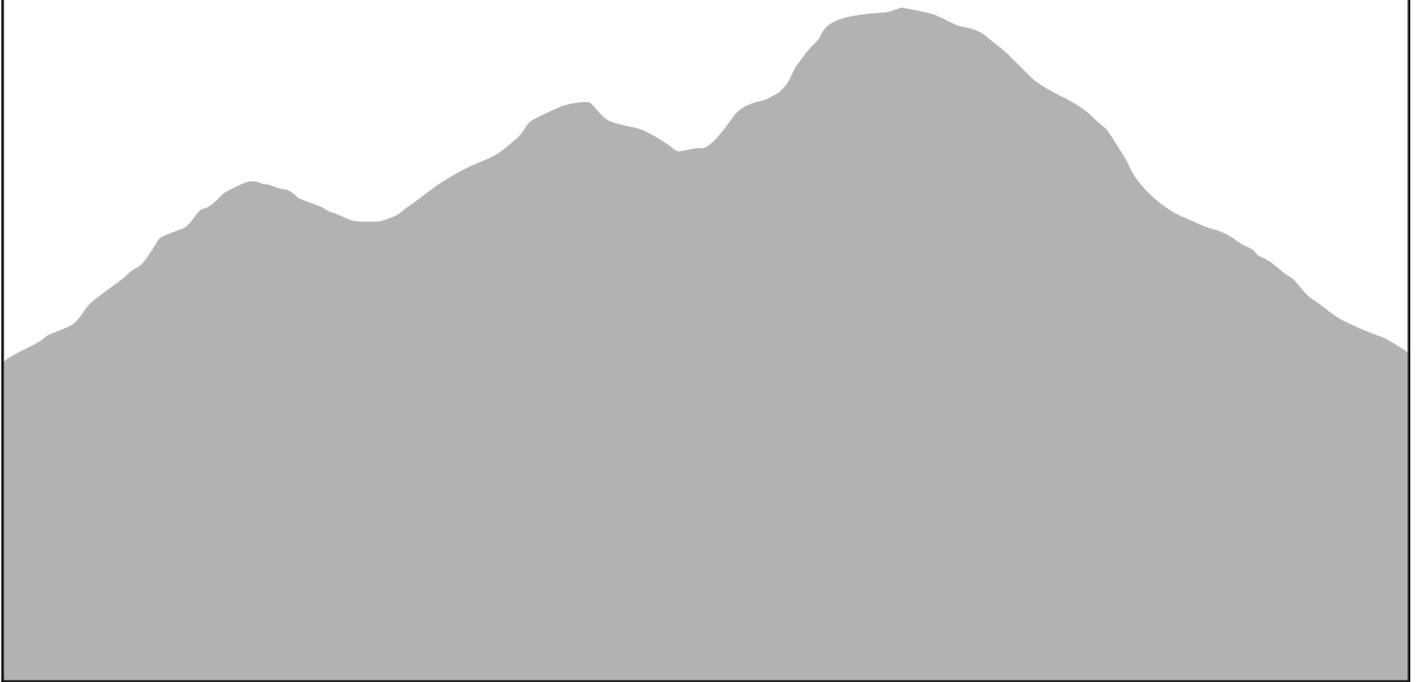


# **Sermon On The MOUNT**



**LESSON  
ANSWER KEY**



# LESSON ANSWER KEY

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# LESSON 1–The Beatitudes

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1. Check Required
2. HARMONY            PRINCIPLES
3. a. A blessed person delights in the Law of the Lord.  
b. They will not stand in the judgment, nor in the assembly of the righteous. Their future holds destruction.
4. TOTALLY            DEPENDENT            SIN                            CORRUPTION            HELP
5. a. We are to be clothed with humility.  
b. OPPOSES            FAVOR (or GRACE)
6. Isaiah saw the awesome majesty, glory, authority, and holiness of God who was worshiped by the angels. In contrast to this, Isaiah realized his own sinful condition and his need for total dependence upon this Holy God.
7. AMBITION            CONCEIT            HUMILITY            OTHERS            CHRIST            JESUS
8. The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against our sin.
9. PLEASED (or PLEASURE)                            WICKEDNESS (or EVIL)                            EVIL (or WICKED)  
STAND            HATE            DESTROY            DETEST (or ABHORS)
10. Christians mourn over their sin and poverty of spirit, as well as the sin they see all around them.
11. a. We must humble ourselves, pray, seek God’s face, and turn from our wicked ways.  
b. Then God will hear, will forgive our sins, and heal our land.
12. A student should respond with at least some of the following: Isaiah realized his sinful condition—so much so that as a prophet he pronounced an oracle of woe upon himself! Furthermore, he clearly identified not only his own sin, but also the sin of the world around him. In the midst of this awesome recognition of his sin and the sinful world, we cannot help but think that as the angel approached Isaiah, he was expecting death. However, God in marvelous grace granted Isaiah atonement for his sin and the cleansing he was so in need of. Not only that, Isaiah was prepared for, and responded to, a call for service.
13. We generally think of meek people as weak, soft-spoken people, maybe even with low self-esteem and other social and emotional problems. In contrast to this, we see that a meek person is actually one with great power and abilities in both mind and body, but these qualities are submitted to God and harnessed under His control. It takes strength to be submissive, gentle, and patient when our inclinations are just the opposite.
14. Students should respond with at least some of the following:
  - He did not retaliate when they hurled insults at Him.
  - He made no threats even though He was in great pain and had the power to destroy His accusers; instead He entrusted Himself to God, the Just Judge.
  - Christ submitted Himself and allowed the soldiers to strip Him of His clothes.
  - They mocked His authority as King, placing a staff in His hand and kneeling before Him.
  - Christ was crowned with thorns.

