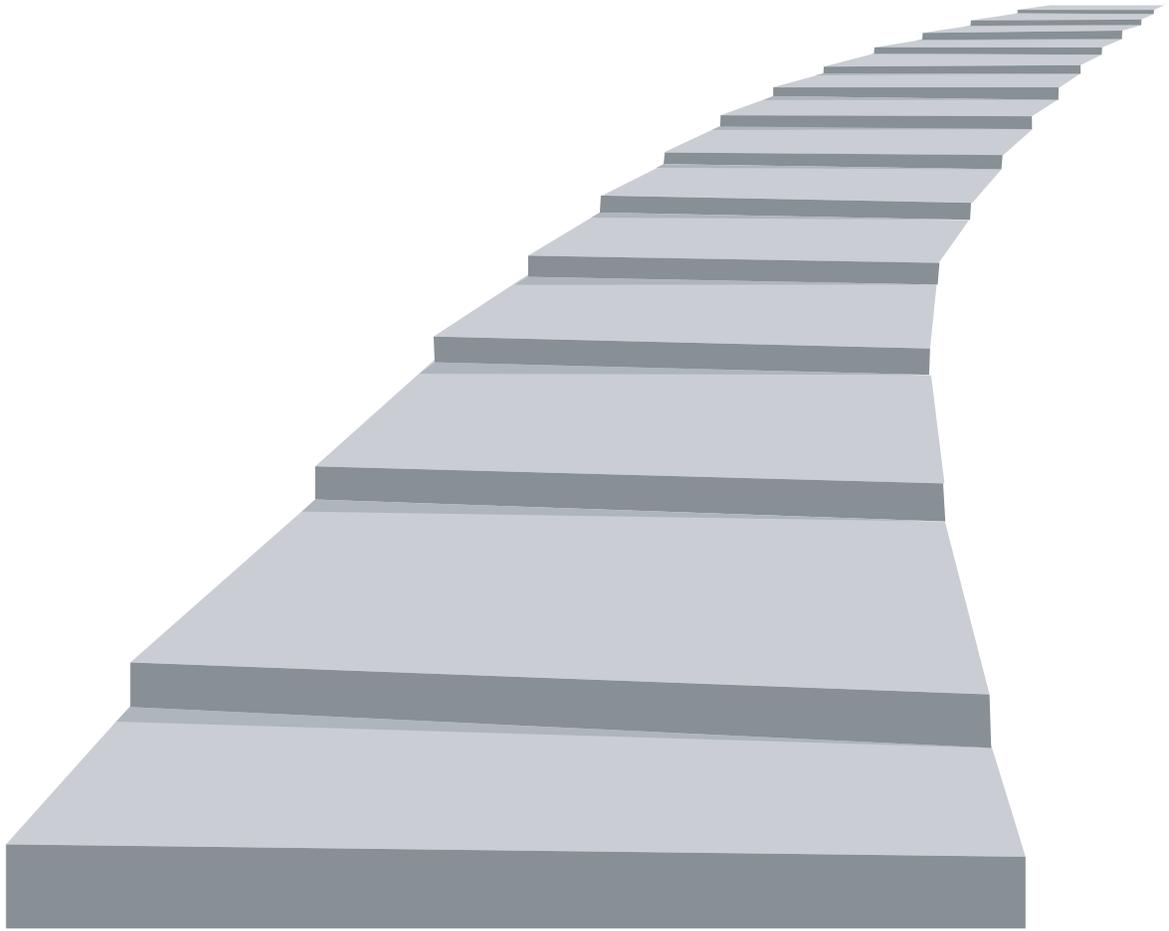


# **SURVEY** **OF THE BIBLE**



**LESSON**  
**ANSWER KEY**

# SURVEY OF THE BIBLE SYLLABUS



This course allows students to discover the harmony of the Scriptures by examining the main theme of the Bible—God’s unfolding plan of redemption—in 14 lessons comprised of 30 Key Ideas.

## 1 THE DRAMA OF REDEMPTION

1—God’s Word, the Bible, is one book recording one story of God’s mighty acts as well as the explanation of those mighty acts.

## 2 THE FALL INTO SIN

2—God makes the first move in salvation because His people are dead in their sins.  
3—God is always gracious and kind to His people, but the wicked He will certainly destroy.

## 3 A PROMISE TO REDEEM

4—God not only starts but also maintains and preserves His relationship with His people.  
5—God can cause good to come from things that people may have intended for evil.

## 4 SAVED TO SERVE

6—God redeems His people by delivering them from slavery.  
7—God tells His people how to live their grateful lives before Him—by obeying His law.

## 5 LAND OF THE PROMISE

8—God is always faithful even when His people are unfaithful.  
9—God’s relationship with His people invites them to trust His promises no matter what.

## 6 THE BEGINNING OF THE ROYAL LINE

10—The history of the monarchy anticipates the coming of the perfect King.

## 7 GOD SENDS HIS MESSENGERS

11—God reminded His people of His promises and their responsibilities through His covenant messengers, called prophets.  
12—God’s people can have hope in situations that look hopeless if they turn away from their sins and trust in God’s faithfulness.

## 8 GOD REMEMBERS HIS PEOPLE

13—God sometimes works in mysterious ways to provide for His people and to carry out His promises.  
14—God returns His people to the land so that His promises could be fulfilled in Christ.  
15—God brings hope to His people as they rebuild their lives in the promised land.

## 9 THE WAY OF WISDOM

16—Fearing and honoring God is the beginning of wisdom.  
17—Suffering can be beyond our understanding, but in the end God will always prove faithful.

## 10 SONGS TO GOD

18—The Psalms are inspired songs revealing all the emotions of the believer in response to God and His mighty acts.  
19—The Day of the Lord will be the ultimate display of final judgment and complete redemption.

## 11 THE PERFECT SERVANT ARRIVES

20—Each of the Gospels records Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection from a unique perspective.  
21—The Gospels were written so that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and so that we may have life in His name.  
22—Jesus Christ is the perfect covenant servant who obeyed and paid in the place of His people.  
23—Jesus proclaimed and displayed God’s truth with inspired stories, miracles and His saving work.

## 12 MY REDEEMER LIVES!

24—Jesus was crucified, dead and buried, but He conquered death when He was raised from the dead.  
25—Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and continues His saving work through the ministry of His church.

## 13 LIVING FOR THE LORD

26—God teaches us His gospel truth and how to apply it to our lives with the inspired letters written to His church.  
27—God’s Word is our perfect guide for our faith and lives, even when we are enduring intense suffering.

## 14 HOPE OF GLORY

28—God’s inspired Word celebrates His mighty acts in history and draws us into His drama of redemption.  
29—Christ has already accomplished everything that is necessary for our salvation.  
30—God’s covenant promise, “*I will be your God and you will be My people,*” will be perfectly fulfilled when the drama of redemption is complete.

# LESSON ANSWER KEY

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# INTRODUCTION

Dear Instructor,

Welcome to the *Survey of the Bible* course! This course has been added to Tier 1 in order to give our students a stronger foundation in their understanding of the Bible before moving on to the material that we cover in Tier 2. We've made a few changes in the way that we've organized this Answer Key, hoping that these changes will enhance your understanding of what these lessons cover. First, if you wish to prepare yourselves before you correct each lesson, we've given you some Bible passages to read. We also encourage you to read through each lesson, which will help you understand the basic topics covered. Second, we will periodically suggest books and articles in the Recommended Resource Manual that you may wish to consult if you have additional questions about a given topic. Always feel free to contact CBI or your pastor as well. Third, please note the optional Bible verses we list in the lessons and Answer Key for in-depth study. These are not questions, and the student is not required to read them, rather these selections were designed to offer the students a chance to explore the Bible's teachings on a given subject more deeply, should they desire to do so.

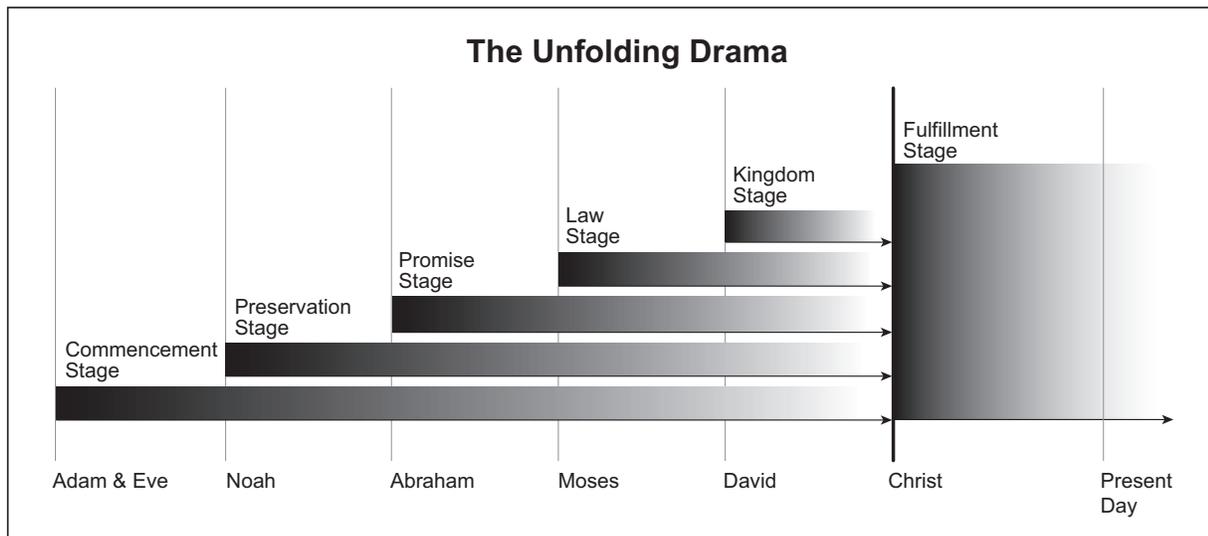
In the *Recommended Resource Manual* we have included verses and other references to help you disciple and direct your students. Answers with the "►RR" symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*. For example, if question 15 has a ►RR symbol in front of it, we will have Scripture and other references in the resource manual to help you as you lovingly correct a student's incorrect answer or expand on what he or she has written. These resources will perhaps even clarify questions that you may have. If you have any suggestions for materials that you think would be helpful to other Instructors, we'd love to know – we may be able to include it in a future revision of this course!

The core commitment of our program at Crossroad is to demonstrate the truth of God's Word and the beauty of the gospel of Christ. We want each student to see how important he or she is to the Body of Christ. To achieve this goal it is vital that we take each lesson, each question and each Roadmap seriously. Students involved in Tier 1 will explore, in a practical and applicable way, the biblical truths and doctrines of the historic Christian faith as well as the drama of God's unfolding relationship with His people. With guidance and encouragement from CBI Instructors, students will be challenged to grow dramatically in their understanding of the Word of God and in their appreciation of the person and work of Christ. Here are the objectives that we hope our students achieve as they progress through the *Survey of the Bible* course:

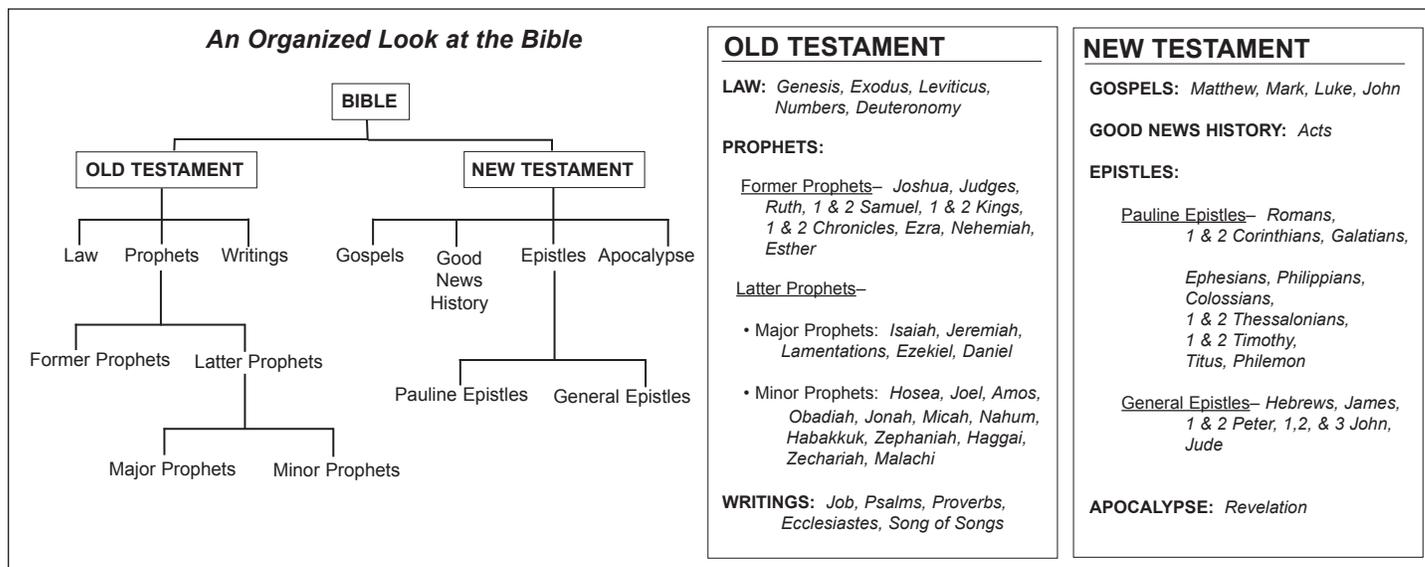
- Students will be able to describe the beauty and unity of Scripture as they trace the unfolding plan of redemption. Genesis 3:15 gives us a beautiful promise – students will learn how all of Scripture is about the drama of this promise being carried out *in history*. We pray that the students will be able to identify Jesus at the center of Scripture, as He is the promised Seed of Genesis 3:15.
- Students will recognize the faithfulness and sovereignty of God, as He always keeps His promises, even though it cost Him the life of His only Son, Jesus Christ. Even though His people fail time and time again, He is the God who never fails.
- Students will also be able to explain the diversity of Scripture as they learn about the various human authors and styles of writing (genres) used to convey this one message. They will be able to practice basic principles of interpretation to help them effectively approach and understand God's Word.
- Students will examine how they fit into this unfolding story of God's relationship with His people. By God's grace, they will discover that they are part of this drama, and therefore can live godly lives as pilgrims on earth.

Our prayer for you, the Instructor, is that God, *out of His glorious riches, may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. We also pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

*Ephesians 3:16-19*



This chart, “*The Unfolding Drama*,” shows the progress of redemptive history. Notice how the covenant-promise is revealed first to Adam and Eve during the Commencement Stage, as we read in Genesis 3. Each stage is not a separate and disconnected stage; rather, each builds upon the previous. Consider the growth of a seed to a flower. You view the seed knowing that the flower is coming, and you view the flower knowing that it came from a seed, but it is still the same organism. The seed is the promise of a Deliverer in Genesis 3:15; the flower is the Deliverer’s victory on the cross and through His resurrection. One author puts it this way: “For, although the development of the root may be slow and the stem and leaves may grow almost imperceptibly, there comes a time when the bud emerges in a day and the flower expands in an hour to our wondering sight.” The entire Old Testament points forward to Jesus Christ, who promises eternal, heavenly life to those who believe in Him.



The above graphic, “*An Organized Look at the Bible*,” can be found in your student’s first lesson. This lesson explores the traditional topical organization of Scripture in order to give students an overview of the Bible’s basic structure. This graphic is a visual representation of the content categories within the Bible. It also shows how the individual books of the Bible fit into its larger story: the drama of redemption. The story of God redeeming His world, as revealed through biblical history, is the basic theme of this course, and it is our hope that this graphic will help develop an appropriate context for understanding this truth within the structure and story of Scripture.

# LESSON 1—THE DRAMA OF REDEMPTION

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## INTRODUCTION

To prepare yourself for this lesson, please ask the Lord to guide you and enable you to be an encourager as you help your student. You may also wish to read the following passages: 2 Samuel 23:2, Psalm 119:130, Mark 15:28, Luke 4:21, John 7:38, John 7:42, John 10:35, Exodus 6:6, Psalm 19:14, Psalm 44:26, Psalm 49:15, Isaiah 41:14, Isaiah 44:24, Matthew 20:28 and 1 Timothy 2:6.

Consider the Bible as God’s interpretation of His mighty acts in history. That is to say, God acted in history, and recorded those actions in His Word—the Bible. As we read the Bible, we must remember that these things happened *in history*, and God worked *in history* to carry out the redemption of His people. The culmination of these historical events is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Your student’s lesson includes the traditional division of this body of literature into units that help us to understand it better (wisdom literature, epistles, gospels, etc.). As we study each of these, we will explain to you what is significant about each of these divisions. Such divisions are not divinely inspired—they simply help us approach the Bible more easily. While chapter and verse divisions, as well as the section headings and study notes found in the NIV and other Bibles, can help us to find things and aid in our understanding of a passage, they are also not part of the original text and not divinely inspired. Sometimes they can even be misleading. If necessary, we should remind our students to look to the text itself for their answers (►RR See the *Recommended Resource Manual* for commentary on **THE BIBLE**).

Throughout the Answer Key, we will provide you with objectives, taken from the end of each of the lessons. You can use these objectives to guide your answers and make sure that the student understands these objectives. Note: Answers with the “►RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

### IN THIS LESSON WE LEARNED THAT ...

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- There are many books in the Bible, but it is still one book written by one ultimate Author—God!
- The main drama of the Bible is redemption. To be redeemed by Jesus means to be rescued from our guilt and sin, freed from the slavery to sin and being freed to live for God.
- God has established a relationship between Himself and His people. This relationship is based on promises. These promises make up a *covenant*, which is *the partnership God establishes with His people to carry out His kind, gracious purposes*.

We will also provide you with the word or words to remember taken from each lesson.

### KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER:

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- **Redemption:** being freed from the guilt and slavery, or bondage, of sin and made willing and able to live for God.
- **Covenant:** the partnership God establishes with His people to carry out His kind, gracious purposes.

1. 66
2. 39
3. 27
4. one
5. wrote            LORD            said
6. will                Holy                Spirit

- **RR** 7. We want to make sure the student understands that God, by His Holy Spirit, is the author of the Bible. Be sure to tell the students that Scripture bears witness of itself. That is, we say the Bible is God’s book because the Bible itself says so!
8. All God correcting righteousness good work
9. Student should summarize the following verse in their own words: *And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times* (Psalm 12:6).
10. B
- Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: 2 Samuel 23:2, Psalm 119:130, Isaiah 53:12, Luke 4:21, John 7:38 and John 7:42.

## **KEY IDEA 1. GOD’S WORD, THE BIBLE, IS ONE BOOK RECORDING ONE STORY OF GOD’S MIGHTY ACTS AS WELL AS THE EXPLANATION OF THOSE MIGHTY ACTS**

As we said earlier, the Bible shows to us God’s plan of redemption which is carried out *in history*. In this section of Lesson 1, the student learns what redemption means. God’s relationship with His people is also discussed in the definition of covenant—the partnership God establishes with His people to carry out His kind, gracious purposes for them.

- **RR** See the *Recommended Resource Manual* for commentary on **REDEMPTION**.

11. saved enemy redeemed
12. loved oath out redeemed slavery king
13. slave sin Son free free
14. redeem wickedness
15. C
16. grace faith
17. A
18. Job found hope and comfort knowing that “my Redeemer lives.” He also finds comfort knowing that he would see his Redeemer with his own eyes!

