FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF OVERSEER

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. **ISAIAH 53:1-5**

To the Saints of the Most High God,

I greet you in the precious name of Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord to the Glory of God the Father.

Lent (also known as Lenten) is a season that begins on Ash Wednesday and includes forty days of prayer, fasting and thanksgiving as a literal and symbolic remembrance of Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, crucifixion, death and resurrection. Although Christians around the world honor Jesus' sacrifice differently, our church traditionally observes Lent as a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection on the First Day of the week (after the Passover Feast Celebration) as recorded in scripture. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer, we gather to read His Holy Word with universal lessons, we serve our local communities, we practice self-control through fasting from sunrise to sunset forty consecutive days (ending Palm Sunday) and we give our first fruits so the work of God (through our church) can continue. During this sacred time we also abstain from excess as we seek his face. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and rebirth. It is a time for the committed to make recommitments to the principles of the Christian faith. I am going through this spiritual renewal with you for the first time as Chief Overseer. Thank you to the many saints and friends that continue to make our church a city on a hill that shall not be hidden. May Heaven smile upon each of you this Lenten season.

In Service for the Master,

Bishop Clary K. Butler, Sr.

SMALL GROUPS

In the midst of changing times, church closures and the global pandemic, everyone is encouraged to consider safe alternatives for gathering during traditional gathering times such as the 40 days fast. Zoom and small groups are options.

When meeting in a small group of 6-15 people to discuss these lessons, consider the following helpful hints:

- Be prepared. Meet in a comfortable, safe place with people you know (family members or close friends). Find a babysitter for small children so the discussion isn't interrupted. Take turns brining the meal or pitch-in for something like pizza.
- Be on time. The first 15-30 minutes should be informal to allow everyone to arrive, mingle and snack on light refreshments. Your small group discussion should start promptly afterwards with the leader gathering everyone. The small group discussion should not last more than 90 minutes. 60 minutes is ideal. Resist the urge to go long (even with good discussions) because you may lose people that have important things to do after the meeting.
- Be careful. Leaders shouldn't do all the talking. The best leaders facilitate conversations rather than dispensing information. They strive to facilitate the conversation and keep it moving from person to person.
- Be a good listener. Try to listen actively. James 1:19 says, "My dear brothers and sisters, always be willing to listen and slow to speak."
- Be comfortable with silence. Embrace the 15 seconds of silence which often seems to feel like an eternity. Realize that through silence, the Holy Ghost is working.
- Be purposeful. Remind the group why it exists. Your job as a leader is to cast a compelling vision. Keep that purpose at the forefront of every Small Group meeting.
- Be inclusive. If everyone isn't comfortable sharing their thoughts, your group size might be too big. Groups of more than 12 members often experience difficulty with this. In those cases, it's best to divide the group into half, even if it's for a portion of the time.

FAST DAY 1 **ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022**

WE MUST HAVE A MADE-UP MIND ABOUT CHRIST AND THE HOLY GHOST *(PART I.)*

LESSON TEXT: 2 Corinthians 8:12 For if there be first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to that a man hath, *and* not according to that he hath not.

1. **Be fully persuaded in your mind –** One man esteemed one day above another: another esteemed every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind **(Rom. 14:5)**.
2. **Do not be of doubtful mind –** If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind **(Luke 12:28-29)**.
3. **Be not soon shaken in mind –** Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand **(2 Thess. 2:1-2)**.
4. **A double minded man *is* unstable –** But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavered is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways **(James 1:6-8)**.
5. **The law of my mind –** I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? **(Rom. 7:21-24)**
6. **With the mind I serve the law of God –** I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin **(Rom. 7:25)**.
7. **To be spiritually minded *is* life –** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace **(Rom. 8:5-6)**.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness **(Rom. 8:7-10)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What does it mean to have a "made-up" mind (answer individually)?
2. How would you describe the difference between Christ and the Holy Ghost?
3. Why is the mind so important to the Christian journey?
4. If you are a believer in Jesus, what did you do to make up your mind about Christ and the Holy Ghost (you may share examples and include how long it took for you to reach your decision)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 2 **THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022**

WE MUST HAVE A MADE-UP MIND ABOUT CHRIST AND THE HOLY GHOST *(PART II.)*

LESSON TEXT: Philippians 2:5-6 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.

1. **Transformed by the renewing of your mind –** Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God **(Rom. 12:2)**.
2. **We should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world –** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ **(Titus 2:11-13)**.
3. **I know the things that come into your mind –** And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, *every one of* them **(Ezek. 11:5)**.
4. **God will keep you in perfect peace –** Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on thee*: because he trusted in thee **(Isa. 26:3)**.
5. **As a man thinketh in his heart, so *is* he –** Eat thou not the bread of *him that hath* an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee. The morsel *which* thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up and lose thy sweet words **(Prov. 23:6-8)**.
6. **Be of one mind –** Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing **(1 Pet. 3:8-9)**.
7. **The mind of the Spirit –** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose **(Rom. 8:27-28)**.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled, and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate **(Titus 1:15-16)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Having a made-up mind about Christ and the Holy Ghost develops "unshakeable faith." Unshakeable faith can be described as faith that is unwavering regardless of life's ups and downs. What are 3 things you can do to live a life characterized by "unshakable faith?"
2. How do you know when you have been transformed by the renewing of your mind (answer individually)?
3. The Bible says, God will keep us in perfect peace if our minds are "stayed" on Him. What does it mean to have a mind "stayed" on God?
4. What are 3 things you can do this week to keep your mind "stayed" on God (answer individually)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 3 **FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022**

FEED MY LAMBS! FEED MY SHEEP!
(PART I.)

LESSON TEXT: Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

1. **Feed my lambs –** So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs **(John 21:15)**.
2. **Feed my sheep –** He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep **(John 21:16)**.
3. **Feed the poor –** And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing **(1 Cor. 13:3)**.
4. **Feed your enemy –** Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good **(Rom. 12:20-21)**.
5. **Feed the flock of God –** Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; **Neither** as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock **(1 Pet. 5:2-3)**.
6. **Your pastor shall feed you –** And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding **(Jer. 3:15)**.
7. **He shall feed his flock like a shepherd –** He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young **(Isa. 40:11)**.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Two *things* have I required of thee; deny me *them* not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who *is* the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain* **(Prov. 30:7-9)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Jesus asked Peter about his love for him but after Peter responded, Jesus told Peter to feed his lambs and sheep. What do you think Jesus was referring to when he told Peter to feed his lambs and sheep (answer individually)?
2. Peter was a disciple (follower) of Jesus. How can modern day disciples show their love for Jesus?
3. How can a person that's not a pastor or church leader feed Jesus' lamb and sheep?
4. Describe a time a stranger showed you love. If you cannot recall a time a stranger showed you love, how could you show a stranger love representative of the type of love Jesus shows us?

