

Great Resources to Check Out!!!

Websites:

www.pluggin.com~ movie, TV, and music reviews from a Christian view

www.biblehub.com~ Bible site with versions and concordance

www.biblegateway.com~ Bible site with versions and other tools

www.joshuaproject.net~ info on unreached people groups

www.wycliff.org~ info on Bible translation

www.operationworld.org~ info on people groups

www.persecution.com~ info on the persecuted church from *Voice of the Martyrs*
(sign up for their free newsletter!)

www.kidsofcourage.com~ info on religions of the world and persecuted church from
Voice of the Martyrs

Books:

Radical by David Platt

Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman

For Young Women Only by Shaunti Feldhahn and Lisa Rice

Lies Young Women Believe by Nancy Leigh Demoss and Dannah Gresh

Captivating by John and Stasi Eldridge

Every Young Man's Battle by Steve Arterburn and Fred Stoeker

Wild at Heart by John Eldridge

Operation World by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk

Let the Nations Be Glad by John Piper

Tortured for Christ by Richard Wurmbrand

The Case for Christ and *The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel

The Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan

ESV Study Bible has many tools and helpful info

*Any book by C.S. Lewis or John Piper

DVDs:

Torchlighter Series~ Heroes of the Faith

What's in the Bible with Buck Denver?

Facing the Giants, Courageous, Fireproof, War Room by Sherwood Pictures

God's Not Dead and God's Not Dead 2

By the Shores

Verse 1

By the shores of Cedar Lake
Stands the camp I love
Where in sparkling waters glisten
Blue of skies above

Verse 2

Hear the glory of the woodland
Praise the Lord above
Here, we too, can learn to love Him
And obey His Word

Chorus

Hail to thee, Camp Cedar Lake
Camp of camps- the best,
Where in fellowship united
Every heart is blessed

Welcome to Cedar Lake Camp!

We're gonna have so much fun this week! Whether it's your first year here or your tenth, this will be a week filled with **fun, excitement, and building friendships** that you'll never forget! Most importantly, you will have an opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Keep this booklet as a reminder of your week at camp. There is space in the back for friends' names and contact info as well as games and activities for rainy days and rest hour. This book also contains your Bible memory verses and study questions. Every day there is time set aside for you to read, study, and memorize God's Word.

There is a counselor and junior counselor in your cabin. They are excited you are here and glad to be your leaders for the week. They want you to have fun, be safe, and above all learn more about the Lord. **They are your leaders for the week and you are under their authority.** It is important that you listen to them and respect them to ensure the best week possible.

Get ready to have a blast! I encourage you to participate in all the activities, make new friends, and seek to know God better. **I'm so glad you're spending a week with us here at Cedar Lake Camp!**

-Ryan Higgins
Camp Director

Bible Reading Plan

This guide will help you read your Bible until next summer. At the least, try to read one chapter per day. Take notes, ask questions, make memory cards– whatever you need to do to “hide the Word” of God in your heart!

June– The book of Luke

July– The book Genesis

August– The book of Exodus

September– The book of Proverbs

October– The book of John

November– Psalms 1– 50

December– The book of Joshua

January– The book of Matthew

February– Psalms 51-100

March– The book of 1 Samuel

April– The book of 2 Samuel

May– The books of Acts

June– Psalms 101-150

Feel free to change up the months and read other books of the Bible. *The important thing is that your read God's Word daily and allow it to soak into your mind and heart so we may know God better and obey Him.* Make it a goal of yours to read the Bible from cover to cover– from Genesis to Revelation.

Old Testament trivia answers:

1) b 2) a 3) a 4) c 5) c 6) b 7) b 8) a 9) c 10) a

New Testament trivia answers:

