

**Counseling
Bible
Studies**

Homework Assignments

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HOW TO BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. Listed below are various ideas of what a Christian is. Place a check by the ones that best describe what you think a Christian is.

- An American
- A person who has been baptized and is a member of a church
- A person of high moral standards, who seeks to treat other people right, who is a good person who believes in God
- A person who has believed in Jesus and accepted him as his/her personal savior and who, because of this, has a real relationship with God

2. How does the Bible describe a Christian? To find out, read the following passages from the Bible that describe a Christian.

a. Read John 3:3. What did Jesus say was necessary for a person to enter his kingdom?

A Christian is a person who has been born again. This means that they have a new beginning, a fresh start, a new life at the very moment he/she puts his/her trust in Jesus.

b. Read John 1:12. What happens to a person who receives and believes on Jesus?

A Christian is a person who has become a child of God.
He/She has been adopted into God's family. God is truly his/her
Heavenly Father.

- c. Read 1 John 1:9. What happens when a person confesses his/her sins to God? _____

A Christian is a person who is totally forgiven of all his/her sins. All the guilt is gone, and he/she is cleaned by God.

- d. Read Romans 10:13. What is promised to a person who calls on the name of the Lord? _____

A Christian is a person who has been saved. He/She has been rescued from the downward spiral of sinful living. He/She has been saved from the eternal judgment of God.

3. The Bible not only describes who a Christian is, it also tells us how any person, no matter who they are or what they have done, may become a real Christian. Read these verses to discover how a person can become born again...a child of God...forgiven...saved.

- a. Read Romans 6:26. What did God say is a free gift? _____

Through whom does this gift come? _____

Eternal life, which is another way of describing what happens to a person when he/she becomes a Christian, is a free gift. We do not earn it or deserve it. All we must do is receive it.

- b. Read Acts 16:31. What must a person do to be saved?

Believing in Jesus does not mean that we simply believe that he existed. It means that we trust him. It means we transfer the central control of our lives over to him. It means that we embrace him as our only hope of eternal life.

- c. Read Romans 10:13. A person is saved when he/she does what?

Calling on the name of the Lord, which is another way of describing prayer, indicates that we truly believe. We tell Jesus that we believe in him. We tell him that we acknowledge that we are sinners. We tell him that we give our lives to him and accept him as our only Savior.

- d. Read Romans 10:9. What must a person confess? _____

Confess with our mouth means going public with our decision to trust Jesus. We tell others that Jesus is now the Lord of our life. We cannot be a private Christian. As a sign of our faith, we are not ashamed to be called “a believer in Jesus Christ.”

4. Some people say that all this seems too easy. How can becoming a Christian be this simple? How can a person be truly changed by simply accepting, believing, praying and confessing? The following scriptures will help you understand this better.

- a. Read John 3:16. What emotion does God feel toward the world? _____

God loves every person in the world. He wants to have a relationship with us. God’s love is what makes all this possible. This is why he sent Jesus to the world.

b. Read Romans 5:8-10. How did God prove his love to us? _____

When Jesus died on the cross, he was proving that God truly loves the world. You see, salvation is not easy nor is it cheap. It cost God his Son. Jesus did the hard part. He did what we could not do. When he died on the cross, he was paying for the sins of the whole world. He wiped out the debt that we owed God.

5. Do you have this kind of relationship with God? Have you taken the steps to become a Christian? Yes No I don't know

If you checked "no" or "I don't know," this is an important moment for you. The next few minutes of this study are important. It is no accident that you are reading this right now. God is using this study to have an appointment with you. He loves you and is reaching out to you.

Read Revelation 3:20. What is Jesus doing? _____

Do you sense that Jesus is knocking on your heart now? Will you open the door and let him in?

If you would like to become a Christian, read over this simple prayer to yourself.

Dear Jesus, I believe in you. I believe you came to this earth and died on the cross to pay my sin debt to God. I believe you rose again from the dead and that you want me in God's family. I confess I'm a sinner and that I cannot save myself. I need you to save me. Right now I open my life to you and invite you to become the Lord of my

AS A NEW MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY, YOU WILL WANT TO MEET WITH YOUR FAMILY REGULARLY. FAMILY MEETINGS ARE HELD EACH SUNDAY AT A LOCAL CHURCH. FIND A LOCAL CHURCH AND GO THERE THIS WEEK. LET THE PASTOR OF THAT CHURCH KNOW OF THE DECISION YOU HAVE JUST MADE.

UNDERSTANDING WHERE YOU ARE SPIRITUALLY

Read Matthew 5:1-10 from two or three different translations. Recommended are the *New American Standard Bible*, the *New International Version*, and *The Amplified Bible*. This study guide is designed to help you better understand the Beatitudes and the way they bear upon your personal relationships.

1. What do you think it means to be poor in spirit? (v. 30) _____

Have you come to the place where you can admit to others that you are “spiritually poor”? _____ This beatitude tells us that those who know they have spiritual needs are blessed! If you feel you have some spiritual needs, list three of them:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

2. What does verse 4 mean to you? _____

Is this verse indicating that it is good to have emotions and feelings and to express them? _____ How much freedom do you have to express your emotions?

It is healthy to express our emotions, and to allow others to do so. How much freedom do you allow others to express their feelings? _____

3. What does verse 5 mean to you? _____

Read John 13 and Philippians 2 in light of this verse. Are you the kind of person that is described in these chapters? _____ Do you enable other people to come forth because of your gentle and quiet spirit? _____ List three things you can do to improve this area of your life.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

4. What does verse 6 mean to you? _____

Do you really hunger and thirst after God's very best in your life? _____
What do you see to be your true motivations in your daily activities? _____

5. What does verse 7 mean to you? _____

Are you this kind of person? _____ In what areas do you need to change?

How can you become a caring person? _____

6. What does verse 8 mean to you? _____

This verse seems to speak of personal integrity, of being honest with yourself. Are you willing to let others see the real you? _____ Do you wear a phony mask at times? _____ What will you need to do to improve this area of your life? _____

7. What does verse 9 mean to you? _____

How effective are you as a peacemaker? _____

How can you improve this aspect of your life? _____

8. What does verse 10 mean to you? _____

How do you endure persecution? _____

What can you do to improve this quality of your life? _____

9. After you have completed this study, ask your mate or best friend to evaluate you in light of the Beatitudes. Check to see how your evaluation matches up to the way they see you. From their evaluation, list five specific areas you will begin to work on:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Following are selected verses and passages of Scripture that communicate how a person becomes a Christian. Read the verse or passage and answer the question in your own words.

