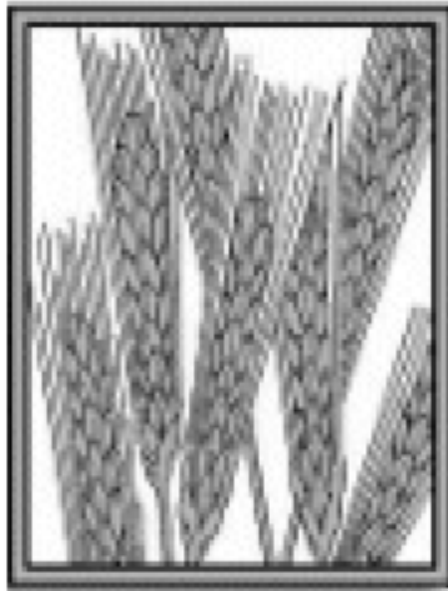


Knowing God

Through His Provision



Discovery Lessons 41 Through 50

2nd Edition

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Grand Rapids, Michigan

Published by BMW/bbci
Box 2844, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501

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Knowing God

Discovery Lessons

by Paul R. Veenstra

Dedicated to my good friend Nidhu Das
Founder of
Bangla Ministries Worldwide and
the Bangla Bible Correspondence Institute

Appreciation is extended to Mr. Nidhu Das, Mrs. Stella Das, Mrs. Janice Goddard, Dr. Donn Ketchum, Mrs. Carol Veenstra, and Mrs. Jayne Wolf for invaluable critical editing work of the manuscript.

KNOWING GOD

This Bible course consists of a series of five books, each with several discovery lessons to help you know God better. This is the fifth book.

Book 1 - KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION

The story of creation is found in the first three chapters of the book of Genesis, the first book in the Holy Bible. The purpose of this chapter is to discover the Creator.

Book 2 - KNOWING GOD THROUGH JESUS

The story of Jesus is found in the first four books of the New Testament in the Holy Bible. The purpose of this chapter is to discover the true Jesus.

Book 3 - KNOWING GOD THROUGH THE HOLY BIBLE

The Holy Bible includes the Old Testament and New Testament and is like a small library that contains many books divided into chapters and verses, but it is all one story -- His story -- God's story. It was written for us as a guide to knowing God and how to live in such a way as to please God. The purpose of this chapter is to discover how to be sure you have a personal relationship with God.

Book 4 - KNOWING GOD THROUGH OBEDIENCE

The Holy Bible asks the question, "What does the LORD your God require of you?" Obeying God is the key to knowing the fullness of blessing God has in store for the believer. The purpose of this chapter is to discover what God requires of us. God wants to bless us so we can be a blessing to others.

Book 5 - KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION

God has provided many resources for us in order that we might know Him. The purpose of this chapter is to discover these resources and

what we can do to avail ourselves of all He has in store for us. We can be all that God intends for us to be.

INSTRUCTIONS

Each of the books has several short lessons. We suggest that you do one lesson each day. Study the lessons in order. Each lesson will help you understand the lessons that follow. The lessons include a statement of the purpose of the lesson, verses from the Holy Bible (boxed in), definitions and explanations, and questions.

First pray. Ask God to make Himself and His plan for you known to you.

Second, read the Bible verses in the boxes carefully. Think about what God is making known.

Third, read the definitions and explanations.

Finally write brief answers to the questions in each lesson.

If you have any questions about the lesson, please call Thomas at 1-646-462-5232, email info@banglaministries.org, or write to us at BMW, PO Box 2844, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

Each book has an examination. This is simply a compilation of questions from each lesson. They are numbered the same as the numbers in each lesson. Before writing your answers, review the lessons. Then try to see how many questions you can answer without consulting the questions included in each lesson. After that, go back to the lesson book for your answers. When you complete the examination, fill out the personal

information, sign the sheet and send it to BMW, PO Box 2844, Grand Rapids, MI 49501, email it to info@banglaministries.org, or give it to your instructor. Your questionnaire will be graded and returned.