1) c 2) c 3) c 4) a 5) c 6) a 7) c 8) a 9) c 10) a

Bible Timeline-Major Events

Creation Ca. 4000BC	Fall of Man ???	Flood Ca. 2400 BC	Abraham 2166-1991 BC	Joseph 1915-1805 BC
Israelite slavery In Egypt 1876-1446 BC	Moses born 1526 BC	Red Sea crossing 1446 BC	Law/10 Commandments 1446 BC	Moses dies/ Joshua leads 1406 BC
Period of Judges Ca. 1375 BC	Samson/Boaz/Ruth ca. 1050 BC	Samuel/King Saul 1050-1010 BC	King David 1010-970 BC	Solomon 970-930 BC
Temple Built 960 BC	Divided Kingdom= Israel (North)/ Judah (South) 930 BC	Elijah/Elisha Ahab/Jehoshaphat 870-800 BC	Jonah to Assyria ca 781 BC	
Amos/Isaiah Hosea/Micah Ca 765-698 BC	Israel falls to Assyria 722 BC	King Josiah 641 BC	Jeremiah/ Zephaniah ca 650-582 BC	Judah falls to Babylon/ Temple Destroyed 586 BC
Exile/Ezekiel/ Daniel Ca. 586-536 BC	Zerubbabel leads back to Israel/Temple is rebuilt 520 BC	Zechariah/ Haggai ca. 520 BC	Esther ca. 478 BC	Malachi ca. 465 BC
Ezra/ Nehemiah 457-432 BC	Alexander the Great takes Jeru- salem 332 BC	Ptolemies/Seluecids fight over Israel 320-140 BC	Maccabean Revolt/ Rededicate Temple/ Hannukah 167-160 BC	
Pompey takes Jerusalem for Rome 63 BC	Herod the Great installed by Rome 37 BC	Birth of Jesus Christ 4 BC	Herod Antipas 4 BC-39 AD	
Jesus crucified/ Resurrected/ascension 29 AD	Pentecost/ Church began 29 AD	Paul/Peter/James/ Mark/Matthew/Luke writings and missions 30s-ca 60s AD	Church persecuted by Roman emp. Nero 60s AD	
Temple Destroyed By Rome 70 AD	John's Letters ca. 80s-100 AD	Council of Jamnia/Old Test canonized 90 AD	Council of Carthage/ New Test. canonized 396 AD	

Bible Award

You will earn your Bible Award if you do all of your daily readings, answer the questions correctly, and memorize the verse for each day. The "Digging Deeper" section is not necessary for your Bible award but will earn extra points as well as help you "dig deeper!" The **Bonus verses** are for extra points. For those who like a challenge, try the **Bible Scholar** verses. For those who are Bible memorizing machines or just set on winning Honor Cabin try the **Bible Freak** verses. All verses are for points!!!

Sunday memory verses:

Roman 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Roman 10:13 "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Bonus memory verses:

Roman 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Roman 10:9-10 (look up in your own Bible)

Bible Scholar memory verses: (look up in your own Bible)

Psalms 119:9-11
Hebrews 4:12-13

Bible Freak memory verses: (look up in your Bible)

John 1:1-14

In All Things

It's so important for us to be consistent with our faith in Jesus Christ. Consistent means that something is done routinely and is unchanging in the way it behaves.

Jesus told his disciples that to follow Him required a DAILY denial of self and taking up of their cross. Jesus wants our whole hearts and lives, not just part of them. In fact, He deserves everything we can give Him. He is WORTHY of our lives!

The Apostle Paul said it this way, "And He (Jesus) died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and rose again." We should give each area or aspect of our lives to Jesus. That means to honor God, obey God, thank God, and seek God in all of life's areas.

Think of all the different compartments of a waffle. It has several little squares or areas that hold syrup. When we patiently and carefully pour the syrup we can fill all those areas and create a consistent and tasty waffle. But if we hurry and don't take the time to carefully apply the syrup, we get squares that have no syrup and aren't very good. They are missing something that the other squares have.

It is similar with our lives. We all have several areas in our lives, such as our work ethic, language, attitude, movies, friends, studying, sports, money, and so on, in which we need to apply our faith in Jesus Christ. Often times, however, we only honor God in a few areas while we live the rest of our lives in whatever we way we want. This is not good.

God desires a friendship with you and wants to be active in ALL areas of your life. Let's seek God, honor God, obey God, thank God, and maintain His standards **IN ALL THINGS** and whatever we do in our lives. He gave His all for us, let us give Him our all in return.

Draw the Bible

Pick your favorite story from the Bible and draw a scene from it. Here are some suggestions:

- Garden of Eden
- Noah and the ark
- Moses and the burning bush
- Moses parting the Red Sea
- Joshua at Jericho's walls
- David and Goliath
- Solomon builds the Temple
- Elijah and fire from heaven
- Jesus' baptism
- Jesus teaches the crowds
- Jesus heals the sick
- Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead
- Jesus raises from the dead
- Paul on the Damascus Road
- Paul shipwrecked

Anagram Riddle

Unscramble the letters and then form the riddle using the words.