ACTIVITY:
If your group desires to organize a way to show the love of Jesus to strangers it would be wise to do so without trying to convince the stranger to join your group the first time you show love. Consider developing a friendship and following up with them so the next time you see that person they are no longer a stranger.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 4 **SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022**

FEED MY LAMBS! FEED MY SHEEP! (PART II.)

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 5:6 Blessed *are* they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

1. **He said unto him the third time –** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep **(John 21:17)**.
2. **The kingdom of God is not meat and drink –** For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost **(Rom. 14:17)**.
3. **I have fed you with milk –** And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? **(1 Cor. 3:1-3)**
4. **Strong meat belongs to them that are of full age –** For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belong to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil **(Heb. 5:12-14)**.
5. **They drank of that spiritual Rock –** Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ **(1 Cor. 10:1-4)**.
6. **Preach the Word –** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine **(2 Tim. 4:2)**.
7. **I shall not want –** The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake **(Psa. 23:1-3)**.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes **(Rev. 7:16-17)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. The Bible says, God supplies our needs according to His riches **(Phil. 4:19).** What are some of your daily needs?
2. What are 3 or 4 ways we can serve the needs of people in our church and community?
3. Besides feeding them, are there other ways a shepherd can meet the needs of sheep (answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
Your group may desire to organize a survey to understand some of the needs of the people in your community. After the survey, it would be wise to determine if your group can help meet those needs in a healthy way.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 5 **SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022**

HOW TO AVOID THE DANGEROUS TRAP OF A CARNAL MIND

LESSON TEXT: Romans 8:6-7 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

1. **The law is spiritual but I am carnal –** For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin **(Rom. 7:14)**.
2. **I have fed you with milk, and not with meat –** I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ….for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able **(1 Cor. 3:1-2)**.
3. **You are yet carnal –** For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I *am* of Apollos; are ye not carnal? **(1 Cor. 3:3-4)**
4. **The weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal –** The weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds **(2 Cor. 10:4)**.
5. **The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God –** The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned **(1 Cor. 2:14)**.
6. **Resist the devil –** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you **(James 4:7)**.
7. **We all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh –** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others **(Eph. 2:2-3)**.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envying, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God **(Gal. 5:19-21)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What are 3 characteristics of a carnal mind and 3 characteristics of a spiritual mind (answer individually)?
2. What are some ways to transform a carnal mind into a spiritual mind?
3. How do you avoid the dangerous trap of a carnal mind (answer individually)? Have you been successful avoiding the dangerous trap of a carnal mind? Why or why not?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 6 **MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022**

BEWARE OF DOGS

LESSON TEXT: Philippians 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

1. **For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers –** Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie **(Rev. 22:14-15)**.
2. **The dog *is* turned to his own vomit –** For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire **(2 Pet. 2:21-22)**.
3. **Give not that which is holy unto the dogs –** Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you **(Matt. 7:6)**.
4. **They *are* all dumb dogs, they cannot bark –** His watchmen *are* blind: they are all ignorant, they *are* all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber **(Isa. 56:10)**.
5. **They are greedy dogs –** Yea, *they are* greedy dogs *which* can never have enough, and they *are* shepherds *that* cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter **(Isa. 56:11)**.
6. **Dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel –** And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of *her* hands. Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This *is* the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel **(2 Kings 9:35-36)**.
7. **The dogs licked up his blood –** So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria. And *one* washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake **(1 Kings 22:37-38)**.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: They make a noise like a dog – Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. *Selah.* They return at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city **(Psa. 59:5-6)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Scriptures in today's lesson compares the characteristics and qualities of some people to dogs. Real dogs are often called, "man's best friend" but not every dog is friendly. What are some positive and negative qualities of real dogs?
2. What types of dogs are discussed in today's lesson?
3. How do the characteristics of some real dogs compare to the dogs discussed in today's lesson?
4. What should you do if you see someone exhibiting qualities of the dogs described in today's lesson (answer individually)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 7 **TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022**

A MAN CALLED JESUS

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire.

1. **Thou shalt call his name JESUS –** Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins (**Matt. 1:20-21).**
2. **One mediator between God and men –** For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (**1 Tim. 2:5**).
3. **In Matthew, He is called the Son of Man and Emmanuel –**And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head (**Matt. 8:20, 1:23**,).
4. **In Mark, He is called the Son of God –** And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God (**Mark 3:11**).
5. **In Luke, He is called Christ, the Son of God, Master, Savior and Lord –**And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking *them* suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ (**Luke 4:41**). And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net (**Luke 5:5**). For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord (**Luke 2:11**).
6. **In John, He is called Messiah, Lord and God –**The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things (**John 4:25**). And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God (**John 20:28**).
7. **Christ is the Head of the church –** For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body (**Eph. 5:23**).

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace **(Isa. 9:6)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Why is the name of Jesus so meaningful and so powerful?
2. In Matthew, Jesus is called the Son of Man and Emmanuel. What does "Emmanuel" mean and why was Jesus called Emmanuel **(Matthew 1:23)**?
3. What are some of the other names Jesus is called and what do those names mean to you (answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
Your group may desire to organize a time of prayer where you call upon the name of Jesus for a period of time (even on Zoom if that is how your group gathers). This can also be done individually in a private place. If you choose to do this activity, consider why you desire to call upon the name of Jesus. What is your request? Make your request known to him in prayer and then spend time calling his name until your soul is satisfied.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 8 **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022**

THOU ANOINTED MY HEAD WITH OIL: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF OIL AS A WEAPON OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

LESSON TEXT: Psalm 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

1. **Pray and anoint with oil –** Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord **(James 5:14)**.
2. **Anoint the sick –** And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed *them* **(Mark 6:13)**.
3. **Anoint your head, and wash your face –** But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face **(Matt. 6:17)**.
4. **Holy oil –** I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him **(Psa. 89:20)**.
5. **You are the man –** And Nathan said to David, Thou *art* the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul **(2 Sam. 12:7)**.
6. **Samuel anointed David –**Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah **(1 Sam. 16:13)**.
7. **Mary anointed the feet of Jesus –** Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment **(John 12:3)**.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, *even* over Israel **(2 Kings. 9:6)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What are some examples of the use of oil in today's lesson (explain)?
2. Describe some ways different types of oil are used during our daily activities (travel, utilities, health, etc).
3. How would you describe spiritual warfare (answer individually)?
4. How important is oil in our daily activities? How important is anointing oil during spiritual warfare?
5. Describe a memorable time you or someone you know was anointed with oil (explain, answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
If meeting via Zoom etc, the leader/facilitator may take time to hear the requests of other members of the group and then request people to pray (individually or collectively). Your group may desire to organize a time where you ask for prayer requests and then begin to pray for one another. If you are meeting in person, and a capable leader (like a pastor or elder) is present, you may also choose to request prayer and to be anointed with oil **(James 5:14)**. It is important and respectful not to use anointing oil to pray for anyone without their consent. If members of the group are praying for one another, "may I pray for you" is a courteous and respectful way to calmly approach someone that you want to pray with. You should peacefully respect their decision if they do not desire prayer at that time.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 9 **THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022**

THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE
BUT MY RESPONSE WILL BE LOVE
(PART I.)