- The soldiers mocked and beat Christ.
  - Jesus allowed the soldiers to nail Him to the cross with criminals even though He had done nothing wrong.
  - He refused wine and gall to deaden His pain.
  - Christ could have come down off of the cross but instead He chose the way of submission to His Father's will.
15. a. The Kingdom of God and His righteousness.
- b. Food, drink, clothing, and everything else we need.
16. DESIRE                    ALL                    SIN                    HOLY
17. Check Required
18. ACTION
19. B
20. That He is gracious and merciful.
21. Christians are able to show mercy because the Spirit of Christ lives in the hearts of Christians. Christians can show mercy through actions, which include peace, love and selflessness, as well as by offering materials to those in need.
22. SINGLE                    UNMIXED                    CLEANSED
23. Their walk is blameless; they do what is righteous. They have no slander on their tongue and cast no slur on others. They despise vile people but honor those who fear the Lord; they keep oaths even when it hurts. They lend money without charging interest; they don't accept bribes. They have clean hands and a pure heart, and do not lift up their souls to an idol or swear by what is false. All this is to say that in order to see God and live in His presence, we must have a pure heart.
24. Holiness, for without this we will not see God.
25. We will see His face.
26. a. Prince of Peace.
- b. PEACE                    END
27. Students should respond with at least **three** of the following:
- Do not repay evil for evil.
  - Do what is right as we live our lives before the world.
  - Take the lead in living at peace with everyone.
  - Do not take revenge; leave that to God.
  - Overcome evil with good.
  - Care for your enemy.
28. PEACEMAKERS    PEACE
29. a. The Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
- b. Praise God that you bear that name.
30. He committed no sin and no deceit was found in His mouth. When they hurled insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.

31. We must be prepared to give open testimony to Christ and His sacrifice for us, and even be willing to die for that testimony.
32.
  - a. The student should include in the response some reference to obeying the Ten Commandments as well as to loving God and our neighbor.
  - b. Rather than separate completely from the world, Jesus prays here that we might:
    - Not be taken out of the world.
    - Be protected from the Evil One while we are in the world.
    - Be made more and more holy (sanctified) as we live in the world.
33. Here students will come up with a variety of answers. Be alert to ways that you can encourage them. This may also provide you with some insight into what is happening in their lives. Be sensitive to how you can best minister to them in their present situation.
34. Encourage the student to read through the Sermon on the Mount in one sitting. The student will be asked to do this at the end of each lesson.

# LESSON 2—The Christian’s Relationship to the Old Testament

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1. UNDER LAW REDEEM LAW
  2. a. *“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*  
b. *“This is my Son whom I love, with him I am well pleased.”*
  3. a. Check Required  
b. LAW PROPHEETS PSALMS
  4. RIGHTEOUSNESS ESTABLISH OWN
  5. a. In our mind or heart.  
b. Students may have various ways of answering this question, but the basic idea is that among God’s people the Law of God has become a living instrument that is used and shared by all.
  6. a. We are to follow the law of love—love your neighbor as yourself.  
b. SPIRIT UNDER LAW  
c. SPIRIT SPIRIT
  7. Hopefully the student will respond with Yes! Why? Because it is the very Law of God that is written upon our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
  8. a. In our anger, we must not sin; we must not let the sun go down while we are still angry.  
b. Unresolved anger gives the devil a foothold into a person’s life.  
c. We are to get rid of bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, as well as malice—all of the emotions behind murder.  
d. Because God has forgiven us if we are in Christ.
  9. OBEY SACRIFICE
  10. CHERISHED HEART
  11. Live in peace with all people, and to be holy.
  12. We are to hate evil.
  13. Check Required
- Check required between questions 13 and 14.
14. They are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.
  15. Check Required
  16. WE WILL SERVE LORD
  17. a. God the Father  
b. Jesus Christ  
c. The Apostle Paul
  18. Do not swear—by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no.

19. FALSEHOOD      TRUTHFULLY
20. Students' answers will vary here; often the slang term "pay-backs" may be used to explain the Law of Retaliation.
21. Peter and John were preaching and teaching the Gospel; they were about the business of advancing the Kingdom of God. In this case they had a "higher" duty to obey God Himself rather than God's appointed leaders.
22. Simon, a man from Cyrene was forced to carry Jesus' cross.
23. a. GOOD            HATE  
 b. BLESS            CURSE  
 c. PRAY
24. a. If your enemy's animal runs off and you find it, return it to them. If you see your enemy having a hard time carrying things, help them.  
 b. Don't seek revenge against someone who has done wrong to you. Treat people of other races and nations as one of your own kind—even to the point of loving them as you love yourself.  
 c. Don't be happy over your enemy's troubles or pay them back for the evil they have done to you.
25. God will mete out justice on the unrepentant sinner. There will be God's wrath and anger for those who follow evil.
26. To "be perfect" means that we are to live a life that is in complete harmony with the will of God as revealed in the Bible, especially by Jesus' example. No one can ever be perfect because we are all sinful, completely affected by sin in every way, unable to please God on our own. Christ's perfection has been credited to us. Therefore, when God looks on us, He sees Christ's perfect obedience. Christ's perfection has made us perfect in God's eyes.
27. GOD'S EXAMPLE (or IMITATORS    GOD)                    LOVE                    CHRIST                    LOVED
28. Encourage the student to read through the Sermon in one sitting. The student will be asked to do this at the end of each lesson.