Teaer _____

Fo _____

Het _____

Nosemgthi _____

Eht _____

Otu _____

Gosrtn _____

Tewes _____

Uto _____

Ot _____

Gomhtnise _____

Aet _____

Fo _____

Write the riddle here.

What is the answer? (Hint: see Judges 14) _____

Monday– Seek God First

Devo Starter– There are a number of things that people will tell you that you need in life. Some of them are necessary and some not so much. We should use God's priorities to determine which are essential to life and which are not. Food, clothing, shelter, friends, and jobs are examples of things we cannot live without. The newest electronic gadget is a great example of a non-essential. But **IN ALL THINGS**, let's trust God to provide our every need.

Read Matthew 6:19-21. What can happen to earthly treasures? (vs 19)

What are some of your earthly treasures that can rust or be stolen?

Where should we store up treasure instead of earth? Why? (vs 21)

Read Matthew 6: 25-34. What are the things Jesus is telling the people not to worry about?

Are these things essential to life or non-essential?

Why does he say not to worry about these things? (vss 30-33)

Instead of worrying about these things, what does Jesus tell us to do? (vs 33)

When we do what Jesus says in verse 33, what will happen with the things he was talking about?

Draw Your Testimony

This is your chance to be artistic in telling how you met Jesus Christ or simply what God means to you. A testimony is simply our story of how we became a believer in Jesus. Usually, we talk about 1) our life before we met Jesus 2) how we met Jesus and 3) how our life has changed since we met Jesus. But feel free to draw whatever you would like. **Helpful hints:** Use colors to express good /bad or feelings. (*Example:* red could represent *mad* and green could mean *happy*. Draw symbols to represent certain concepts. *Example:* a chain might represent *bondage* or water could mean *clean*. Use words if you want. Be creative and have fun!

Monday Memory Verses

Memory Verses

Matthew 6:33: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

Bonus Memory Verse

Philippians 4:6-7: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Matthew 6:19-21 (look up in your own Bible)

Bible Scholar

Matthew 7:7-11

Bible Freak

Matthew 6:19-34

Tuesday– Be Doers of the Word

Devo starter– The book of James is great for helping us learn what it means to obey God IN ALL THINGS, that is, in all areas of life. He talks about applying our faith in Jesus in several key areas such as hard times, how to treat others, what we say, money, and how to love sick people.

The key verse for the book of James is found in 1:22: *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, and so deceive yourselves.”* James encourages us all to be active in our faith.

Read James 1:26-27. What action does James say is pure before God?

Read James 2:1-7. Instead of dishonoring the poor, what would be a better way to treat them?

Read James 3:2-10. What does he say is small but can get us into big trouble? Knowing this, what should be aware of when we speak?

Read James 4:13-15. When planning your future, even your next couple of days, we should be mindful of what (or say what)? (vs 15)

Read James 5:12. What does James say not to do? Instead, he tells us to let our ‘yes’ be yes and our ‘no’ be no. This means our word should be our bond. If we say we’re going to do something we do it. If we say we’re not going to do something, we don’t do it. We should keep our word.

Read James 5:14-16. What does he say for the elders to do for a sick person?

Let us be doers of the word of God, and not hearers only!

Bible Trivia– New Testament

Answers are at bottom of Bible reading plan

- 1) What was the hometown of Joseph, husband of Mary, mother of Jesus?
A– Detroit B– Damascus C– Bethlehem
- 2) How many wise men does the Bible say came to visit the toddler Jesus?
A– Three B– Four C– Bible does not say
- 3) Jesus taught his followers to do what to their enemies?
A– attack them B– gossip about them C– love and pray for them
- 4) Jesus taught we should do what to those who trespass against us?
A– forgive them B– call the cops C– put up reward posters
- 5) In Mt 13:44, Jesus tells a parable in which a man found a hidden treasure in a field. Then, in his joy, sold all he had to buy the field. What is the treasure that is worth giving up everything we own?
A– pirate’s gold B– diamonds C– the kingdom of heaven
- 6) Jesus once cursed what type of tree?
A– fig tree B– weeping willow C– banana tree
- 7) Peter’s occupation was:
A– stone mason B– tour guide C– fisherman
- 8) Jesus warned those who were considering following Jesus that their journey with Him would be:
A– difficult B– full of riches and honor C– “a cake walk”
- 9) The story of the lost son (Lk 15) showed what about the father:
A– his anger B– his revenge C– his patient love and forgiveness
- 10) Who was the short man who wanted to see Jesus and ended up repenting of his sins and receiving salvation that day?
A– Zaccheus B– Zacharias C– Zechariah