1. In John 10:10, Christ said that He came that people might have _____

If Christ came that people might have life, and have a full and meaningful life, why do you think more people are not experiencing this abundant life? _____

2. The Bible says the problem is sin. Read each of the following verses and write it in your own words.

Romans 3:23 _____

Isaiah 53:6 _____

3. Write a brief definition of sin. _____

4. Isaiah 59:2 points out part of the problem with sin. What is it? _____

5. Romans 6:23 gives another aspect to the sin problem. What is it? _____

6. What does the Bible point out to be God's solution for the sin problem? Read each of the following verses and write it in your own words.

Romans 5:8 _____

1 Peter 1:18-19 _____

1 Peter 2:24 _____

1 John 4:9-10 _____

7. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 tell you about God's provision? _____

8. For whom did Christ die? _____

Did He die for you and your sins? _____

What did you do to deserve this gift from God? _____

9. To know someone has given you a gift does not make it yours until you accept it.

Read John 1:12 and write it in your own words. _____

Do the same with John 3:16. _____

Revelation 3:20 _____

10. What happens to a person when he accepts Christ's death as payment for his sins?

11. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, what happens when a person accepts Christ as his personal Savior? _____

12. Is there any other way a person can come into a relationship with God? _____
What does John 14:6 say? _____

What about Acts 4:12? _____

13. Have you ever accepted what Christ did for you? _____ If you have not accepted His death as being sufficient for you, you can do so right now by simply telling God in prayer that you accept it and count on it as the basis of your relationship with Him. Write a prayer in your own words. _____

14. Did you say “thank you” to God for His free gift to you? (Eph 2:8-9) _____
If you did and you were sincere in accepting His gift, what has happened to you? List several things from your previous study. _____

GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Each passage should be read from at least two versions. Recommended versions and a paraphrase include *The Living Bible*, *The Amplified Bible*, and the *New American Standard Bible*.

1. Read 1 John 1:9. The word *confess* means to agree with God concerning your sin. It simply means acknowledge that you have sinned and that Jesus died for that sin too. What sin or sins do you acknowledge to God right now? _____

2. What does 1 John 1:9 say God will do about your sins? _____

3. How much unrighteousness will God cleanse you from? _____

4. Did you confess your sins? _____ Did God forgive you? _____ Are you now cleansed from *all* your unrighteousness? _____

5. Write out a brief prayer thanking God for forgiving your sin and also for cleansing you. _____

6. Why can God forgive you and cleanse you from your sin? (1 Peter 1:18-19; 2:24) _____

7. What does Hebrews 9:22 say? _____

Whose blood was shed for your forgiveness? _____

8. Did Jesus die only for your sins or did He die for the sins of the whole world?
(1 John 2:2) _____
9. What does God say He will do once you have confessed your sins? (Hebrews
10:17-18) _____
10. How far away from you have your sins been removed? (Psalm 103:12)

11. How pure and clean does the Lord make you? (Isa. 1:18) _____
12. How has God dealt with your sins? (Isa. 53:5-6) _____
13. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Do any of the words listed there refer to you? ____
Which ones? _____
- These verses say that God has done three things for you. What are these three
things? (a) _____
(b) _____
(c) _____
14. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Who took your sins? _____ Whose
righteousness did you receive? _____ How good is that righteousness?

15. How does God feel about you right now? (Zeph 3:17) _____
- Read also Ephesians 1:11, 18 in *The Living Bible* and describe God's attitude
toward you right now. _____
16. Read James 5:16. Why are we to confess our sins to one another? _____
- Does this mean that you tell everybody about your sin? _____

It means that you confess your sin to a righteous person who can and will pray for you, someone you really trust. Whom do you trust enough to confess your sins to? _____ Why do you go to that person? _____

17. Read 1 John 1:7. What happens when you turn on a light in a dark room?

Satan loves to keep things hidden because he can use them against you, but when you confess to a Christian friend you really trust, it brings those hidden sins into the light of God's healing love. Satan hates that light.

18. In the space below write a prayer thanking God that he has forgiven you and cleansed you. Be sure to thank Him for not even remembering your sins anymore. (Heb. 10:17) _____

19. Write exactly what you will say to your Christian friend when you confess to them and ask them to pray for you. It helps to have the exact words in mind.

Study Guide to Psalm 32

Read this psalm several times from two or three different translations. *The Living Bible* is recommended for this study.

1. Whom does the psalmist say is blessed? (vv. 1-2) _____

2. What happened to the psalmist when he kept his sin a secret? (list effects found in vv. 3-4) _____

3. What did God do when the psalmist confessed his sin? (v. 5) _____

What does the New Testament say about confessing our sin? (1 John 1:9) _____

How much unrighteousness will He cleanse you from? _____

4. What do you think the psalmist means in verse 6? _____

5. Put verse 7 into your own words. _____

6. What does God say He will do for you? (v. 8) _____

7. What does the psalmist tell you to do? (v. 11) _____

8. In the space below, write a response to what the psalmist tells you to do in verse 11.

Study Guide to Psalm 103

(Forgiveness, Trust, Nature of God)

Read this psalm at least twice, using different translations and a paraphrase. The *New American Standard Bible*, the *New International Version*, *The Living Bible*, and *The Amplified Bible* are recommended. As you read, mark significant verses in your Bible. Ask God to open your heart and mind to the truth contained in this psalm.

1. In a standard dictionary, look up the definition of the word *ble**ss*. Write this definition in your own words. _____

The *Amplified Bible* says *ble**ss* basically is to be understood as “affectionately, gratefully praise.”

2. Compare and contrast the last line of verse 1 with Matthew 22:37. What differences do you see? _____

3. Verse 2 speaks of not forgetting any of the Lord’s benefits. Five of these benefits are listed in verses 3-5. What are they?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

4. The imagery of the last part of verse 5 brings to our mind the passage in Isaiah 40:31. The psalmist says that this renewing is the result of the “benefits” of our Lord. From Isaiah 40:31, can you see some definite results of the “benefits” of our Lord?

List these. _____

5. Verse 6 tells us that the Lord performs righteous deeds and judgments for all who are “oppressed.” What does the word *oppressed* mean? _____

6. Verse 8 gives us some positive qualities about God’s attitude toward us. List these. _____

7. Verses 10-14 tell us how God has dealt with us. Briefly put these verses into your own words. _____

8. Why did the psalmist use east and west in verse 12, instead of north and south? _____

9. Verse 17 tells us what the Lord has for those who reverence and seek after Him. What is the Lord’s attitude toward those who fear (reverence) Him and how long does it last? _____

10. What does this verse say about how our relationship with the Lord will affect our grandchildren? _____

11. Verse 19 gives us the limit of God’s sovereignty. Where does His sovereignty stop?

Is it possible for anything to exist that is not under His rule and authority? _____

What about Satan? _____ One translator has called God the “Blessed Controller of all things.”