INDEX

BOOK 5 - KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION

Lesson 41 – The Bible and how to understand it

Lesson 42 – The benefits of Bible study

Lesson 43 – The privilege of prayer

Lesson 44 – What may cause prayer to ineffective

Lesson 45 – The gift of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 46 – Why God provides churches

Lesson 47 – The universal Church and how it should
function

Lesson 48 – The provision of fellowship

Lesson 49 – God’s provision of fellow believers

Lesson 50 – God’s promises to believers

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION

Lesson Forty-one

The purpose of this lesson is to discover why God gave us the Bible and how to understand it. This is taught in the Holy Bible.

God, who created the universe, has chosen to speak to people everywhere through His written word, the Bible. At different times from nearly 2000 to 3600 years ago, God spoke to certain people living in the Middle East and southern Europe and caused them to write down exactly what He wanted to communicate to mankind. He caused His messages to be recorded in the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages being spoken then. *For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)* Each book of the Bible was written both by God and by the human author through whom He communicated to real people who were living at that time in a particular place.

When we read the Bible, we are reading something that was first written for someone else, but now God wants us to hear Him speak through what He said so long ago. *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)* And we have the word of

the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place,... (2 Peter 1:19)

It is because God wants to communicate to us today through the Bible (even though it was written long ago, far away and in languages that are foreign to us) that it is necessary and important to study the Bible. To study the Bible is to take special effort to understand what it tells us about God and about ourselves and to understand why and how our lives must be changed so that we can carry out His good purposes. God wants us to be like His Son Jesus Christ in our attitudes and behavior.

Verses from the Holy Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

1 Kings 4:29 God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.

Job 12:13 To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.

Job 28:20, 23 Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells,

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

1 John 5:20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true--even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

1 Corinthians 2:12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Jeremiah 3:15 Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

Definitions and Explanations

See 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Rebuking refers to the exposing of error.

See 1 Kings 4:29

Breadth means extensive capacity.

See Job 28:20

To dwell means to inhabit, to abide in. A dwelling is a place.

See Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the LORD means to have an awesome reverence for God.

See 1 John 5:20

Eternal life is a new life that begins with a new birth, a spiritual birth, and never ends. It is different than physical life. It is a life from above, given by God to those who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for forgiveness. It is life changed by the power of God to overcome sin and evil. It is life fully open to God and centered in obeying Him. Those who have eternal life will never perish because it is a life unaffected by death. It is an unending life with God, enjoying his presence and fellowship forever.

* * * * *

Questions

41a. What are some of God's purposes in giving us the Bible?

(See 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Psalm 119:105)

41b. Where does understanding come from? *(See 1 Kings 4:29 and Job 12:13 and Job 28:20, 23 and Proverbs 9:10 and 1 John 5:20 and 1 Corinthians 2:12 and Jeremiah 3:15)*

What conclusion have you come to about understanding the Bible?

Notes

More verses from the Holy Bible

Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 4:1 Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding.

Job 28:28 And he said to man, "The fear of the Lord--that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding."

Psalms 53:2 God looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

Proverbs 14:29 A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.

Proverbs 15:32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.

Philemon 1:6 I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

More Definitions and Explanations

See Job 28:28

Shun means to avoid.

See Psalm 111:10

Precepts are commandments.

See Proverbs 14:29

Folly is foolishness. It means without understanding.

See Proverbs 15:32

Despises means to regard as nothing, to treat with contempt.

To **heed** is to give responsive attention to.

More Questions

41c. What personal traits will help us understand God's word, the Bible?
(*See Proverbs 2:1-5 and Proverbs 4:1 and Job 28:28 and Psalm 53:2 and Psalm 111:10 and Proverbs 14:29 and Proverbs 15:32 and Philemon 1:6*)

Which traits do you consider most important? Why?

Notes

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION

Lesson Forty-two

The purpose of this lesson is to discover the benefits of Bible study. These benefits are mentioned throughout the Holy Bible.