LESSON TEXT: John 15:25 But *this cometh to pass*, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

Hatred: Extreme dislike, intense hostility or animosity for someone.

1. **Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart –** Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him **(Lev. 19:17)**.
2. **Did not ye hate me? –** Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress? **(Judg. 11:7)**
3. **There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him –** And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so **(2 Chron. 18:7)**.
4. **They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame –** They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought **(Job 8:22)**.
5. **Let not mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me –** Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: *neither* let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause **(Psa. 35:19).**
6. **They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God –** Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God **(Gal. 5:20-21)**.
7. **Perpetual hatred –** Because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed *the blood of* the children of Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time *that their* iniquity *had* an end **(Ezek. 35:5)**.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you **(Matt. 5:44).**

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Describe some ways a person can respond to hate with love (answer individually)?
2. Have you ever hated someone without a cause (answer individually)?
3. How can hatred transform into love (explain, answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
If you choose to participate in this activity, choose a person you do not love and think of three ways you can show love without contacting them. If it would be wise to contact them, share in Part II how you showed love by contacting them.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 10 **FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022**

THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE BUT MY RESPONSE WILL BE LOVE *(PART II.)*

LESSON TEXT: Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

1. **He that hideth hatred –** He that hideth hatred *with* lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, *is* a fool **(Prov. 10:18)**.
2. **They hate me with cruel hatred –** Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred **(Psa. 25:19)**.
3. **Speak evil of no man –** Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another **(Titus 3:1-3)**.
4. **Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer –** Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him **(1 John 3:13, 15)**.
5. **Because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you –** If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you **(John 15:18-19)**.
6. **Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and cast out your name as evil –** Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you *from their company*, and shall reproach *you*, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward *is* great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets **(Luke 6:22-23)**.
7. **All that hate me whisper together against me –** All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt **(Psa. 41:7)**.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored *that* which I took not away **(Psa. 69:4)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Why is it important to respond to hate with love?
2. Do you have a positive example of when you responded to hate with love (explain)?
3. If you participated in the activity from Part I and had a positive experience you would like to share, please explain.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 11 **SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022**

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR STRENGTH TO ENDURE

LESSON TEXT: Psalm 27:1 The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Strength

1. **LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge –** O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and *things* wherein *there is* no profit (**Jer. 16:19**).
2. **Thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy –**For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones *is* as a storm *against* the wall (**Isa. 25:4**).
3. **The LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength –** Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength (**Isa. 26:4,**).
4. **To *them that have* no might he increaseth strength –** He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength (**Isa.40:29**).

Endure

1. **Endure unto the end –** But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved **(Matt. 24:13)**.
2. **Endure hardness –** Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ **(2 Tim. 2:3)**.
3. **Endure afflictions –** But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry **(2 Tim. 4:5)**.

Suffering

1. ***The sufferings of this present time –*** I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us **(Rom. 8:18)**.
2. ***After that ye have suffered a while –*** The God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you* **(1 Pet. 5:10)**.
3. ***We rejoice in our sufferings –*** And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us **(Rom. 5:3-5)**.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint **(Isa. 40:31)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. How would you describe the pros and cons of suffering?
2. Do you have an example of suffering that led to something positive (explain)?
3. What are some of the things Christians should be prepared to endure?
4. What are 3 ways you can increase your spiritual strength (answer individually)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 12 **SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022**

LET NO MAN TAKE YOUR CROWN

LESSON TEXT: Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

1. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? –** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord **(Rom. 8:35, 38-39**).
2. **Mark them which cause divisions and avoid them –** Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple (**Rom. 16:17-18**).
3. **O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you –** O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh (**Gal. 3:1, 3)?**
4. **Who hindered you –** Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth (**Gal. 5:7**)?
5. **Stand fast, and hold the traditions –** Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle (**2 Thess. 2:15**).
6. **Some shall depart from the faith –** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron (**1 Tim. 4:1-2**).
7. **Be sober, be vigilant – 1 Peter 5:8-9** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness **(2 Pet. 3:3, 17)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What does it mean for someone to "take your crown" **(Rev. 3:11)**?
2. Why is it important to stay away from negativity (**Rom. 16:17-18**)?
3. Describe 3 positive, healthy choices you make each day (answer individually).
4. What does it mean when the bible says, "because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" **1 Peter 5:8-9** (answer individually)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 13 **MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022**

HOW TO DISCOVER THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF PRAYER
(PART I.)

LESSON TEXT: **2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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.

1. **Unto thee will I pray. – Psalm 5:1-3,** Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation. Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: For unto thee will I pray. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning will I…
2. **You shall seek me, and find *me.* – Jeremiah 29:12-13,** Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find *me,* when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
3. **When thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are.* – Matthew 6:5-13,** And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter…
4. **Hebrews 4:16,** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
5. **James 5:14,** Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: **Verse 15,** And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. **Verse 16,** Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Jesus continues to say, Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it* **(John 14:13-14)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Describe a time where you said, saw or heard a prayer that received positive results (answer individually).
2. Do you remember a time when it seemed like your prayer(s) went unanswered (explain)? Is there something you could have done to receive an answer to your prayer?
3. What can a person do if it seems their prayer is unanswered?
4. What should a person do once they receive an answer to their prayer(s) even if the answer isn't the answer they desired (answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
Go around the group asking everyone that can pray to pray only a prayer of thanksgiving. In other words, while praying these prayers, do not request anything, only give thanks for what God has already done. For next time, receive prayer requests from friends, family members and coworkers and then at your next meeting choose 2 or 3 people to pray for those requests.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 14 **TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022**

HOW TO DISCOVER THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF PRAYER
(PART II.)

LESSON TEXT: Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

1. **I will therefore that men pray every where** – I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting (**1 Tim. 2:8**).

2. **Pray for us** – Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you (**2 Thess. 3:1**).

3. **The very God of peace sanctify you wholly** – And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (**1 Thess. 5:23**).

4. **Hear my prayer** – Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me *when I was* in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer (**Psa. 4:1**).

5. **Blot out my transgressions** – Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions (**Psa. 51:1**).

6. **I have heard thy prayer –** Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years (**Isa. 38:5**).

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee (**Psa. 122:6**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Do you remember when you first discovered the potential of prayer, if so, how did you discover it (answer individually)?
2. Who are the people you pray for every day? What is your prayer for them?
3. Who are the people that pray for you every day?
4. What is one of your greatest prayer requests at this moment?

ACTIVITY:
Take the prayer requests you received from friends, family members and coworkers, etc. (based on the activity from Part I) and choose 2 or 3 people to pray for those requests (collectively or individually).