Bible Trivia– Old Testament

Answers are at bottom of Bible reading plan

- 1) What was Adam and Eve's home called?
A– Garden of Gethsemane B– Garden of Eden C– Madison Square Garden

- 2) From which type of wood did Noah make the ark?
A– gopher wood B– worm wood C– Sassafras

- 3) What was the name of Abraham's nephew?
A– Lot B– Much C– Bunch

- 4) What did God provide as a substitute sacrifice instead of Isaac?
A– goat B– donkey C– ram

- 5) What were the names of Isaac and Rebekah's twin boys?
A– Fred and Ted B– Mike and Ike C– Jacob and Esau

- 6) What caused Joseph's brothers to go to Egypt, years after Joseph was sold into slavery?
A– plague B– famine C– the circus

- 7) On which mountain did Moses receive the Ten Commandments?
A– Mount McKinley B– Mount Sinai C– Mount Hood

- 8) What did Gideon place on the ground while waiting for a sign from God, to see if it had dew on it or not?
A– a fleece B– a hat C– a cat

- 9) Which of David's sons became king after him?
A– Amnon B– Adonijah C– Solomon

- 10) Which king was married to Jezebel and so opposed to Elijah?
A– Ahab B– Ahaz C– Jehoshaphat

Tuesday– Digging Deeper

Real belief and faith produce real change. Our beliefs should influence all our actions, thinking, and decision-making. If we say we believe in Jesus but it has no bearing on our actions, we don't really believe it. There is a difference in acknowledging something intellectually (with our mind) and actually believing it in our heart.

Read Luke 19:1-10. What was Zacchaeus' occupation (job?)

People with his job were NOT well liked. They were Jews who chose to work for the Romans and often times collected more taxes than they were supposed to, therefore they were viewed as thieves, crooks, and traitors.

Despite this, Jesus loved Zacchaeus and visited his house. What happened to Zacchaeus that day? (vs 9)

What was his outward action that displayed his inward change of heart from salvation? (vs 8)

Are you abiding in Christ in all things? Look at these areas and ask yourself if you apply your faith in Jesus, that is, maintain his standards and priorities in these areas.

Family– do you obey your parents? Are you kind to your siblings?

School– do you respect your teachers? Do you work hard on assignments?

Language– do you gossip and spread rumors? Does your language encourage others or tear them down?

Money– when you get money do you give at least 10% to God first? Do you spend your money on useless items? Do you help others in need?

Sports– do you respect your coach and teammates? Do you respect your opponents or trash talk them?

Screen time– do you watch and listen to things that go against God's standards in marriage, love, and language? If Jesus sat on the couch with you, would he approve of what you're watching?

Health– are you a good manager of your body? Eat a lot of fast food and junk food? Exercise?

Quiet time– are you spending time with the God who died for you? Reading his word and talking to Him regularly?

Tuesday Memory Verses

Memory Verses

James 1:22 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

James 1:26 “If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.”

Bonus Memory Verses

James 1:27 “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

2 Corinthians 5:15 “And he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”

Bible Scholar

James 2:14-17 “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Bible Freak

Philippians 2:1-16

Celebrating 75 Years at Cedar Lake Camp (Continued)

- Dec 31, 1989– Deerfoot kitchen building burns down
- 1990– Construction of makeshift kitchen built– The Pavilion
- 1994– Day Camp added to Cedar Lake Camp
- 1994– Construction complete of new dining hall, named in honor of Ruth Geiger
- 1994– seedling pine trees planted near dining hall– The Pine Forrest
- 1997- BCM returns operations of Cedar Lake Camp to a new camp board of directors
- Late 1990s– Construction complete of new dorm– The Bird Cage
- Early 2000s– Construction of pond and island
- Mid 2000s– Gazebo and bridge added to island
- 2012– Police Camp begins
- 2014– Woolly Mammoth completed
- 2017– Cedar Lake Camp celebrates 75 years of Bible camps and training staff into a lifestyle of ministry, continuing Bro. Geiger’s vision from 1942

Celebrating 75 Years at Cedar Lake Camp!