Bible study is essential for anyone who wants to know God. God reveals Himself through His word, the Holy Bible. It is His love letter to us. He has revealed His great love to us and how we can enjoy a personal relationship with Him. A casual, occasional reading of the Bible will not meet ones daily needs. Do not depend only on what others tell you the Bible teaches. If we want all that God has for us and want to please Him we must study the Bible for ourselves, think about what it says, meditate on it, and obey it.

Verses from the Holy Bible

Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

James 1:22-25 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.

Deuteronomy 11:18-20 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Questions

42a. What prayer should we pray whenever we begin to study God's word (the Holy Bible)? (See Psalm 119:18)

Pray it now.

42b. What do we have to do to have God's blessing? (*See Revelation 1:3 and James 1:22-25*)

42c. What instructions does God give us to help us remember His words? (*See Deuteronomy 11:18-20*)

Notes

More verses from the Holy Bible

Jeremiah 15:16 When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Nehemiah 8:8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Psalms 119:9,11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

To make God's Word a more regular part of your life, make a plan of where you will do Bible study (a quiet place is best), how many times a week, what

hour of the day. Ask God to help you keep up this plan. If you miss, don't be discouraged; just pick up where you left off.

More Questions

42d. How should we treat the word of God? *(See Jeremiah 15:16 and 2 Timothy 2:15 and Acts 17:11 and Nehemiah 8:8)*

42e. What is God's word useful for?
(See Matthew 4:4 and Psalm 119:9, 11 and Colossians 3:16)

How do you use God's word?

42f. When should we meditate on God's word? *(See Psalm 1:1-3 and Joshua 1:8)*

42g. What will be the result if we meditate on God's word and obey it?
(See Psalm 1:1-3 and Joshua 1:8)

Do you believe these promises refer to material, physical, or spiritual benefits? Why?

Notes

Definition and Explanations

Meditate means to observe thoughtfully, consider carefully, and ponder the meaning of the words for the purpose of understanding God's intentions and how to respond to Him. Take 5-10 minutes and try meditating on Psalm 1:1-3. Use the rest of this page and ask yourself the following questions: Who? What? Why? How? When? Ask all the questions you can think of about the verses (even if you cannot answer them!)

On this page write these verses in your own words. How would you apply these verses to your life? Make an outline or drawing of these verses.

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION

Lesson Forty-three

The purpose of this lesson is to discover the privilege of prayer. This privilege is taught throughout the Holy Bible.

Verses from the Holy Bible

Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Definitions and Explanations

Prayer is conversation with God. God talks with us through His word. We talk with God through prayer. God wants us to share everything on our

hearts and minds because He cares about us. You can tell Him anything. God longs for our fellowship, worship and praise. He also wants us to bring our needs and requests to Him showing that we recognize our dependence on Him. It is our privilege to personally come into the very presence of the Almighty God through prayer.

Praise is the expression of our worship and adoration of God for who He is and what He does.

Notes

Questions

PRAISE

43a. What are the first things we should do when we enter God's presence?
(See Psalm 100:4)

CONFESSION

43b. What does God promise us if we confess our sins and turn from them?
(See 1 John 1:9 and 2 Chronicles 7:14)

Notes

More verses from the Holy Bible

Ephesians 5:20 Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

More Questions

THANKSGIVING

43c. What should we be thankful for? *(See Ephesians 5:20 and Philippians 4:6-7 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)*

How, in your opinion, is it possible to give thanks in all circumstances?

43d. What does God provide for those who give Him thanks in everything? *(See Philippians 4:6-7)*

43e. How often should we pray? *(See 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 and Ephesians 6:18 and Colossians 4:2)*

What do you think “pray continually” means?

Notes

More verses from the Holy Bible

Luke 11:9 So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Psalms 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

James 1:5-6 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 Timothy 2:8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

Definitions and Explanations

Hebrews 4:16

Mercy is undeserved withholding of punishment.