NOTES:

FAST DAY 15 **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022**

BE A GOOD SOLDIER FOR JESUS CHRIST

LESSON TEXT: 2 Timothy 2:3-4 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

1. **A good soldier must trust and depend on God. Isaiah 54:17** – No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.
2. **A good soldier must not be afraid. Jeremiah 1:8-9** – Be not afraid of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Then the LORD put forth his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.
3. **A good soldier must be steadfast and unmovable. 1 Corinthians 15:58** – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
4. **A good soldier must use the right weapon. 2 Corinthians 10:4** – For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.
5. **A good soldier must be a fighter. 2 Timothy 4:7** – I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith.
6. **A good soldier must be strong. 2 Timothy 2:1** – Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
7. **A good soldier must be willing to suffer. 2 Timothy 2:12** – If we suffer, we shall also reign with him.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Ephesians 6:11** – Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

(b) **2 Chronicles 20:15** – And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle *is* not yours, but God's.

(c) **A good soldier must study. 2 Timothy 2:15** – Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(d) **A good soldier must know how to behave. 1 Timothy 3:15** – But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (**Eph. 6:13-18)**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Name some of the "good soldiers" you remember even though they have passed away (answer individually).
2. What are the names of the pieces of the whole armor of God and what do those pieces of equipment represent in our everyday lives **(Eph. 6)**?
3. Name 5 "good soldiers" that are alive and fighting the good fight of faith (answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
Choose 3 ways you can be a good soldier for Jesus Christ between now and the next time the group gathers. Share what you did that represented you as a good soldier.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 16 **THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022**

WHY WINE WAS FORBIDDEN IN THE WORD OF GOD
(PART I.)

LESSON TEXT: Judges 13:4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean *thing.*

1. **Numbers 6:3** – He shall separate *himself* from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.
2. **Proverbs 31:4** – *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *it is* not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink.
3. **Isaiah 5:11** – Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, *that* they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, *till* wine inflame them!
4. **Isaiah 24:9** – They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it.
5. **Isaiah 28:1** – Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty *is* a fading flower, which *are* on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!
6. **Isaiah 28:7** – But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble *in* judgment.
7. **Ezekiel 44:21** – Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Luke 1:15** – For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

(b) **Ephesians 5:18** – And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (**Gal. 5:21**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Why is drunkenness not a way Christians should represent themselves in public?
2. Why is God concerned about the health of his children (explain)?
3. What does it mean to be "filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 17 **FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2022**

WHY WINE WAS FORBIDDEN IN THE WORD OF GOD
(PART II.)

LESSON TEXT: Proverbs 20:1 Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

1. **Proverbs 23:20-21** – Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe *a man* with rags.
2. **Proverbs 23:29-30** – Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.
3. **Proverbs 23:31-35** – Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, *shalt thou say, and* I was not sick; they have beaten me, *and* I felt *it* not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.
4. **Hosea 4:11** – Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.
5. **Romans 14:21** – *It is* good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor *any thing* whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.
6. **Leviticus 10:9** – Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations.
7. **Habakkuk 2:15** – Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to *him,* and makest *him* drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink. And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine. But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, *neither ye,* nor your sons for ever: Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have *any*: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye *be* strangers. Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters; Nor to build houses for us to dwell in: neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed: But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us (**Jer. 35:2, 5-10**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. How can another believer be "offended" or "stumble" if you are eating meat and drinking wine **(Romans 14:21)**?
2. What are some negative characteristics associated with drunkenness?
3. Instead of being drunk with wine, believers should be filled with the spirit. What are the fruit of the spirit **(Gal. 5:22)**?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 18 **SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022**

EVANGELIZE, EVANGELIZE, EVANGELIZE
(PART I.)

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Evangelize: To share the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ.

1. **Good seed, good fruit. Matthew 13:8 –** But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.
2. **Good ground. Matthew 13:23 –** But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
3. **Bring in the poor, the maimed, the halt, and the blind**. **Luke 14:21-23 –** So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.
4. **The harvest truly *is* plenteous. Matthew 9:37-38 –** Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.
5. **Go to the lost sheep. Matthew 10:5-8 –** These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.
6. **Confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus. Romans 10:9-10 –** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
7. **Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:12-13 –** For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken (**Jonah 1:1-4**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. List 5 things your church could do to be more welcoming to visitors.
2. What is the "good news" of Jesus Christ?
3. If you did not have a church home, what would a stranger need to do in order to convince you to be a guest at their church?

4. What are three ways you can become a better sharer of the "good news of Jesus Christ" with people that do not know Jesus?

ACTIVITY:
Ask the leaders of your church if members of your small group can get to know some of the visitors by taking them to lunch or meeting for a conversation.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 19 **SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022**

EVANGELIZE, EVANGELIZE, EVANGELIZE
(PART II.)

LESSON TEXT: Acts 2:38-39 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Evangelize: To share the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ.

1. **Acts 1:8 –** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
2. **Acts 2:38 –** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
3. **Acts 6:7 –** And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.
4. **2 Timothy 4:5 –** But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
5. **Mark 16:15-16 –** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
6. **James 5:20 –** Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.
7. **Proverbs 11:30 –** The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **1 Corinthians 9:22 –** To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men,* that I might by all means save some.
(b) **Isaiah 6:8 –** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: And as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves (**Matt. 10:7-8, 14, 16**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. People that are in friendships and relationships with one another are more likely to attend an event if invited by their friend. What can you do to develop friendships and relationships with non-believing people?
2. How many people in your personal phone book don't know Jesus as their Lord and savior (answer individually)?
3. What are 2 things you could begin doing today in order to eventually introduce one of your non-believing friends to Jesus?
4. If "each one" was responsible for "reaching one" (unsaved person to invite to church) who would be the first person you would attempt to reach (answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
If your group chooses to participate in this activity, select 10 non-believers from the personal phone books of your group members and invite those 10 people to a non church related social event so that the group members can get to know the 10 non-believers in a friendly way.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 20 **MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022**

THE RENEWED IMPORTANCE OF FASTING

LESSON TEXT: Mark 9:28-29 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

1. **Joel 1:14 –** Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders *and* all the inhabitants of the land *into* the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD.
2. **Joel 2:12 –** Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye *even* to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning.
3. **Psalm 35:12-14 –** They rewarded me evil for good *to* the spoiling of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing *was* sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. I behaved myself as though *he had been* my friend *or* brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth *for his* mother.
4. **Matthew 4:1-2 –** Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.
5. **Acts 13:2-3 –** As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.
6. **Psalm 35:15 –** But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: *yea*, the abjects *(outcasts within the body; provoking disgust, loathing, or nauseating)* gathered themselves together against me, and I knew *it* not; they did tear *me*, and ceased not.
7. **1 Corinthians 7:5 –** Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Daniel 10:3 –** I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

(b) **Isaiah 58:6 –** *Is* not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly (**Matt. 6:16-18**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What are some health benefits to fasting?
2. How long did Jesus fast and what was one purpose of his fast?
3. Jesus was tempted while fasting. What are at least 3 ways you can avoid (or resist) temptation while fasting (answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
Select someone in your group as a prayer partner to be on another fast (at a time of your choosing). Decide what you will sacrifice and what you will be praying for.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 21 **TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022**

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FOOLS

LESSON TEXT: Ecclesiastes 10:3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth *him*, and he saith to everyone *that* he *is* a fool.