Take a look back through history as we remember how we got to 2017.

- 1922– Brother Geiger and his new bride, Ruth, move to Livingston to help with rural Sunday School Development and Bible distribution
- Mid-1920s– local judges and doctors ask Bro. Geiger to consider starting an orphanage for boys and girls in Overton county
- Oct 1929– Purchase of Ledford farm for orphanage *one day* prior to stock market crash beginning The Great Depression
- Dec 16, 1929- Bro. Geiger starts Cumberland Bible Institute and Children's Home
- March 1937– Hawkeye Lodge completed
- 1937– Continuing to raise children, Bro. Geiger accepts role as pastor at First Baptist Church in Livingston
- 1942– Economy better, orphans growing up, Bro. Geiger decides to convert orphanage into a Bible camp– Cedar Lake Camp
- May 27, 1942– Date etched into main dam during construction of camp pool
- 1944– Bro. Geiger begins work on new radio program called *Children's Gospel Hour* featuring elements of camp such as Bible stories, trivia, and children singing
- 1945– Geigers begin camping tradition on island in local Dale Hollow Lake– later named Geiger Island– the origins of Canoe Camp
- 1950– Bro Geiger resigns as pastor of FBC Livingston
- 1950s– Children's Gospel Hour continues to grow into a nationwide radio ministry. Begins making television episodes
- 1960s– Cedar Lake Camp continues as Bible camp to kids
- 1970s– Children's Gospel Hour TV and radio programs can be seen and heard nationwide and many parts of the world
- Mid 1970s– Bro. Geiger accepts position as pastor at local Oak Grove Baptist Church
- Summer 1983– Bro. Geiger's last summer at Cedar Lake Camp
- September 1983– Bro. Geiger passes away, serving 62 years in Overton county
- Fall 1983– Allen Steele hired as Executive Director of Cedar Lake Camp
- May 31, 1984- Cedar Lake Camp board of directors hands over operation of camp to Bible Centered Ministries (BCM)
- 1987– Henry Geiger's wife, Ruth, passes away

Wednesday– Inconsistency

Devo starter– God desires us to consistently apply our faith in Jesus in all areas of life. When we are inconsistent, it is not good. God was quite angry with those in the Bible who said one thing and yet did another, or those who were supposed to be the people of God yet lived in a way contrary to God's ways. Those who say they follow God but live like they don't are called *hypocrites*.

Read Matthew 23:1-7. Jesus told the crowds to obey the Pharisees but not to what? (vs 3)

The Pharisees preached but did not _____ (vs3).

They do their deeds to be seen by _____ instead of God (vs5).

Look at Matthew 23:13-15. Basically, how does hypocrisy affect those don't yet believe in Christ?

Read Luke 11:37-44. Jesus told the Pharisee, essentially, that he should be less worried about the *outside* of a cup but rather more focused on the _____ of the heart. (vs 40-41)

Jesus affirms their tithing but tells the hypocrites they should not neglect what? (vs 42)

Read Matthew 15:1-9. What had become more important to the Pharisees: traditions or the commandments of God?

Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah in verse 8 and 9. He says that hypocrites honor God with their _____ but their _____ are far from God. What does this mean?

He goes on to say in verse 9 that the worship of a hypocrite is vain (empty and useless). What can a person who is practicing hypocrisy do to fix this? (*Hint: Read Luke: 9-14*)

Wednesday– Digging Deeper

I hope you realize by now that God is not so much concerned about us following rigid rules as He is concerned about our heart. Even in the Old Testament with the Law and its strict guidelines, salvation has always been through faith– us giving our hearts and lives to God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works (doing good things), so that no one may boast.*” We are saved by placing our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, not by being a good person. But as a follower of God, our actions should be like those of Christ so as to honor God with our lives and help those around us see Who lives inside of us and has changed our hearts to be like His.

Read 1 John 1:5-10. If we say that we are followers of Jesus and yet “walk in darkness” (do things that believers shouldn’t do) we are _____ and do not practice the _____? (vs 6)

But if we walk in the light (live like Jesus wants us to) then we have _____ with one another and the blood of Jesus _____ us from all sin (vs7).

Read 1 John 2:3-6. Here John continues to explain that to follow and love Jesus means to obey Him. Verse 6 says we must “walk in the same way in which Jesus walked.” How did Jesus walk? (*HINT: this is not talking about walking down the road but walking as in His way of life*)

Here are some verses you may find helpful in examining your own life to make sure there is no hypocrisy or half-heartedness in our “walk” with Jesus– to help us follow Him IN ALL THINGS.