# LESSON 3—Our Acts of Worship

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1. As Christians live their lives in this world, the goal is that others will see God and praise Him.
2. Jesus tells us that true worshipers will worship God in spirit and in truth.
3. This verse is teaching us that when we are kind and compassionate to the poor, demonstrated through our giving or some other means (see Proverbs 22:9; 28:8; 31:9), God views it as a gift to Himself. The Lord rewards our charitable efforts. It is not stated here what the reward will be. We cannot draw from this text that it is teaching that we will get our money back! While we do not know what the reward will be, we can have confidence that God will reward us. God’s rewards can take many forms, both physical and spiritual. Encourage your student to look at all the ways God might reward charity. You might refer your students to other texts such as Proverbs 14:21 and Matthew 19:27-28; 25:31-44.
4.
  - a. They gave themselves first to the Lord, that is, they devoted themselves to God. It follows, then, that everything the Macedonian believers had they really viewed as the Lord’s.
  - b. Considering all the activities Paul did engage in on his missionary journeys, it is striking that he gave such time and importance to these collections/offerings. We see that giving to the needy is very important to Paul—especially because this kind of giving is important to God. Furthermore, we know that the unity of the church, bringing the Jew and Gentile together in Christian fellowship, was a very important matter to Paul. The famine in Palestine that caused great economic hardship for the Palestinian Christians at this time was an opportunity for Gentile Christians to show their love for their Jewish brothers.
5.
  - a. Jesus went to quiet, lonely places of solitude, often on a mountainside.
  - b. Encourage your student to find a place of privacy for daily prayer. For some students, this may be very difficult. In that case, finding a place for private prayer should be a priority prayer request! CBI students that are in prison often find their private prayer place while walking in the yard, psychologically shutting distractions out as they focus on their Father in heaven. Others have benefited by “praying” the Psalms. Possibly you can share how regular, private prayer has helped you.
6. Jesus prayed, *“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”* (Matthew 26:39). *“Cup”* here refers to the outpouring of God’s wrath (see Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17,22, Jeremiah 25:15-16). Jesus prayed this prayer three times. Jesus prayed this prayer three times because He was in excruciating anguish over facing death, knowing that God would not be with Him, but against Him in judgment and wrath. Even in this anguish, our Lord repeats, *“Yet not as I will, but as you will.”*
7.
  - a. The people prayed to the Canaanite god Baal (and probably his “spouse” Asherah). The people simply prayed, *“O Baal, answer us!”* They were asking Baal to send down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice on the altar. They did this from morning (verse 26) until the time for the evening sacrifice—3:00 P.M. (verse 29).
  - b. Elijah prays a simple yet powerful prayer (verse 36). His prayer has these parts:

- It begins with a statement of historical and covenantal fact—the Lord is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of the nation Israel.
- It contains a statement of who Elijah was—a servant of God who does His will.
- Its focus is on the glory of God before the people, both in the event at the altar and the resultant repentance of the people.

Elijah's prayer has God-ordained results—without having to coerce God in any way.

8. Jesus went off to quiet places by Himself to pray. He did this often, and many times He did this all night. We see here that for Jesus time alone with His Father was very important and necessary.
9.
  - a. At the time of Christ's death, the curtain in the temple was torn in half from top to bottom.
  - b. The curtain symbolized the wall that separated God and humanity because of our sin and God's holiness. Jesus broke down that wall, bridging the separation by His death. We are now free to approach the Father directly; no priest is necessary to do that for us. Jesus, the Great High Priest, has made the ultimate sacrifice for us, thereby giving us free access to God in prayer.
10.
  - a. Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.
  - b. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we possess.
  - c. Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
  - d. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing.
  - e. Let us encourage one another.
11. The name LORD reveals that God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. He is also a just God, punishing the guilty and their offspring.
12. GLORY                      ON                      EARTH                      FINISHING (or COMPLETING)                      WORK
13. B
14.
  - a. Jesus came to do the will of the One who sent Him, namely, God the Father.
  - b. God's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life and be raised up by Jesus Christ on the last day. This is to say that God's will for all who believe is that they have a deep abiding fellowship with Him that will result in resurrection unto glorification.
15. CONFESS                      SINS                      FAITHFUL                      JUST                      FORGIVE                      PURIFY
16. The parable teaches us that those who know God's forgiveness and mercy must themselves operate their lives on the same standard of forgiveness and mercy. If we have an unforgiving heart it is possibly evidence that we ourselves have not received forgiveness from God. A forgiving heart is a sign that we ourselves have new life.
17.
  - a. The devil is described as a prowling and roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
  - b. We are to resist him, being self-controlled and alert. We are also to stand firm in the faith with the rest of those who have suffered for Christ, submit to authority, humble ourselves before God, and cast all our cares upon Him.

18. It seems that putting on the entire “armor of God” is undergirded with prayer. We are to pray under the power and guidance of the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. We are also to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters.
19.
  - a. They demanded to know why Jesus’ disciples did not fast.
  - b. Jesus answers the charge with an illustration from a wedding celebration: Jesus is seen as the “bridegroom” and His disciples as the wedding party (“guests”). It would be ridiculous to fast at a wedding party; it would be just as ridiculous to fast while Jesus was here in physical form on earth. However, Jesus recognizes a time when they will fast—the time between His ascension and second coming. This means that we are living in an era where fasting should be a part of our discipleship.
20.
  - a. They were worshiping the Lord and fasting.
  - b. They appointed elders through prayer and fasting and then committed them to the Lord.
21. Student’s answers here will vary according to how the Lord has been speaking and dealing with them. Be encouraging.
22. Encourage your student to read through the Sermon on the Mount in one sitting.