► **RR**

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Exodus 6:6, Psalm 19:14, Psalm 44:26, Psalm 49:15, Isaiah 41:14, Isaiah 44:24, Matthew 20:28 and 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

19. partnership people purposes
20. TRUE
21. serve obey
22. he faithful cannot
23. ways LORD loving faithful keep covenant
24. It guides, teaches and instructs those who seek and follow God.
25. Check required.
26. A, B, D

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Genesis 6:18, Genesis 9:9, 1 Samuel 20:16, 2 Kings 17:35-38, Psalm 50:16, Psalm 105:9-10 and Hebrews 8:6-13.

27. Be encouraging in your response to your student. Respond appropriately to your student's area of concern. Use Scripture, if possible, to highlight God's power to change lives, such as 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here!"* or Romans 12:2, *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. . ."*
28. We wish to show these students that God always keeps His word/promise/covenant. Constantly remind your student that God is always faithful, even though His people are not. God is the One who has initiated the relationship, and the relationship depends upon His faithfulness – and He never fails! Therefore, we can rest assured that our salvation depends upon Jesus, upon God's everlasting faithfulness. Though your student (and you and I!) has disobeyed God, He will always remain faithful.



11. enmity                    woman                    crush/bruise    head
12. no                    condemnation                    in                    Jesus                    free  
sin                    death
13. The student should show that they understand that Jesus' victory frees them from their slavery to fear and death.
14. God                    crush                    Satan
15. made                    clothed
16. Adam                    Eve
17. Respond appropriately. If you're not sure how to respond to any issues that your student raises, discuss this with your pastor or elder. You may want to also consider ordering booklet Q0602: "The Forgiveness of God" from Our Daily Bread Ministries (formerly RBC Ministries) for your student (see the Extra Resources from ODB Ministries page in your manual for more information).

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Isaiah 24:5, Isaiah 29:15, Hosea 6:7, Romans 5:12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 45-49.

## **KEY IDEA 3.    GOD IS ALWAYS GRACIOUS AND KIND TO HIS PEOPLE, BUT THE WICKED HE WILL CERTAINLY DESTROY.**

In this part of the lesson, the student looks at the story of Noah as well as God's gracious covenant with Noah. The flood brought judgment to those who didn't believe and salvation to those who did. We also discuss the story of the tower at Babel, and how the language-curse is reversed in Acts 2.

18. B

► **RR** 19. Noah found favor in God's eyes. Noah was delivered by God's grace!

► **RR** For a commentary on **GRACE**, see the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

20. Your student should touch on at least **three** of the following main points:

- God grieved that He had made people because we were so wicked.
- God told Noah to build an ark.
- Many kinds of animals came to Noah to be kept alive, and Noah and his family entered the ark with them.
- Rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights.
- The water got so deep that even mountains were under water and every living thing on the earth died.
- God remembered Noah and sent a wind to make the water go away.
- The ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.
- Noah sent out a dove to see if there was any dry ground, and it came back with a leaf.
- Noah built an altar and sacrificed burnt offerings to the Lord.
- God blessed Noah and his family.
- God sent a rainbow to the earth as a sign of the promise that he would never send another flood.

21. The covenant God made with Noah, and all the creatures of the earth, was to never again destroy the world with a flood again. The sign of that promise to them, and to us today, is the rainbow.

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Job 22:15-16, Psalm 29:10, Matthew 24:38-39 and 2 Peter 2:1-10

22. B

23. tower                    make                    name                    scattered                    face                    whole

24. A

25. A

26. In your responses to this and all of the student's essay questions, be sure to include Scripture references, to show the student the sufficiency of Scripture (Psalm 19:1-14, Psalm 119, John 17:17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:15-17 and 2 Peter 20-21 as well as any you might be familiar with). Be sensitive to the answer of this question. Encourage your student always and remind him or her of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ!

# LESSON 3—A PROMISE TO REDEEM

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To prepare yourself for this lesson, you may want to read the following passages: Genesis 15-17, 37:1-11, 39-41 and 45:1-11.

Note: Answers with the “▶RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON WE LEARNED THAT . . .

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- In the drama of redemption, God ushered in the *Stage of Promise* by making a covenant with Abraham. Promise-keeping is at the center of this relationship between God and His people.
- God declares believers righteous (just) only because of the work of Jesus Christ. God’s people receive this righteousness and salvation only through faith in Jesus Christ. We can’t do anything to earn this righteousness (Genesis 15:6).
- Even though humans do many wicked and dishonest things, God is able to turn around sin for His glory and our good (Romans 8:28-30).

## KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER:

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- **Providence:** God’s completely holy, wise and powerful preserving and governing of all His creation (Psalm 47:8).

## KEY IDEA 4. GOD NOT ONLY STARTS BUT ALSO MAINTAINS AND PRESERVES HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE.

As the drama moves forward in history, God shows us a little bit more of the promise He made to Adam and Eve in the garden (Genesis 3:15). In this scene of the drama, we learn that Abraham’s descendants will be like the sand of the seashore. The Seed would come through Abraham’s line and make his spiritual descendants as numerous as the sand on the seashore. Notice the covenant theme again. As we learn more of the promise, we also see how it is intertwined with the covenant relationship between God and His people.

1. TRUE
2. Check required.
3. A. 1. God  
2. Abraham  
B. 1. Offspring as many as stars, descendants get the land of Canaan, father of many nations, God will be the God of Abraham’s descendants. (Student should have written at least **two** of these).  
2. Abraham will obey God, and circumcise all males.  
C. YES  
D. circumcision

▶RR 4. C

5. Abraham was in a deep sleep

6. TRUE
7. B
8. Canaan            possession    I                    God
9. Galatians 3:7-    children            Abraham  
Galatians 3:29-    Christ              Abraham's seed                    promise
10. Galatians 3:6-9 tells us that Abraham was made right with God by faith, not by works. Whoever believes God's promise (made living in Jesus Christ) is a spiritual child of Abraham. Try to help the student understand that Abraham was made right with God (justified) by faith alone (which we'll discuss throughout the course). We don't want the student depending upon his or her works, but in God and His promises in Christ. A verse you could use to demonstrate this is Ephesians 2:8-9.
11. promises            Yes                    Christ
12. inheritance        law                    promise              promise
- ▶ **RR** 13. God gave it to him for free. Based on the passages above, we understand that no mere human, before or after Christ came to live on earth, has *earned* God's favor. As the psalmist observes, we have all been sinful from the moment of conception (51:5). It is, and ever has been, God's grace alone that has saved us (Titus 3:1-8). We want the student to answer "how do you know?" by implying that he or she knows *because the Bible says so!*
14. We want the student to claim God's promises in His Word as promises to them, as God's child. Try to tell them that, by faith, all of God's promises of blessing, salvation, comfort, etc. are "yes" and "amen" in Christ, and only Christ. God is always faithful to His promises, so if the Bible makes a promise to us, it is always true and carried out, because of Christ!

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Jeremiah 23:6, Romans 3:21-26, Romans 4, Romans 5:19, 1 Corinthians 1:30 and 2 Corinthians 5:21.

## **KEY IDEA 5.    GOD CAN CAUSE GOOD TO COME FROM THINGS THAT PEOPLE MAY HAVE INTENDED FOR EVIL.**

The story of Joseph teaches us many things. It does teach that God works for the good of those who love Him—it teaches providence. But it also points us ahead to One who feeds and nourishes His family even though sometimes they ridicule and despise Him. Joseph shows Christ to us, as Jesus delivers His family—God's people. God used Joseph to carry on His promise, as the drama continues.

▶ **RR** See the *Recommended Resource Manual* for a note on the **ISHMAELITES**.

Check required prior to #15.

15. Joseph            old                    age
16. FALSE. Joseph's brothers hated him.

17. Student should have three of the following:
- He gave a bad report to his father.
  - Jacob loved Joseph more than his brothers.
  - The dream about the grain angered his brothers.
  - The dream about the moon and stars angered his brothers.
  - They were jealous of him because he alone received the coat of many colors.

18. D

19. D

20. Joseph said he would be sinning against God.

21. Check required.

22. A, C, D

23. C

24. C

25. B

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Psalm 77:15, Psalm 105:1-22, Amos 5:15, Acts 7:8-15 and Romans 8:28.

26. with prospered

► **RR** 27. Encourage your student as they try to gain insight into God's work in their lives. Help them to seek and trust in God's good plan for them, no matter what happens.

28. all good love purpose

29. high earth love/mercy fear east west  
removed transgressions

30. The students should reflect that God in His mercy forgives sins. Somehow the forgiveness of sins should be mentioned. Point the students to the cross here, showing them that the blood of Christ covers us from all unrighteousness. Forgiveness of sins is comforting. We know that God doesn't count our sins against us, and they have been taken from us by Christ. For those of us in Christ, God does not punish us eternally for our sins. In His goodness, He lovingly chastises us to correct us when we do wrong (see Hebrews 12:5-11).

# LESSON 4—SAVED TO SERVE

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To prepare yourself for this lesson, you may wish to read Exodus 1-12 and Deuteronomy 1-4.

Note: Answers with the “▶RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT . . .

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- God chose Israel to be His people. They weren't naturally special – God *made* them special.
- God chose Moses to lead His people and rescue them from the Egyptians. Because Pharaoh refused to obey God, God sent terrible plagues on the Egyptians until they agreed to set the people of God free.
- God established the priesthood and commanded the priests to make sacrifices to satisfy, soothe or appease His anger against sin. Jesus is our true High Priest.
- God gave His law to His people in order to teach them how to live holy lives before Him. Obeying this law didn't save the people, but it honored and pleased God. This part of the drama is called the *Law Stage*.

## KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER:

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- **Priest:** A man who represented the Israelites before God and offered bloody sacrifices to God as He had commanded
- **Atonement:** to cover, appease, cleanse or put off
- **Justification:** being declared righteous or right with God

## KEY IDEA 6. GOD REDEEMS HIS PEOPLE BY DELIVERING THEM FROM SLAVERY.

The story of the Exodus is *the main* redemptive act in the Old Testament. In this lesson, we see Moses as a deliverer, bringing the people out of the bondage of Egypt. But we know that God (in Jesus) is the true Deliverer, who chose Moses to continue carrying out His promise. We also learn that God punishes evil as the angel of death kills many firstborn children. But there is grace amidst the judgment—the Passover lamb provided a way of escape! Jesus is our true Passover Lamb, whose blood covers us from God's anger and judgment.

1. The Israelite population had become so large that the Egyptians were afraid that these foreigners would be able to harm them.
2. B
3. covenant      Abraham      Isaac      Jacob      looked
4. 4      God told Moses that His name is “I AM.”  
1      Moses saw a burning bush as he approached it God called out, “Moses! Moses!”  
2      God told Moses to take off his sandals, because Moses was standing on holy ground.  
3      God told Moses that Moses would lead the Israelites out of Egypt.
5. Egyptians      know      I      am      LORD
6. **First plague (7:20-21):** Nile turned to blood  
**Second plague (8:5-6):** Frogs  
**Third plague (8:16-17):** Gnats

**Fourth plague (8:20-24):** Swarms of flies

**Fifth plague (9:6):** Livestock died

**Sixth plague (9:8-10):** Festering boils

**Seventh plague (9:22-26):** Hail

**Eighth plague (10:13-15):** Locusts

**Ninth plague (10:21-23):** Darkness

7. firstborn          die                  firstborn          firstborn          firstborn

8. **Tenth plague (12:29-30):** The LORD struck down all firstborn in Egypt

9. people                  Go                  worship                  Take                  go

10. Ultimately, when Pharaoh and his officials realized that the Israelites had really gone, they lamented the loss of their services, and Pharaoh gathered his army to pursue them.

11. Check required.

12. blood                  sides                  tops                  doorframes                  houses                  eat

13. C

14. Jesus                  Lamb                  God                  takes                  away                  sin

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Isaiah 53:7-10, Acts 8:32-35, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 1 Peter 1:19-20, Revelation 5:13 and Revelation 7:15.

## **KEY IDEA 7.      GOD TELLS HIS PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE THEIR GRATEFUL LIVES BEFORE HIM—BY OBEYING HIS LAW.**

The second part of Lesson 4 examines the law and ceremonies God gave to the Israelites through Moses. We see that the law and ceremonies showed how holy and pure God was, and if the people were to stand before Him they needed to be holy and pure as well. The law also shows us our sin and drives us to Christ, as Romans 3:19-20 and Galatians 3:23-25 tell us. The priests offered sacrifices to make atonement for sin. The law and the priesthood direct our attention to our true law-keeper and High Priest, Jesus Christ. His obedience and sacrifice are the fulfillment of the Old Covenant. He is our true High Priest because He has set us free by the one sacrifice of His body and continually appears before God on our behalf (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 9:12, 24 and 10:11-14).

- **RR** 15. The Lord chose the Israelites: 1) because He loved them 2) He kept the oath which He swore to their fathers. Love and promise-keeping – note the two reasons!
16. The answers here will vary. The answers may include: the ephod, the breast piece, tunics, a robe, etc.
17. A. Aaron offered a sacrifice.  
B. Aaron was commanded to do this once a year.
18. A. NO  
B. YES: Jesus is our true and eternal High Priest because He lives forever.  
C. Jesus offered His own perfect blood.  
D. Once

19. There is comfort knowing that Jesus' sacrifice is perfect and sufficient. God will never again require any payment for the sins of His people, nor will He eternally punish His people for their disobedience. Jesus took our place on the cross, suffering and dying to bring us into a loving relationship with God the Father. Respond appropriately.
- **RR** 20. Check the student's answer with Deuteronomy 28:1-15. They may include blessed crops and livestock, enemies defeated before them, prosperity, bounty and other people would be afraid of the Israelites.
- **RR** 21. Check the student's answer with Deuteronomy 28:16-68. They may include curses upon the Israelites such as plague, diseases, fever, blight, famine, loss to enemies in war, robbery, oppression, confusion, hunger, hatred, captivity, locusts and exile.
- **RR** 22. "Adam," "Man," "one man" or something similar are all acceptable.
23. Jesus' obedience
24. There are *many* possible answers here. Make sure that the student understands that Jesus' obedience is the basis for God blessing us. The student could include the following: eternal life, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the light of the knowledge of God in Christ, an eternal home in heaven, Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise, every spiritual blessing in Christ, redemption, forgiveness, God's grace, wisdom, understanding, hope and a glorious inheritance.
25. Lord                      heart                      soul                      mind                      commandment                      neighbor
26. Answers vary here. Check to make sure they included a reference.
27. Both verses tell us that we are to be holy because God is holy.
28. C
29. Respond appropriately. If necessary, remind the student that because Jesus was perfectly obedient to God *and* accepted the penalty for our sin, we don't need to "earn" God's forgiveness—nor can we! *We need His obedient life and His sacrificial death.* These things are the basis for our salvation—we are saved by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone!
- **RR** For a concise definition of **JUSTIFICATION**, consult the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

# LESSON 5—LAND OF THE PROMISE

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To prepare yourself for this lesson, you may wish to read the following passages: Joshua 1-3 and Judges 1-2.

Note: Answers with the “▶RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT . . .

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- God’s people were not faithful to Him after He had brought them into the land which He had promised them.
- The book of Judges shows a cycle of disobedience, punishment, repentance and deliverance over and over again.
- God is faithful to His people even when they’re unfaithful. He always kept His covenant promises, even when the Israelites didn’t keep theirs.
- Ruth’s story brings us to Christ’s story and shows us how we are part of the drama of redemption, because Christ is our guardian-redeemer.

## KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER:

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- **Repentance:** To admit sin, hate it and turn from it to God
- **Guardian-redeemer:** A close relative who has the right to redeem his people

## KEY IDEA 8. GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL EVEN WHEN HIS PEOPLE ARE UNFAITHFUL.

Israel failed God’s test in the wilderness, as did Aaron and Moses. God used Joshua, Moses’ faithful successor, to bring the Israelites into the Promised Land. Joshua was a deliverer of Israel who points us forward to our true Deliverer, Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 4). But even after God faithfully brought unfaithful Israel into the Promised Land, they continued to sin against Him. The time of the Judges shows a vicious cycle of sin, punishment, repentance and deliverance. (Note: this cycle was already happening when Israel was in the wilderness for 40 years.) But God is always faithful. He will remember *and* carry out His covenant promise of sending One who will crush the head of the serpent.

1. Moses
2. Joshua
3. land
4. strong                      courageous
5. obey                      law                      Moses
6. LORD                      land
7. Check required.
8. forsake                      LORD                      other

▶RR For more information on **WHY GOD GAVE THE LAW**, see *Recommended Resource Manual*.

9. Possible answers include that the Hebrews did evil, served the Baals, forsook the LORD, prostituted themselves, turned from the way and refused to give up their evil ways.
10. Answers can include three of the following observations. The Midianites invaded and oppressed the people of God. The Midianites destroyed their crops and livestock. The people of God moved into caves to defend themselves while the Midianites occupied their land.
11. Midian impoverished the people of God so much that they became desperate and called out to Him to rescue them.
12. Respond appropriately.
13. YES. God delivered His people from their enemies and provided them with land.
14. NO. The Israelites did not listen to God; they worshiped foreign gods.
15. FALSE. Gideon's faith was weak. Gideon saw the evil in the world and the trials that his people were going through and questioned God's faithfulness and ability to act.
16. cried                      Lord                      sinned
17. 1) Israel disobeys God  
2) God punishes Israel  
3) Israel repents  
4) God provides a deliverer
18. Be sensitive to student responses. Encourage your student with ways to help them break out of this cycle if they recognize some sin in their lives. Always point them to the cross, where Jesus breaks this cycle of sin. His victory is the victory of His people! Suggest to them to use Scripture to assure themselves (see 1 John 1:1-3, 7-9; 1 John 2:1-2, 12-14, 24-25; 1 John 3:1-5, 8, 16, 23; 4:9-10, 14-18; 1 John 5:1-2, 5, 12, 13 and 20).

## **KEY IDEA 9.    GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE INVITES THEM TO TRUST HIS PROMISES, NO MATTER WHAT.**

This part of the lesson explores the story of Elimelech, Naomi, Boaz and Ruth. Disobedient Elimelech left the Promised Land because he did not trust God's word. He thought he knew better than God and tried to save himself by moving somewhere where there was more food.

God uses Ruth, a woman from a pagan nation (Moab) to continue His promise. Ruth is named in the genealogy of Matthew 1:5—our Redeemer being her descendant. God's promise of deliverance does not fail!

19. Check required.
20. The famine was a consequence of the people's violation of the covenant.
21. Husband: Elimelech  
Wife: Naomi  
Son: Mahlon  
Son: Kilion

► **RR** 22. NO. The student should show some awareness that God is everywhere and inescapable. We can note that this can either provide comfort or fear to us, depending upon how we stand before God. Reference Psalm 139.

23. detestable

24. Naomi's husband and sons had died, and she and her daughters-in-law decided that it was time to go home when they heard that there was food in Judah.

25. Ruth

26. A

27. C

► **RR** See *Recommended Resource Manual* for more information on **GUARDIAN-REDEEMER** (also called "kinsman-redeemer").

28. name                      dead                      name                      Israel (See Leviticus 25:23-34 for more information.)