FOOL: Scripturally *(From UNGERS Bible Dictionary: in Hebrew and Greek writings the word represents moral more than intellectual deficiencies.)* Consider Apostle Paul's writings (1 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor.19-23; 2 Cor. 11:16, 23; 12:6, 11). Today's definition: One who disregards fearing God, and who behaves with total disrespect for God's principles and righteousness. In the **PROVERBS** we find descriptively, one who is rash, senseless or unreasonable.

1. **Psalm 14:1,** The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good.
2. **Proverbs 10:18,** He that hideth hatred *with* lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, *is* a fool.
3. **Proverbs 10:21,** The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.
4. **Proverbs 12:15,** The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.
5. **Proverbs 14:1,** Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.
6. **Proverbs 17:21,** He that begetteth a fool *doeth it* to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.
7. **Proverbs 17:25,** A foolish son *is* a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Proverbs 18:7,** A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

(b) **Proverbs 26:4-5,** Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words (**Prov. 23:9**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What does the Bible say about fools?
2. How can you avoid fools and foolish things (answer individually)?
3. What are 3 ways a person can become more foolish (answer individually)?
4. What are 4 ways a person can become wiser (answer individually)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 22 **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022**

PERFECTING THE SAINTS:
THE AIM FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

LESSON TEXT: Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

1. **Genesis 17:1,** And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.
2. **Psalm 19:7,** The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.
3. **Matthew 5:48,** Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.
4. **Matthew 19:21,** Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.
5. **2 Corinthians 7:1,** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
6. **Philippians 3:15-16,** Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.
7. **1 Peter 5:10** But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Romans 12:1-2,** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

(b) **Psalm 37:37,** Mark the perfect *man*, and behold the upright: for the end of *that* man *is* peace.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen (**Hebrews 13:20-21).**

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. How can a believer "mark the perfect man" (**Psalm 37:37)**?
2. Do you believe suffering is necessary for perfection (explain your answer)?
3. Why do you believe God wants His saints to aim for perfection?
4. If you had a "super power" that could instantly make your spiritually perfect, what would the super power do in order to make you perfect (answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
If your group chooses to participate in this activity, each participant should choose a wise person from an older generation (this older person doesn't have to already be in a group) and take them to lunch for the main purpose of learning from their wisdom.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 23 **THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022**

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

LESSON TEXT: 2 Samuel 6:14 And David danced before the LORD with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with a linen ephod.

EPHOD: A priestly breastplate or apron**.** Part of the sacred ceremonial garment of a high priest.

1. **Psalm 149:3,** Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.
2. **Acts 3:6-8,** Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.
3. **Psalm 95:1-3,** O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD *is* a great God, and a great King above all gods.
4. **Psalm 135:1-3,** Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise *him*, O ye servants of the LORD. Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God, Praise the LORD; for the LORD *is* good: sing praises unto his name; for *it is* pleasant.
5. **1 Peter 1:8,** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.
6. **James 5:13-15,** Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.
7. **Decree Book page 6 para. 2.** She **(***Mother Tate*) sprang up from that bed of sickness where she had laid for some time and leaped and shouted and spoke in unknown and other tongues and was healed and sealed.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Hebrews 13:15,** By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

(b) **Colossians 3:16,** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD (**Psa. 150:1-6**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What type of activities do you do when you are giving praises to God (answer individually)?
2. What type of activities do you do when you are letting God know how valuable he is to you (worship)?
3. Why do you believe God blesses us with material possessions if those possessions will eventually fade away?
4. Why do you believe God heals us if we are going to eventually die and leave this world (answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
If your group chooses to participate, go to a worship service and sit together. After the worship service, go somewhere for a meal. As you are sharing the meal, share the positives of your experience at the worship service. The rule is you can only talk positively about the worship service.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 24 **FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022**

THE CROSS OF JESUS:
OUR REMINDER JESUS PAID IT ALL

LESSON TEXT: John 19:25-27 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

1. **Mark 8:34,** And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
2. **Matthew 10:38,** And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.
3. **Luke 14:27,** And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.
4. **1 Corinthians 1:18,** For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
5. **Hebrews 12:2,** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
6. **1 Peter 2:24,** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
7. **Philippians 2:8,** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **1 Peter 2:24-25,** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

(b) **John 19:19,** And Pilate wrote a title, and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day, besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away (**John 19:30-31**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What do you think about when you see a cross (answer individually)?
2. What does it mean for someone to "bear their own cross" and how difficult is it for you to bear your own cross (answer individually)?
3. The bible says a man named, Simon of Cyrene helped to bear the cross of Christ in **Luke 23:26**. Name 2 people that you would be willing to help bear their cross in order to assist them with some of life's difficulties. How will you help them (explain, answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
Jesus hung on an old, rugged cross with nails in his hands and feet from approximately 9am to 3pm (approximately 6 hours). Instead of 6 hours, each participant should set a timer and stand in one place for 6 minutes, holding their arms horizontal (as if they were on a cross) without dropping their arms or changing positions. Report back to the

group how long you were able to hold your arms up without dropping them and how much pain you experienced in those 6 minutes. Please do not participate in this activity if you have a medical condition that would be negatively affected by holding your arms up for an extended period of time.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 25 **SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022**

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT IS COMING SOON AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR BELIEVERS IN JESUS

LESSON TEXT:. **2 Peter 2:9** The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.

1. **The day of Judgment. Matthew 12:36,** Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.
2. **I will give every man according to his works. Revelation 22:12,** Behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
3. **Who will stand before God to be Judged? 2 Corinthians 5:10,** We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.
4. **The dead, small and great will stand before God. Revelation 20:12,** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
5. **The record is being kept. Job 16:19,** Behold, my witness *is* in heaven, and my record *is* on high.
6. **The Book of Life. Revelation 3:5,** He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.
7. **It is appointed unto men once to die. Hebrews 9:27,** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Mark 13:32,** But of that day and *that* hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

(b) **1 Peter 4:17,** For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

(c) **Acts 17:31,** Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

(d) **2 Peter 3:10, 13,** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (**1 Corinthians 15:50-52**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What is the day of judgement and why is that good news for believers?
2. Why can't flesh and blood inherit the kingdom of God?
3. What are you looking forward to the most when Jesus returns (explain why, answer individually)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 26 **SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022**

WHY WE MUST OVERCOME OUR SECRET SINS
(Part I.)