12. What should be your attitude now toward your sins of the past? (v.12) _____

If God has removed our transgressions from us and He remembers them no more (Heb 10:17), what should be our attitude?

-
-
13. What should be your feelings toward a God who has the attitude toward you described in verses 13 and 17? _____

-
-
14. When your world seems to be falling apart, what verse can you meditate on to reassure you of God’s sovereign control? _____ Will there ever be a time in your life when He is not in control? _____

15. As a continuation of this study, select several verses from this psalm to memorize and meditate on regularly. Here are some selected verses:
- a. Verses 1-5 (changing “your” and “you” to “my” and “me”)
 - b. Verses 8, 10, 11, 12
 - c. Verses 17-19

DEALING WITH AFFECTION NEEDS

Many individuals who did not receive sufficient physical and emotional affection as children grow up with a need for affection. Many times this is in relation to the opposite sex and can create sexual problems for the individual. Often this affection need can and will be met in marriage, but this idea is of little consolation for the single person struggling with this need. More immediate help is needed.

The following are some suggested steps that other individuals have found helpful:

1. Learn to thank God for your need (1 Thess 5:8). We are commanded to *give* thanks, not *feel* thankful, and when we are obedient, our feelings often follow.
2. To aid in *giving* thanks, list all the ways this need will benefit you in the future. (For example, this need will draw you closer to your mate in marriage. See Romans 8:28.)
3. Allow the body of Christ to help meet some of these needs in your life.
 - a. An active relationship within the Body of believers who are sensitive to emotional needs will help.
 - b. Seek out an older couple to whom you can honestly relate and who can help fill some of these affection needs.
 - c. Develop a close friendship with an individual of your sex, one to whom you can honestly confess your needs to and who will pray regularly for you (James 5:16). Being honest about your need is often the first step to controlling your needs.
3. Begin to meditate on selected Scripture passages that tell us of God's ability and desire to meet our needs. Some suggested passages are: Psalm 40:1-3; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Philippians 4:19.
5. Many times our needs get our attention focused on the negative aspects of our life. To help change this negative focus, list all the ways your father and mother actively demonstrated their love to you. Meditate on this list in the evenings before you go to sleep. Try to see how your parents demonstrated their love toward you to the best of their abilities. Begin to realize that your parents may

- never love you in the way that you would like, but that they loved you with 100% of their ability to express love. Begin to actively forgive them for their inabilities.
6. Make a list of people other than your parents who you know love you. With each name, list one way that they have demonstrated their love to you. Meditate on this list in the evenings before you go to sleep.
 7. Begin to pray for you future mate. Make a prayer list concerning your mate and pray regularly for him/her. Also pray for yourself, that you will be what your mate will need you to be.
 8. Seek to become aware of your motivations in your relationships. Are you really trusting God with your needs and desires? Claim His promises and meditate on them (Proverbs 3:4-5; Matthew 6:33; Romans 8:32).
 9. Many times our image of God is not accurate. We have trouble believing that God really loves us and wants to meet our needs. Make a study of God's love in the Bible, because the more you see that He loves you, the more you will be able to trust Him for your needs. You can begin with these passages: Psalm 23; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 4.

GOD'S CHILD

(PART 1)

"I am God's child! I do not understand all that that means, Lord, but I want to know You as my heavenly Father."

1. Read John 1:12-13 and write it in your own words: _____

- I am God's child by _____ (John 1:13)
2. If my father and my mother have forsaken me, the Lord will _____
_____ (Psalm 27:10)

3. God desires to be my *Father*. Read 2 Corinthians 6:18 and write it in your own words. _____

4. Read Romans 8:15-17 and write these verses in your own words. _____

- I am God's child by _____ (Rom 8:15)
5. God has promised that He will _____
_____ (Heb 13:5)

6. Read Romans 8:35-39 and write these verses in your own words. _____

7. I will thank You for being my heavenly Father! (Below write a prayer of thanksgiving to God.) _____

GOD'S CHILD

(Part 2)

We know that well-adjusted children experience love from their parents. They are abundantly loved and completely accepted just as they are. Read the following verses from two or three translations and then write each one in your own words.

1. Numbers 23:19 _____

2. Psalm 59:10 _____

3. Psalm 63:3 _____

4. Psalm 69:13 _____

5. Psalm 86:13 _____

6. Psalm 139:17, 18 _____

7. Jeremiah 31:3 _____

8. Romans 8:38 _____

9. Ephesians 1:11 _____

10. 1 John 3:1 _____

Take a moment and write a prayer to the Lord, expressing your willingness to receive and accept His love.

GOD'S CHILD

(Part 3)

“God’s love for me never changes. It is the *one* thing I can always rely on.” Read the following verses from two or three translations and then write them in your own words.

1. Numbers 23:19 _____

2. Psalm 59:10 _____

3. Psalm 103:8-13 _____

4. Psalm 139:17, 18 _____

5. John 17:23 _____

6. Romans 8:38 _____

7. Hebrews 12:5-8 _____

8. Hebrews 13:5 _____

Take a moment to write a prayer thanking God that He loves you so much and that His love never ever changes.

GOD'S CHILD

(Part 4)

“God is like a Father to me. But He is not like my *earthly* father, because He never makes mistakes, never forsakes me or lets me down, and is never too busy to listen to me! Instead, He always does what is best for me.” Read the following verses and write them in your own words.

1. Psalm 23 _____

2. Psalm 59:9,10 _____

3. Psalm 85:15 _____

4. Psalm 103:9, 13 _____

5. Psalm 121 _____

6. Romans 5:5 _____

7. Romans 8:35-38 _____

8. 1 John 4:18 _____

Take a moment now and try to picture God, your heavenly Father. Close your eyes and picture yourself sitting on His knee. Allow yourself the privilege of feeling His arms drawing you close to Himself. Picture yourself calling Him “Daddy,” and write this prayer of praise to Him as you would write to a “Daddy.”

GOD'S CHILD

(Part 5)

1. List the characteristics that you feel made your father and mother (or could have made them) good parents.

2. As you evaluate your parents' love, did they give you a good image of God the Father? _____ Is God like your earthly parents? _____

3. Who is the one person in this world that you picture as being most like God to you? _____

4. Read John 10:37-38 and John 14:7-10. Write these verses in your own words.

Our heavenly Father is exactly like _____, so we can learn about God the Father by studying about _____

5. Read Colossians 1:19 and write it in your own words. _____

Take a moment and write a prayer telling God the Father what you believe He is like. Be specific and free with your words. He knows your heart, but it helps to verbalize your thoughts and feelings.