# LESSON 4—Staying on Track

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1.
  - a. Achan’s sin was that he took articles from the city of Jericho, articles that had been devoted to the Lord (Joshua 7:1). Achan himself describes this in detail in Joshua 7:20-21:  
*“It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”*  
The result of his sin was this:
    - 38 men died in the attack on Ai (7:5).
    - God and all Israel were shamed before their enemies (7:8-9).
    - All Israel was called before God to be prosecuted for breaking their covenant with the Lord (7:10-18).
    - Achan and his family were stoned to death (7:25).
    - The bodies and all of Achan’s possessions were burned, along with that which Achan stole (7:25).
  - b. Solomon loved and intermarried with 700 wives and 300 concubines, women that God had specifically told him would turn his heart away from God (11:1-3). As a result of this sin, Solomon’s heart did turn away from God; he did not follow God wholeheartedly. Solomon turned both himself and the nation of Israel to syncretism—he worshiped other gods along with the worship of the Lord. This sin led God to declare, *“I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.”*
  - c. Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of property and donated the proceeds to the church. They did, however, keep some of the money for themselves, while they made it appear that they had given it all to the church—Ananias and Sapphira lied about their charitable gift, and they died as a result.
2. LOVE                      OF                      MONEY                      EVIL
3. GET                      RICH                      TRUST (or WISDOM)      CLEVERNESS (or RESTRAINT)  
RICHES                      GONE
4.
  - a. Jesus warns us to be on guard against all kinds of greed and living for possessions.
  - b. The parable is about a man who gives himself to money and possessions. God calls him a “fool” because none of his possessions will follow him to the grave or help him in the afterlife. The consequences of greed are an ultimately useless life on earth that results in an implied eternal separation from God.
5.
  - a. The law of the Lord is more precious than gold—His statutes, precepts, commands, and ordinances.
  - b. There is great reward for the servant of God who keeps God’s Law.
6. Check Required
7. We are not to be anxious about anything. We are to present our requests before God through prayer and petition that includes thanksgiving.
8. Students’ answers to this question will vary, possibly providing insight into the burdens they carry. Respond lovingly and appropriately. The burden Jesus is referring to here is the burden of legalism that the scribes and Pharisees placed on the people. Not only was this burden heavy because of its stringent com-

mands, but it was ultimately useless – nothing but human religion void of divine reward (see Matthew 23:1-4). Even though Jesus’ demands are even greater (Matthew 5:20), He beckons us to come under His yoke – that is, under His control as one of His disciples. In contrast to the “hard labor” of legalism, Jesus invites us to come and learn from Him. He is a gentle and humble Master. Under His yoke we will find a relationship where we are encouraged, loved and empowered. (Note: Your student will study Matthew 7:13-27 in the next lesson – there we will see a more “stern” side of Jesus. This is a good time to emphasize the tenderness and gentleness of Jesus that all of His disciples will experience as they follow Him.)

9. The confidence we gain is this: If we are people who love God and delight in doing His will, all things, whether good or bad, are working under His plan for our good. God’s plan for us is an outworking of His love, election, and calling. His plan results in our conforming to Christ and our eventual glorification. There is no room for worry here!
10. This verse gives us confidence in a very worrisome environment – defending ourselves and the Gospel before authorities. We are promised that the Holy Spirit will be there with us and for us, teaching us what to say. By implication we can say that the Holy Spirit will be with us in all our anxious times.
11. Students will have various answers here. Commonly they will write such things as prayer, Bible reading, Bible study (doing Crossroad Bible Institute lessons!), and church attendance. Encourage your student and possibly suggest other ways they can develop a closer relationship to God: singing, Bible memory, Bible meditation, or fellowship.
12. God says He will accuse and rebuke us.
13. a. DO NOT SLANDER  
b. James gives this command because:
  - To slander someone breaks the law of love.
  - Slander is speaking evil against someone – it is motivated by envy and comes from the devil.
  - The slanderer sets themselves against and above the Law of God.
  - The slanderer sets themselves against God, the One and Only Judge and Lawgiver.
14. a. Warn the divisive person up to two times, then have nothing to do with them.  
b. If a person or group will not value the gifts and words of the Kingdom of God, we are to leave them – at the loss of our presence and, more importantly, at the loss of the presence of Jesus whom we represent. To “shake the dust off your feet” was a symbolic way of showing that the home or town involved was pagan, polluted and under God’s judgment.
15. Paul regularly announced the gospel first to the Jews in any place he endeavored to minister (see Acts 13:5; 14:1; 17:1,10,17; 18:4,15; 19:8). If the Jews rejected the Gospel, Paul removed himself and went to the Gentiles in that place.
16. Here again students will answer in various ways. Be alert to ways you can encourage, help, and pray for your student.
17. Encourage your student to be reading through the Sermon on the Mount in one sitting.

# LESSON 5—Committing to the Kingdom

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1. God will bestow the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.
2. PLANS                      YOU                      LORD                      PROSPER                      HARM  
HOPE                      FUTURE
3. a. James is speaking about people who profess to be Christians yet they are filled with envy that demonstrates itself in fighting and quarrelling. Furthermore these people are selfish pleasure seekers.  
b. James describes two aspects of their prayer life:
  - They rarely ask God for things in prayer.
  - When they do ask, it is with wrong (selfish) motives.
4. Love
5. a. We are to love one another.  
b. Love your neighbor as yourself.  
c. LOVE                      LAW
6. Check Required
7. Students' answers will vary here. We are looking for their own expression of love both for God and for others.
8. a. There is the way of life and prosperity, or of death and destruction.  
b. ...to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws...  
c. ...then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you...  
d. The disobedient will live a life under the curse of God that will lead to destruction.
9. We must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.
10. Jesus answered, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
11. Jesus is the Last Prophet in the fullest sense of the word. He is also the Greatest Prophet because:
  - He came to fulfill, carry out and complete all that the Law and Prophets spoke about.
  - The office of apostle and prophet is built upon Him. It is He who joins the entire Church together.
  - Jesus' revelation is superior to all of the other prophets because He is an exact, authentic representation of God—He is God!
12. a. Paul is speaking to the elders of the church in Ephesus.  
b. Paul calls them overseers and shepherds of the Church of God.  
c. Paul refers to the Church as a flock of sheep.  
d. Paul warns that savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. These "wolves" are false teachers who will distort the truth and draw many away.
13. John tells us that one way to test a teacher is to see if they believe that Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine. Your students may find different and interesting language for this doctrine. Give gentle help and extra instruction if necessary.