LESSON TEXT: Luke 12:2-3 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

1. **First disobedience not obscured from God. Genesis 3:8-10,** Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam…Where *art* thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.
2. **Your sin will find you out**. **Numbers 32:23,** Ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.
3. **Covered versus Confessed. Proverbs 28:13,** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.
4. **Secret, but never hidden. Luke 8:17,** For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither *any thing* hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.
5. **His wickedness shall be showed before the whole congregation. Proverbs 26:24-27, He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him;…**There are seven abominations in his heart. Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation.
6. **Revealed at the Judgment. Ecclesiastes 12:14,** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.
7. **God sees through darkness, even dark imaginations. Ezekiel 8:12** Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Psalm 44:21** Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

(b) **Hebrews 4:13,** Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us (**1 John 1:8-10**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What are secret sins some people have?
2. If we all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God **(Rom. 3:23)**, why does today's lesson put an emphasis on the danger of secret sins?
3. What are 2 or 3 ways you can overcome secret sins, can anyone help you?
4. What is the difference between a covered sin and a confessed sin?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 27 **SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2022**

WHY WE MUST OVERCOME OUR SECRET SINS
(Part II.)

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 3:3, And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

1. **The gravity of turning from the all-seeing God. Lamentations 3: 40-46,** Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD. Let us lift up our heart with *our* hands unto God in the heavens. We have transgressed and have rebelled: thou hast not pardoned. Thou hast covered with anger, and persecuted us: thou hast slain, thou hast not pitied. Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that *our* prayer should not pass through. Thou hast made us *as* the offscouring and refuse in the midst of the people. All our enemies have opened their mouths against us.
2. **God will cover sin so that others will not stumble. Ezekiel 16:8,** Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time *was* the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.
3. **Obey and Believe God's Word, then turn from hidden unrighteousness and expect God's justification. Stop focusing on overheard secret conversations. Romans 4:2-10,** For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. *Cometh* this blessedness then upon the circumcision *only*, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Numbers 15:28,** And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him.

(b) **1 Corinthians 6:18,** Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law (**1 John 3:4**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What happens after we confess our sins to God (1 John 1:9)?
2. How many times should we forgive our brothers and sisters if they sin against us (Matt. 18:21)?
3. How many times is God willing to forgive us for our sins?
4. What is your general process for overcoming secret sin (answer individually)?

ACTIVITY:
If the group chooses to participate, even on Zoom, etc. the leader/facilitator should allow time for each participant to spend time in meditation and prayer with God, confessing sins simultaneously. Microphones should be muted.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 28 **TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022**

FOLLOW PEACE WITH ALL MEN

LESSON TEXT: Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

1. **John 14:27 –** Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
2. **Romans 12:18 –** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.
3. **Romans 14:19 –** Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.
4. **1 Corinthians 7:15 –** God hath called us to peace.
5. **1 Corinthians 14:33 –** For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.
6. **2 Corinthians 13:11 –** Live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.
7. **Galatians 6:1 —** Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Isaiah 26:3 –** Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

(b) **1 John 4:20 –** If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

(c) **Colossians 3:15 –** Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

(d) **James 3:17 –** The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Let brotherly love continue (**Heb. 13:1**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. If war and ungodliness lead to death what does peace and holiness lead to?
2. What are some ways you can allow brotherly love to continue?
3. What does it mean to be "overtaken in a fault" **(Gal. 6:1)**?
4. Share 3 ways you can live peaceably with everyone.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 29 **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022**

IF THE LORD NEEDS SOMEBODY, OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE HERE AM I, SEND ME
(PART I.)

LESSON TEXT: Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

1. ***Someone to be steadfast*** – That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God (**Psa. 78:7-8**).

2. ***Someone to be unmovable*** – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord(**1 Cor. 15:58**) .

3. ***Someone to stand when tribulation comes*** – But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended (**Matt. 13:20-21**).

4. ***Someone not tossed to and fro with every doctrine*** – That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive (**Eph. 4:14**).

5. ***Someone to tell the truth*** – Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another (**Eph. 4:25**).

6. ***Someone who will avoid divisions and offences*** – Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them (**Rom. 16:17**).

7. ***Someone who will be grounded and settled*** – If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister (**Col. 1:23**).

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: *Someone who will teach the faith and doctrine* – For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. (**Heb. 5:12-13**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Why is it important to share our time, talents and treasures with people in need?
2. Explain how you would know if the Lord needed you?
3. Has God ever needed you and you hesitated or didn't go?

ACTIVITY:
Allow each person in the group to select a favorite bible verse and then share with the group and explain why you selected that verse.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 30 **THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022**

IF THE LORD NEEDS SOMEBODY, OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE HERE AM I, SEND ME
(PART II.)

LESSON TEXT: Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

1. ***Someone who will not be led by the devil –*** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness (**2 Pet. 3:17**).
2. ***Someone who will keep their vows –*** If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth (**Num. 30:2**).
3. ***Someone who will not scatter the sheep –*** Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord (**Jer. 23:1-2**).
4. ***Someone who will not commit adultery nor walk in lies –*** I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah (**Jer. 23:14**).
5. ***Someone who will try the spirits –*** Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world (**1 John 4:1**).
6. ***Someone who can spiritually hear the speaking/taught WORD of God enabling one to <u>try the spirits</u> [decipher/untangle]*** **by God's WORD –** Blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it (**Luke 11:28**).
7. ***Someone who will not become bewitched*** **– Galatians 3:1,** O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?
8. ***Someone who will not*** **depart** ***from the faith –*** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron (**1 Tim. 4:1-2**).

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose *them*, and bring *them* unto me. And if any *man* say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them (**Matt. 21:1-3**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

The church is a collection (or body) of people together in community that believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. If you believe God is still speaking to the church, what do you believe God is saying to the church today?
2. What are some ways people can be more attentive to what God is saying?
3. What did Jesus mean when he said, he was building His church upon a "rock" in Matthew 16:18 (answer individually)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 31 **FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022**

LOVE GOD, LOVE EACH OTHER

LESSON TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

1. **Romans 8:28 –** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.
2. **Romans 8:35 –** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
3. **1 Thessalonians 3:12 –** The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*.
4. **2 Timothy 1:7 –** God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. *(God has given us the spirit of love).*
5. **1 Peter 3:8 –** Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous.
6. **John 3:16 –** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Hebrews 6:10 –** For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

(b) **Romans 13:10 –** Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

(c) **John 15:13 –** Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

(d) **1 John 4:19 –** We love him, because he first loved us.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Charity *[Love]* suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things (**1 Cor. 13:4-7**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Why is it more difficult for us to love people than God (answer individually).
2. How can something bad be turned around for our good (explain)?
3. Why do we love God but sometimes disobey his commands, how can we overcome disobedience?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 32 **SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022**

HOW TO REVIVE A SPIRITUALLY DEAD CHURCH

LESSON TEXT: Ephesians 2:1-5 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Fortitude: The church, at times, seemed to be without hope, without life and spiritually dead. The purpose of this lesson is to teach and demonstrate that through the power of God's Word that the church can be revived and nothing shall be impossible.