STUDY GUIDE TO LUKE 15

(God's Love, Part 1)

Read the chapter all the way through in two or three versions. Particularly recommended are the *New American Standard Bible*, the *New International Version*, and *The Living Bible*.

1. What are the three parables that Jesus tells in this chapter?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
2. Give a title to each parable.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. Read the first parable again.
 - a. How long does the shepherd look for the lost sheep? _____

 - b. Does the shepherd punish the sheep when he finds it?

What does he do? _____

 - c. What does the shepherd do when he gets home?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 - d. Whom does the shepherd represent in this parable? _____
Whom do the sheep represent? _____
 - e. List everything the lost sheep did in this parable. _____

 - f. List everything the shepherd did in this parable. _____

g. What did you learn about God from this parable? _____

STUDY GUIDE TO LUKE 15

(God's Love, Part 2)

Read the second parable in this chapter (vv. 8-10). Review Part 1.

1. What does the woman do in this parable? _____

2. What did the coin do? _____
3. Who does the woman represent? _____

Who does the coin represent? _____

4. How did the woman search? _____

5. What does verse 10 say happens in heaven? _____

6. What do you learn about God from this parable? _____

STUDY GUIDE TO LUKE 15

(God's Love, Part 3)

Read verses 11-32 carefully. Review Parts 1 and 2.

1. How many prodigal sons did the Father have? _____
 2. Who did the Father divide his wealth with? (v. 12) _____

 3. What did the younger son do? _____

 4. Why didn't the Father try to stop the son? _____

 5. What happened to the younger son? _____

- Has God ever used circumstances to get your attention? _____
6. Where does the boy end up? _____
Briefly describe a pigpen. _____

 7. What happened to the boy? (v. 17) _____

 8. The boy decides to do three things. What are they?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 9. Read verse 20 and rewrite it in your own words. _____

 10. The father does five things to this boy who has just left the pigpen. What are they?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
11. Why do you think the Father saw his son while he was a long way off?

12. In verse 19 and 21, the son shows his ignorance of the Father's love by saying, "I am no longer _____ to be called your son!" Is the Father's love dependant upon what the son does? _____
13. What does the Father do to show the boy he is worthy? (vv. 22-24) _____
14. Who begins to be merry? (v.24) _____
15. Whom does the son represent? _____
16. Whom does the Father represent? _____
17. What do you learn about God's love from these verses? _____
- Do we ever deserve God's love? _____
18. Did the Father ever stop loving the son even when he was in a distant country?

19. Can we ever lose God's love? (Read Rom. 8:37-39) _____
20. What should be your attitude toward a God who loves you so? (1 John 4:19)

21. What does the older brother do? _____
22. What is the Father's attitude toward the older brother? _____

23. The older brother has been with the Father but does not really know the Father.
Whom does he represent? _____
24. Did the older brother ever go in? _____
25. List five things you have learned about God from this parable.
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____

GOD LOVES YOU!

(Part 1)

This is the beginning point of all emotional healing! Each one of us must come to believe and feel this love as a reality in our life. Read each of the following verses from at least two translations and a paraphrase of the Bible and then, in your own words, state the truth of each verse. Recommended are the *New American Standard Bible*, *The Amplified Bible*, and *The Living Bible*.

Psalm 63:3 _____

Psalm 86:13 _____

Psalm 100:5 _____

Psalm 145:8-9 _____

John 3:16 _____

Romans 5:8 _____

Romans 8:38-39 _____

1 John 3:1 _____

1 John 4:7-8 _____

1 John 4:9-10 _____

1 John 4:16 _____

1 John 4:18-19 _____

Yes, God loves you! This is the basic truth for emotional healing. As you come to see your personal worth and value to God, the healing process begins. Ask God to make His love real to you! In the space below, write a brief prayer asking God to make you aware of His love for you. Just simply express, in your own words, your heart's desire to know that you are loved by God.

GOD LOVES YOU!

(Part 2)

Begin this study with the following prayer: “God, make Your love for me *real* to me! Enable me to believe that You love me and enable me to experience Your love personally today!”

Review “God Loves You!” Part 1, then answer the following questions.

1. List five persons who you believe love you and one way each person has demonstrated his love for you. _____

2. What would God have to do to prove to you that He loves you? _____

3. What has God done to show you that He loves you? (Rom.5:8; 1 John 4:9-10)

4. What is the greatest act of love a person can do? (John 15:13) _____

5. Do you love anyone that much? _____
6. Who loves you that much? _____
7. God loves you that much! Read John 3:16; Romans 5:8; and 1 John 4:9-10. In your own words, state what God did to show His great love to you. _____

8. What did you do to deserve that great love? _____

9. What was your condition when God expressed His great love for you?
(Eph. 2:1-9) _____

10. What is God's gift to you? _____

11. How much does God love you? (John 17:23) _____

In the space below, write a brief prayer thanking God for His gift and demonstration of love toward you. Your words are not as important as the attitude of your heart.

GOD LOVES YOU!

(Part 3)

Briefly review Part 1 and Part 2. Read 1 Corinthians 13 from at least two translations before completing the following exercises.

1. Verses 4 through 8 contain direct statements about what love is. Write each of these statements out below.

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

2. In 1 John 4:8 we read that God is _____, so it would be appropriate to exchange the terms *God* and *love* in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Read each of the statements in these verses, substituting “God” where it says “love.”
3. Now we want to personalize these four verses: Rewrite each statement from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, substituting “God” for “love” and adding “toward me” after the statement. (Example: “God is kind toward me.”)

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

4. To conclude this section, make these personalized statements your prayer to God. (Example: “God help me to know and understand and feel Your kindness toward me today.”) To make this as effective as possible, write out the prayer and, in the five days that follow, make it your regular prayer to the Lord.

GOD LOVES YOU!

(Part 4)

An important way that God helps an individual to know and experience His love is through the love of other human beings. All true love springs from God (1 John 4:7-8) and when we experience love from people it makes the love of God more real. In a sense, the Body of Christ (other Christians) manifests God's love and acceptance to us and makes His love and acceptance believable.

For this exercise, make a list of every person who loves you. List each individual who you believe loves you and one definite way they have demonstrated this love to you. (Be generous with yourself. Believe the best about others. Ask God to reveal to you those people who really do love you.)

After you have made your list, review it daily for the next seven days. Review your list every night before you go to sleep and every morning when you wake. As you review the list, thank God in prayer for each person and ask Him to show you ways you can return love to each person.