Psalms 139: 23-24
John 13:35
Jeremiah 29:13
Psalm 26:2
2 Corinthians 13:5
Romans 12:1-2
Hebrews 12:1-3
Psalm 119:59

Psalms 119:9-11
Lamentations 3:40
Joel 2:12-14
1 John 2:9-11
Matthew 7:1-5
Matthew 6:16-18
2 Chronicles 34:27

No Goodbyes—Just Good News

I hope you’ve had a blast this week! For most people, their weeks at Cedar Lake Camp are some of the greatest memories they have.

I hope you’ve realized that Cedar Lake is about more than having fun. It’s a chance to know Christ and know Him well. It’s a time to be challenged in your faith and make it your own faith. And it’s a way to build Christ-centered relationships that encourage us to live out our faith in a dark world that desperately needs to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

If you know Him then I encourage you to put on the full armor of God (Eph 6:10-18) and “love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength” and obey all that He commands us. Be the light for your family and friends, teammates and fellow students! Tell them about Jesus and the hope they can have in Him!

If you don’t know Christ, I encourage you to repent of your sins and commit your life to the One who loves you and died for you. Romans 10:9-10, 13 tells us how to be saved. That is, trust in Jesus. “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead you will be saved. For with your heart you believe and are justified and with your mouth you confess and are saved...For everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved.”

Please remember, you can always talk to your counselor or any leader here about Jesus.

Be sure to come back and bring a friend! Camp happens outside of summer too:

Spring Sports Camp (spring break)
Fall Nature Camp (fall break)

The End of All Things

So how do we summarize this lesson IN ALL THINGS?

First, we recognize God's worth. He not only created the world and us but also has poured out His love, grace, mercy, goodness upon us **EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T DESERVE IT.** In sending His Son Jesus Christ He has shown the extent of His love for His Name and for us. He gave **EVERYTHING** for us, down to His own life. There's literally nothing more He could have given to show us the greatness of His love.

Second, we must respond to God's great love. We could choose to ignore it and reject it. In doing so, we reject His promises, forgiveness, and eternal life which results in eternal separation from God in hell. That's a terrible response to God's love! The superior choice is to receive God's love and embrace all that He is and offers.

Here's the important thing to remember— when we give our hearts to Jesus for salvation and forgiveness, we should also give every area of our lives as well. He should be our everyday Lord in addition to our Savior. We should glorify God **IN ALL THINGS.**

This means that in all areas of our lives we:

- Honor God -Give God the credit -Obey God's rules
- Seek God first -Act as Jesus would -Glorify God
- Love people like Jesus would

Our faith in Jesus should be the most important thing in our lives. It should influence all our decision-making, actions, language, and goals.

Remember the analogy of the waffle from the beginning of this book? We want to make sure all the squares are filled with syrup— that all the areas in our lives are filled with Jesus.

If there's an area of your life you haven't yet given to Jesus, I encourage you to do so. Remember, He wants **ALL** of your heart, not just part of it. Ask Him to search your heart and bring to mind anything you might be keeping from Him.

Wednesday— Even Deeper

Listed below are several areas of life. Take some time to look over the list and honestly ask yourself and God if you have been faithful in all areas. If you have that is wonderful news. Great job! If you find some areas that you need to give over to God I encourage you to do so. God offers mercy and forgiveness to all who ask for it.

- Social Media— do you bully or gossip online? Do you post negative comments about people?
- Movies/Music— do you watch or listen to things that dishonor Jesus?
- Honoring your parents
- Sports
- School
- Reading your Bible
- Going to Church
- Language
- Attitude
- Respecting your brothers and sisters
- Respecting those in authority— parents, teachers, coaches, etc
- Friends
- Money
- Dating— are you seeking only committed followers of Jesus when considering a date? Would Jesus be pleased by the way you act with your boyfriend/girlfriend?
- Politics— are you supporting someone who goes against God's standards?
- Health
- Hard times
- Driving (when you're older!)- would Jesus be pleased with the way you drive and obey the laws and towards other drivers?
- Work— do you work hard? Represent Jesus while doing so?
- Good times— do you thank God when you're happy and having fun?
- Video games— are you wasting countless hours a week playing games?
- Sickness— do you trust Jesus to heal you in His own way, in His own time?
- Persecution— do you run to Jesus when people mock you for your faith?
- Outsiders— how do treat people who are not like you in skin color, language, nationality, religion, social status, or intelligence?
- Marriage— when you get married, will your marriage center on Jesus?