29. buy                      land                      name                      dead

30. B

31. verse 5

32. Be sensitive to student responses. Use Scripture to reinforce their thoughts.

► **RR** 33. Our salvation results in us being "*eager to do what is good,*" as Titus 2:14 says. Encourage the student in this answer.

# LESSON 6—THE BEGINNING OF THE ROYAL LINE

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To prepare yourself for this lesson, you may wish to read the following passages: 1 Samuel 8, 15 and 2 Samuel 11-12.

Note: Answers with the “▶RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT . . .

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- God chose Saul to lead His people, but Saul disobeyed Him and didn't repent. As a result, God withdrew His blessing from Saul. God then chose David to lead His people. David sinned greatly but repented of his sin. This part of the unfolding drama is the *Kingdom Stage* of God's plan of redemption.
- The kings failed to live up to the standards that God had set, and weren't able to make God's people holy. God's promise didn't fail, however, and one day He would send His Son, Jesus, to be our perfect King.
- God is faithful to forgive us when we repent of our sins.

## NO KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER IN THIS LESSON

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## KEY IDEA 10. THE HISTORY OF THE MONARCHY ANTICIPATES THE COMING OF THE PERFECT KING.

In this lesson we first do a quick review. Then, we see God's judgment through the Israelite Army. From there, we are shown that David was a godly man, but not the promised Deliverer of Genesis 3:15. David points us forward to our true King—Jesus Christ. His kingdom is not of this world and it is eternal!

1. A. They were kicked out or banished from the Garden of Eden.  
B. Both Adam/Eve and Israel were banished or kicked out of God's presence (the land God gave them).  
See Deuteronomy 28:63-64.
2. all nations
3. set apart His own
4. B
5. A, B, C, D (all of them)
6. revere follow not turn law
7. Everything—men, women, children, infants, cattle, sheep, camels, donkeys

▶RR See *Recommended Resource Manual* for more information on JUDGMENT.

8. Answer should include most of these: Agag (the king), the best sheep and cattle, fat calves and lambs, anything that was good.
9. NO. God told Saul to destroy everything, but he and his soldiers kept some of the best plunder for themselves.
- ▶RR 10. In this answer, we are primarily looking for careful thinking about these issues and recognition that what Saul did was wrong. Saul had clearly *not* done as the LORD had commanded, but what he *was* doing is somewhat debatable. He may have been self-deceived and really thought that what he was doing was something that would please God—that his idea was better than God's, and that God would like it.

The tenor of this passage, however, seems to indicate that Saul was deliberately disobeying God and that he was trying to cast his disobedience in a positive light.

11. 1 Samuel 15:23 tells us that because of God's intolerance for disobedience and arrogance, and because Saul rejected the word of God, God rejected Saul as king.

► **RR** 12. We really want the students to go to Scripture when they are tempted to disobey God (see especially Psalm 119:11). Instruct them that God does show us His will for our lives—in His Word! Remind them that even though His people disobey, God loves them because He views them in Jesus Christ.

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Proverbs 30:8, 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Peter 2:9, Revelation 2:10 and Revelation 3:10.

13. *You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, LORD, have become their God.*

14. Check required.

15. Two answers are required. Among other things, David committed adultery with Bathsheba, schemed to deceive Uriah and had Uriah killed.

#### **FAST FORWARD:**

Notice the Fast Forward section has a blank in it. Jesus is our true King. If they don't already, help them understand that David failed, but Jesus never fails.

16. Check required.

17. B

18. A

► **RR** 19. David's repentance was godly sorrow for his sin, while Saul didn't acknowledge his sin at all, therefore he couldn't be sorry for it! David shows us true repentance, as we read in Psalm 51.

20. Notice which verse the students chose and why.

► **RR** 21. Be sure the student understands what true repentance is. Also tell the student that God loves a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51). Include your own exhortations and kind words as well.

# LESSON 7—GOD SENDS HIS MESSENGERS

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Before you begin correcting this lesson, you may wish to read the following passages to prepare yourself: Hosea 1, the entire book of Amos and Jeremiah 1.

Note: Answers with the “▶RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT . . .

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- The prophets were God’s covenant “messengers” who called the people back to obey God’s laws.
- We can learn about who a prophet was and what the prophet’s world was like by looking at the first verses of the book, examining the kings who ruled and looking at the message of their prophecy.
- The people living at the time the prophets spoke were not obeying God, so they experienced the consequences of their sin.
- Jesus is our true Prophet, by whom God has spoken to us.

## NO KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER IN THIS LESSON

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## **KEY IDEA 11.** GOD REMINDED HIS PEOPLE OF HIS PROMISES AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES THROUGH HIS COVENANT MESSENGERS, CALLED PROPHETS.

Many Christians often misunderstand the function and definition of a prophet. In this lesson, we clarify what role the prophets played in Redemptive History. If we think of a courtroom scene, where God is the judge, He sends His prosecuting attorneys—the prophets—to tell the people that they have broken God’s Law. The prophets call God’s people back to obedience and point forward to the promised Messiah, the true obedient servant of God, Jesus Christ. We call Him “Christ” because He has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our Chief Prophet and Teacher.

1. Malachi instructs the people to remember the laws God gave them through Moses, His servant.
2. A. Who: His name is Hosea. His father’s name is Beeri.  
B. When: Kings in Judah: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah  
Kings in Israel: Jeroboam
3. B
4. Go                      prophesy                      Israel
5. A. Uzziah  
B. Jeroboam
6. Check required.
7. King: Uzziah  
Good: Sought God and did right in His eyes; defeated Israel’s enemies; strengthened Israel through building and agriculture projects; strong and well-trained army to defend Israel  
Bad: Became prideful and approached God improperly; got angry when he was called on this; was afflicted with leprosy as punishment. Here’s something interesting. In most places, a king has

ultimate authority, but not in ancient Israel. The king was still subject to God and had to obey God's laws, because God was the true King (theocracy). The priests spoke for God here, and Uzziah was afflicted by God Himself when he chose to ignore their rebuke.

8. King: Jeroboam (son of Jehoash)  
Good: Restored Israel's boundaries; used by God to preserve His people  
Bad: Did evil in God's eyes, like the other Jeroboam (son of Nebat).
9. NO, they didn't. Jeroboam was evil and ignored the decrees of the LORD. Even Uzziah, who began so well, succumbed to pride of position and fell short of God's standards. Remind the students that *none* of the O.T. kings were the promised seed of Genesis 3:15, because they failed to obey.
10. B
11. C
12. idols                    god                    you                    made                    yourselves
13. *You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.* (Exodus 20:4)
14. B, C
15. justice                    righteousness
16. LORD                    live

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Proverbs 21:3, Hosea 6:6, Hosea 12:6, Micah 6:8, Zephaniah 2:3 and Mark 12:33.

17. Amos 5:12 and James 5:6 share a concern with injustice, particularly in the courts. Amos 5:15 and Romans 12:9 encourage believers to hate evil and love good. Allow some variation in the student's answers.

## **KEY IDEA 12.** GOD'S PEOPLE CAN HAVE HOPE IN SITUATIONS THAT LOOK HOPELESS IF THEY TURN AWAY FROM THEIR SINS AND TRUST IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.

In this portion we learn, among other things, that Jesus Christ is the final Prophet, whom all the other prophets point forward to. Because Jesus is God's final Prophet, we know that God's Word to us is completed—in the Bible. (See Hebrews 1:1-3 for further study.)

18. A. Jeremiah  
B. Anathoth (in the territory of Benjamin)  
C. Jeremiah prophesied during the reign of Josiah and through the reign of Zedekiah (which is when Jerusalem went into exile). Only one name is needed.
19. B
20. FALSE. Manasseh did evil in God's eyes by serving pagan gods and shedding much innocent blood. He led the people away from worshiping the true God, and they did even more evil than the people that God had driven out of the land before them—and these people were driven out because of their wickedness!
21. evil                    father                    offered                    sacrifices                    idols                    made

22. seek                    God                    David                    purge                    idols
23. evil
24. A. evil  
B. He was taken into exile by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.
25. evil
26. Check required.
27. He did what was right and just, which included defending the cause of the poor and needy. This is what it means to know God!
28. King Jehoiakim refused to listen to God’s warning to him. He was continually disobedient.
29. Obey                    command                    people                    God
30. NO. The people disobeyed God and “*followed the stubbornness of their evil hearts.*” The people of God broke the covenant by being unfaithful to the LORD and honoring other gods.
31. The LORD “*will bring on them a disaster they cannot escape,*” and this time, He will close His ears to their cries.
32. Jesus—Whereas Adam and Israel (and Israel’s kings) failed to obey, Jesus was perfect, fully obeying God. Be sure to remind the student of Jesus’ perfect obedience.
33. C
34. Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern, but Ebed-Melek got him out. A “cistern” is an underground reservoir, usually used to store rainwater.
35. This is an opinion question, so respond appropriately. Many scholars tell us that Jeremiah had very few, if any, people who responded positively to his message (which was God’s message). Biblical success is not always defined as popularity, large following, many converts, or things the world may describe as great achievement. Jeremiah was a “loser” in the eyes of the world because he wasn’t catering to the world’s wants and wicked desires. He simply did what God told him to do! Thus says the Lord!
36. new                    covenant
- **RR** 37. A new covenant became necessary because even though God was perfectly faithful to His people, they broke the covenant. You could also hint that the Old Covenant was never intended by God to be the better or full manifestation of God’s covenant. The old must give way to the new, in Jesus Christ! The Old Covenant was full of earthly shadows and types, whereas the New Covenant is the *reality* of the Old! Note Hebrews 8 and 2 Corinthians 3:3.
38. Jesus
39. Jesus is the final Prophet  
A. God, in the Old Testament, spoke to His people through prophets.  
B. Jesus is the final Prophet—“*in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son*” (Hebrews 1:2). There are no more prophets after Jesus—we have the final and complete Word from God!

- **RR** 40. Jesus said that the Scriptures—Moses and the Prophets—spoke about Him. Explain to the students that the entire Old Testament points forward to Jesus Christ (it speaks about Christ). We don't have to wonder what God says to us—we have it in His Word, in Jesus Christ.

# LESSON 8—GOD REMEMBERS HIS PEOPLE

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Before you begin this lesson, you may wish to read the book of Esther and Nehemiah 1-2 to help you prepare.

Note: Answers with the “▶RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT...

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- Esther was the person God used to deliver His people from bondage.
- God’s people had kept on sinning, even though the prophets told them that it was wrong. As a result, they were exiled from the land that God had promised them.
- When God’s people turned from their wicked ways, God showed love to them once again and brought them back to the land He had given them.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament temple and tabernacle. Jesus is God dwelling with us.

## KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER:

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- **Intercession:** prayer to God on behalf of another

## KEY IDEA 13. GOD SOMETIMES WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS TO PROVIDE FOR HIS PEOPLE AND TO CARRY OUT HIS PROMISES.

Here are two interesting facts: the name of God does not appear in the book of Esther at all and the name “Esther” does not appear anywhere else in Scripture. ▶RR See *Recommended Resource Manual* for more information on **ESTHER AND GOD’S NAME**. We can, however, see God at work throughout the book. His promises will not fail, and He uses different means to carry out His promise of redemption!

In this lesson, we see how Esther is another Moses, so to speak, as she intercedes for her people and delivers them. And, not only does she point us back, she points us forward! Through her we see our true Deliverer, who brings us out of oppression—Jesus Christ!

1. Check required.
2. 2 A noble named Haman is elevated above all the other nobles and the King commands that all bow to him. A Jewish man named Mordecai, Esther’s cousin, refuses to do so. Haman is enraged by Mordecai’s refusal to honor him and gets permission from the king to kill every Jew in the land.  
4 Esther organizes two banquets for the king and Haman. After the first one Haman builds a huge gallows to hang Mordecai on. But at the second, Esther reveals that Haman is plotting to kill her and her people. The king is furious and condemns Haman to death on his own gallows.

*Continued on the next page*

- 1 King Ahasuerus (also known as King Xerxes) becomes displeased with his wife, Queen Vashti, and decides to find a new wife. Esther, a Jewish girl, wins the king's beauty contest and becomes the new queen in place of Vashti.
- 3 Mordecai hears of Haman's plan to eradicate the Jews and tells Esther about it. She decides to speak to the king about it, even though it is illegal for her to do so and she may die if she tries it.
3. **Ahasuerus/Xerxes:** The ruler of the vast empire of Persia and Media. He had a violent temper. Removed his wife Vashti as queen and chose Esther as his new queen.
- Mordecai:** A Jew in exile in Persia; cousin of Esther. Saved king from a plot against his life. Refused to honor Haman the Agagite, and as a result was the victim of a plot against his own life.
- Haman:** A proud noble in the king's court. Hated Mordecai because of his refusal to honor him. In charge of plot against Mordecai and the Jews. Was executed on the apparatus upon which he had planned to execute Mordecai.
- Hadassah/Esther:** Beautiful Jewish girl who is summoned to the palace and chosen by the king to be the next queen. Was raised by her cousin Mordecai. Risked her life to approach the king on behalf of her people.
4. B
5. FALSE. Esther was chosen because the king was more attracted to her than to anyone else.
6. D
7. Haman wanted to destroy the Jews because Mordecai wouldn't kneel to him or show him honor. He hated them!
8. A. Benjamin  
B. Jair, Shimei and Kish
9. A. Benjamin  
B. Kish
10. Haman            Agagite
11. Amalekites
12. YES. Not only did King Xerxes agree to this horrific act, he showed little interest in what he was approving, not even questioning an act of genocide.
13. TRUE
14. A
15. B - Please note that your student may not understand that God is acting in His world. As a result, the answer "A" is not wrong, as it may be the student's belief. If you see this answer, prayerfully share what *you* know to be true about the reality of God's actions in our lives with your student.

16. He listened to Esther’s intercession. He wrote another decree and the Jews were saved. Because Esther stepped in, the punishment was not taken out on her people. Instead, her people were commanded to attack (punish) those who oppressed them! The NIV uses the word “avenge” (8:13).
- RR 17. Noting the verses mentioned in the question and those that follow, guide students’ answers to reflect the intercession theme of Scripture: Isaiah 53:12, 59:16, John 14:16, Romans 11:2, Hebrews 7:25, 9:24 and 1 John 2:1.
18. Explain to the student that we have no access to God except through the one and only Mediator and Intercessor, Jesus Christ. God has appointed Jesus to stand between Himself and us. We do not offer our prayers on the basis of our own dignity, but only on the basis and dignity of Jesus Christ. Through Him we can boldly approach God, and be confident that God hears our prayers.

## **KEY IDEA 14. GOD RETURNS HIS PEOPLE TO THE LAND SO THAT HIS PROMISES COULD BE FULFILLED IN CHRIST.**

The story of Jerusalem’s temple being rebuilt after Israel’s exile is a figure of Christ building His church. Christians are members of God’s true household – fellow citizens – *“built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone”* (Ephesians 2:20).

19. B, C, D
20. D
21. Ezra was very knowledgeable about God’s Law, and God’s hand was on him. God was gracious to him.
22. king                      forever                      city                      fire
23. Nehemiah asked that the king would permit him to go to Judah to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.
24. YES
25. Walls
26. This is a pretty amazing privilege that God has extended to us! Respond appropriately, noting that Jesus Christ has broken down the wall of separation. God does not show favoritism to any nation or people because of the life and death of Jesus Christ!
27. Students should display an understanding of the different gifts given to members of the Body for the purpose of serving Christ and growing His church. Also look for and emphasize the need for unity and the corporate growth of the church into “the fullness of Christ”.
28. Again, make sure the student uses Scripture to identify a specific spiritual gift at work in his or her own life. Encourage your student to use the spiritual gifts God has given him or her.

## **KEY IDEA 15. GOD BRINGS HOPE TO HIS PEOPLE AS THEY REBUILD THEIR LIVES IN THE PROMISED LAND.**

The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles were written for people who had already returned from the exile. It was God’s Word to the people, reminding them that He was faithful even though they were not.

The planning and construction of the temple, along with its furnishings, is discussed in detail in 1 and 2 Chronicles. This part of the lesson directs our attention to a time when God truly dwells among humans – in the person of His Son, Jesus

Christ. As the Old Testament tabernacle and temple were instances of God dwelling with His people, Jesus is the reality of the tabernacle and temple because He is the true Immanuel, God with us.

29. One name must be provided and described. Use your best judgment as to whether or not this is done correctly.

30. promised            forever

31. They turned away from the Lord God and worshiped other gods.

32. TRUE

33. God                    dwell                    earth

34. Lord                    sign                    virgin                    son                    Immanuel

35. "God with us"

36. Check required.

37. Word                    flesh                    us

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Exodus 30:36, Exodus 33:9, Deuteronomy 31:15, John 2:19-22, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and Ephesians 2:21.

38. Respond appropriately. This is a short time for them to review so certain things will remain in their hearts and minds.

# LESSON 9—THE WAY OF WISDOM

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If you wish to prepare for this lesson, read Proverbs 1-4 and Job 1-3.

Note: Answers with the “▶RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT . . .

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- Wisdom literature shows us how to worship and honor God with our actions, words and thoughts.
- God is the source of all wisdom, and all folly opposes Him. Whether we acknowledge it or not, our actions indicate whether we are following God and His wisdom or Satan, the adversary, and his folly.
- The wisdom of God is found in Jesus Christ, which is foolishness to this dark world. Christ is our wisdom.
- God used the suffering of Jesus on the cross to save His people from their sin. Now His people can face suffering with joy, knowing that God works through suffering for their good and His loving purposes.

## KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER:

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- **Fear:** to honor God because He is alone is almighty and holy

## KEY IDEA 16. FEARING AND HONORING GOD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM.

In this lesson, we turn to Wisdom Literature. The way of wisdom is the fear of the LORD—that is to say, the way of wisdom is the way of the covenant life. But wisdom is not primarily intellect or intelligence. True, biblical wisdom is found in God’s Word—specifically in Jesus Christ. To be wise according to God is to fear Him and believe in His Son, who was made wisdom for us (see Matthew 12:42, Mark 6:2, Luke 2:40, Romans 11:33, 1 Corinthians 1 & 2 and Colossians 2:3).

1. fear            beginning            wisdom            knowledge            understanding
2. C
3. This passage tells us that wisdom is “*more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.*” The implication of Proverbs 8:10-11 is that wisdom is more valuable than any earthly wealth.
4. This verse tells us that those who do not seek wisdom are ultimately harming themselves, even to the point of death!
5. Wisdom and Folly (any order okay).
6. TRUE
7. A. Her advice explains what it looks like to live a healthy and mature life. She focuses on how to become wise and so to live a rich life.  
B. She advises pursuit of the path of theft and deceit, rather than honest labor. It has a bold but deceitful appeal.
8. life
9. death

10. The “way of life” means loving the LORD, walking in His ways and following His decrees, commands, and laws (see Proverbs 11:16).
11. The “way of death” means turning one’s heart away from God, disobeying Him and worshiping other gods (which may mean placing anything in life higher than Him) (see Proverbs 11:17).
12. Christ
13. The world’s “wisdom” is opposite of God’s wisdom—natural man cannot know God and His wisdom.
14. By God’s grace, the student will answer that he or she thinks the message of the cross is good news and God’s power to save them. In your response, attempt to challenge the student on to a living faith in Jesus Christ, or exhort him or her on to continue in the faith. Admonish them to see the Gospel not as foolishness, but as God’s power and wisdom.

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Exodus 28:3, 1 Kings 3:9-14, 1 Kings 10:23, Job 28:28, Psalm 104:24, Proverbs 1:7, Jeremiah 10:12, Luke 2:40 & 52, Romans 11:33, James 1:5 and James 3:13-17.

15. Respond appropriately. Pray through them as well!

## **KEY IDEA 17. SUFFERING CAN BE BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING, BUT IN THE END GOD WILL ALWAYS PROVE FAITHFUL.**

Job’s life shows us a seeming paradox: someone undergoes suffering and turmoil which is not a punishment for sin. Non-Christians say, “If there is a God, why is there suffering?” Christians say, “Since there is a God, there is suffering—God uses suffering to save His people from their sins.” Christ’s suffering on the cross is how God used suffering to defeat empty suffering—through the cross, suffering has purpose! ▶RR See *Recommended Resource Manual* for more information on **THE BOOK OF JOB** as well as the topic of **SUFFERING**.

- ▶RR 16. Again, respond in love and encouragement. Remind the student that in their doubts and questions, they should not tempt God (Deuteronomy 6:16, Matthew 4:7 and 1 Corinthians 10:9).
- ▶RR 17. The student should note that Job had a strong character that was pleasing to God.
  18. B
  19. Job 1:13-15: oxen, donkeys and servants  
Job 1:16-17: sheep, camels and servants  
Job 1:18-19: sons, daughters and home
  20. C
  21. *Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.* (Job 1:21)
  22. Respond appropriately. Ultimately, Job is the one who cried, “*Though he slay Me, yet will I trust in him.*” Point the student to the suffering of Christ, and how we find comfort there at the cross. Remember, “. . . *it was the LORD’s will to crush him*” (Isaiah 53:10).
  23. C
  24. B
  25. FALSE. Job did not sin in what he said or what he did.

26. Check by lines 1, 3, 4. Respond appropriately to student's explanation.

He grew in his faith and love for God.

He lost his faith in God.

He became closer to God.

His commitment to God grew deeper.

27. Be sensitive to student responses. Read Psalm 73 and notice the psalmist's findings.

28. Be encouraging in your response. Be sure the student's answers are found in the verses provided.

29. TRUE. All suffering is a result of the Fall, but not all of our personal suffering is a direct result of our sins.

Jesus says this more clearly in John 9:1-4, where we read of the man born blind—he was born blind not because of his sin or his parents' sin, but so that God's power might be displayed in his life. The student may disagree with this statement, but be sure to carefully and lovingly explain John 9:1-5 to them.

# LESSON 10—SONGS TO GOD

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To prepare for this lesson, please read several of your favorite psalms as well as the book of Joel.

Note: Answers with the “►RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT...

- The psalms are inspired songs describing the heartfelt responses of God’s people to God and to life in a fallen world.
- By learning how the psalms are structured and what types of psalms there are, we can better understand what these psalms are trying to express.
- The first day of the Lord came when God took on human flesh and came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ. The second day of the Lord will be when Jesus Christ returns.

## NO KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER IN THIS LESSON

## **KEY IDEA 18.** THE PSALMS ARE INSPIRED SONGS REVEALING ALL THE EMOTIONS OF THE BELIEVER IN RESPONSE TO GOD AND HIS MIGHTY ACTS.

In this lesson, we want the student to become familiar with both the content and the structure of the psalms. (If you are unfamiliar with the parallelisms found within the book, please read through the lesson for several examples) The psalms are beautiful prayers and songs to the LORD, displaying many emotions of the Christian life. One theologian has called the psalms, “an anatomy of all the parts of the human soul.” Encourage the students to read the psalms often, and memorize some as well.

1. Check the reference of their favorite psalm, and encourage them to continue to find comfort and assurance in it. You could also challenge them to memorize part of their favorite psalm.
2. uphold                      cause
3. poor                         oppressed
4. many                        rise                              against                        me
5. rise up
6. A. equity  
   B. stronghold
7. haughty
8. *name of the LORD our God*
9. fall                         stand                            firm
10. obey                        God’s                            Word
11. enthroned                flood
12. The second line tell us that He is enthroned as King forever.
13. Be sensitive to your student’s response. They should discuss God’s provision in the midst of trouble. You could emphasize fearing no evil, even in the valley of the shadow of death.

14. Psalm 42 is a lament psalm. It expresses a deep desire for God and intimacy with Him. It also describes deep sadness and feelings of being powerless and ignored by God. Your student's response may vary, as many emotions are expressed in this psalm.
15. Read Psalm 56:3-4 and 10-11 and notice how David trusts in God.
16. Use your best judgment. The following verses clearly express complaints to God: Psalm 102:3-11, 23.
17. Use your best judgment. The following verses clearly express pleas to God: Psalm 102:1-2, 24.
18. Use your best judgment. The following verses clearly express trust in God: Psalm 102:12-22, 25-28.
19. Psalm 22:1 — This verse tells about what would happen to Jesus' clothes when He was executed.
- Psalm 22:16 — Jesus said this to God the Father while He was being executed.
- Psalm 22:18 — This verse describes some of what Jesus' execution was like.
20. Respond appropriately. If the student writes a song or poem that you think is outstanding, please send it to us at CBI!

## **KEY IDEA 19. THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL BE THE ULTIMATE DISPLAY OF FINAL JUDGMENT AND COMPLETE REDEMPTION.**

This part of the lesson directs the student's attention to the future—the day Jesus returns in deliverance as well as judgment. Jesus came once to bear sin; He will come again to bring judgment. The prophets clearly foretell that this day *will* come! God's people look forward to this day of total redemption—the day when our "faith shall be sight."

21. B
22. C
23. A, C, D
24. Among other things, you might expect to find such answers as the refiner's fire (3:2-3), the wicked being set afire (4:1), the wicked being trampled and made as ashes (4:3) and being struck with a curse (4:6).
25. Among other things, you might expect the coming and desired messenger of the covenant (3:1), God's testimony against the unjust and evildoers (3:5), God showing compassion and making His people His treasured possession (3:16-17), the vindicating distinction between the good and the evil (3:18), and the healing nature of the righteousness which will conquer all evil (4:1-3).
26. The Holy Spirit (or the Spirit of Christ)
27. angels                    look                    things
28. There are many possible responses to this, but student answers should include many of the following:
  - A. destruction, labor pains, thief
  - B. thief, roar, fire, laid bare
29. A. Christ will return in glory, gathering His elect from everywhere.
  - B. We'll see God, those whose names are written in the book of life will be saved, there will be a new heaven, a new earth—the New Jerusalem, and the covenant will *finally* be completely fulfilled!—God will be our God and we will be His people, God will wipe every tear from our eyes, and there will be no more mourning or crying or pain; God will make everything new!

- ▶ **RR** 30. Be sensitive to student responses. This is a topic that fills many believers with reservations and even fear and trepidation. We can observe, however, that even though the future is shadowy and uncertain, the character of our God stands firm. For those of us who are in Christ, we know that at the last day (and now), we will appear before God as righteous as Christ Himself is righteous. This is what it means to be “in Christ!”
- ▶ **RR** 31. Encourage the student, using especially the verses listed (Luke 21:28, Romans 8:22-25).

# LESSON 11—THE PERFECT SERVANT ARRIVES

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If you would like to prepare for this lesson, please read Luke 1-2 and Matthew 1-3.

Note: Answers with the “▶RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT...

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- The four Gospels tell one story of how Jesus Christ—the Son of God—took on human flesh, lived, died and rose from the dead for our salvation.
- Jesus is truly human and yet truly God. Though Jesus was tempted to sin, He never gave in and sinned. Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets and is the perfect covenant partner. His story is the *Stage of Fulfillment*.
- The context of a passage helps us understand better what it means.

## KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER:

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- **Gospel:** The good news about Jesus Christ coming to save sinners.

## KEY IDEA 20. EACH OF THE GOSPELS RECORDS JESUS' BIRTH, LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION FROM A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE.

The Gospels clearly show us that Jesus is the promised Seed of Genesis 3:15. Consider Luke's words, “*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end*” (1:32-33). Jesus is our true King! (Read the first several chapters of Matthew to ponder this idea further.)

1. Respond appropriately to your student's choice and explanation.
2. good news
3. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John (in any order)
4. The name of one of the Gospels should be written here.

## KEY IDEA 21. THE GOSPELS WERE WRITTEN SO THAT WE MIGHT BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, AND SO THAT WE MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME.

This section is a short study of the Gospel of John. John is a Gospel of Jesus' sayings (I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; I am the Bread of Life; I am the Good Shepherd; I am the Light of the World; I am the Door, etc.) This Gospel also clearly shows us the divinity of Christ, being equal to God and of the same substance of the Father.

See *Recommended Resource Manual* for more information on the **DEITY OF CHRIST**.

- ▶RR 5. . . . you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:31b).

6. many every world books written
7. Check required.
8. beginning Word Word God Word God
9. Word flesh among

► RR 10. Jesus

11. B

12. A

13. Spiritual blindness. The student should show awareness that physical (and spiritual!) blindness is a result of the Fall. Physical blindness is part of this world's brokenness and not a result of specific or individual sin. Spiritual blindness, on the other hand, is often caused by a prideful unwillingness (and inability!) to recognize the authority of God as greater than our own. As Jeremiah 7:24 says, we are quite prone to follow the "stubborn inclinations" of our "evil hearts." This type of blindness is sin for which we are responsible, and it has eternal consequences.

14. TRUE

15. YES

16. D—Jesus' claims go far beyond that of any mere human being. Although some of the ways that He communicates this are foreign to us, His original audience understood this quite well. There is a resource guide at the end of the answer key for this lesson that lists a number of passages which speak of Jesus' divinity. Feel free to spend some real time on this if it is something your student is wrestling with.

► RR 17. A. "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58)

B. They are to be stoned to death.

18. man God

19. Lord God

20. The student should give one of the following reasons, written in his or her own words. *First*, only a human can pay for the sins of humans. *Second*, our Deliverer needed to be completely perfect, because a sinful human can't pay for the sins of others. *Third*, a human can't bear the weight of God's anger against sin. So our redemption depends upon the fact that Jesus is fully human and fully God—without sin. If Jesus is not fully human and fully God, there is no salvation for us!

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Isaiah 53, Matthew 1:21-23, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 2:14-17, Hebrews 7:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:18.

## **KEY IDEA 22. JESUS CHRIST IS THE PERFECT COVENANT SERVANT WHO OBEYED AND PAID IN THE PLACE OF HIS PEOPLE.**

Jesus is the true Adam, the true Israel and the true Servant of God. He kept the law that had been broken over and over. Adam failed, Israel failed, we fail, but Jesus didn't and never does! Jesus is the Seed of Genesis 3:15. Jesus' obedience and death brings God's people into a gracious covenant with Himself. Note how Jesus relives Adam's temptation and succeeds where Adam failed. Also note how Israel gave into the temptation in their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness while Jesus didn't give in during His 40 days in the wilderness. Remember—Jesus OBEYED the Father and PAID for sin—both for our benefit!

21. Check required.
22. TRUE
23. mediator          new          promised          first
24. Jesus
25. Adam and Eve
26. YES
27. Jesus
28. three
29. C
30. bread          alone          word          mouth          God
31. B
32. Lord          God
33. A
34. Lord          God          serve          only
35. Help the student see that Jesus' obedience, not his/her own, is what brings us into God's covenant, a wonderful relationship with Himself. Jesus' life (obedience) and His death (passion) are both necessary for God to accept us. We fail, but Jesus doesn't—ever. Our salvation depends upon His works and upon His death, resurrection and ascension. Point the student to the faithfulness and power of God in Christ!
36. authority          go          nations          baptizing          Father          Son          Holy  
teaching          commanded          with          end
37. C

## **KEY IDEA 23. JESUS PROCLAIMED AND DISPLAYED GOD'S TRUTH WITH INSPIRED STORIES, MIRACLES AND HIS SAVING WORK.**

Reading a passage out of context is dangerous because it is easy to misinterpret it without knowing the setting and historical period of the text. For instance, if we were to read many of the speeches of Job's friends in the book of Job, we would think that evil was always punished and good always rewarded in this life (e.g. 20:4-29 and 8:5-7). But we know from Job 1-2 that this is not the case, and that the tragedies which befell Job himself were not a result of his own sin. The same principle is reflected in John 9 in the story of the man born blind.

38. Check required.
39. C
40. A
41. C
42. A. The landowner and God the Father both . . .
- lived in the vineyard
  - are in positions of authority
  - are patient
  - sent their sons after seeing many servants mistreated
- B. The farmers (tenants) and the religious leaders both . . .
- were thankful to the messengers
  - mistreated the messengers
  - killed the son
- C. The servants and the prophets both . . .
- were responsible for watering the vineyard
  - carried the message of the one who was in authority
  - were mistreated, beaten and killed
- D. The son and Jesus Christ both . . .
- were loved by their fathers
  - were despised and rejected
  - were killed
43. This is a reflection question, aimed at getting the student to think about the methods Christ used to instruct His followers (including us!). Respond accordingly.

# LESSON 12—MY REDEEMER LIVES!

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Read the accounts of Jesus' death by crucifixion in the four Gospels if you wish to prepare yourself for this lesson.

Note: Answers with the "►RR" symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT...

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- The books of Luke and Acts are historical accounts of Jesus' life and the early church. They were written by Luke, a Gentile doctor who had converted to Christianity.
- The book of Luke is about the acts of Jesus during His time on earth.
- The book of Acts is about how Jesus continued His work through His church after He ascended into heaven. It is a book of early church history.
- Jesus broke down the barriers between the Gentiles and the Jews and showed us that God's covenant promises include people from all nations.

## NO KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER IN THIS LESSON

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## **KEY IDEA 24. JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED, DEAD AND BURIED, BUT HE CONQUERED DEATH WHEN HE WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD.**

In this lesson, we learn more about the Gospel of Jesus Christ—some things by means of review and some things by connecting the Old Testament to the New Testament. Reflect on the beauty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

1. A. Luke  
B. Acts
2. C
3. Luke tells the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.
4. Acts talks about how Jesus continues to work through His church even after He ascended into heaven. The student may also write something about the Holy Spirit, which is also correct. You could also tell the student that the Spirit always testifies of Jesus Christ and what He has done (John 15:26).
- RR 5. God alone
6. Obedient
7. The student should recognize that our salvation does not depend upon our obedience, but upon Jesus' obedience. We can't perfectly obey, but Jesus did! Consider this saying: We are saved by works—the works of Jesus Christ.
8. futile or useless

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Job 19:25-27, Psalm 16:8-11 compared to Acts 2:24-28, Romans 1:4,

Romans 6:5 and 1 Peter 1:3.

9. Check required.
10. D
11. TRUE.
12. The student should be able to summarize the following verse: *It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.* (Exodus 12:27)
13. Luke 22:19:      body                  do                  remembrance  
Luke 22:20:      cup                  covenant      blood                  you
14. B
15. chief priests, officers of the temple guard and elders (in any order)
16. nation                  Caesar                  king
17. no                  this
18. NO
19. NO
- **RR** 20. *So Pilate decided to grant their demand.* (Luke 23:24)
21. criminals (or thieves, malefactors)
22. A. Both were criminals who were being executed for their crimes; both died.  
B. One rejected Jesus and one trusted Him; only one went to Paradise.
23. D
24. C
25. TRUE—They met Jesus and He explained how His own death had fulfilled the Law and Prophets, but they did not totally understand this until they broke bread together that evening.

## **KEY IDEA 25. JESUS CHRIST ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND CONTINUES HIS SAVING WORK THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HIS CHURCH.**

Jesus' ascension shows us that He is King over all. By ascending into Heaven, we see that Jesus is the Head of His church and that the Father rules all things through Him. He is our true King—the King God promised David many years before.

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: Psalm 22:28, 145:10-13, Colossians 1:18, Matthew 3:2, 4:17, John 5:22-23, 18:36, Matthew 27:11, Revelation 15:3 and 19:6.

26. Check required.
27. power                  Holy                  Spirit                  witnesses                  Jerusalem                  Samaria                  earth

Check required in paragraph before #28.

28. Acts 2:2 There was a sound like a blowing wind.  
Acts 2:3 Tongues of fire rested on each of them.  
Acts 2:4 They spoke in other languages.

29. A. It became confused.
- ▶RR B. This happened because the people were defying God and seeking to honor themselves by building a tower that reached to the sky.
- ▶RR C. Language stopped being a barrier to understanding. It became orderly and people could understand one another.

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study; note the parallel between Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2.

30. Repent            baptized            Jesus            forgiveness            sins            receive  
       promise            children            all            call
31. descendants/seed            stars            nations            earth            blessed
32. Peter was criticized for going into the house of uncircumcised men and eating with them—it was against Jewish custom and law.
33. defile            unclean            consecrate            holy
34. God is holy.
35. Many types of birds            Leviticus 11:13-19  
       Many rodents and reptiles            Leviticus 11:29-31
36. B—The student should recognize that Peter must have been appalled, disgusted and confused by this command, which contradicted everything he knew to be pure, holy and true.
37. call            God
38. B
39. Jew            God            not            impure            unclean
40. B and C
41. C

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: John 17:20-21, Romans 10:12-15, 1 Corinthians 12:12, Ephesians 2:13-22, Galatians 3:26-29 and Colossians 3:11.

42. Respond appropriately to any questions that the student may ask. Be sure to congratulate the student enthusiastically on having read such a large portion of the Bible.

# LESSON 13—LIVING FOR THE LORD

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If you wish to prepare for this lesson, read several of Paul’s epistles and familiarize yourself with their basic content.

Note: Answers with the “▶RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT...

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- People who were inspired by God wrote letters, or epistles, to churches and individuals to instruct and encourage them in their faith in Jesus Christ and show them how to live as Christians.
- These letters follow a standard structure that includes an opening, a greeting, teaching and application sections and a benediction or doxology. Being aware of this structure can help us to understand the epistles better.
- God’s chosen people, those who believe in Jesus Christ, are children of Abraham and partakers of the promises God made to him.

## KEY WORD TO REMEMBER:

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- **Doctrine:** A teaching or instruction from God’s Word.

## KEY IDEA 26. GOD TEACHES US HIS GOSPEL TRUTH AND HOW TO APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES WITH THE INSPIRED LETTERS WRITTEN TO HIS CHURCH.

The first part of this lesson deals with the Pauline epistles. The students should understand the basic structure of an epistle, as well as the basic theology of the epistles. We also want the student to see the centrality of Christ in these epistles—notice Paul’s fervent love of Christ, and his desire to preach only the gospel everywhere.

1. 13
2. TRUE.
3. FALSE. Letters in the Bible are called “epistles.” Epistles are found not only in the Bible, but throughout Greek society at the time. The epistolary structure that we find in biblical letters is very similar to that in secular literature of that time period.
4. FALSE. Paul wrote thirteen of the epistles in the New Testament.
5. TRUE.
6. TRUE.
7. FALSE. Paul did not write 1 and 2 Peter. The apostle Peter is traditionally believed to have written these epistles, but the student is not expected to know this at this point.
8. Compare the student’s answer to Acts 9:1-21, referring to the text to correct wrong answers.
- ▶RR 9. The student should somehow describe the opposition between God and His enemies, and/or Christians and our anti-Christian enemies. Romans 8:7-8 says that the sinful mind is hostile to God. James 4:4 says that friendship with the world is hatred toward God. Show the student the antithesis between God and Satan, or God’s people and Satan’s people.