After seven days, put your list away in a safe place. In the future, whenever you begin to feel unloved or depressed, review the list again. Always be ready to add to the list.

As a final aspect to this part, read, memorize, and meditate on John 13:34-35: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

STUDY GUIDE TO EPHESIANS 1:3-14

(God's Love and Control, Individual's Worth)

Read these eleven verses through at least twice. Read first for an overview, and then read slowly the second time, contemplating each phrase for understanding. If you have translations or paraphrases available other than the four recommended, read the passages from these, also.

After completing the reading, answer the following questions. Do not rush through the questions, but allow the implications of each idea to sink into your life. Ask God to transform your life—your personality and feelings—as you meditate on this passage.

1. Who has blessed us? (v. 3) _____

2. How many “spiritual blessings” did He bless us with? (v. 3) _____

3. When did God choose us? (v. 4) _____

4. What was His purpose in choosing us? (v. 4) _____

5. Is God more interested in making us happy right now, or in making us more like Jesus Christ (more holy)? (v. 4) _____

6. How should the fact that He wants to make us holy, affect our attitude toward the problems that He allows to come into our lives? _____

7. What does it mean to be adopted? (v. 5) _____

8. What does the word *redemption* mean? _____

9. What does it mean when it says “we have redemption through His blood”? (v. 7)

10. What is the inheritance that we have obtained? (v. 11) _____

11. How many things happen today as He planned them to? (v. 11) _____

12. What do you think it means to be “sealed” (“marked” in *The Living Bible*) in Christ? (v. 13) _____

13. Notice in these eleven verses that all three Persons of the Trinity are mentioned, and certain works are credited to each. Reread the passage and see if you can list the works of each person.

a. God the Father (vv. 3-6)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

b. Jesus Christ the Son (vv. 7-12)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

c. The Holy Spirit

1) _____

2) _____

UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF AS A DIVINE ORIGINAL

1. Paul said that he and his associates spoke as men _____ by _____ to be entrusted with the Gospel (1 Thes 2:4). What does it mean to be “approved”?

Because Paul was approved by God, he says he was not trying to _____ men but God who tests our _____. When was Paul approved by God? _____

Are you also approved by God? _____

Why do you think you are approved? _____

2. Read Psalm 139:13-16. Write in your own words what these verses tell you about yourself. _____

Can you honestly thank God for making you the way He did? _____

Write out a prayer expressing your thanks to God. _____

3. What was Paul's attitude toward himself? (1 Cor. 15:10a) _____

Notice that it says by the "grace" of God, not the "mistake" of God. Do you ever feel God made a mistake with you? _____ If there are some things about yourself you do not like, list them here: _____

Have you ever thanked God for all of these things? (1 Thess 5:18) _____
Why not do so now? Write a prayer of thanks here. _____

What does God say about these things? (Rom 8:28) _____

4. What does Paul say we should do in Romans 12:3? _____

What does "sober judgment" mean? _____

Above you listed some of your weaknesses. Now balance this by listing some of your strengths here: _____

5. Read Ephesians 1:11 from *The Living Bible*. What does the word "delight" mean?

Who have become "gifts"? _____

To whom were these "gifts" given? _____

What does He do with these gifts? _____

Does that mean that God delights in you? _____

6. Read John 17:23 from *The Living Bible*. How much does God love Jesus?

Does He love Jesus more or less than He loves you? _____

Does this mean that God cannot love you anymore than He does right now? _____

7. Read Ephesians 1:18 from *The Living Bible*. Who has been made rich? _____

How was He made rich? _____

How do you make someone rich? _____

What of value was given to God to make Him rich? _____

Does this mean that you are of value to God? _____

8. Pick two of these verses and write them on several small cards, to place around your house or office. Meditate on them daily and see if your self-concept will not begin to change.

STUDY GUIDE TO PSALM 119

(Need for the Word of God)

Read Psalm 119 from two or three different versions, translations, or paraphrases of the Bible. *The Amplified Bible*, *The Living Bible*, the *New International Version*, and the *New American Standard Bible* are recommended. After you have read this psalm, answer the following questions:

1. What should be our prayer as we begin any Bible study? (vv. 18, 73) _____

2. This psalm is a record of David's meditations and prayers concerning the Scriptures. He uses many different titles and names for the Scriptures. List as many as you can. _____

3. In this psalm, David tells us that the Word of God does many things for us. In your own words, describe what the Word of God does for us as indicated in the following verses.

vv. 25, 37, 40, 107, 154 _____

v. 28 _____

v. 38 _____

v. 42 _____

vv. 50, 52, 76 _____

vv. 9, 11 _____

vv. 98, 99, 104, 130, 169 _____

v. 116 _____

v. 165 _____

4. Can you see other things that the Word of God does for us? List four other things you noticed. _____

5. David tells us that affliction or suffering does certain things. What are they? (vv. 67, 71, 75) _____

6. As you read this psalm, please notice the emphasis David places on his will. List some of the things David says he *will* do. _____

How important would you say our will is in our personal walk with God? _____

7. In several verses, David used the phrase, “with all my heart.” What should a person do with all his heart, according to David? (vv. 2, 10, 34, 58, 69) _____

8. From your study of this psalm, can you describe David’s attitude toward the Scriptures? _____

Would you say that David found Bible study to be unnecessary _____,
boring _____, unprofitable _____, dumb _____? How often do
you think David studied and meditated in the Scriptures? (Psalm 1:2) _____

9. List ten benefits to us if we will study and meditate on the Word of God as David
did. (You can find these and many more in Psalm 119.) _____

10. What should be your attitude toward the Bible? _____

11. Why don't you read and study it more? _____

12. Using some of David's words in this psalm, write out a prayer to God expressing
what you want your attitude and habits to be toward the Scriptures. _____

13. It is not enough just to desire to be different in your attitude and habits. What are
you going to begin to do today to change your attitude and habits toward the
Scripture? (List three specific steps.) _____

STUDY GUIDE TO PSALM 25

(Prayer)

Read this psalm from at least two versions. The recommended versions are *The Amplified Bible*, the *New American Standard Bible*, and the *New International Version*. *The Living Bible* is the recommended paraphrase. After you have read the psalm twice, answer the following questions.