Wednesday Bible Memory Verses

Memory Verses

John 13:35 “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Jeremiah 29:13 “You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.”

Bonus Memory Verses

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works so that no one may boast.”

Psalms 139:23-24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in my, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Romans 12:1-2 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Bible Scholar

Hebrews 12:1-3

Bible Freak

1 John chapter 1

1 John 4:7-21

Friday– Memory Verses

Memory Verses

Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Isaiah 26:8 “In the path of your judgments, O Lord, we wait for you; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul.”

1 Corinthians 10:31 “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Bonus Memory Verses

Acts 20:24 “But I do not account my life as of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

Philippians 1:21 “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Bible Scholar

Isaiah 48: 9-11

Colossians 1:15-20

Bible Freak

Colossians 3:1-17

Friday- Even Deeper

One of the greatest passages in all of the Bible that shows Jesus Christ as central to all things is **Colossians 1:15-20**. Read the passage and answer these question below.

Jesus is the _____ of the invisible God. (vs 15)

All things were created BY Jesus. (Jesus is God the Creator). But they were also created FOR Him. (vs 16)

Verse 17: “He is _____ all things, and in him all things _____ together.”

God caused all his _____ to dwell in Jesus. (vs 19)

Jesus also _____ all things to himself, whether on earth or in heaven. How did he make this peace to all things? (vs 20)

From this passage we see the centrality of Jesus in all things.

First, Jesus is the firstborn of all creation– the image or representation of God Himself. Second, Jesus is the Creator. All things, whether in heaven or earth, were made BY him and also THROUGH him and FOR him. Jesus is the head of the body, the church– the group of people who surrender themselves to Jesus. He is the firstborn from among the dead, so that he might be preeminent (surpassing all others). God caused all His fullness to live in Jesus and gave His own blood on the cross to make peace with all things.

WOW! What a passage that glorifies God through Jesus Christ! **All of life points to Jesus**. He is drawing us to Himself IN ALL THINGS, whether good or bad, because He loves us. He knows there is no greater gift He can give us than Himself and the full and abundant life He offers in this world plus the eternal life in heaven with Him in the next. Jesus is awesome! He is worthy to be praised and worthy of our lives.

Thursday– Tough Times

Devo starter– Our faith in Jesus is not only for eternal life; it’s also for everyday life (in all things). God wants to help us through the good times and the bad. He is our friend and advocate in all circumstances. He can lead us in making decisions, obeying our parents, making new friends, moving to a new town, or during hard times. There are countless things we might label as “hard times” but remember that God is with us at all times and wants to walk with us through them all. We must be willing to let Him help us.

King David is a great biblical example of someone who cried out to God during hard times. Before and after he became king he faced a number of trials including protecting his sheep from a lion and bear, battling a giant, running for his life from King Saul, the death of his best friend, his own son plotting against him, the death of his oldest son, his children fighting amongst themselves, and the loss of a baby son. The list goes on but you get the point– David endured a lot of hardships and yet, **his heart remained loyal to God**. He depended on God to rescue him and get him through hard times. Let’s learn from David how to depend on God when we are going through tough times.

Read Psalm 18:1-6. What are some of the ways David refers to God?

When we call on the Lord, what happens according to verse 3?

In verse 6, when we are in distress what should we do?

Look at verse 6 and also Psalm 34:17. Does God hear us when we cry out to him?

Read Psalm 40:1-3. How did David wait for the Lord? (vs 1)

How did God respond to David’s waiting? (vs 2-3)

Psalm 50:15 says “and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will _____ you and you shall _____ me.”

Thursday– Tough Times (Continued)

Read Psalm 69: 13-18. In verse 13 David asks God to answer him out of God's what?

In verse 16, which qualities of God does David also remember?

In Psalm 86:1-2, how does David describe himself to God?

In Psalm 86:8-15, what are some other traits of God that David remembers when asking God to rescue him from difficult times?

God also spoke comforting words to His people through the prophet Isaiah: *“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”* (40:31)

Who will renew their strength according to the first part of this verse?