Grace is undeserved acceptance and love received from another, especially the characteristic attitude of God in providing salvation for sinners. Grace provides a Savior and draws the sinner to God.

* * * * *

More Questions

PETITION

43f. What does God say to those who ask, seek, knock, and call?

(See Luke 11:9 and Jeremiah 33:3 and Hebrews 4:16 and Psalm 145:18 and James 1:5-6 and 1 John 5:14-15)

43g. What are God's requirements for effective prayer? *(See James 1:5-6 and 1 John 5:14-15 and 1 Timothy 2:8)*

What changes can you make in your life to make your prayer life more effective?

Is there an element of prayer you need to include to improve your prayer life?

Notes

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION

Lesson Forty-four

The purpose of this lesson is to discover what may cause prayer to be ineffective. These causes are found throughout the Holy Bible.

Verses from the Holy Bible

Proverbs 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 15:8 The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.

Proverbs 28:9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.

Proverbs 1:24-31 But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you--when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me. Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

John 9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will.

Psalms 66:18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Psalms 32:5 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.

Definitions and Explanations

Proverbs 15:8

Detests means hates intensely.

Proverbs 1:24-31

Heed means pay attention to.

Calamity refers to trouble or tragedy.

Spurned means despised or rejected.

Schemes here refers to bad intentions.

* * * * *

Questions

44a. Compare God's response toward those who are righteous with His response toward those who are wicked. (*See Proverbs 15:29 and Proverbs 15:8*)

44b. What does the Bible say about the prayers of those who will not take heed to the word of God? (*See Proverbs 28:9 and Proverbs 1:24-31*)

What changes could you make to be the type of man or woman God will listen to?

44c. Whose prayer does God not listen to? (*See John 9:31 and Psalm 66:18*)

44d. What are two things that are necessary if we want God to forgive our sins? (See Psalm 66:18 and Psalm 32:5)

More verses from the Holy Bible

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Mark 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

Matthew 6:5-7 And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

1 John 3:21-22 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

Notes

More Questions

44e. What is your responsibility if you sin against another person?
(See *James 5:16 and Mark 11:25*)

Is there any unconfessed sin in your life against God or another person? What will you do about it?

44f. What should we avoid when we pray? Why? (See *Matthew 6:5-7*)

44g. Who makes it possible for our prayers to reach God?
(See *1 Timothy 2:5*)

In your opinion, what is the difference between praying and saying prayers?

44h. What things will give us confidence that God will answer our prayers?

(See 1 John 3:21-22)

Notes

More verses from the Holy Bible

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

John 16:24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my (Jesus') name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

James 4:2-3 You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

More Questions

44i. Will God give you anything you ask for? *(See John 15:7 and John 16:24 and James 4:2-3)*

44j. Under what conditions will God satisfy our desires? *(See John 15:7 and John 16:24 and James 4:2-3)*

What do you think it means to “ask in my (Jesus’) name?” Is there

more to it than just saying the words?

Notes

Notes

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION

Lesson Forty-five

The purpose of this lesson is to discover why God has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit. This teaching is found throughout the New Testament.

Verses from the Holy Bible

John 14:16-17 And I (Jesus) will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Romans 8:9,11 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the (Holy) Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his (Holy) Spirit, who lives in you.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his (Holy) Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Definitions and Explanations

See John 14:16-17

The **Counselor** is the One called alongside to help, the One who analyzes a situation and gives advice to the person who has responsibility for making a decision.

See 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

A seal indicates ownership and security. God seals us with the Holy Spirit, indicating divine ownership and eternal security.

Questions

45a. When Jesus knew He would be leaving this world, what did He say He would ask the Father (God) to give us? *(See John 14:16-17)*

45b. If you belong to Christ, where is the Holy Spirit? *(See John 14:16-17 and Romans 8:9, 11 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 2 Corinthians 1:21-22)*

Notes

More verses from the Holy Bible

Galatians 5:16-18, 25 So I say, live by the (Holy) Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the (Holy) Spirit, and the (Holy) Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the (Holy) Spirit, you are not under law. Since we live by the (Holy) Spirit, let us keep in step with the (Holy) Spirit.