1. Read over the psalm again and underline the words that refer directly to God, such as the proper names "O Lord," and the pronouns "Thee," "Thy," and "He." Who is the center of focus in this prayer, the psalmist, or the Lord? _____
2. The psalmist makes many personal requests of the Lord. List the requests below that you can most identify with. _____

3. Six times the psalmist uses the personal pronoun "I." A study of these six uses of the pronoun "I" shows us a good attitude to have in prayer. What does the psalmist say he does? _____

4. The psalmist credits many activities to the Lord in this psalm. What does the psalmist say the Lord does in each of these verses?
v. 8 _____
v. 9 _____
v. 12 _____
v. 14 _____
v. 15 _____
5. The psalmist requests the Lord to remember two things, and not to remember one. What are these? (vv. 6-7) _____

6. Does this psalm express the desire of your heart? _____ Many Christians have found it helpful to make certain passages of Scripture their prayer. For the final exercise, write a prayer to God using the words of this psalm but saying it in your own way. After you have rewritten this psalm as a prayer, go back over it out loud to the Lord. _____

STUDY GUIDE TO EPHESIANS 5:15-21

(Spirit-filled Life, Submission)

Read the passage through in two or three different translations such as the *New American Standard Bible*, the *New International Version*, and *The Amplified Bible*, then answer the following questions.

1. What is the context of this passage? What has Paul been talking about in the earlier part of this chapter? _____

2. What do you think “making the most of every opportunity” means? (v. 16) _____

3. What do you think the context indicated the Lord’s will to be? (vv. 17-18) _____

4. When a person gets drunk with wine, we say that he is controlled by the wine. Why do you think Paul used the comparison between being drunk with wine and being filled with the Holy Spirit? (v. 18) _____

5. There are four results of being filled with the Spirit given in this passage. List these results below:

v. 19 _____

v. 19 _____

v. 20 _____

v. 21 _____

6. What results would you expect to see in your life if you were filled with the Spirit? _____

7. According to verse 21, who is to be submissive and serve the others? _____

8. Paul follows this passage with instructions for the wife and husband. Why do you think he put these relationships next in the context? _____

9. Write out a prayer in the space below, expressing your desire to be filled with the Spirit. _____

STUDY GUIDE TO JOHN 13:1-17

(Submission, Humility)

Read this passage several times from at least three translations. The preferred translations are the *New American Standard Bible*, the *New International Version*, *The Living Bible*, and *The Amplified Bible*.

1. In the first three verses, we are told that Jesus knew certain things. List what He knew and was confident of. (vv. 1-3)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

2. Because of His confidence in this knowledge, Jesus was a *servant* to the disciples. In your own words, tell what Jesus did. (vv. 4-5) _____

3. To serve others takes a certain strength and a deep willingness to serve. Do you think there is a relationship between the knowledge Jesus had and the submissive role He took? _____ What knowledge would you need to help you take a submissive role? _____

4. Read 1 Peter 2:21-23. Jesus left us an example of submission in His suffering. This passage tells us what that example was. Express it below in your own words.

Can you do the same thing Jesus did when you are suffering or when you have to be submissive? _____

5. How did Peter react to the idea of Jesus washing his feet? Express his reaction in your own words. (vv. 6-10) _____

6. Explain what you think Jesus meant in verse 10. _____

7. Read verses 12-17 again, and then write in your own words what Jesus was trying to communicate to the disciples. _____

8. What do you learn about leadership from these verses? (vv. 12-17) _____

9. What do you think the term “servant-leader” would mean? _____

Would a leader who *served* his followers be weak? _____

10. What was the example Jesus set and referred to in verse 15? _____

11. What can you learn from this passage about the marriage relationship and submission in that relationship? _____

12. List the things you have learned from this passage that you need to apply in your own life. _____

13. In what relationships and in what ways are you going to apply this truth to your life? _____

14. Make a list of all the verbs in these eleven verses and write down the tense (time the action took place—present, past, or future) of each.

15. When did most of the action take place in this passage? _____
16. List ten things that you have seen in this passage that you have never thought of before.
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____

g. _____

h. _____

i. _____

j. _____

17. List five areas or things in your life that should be different now that you know the truths in this passage.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

GOD’S CURE FOR ANXIETY

(Philippians 4:4-9)

Is it possible to live in our fast-moving, changing society and be free from anxiety and worry? The answer must be yes, for God Himself commands us to “be anxious for nothing” (Phil 4:6a). God never asks us to do anything without making the way clear for its accomplishment. The Apostle Paul provides us with some specific steps to help us deal with any thing or situation that would tend to frustrate us and produce anxiety. Read the passage from two or three different translations or paraphrases. Particularly recommended are the *New American Standard Bible*, *The Amplified Bible*, and *The Living Bible*.

Step 1 – Praise

1. What does the word *rejoice* in verse 4 mean to you? (Check its meaning in a standard dictionary.) _____

2. How often or when does Paul tell us to rejoice? _____

3. Is our rejoicing to be in our circumstances or in our Lord? _____

4. Rejoicing in the Lord is not necessarily *feeling* joyful. It is an act of the will to praise Him whether we feel joyful or not. Notice that Paul does not say feel joyful, but he *commands* us to rejoice. List ten things about your current situation for which you can praise God because you know He is in control (Romans 8:28; Psalm 139:16).
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____

- f. _____
- g. _____
- h. _____
- i. _____
- j. _____

Step 2—*Prayer*

1. Paul's command (v. 6) is to redirect our words. Instead of worrying we are to _____.
2. What things are we to pray about? _____

- Does Paul exclude anything in his command? _____
3. To whom do we make our requests? _____
4. Does God say that He will grant us the things we ask for when we pray like this?

- What is promised? (v. 7) _____

5. Whose peace will guard our hearts and minds? (v. 7) _____

Step 3—*Ponder*

1. The third step is to refocus our thoughts. (v. 8) List the qualities that Paul says we should cause our minds to dwell on.

2. What does the word *dwell* mean? (Check its meaning in a standard dictionary.)

3. What does Romans 12:2 say about our thinking? _____

4. What happens when you refocus your thoughts? _____

Step 4—Practice

1. This final step is the redirection of our actions. Paul says we are to _____ those things that we have learned or seen mirrored in the lives of other Christians. (v. 9)
2. List three things that you have learned from other Christians that you should be practicing regularly. _____

3. What does the word *practice* mean? (Check its meaning in a standard dictionary.)

4. Have you ever learned to do something that took practice? _____
What? _____
5. How long did you have to practice before you became proficient? _____
6. What is the result of these last two steps? (v. 9) _____

Summary

1. List the four steps involved in God's cure for anxiety.
a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____
2. These four verses speak of inner (attitude) steps and outer (behavioral) steps. What are the attitudinal steps we are to take?