A few verses later, God spoke these words in Isaiah 41:10, *“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

It's important to remember that God is promising these things to **His people**, to those who trust in His Name alone for salvation– for eternal hope and everyday life. Those who do not trust in God do not receive these promises.

Friday– Digging Deeper

When something we perceive as bad happens to us, we are quick to think that God is punishing us or we want to blame somebody else. While both may be true at times, there is another option: God is creating opportunities to display His glory in our lives.

Read John 9:1-7. What did the disciples assume had happened that this man be born blind?

Who did Jesus say had sinned? (vs 3)

What was the real reason this man was born blind? (vs 3)

What did Jesus do to heal the man?

I encourage you to read the whole story of John 9. But look at verses 35-38. After years of being blind then receiving his sight, what was the end result for the man? (vs 38)

Have you ever faced a difficult time of which you couldn't make sense?

Did you ever consider perhaps God was making an opportunity to show His power and glory in your life?

If you gave the situation over to God and entrusted Him with the outcome, can you look back and see how God showed His love, mercy, kindness, or some other trait of His in your life?

Friday– God’s Glory and Our Good In All Things

Devo starter– What does God value? What is important to Him? When He acts, what is it He is seeking to accomplish? These are important questions we need to ask ourselves if we want to understand God. Many times throughout the whole Bible we can see God desires His Name to be glorified (magnified/exalted) and for His goodness to be received by people. When God acts or speaks, these are His purposes.

Let us not keep a man-centered theology that says God’s whole purpose is all about us. True biblical theology is about God. God is at the core, the center, of all theology. But He is able to show the greatness of His kindness, goodness, mercy, grace, and forgiveness by offering it to us through His Son Jesus Christ. And when we experience God’s greatness, our hearts and mouths will overflow in praise and we will glorify God and invite others to do the same.

Read Matthew 5:16. Why does he say to let our light shine?

Read Isaiah 43:25. For whose sake does God forgive sins?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. When Paul says, “*Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do...*” he is saying IN ALL THINGS we should do what?

Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” God works all things out for good for those who do what?

Read Colossians 3:17. In whatever we do, whose name should we do it in? And what should we give while doing it?

Read Colossians 3:23-24. In all things, we should do what? In return we receive good from God.

Thursday– Digging Deeper

It’s easy to praise God when things are going well in our lives. It’s more difficult when we are going through a hard time. It’s SO IMPORTANT to remember that God is our strength, our refuge, our hope.

Hope always looks to the future—to something that hasn’t yet come to be. Jesus is our hope. He not only offers hope and help in this life through hard time and everyday circumstances but he also offers eternal hope. He offers eternal life to those who will put their trust in Him– the hope of spending forever and ever with Almighty God himself Jesus Christ.

Some people have said they felt closest to God during hard times. Think about when your parents have hugged and held you the tightest– when you were hurt physically or emotionally. God is like parent who cares for you and when you give Him a hurt, He will draw you close to Him and comfort you and help you through it.

The strange thing about hard times is that, they are not pleasant at the time, but actually help us become stronger in our faith and produce some characteristics in us that we sometimes cannot learn any other way.

Read Romans 5:3-5. Paul encourages us to do what in our suffering? (It sounds crazy, right? But stick with it, it’s not crazy....)

List out the qualities that suffering produces from these verses.

Read Roman 8:35-39. He asks, “Who shall separate us from the love of God?” Look at the things he lists out in verse 35, 38-39. But what does he say in verse 37– what are we over these things?

And what does Paul conclude about these things in verse 39?

Read James 1:2-4. How does James tell us to consider our trials?

Thursday- Digging Deeper– Continued

What does James say the testing of our faith produces? (vs 3)

Why does he say steadfastness (perseverance) should take effect? In other words, what does perseverance do in us? (vs 4)

There is a famous poem called *Footprints*. It is the story of a follower of God who didn't always understand that God was helping them through their trials but later came to see God had been with them the whole time.

Footprints

One night I dreamed a dream,
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord,
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life,
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
Especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
There was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
There was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."

Thursday—Memory Verses

Memory Verses

Psalms 34:17 "When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles."

Isaiah 40:31 "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Bonus Verses

1 Peter 5:6-7 "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxiety of him, because he cares for you."

James 1:2-4 "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Bible Scholar

Revelation 21: 1-4

Bible Freak

Isaiah 52:13– 53:12