Rom 8:13-14, 16 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the (Holy) Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. The (Holy) Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the (Holy) Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

Debauchery is outrageous conduct.

Notes

More Questions

45c. What is true about anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ?
(See Romans 8:9, 11)

45d. What does the Bible say about the bodies of believers?

(See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

How would you “honor God with your body”?

45e. How does God make it possible for us to win the conflict against the desires of the sinful nature? *(See Galatians 5:16-18, 25 and Romans 8:13-14, 16)*

Is there an area of your life you want the Holy Spirit to control more? Pray about this now.

45f. What does the Bible say about the control of our lives?
(See Ephesians 5:18)

Notes

More verses from the Holy Bible

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not put out (quench) the (Holy) Spirit's fire;

1 Corinthians 2:12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the (Holy) Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Romans 8:26-27 In the same way, the (Holy) Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same (Holy) Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the (Holy) Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

More Definitions and Explanations

See Ephesians 4:30

To **grieve** the Holy Spirit is to do or say things God tells us not to do.

See 1 Thessalonians 5:19

To **quench** (put out the Spirit's fire) the Holy Spirit is to refuse or neglect to do or say things that God tells us to do.

See Romans 8:26-27

Intercedes means praying to God on behalf of another person.

See 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Manifestation refers to visible evidence. **Manifestation of the Spirit** refers to the visible evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in and through the life of a believer.

More Questions

- 45g. In what two ways can we limit the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives? (*See Ephesians 4:30 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19*)
- 45h. Why has God given us His Spirit? (*See 1 Corinthians 2:12 and Romans 8:26-27 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)
- 45i. When the Holy Spirit is in control in our lives, what does He produce in us? (*See Galatians 5:22-23*)

Read back over your answers in this lesson. What Bible verse meant the most to you? How can you act on it and put it “to work” in your life?

Notes

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION

Lesson Forty-six

The purpose of this lesson is to discover why God provides churches. This teaching is found throughout the New Testament.

Verses from the Holy Bible

Acts 2:39-47 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰With many other words he (the apostle Peter) warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

1 Timothy 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

Questions

46a. What activities were practiced in the earliest Christian church?
(See Acts 2:41, 42, 45, 47)

What activities do you think still apply to us today?

- 46b. Who has the responsibility to direct the affairs of the church?
(See Acts 14:23 and 1 Timothy 5:17)

Definitions and Explanations

Ekkelesia is a Greek word, which means a regular meeting of people called together for a purpose.

The church was an ekkelesia, a group of people who met regularly for the purpose of worshiping God, the Lord, Jesus Christ. This worship centered around the Lord's Table. (More about this in Lesson 48.)

Acts 2:47 And the Lord added to their number (the church) daily those who were being saved.

1 Corinthians 1:2-3 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Church membership did not and does not guarantee salvation, however those who were being saved were added to the church.

The church was not and is not a building. As stated above it is a group of people. They met in homes where they broke bread together to remember the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord. When a group, the church, became too big for a home they split the group, meeting in several homes. Each church in the New Testament governed itself and none were governed by any higher governing body. They were governed by elders, not an elder.

See Acts 2:41

Baptism is the immersion or dipping of a believer in water symbolizing the believer's submission to God through Jesus Christ, testifying to His death,

burial, and resurrection. Baptism comes after we acknowledge our sin, turn from sin, and state our belief in Christ as Lord and Savior. Baptism is a confirmation of salvation from the penalty of our sin, not a requirement for salvation. It is a requirement of obedience to God. The gospel of salvation from sin through Jesus Christ is for everyone; baptism is only for true believers.

More verses from the Holy Bible

Acts 6:3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.

1 Timothy 3:2-4 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

1 Peter 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 10:47-48 "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

More Definitions and Explanations

See 1 Timothy 3:2-4

Overseer refers to any elder who has the responsibility of caring for the members of the church.