14. Check Required

We make progress in the Christian faith by...

- Building ourselves up in the faith—knowing and holding on to the pure message of the gospel with all its implications for our lives.
- Praying in the Holy Spirit—praying according to the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through His power.
- Keeping ourselves in God’s love—obeying God’s commands out of love for Him (see John 15:10).
- Waiting for and focusing on the mercy that will be shown us on the Last Day.
- Dealing mercifully, straightforwardly, and patiently with those who have been succumbing to false teaching.

15. WELL                      DONE                      GOOD                      FAITHFUL

16. LAWLESSNESS

17. The Psalmist is passionate about the Law of God. He knows that fully obeying God’s Law is the only way of blessing and life. To the Law he entrusts his entire life and gives all his energy. He is consumed with the Law of God; it is his delight and counsel.

18. a. We can be sure that we know God if we obey His commands.  
b. People like this are liars; the truth is not in them.  
c. We can be sure that we know Christ if we are daily living a life characterized by obedience to Him.

19. a. F  
b. F  
c. T

20. These passages are referring to Jesus Christ.

21. We can be sure we are building on the foundation of Jesus Christ when we are consistently hearing and practicing the words of Jesus, that is, doing the will of God.

22. a. The demons hear the Word of God, but they do not do it.  
b. WHAT                      IT                      SAYS  
c. The person that listens to and does the Word of God will be blessed in what they do.

23. Students will vary in what they express here. Be encouraging to them. Also encourage your student for finishing this course!

24. No Instructor comment necessary.

**Sermon On The**  
**MOUNT**



**ROADMAP**  
**ANSWER KEY**



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# ROADMAP 1—BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

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## DAY 1—REJOICE IN FINDING THE LOST

Luke 15:11-32

<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup>“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup>“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup>“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

## DAY 2—CHRIST HAS PATIENCE FOR SINNERS

1 Timothy 1:12-16

<sup>12</sup>I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. <sup>13</sup>Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. <sup>14</sup>The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom

I am the worst. <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

## **DAY 3—JESUS FORGIVES THOSE WHO LOVE HIM**

Luke 7:36-50

<sup>36</sup>When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. <sup>37</sup>A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. <sup>38</sup>As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

<sup>39</sup>When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

<sup>40</sup>Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

<sup>41</sup>"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

<sup>43</sup>Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

<sup>44</sup>Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup>You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup>You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. <sup>47</sup>Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

<sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup>The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

<sup>50</sup>Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

## **DAY 4—SORROW LEADS TO REPENTANCE**

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

<sup>8</sup>Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—<sup>9</sup>yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. <sup>10</sup>Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Matthew 27:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. <sup>2</sup>So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>3</sup>When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup>“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”

“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”

<sup>5</sup>So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

<sup>6</sup>The chief priests picked up the coins and said, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.”

<sup>7</sup>So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. <sup>8</sup>That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup>Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, <sup>10</sup>and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

## DAY 5—THE LORD DOES NOT HOLD GRUDGES

Psalm 32:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.  
<sup>2</sup>Blessed is the one  
whose sin the LORD does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.  
<sup>3</sup>When I kept silent,  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
<sup>4</sup>For day and night  
your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was sapped  
as in the heat of summer.  
<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, “I will confess  
my transgressions to the LORD.”  
And you forgave  
the guilt of my sin.  
<sup>6</sup>Therefore let all the faithful pray to you  
while you may be found;  
surely the rising of the mighty waters  
will not reach them.  
<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding place;  
you will protect me from trouble  
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

## DAY 6—PEOPLE CRY OUT FOR FORGIVENESS

Daniel 9:4-19

<sup>4</sup>I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:

“Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his command-

ments, <sup>5</sup>we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. <sup>6</sup>We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

<sup>7</sup>“Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame – the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. <sup>8</sup>We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, LORD, because we have sinned against you. <sup>9</sup>The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; <sup>10</sup>we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. <sup>11</sup>All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

“Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. <sup>12</sup>You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. <sup>14</sup>The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

<sup>15</sup>“Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. <sup>16</sup>Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

<sup>17</sup>“Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. <sup>18</sup>Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. <sup>19</sup>Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

## DAY 7—GOD LOVES A REPENTANT HEART

### Psalm 51:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.

<sup>5</sup>Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.  
<sup>6</sup>Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

<sup>7</sup>Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
so that sinners will turn back to you.

<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,  
you who are God my Savior,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup>Open my lips, Lord,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup>You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

<sup>17</sup>My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.

# ROADMAP 2—THE EYE GATE

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## DAY 1—TEMPTATION COMES FROM OUR OWN FALLEN DESIRES

James 1:13-15

<sup>13</sup>When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup>but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Proverbs 5:1-14

<sup>1</sup>My son, pay attention to my wisdom,  
turn your ear to my words of insight,  
<sup>2</sup>that you may maintain discretion  
and your lips may preserve knowledge.  
<sup>3</sup>For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey,  
and her speech is smoother than oil;  
<sup>4</sup>but in the end she is bitter as gall,  
sharp as a double-edged sword.  
<sup>5</sup>Her feet go down to death;  
her steps lead straight to the grave.  
<sup>6</sup>She gives no thought to the way of life;  
her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.

<sup>7</sup>Now then, my sons, listen to me;  
do not turn aside from what I say.  
<sup>8</sup>Keep to a path far from her,  
do not go near the door of her house,  
<sup>9</sup>lest you lose your honor to others  
and your dignity to one who is cruel,  
<sup>10</sup>lest strangers feast on your wealth  
and your toil enrich the house of another.  
<sup>11</sup>At the end of your life you will groan,  
when your flesh and body are spent.  
<sup>12</sup>You will say, “How I hated discipline!  
How my heart spurned correction!  
<sup>13</sup>I would not obey my teachers  
or turn my ear to my instructors.  
<sup>14</sup>And I was soon in serious trouble  
in the assembly of God’s people.”

## DAY 2—AVOID SINFUL DESIRES

2 Timothy 2:20-22

<sup>20</sup>In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purpos-

es and some for common use. <sup>21</sup>Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

<sup>22</sup>Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Peter 2:11

<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

2 Peter 2:18-19

<sup>18</sup>For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. <sup>19</sup>They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”

Proverbs 6:23-29

<sup>23</sup>For this command is a lamp,  
this teaching is a light,  
and correction and instruction  
are the way to life,  
<sup>24</sup>keeping you from your neighbor’s wife,  
from the smooth talk of a wayward woman.

<sup>25</sup>Do not lust in your heart after her beauty  
or let her captivate you with her eyes.

<sup>26</sup>For a prostitute can be had for a loaf of bread,  
but another man’s wife preys on your very life.

<sup>27</sup>Can a man scoop fire into his lap  
without his clothes being burned?

<sup>28</sup>Can a man walk on hot coals  
without his feet being scorched?

<sup>29</sup>So is he who sleeps with another man’s wife;  
no one who touches her will go unpunished.

### **DAY 3—DO NOT LET YOUR EYES LEAD YOU TO SIN**

1 John 2:16-17

<sup>16</sup>For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

2 Peter 2:14

<sup>14</sup>With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood!

Proverbs 6:25

<sup>25</sup>Do not lust in your heart after her beauty  
or let her captivate you with her eyes.

Job 24:15

<sup>15</sup>"The eye of the adulterer watches for dusk;  
he thinks, 'No eye will see me,'  
and he keeps his face concealed."

Job 31:1

<sup>1</sup>"I made a covenant with my eyes  
not to look lustfully at a young woman."

## DAY 4—EYES CAN BE FULL OF LUST

Proverbs 7:6-27

<sup>6</sup>At the window of my house  
I looked down through the lattice.  
<sup>7</sup>I saw among the simple,  
I noticed among the young men,  
a youth who had no sense.  
<sup>8</sup>He was going down the street near her corner,  
walking along in the direction of her house  
<sup>9</sup>at twilight, as the day was fading,  
as the dark of night set in.

<sup>10</sup>Then out came a woman to meet him,  
dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.  
<sup>11</sup>(She is unruly and defiant,  
her feet never stay at home;  
<sup>12</sup>now in the street, now in the squares,  
at every corner she lurks.)  
<sup>13</sup>She took hold of him and kissed him  
and with a brazen face she said:

<sup>14</sup>"Today I fulfilled my vows,  
and I have food from my fellowship offering at home.  
<sup>15</sup>So I came out to meet you;  
I looked for you and have found you!  
<sup>16</sup>I have covered my bed  
with colored linens from Egypt.  
<sup>17</sup>I have perfumed my bed  
with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.  
<sup>18</sup>Come, let's drink deeply of love till morning;  
let's enjoy ourselves with love!  
<sup>19</sup>My husband is not at home;  
he has gone on a long journey.  
<sup>20</sup>He took his purse filled with money  
and will not be home till full moon."

<sup>21</sup>With persuasive words she led him astray;  
she seduced him with her smooth talk.  
<sup>22</sup>All at once he followed her  
like an ox going to the slaughter,

like a deer stepping into a noose  
23till an arrow pierces his liver,  
like a bird darting into a snare,  
little knowing it will cost him his life.

24Now then, my sons, listen to me;  
pay attention to what I say.  
25Do not let your heart turn to her ways  
or stray into her paths.  
26Many are the victims she has brought down;  
her slain are a mighty throng.  
27Her house is a highway to the grave,  
leading down to the chambers of death.

## **DAY 5—ADULTERY LEADS TO DEATH; ONLY JESUS CAN CLEANSE AN ADULTEROUS HEART**

### Hebrews 13:4

4Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

### Leviticus 20:10

10“If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.”

### Proverbs 6:32-35

32But a man who commits adultery has no sense;  
whoever does so destroys himself.

33Blows and disgrace are his lot,  
and his shame will never be wiped away.

34For jealousy arouses a husband’s fury,  
and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.

35He will not accept any compensation;  
he will refuse a bribe, however great it is.

### 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men<sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

## **DAY 6—PUT YOUR EARTHLY DESIRES TO DEATH**

### Romans 13:13-14

13Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Colossians 3:5

<sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

<sup>3</sup>It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, <sup>5</sup>not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. <sup>7</sup>For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

<sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

<sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

## DAY 7—GOD CAN DELIVER US

1 Corinthians 10:13

<sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Psalms 101:2-3

<sup>2</sup>I will be careful to lead a blameless life—  
when will you come to me?

I will conduct the affairs of my house  
with a blameless heart.

<sup>3</sup>I will not look with approval  
on anything that is vile.

I hate what faithless people do;  
I will have no part in it.