Practicality: God can revive a Spiritually Dead Church even when it seems that all hope is lost.

SIX SPIRITUALLY DEAD CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR

1. ***Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write*:** I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent (**Rev. 2:2-5**).
2. ***Unto the angel of the church of Smyrna write:*** I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life (**Rev. 2:9-10**).
3. ***Unto the angel of the church of Pergamos write:*** I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth (**Rev. 2:13-16**).
4. ***Unto the angel of the church of Thyatira write:*** I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds (**Rev. 2:19-22**).
5. ***Unto the angel of the church in Sardis write*:** I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee (**Rev. 3:1-3**).

6. ***Unto the angel of the church in Laodiceans write*:** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see (**Rev 3:15-18**).

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **God is able to revive the spirit of the humble.** I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite (showing sincere remorse) ones (**Isa. 57:15**).

(b) **If a man be overtaken in a fault –** Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted (**Gal. 6:1**).

(c) **God has forgiven all our trespasses.** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses. Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross (**Col. 2:13-14**).

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry (**Luke 15:21-24**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

Repentance is the "feeling" of regret and remorse a person has for doing something they believe was wrong. Although repentance can be displayed (in physical form such as tears), confession is the "formal admission or acknowledgment" that a person has done something that is beneath a certain standard. To sin is to fall beneath God's standard.

1. How is confession connected to reviving a spiritually dead church?
2. Why is confession important to the life of a Christian?
3. What are some examples of a spiritually dead church in today's lesson (answer individually)?
4. How can we experience spiritual growth through repentance and confession?

ACTIVITY:
Go around the group asking everyone that can pray to pray only a prayer of thanksgiving. In other words, while praying these prayers, do not request anything, only give thanks for what God has already done. For next time, receive prayer requests from friends, family members or coworkers and then at your next meeting choose 2 or 3 people to pray for those requests.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 33 **SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022**

LORD, TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS

LESSON TEXT: Psalm 90:12 So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.

It is certain that life will end. The purpose of this lesson is to recognize that longevity has its place; however, it is not how long you live, but what you do with the time that God has speared you to be alive.

1. **Genesis 5:27 –** And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died. *(969 years is the greatest age attributed to anyone in the Bible.)*
2. **Job 14:1 –** Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.
3. **Psalm 39:4 –** Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.
4. **Psalm 89:47-48 –** Remember how short my time is: wherefore hast thou made all men in vain? What man *is he that* liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah.
5. **Psalm 90:10 –** The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.
6. **Isaiah 38:5 –** Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.
7. **John 9:4 –** I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. *(Work while it is day)*

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Psalm 39:5 –** Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth (*four fingers, a unit of measure*); and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity (*only the air that he breathes*).

(b) **Job 14:10 –** But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? (**Luke 12:19-20**)

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. One way for us to learn to number our days is to learn to get rid of the things that don't matter. The Bible says to "cast off the works of darkness." What are some of "the works of darkness" (answer individually)?
2. What are three ways a believer can begin to "cast off the works of darkness" (Romans 13:12)?
3. What is the law of love and how can we fulfill the law of love in our lives?
4. As we number our days, how can we "rightly divide the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 34 **MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022**

DELIVERANCE SHALL COME
STORMS CANNOT LAST ALWAYS

LESSON TEXT: 2 Chronicles 20:17 Ye shall not *need* to fight in this *battle*: set yourselves, stand ye *still*, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD *will be* with you.

1. **Deliverance from trouble –** *The righteous* cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles (**Psa. 34:17**).
2. **Iniquities Pardoned –** Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases (**Psa. 103:3**).
3. **Saved from our enemies and haters –** That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us (**Luke 1:71**).
4. **Deliverance from temptation –** The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished (**2 Pet. 2:9**).
5. **Deliverance from fornication –** Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body (**1 Cor. 6:18**).
6. **Deliverance from fear –** I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears (**Psa. 34:4**).

BONUS SCRIPTURES

(a) **Psalm 18:2** – The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

(b) **Psalm 50:15** – And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

(c) **Psalm 107:6** – Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he delivered them out of their distresses.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised (**Luke 4:18).**

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

When storms come, it's important to know who you are in Christ.
Who are you?

1. You are a chosen son or an elect daughter of God, what does this mean to you (Ephesians 2:10)?
2. You are called by God to be an example of his ability to do anything but fail. Do you believe God allows us to go through storms for a purpose (explain)?
3. You are being perfected to help serve God's purpose on earth. Have you ever realized God may have bigger plans for your life than what you are going through right now (if yes, explain)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 35 **TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR JESUS TO RETURN

LESSON TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1. **Will Jesus still return? Yes.** Behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be (**Rev. 22:12**).
2. **The Day of the Lord –** For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober (**1 Thess. 5:2, 6**).
3. **Watch and pray.** And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so* that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (**Luke 21:34-36**).
4. **Looking for Jesus to return –** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ (**Titus 2:13**).
5. **He is coming soon. Revelation 3:11 –** Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Matthew 24:27 –** For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

(b) **Hebrews 9:28 –** So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

(c) **Revelation 1:7 –** Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.

(d) **1 Corinthians 15:52,** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh (**Luke 21:25-28**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. How can we know God is soon to return?
2. When Will Jesus return? Of that day and *that* hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is (**Mark 13:32-33**) Would you rather know when God will return or not know (please explain)?
3. How will Jesus appear when he returns (Matt. 16:27)?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 36 **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022**

ARE YOU REALLY MY FRIEND?

LESSON TEXT: Proverbs 17:17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity *(misfortune, calamity).*

The subject of our lesson is soul-searching. It is not from *Facebook* or *Instagram*; neither is it from *Twitter*. However, the question is, are you really my friend? A friend is a person who is on good terms with another; a person who is not hostile in times of adversity. You will discover your real friends. Will you be my friend? A friend loveth it at all times.

1. **Proverbs 18:24,** A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

2. **Proverbs,** A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter. *Can I trust you as my friend? Can I tell you my deepest and darkest secrets? Is it possible for you to be my friend and not disclose my personal thoughts?*

3. **Proverbs 26:20,** Where no wood is, *there* the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. *If you do not put wood on the fire, it will eventually go out, if we hold our peace, the conflict will cease.*

4. **Proverbs 26:22,** The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds [*words can hurt],* and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

5. **Psalm 35:11-14,** False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge *things* that I knew not. They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. I behaved myself as though *he had been* my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth *for his* mother. *Cherish your friendship and nurture it. Jesus loves you. Friends do not avoid each other. In times of trouble, friends will fast for one another.*

6. **Galatians 6:10,** As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men,* especially unto them who are of the household of faith. *Friends care and share. Friends are concerned about each other. Friends trust and feel safe together; friends have mutual respect for one another. The Saints ought to be friends! How can we follow peace with all men, if we do not follow peace with each other?*

7. **Psalm 41:9,** Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me. *Our gifts that we give should not be gifts of deceit designed to cover up our true feelings. When we greet one another with a holy kiss, let it be real. You will know your true- friends by their actions and behavior.*

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **Proverbs 16:28** A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

(b) **James 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool (**Isa. 1:18**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Have you encountered Jesus in that way (explain)?
2. What are the fundamentals of true friendship?
3. What does it mean to "show yourself friendly" (**Prov. 18:24**)?