21. C
22. Respond appropriately.

## **KEY IDEA 27. GOD’S WORD IS OUR PERFECT GUIDE FOR OUR FAITH AND LIVES, EVEN WHEN WE ARE ENDURING INTENSE SUFFERING.**

This section is about the epistle of 1 Peter, which was written to scattered and persecuted Christians in the 1st century A.D. But it was written to us as well, because we live in the same time period as Peter – between Jesus’ first coming and His return. It should give us comfort, because we too are pilgrims on this earth.

Check required in the sentence before question #23.

23. A. Peter
  - B. an apostle of Jesus Christ
  - C. the people of God – believers in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia

24. Check required. Student should have written two facts about Peter, such as:

Peter was a fisherman, Andrew’s brother, who chose to follow Jesus immediately when Jesus asked him to do so. He was originally known as “Simon” (later he was also known as “Cephas”). The Holy Spirit revealed it to him that Jesus was the Christ, but he was also rebuked by Jesus for telling Jesus that He wouldn’t suffer. He denied knowing Jesus three times. Peter means “rock,” and Jesus said that His church would be built upon this rock – Peter’s confession. Peter boldly preached the Gospel to the people at Pentecost.

25. A
26. A. God’s elect                      foreigners                      exiles
  - B. Heaven – the true Promised Land!

Optional verses for IN-DEPTH study: 1 Chronicles 29:15, Psalm 39:12, Psalm 119:19, 2 Corinthians 5:1, Hebrews 11:9-16, Hebrews 12:25-29 and Hebrews 13:11-14.

27. living                      Stone                      living                      stones                      house
28. . . . *you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* (1 Peter 2:9)
29. Leviticus 26:12:                      your                      my                      people  
1 Peter 2:10:                      not                      people                      people                      God                      mercy
30. Check required. The student should indicate if he or she is included in “God’s people.” Be sure to emphasize that faith in Christ is how we are included into God’s household. And, as Ephesians 1 says, we were chosen (by God) in Christ – He is the author of our faith and salvation! Read Romans 10:9-13 and explain that salvation comes by faith in Jesus Christ – those who believe in Jesus are *certainly* God’s beloved sons and daughters.
31. . . . *created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*  
 Notice that good works come *after* our salvation, as a result of our conversion. God saved us by grace through faith – to do good works that He already prepared!

32. TO DO GOOD WORKS. Be sure the student gets this!
33. children          Abraham
34. Christ          Abraham's          seed          promise
- **RR** 35. If the student is a believer in Jesus Christ, they should say *yes*. The student should show an awareness of the promise that extends beyond Old Testament Israel. God always directed history to fulfill His promises, and He has no "plan B" in salvation!

# LESSON 14—THE HOPE OF GLORY

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To prepare yourself for this lesson, read Hebrews 7-10, Revelation 1-4 and Revelation 21-22.

Note: Answers with the “▶RR” symbol indicate there is additional information in the *Recommended Resource Manual*.

## IN THIS LESSON, WE LEARNED THAT...

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- The Bible is inspired by God, tells us about His mighty acts in history and draws us into the drama of redemption.
- The book of Hebrews shows us that Jesus’ sacrifice is complete and perfect.
- The book of Revelation comforts us, showing us that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain.
- Jesus Christ has *already* conquered death, but He has *not yet* redeemed all of creation. One day, Jesus will come again to deliver those who follow Him and send all His enemies to everlasting imprisonment in hell.
- We are saved by the One who *obeyed* and *paid*. Jesus Christ is God’s perfect covenant servant. The only way to enjoy a loving covenant relationship with God is through Jesus.

## KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER:

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- **Consummation:** the ultimate goal or end – complete salvation.

## KEY IDEA 28. GOD’S INSPIRED WORD CELEBRATES HIS MIGHTY ACTS IN HISTORY AND DRAWS US INTO HIS DRAMA OF REDEMPTION.

In the first part of this lesson, the student learns a little more about all of Scripture being inspired and authoritative. God’s Word is a lamp for our feet and a light on our paths. You can also remember the phrase, “Scripture interprets Scripture” when you answer the student’s questions.

▶RR See *Recommended Resource Manual* for further comments on **SCRIPTURE**.

1. departure      good      fight      finished      race      kept  
faith      crown      righteousness
2. Timothy’s grandmother (Lois) and mother (Eunice) had sincere faith.
3. useful      teaching      rebuking      correcting      training      righteousness
4. God      thoroughly      equipped      good      work
5. Spirit      made      breath      life
6. A
7. B

▶RR 8. Most students will probably agree that the Bible is authoritative because it was inspired by God. Some students, however, may not agree that the Bible is authoritative, true or inspired by God. Ultimately, we cannot convince someone that Scripture has no errors and is inspired by God. Do, however, pray for them, and encourage them using Scripture. You may also contact Our Daily Bread Ministries and request that the

Discovery Series booklet entitled, “Can I Really Trust the Bible?” be sent to your student. Please contact your pastor, elder or CBI for further assistance in responding to your student.

- **RR** 9. A wide range of answers is appropriate here. The student ought, at a minimum, to include something about how the Bible is God’s book that speaks to our lives—that it is God’s message to us. They could also write that the Bible shows God’s plan of redemption, in the person of Jesus Christ.

## **KEY IDEA 29. CHRIST HAS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED EVERYTHING THAT IS NECESSARY FOR OUR SALVATION.**

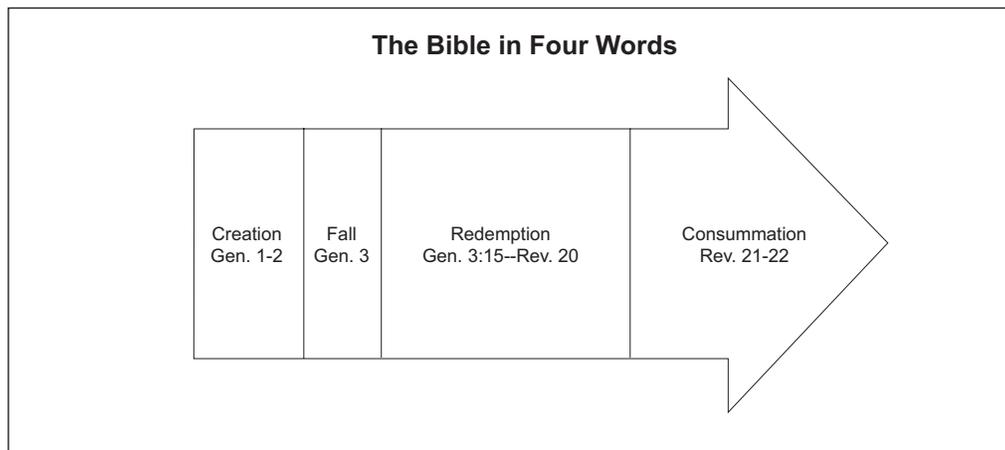
This Key Idea of Lesson 14 is a simple yet profound statement: Jesus made salvation a *reality*, not simply a *possibility*. That is, He accomplished redemption, leaving nothing for us to do to save ourselves.

- **RR** See *Recommended Resource Manual* for further commentary of **HEBREWS**.

10. C
11. A
12. We must pay attention to what we have heard, so we do not drift away.
13. high                  priests                  own                  sins                  people                  once                  himself
14. TRUE
15. throne                  grace                  mercy                  grace                  time                  need
16. A
17. Hebrews 9:27-28 tells us that the one time event of Christ’s death is sufficient to take away the sins of many, and that He will one day return again to “bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”
18. C
19. Respond appropriately. Remember that these “heroes” point us to Jesus—and faith in Him, as they longed for a better country (heaven).
20. Respond appropriately.

## **KEY IDEA 30. GOD’S COVENANT PROMISE, “I WILL BE YOUR GOD AND YOU WILL BE MY PEOPLE,” WILL BE PERFECTLY FULFILLED WHEN THE DRAMA OF REDEMPTION IS COMPLETE.**

The book of Revelation has been interpreted hundreds of ways by hundreds of different scholars. For the purpose of this lesson, we offer an introduction to Revelation. The student will see that Jesus is victorious *already*, but we have *not yet* fully seen the victory. They will see that in Christ, we are more than conquerors. Revelation is a church history book that covers the time from Jesus’ first coming to His return. Revelation also shows us a portrait of the consummation, when this heaven and earth will pass away, and the new heaven and the new earth will be fully realized. This is what we look forward to, even amidst our struggles on earth. God was faithful to His covenant promises in the past—He surely will be faithful to them for all eternity!



21. new                    heaven                    new                    earth                    first                    first                    passed

22. C

23. John

24. The following answers can be in any order.

- A. faithful witness
- B. firstborn from the dead
- C. ruler of the kings of the earth

25. Patmos

26. A. wipe                    tear  
 B. wipe                    tear                    eyes                    no                    more                    mourning  
     pain                    old                    things                    away

27. Blessed                    reads                    written                    time

28. kingdom                    world                    kingdom                    Lord                    Messiah                    reign  
 ever                    ever

► **RR** 29. The student should include several of the following: Fire devours the wicked, the devil will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur and torment will be day and night—forever and ever.

30. A

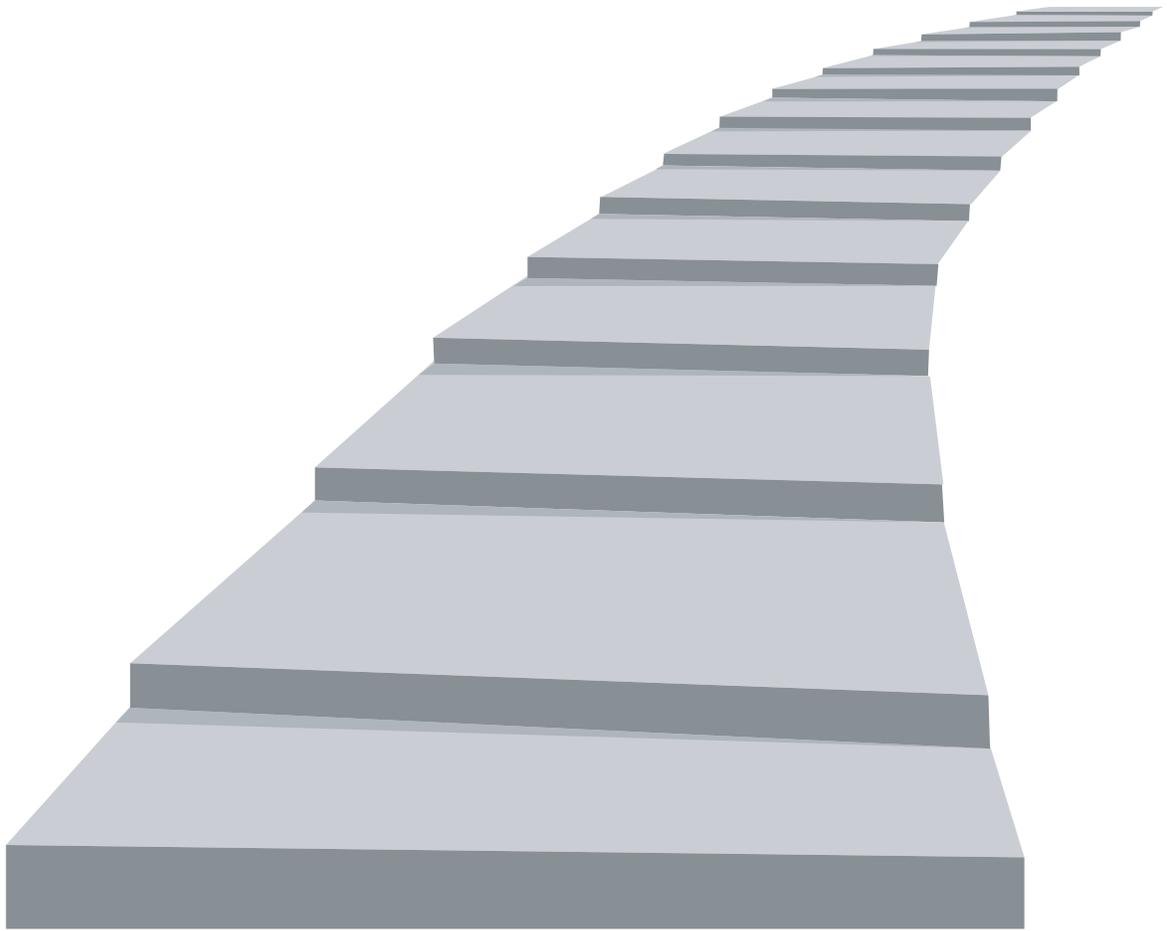
31. B

32. every                    knee                    bow                    every                    tongue                    acknowledge                    God

► **RR** 33. Respond appropriately. The day when Christ returns to judge the living and the dead is the day when our faith shall be sight, when God’s enemies will be fully judged and we will experience (body and soul) full communion with God Himself.

► **RR** 34. Here is the final call to faith in Jesus Christ, and the indication that the student knows that salvation comes by faith alone in Christ alone, by God’s grace alone. Be sure to encourage your student in the faith, and remind him/her that he/she is saved by grace through faith. Point the student to the cross!

# **SURVEY** **OF THE BIBLE**



**ROADMAP**  
**ANSWER KEY**

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# ROADMAP 1—THE DRAMA OF REDEMPTION

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## DAY 1—God’s Word is our delight and is useful for our daily lives

### Psalm 119:1-16

<sup>1</sup>Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—<sup>3</sup>they do no wrong but follow his ways. <sup>4</sup>You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. <sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! <sup>6</sup>Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. <sup>7</sup>I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. <sup>8</sup>I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me. <sup>9</sup>How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. <sup>10</sup>I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. <sup>11</sup>I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. <sup>12</sup>Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees. <sup>13</sup>With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. <sup>14</sup>I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. <sup>15</sup>I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. <sup>16</sup>I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

### Psalm 119:97-112

<sup>97</sup>Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. <sup>98</sup>Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. <sup>99</sup>I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. <sup>100</sup>I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. <sup>101</sup>I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. <sup>102</sup>I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. <sup>103</sup>How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! <sup>104</sup>I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. <sup>105</sup>Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. <sup>106</sup>I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws. <sup>107</sup>I have suffered much; preserve my life, Lord, according to your word. <sup>108</sup>Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. <sup>109</sup>Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law. <sup>110</sup>The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts. <sup>111</sup>Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. <sup>112</sup>My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

## DAY 2—God delivers His people and sets us free

### John 8:34-36

<sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

### Romans 6:22-23

<sup>22</sup>But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Galatians 3:13

<sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

## DAY 3—We were sinners, yet God showed us mercy

### Psalm 4:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. <sup>2</sup>How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? <sup>3</sup>Know that the Lord has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. <sup>4</sup>Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

### Isaiah 53:6

<sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

### Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## **DAY 4—Abraham was made right with God by faith alone**

### Genesis 15:1-6

<sup>1</sup>After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup>Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

### Psalms 32:1-2

<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.

### Romans 4:1-8

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? <sup>2</sup>If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. <sup>3</sup>What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup>However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. <sup>6</sup>David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup>"Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. <sup>8</sup>Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them."

## **DAY 5—God is faithful to His eternal covenant**

### Psalms 105:8

<sup>8</sup>He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations . . .

### Psalms 111:9

<sup>9</sup>He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

### Luke 1:68-79

<sup>68</sup>"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. <sup>69</sup>He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David <sup>70</sup>(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), <sup>71</sup>salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—<sup>72</sup>to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup>the oath he swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup>to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup>And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, <sup>77</sup>to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven <sup>79</sup>to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

## DAY 6—In His grace, God sent His son to die for the sinful

### Isaiah 59:12-15

<sup>12</sup>For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: <sup>13</sup>rebellion and treachery against the Lord, turning our backs on our God, inciting revolt and oppression, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. <sup>14</sup>So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. <sup>15</sup>Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice.

### Acts 2:36-39

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” <sup>37</sup>When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

### Romans 5:6-8

<sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## DAY 7—God rescues, forgives and loves those who call upon Him in faith

### Psalms 25:4-18

<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. <sup>5</sup>Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. <sup>6</sup>Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. <sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good. <sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. <sup>9</sup>He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. <sup>10</sup>All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant. <sup>11</sup>For the sake of your name, Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. <sup>12</sup>Who, then, are those who fear the Lord? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose. <sup>13</sup>They will spend their days in prosperity, and their descendants will inherit the land. <sup>14</sup>The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. <sup>15</sup>My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare. <sup>16</sup>Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. <sup>17</sup>Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish. <sup>18</sup>Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

### Psalms 86:5-7

<sup>5</sup>You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. <sup>6</sup>Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. <sup>7</sup>When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.

### Colossians 1:13-14

<sup>13</sup>For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

# ROADMAP 2—THE FALL INTO SIN

---

## DAY 1—We are sinners from birth

Psalm 51:5

<sup>5</sup>Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Psalm 58:3

<sup>3</sup>Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies.

Romans 5:12

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned . . .

## DAY 2—Humans cannot hide from God

Genesis 3:8-10

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Job 31:33

<sup>33</sup>if I have concealed my sin as people do, by hiding my guilt in my heart . . .

Hebrews 4:12-13

<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup>Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

## DAY 3—Beginning in Genesis, God promised a deliverer—Jesus Christ

Genesis 3:15

<sup>15</sup>"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Luke 1:31-35

<sup>31</sup>"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

Galatians 4:4-5

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

## DAY 4—If we believe in Jesus, we are Abraham's seed through faith

Genesis 17:3-7

<sup>3</sup>Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."

### Romans 4:16-17

<sup>16</sup>Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup>As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

### Galatians 3:16-18, 29

<sup>16</sup>The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. <sup>17</sup>What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. <sup>18</sup>For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise. <sup>29</sup>If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

## **DAY 5—We are saved by faith, not by works**

### Romans 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>"or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup>If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

### Ephesians 2:4-10

<sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### Hebrews 11:7

<sup>7</sup>By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

## **DAY 6—God's people are saved by His glorious grace, which came through Jesus Christ**

### John 1:17

<sup>17</sup>"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

### Acts 15:7-11

<sup>7</sup>After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup>God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup>He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup>Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup>No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

### Ephesians 1:3-8

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup>For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—<sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding . . .

## **DAY 7—Jesus died for His people even though they were terrible sinners**

### Romans 5:6-8

<sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### Ephesians 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.

### Titus 3:3-5

<sup>3</sup>At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. <sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit . . .

# ROADMAP 3—A PROMISE TO REDEEM

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## DAY 1—God’s covenant is unailing because He is faithful

Genesis 17:1-8

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” <sup>3</sup>Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. <sup>8</sup>The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

Exodus 2:24

<sup>24</sup>God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.

Psalm 105:8-11, 42-45

<sup>8</sup>He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations, <sup>9</sup>the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. <sup>10</sup>He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: <sup>11</sup>“To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.”

<sup>42</sup>For he remembered his holy promise given to his servant Abraham. <sup>43</sup>He brought out his people with rejoicing, his chosen ones with shouts of joy; <sup>44</sup>he gave them the lands of the nations, and they fell heir to what others had toiled for—<sup>45</sup>that they might keep his precepts and observe his laws. Praise the Lord.

## DAY 2—God’s covenant is forever

Psalm 89:3-4

<sup>3</sup>You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, <sup>4</sup>I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.”

Psalm 111:5-9

<sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. <sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations. <sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. <sup>8</sup>They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness. <sup>9</sup>He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

Luke 1:68-75

<sup>68</sup>“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. <sup>69</sup>He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David <sup>70</sup>(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), <sup>71</sup>salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—<sup>72</sup>to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup>the oath he swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup>to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”

## DAY 3—Humans have broken God’s covenant, which results in punishment

Isaiah 24:5-6

<sup>5</sup>The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. <sup>6</sup>Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth’s inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left.

Isaiah 33:8

<sup>8</sup>The highways are deserted, no travelers are on the roads. The treaty is broken, its witnesses are despised, no one is respected.

### Jeremiah 11:9-11

<sup>9</sup>Then the Lord said to me, “There is a conspiracy among the people of Judah and those who live in Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>They have returned to the sins of their ancestors, who refused to listen to my words. They have followed other gods to serve them. Both Israel and Judah have broken the covenant I made with their ancestors. <sup>11</sup>Therefore this is what the Lord says: ‘I will bring on them a disaster they cannot escape. Although they cry out to me, I will not listen to them.’”

## **DAY 4—God will forgive and give His Spirit to those in Christ**

### Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. <sup>33</sup>“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

### Ezekiel 36:25-27

<sup>25</sup>“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup>I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

### Romans 8:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

## **DAY 5—God works providentially in and through the lives of His people**

### Genesis 45:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup>And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. <sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup>And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup>For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup>But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup>So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’”

### Psalms 105:16-22

<sup>16</sup>He called down famine on the land and destroyed all their supplies of food; <sup>17</sup>and he sent a man before them—Joseph, sold as a slave. <sup>18</sup>They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, <sup>19</sup>till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true. <sup>20</sup>The king sent and released him, the ruler of peoples set him free. <sup>21</sup>He made him master of his household, ruler over all he possessed, <sup>22</sup>to instruct his princes as he pleased and teach his elders wisdom.

### Acts 7:11-15

<sup>11</sup>“Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our ancestors could not find food. <sup>12</sup>When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our forefathers on their first visit. <sup>13</sup>On their second visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about Joseph’s family. <sup>14</sup>After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all. <sup>15</sup>Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our ancestors died.”

## **DAY 6—God works even through difficult circumstances**

### Genesis 50:20

<sup>20</sup>“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

### Psalms 119:71

<sup>71</sup>It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

### Romans 8:28-39

<sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup>And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **DAY 7—God is always with us**

### Psalms 46

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. <sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. <sup>5</sup>God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. <sup>6</sup>Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. <sup>7</sup>The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. <sup>8</sup>Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. <sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. <sup>10</sup>He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” <sup>11</sup>The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

### 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

<sup>16</sup>Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup>So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

### 2 Corinthians 5:1-7

<sup>1</sup>For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. <sup>2</sup>Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. <sup>6</sup>Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup>For we live by faith, not by sight.

# ROADMAP 4—SAVED TO SERVE

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## DAY 1—God is our Eternal King and Almighty Redeemer

### Exodus 3:1-15

<sup>1</sup>Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup>So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” <sup>4</sup>When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” <sup>5</sup>“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup>Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup>The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup>So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup>So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup>And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.” <sup>13</sup>Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.”

### Isaiah 44:6-9

<sup>6</sup>“This is what the Lord says—Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. <sup>7</sup>Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come—yes, let them foretell what will come. <sup>8</sup>Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.” <sup>9</sup>All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame.

### Revelation 1:8

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

## DAY 2—God’s name is beautiful, powerful, holy and worthy to be praised

### Exodus 15:1-18

<sup>1</sup>Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: “I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. <sup>2</sup>The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. <sup>3</sup>The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name. <sup>4</sup>Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh’s officers are drowned in the Red Sea. <sup>5</sup>The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone. <sup>6</sup>Your right hand, Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand, Lord, shattered the enemy. <sup>7</sup>In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble. <sup>8</sup>By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood up like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea. <sup>9</sup>The enemy boasted, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.’ <sup>10</sup>But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters. <sup>11</sup>Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? <sup>12</sup>You stretch out your right hand, and the earth swallows your enemies. <sup>13</sup>In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling. <sup>14</sup>The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will grip the people of Philistia. <sup>15</sup>The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away; <sup>16</sup>terror and dread will fall on them. By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone—until your people pass by, Lord, until the people you bought pass by. <sup>17</sup>You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance—the place, Lord, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established. <sup>18</sup>The Lord reigns for ever and ever.”

### Isaiah 6:1-7

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup>And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup>At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

### Revelation 4

<sup>1</sup>After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." <sup>2</sup>At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. <sup>3</sup>And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. <sup>4</sup>Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. <sup>5</sup>From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. <sup>6</sup>Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. <sup>7</sup>The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup>Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come." <sup>9</sup>Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, <sup>10</sup>the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: <sup>11</sup>"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

## **DAY 3—Jesus is eternal God**

### John 8:58

<sup>58</sup>"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

### Hebrews 13:8

<sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

### Revelation 1:17

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last."

## **DAY 4—Salvation is found only in Jesus**

### Isaiah 7:14

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

### Matthew 1:21-23

<sup>21</sup>"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

### Acts 4:8-12

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup>If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup>then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup>Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' <sup>12</sup>Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

## DAY 5—Jesus is fully God

### John 14:5-14

<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup>Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup>Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

### Colossians 1:15-20

<sup>15</sup>The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

### Hebrews 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

## DAY 6—Bloodshed brings cleansing and forgiveness

### Exodus 12:12-13

<sup>12</sup>“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. <sup>13</sup>The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”

### Hebrews 9:22

<sup>22</sup>In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

### Hebrews 13:11-12

<sup>11</sup>The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup>And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

## DAY 7—Jesus’ blood brings forgiveness of sins and redemption

### Isaiah 53:3-12

<sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. <sup>4</sup>Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. <sup>9</sup>He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup>Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup>After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and

he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

#### John 19:17-37

<sup>17</sup>Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle. <sup>19</sup>Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. <sup>21</sup>The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” <sup>23</sup>When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. <sup>24</sup>“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did. <sup>25</sup>Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” <sup>27</sup>and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. <sup>28</sup>Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup>A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. <sup>30</sup>When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. <sup>31</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. <sup>32</sup>The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. <sup>35</sup>The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” <sup>37</sup>and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”

#### Ephesians 1:7

<sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace . . .

# ROADMAP 5—LAND OF THE PROMISE

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## DAY 1—Disobedience to God’s Law brings punishment

Numbers 14:18

<sup>18</sup>“The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Judges 2:10-15

<sup>10</sup>After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. <sup>11</sup>Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. <sup>12</sup>They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the Lord’s anger <sup>13</sup>because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. <sup>14</sup>In his anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. <sup>15</sup>Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

Psalms 89:30-32

<sup>30</sup>“If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes, <sup>31</sup>if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands, <sup>32</sup>I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging . . .”

## DAY 2—All people are sinners and cannot inherit the Kingdom of God on their own

Ezekiel 18:10-13

<sup>10</sup>“Suppose he has a violent son, who sheds blood or does any of these other things <sup>11</sup>(though the father has done none of them): He eats at the mountain shrines. He defiles his neighbor’s wife. <sup>12</sup>He oppresses the poor and needy. He commits robbery. He does not return what he took in pledge. He looks to the idols. He does detestable things. <sup>13</sup>He lends at interest and takes a profit. Will such a man live? He will not! Because he has done all these detestable things, he is to be put to death; his blood will be on his own head.”

Romans 3:9-20

<sup>9</sup>What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. <sup>10</sup>As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; <sup>11</sup>there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. <sup>12</sup>All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” <sup>13</sup>“Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.” <sup>14</sup>“Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” <sup>15</sup>“Their feet are swift to shed blood; <sup>16</sup>ruin and misery mark their ways, <sup>17</sup>and the way of peace they do not know.” <sup>18</sup>“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” <sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

<sup>9</sup>Or 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.

## DAY 3—God brought deliverance through His chosen OT leaders

Judges 4:14-16

<sup>14</sup>Then Deborah said to Barak, “Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the Lord gone ahead of you?” So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him. <sup>15</sup>At Barak’s advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot. <sup>16</sup>Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera’s troops fell by the sword; not a man was left.

### Judges 6:7-16

<sup>7</sup>When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, <sup>8</sup>he sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>9</sup>I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. <sup>10</sup>I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.” <sup>11</sup>The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup>When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” <sup>13</sup>“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.” <sup>14</sup>The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?” <sup>15</sup>“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” <sup>16</sup>The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

### Psalms 37:39-40

<sup>39</sup>The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble. <sup>40</sup>The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

## **DAY 4—God is our only deliverer: “God is my salvation”**

### Psalms 22:3-5

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. <sup>4</sup>In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. <sup>5</sup>To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

### Isaiah 12:2-3

<sup>2</sup>“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.” <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

### Isaiah 46:4-10

<sup>4</sup>“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. <sup>5</sup>With whom will you compare me or count me equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared? <sup>6</sup>Some pour out gold from their bags and weigh out silver on the scales; they hire a goldsmith to make it into a god, and they bow down and worship it. <sup>7</sup>They lift it to their shoulders and carry it; they set it up in its place, and there it stands. From that spot it cannot move. Even though someone cries out to it, it cannot answer; it cannot save them from their troubles. <sup>8</sup>Remember this, keep it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. <sup>9</sup>Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. <sup>10</sup>I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’”

## **DAY 5—God, through Jesus Christ, is our rescuer, or deliverer**

### Romans 7:21-25

<sup>21</sup>So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup>For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; <sup>23</sup>but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. <sup>24</sup>What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

### 2 Corinthians 1:10

<sup>10</sup>He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us . . .

### Galatians 1:4

<sup>4</sup>who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father . . .

## DAY 6—Christ’s family line included Ruth and David

### Ruth 4:13-22

<sup>13</sup>So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup>The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! <sup>15</sup>He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.” <sup>16</sup>Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. <sup>17</sup>The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. <sup>18</sup>This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, <sup>19</sup>Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, <sup>20</sup>Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>21</sup>Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, <sup>22</sup>Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

### Psalms 89:3-4

<sup>3</sup>You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, <sup>4</sup>I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.”

### Matthew 1:5-6, 20-23

<sup>5</sup>Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup>and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife . . .

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

## DAY 7—Ruth acknowledged God as her Savior—she turned from foreign gods to the true God

### Ruth 1:16-18

<sup>16</sup>But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” <sup>18</sup>When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

### Hosea 13:4

<sup>4</sup>“But I have been the Lord your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me.”

### 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

<sup>9</sup>for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

# ROADMAP 6—THE BEGINNING OF THE ROYAL LINE

## DAY 1—David was Israel’s king, a man after God’s own heart

1 Samuel 13:14

<sup>14</sup>“But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”

2 Samuel 8:15

<sup>15</sup>David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people.

2 Samuel 10:17-19

<sup>17</sup>When David was told of this, he gathered all Israel, crossed the Jordan and went to Helam. The Arameans formed their battle lines to meet David and fought against him. <sup>18</sup>But they fled before Israel, and David killed seven hundred of their charioteers and forty thousand of their foot soldiers. He also struck down Shobak the commander of their army, and he died there. <sup>19</sup>When all the kings who were vassals of Hadadezer saw that they had been routed by Israel, they made peace with the Israelites and became subject to them. So the Arameans were afraid to help the Ammonites anymore.

## DAY 2—David sinned and sought repentance

2 Samuel 12:7-25

<sup>7</sup>Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup>I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. <sup>9</sup>Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup>Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’ <sup>11</sup>This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. <sup>12</sup>You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’” <sup>13</sup>Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. <sup>14</sup>But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.” <sup>15</sup>After Nathan had gone home, the Lord struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill. <sup>16</sup>David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground. <sup>17</sup>The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them. <sup>18</sup>On the seventh day the child died. David’s attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, “While the child was still living, he wouldn’t listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate.” <sup>19</sup>David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. “Is the child dead?” he asked. “Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.” <sup>20</sup>Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate. <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.” <sup>24</sup>Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him; <sup>25</sup>and because the Lord loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

Psalms 38

<sup>1</sup>Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. <sup>2</sup>Your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down on me. <sup>3</sup>Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; there is no soundness in my bones because of my sin. <sup>4</sup>My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. <sup>5</sup>My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. <sup>6</sup>I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. <sup>7</sup>My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body. <sup>8</sup>I am feeble and utterly crushed; I groan in anguish of heart. <sup>9</sup>All my longings lie open before you, Lord; my sighing is not hidden from you. <sup>10</sup>My heart pounds, my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes. <sup>11</sup>My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds; my neighbors stay far away. <sup>12</sup>Those who want to kill me set their traps, those who would harm me talk of my ruin; all day long they

scheme and lie. <sup>13</sup>I am like the deaf, who cannot hear, like the mute, who cannot speak; <sup>14</sup>I have become like one who does not hear, whose mouth can offer no reply. <sup>15</sup>Lord, I wait for you; you will answer, Lord my God. <sup>16</sup>For I said, "Do not let them gloat or exalt themselves over me when my feet slip." <sup>17</sup>For I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me. <sup>18</sup>I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin. <sup>19</sup>Many have become my enemies without cause; those who hate me without reason are numerous. <sup>20</sup>Those who repay my good with evil lodge accusations against me, though I seek only to do what is good. <sup>21</sup>Lord, do not forsake me; do not be far from me, my God. <sup>22</sup>Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my Savior.

### Psalm 51

*For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.*

<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. <sup>18</sup>May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup>Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

## **DAY 3—David was God's appointed king over Israel**

### 2 Samuel 5:1-3

<sup>1</sup>All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood. <sup>2</sup>In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'" <sup>3</sup>When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.

### 2 Samuel 7:1-6

<sup>1</sup>After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you." <sup>4</sup>But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?' <sup>6</sup>I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling."

### Psalm 89:20-29

<sup>20</sup>"I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him. <sup>21</sup>My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him. <sup>22</sup>The enemy will not get the better of him; the wicked will not oppress him. <sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries. <sup>24</sup>My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted. <sup>25</sup>I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers. <sup>26</sup>He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.' <sup>27</sup>And I will appoint him to be my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth. <sup>28</sup>I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail. <sup>29</sup>I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure."

## **DAY 4—Jesus is the true King, whose throne is eternal**

### Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup>For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup>Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the

government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

#### Luke 1:32-33

<sup>32</sup>"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

#### Acts 2:29-36

<sup>29</sup>"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup>But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup>God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup>Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup>until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." <sup>36</sup>Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

## **DAY 5—Jesus, a descendant of David, is our Lord and King**

#### Psalm 132:11-18

<sup>11</sup>The Lord swore an oath to David, a sure oath he will not revoke: "One of your own descendants I will place on your throne. <sup>12</sup>If your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever." <sup>13</sup>For the Lord has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling, saying, <sup>14</sup>"This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it. <sup>15</sup>I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor I will satisfy with food. <sup>16</sup>I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her faithful people will ever sing for joy. <sup>17</sup>Here I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my anointed one. <sup>18</sup>I will clothe his enemies with shame, but his head will be adorned with a radiant crown."

#### Luke 1:68-70

<sup>68</sup>"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. <sup>69</sup>He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David <sup>70</sup>(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago) . . ."

#### Romans 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—<sup>2</sup>the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup>regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup>and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **DAY 6—Jesus is our King, and His Kingdom is eternal**

#### Matthew 27:11-12

<sup>11</sup>Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied. <sup>12</sup>When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer.

#### John 18:33-37

<sup>33</sup>Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" <sup>35</sup>"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." <sup>37</sup>"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

#### 1 Timothy 6:13-16

<sup>13</sup>In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

## DAY 7—God’s Kingdom is eternal

### John 3:1-3

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

### Hebrews 1:8-9

<sup>8</sup>But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

### 2 Timothy 4:18

<sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

# ROADMAP 7—GOD SENDS HIS MESSENGERS

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## DAY 1—God wants His people to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Him

Isaiah 1:11-20

<sup>11</sup>“The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?” says the Lord. “I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. <sup>12</sup>When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? <sup>13</sup>Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. <sup>14</sup>Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. <sup>15</sup>When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood! <sup>16</sup>Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. <sup>17</sup>Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. <sup>18</sup>“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. <sup>19</sup>If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land; <sup>20</sup>but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.” For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Micah 6:6-8

<sup>6</sup>With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? <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.

Hosea 6:6

<sup>6</sup>“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.”

## DAY 2—God blesses those who are contrite and lowly in spirit

Isaiah 57:15

<sup>15</sup>For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

Isaiah 66:1-2

<sup>1</sup>This is what the Lord says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? <sup>2</sup>Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the Lord. “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.”

Jeremiah 7:1-8

<sup>1</sup>This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: <sup>2</sup>“Stand at the gate of the Lord’s house and there proclaim this message: ‘Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the Lord. <sup>3</sup>This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. <sup>4</sup>Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord!” <sup>5</sup>If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, <sup>6</sup>if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, <sup>7</sup>then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. <sup>8</sup>But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.”

## DAY 3—The Lord will execute judgment upon the nations

Isaiah 34:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes out of it! <sup>2</sup>The Lord is angry with all nations; his wrath is on all their armies. He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to slaughter. <sup>3</sup>Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will stink; the mountains will be soaked with their blood. <sup>4</sup>All the stars in the sky will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll; all the starry

host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree. <sup>5</sup>My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; see, it descends in judgment on Edom, the people I have totally destroyed. <sup>6</sup>The sword of the Lord is bathed in blood, it is covered with fat – the blood of lambs and goats, fat from the kidneys of rams. For the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. <sup>7</sup>And the wild oxen will fall with them, the bull calves and the great bulls. Their land will be drenched with blood, and the dust will be soaked with fat. <sup>8</sup>For the Lord has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause.

#### Isaiah 66:15-16

<sup>15</sup>"See, the Lord is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. <sup>16</sup>For with fire and with his sword the Lord will execute judgment on all people, and many will be those slain by the Lord."

#### Jeremiah 46:10

<sup>10</sup>"But that day belongs to the Lord, the Lord Almighty – a day of vengeance, for vengeance on his foes. The sword will devour till it is satisfied, till it has quenched its thirst with blood. For the Lord, the Lord Almighty, will offer sacrifice in the land of the north by the River Euphrates."

### **DAY 4—The Lord will punish the world for its evil**

#### Isaiah 13:10-13

<sup>10</sup>The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. <sup>11</sup>I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless. <sup>12</sup>I will make people scarcer than pure gold, more rare than the gold of Ophir. <sup>13</sup>Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the Lord Almighty, in the day of his burning anger.

#### Joel 2:30-31

<sup>30</sup>"I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. <sup>31</sup>The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."

#### Joel 3:15-16

<sup>15</sup>The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. <sup>16</sup>The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

### **DAY 5—God will forgive and bring healing**

#### Hosea 14:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Return, Israel, to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall! <sup>2</sup>Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips. <sup>3</sup>Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount warhorses. We will never again say 'Our gods' to what our own hands have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion." <sup>4</sup>"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them."

#### Micah 7:18-20

<sup>18</sup>Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. <sup>19</sup>You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. <sup>20</sup>You will be faithful to Jacob, and show love to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our ancestors in days long ago.

#### Malachi 4:1-3

<sup>1</sup>"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. <sup>2</sup>But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. <sup>3</sup>Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act," says the Lord Almighty.

## DAY 6—God loves His people so much that He rejoices over them

### Isaiah 65:17-19

<sup>17</sup>“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. <sup>18</sup>But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. <sup>19</sup>I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.”

### Jeremiah 32:36-41

<sup>36</sup>“You are saying about this city, ‘By the sword, famine and plague it will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon’; but this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: <sup>37</sup>I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. <sup>38</sup>They will be my people, and I will be their God. <sup>39</sup>I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. <sup>40</sup>I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. <sup>41</sup>I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.”