Genesis 39:1-23

<sup>1</sup>Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup>When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, <sup>4</sup>Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. <sup>5</sup>From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. <sup>6</sup>So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,<sup>7</sup> and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

<sup>8</sup>But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. <sup>9</sup>No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" <sup>10</sup>And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

<sup>11</sup>One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. <sup>12</sup>She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

<sup>13</sup>When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, <sup>14</sup>she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. <sup>15</sup>When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

<sup>16</sup>She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. <sup>17</sup>Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. <sup>18</sup>But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

<sup>19</sup>When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. <sup>20</sup>Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, <sup>21</sup>the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. <sup>22</sup>So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. <sup>23</sup>The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

# ROADMAP 3—FASTING AND FEASTING

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## DAY 1—FASTING IS A LIFESTYLE

Exodus 34:28

<sup>28</sup>Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments.

Luke 2:37

<sup>37</sup>. . . and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

Matthew 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

## Day 2—HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD

1 Samuel 7:5-6

<sup>5</sup>Then Samuel said, “Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the LORD for you.” <sup>6</sup>When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, “We have sinned against the LORD.” Now Samuel was serving as leader of Israel at Mizpah.

Jonah 3:4-10

<sup>4</sup>Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

<sup>5</sup>The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>6</sup>When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. <sup>7</sup>This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. <sup>8</sup>But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

1 Kings 21:25-29

<sup>25</sup>(There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife.

<sup>26</sup>He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the LORD drove out before Israel.)

<sup>27</sup>When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.

<sup>28</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: <sup>29</sup>“Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days

of his son.”

## DAY 3—FAST FOR SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

2 Samuel 12:16, 21-23

<sup>16</sup>David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground. . . .

<sup>21</sup>His attendants asked him, “Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!”

<sup>22</sup>He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.’ <sup>23</sup>But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

Ezra 8:21

<sup>21</sup>There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.

Esther 4:15-16

<sup>15</sup>Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup>“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

## DAY 4—FAST WHILE MOURNING

Nehemiah 1:4-10

<sup>4</sup>When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup>Then I said:

“LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>6</sup>let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you. <sup>7</sup>We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

<sup>8</sup>“Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, <sup>9</sup>but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’

<sup>10</sup>“They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.”

Esther 4:1-3

<sup>1</sup>When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. <sup>2</sup>But he went only as far as the king’s gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. <sup>3</sup>In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

2 Samuel 1:12

<sup>12</sup>They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and for

the nation of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

## **DAY 5—FAST TO COMMIT SOMETHING TO THE LORD**

Judges 20:26-28

<sup>26</sup>Then all the Israelites, the whole army, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the LORD. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD. <sup>27</sup>And the Israelites inquired of the LORD. (In those days the ark of the covenant of God was there, <sup>28</sup>with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, ministering before it.) They asked, “Shall we go up again to fight against the Benjamites, our fellow Israelites, or not?”

The LORD responded, “Go, for tomorrow I will give them into your hands.”

Acts 13:2-3

<sup>2</sup>While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup>So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 14:23

<sup>23</sup>Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

## **DAY 6—FAST IN CONFESSION**

Daniel 9:3

<sup>3</sup>So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

Nehemiah 9:1-2

<sup>1</sup>On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads. <sup>2</sup>Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors.

Jeremiah 36:3-9

<sup>3</sup>“Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, they will each turn from their wicked ways; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin.”

<sup>4</sup>So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the LORD had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll. <sup>5</sup>Then Jeremiah told Baruch, “I am restricted; I am not allowed to go to the LORD’s temple. <sup>6</sup>So you go to the house of the LORD on a day of fasting and read to the people from the scroll the words of the LORD that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns. <sup>7</sup>Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD and will each turn from their wicked ways, for the anger and wrath pronounced against this people by the LORD are great.”

<sup>8</sup>Baruch son of Neriah did everything Jeremiah the prophet told him to do; at the LORD’s temple he read the words of the LORD from the scroll. <sup>9</sup>In the ninth month of the fifth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, a time of fasting before the LORD was proclaimed for all the people in Jerusalem and those who had come from the towns of Judah.

## DAY 7—CHECK YOUR MOTIVES IN FASTING—FAST FOR THE LORD

Isaiah 58:2-14

<sup>2</sup>“For day after day they seek me out;  
they seem eager to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that does what is right  
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.

They ask me for just decisions  
and seem eager for God to come near them.

<sup>3</sup>‘Why have we fasted,’ they say,  
‘and you have not seen it?’

Why have we humbled ourselves,  
and you have not noticed?’

“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please  
and exploit all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,  
and in striking each other with wicked fists.

You cannot fast as you do today  
and expect your voice to be heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,  
only a day for people to humble themselves?

Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed  
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,

to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter —  
when you see the naked, to clothe them,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;

then your righteousness will go before you,  
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,  
<sup>10</sup>and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you always;  
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land

and will strengthen your frame.  
You will be like a well-watered garden,  
like a spring whose waters never fail.  
<sup>12</sup>Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and will raise up the age-old foundations;  
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,  
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

<sup>13</sup>"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath  
and from doing as you please on my holy day,  
if you call the Sabbath a delight  
and the LORD's holy day honorable,  
and if you honor it by not going your own way  
and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,  
<sup>14</sup>then you will find your joy in the LORD,  
and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land  
and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob."  
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

# ROADMAP 4—TO JUDGE OR NOT TO JUDGE

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## DAY 1—THE LORD WILL JUDGE, WE OUGHT NOT

### Luke 6:41-42

<sup>41</sup>“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>42</sup>How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

### Romans 2:1-3

<sup>1</sup>You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. <sup>2</sup>Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. <sup>3</sup>So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment?