More Questions

46c. What qualifications were required for leadership in the church?
(See Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:2-4)

How would you describe the character that was expected of church leaders? *(See 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 2 in your Bible)*

46d. What responsibilities do church leaders have? *(See 1 Timothy 5:17 and 1 Peter 5:2 and Philippians 2:3)*

46e. How should we respond to the leaders of the church?
(See 1 Thessalonians 5:12 and Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Timothy 5:17)

Are you being a joy or a burden to your church leaders?

How can you improve on this?

46f. Why should Christians meet together? (*See Hebrews 10:25 and Acts 2:42 and Matthew 28:19-20*)

46g. Who was qualified to be baptized? (*See Acts 2:41 and Acts 10:47-48 and Matthew 28:19-20*)

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION Lesson Forty-seven

The purpose of this lesson is to discover God's provision of the universal Church and how it should function. This teaching is found throughout the Holy Bible.

The body in these verses refers to the universal Church. All those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ are members of the body, the universal Church, and each person is needed to maintain the health of the body. It is a spiritual body, not a physical body. It is compared to a physical body, which has many members, each with its own function, which helps to maintain the health of the entire body.

Verses from the Holy Bible

1 Corinthians 12 ¹²The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ¹³For we were all baptized by one (Holy) Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one (Holy) Spirit to drink. ¹⁴Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

1 Corinthians 12 ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

1 Corinthians 12 ¹⁸But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

Notes

Questions

47a. What is the body made up of? (See *1 Corinthians 12:12-14*)

47b. Are all the parts of the body the same? (See *1 Corinthians 12:15-17*)
Explain.

47c. Who determines the arrangement of the parts of the body?
(See *1 Corinthians 12:18-20*)

How does this truth apply to your present situation?

Notes

More Verses from the Holy Bible

1 Corinthians 12 21The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the

members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,²⁵so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1 Corinthians 12²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

1 Corinthians 12²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

More Questions

47d. Do we have any right to think another believer is not needed? Why?
(See 1 Corinthians 12:21-25)

47 e. Why has God combined the members of the body as He has?
(See 1 Corinthians 12:21-25)

47f. What happens when one member of the Church suffers?
(See 1 Corinthians 12:26)

47g. Are you a member of the body, the Church?
(See 1 Corinthians 12:27)

More verses from the Holy Bible

Romans 12³For 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 measure of faith God has given you. ⁴Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12 ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

1 Corinthians 12 ¹Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

1 Corinthians 12 ⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same (Holy) Spirit. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Definitions and Explanations

See Romans 12:6

Prophesying refers to the preaching of the counsel of God.

* * * * *

More Questions

47h. As members of the body of Christ (the Church), how should we think of ourselves? *(See Romans 12:3)*

47i. Do all the members of the body have the same function?
(See Romans 12:4 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

47j. To whom do we in the Church belong? *(See Romans 12:5)*

More Verses from the Holy Bible

1 Corinthians 12:7 ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the (Holy) Spirit is given for the common good. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same (Holy) Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

Ephesians 4:11-13 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

More Questions

47k. Why does God give differing gifts to the member of His body, the Church? (See *1 Corinthians 12:7* and *Ephesians 4:12*)

47l. What are some of the possibilities for service in the Church? (See *Romans 12:6-8* and *Ephesians 4:11*)

For what purpose do you think God chose you to be a member of His body?

47m. Who assigns the gifts in the body, the Church? (See *1 Corinthians 12:11* and *Ephesians 4:7*)

More verses from the Holy Bible

1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Colossians 1:18 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.

More Questions

47n. What does God instruct us to do with the gift He has given us?

(See 1 Peter 4:10)

47o. Why is Christ the head of the body? *See Colossians 1:18)*

What do you think supremacy means?

Is He your head on a daily basis?

Notes

More Verses from the Holy Bible

Ephesians 4:2-6 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called--one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Colossians 3:12-15 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

John 17:11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one.