3. What does Isaiah 26:3 say about peace? _____

4. What have you been worrying about lately? _____

5. What are you going to do now? _____

DEALING WITH FEAR AND ANXIETY

1. Meditate on Psalm 121—particularly just before going to sleep at night and as you awake in the morning. If you should wake during the night meditate at that time also. Implement the procedure outlined for using Psalm 121. The same procedure can be used for other passages that are helpful for you.
2. Memorize and meditate on Psalm 4:8 if you are having trouble sleeping at night.
3. Memorize and meditate on Psalm 23. Try to visualize the psalm as you meditate on it.
4. Make a list of everyone you know who loves you. Give yourself the benefit of the doubt. Also list one way that each person on the list has demonstrated that he or she loves you. Keep this list beside your bed to meditate on just before you go to sleep at night and when you awake in the morning.
5. Study Philippians 4:4-9. Determine the four principles that Paul enumerates for dealing with anxiety. Do the following:
 - a. Memorize and meditate on this passage.
 - b. Make a list of things that would fall under verse 8 and meditate on these things.
 - c. Make a list of things that you should do that fall under verse 9.
6. Christian music is very soothing for a person who is anxious or fearful. Find a good, Christian music radio station or play some good Christian music on your CD player. Whenever possible, keep the music playing in the background throughout the day.
7. Make a list of all the good things that God has done for you in the past. Meditate on these daily.
8. Praise often drives away fear. Sit down and write out all the things for which you can thank God. Be specific and see how many things you have to be thankful for.
9. Often our fears center on the fact that we have a poor image of God. From the Scriptures, make a study of who God is and how much and in what ways He loves you. Write down the things that you learn so you review them regularly.

DEALING WITH HOSTILITY

Many individuals who come for counseling discover that they are angry inside. They often have pent-up hostilities of which they were not really aware; however, in the process of counseling or from a personality test their hostilities come to light. Here are some suggestions to help deal with these hidden hostilities.

1. Seek to determine who is the major focus of these hostilities. Many individuals develop hostilities toward parents, brothers, or sisters. Once the person on whom the hostilities are focused is discovered, some definite steps can be taken to handle these negative feelings.
2. Meditate on Romans 12:17-21. Basic to most of our hostility is a desire for revenge. *Give* this desire over to the Lord, and ask His forgiveness for harboring this anger in your heart (1 John 1:9).
3. The Bible teaches that we are to *go* to the individuals that we have sinned against or who have sinned against us and be reconciled to them (Matt 5:22-24; 18:15).
 - a. Write out your confession so you can have the wording exactly in mind.
 - b. Make your confession of harboring anger and resentment in your heart and ask the person to forgive you.
4. Actively seek to *love* the person(s) you have harbored this anger against. Seek ways to communicate this love in actions and words that they can understand and accept (John 13:34-35; Romans 12:20-21; 1 Peter 3:9).
5. *Thank* God for this emotional problem in your life (1 Thess 5:18)! Seek to see how He is going to use it for your benefit (Romans 8:28).
6. There will still be times of anger in your life. These may be open hostilities or inner feelings. Recognize and identify these feelings for what they are, and immediately seek to be reconciled to the other person. Confess your anger and communicate your feelings. By verbalizing your feelings in a controlled manner, you can keep the hostility from growing. Open communication is most important. (Example, say “When you do that, I feel _____,” or “Anger is my problem _____.”)

7. Anger is the resulting emotion when our self-worth is attacked. A person who has low self-esteem will tend to react with more hostility than one who has high self-esteem. Seek to build your sense of self-worth so it will not be so fragile. Meditate on God's love for you and His value of you as a person (Eph 1:11, 18).

STUDY GUIDE TO PSALM 27

(Despair)

Read this psalm from two or three different translations. The recommended versions are *The Amplified Bible*, the *New American Standard Bible*, and the *New International Version*. *The Living Bible* is the recommended paraphrase. After you have read it several times, mark your favorite verses.

1. This is a psalm of fearless trust in God. List the verses in which the psalmist states this trust. _____

2. What seems to be the circumstances that are causing David to be troubled? List several of the factors: _____

3. What do you think it means to “dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life”? (v. 4) _____

4. Make a list of the things that David says the Lord will do for him. _____

5. What makes you think that God would not do these very things for you? _____

6. In verse 3, David exercises his will and chooses to trust God in spite of the circumstances he sees around him. How can a person maintain such a trust in the face of bad circumstances? _____

7. In verse 13, what does David say he believed? _____

8. In verse 10, David says that even his father and mother have forsaken him. What can keep a person from despair when that happens? (What kept David from despair?) _____

9. What do you think it means in verse 10 when it says, “But the Lord will take me up”? _____

10. What does David encourage you to do? (v. 14) _____

11. Write out the following verses on small cards and post them around your home or where you work. Begin to meditate on and memorize these verses: Psalm 27:1, 3, 5, 10, 13, 14.

STUDY GUIDE TO PSALM 40:1-3

(Depression, Hopelessness, Despair)

Read the verses from two or three different versions and a paraphrase. Particularly recommended are the *New American Standard Bible* and *The Living Bible*.

1. What two things did the psalmist do in these verses?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 2. What six things did the Lord do for the psalmist?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____
 3. Where did the new song come from? _____
 4. What was the old song? _____
 5. What will be the results of the Lord doing these things for the psalmist? (v. 3)

 6. What is your “pit of destruction” or “miry clay”? _____

 7. What are you doing about your situation? _____

- Are you doing what the psalmist did? _____
8. What can you expect the Lord to do for you because He did it for the psalmist?

-
-
9. What is going to result from your situation as it did from the psalmist's situation? _____
-
-
10. On the basis of what God is going to do for you, what should be your attitude? (See also Rom 8:28 and 1 Thess 5:18.) _____
-
-
11. When can you expect God to do this work in your life? _____
-
12. Write these three verses on small cards and place them around where you work or live so you can meditate on them throughout the day, every day!

SEEKING AFTER PEACE

1. Write out John 14:27 in your own words. _____

Why should your heart not be troubled? _____

2. Read Philippians 4:7 from *The Amplified Bible*. Write this verse in your own words. _____

This peace is not an absence of problems, is it? _____
It really is a peace that transcends our problems and exists even in the midst of crisis.

3. There are four principles that enable us to have God's peace in the midst of turmoil. To know these principles enables us to entrust Him with the problem.
a. *God knows* Read Job 23:10, and write it in your own words. _____

Read Psalm 139:1-5, and write a one-sentence paraphrase of these verses.

Is there anything that God does *not* know about? _____
Nothing touches our life that has not first been filtered through the loving heart of our heavenly Father!

b. *God cares* Read 1 Peter 5:7 and write it in your own words. _____

Does God know what we are going through? Does He understand? (Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-16) _____ Why can we come boldly to God with our needs?