### Zephaniah 3:17

<sup>17</sup>“The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

## DAY 7—Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved

### Joel 2:32

<sup>32</sup>“And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.”

### Acts 2:21, 29-40

<sup>21</sup>“And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

<sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup>But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup>God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup>Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “‘The Lord said to my Lord: “‘Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup>until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”’” <sup>36</sup>Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” <sup>37</sup>When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” <sup>40</sup>With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

### Romans 10:9-13

<sup>9</sup>If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup>As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup>for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

# ROADMAP 8—GOD REMEMBERS HIS PEOPLE

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## DAY 1—God will always be faithful to His people, just as He was in the Old Testament

Esther 9:1-5

<sup>1</sup>On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them. <sup>2</sup>The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. <sup>3</sup>And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them. <sup>4</sup>Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful. <sup>5</sup>The Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did what they pleased to those who hated them.

Psalm 78:5-7

<sup>5</sup>He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, <sup>6</sup>so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. <sup>7</sup>Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Psalm 105:5

<sup>5</sup>Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced . . .

## DAY 2—God delivers and rescues His people from evil

Psalm 37:39-40

<sup>39</sup>The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble. <sup>40</sup>The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

Psalm 142:6

<sup>6</sup>Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.

Matthew 6:13

<sup>13</sup>“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

## DAY 3—God will finish what He's begun in His chosen people

Psalm 138:8

<sup>8</sup>The Lord will vindicate me; your love, Lord, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands.

Romans 8:29-30

<sup>29</sup>For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first-born among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup>And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Philippians 1:6

<sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

## DAY 4—God hears the prayers of those who cry to Him

1 Samuel 2:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. <sup>2</sup>There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. <sup>3</sup>Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. <sup>4</sup>The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. <sup>5</sup>Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. <sup>6</sup>The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.”

## 2 Chronicles 6:14-19

<sup>14</sup>He said: "Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. <sup>15</sup>You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today. <sup>16</sup>Now, Lord, the God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me according to my law, as you have done.' <sup>17</sup>And now, Lord, the God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David come true. <sup>18</sup>But will God really dwell on earth with humans? The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! <sup>19</sup>Yet, Lord my God, give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence."

## Job 42:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Then Job replied to the Lord: <sup>2</sup>"I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. <sup>3</sup>You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. <sup>4</sup>You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' <sup>5</sup>My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. <sup>6</sup>Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

## **DAY 5—God will listen to those who call on His name**

### Psalms 28

<sup>1</sup>To you, Lord, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit. <sup>2</sup>Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place. <sup>3</sup>Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts. <sup>4</sup>Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back on them what they deserve. <sup>5</sup>Because they have no regard for the deeds of the Lord and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again. <sup>6</sup>Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. <sup>7</sup>The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. <sup>8</sup>The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. <sup>9</sup>Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

### Psalms 61

<sup>1</sup>Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. <sup>2</sup>From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. <sup>3</sup>For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. <sup>4</sup>I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. <sup>5</sup>For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. <sup>6</sup>Increase the days of the king's life, his years for many generations. <sup>7</sup>May he be enthroned in God's presence forever; appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him. <sup>8</sup>Then I will ever sing in praise of your name and fulfill my vows day after day.

### Psalms 102

<sup>1</sup>Hear my prayer, Lord; let my cry for help come to you. <sup>2</sup>Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly. <sup>3</sup>For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers. <sup>4</sup>My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food. <sup>5</sup>In my distress I groan aloud and am reduced to skin and bones. <sup>6</sup>I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins. <sup>7</sup>I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a roof. <sup>8</sup>All day long my enemies taunt me; those who rail against me use my name as a curse. <sup>9</sup>For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears <sup>10</sup>because of your great wrath, for you have taken me up and thrown me aside. <sup>11</sup>My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. <sup>12</sup>But you, Lord, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations. <sup>13</sup>You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come. <sup>14</sup>For her stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity. <sup>15</sup>The nations will fear the name of the Lord, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory. <sup>17</sup>He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea. <sup>18</sup>Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord: <sup>19</sup>"The Lord looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, <sup>20</sup>to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death." <sup>21</sup>So the name of the Lord will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem <sup>22</sup>when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the Lord. <sup>23</sup>In the course of my life he broke my strength; he cut short my days. <sup>24</sup>So I said: "Do not take me away, my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations. <sup>25</sup>In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. <sup>26</sup>They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. <sup>27</sup>But you remain the same, and your years will never end. <sup>28</sup>The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before you."

## DAY 6—Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between humans and God

Exodus 20:18-19

<sup>18</sup>When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance <sup>19</sup>and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

Isaiah 59:16-20

<sup>16</sup>He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. <sup>17</sup>He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. <sup>18</sup>According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due. <sup>19</sup>From the west, people will fear the name of the Lord, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the Lord drives along. <sup>20</sup>“The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the Lord.

1 Timothy 2:5

<sup>5</sup>For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus . . .

## DAY 7—Jesus is our intercessor at God’s right hand

Romans 8:34

<sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Hebrews 7:25

<sup>25</sup>Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Hebrews 9:24

<sup>24</sup>For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.

# ROADMAP 9—THE WAY OF WISDOM

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## DAY 1—God delights in truthfulness

### Proverbs 4:5-15

<sup>5</sup>“Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. <sup>6</sup>Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. <sup>7</sup>The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. <sup>8</sup>Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. <sup>9</sup>She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown.” <sup>10</sup>Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. <sup>11</sup>I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. <sup>12</sup>When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. <sup>13</sup>Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. <sup>14</sup>Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. <sup>15</sup>Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.

### Proverbs 12:13-22

<sup>13</sup>Evildoers are trapped by their sinful talk, and so the innocent escape trouble. <sup>14</sup>From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things, and the work of their hands brings them reward. <sup>15</sup>The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. <sup>16</sup>Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult. <sup>17</sup>An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies. <sup>18</sup>The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. <sup>19</sup>Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. <sup>20</sup>Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy. <sup>21</sup>No harm overtakes the righteous, but the wicked have their fill of trouble. <sup>22</sup>The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

### Proverbs 20:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise. <sup>2</sup>A king’s wrath strikes terror like the roar of a lion; those who anger him forfeit their lives. <sup>3</sup>It is to one’s honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel. <sup>4</sup>Sluggards do not plow in season; so at harvest time they look but find nothing. <sup>5</sup>The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out. <sup>6</sup>Many claim to have unflinching love, but a faithful person who can find? <sup>7</sup>The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them.

## DAY 2—God’s ways are mysterious to man, and His wisdom is unrivaled

### Job 38:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: <sup>2</sup>“Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup>Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. <sup>4</sup>Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. <sup>5</sup>Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? <sup>6</sup>On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—<sup>7</sup>while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? <sup>8</sup>Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, <sup>9</sup>when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, <sup>10</sup>when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, <sup>11</sup>when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt?’”

### Proverbs 30:4

<sup>4</sup>Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Whose hands have gathered up the wind? Who has wrapped up the waters in a cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is the name of his son? Surely you know!

### Ecclesiastes 5:2-3

<sup>2</sup>Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. <sup>3</sup>A dream comes when there are many cares, and many words mark the speech of a fool.

## DAY 3—God requires high moral standards for the people in His Covenant, and punishes those who forsake Him

### Proverbs 29:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy. <sup>2</sup>When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan. <sup>3</sup>A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father,

but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth. <sup>4</sup>By justice a king gives a country stability, but those who are greedy for bribes tear it down. <sup>5</sup>Those who flatter their neighbors are spreading nets for their feet. <sup>6</sup>Evildoers are snared by their own sin, but the righteous shout for joy and are glad. <sup>7</sup>The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern. <sup>8</sup>Mockers stir up a city, but the wise turn away anger. <sup>9</sup>If a wise person goes to court with a fool, the fool rages and scoffs, and there is no peace. <sup>10</sup>The bloodthirsty hate a person of integrity and seek to kill the upright. <sup>11</sup>Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end. <sup>12</sup>If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked.

#### Lamentations 1:1-16

<sup>1</sup>How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave. <sup>2</sup>Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are on her cheeks. Among all her lovers there is no one to comfort her. All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies. <sup>3</sup>After affliction and harsh labor, Judah has gone into exile. She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place. All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress. <sup>4</sup>The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed festivals. All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan, her young women grieve, and she is in bitter anguish. <sup>5</sup>Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease. The Lord has brought her grief because of her many sins. Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe. <sup>6</sup>All the splendor has departed from Daughter Zion. Her princes are like deer that find no pasture; in weakness they have fled before the pursuer. <sup>7</sup>In the days of her affliction and wandering Jerusalem remembers all the treasures that were hers in days of old. When her people fell into enemy hands, there was no one to help her. Her enemies looked at her and laughed at her destruction. <sup>8</sup>Jerusalem has sinned greatly and so has become unclean. All who honored her despise her, for they have all seen her naked; she herself groans and turns away. <sup>9</sup>Her filthiness clung to her skirts; she did not consider her future. Her fall was astounding; there was none to comfort her. "Look, Lord, on my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed." <sup>10</sup>The enemy laid hands on all her treasures; she saw pagan nations enter her sanctuary—those you had forbidden to enter your assembly. <sup>11</sup>All her people groan as they search for bread; they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive. "Look, Lord, and consider, for I am despised." <sup>12</sup>"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger? <sup>13</sup>From on high he sent fire, sent it down into my bones. He spread a net for my feet and turned me back. He made me desolate, faint all the day long. <sup>14</sup>My sins have been bound into a yoke; by his hands they were woven together. They have been hung on my neck, and the Lord has sapped my strength. He has given me into the hands of those I cannot withstand. <sup>15</sup>The Lord has rejected all the warriors in my midst; he has summoned an army against me to crush my young men. In his winepress the Lord has trampled Virgin Daughter Judah. <sup>16</sup>This is why I weep and my eyes overflow with tears. No one is near to comfort me, no one to restore my spirit. My children are destitute because the enemy has prevailed."

#### Lamentations 5

<sup>1</sup>Remember, Lord, what has happened to us; look, and see our disgrace. <sup>2</sup>Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners. <sup>3</sup>We have become fatherless, our mothers are widows. <sup>4</sup>We must buy the water we drink; our wood can be had only at a price. <sup>5</sup>Those who pursue us are at our heels; we are weary and find no rest. <sup>6</sup>We submitted to Egypt and Assyria to get enough bread. <sup>7</sup>Our ancestors sinned and are no more, and we bear their punishment. <sup>8</sup>Slaves rule over us, and there is no one to free us from their hands. <sup>9</sup>We get our bread at the risk of our lives because of the sword in the desert. <sup>10</sup>Our skin is hot as an oven, feverish from hunger. <sup>11</sup>Women have been violated in Zion, and virgins in the towns of Judah. <sup>12</sup>Princes have been hung up by their hands; elders are shown no respect. <sup>13</sup>Young men toil at the millstones; boys stagger under loads of wood. <sup>14</sup>The elders are gone from the city gate; the young men have stopped their music. <sup>15</sup>Joy is gone from our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning. <sup>16</sup>The crown has fallen from our head. Woe to us, for we have sinned! <sup>17</sup>Because of this our hearts are faint, because of these things our eyes grow dim. <sup>18</sup>for Mount Zion, which lies desolate, with jackals prowling over it. <sup>19</sup>You, Lord, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation. <sup>20</sup>Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us so long? <sup>21</sup>Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old. <sup>22</sup>unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.

## **DAY 4—Jesus is God's wisdom**

#### Matthew 13:54

<sup>54</sup>Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked.

#### Luke 2:40

<sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

1 Corinthians 1:30

<sup>30</sup>It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

## **DAY 5—Jesus and His work are foolishness to this world, but to God’s people they are power and wisdom**

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:6

<sup>18</sup>For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” <sup>20</sup>Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup>Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup>God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup>It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” <sup>1</sup>And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. <sup>2</sup>For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. <sup>4</sup>My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power. <sup>6</sup>We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

Colossians 2:3

<sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Romans 11:33

<sup>33</sup>Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

## **DAY 6—Christians have God-given wisdom through Christ**

Ephesians 1:8

<sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding . . .

Ephesians 1:17

<sup>17</sup>I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

James 1:5

<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

## **DAY 7—Wisdom from above comes through Christ, and is given to all God’s children**

Luke 21:15

<sup>15</sup>“For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.”

Colossians 3:16

<sup>16</sup>Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

James 3:13-18

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup>Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

# ROADMAP 10—SONGS TO GOD

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## DAY 1—God hears the emotional prayers of His people

### Psalm 63:1-8

<sup>1</sup>You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup>I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. <sup>3</sup>Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. <sup>4</sup>I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. <sup>5</sup>I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. <sup>6</sup>On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. <sup>7</sup>Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. <sup>8</sup>I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

### Psalm 84

<sup>1</sup>How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! <sup>2</sup>My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. <sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. <sup>6</sup>As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. <sup>7</sup>They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. <sup>8</sup>Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob. <sup>9</sup>Look on our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one. <sup>10</sup>Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. <sup>11</sup>For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. <sup>12</sup>Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

### Psalm 113

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, you his servants; praise the name of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore. <sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised. <sup>4</sup>The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. <sup>5</sup>Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, <sup>6</sup>who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth? <sup>7</sup>He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; <sup>8</sup>he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people. <sup>9</sup>He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the Lord.

## DAY 2—God wants people to give Him glory in their prayers

### Psalm 8

<sup>1</sup>Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. <sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup>what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? <sup>5</sup>You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: <sup>7</sup>all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, <sup>8</sup>the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. <sup>9</sup>Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

### Psalm 11

<sup>1</sup>In the Lord I take refuge. How then can you say to me: “Flee like a bird to your mountain. <sup>2</sup>For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart. <sup>3</sup>When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?” <sup>4</sup>The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them. <sup>5</sup>The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion. <sup>6</sup>On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. <sup>7</sup>For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face.

### Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. <sup>2</sup>Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. <sup>3</sup>They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. <sup>4</sup>Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. <sup>5</sup>It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. <sup>6</sup>It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth. <sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The precepts of the Lord are right,

giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. <sup>10</sup>They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup>By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>12</sup>But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. <sup>13</sup>Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. <sup>14</sup>May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

## **DAY 3—We are to pray prayers of praise and exaltation to the Lord**

### Psalm 145

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. <sup>2</sup>Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. <sup>3</sup>Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. <sup>4</sup>One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. <sup>5</sup>They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works. <sup>6</sup>They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds. <sup>7</sup>They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. <sup>8</sup>The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. <sup>10</sup>All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you. <sup>11</sup>They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, <sup>12</sup>so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. <sup>13</sup>Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. <sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. <sup>15</sup>The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. <sup>16</sup>You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. <sup>17</sup>The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. <sup>18</sup>The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. <sup>19</sup>He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. <sup>20</sup>The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. <sup>21</sup>My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

### Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul. <sup>2</sup>I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. <sup>3</sup>Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. <sup>4</sup>When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. <sup>6</sup>He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—he remains faithful forever. <sup>7</sup>He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, <sup>8</sup>the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup>The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. <sup>10</sup>The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord.

### Psalm 147:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him! <sup>2</sup>The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. <sup>3</sup>He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. <sup>4</sup>He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. <sup>5</sup>Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. <sup>6</sup>The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Sing to the Lord with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp. <sup>8</sup>He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. <sup>9</sup>He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. <sup>10</sup>His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; <sup>11</sup>the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

## **DAY 4—We are to pray to God for deliverance as well as declare His power and might**

### Psalm 57:1-5

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. <sup>2</sup>I cry out to God Most High, to God, who vindicates me. <sup>3</sup>He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me—God sends forth his love and his faithfulness. <sup>4</sup>I am in the midst of lions; I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords. <sup>5</sup>Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

### Psalm 68:19-35

<sup>19</sup>Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. <sup>20</sup>Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death. <sup>21</sup>Surely God will crush the heads of his enemies, the hairy crowns of those who go on in their sins. <sup>22</sup>The Lord says, "I will bring them from Bashan; I will bring them from the depths of the sea, <sup>23</sup>that your feet may wade in the blood of your foes, while the tongues of your dogs have their share." <sup>24</sup>Your procession, God, has come into view, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary. <sup>25</sup>In front are the singers, after them the musicians; with them are the young women playing the timbrels. <sup>26</sup>Praise God in the great congregation; praise the Lord in the assembly of Israel. <sup>27</sup>There is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them, there the great throng of Judah's princes, and there the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali. <sup>28</sup>Summon your power, God; show us your strength, our God, as you have done before. <sup>29</sup>Because of your temple at Jerusalem kings will bring you gifts. <sup>30</sup>Rebuke the beast among the reeds, the herd of bulls among the calves of the nations. Humbled, may the beast bring bars of silver. Scatter the nations who delight in war. <sup>31</sup>Envoys will come from Egypt; Cush will submit herself to God. <sup>32</sup>Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord, <sup>33</sup>to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens, who thunders with mighty voice. <sup>34</sup>Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel, whose power is in the heavens. <sup>35</sup>You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!

### Psalm 74:10-17

<sup>10</sup>How long will the enemy mock you, God? Will the foe revile your name forever? <sup>11</sup>Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the folds of your garment and destroy them! <sup>12</sup>But God is my King from long ago; he brings salvation on the earth. <sup>13</sup>It was you who split open the sea by your power; you broke the heads of the monster in the waters. <sup>14</sup>It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan and gave it as food to the creatures of the desert. <sup>15</sup>It was you who opened up springs and streams; you dried up the ever-flowing rivers. <sup>16</sup>The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and moon. <sup>17</sup>It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

## **DAY 5—God is our Shepherd, He supplies our every need**

### Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup>he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### Psalm 80:1

<sup>1</sup>Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth . . .

### John 10:1-18

<sup>1</sup>"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. <sup>7</sup>Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup>The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—<sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

## DAY 6—God is abounding in love and forgiveness

Psalm 25:18

<sup>18</sup>Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

Psalm 86:5

<sup>5</sup>You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Acts 13:38

<sup>38</sup>“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.”

## DAY 7—God forgives our iniquities and covers our sins

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.