Notes

More Questions

47p. As members of one body, how are we to interact with each other?
(See *Ephesians 4:2-6* and *1 Corinthians 1:10* and *Colossians 3:12-15*)

47q. What is the result of true unity? (See *Colossians 3:12-15*)

47r. Why did Jesus pray to the Father to protect believers?
(See *John 17:11*)

If God were to grade you according to your day-by-day interaction with other believers, how would you measure up to His standards?

In what ways could you improve?

Review the verses in this lesson.

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION

Lesson Forty-eight

The purpose of this lesson is to discover the provision of fellowship. This provision is discussed throughout the Holy Bible.

Verses from the Holy Bible

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

Definitions and Explanations

The Lord's Table, sometimes called communion or the Lord's Supper, is a memorial of Jesus' sacrificial death celebrated by members of His Church. It is a tragedy if some believers partake of the Lord's Supper and at the same time do not demonstrate fellowship by living in love toward other believers. Christians must examine themselves and be careful to respect each member of Christ's body, the Church, as they share the Lord's Supper.

Notes

Questions

48a. What is the purpose of the Lord's Table or communion?

(See 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

48b. Who should not eat of the bread or drink of the cup of the Lord?

(See 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

Notes

More verses from the Holy Bible

Romans 15:5-7 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

James 2:8-10 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

More Definitions and Explanations

Fellowship is the bond of common purpose and devotion that binds Christians to each other and to Christ. It is visible when believers share what they have with other believers. Just as Jesus gave Himself completely for the sake of His people, so too believers should give completely of themselves for the people of God. Christians are to assist fellow believers by sharing what they have with each other. Such mutual sharing of one's blessings is a clear and profound expression of Christian fellowship.

More Questions

48c. What is the result of a spirit of unity among believers?
(See Romans 15:5-7)

How could your words, attitudes, or actions better promote unity among the believers you know?

48d. List the ways believers are to relate to “one another”.
(See Romans 15:5-7 and Romans 12:10 and Romans 12:16 and Ephesians 5:21 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and Hebrews 10:24-25)

Why do you think it is important for believers to meet together?

48e. What does the Scripture tell us not to be? *(See Romans 12:16)*

Write Romans 12:16 in your own words.

48f. What happens if you show favoritism? *(See James 2:8-10)*

In what ways do we show favoritism?

More verses from the Holy Bible

Romans 14:1-3 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does

not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.

Romans 14:20-21 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

Matthew 18:15-17 If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Notes

More Questions

48g. What should we do if we disagree with other believers on personal matters of lifestyle that the Bible doesn't specifically mention?
(See *Romans 14:1-3* and *Romans 14:20-21*)

What should our attitude be in these matters?

48h. What steps are you responsible to take if a Christian brother sins against you? (See *Matthew 18:15-17*)

Is there anything you personally need to do to fulfill these commands?

Will you obey God?

Notes

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION

Lesson Forty-nine

The purpose of this lesson is to discover the provision of God through believers for each other. This concept is found throughout the Holy Bible.

Verses from the Holy Bible

Mark 10:42-45 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Galatians 5:13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Romans 15:1-2 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Definitions and Explanations

See Galatians 5:13

Indulge means to satisfy.

Notes

Questions

49a. What must you do to be great? What must you do to be first?
(*See Mark 10:42-45*)

49b. Who set the supreme example of service? (*See Mark 10:42-45*)

Who do you believe the Son of Man is?

49c. What have we been set free to do? (*See Galatians 5:13*)

49d. What is the cure for selfishness? (*See Philippians 2:3-4 and Romans 15:1-2*)

Notes

More verses from the Holy Bible

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Colossians 3:16-17 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Romans 15:14 I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Matthew 25:40 The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Ephesians 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Hebrews 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Definitions and Explanations

See Colossians 3:16-17

Admonish means to warn.

Notes

More Questions

49e. To whom should we do good? *(See Galatians 6:10)*

How do you serve your fellow believers?