ACTIVITY:
Ask 5 friends what it means to be a great friend and report back to the group at the next session.

NOTES:

FAST DAY 37 **THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022**

OUR GOD IS A GOD OF ORDER

LESSON TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

God requires our very best. Don't just throw anything together and think God is satisfied. Our God is a God of order, and He requires that we do things decent and in order. To be decent is to conform to the recognized standard of modesty and good taste even in behavior and speech. **Colossians 4:6,** Let your speech *be* alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

When God orders your steps you are not your own, you are bought with a price (**1 Cor. 6:20**). Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer (**Psa. 19:14)**. We must learn to do things God's way. God has His own divine order. It is written: For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts (**Isa. 55:8-9**).

1. **Psalm 119:133**, Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.
2. **Psalm 37:23,** The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.
3. **Psalm 17:5,** Hold up my goings in thy paths, *that* my footsteps slip not.
4. **Psalm 73:2-3,** But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well-nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
5. **1 Corinthians 14:33,** For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.
6. **Titus 1:5,** For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.
7. **1 Corinthians 12:28,** And God has set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **1 Corinthians 15:22-23,** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming

(b) **1 Timothy 2:1-2,** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it was* good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day (**Gen. 1:16-19**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What does it mean for God to be a God of order? (answer individually).
2. Have you ever felt like your steps were being ordered by God (explain why or why not)?
3. Why is it important to do things God's way?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 38 **FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022**

WHY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST WAS SO IMPORTANT

LESSON TEXT: JOHN 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

1. **Promise of His return –** Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (**John 14:1-3**).

2. **The last enemy – 1 Corinthians 15:26-27** The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

3. **We shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. – 1 Corinthians 15:50-52,** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

4. **God is not the God of the dead, but of the living – – Matthew 22:31-32,** But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

5. **Once a person hears the offer of eternal life, they should accept it. There is no greater gift. –** Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (**Acts 2:37-38**).

6. **The promise of eternal life is for everyone that believes in Jesus. Acts 2:39,** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

7. **Once you receive the Holy Ghost, you can immediately start doing his will and receiving his blessings. Acts 2:41-47,** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

BONUS SCRIPTURES:

(a) **1 Corinthians 15:3-7,** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

(b) **1 Corinthians 15:54-58,** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY:

The resurrection of Jesus (from the dead) is the climax of the gospel story. The gospel *(also known as the good news)* of Jesus is the story of His birth, life, death and resurrection from the grave. The gospel of Jesus is the story of salvation for everyone that believes. This gospel is a reminder that God had a plan for each of us from the beginning of time.

The birth of Jesus made Him our hope and soon coming King. The life of Jesus made him our Christ (anointed one) and healer. The death of Jesus made him our savior and redeemer. The resurrection of Jesus made him King of Kings and made us heirs to eternal life. **Romans 8:17** says, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." If Jesus had only been born and not resurrected, the story of salvation would be incomplete. Because Jesus rose from the dead with ALL power (over sin, death and the grave), one day every believer shall rise from death to live with him forever, Amen.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
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1. How many people saw Jesus after he was resurrected (**1 Corinthians 15:3-7)?**
2. If Jesus had been born but not resurrected would the story of salvation be complete (why or why not)?
3. Explain the resurrection (answer individually).

NOTES:

FAST DAY 39 **SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022**

BE FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH

LESSON TEXT: Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

1. **Well Done. –** His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord (**Matt. 25:21**).

2. **I have kept the faith. –** I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (**2 Tim. 4:7-8**).

3. **They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. –** And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years (**Rev. 20:4**).

4. **He is King of Kings. –** These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful (**Rev. 17:14**).

5. **I will keep you from the hour of temptation. –** Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth (**Rev. 3:10**).

6. **We shall be like Jesus. –** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is (**1 John 3:2**).

7. **God will renew your strength. –** Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint (**Isa. 40:28-31**).

BONUS SCRIPTURES

(a) **Romans 6:23 –** For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(b) **Acts 2:38 –** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

(c) **Revelation 20:14 –** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY:

When a person receives the baptism of the Holy Ghost they are "born again" (**John 3:3**). That new believer experiences new life in Jesus. Although that person may still make human errors, they learn to walk, live and love as Jesus did on earth. We often call this the "Christian journey."

The Christian journey is one that requires complete faith in God. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen” (**Heb. 11:1**). “We walk by faith and not by sight” (**2 Cor. 5:7**). For it is impossible to please God without faith (**Heb. 11:6).** Furthermore, the faithfulness that we exhibit as Christians must be for life. The entire duration of our Christian journey requires our complete, uncompromised faithfulness to God. Every believer is encouraged not to faint or give up. Do not quit or “throw in the towel.” Be faithful until death and you shall receive the crown of eternal life.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. What is faith?
2. What does it mean to walk by faith?
3. Why is it impossible to please God without faith?
4. If the wages of sin is death, what is the gift of God and how does a person receive it?

NOTES:

FAST DAY 40 **SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022**

PALM SUNDAY
VICTORY BELONGS TO JESUS

LESSON TEXT: John 12:12-13 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed *is* the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

1. **When they bound Him –** When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him, they led *him* away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor (**Matt. 27:1-2**).

2. **They mocked Him – Matthew 27:27,** Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band *of soldiers*. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify *him*.

3. **Rejoice and shout! –** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he *is* just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass (**Zech. 9:9**).

4. **Thou art exalted as head above all –** Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all (**1 Chron. 29:11**).

5. **Who is this? –** And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, who is this? And the multitude said, this is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee (**Matt. 21:9-11**).

6. **Obedient unto death –** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (**Phil. 2:8**).

7. **He was buried and rose again –** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures (**1 Cor. 15:3-4).**

BONUS SCRIPTURES

(a) **Luke 19:36-38 –** And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed *be* the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

(b) **Acts 2:31-32 –** He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY: But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them

also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words (**1 Thess. 4:13-18**).

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. If Jesus is victorious, what does that mean for the rest of the world (answer individually)?
2. How can we be victorious with Jesus?
3. Describe a time you felt defeated but ended up with the victory.
4. What does Palm Sunday represent for you (answer individually)?
5. Who will you invite to church for Easter?

NOTES: