acts 27:1-26** The Storm at Sea (page 698)  
*What is your attitude when you are going through difficulties as part of a group?*

**Acts 27:27-44** The Shipwreck (page 699)  
*What disasters in your life has God used to teach you?*

**Acts 28:1-14** The Winter on Malta (page 699)  
*How often are you aware of God in everyday occurrences?*

**Acts 28:15-31** Paul in Rome (page 700)  
*What would you most like to be doing when your time on this earth is over?*

**Romans 5:1-11** Faith Brings Joy (page 703)  
*When was the last time you thanked God for all he's done for you?*

**Romans 8:1-18** Truly Free from Sin (page 704)  
*In what areas are you still struggling with your sinful nature?*

**Romans 8:19-39** How God Loves (page 705)  
*What things do you sometimes feel might be able to separate you from the love of Christ?*

**Romans 12:1-21** Living Sacrifice (page 708)  
*What act of a living sacrifice might God allow you to do today?*

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13** Real Love (page 718)  
*Which quality of real love do you most need to ask God to increase in your life?*

**1 Corinthians 15:1-20** The Basic Gospel (page 719)  
*What parts of the gospel are especially helpful to you in times of doubt or stress?*

**1 Corinthians 15:42-58** Destiny! (page 720)  
*How much are you looking forward to all Christ has planned for you?*

**2 Corinthians 4:1-18** Weak Containers; Strong Contents (page 722)  
*With which of the four difficult situations Paul mentions do you identify most clearly?*

**Galatians 5:13-26** Two Radically Different Lives (page 730)  
*Who comes to mind as someone who you need to love as you love yourself?*

**Ephesians 1:3-23** God's Action (page 731)  
*In what ways has God marked your life?*

**Ephesians 2:1-22** God's Plan (page 731)  
*When have you recently reminded yourself and God that you want your life to be used for his purposes?*

**Ephesians 4:1-16** Picture of the Church (page 732)  
*What is your role in Christ's body?*

**Ephesians 6:10-20** Armor of God (page 733)  
*Which of these weapons do you need to learn to use better?*

**Philippians 2:1-18** The Mind of Jesus (page 735)  
*In what ways would having Christ's attitude make you face this day differently?*

**Philippians 3:1-21** Learning Joy (page 735)  
*What areas of your life could God be using to teach you joy?*

**Colossians 2:1-15** What We Have in Christ (page 737)  
*What dangerous philosophy is present in your environment that could affect your relationship with Christ?*

**Colossians 3:1-17** Christian Relationships (page 738)  
*What do you envision when you think about heaven?*

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10** Spiritual Reputation (page 739)  
*How do you think others would evaluate your spiritual life?*

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-18** Living for God (page 740)  
*What specific action could you take today simply out of obedience to God?*

**2 Thessalonians 1:1-12** Encouragement (page 741)  
*What other Christians could you encourage today?*

**2 Thessalonians 3:1-18** Final Requests (page 742)  
*How aware and involved are you in the worldwide spread of the gospel?*

**1 Timothy 4:1-16** Always Going Forward (page 742)  
*Which of these positive commands need to be given a higher priority in your life?*

**1 Timothy 6:3-21** A Friend's Final Words (page 744)  
*How does your attitude toward money match Paul's advice?*

**2 Timothy 1:1-18** The Importance of Examples (page 745)  
*Who has been a good spiritual example for you? How can you thank him or her?*

**2 Timothy 3:1-17** Last Days (page 746)  
*How many of these characteristics are part of your world today?*

**Titus 3:1-11; Philemon 1:4-7** Good Counsel (pages 747, 748)  
*Which of these commands apply directly to your life?*

**Hebrews 10:19-39** The New Life (page 753)  
*What do your prayer habits and church habits say about the real importance of faith in your life?*

**Hebrews 11:1-40** A Review of Faith (page 754)  
*How deep is your commitment to Christ?*

**Hebrews 12:1-13** Our Turn (page 755)  
*Which of these directions would have a significant impact on your faith?*

**James 1:2-27** Tough Times, Happy People (page 756)  
*In what difficulty could you use the "James plan" right now?*

**James 2:1-13** Valuing Other People (page 757)  
*Which tendencies do you have to watch out for in how you treat others?*

**James 3:1-12** Words as Weapons (page 757)  
*How sharp would others consider your tongue?*

**1 Peter 2:1-25** Living Stones (page 759)  
*Which would you choose as the biggest personal challenge in these verses?*

**1 Peter 3:1-22** Relationships and Pain (page 759)  
*How willing are you to carry out your relationships God's way, even when there are difficulties?*

**2 Peter 1:2-21** Knowing God (page 762)  
*How would you answer someone who asked you what it means to know God?*

**1 John 1:1-10** The Way of Forgiveness (page 764)  
*What part does confession have in your life?*

**1 John 3:1-24** God Is Love (page 765)  
*How can you tell if your love is growing?*

**1 John 5:1-21** The Life God Gives (page 766)  
*How do you know that you have eternal life?*

**2 John 1:4-6; 3 John 1:5-8; Jude 1:17-25** Family Matters (pages 766, 767, 768)  
*How often do you go out of your way to meet the needs of other Christians?*

**Revelation 1:1-20** Jesus the King (page 768)  
*How would you describe your mental picture of Jesus?*

**Revelation 21:1-27** Everything Made New (page 778)  
*What difference do you think you will most notice between the new world and the old?*

**Revelation 22:1-21** Life in the New City (page 779)  
*When was the last time you were excited about heaven?*