49f. What are some ways we can serve one another?
(See Colossians 3:16-17 and Romans 15:14 and Galatians 5:22-23)

Does this bring anything to mind that you could do for someone else?
What?

49g. When we serve others whom are we truly serving?
(See Colossians 3:23 and Matthew 25:40)

49h. How does the church grow? *(See Ephesians 4:16)*

What is your part?

49i. What kind of leaders should we follow? *(See Hebrews 13:7)*

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION Lesson Fifty

The purpose of this lesson is to discover the provision of God's promises to believers. These are found throughout the Holy Bible.

Verses from the Holy Bible

Joshua 23:14 You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.

Psalms 145:13 The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 40:31 Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 55:11 So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 4:6-7 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Jeremiah 29:12-13 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Matthew 7:7-8 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 18:20 Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Psalms 84:11 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.

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Definitions and Explanations

A **promise** is an agreement to do something or not to do something. Promises relate to what is good and desirable, and to that which blesses and enriches. The promises of God are "very great and precious promises," 2 Peter 1:4. They are continuously fulfilled, generation after generation. God's greatest promise is to bless all the peoples of the earth through His Son.

Questions

50a. What does the Bible say about the promises God has given us?
(See Joshua 23:14)

50b. Why can we count on God's promises? (See Psalm 145:13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:24)

Is there a promise that you want to claim today or ask God to do for you?

Take it to Him in prayer.

Notes

50c. Complete the chart below. Make a list of God's promises and your responsibilities. (Sometimes the promise is all God's doing, so the right column may be empty.)

Bible Verses	God's Promises	Your Responsibility
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<i>Joshua 1:8</i>		
<i>Matthew 24:35</i>		
<i>Deuteronomy 31:6</i>		
<i>Isaiah 26:3</i>		
<i>Philippians 4:19</i>		
<i>Isaiah 40:31</i>		
<i>Isaiah 55:11</i>		
<i>James 1:12</i>		
<i>James 4:6-7</i>		
<i>Jeremiah 33:3</i>		
<i>Jeremiah 29:12-13</i>		
<i>Matthew 7:7-8</i>		
<i>Matthew 18:20</i>		
<i>Psalms 84:11</i>		
<i>Psalms 23:6</i>		

KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS PROVISION Summary

First, we discovered that God gave us the Bible because He wanted to communicate His love to us, and He tells us what we can do to understand the Bible. Read it with a desire to get to know God.

Second, we discovered the importance of true Bible study, and the importance of meditating on God's word. Make the study of God's word a top priority in your life, not just reading it casually from time to time.

Third, we discovered the importance of prayer, how to pray, and what to include in our prayers. You can talk to God directly about anything. Take advantage of this wonderful provision.

Fourth, we discovered what might cause prayer to be ineffective. Prepare your heart. Confess your sin against God and against others. God will answer your prayers!

Fifth, we discovered a powerful provision—the Holy Spirit, our Counselor and guide. Be filled with the Holy Spirit of God and experience His power in your life.

Sixth, we discovered what the church is, who is responsible for the affairs of the church, how we fit in, and how we benefit from this provision God has given us. Be sure to join a good Bible-teaching church.

Seventh, we discovered the universal Church, the body of Christ, and that all believers are members of His body, the Church. God has included you as an important member in His church with an important responsibility. Experience the joy God gives as you fulfill your responsibility.

Eighth, we discovered the importance of fellowship and a spirit of unity among believers. Make it your goal to share what you have to assist fellow believers. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Ninth, we discovered that God has provided us with many other believers so that we can serve one another, and learn how to serve others. Be a servant, even as your Lord was a servant, thus winning the battle against selfishness.

Tenth, we discovered that God has given us many great and precious promises and that He keeps His promises. You can count on Him. Can He count on you? Promise God to live for Him with your whole heart, soul, body and mind.

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“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” *Numbers 6:24-26*

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. *Ephesians 3:20-21*

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. *Jude 1:24-25*

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