Psalm 85:2-3

<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins. <sup>3</sup>You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

Romans 4:1-8

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? <sup>2</sup>If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. <sup>3</sup>What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup>However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. <sup>6</sup>David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup>“Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. <sup>8</sup>Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

# ROADMAP 11—THE PERFECT SERVANT ARRIVES

**DAY 1—The student may find many common themes between these three passages; they are all teachings of Jesus found in the Gospels**

## Matthew 5:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them. He said: <sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

## Matthew 13:10-17

<sup>10</sup>The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” <sup>11</sup>He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>13</sup>This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. <sup>14</sup>In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. <sup>15</sup>For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’ <sup>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup>For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

## Matthew 18:21-35

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. <sup>26</sup>At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup>The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup>But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. <sup>29</sup>His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup>Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ <sup>34</sup>In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. <sup>35</sup>This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

**DAY 2—The student may find many common themes between these three passages; they are all teachings of Jesus found in the Gospels**

## Mark 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup>They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” <sup>6</sup>Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup>“Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” <sup>8</sup>Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? <sup>10</sup>But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on

earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, <sup>11</sup>"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>12</sup>He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

#### Mark 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup>During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, <sup>2</sup>"I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup>If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance." <sup>4</sup>His disciples answered, "But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?" <sup>5</sup>"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied. <sup>6</sup>He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. <sup>7</sup>They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. <sup>8</sup>The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>9</sup>About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, <sup>10</sup>he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. <sup>12</sup>He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it." <sup>13</sup>Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

#### Mark 10:17-31

<sup>17</sup>As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" <sup>20</sup>"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." <sup>21</sup>Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. <sup>23</sup>Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." <sup>28</sup>Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!" <sup>29</sup>"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup>will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

### **DAY 3—The student may find many common themes between these three passages; they are all teachings of Jesus found in the Gospels**

#### Luke 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. <sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### Luke 5:12-26

<sup>12</sup>While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>13</sup>Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." <sup>15</sup>Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. <sup>17</sup>One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. <sup>18</sup>Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. <sup>19</sup>When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." <sup>21</sup>The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup>Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?" <sup>24</sup>But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>25</sup>Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup>Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

### Luke 8:22-25

<sup>22</sup>One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. <sup>23</sup>As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. <sup>24</sup>The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. <sup>25</sup>"Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

## **DAY 4—The student may find many common themes between these three passages; they are all teachings of Jesus found in the Gospels**

### John 3:1-21

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." <sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." <sup>4</sup>"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. <sup>10</sup>"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup>I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

### John 6:16-21

<sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, <sup>17</sup>where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. <sup>18</sup>A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." <sup>21</sup>Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

## John 9

<sup>1</sup>As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup>“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. <sup>8</sup>His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>“How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. <sup>11</sup>He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” <sup>12</sup>“Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said. <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup>Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. <sup>17</sup>Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.” <sup>18</sup>They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. <sup>19</sup>“Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” <sup>20</sup>“We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” <sup>24</sup>A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” <sup>26</sup>Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?” <sup>28</sup>Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup>We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. <sup>32</sup>Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” <sup>38</sup>Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”

## **DAY 5—The student may find many common themes between these three passages; they are all teachings of Jesus found in the Gospels**

### Matthew 26:17-29

<sup>17</sup>On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?” <sup>18</sup>He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” <sup>19</sup>So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. <sup>20</sup>When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. <sup>21</sup>And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup>They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup>The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.” <sup>25</sup>Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “You have said so.” <sup>26</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup>Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup>This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

### Mark 14:12-16

<sup>12</sup>On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>13</sup>So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. <sup>14</sup>Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." <sup>16</sup>The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

### Luke 22:14-23

<sup>14</sup>When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup>For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup>After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup>For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup>And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>20</sup>In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. <sup>21</sup>But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. <sup>22</sup>The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!" <sup>23</sup>They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

## **DAY 6—These verses speak about Jesus on the Mount of Olives before His crucifixion and death**

### Matthew 26:30-46

<sup>30</sup>When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>31</sup>Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' <sup>32</sup>But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." <sup>33</sup>Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." <sup>34</sup>"Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." <sup>35</sup>But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup>He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." <sup>39</sup>Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." <sup>40</sup>Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup>"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup>He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." <sup>43</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup>So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. <sup>45</sup>Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

### Mark 14:26-42

<sup>26</sup>When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>27</sup>"You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' <sup>28</sup>But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." <sup>29</sup>Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not." <sup>30</sup>"Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times." <sup>31</sup>But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same. <sup>32</sup>They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup>He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." <sup>35</sup>Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." <sup>37</sup>Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>39</sup>Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. <sup>41</sup>Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Luke 22:39-46

<sup>39</sup>Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup>On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." <sup>41</sup>He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup>"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." <sup>43</sup>An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup>And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. <sup>45</sup>When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. <sup>46</sup>"Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

## **DAY 7—These three passages are the account of Jesus' crucifixion and death**

Matthew 27:27-56

<sup>27</sup>Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. <sup>28</sup>They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup>and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. <sup>30</sup>They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. <sup>31</sup>After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. <sup>32</sup>As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. <sup>33</sup>They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). <sup>34</sup>There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. <sup>35</sup>When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. <sup>36</sup>And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. <sup>37</sup>Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>38</sup>Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup>Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" <sup>41</sup>In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. <sup>42</sup>"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him." <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" <sup>44</sup>In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. <sup>45</sup>From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup>About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). <sup>47</sup>When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." <sup>48</sup>Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup>The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him." <sup>50</sup>And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. <sup>51</sup>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split <sup>52</sup>and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup>They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. <sup>54</sup>When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!" <sup>55</sup>Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. <sup>56</sup>Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Luke 23:26-49

<sup>26</sup>As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup>A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. <sup>28</sup>Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' <sup>30</sup>Then 'they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'" <sup>31</sup>For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" <sup>32</sup>Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. <sup>35</sup>The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup>and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." <sup>38</sup>There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup>We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." <sup>44</sup>It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup>for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup>The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." <sup>48</sup>When all the people who had gathered to witness

this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. <sup>49</sup>But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

John 19:16-30

<sup>16</sup>Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle. <sup>19</sup>Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. <sup>21</sup>The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” <sup>23</sup>When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. <sup>24</sup>“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did. <sup>25</sup>Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” <sup>27</sup>and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. <sup>28</sup>Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup>A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. <sup>30</sup>When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

# ROADMAP 12—MY REDEEMER LIVES!

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## DAY 1—After three days, Jesus rose from the dead, just as He said

### Matthew 28:1-15

<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup>There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” <sup>8</sup>So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” <sup>11</sup>While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup>When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup>telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ <sup>14</sup>If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” <sup>15</sup>So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

### Mark 16:1-14

<sup>1</sup>When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. <sup>2</sup>Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup>and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” <sup>4</sup>But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” <sup>8</sup>Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. <sup>9</sup>When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. <sup>10</sup>She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. <sup>11</sup>When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it. <sup>12</sup>Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. <sup>13</sup>These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either. <sup>14</sup>Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

### John 20:1-18

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup>So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” <sup>3</sup>So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup>Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup>as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup>Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup>(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. <sup>11</sup>Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup>and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. <sup>13</sup>They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” <sup>14</sup>At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

## DAY 2—Jesus appeared to His people after He was raised from the dead

### Luke 24:1-12

<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words. <sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

### Luke 24:13-32

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup>“What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.” <sup>25</sup>He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. <sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

### John 21:1-15

<sup>1</sup>Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: <sup>2</sup>Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup>“I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup>Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. <sup>6</sup>He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. <sup>7</sup>Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. <sup>8</sup>The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. <sup>9</sup>When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. <sup>15</sup>When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

## DAY 3—Jesus rose from the dead to conquer death and hell

### Acts 2:26-29

<sup>26</sup>“Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, <sup>27</sup>because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. <sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence.’ <sup>29</sup>Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.”

#### Acts 4:2

<sup>2</sup>They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

#### Romans 1:4

<sup>4</sup>and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **DAY 4—Jesus’ resurrection gives us hope in our resurrection**

#### Romans 6:5

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

#### 1 Corinthians 15:3-22

<sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup>and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed. <sup>12</sup>But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup>More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup>If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup>But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

#### 1 Corinthians 15:45-57

<sup>45</sup>So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. <sup>48</sup>As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup>And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. <sup>50</sup>I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—<sup>52</sup>in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup>“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **DAY 5—The early church proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ**

#### Acts 4:8-31

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup>If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup>then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup>Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.” <sup>12</sup>Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” <sup>13</sup>When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup>But since they could see the man

who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. <sup>15</sup>So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. <sup>16</sup>“What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup>But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.” <sup>18</sup>Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup>But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup>As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” <sup>21</sup>After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. <sup>22</sup>For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old. <sup>23</sup>On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup>When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup>You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’ <sup>27</sup>Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup>They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. <sup>29</sup>Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. <sup>30</sup>Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” <sup>31</sup>After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

#### Acts 5:12-16

<sup>12</sup>The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>13</sup>No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. <sup>15</sup>As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. <sup>16</sup>Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

#### Acts 5:41-42

<sup>41</sup>The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. <sup>42</sup>Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

## **DAY 6—The preaching of the gospel was important in the early church**

#### Acts 7

<sup>1</sup>Then the high priest asked Stephen, “Are these charges true?” <sup>2</sup>To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran. <sup>3</sup>‘Leave your country and your people,’ God said, ‘and go to the land I will show you.’ <sup>4</sup>So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Harran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living. <sup>5</sup>He gave him no inheritance here, not even enough ground to set his foot on. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. <sup>6</sup>God spoke to him in this way: ‘For four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated. <sup>7</sup>But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,’ God said, ‘and afterward they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.’ <sup>8</sup>Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs. <sup>9</sup>Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him <sup>10</sup>and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt. So Pharaoh made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace. <sup>11</sup>Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our ancestors could not find food. <sup>12</sup>When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our forefathers on their first visit. <sup>13</sup>On their second visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about Joseph’s family. <sup>14</sup>After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all. <sup>15</sup>Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our ancestors died. <sup>16</sup>Their bodies were brought back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem for a certain sum of money. <sup>17</sup>As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt had greatly increased. <sup>18</sup>Then ‘a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt.’ <sup>19</sup>He dealt treacherously with our people and oppressed our ancestors by forcing them to throw out their newborn babies so that they would die. <sup>20</sup>At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for by his family. <sup>21</sup>When he was placed outside, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. <sup>22</sup>Moses was

educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action. <sup>23</sup>When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. <sup>24</sup>He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. <sup>25</sup>Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. <sup>26</sup>The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?' <sup>27</sup>But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us?' <sup>28</sup>Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' <sup>29</sup>When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons. <sup>30</sup>After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. <sup>31</sup>When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to get a closer look, he heard the Lord say: <sup>32</sup>'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look. <sup>33</sup>Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. <sup>34</sup>I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.' <sup>35</sup>This is the same Moses they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. <sup>36</sup>He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness. <sup>37</sup>This is the Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.' <sup>38</sup>He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us. <sup>39</sup>But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. <sup>40</sup>They told Aaron, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt—we don't know what has happened to him!' <sup>41</sup>That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and reveled in what their own hands had made. <sup>42</sup>But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the sun, moon and stars. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets: 'Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel?' <sup>43</sup>You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Babylon. <sup>44</sup>Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. <sup>45</sup>After receiving the tabernacle, our ancestors under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, <sup>46</sup>who enjoyed God's favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. <sup>47</sup>But it was Solomon who built a house for him. <sup>48</sup>However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says: <sup>49</sup>'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be?' <sup>50</sup>Has not my hand made all these things?' <sup>51</sup>You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! <sup>52</sup>Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— <sup>53</sup>you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it." <sup>54</sup>When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>57</sup>At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup>dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

#### Acts 11:19-21

<sup>19</sup>Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. <sup>20</sup>Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

#### Acts 13:16-37

<sup>16</sup>Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! <sup>17</sup>The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; <sup>18</sup>for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; <sup>19</sup>and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. <sup>20</sup>All this took about 450 years. After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. <sup>21</sup>Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. <sup>22</sup>After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' <sup>23</sup>From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. <sup>24</sup>Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. <sup>25</sup>As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one you are looking for. But there is one coming after me

whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’<sup>26</sup>Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.<sup>27</sup>The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath.<sup>28</sup>Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed.<sup>29</sup>When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb.<sup>30</sup>But God raised him from the dead,<sup>31</sup>and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.<sup>32</sup>We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors<sup>33</sup>he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: ‘You are my son; today I have become your father.’<sup>34</sup>God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said, ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’<sup>35</sup>So it is also stated elsewhere: ‘You will not let your holy one see decay.’<sup>36</sup>Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed.<sup>37</sup>But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.”

## DAY 7—The early church was a gospel-centered ministry

### Acts 15:22-36

<sup>22</sup>Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, men who were leaders among the believers.<sup>23</sup>With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, to the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings.<sup>24</sup>We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.<sup>25</sup>So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul—<sup>26</sup>men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>27</sup>Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.<sup>28</sup>It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:<sup>29</sup>You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell.<sup>30</sup>So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter.<sup>31</sup>The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.<sup>32</sup>Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.<sup>33</sup>After spending some time there, they were sent off by the believers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them.<sup>35</sup>But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.<sup>36</sup>Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.”

### Acts 17:16-34

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.<sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.<sup>18</sup>A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.<sup>19</sup>Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”<sup>20</sup>You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.”<sup>21</sup>(All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)<sup>22</sup>Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.<sup>23</sup>For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.<sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.<sup>25</sup>And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.<sup>26</sup>From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.<sup>27</sup>God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.<sup>28</sup>For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’<sup>29</sup>Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill.<sup>30</sup>In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.<sup>31</sup>For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”<sup>32</sup>When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”<sup>33</sup>At that, Paul left the Council.<sup>34</sup>Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

Acts 28:23-31

<sup>23</sup>They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. <sup>24</sup>Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. <sup>25</sup>They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet: <sup>26</sup>'Go to this people and say, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." <sup>27</sup>For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' <sup>28</sup>Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!" <sup>30</sup>For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. <sup>31</sup>He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ – with all boldness and without hindrance!

# ROADMAP 13—LIVING FOR THE LORD

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## DAY 1—These passages are Paul’s exhortations to the Christian church on how to live a grateful life before God

### Romans 12:1-21

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. <sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

### Romans 13:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. <sup>11</sup>And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup>Let 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.

### Galatians 6:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup>Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, <sup>5</sup>for each one should carry their own load. <sup>6</sup>Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

## DAY 2—These verses are also Pauline imperatives about how the saved sinner should live because Christ is in him or her

### Ephesians 4:1-6

<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>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

### Ephesians 4:17-32

<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 thinking. <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 <sup>21</sup>when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup>You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup>to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. <sup>25</sup>Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup>“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup>and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup>Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. <sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

#### Ephesians 5:10-20

<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, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **DAY 3—The texts of this day are again examples of how to live once we’ve been saved**

#### Philippians 2:1-18

<sup>1</sup>Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. <sup>14</sup>Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup>so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup>as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup>But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup>So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:1-13

<sup>1</sup>As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. <sup>2</sup>For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. <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. <sup>8</sup>Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. <sup>9</sup>Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. <sup>10</sup>And in fact, you do love all of God’s family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, <sup>11</sup>and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, <sup>12</sup>so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

### Hebrews 13:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup>Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. <sup>4</sup>Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. <sup>5</sup>Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" <sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

## **DAY 4—Peter, John and Jude, along with Paul, give a picture of how the saved sinner should live to show thankfulness to God for salvation**

### 1 Peter 4:7-19

<sup>7</sup>The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. <sup>8</sup>Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup>Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup>Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup>If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>12</sup>Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup>If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup>However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. <sup>17</sup>For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup>And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" <sup>19</sup>So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

### 1 John 2:1-17

<sup>1</sup>My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. <sup>3</sup>We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. <sup>4</sup>Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. <sup>5</sup>But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: <sup>6</sup>Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. <sup>7</sup>Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. <sup>8</sup>Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup>Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. <sup>10</sup>Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. <sup>11</sup>But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them. <sup>12</sup>I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. <sup>13</sup>I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. <sup>14</sup>I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. <sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. <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.

### Jude 17-25

<sup>17</sup>But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. <sup>18</sup>They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." <sup>19</sup>These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup>keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. <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. <sup>24</sup>To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—<sup>25</sup>to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

## DAY 5—Jesus’ suffering—body and soul—is spoken of in these three portions of Scripture

### Isaiah 53:3-12

<sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. <sup>4</sup>Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. <sup>9</sup>He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup>Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup>After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

### Matthew 26:36-42

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup>He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” <sup>39</sup>Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” <sup>40</sup>Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup>“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup>He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

### Matthew 27:45-54

<sup>45</sup>From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup>About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). <sup>47</sup>When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” <sup>48</sup>Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup>The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” <sup>50</sup>And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. <sup>51</sup>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split <sup>52</sup>and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup>They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. <sup>54</sup>When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

## DAY 6—The Bible clearly tells Christians that they will suffer for following Christ

### Acts 3:18

<sup>18</sup>But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer.

### Hebrews 5:7-10

<sup>7</sup>During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered <sup>9</sup>and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him <sup>10</sup>and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

### 1 Peter 2:21-25

<sup>21</sup>To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” <sup>23</sup>When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” <sup>25</sup>For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## **DAY 7—We can have hope, even amidst our sufferings, because of the gospel**

### Romans 8:17-18

<sup>17</sup>Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. <sup>18</sup>I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

### 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

<sup>16</sup>Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup>So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. <sup>1</sup>For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. <sup>2</sup>Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. <sup>6</sup>Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup>For we live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

### 1 Peter 4:12-13

<sup>12</sup>Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

# ROADMAP 14—THE HOPE OF GLORY

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## DAY 1—The gospel is a beautiful declaration

Romans 1:16-17

<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. <sup>17</sup>For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Galatians 4:3-7

<sup>3</sup>So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup>Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Colossians 2:13-15

<sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup>having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

## DAY 2—Believers must live a life that pleases the Lord

1 Timothy 1:15-17

<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. <sup>17</sup>Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 7:27-28

<sup>27</sup>Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup>For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 9:12-14

<sup>12</sup>He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. <sup>14</sup>How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

## DAY 3—Christ lived a life of perfect obedience and service to God

Hebrews 9:23-28

<sup>23</sup>It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup>For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence. <sup>25</sup>Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup>Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him

Hebrews 10:5-18

<sup>5</sup>Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’” <sup>8</sup>First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin

offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them” —though they were offered in accordance with the law. <sup>9</sup>Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. <sup>11</sup>Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup>and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. <sup>14</sup>For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. <sup>15</sup>The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: <sup>16</sup>“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” <sup>17</sup>Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” <sup>18</sup>And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

#### Hebrews 12:2-3

<sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

### **DAY 4—Our hope is in Jesus Christ, even while we live and suffer in this present evil age**

#### 1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

#### 1 Peter 2:24-25

<sup>24</sup>“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” <sup>25</sup>For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

#### 1 Peter 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. <sup>2</sup>As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

### **DAY 5—Do not lose faith, but persevere through hardships until Christ returns**

#### Revelation 1:4-7

<sup>4</sup>John, to the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. <sup>7</sup>“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen.

#### Revelation 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup>I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup>You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup>Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup>Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup>But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

### Revelation 3:7-13

<sup>7</sup>"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. <sup>8</sup>I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup>I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup>Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. <sup>11</sup>I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. <sup>12</sup>Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. <sup>13</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

## **DAY 6—God is powerful and majestic as He is worshiped and as He shows it in His judgment**

### Revelation 4

<sup>1</sup>After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." <sup>2</sup>At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. <sup>3</sup>And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. <sup>4</sup>Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. <sup>5</sup>From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. <sup>6</sup>Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. <sup>7</sup>The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup>Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come." <sup>9</sup>Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, <sup>10</sup>the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: <sup>11</sup>"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

### Revelation 5:6-14

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. <sup>8</sup>And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. <sup>9</sup>And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. <sup>10</sup>You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." <sup>11</sup>Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup>In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" <sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" <sup>14</sup>The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

### Revelation 6:12-17

<sup>12</sup>I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, <sup>13</sup>and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. <sup>14</sup>The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. <sup>15</sup>Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. <sup>16</sup>They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!" <sup>17</sup>For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?"

## DAY 7—When we sing songs of adoration and praise to God, it's a picture of what heaven will be like

### Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." <sup>11</sup>All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" <sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" <sup>14</sup>I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup>Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

### Revelation 11:15-19

<sup>15</sup>The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever." <sup>16</sup>And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, <sup>17</sup>saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. <sup>18</sup>The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth." <sup>19</sup>Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

### Revelation 22

<sup>1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. <sup>6</sup>The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." <sup>7</sup>"Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll." <sup>8</sup>I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!" <sup>10</sup>Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. <sup>11</sup>Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy." <sup>12</sup>"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. <sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup>Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. <sup>16</sup>I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." <sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. <sup>18</sup>I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. <sup>19</sup>And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. <sup>20</sup>He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.