### Luke 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

<sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

<sup>14</sup>“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

### 1 Corinthians 4:5

<sup>5</sup>Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

## DAY 2—GIVE OTHERS THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

### Romans 14:1-23

<sup>1</sup>Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. <sup>2</sup>One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. <sup>6</sup>Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. <sup>11</sup>It is written:

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,  
‘every knee will bow before me;  
every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. <sup>14</sup>I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. <sup>15</sup>If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. <sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. <sup>17</sup>For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, <sup>18</sup>because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

<sup>19</sup>Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. <sup>20</sup>Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. <sup>21</sup>It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

<sup>22</sup>So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. <sup>23</sup>But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

## DAY 3—NO ONE IS WITHOUT SIN

### John 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup>. . . but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>2</sup>At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup>The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup>and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup>In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” <sup>6</sup>They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup>When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup>Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

<sup>9</sup>At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup>Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

<sup>11</sup>“No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

## DAY 4—IGNORANCE YIELDS BAD FRUIT

### Ephesians 4:17-20

<sup>17</sup>So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their think-

ing. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup>Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

<sup>20</sup>That, however, is not the way of life you learned . . .

#### Luke 6:43-45

<sup>43</sup>“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>44</sup>Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. <sup>45</sup>A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

#### Galatians 5:19-21

<sup>19</sup>The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup>idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup>and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

## **DAY 5—FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE, NOT SOCIETY'S**

#### 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

<sup>1</sup>It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. <sup>2</sup>And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? <sup>3</sup>For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. <sup>4</sup>So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, <sup>5</sup>hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

#### Galatians 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup>For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup>The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

<sup>14</sup>When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”

#### Ephesians 5:3-18

<sup>3</sup>But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup>Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partners with them.

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup>This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup>Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit . . .

## DAY 6—LISTEN TO GOD, BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHING

### Galatians 1:6-9

<sup>6</sup>I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—<sup>7</sup>which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! <sup>9</sup>As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!

### Galatians 3:1-5

<sup>1</sup>You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup>I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? <sup>4</sup>Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? <sup>5</sup>So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

### 1 John 4:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

<sup>4</sup>You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

## DAY 7—PRAY FOR AND LOVE THOSE WHO NEED GOD

### Ephesians 4:1-2, 14-15

<sup>1</sup>As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. . . .

<sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

### Romans 9:1-3

<sup>1</sup>I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race . . .

Romans 10:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup>For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.

Jude 22-23

<sup>22</sup>Be merciful to those who doubt; <sup>23</sup>save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear – hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

# ROADMAP 5—THE ONLY WAY

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## DAY 1—LET YOUR HEART'S THOUGHTS MATCH YOUR WORDS

Proverbs 26:23

<sup>23</sup>Like a coating of silver dross on earthenware  
are fervent lips with an evil heart.

Isaiah 29:13

<sup>13</sup>The Lord says:

“These people come near to me with their mouth  
and honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.  
Their worship of me  
is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”

Matthew 15:7-9

<sup>7</sup>You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

<sup>8</sup>“These people honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.  
<sup>9</sup>They worship me in vain;  
their teachings are merely human rules.”

Matthew 23:23-24

<sup>23</sup>“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. <sup>24</sup>You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.”

## DAY 2—KEEP FOLLOWING GOD—DON'T FALL BACK!

Matthew 13:18-23

<sup>18</sup>“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup>But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup>The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Galatians 4:8-11

<sup>8</sup>Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup>But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? <sup>10</sup>You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup>I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

## 2 Peter 2:20-22

<sup>20</sup>If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. <sup>21</sup>It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. <sup>22</sup>Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.”

## **DAY 3—ALWAYS DOUBLE-CHECK TEACHINGS WITH THE BIBLE**

### Deuteronomy 18:20-22

<sup>20</sup>“But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”

<sup>21</sup>You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?” <sup>22</sup>If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.

### Matthew 24:10-12

<sup>10</sup>At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, <sup>11</sup>and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup>Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold . . .

### 1 Timothy 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. <sup>2</sup>Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

## **DAY 4—MANY WILL SPEAK UNTRUTH**

### Deuteronomy 13:1-4

<sup>1</sup>If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder, <sup>2</sup>and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the prophet says, “Let us follow other gods” (gods you have not known) “and let us worship them,” <sup>3</sup>you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>4</sup>It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.

### 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

<sup>9</sup>The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, <sup>10</sup>and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup>For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie <sup>12</sup>and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

### Revelation 13:11-15

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup>It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. <sup>13</sup>And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. <sup>14</sup>Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. <sup>15</sup>The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

## DAY 5—BE OBEDIENT TO GOD IN THOUGHT AND ACTION

### Matthew 23:23-28

<sup>23</sup>“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. <sup>24</sup>You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup>Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

<sup>27</sup>“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. <sup>28</sup>In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”

### Luke 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup>There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>3</sup>What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.”

### Romans 16:17-19

<sup>17</sup>I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. <sup>18</sup>For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. <sup>19</sup>Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

## DAY 6—DO WHAT YOU SAY YOU WILL

### Psalms 78:35-37

<sup>35</sup>They remembered that God was their Rock,  
that God Most High was their Redeemer.  
<sup>36</sup>But then they would flatter him with their mouths,  
lying to him with their tongues;  
<sup>37</sup>their hearts were not loyal to him,  
they were not faithful to his covenant.

### Ezekiel 33:31-32

<sup>31</sup>My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to hear your words, but they do not put them into practice. Their mouths speak of love, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. <sup>32</sup>Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice.

### Titus 1:16

<sup>16</sup>They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

## DAY 7—LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS

1 Samuel 15:22

<sup>22</sup>But Samuel replied:

“Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices  
as much as in obeying the LORD?  
To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.”

Micah 6:8

<sup>8</sup>He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.

Mark 12:33

<sup>33</sup>“To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

James 1:26-27

<sup>26</sup>Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