What does Jesus say for us to do? (Matt 11:28) _____

Read Psalm 46:1-2 and write it in your own words. _____

What does Psalm 55:22 tell you to do? _____

Does God care about you? _____

c. *God is able* What does God say He will do in Psalm 50:15? _____

How able is God? (Jer 33:3) _____

What does Ephesians 3:20 say about God's sufficiency? _____

Write 2 Corinthians 9:8 in your own words. _____

Is God able to take care of *you*? _____

d. *God has a purpose* Read Romans 8:28 and write it in your own words.

Read Ephesians 4:13. What does it say? _____

What is God's goal for you? _____

When will He be finished with the task? _____

Have you ever stopped to consider how far you have come in your Christian life? Perhaps you should take time to thank your heavenly Father for all that He has done in your life to this point! Write out a prayer of thanksgiving in the space below. _____

4. What are the four principles this study enumerates?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

What should be your attitude toward your circumstances, in light of these four principles? _____

God's peace comes as you allow Him to really take care of you. Why not do as the prophet did in Isaiah 40:31? What did the prophet do? _____

What were the results? _____

What did the psalmist do in Psalm 40:1-3? _____

What resulted? _____

What are you going to do now? _____

STUDY GUIDE TO PSALM 121

(Fear, Depression)

This study guide will enable you to focus your mind on the Lord and His continual care and protection.

1. Read the psalm over several times out loud, changing the pronouns to make it more personal. (Instead of *you*, and *your*, substitute first-person pronouns.)
2. On 4X6 cards, write out Psalm 121. Use a bright-colored card or piece of paper that will stand out against most backgrounds. Write it on at least five different cards and post them in prominent places where you spend most of your time each day. For example, a housewife could post her five cards in the following places: (1) bedside table; (2) over the kitchen stove; (3) over the kitchen sink; (4) by the washing machine; (5) on the mirror she uses most often. When you see the cards at different times of the day, read the psalm again. The idea is for you to spend as much time as possible meditating on this psalm. This should become a daily practice and will focus your thoughts on God's care and protection.
3. If there is a time, situation, or place that seems to bring out your fears the most, work especially hard to focus your thoughts on Scripture at that time or in that place. Many people find the time just before they go to sleep and when they first awake each morning the most difficult of the day. Meditate on this psalm particularly at these times. The bedside table should always have one of the cards on it.
4. Often when our minds are idle our fears will come rushing in! Try to meditate on this psalm when you find your mind free from other pressing details. Also, you might practice letting your fears remind you of this psalm. The fearful thoughts can become a springboard to meditation as you let the first fear or worry remind you of the comfort in God's Word.

HOPE IN AFFLICTION

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 from two or three different translations or paraphrases. Recommended are the *New International Version*, *The Living Bible*, the *New American Standard Bible*, and *The Amplified Bible*. After you have read the passage, complete the following questions.

1. What is the “treasure”? (v. 7) _____

2. What does Paul mean by “jars of clay”? (v. 7) _____

3. What is the reason that this “treasure” is in “jars of clay”? (v. 7) _____

4. In verses 8 and 9, Paul lists several feelings of affliction that he has experienced or is experiencing. List these experiences. _____

5. Do any of Paul’s experiences compare to the experiences you are having or have had? _____ Which ones? _____

6. Paul compares his experience of affliction with what most people would consider the end result of each affliction. Four phrases show that Paul is greatly afflicted but that he still has hope. List these four phrases below. (vv. 8-9)
 - a. _____ but not _____

- b. _____ but not _____
- c. _____ but not _____
- d. _____ but not _____
7. Paul says we always carry around in our body the _____ of Jesus so that the _____ of Jesus may also be revealed in our _____. (v. 10)
8. Verse 11 says basically the same thing as verse 10. Read those two verses and relate them to 2 Corinthians 12:8-10. Is there a similar message? _____
What would you say this message is to you? _____

9. What is Paul's hope in the midst of his affliction? (vv. 13-14) _____

10. In verse 16, Paul points out that our outer body is _____ away, but that we are being renewed _____ day by day.
11. Paul compares our affliction with our hope in verse 17. Write this comparison in your own words. _____

12. Paul's conclusion is that we should not _____ but we should _____. Because what is seen is _____, but what is unseen is _____. (v. 18)
13. Rewrite Paul's conclusion in your own words. _____

14. What do you choose to focus your attention on? Are you going to focus on the seen or the unseen? _____

15. Write a prayer to God expressing what your hope is, in light of your affliction, and telling Him of your commitment to focus on the internal and eternal working in your life. _____

STUDY GUIDE TO HEBREWS 12:5-11

(Discipline)

Read the passage in several different translations of the Scriptures. After you have read through the passage several times, answer the following questions.

1. What does the word *discipline* mean? (vv. 5-6) (Check a dictionary.) _____

2. Whom does the Lord discipline? (v. 6) _____

If you are “without discipline” what does that mean? (v. 8) _____

3. Why does God discipline us? (v. 10) _____

4. How does God discipline us (what forms of discipline does He use)? _____

Could it be that some of your experiences are the discipline of the Lord? _____

Which ones? _____

5. Is discipline fun? (v. 11) _____

What does it produce in the end? _____

6. What should be your attitude toward the Lord right now in the midst of your circumstances? (1 Thess 5:18) _____

Why should you thank Him? (Rom 8:28) _____

7. In the space provided below (or on the back) write a prayer honestly expressing how you feel toward the Lord right now. _____

STUDY GUIDE TO ACTS 27

(Despair, Hope, Suffering)

Read Acts 27 from one or two different versions or a paraphrase. Recommended are *The Living Bible*, *The Amplified Bible*, the *New International Version*, and the *New American Standard Bible*. After you have read the chapter twice, answer the following questions:

1. Where was Paul going? _____ Was it his choice? (v. 1) _____

2. The pronoun *we* is used throughout this chapter. That means the writer of Acts was with Paul. Who wrote Acts and accompanied Paul on this journey? _____

3. What did Paul warn the centurion and ship crew about? _____

4. Read the description of the storm (vv. 13-20). Few of us are in literal stormy weather with rain and wind, but many of us have social, personal, or emotional storms that sweep down upon us. What is your storm? _____

5. Do you ever feel like the people on board that ship felt? (v. 20) _____
Did Paul have a choice about being in the storm? _____ Did he want to be in the storm? _____
Sometimes our storms come without any of our doing and against our desires, but the storm would have been just as rough if Paul had desired to go on the ship.
6. How long did this storm last? (v. 27) _____
7. What did Paul do after the storm had raged for many days? (vv. 21-26) _____

8. In whom did Paul place his confidence? _____

9. Paul had a vision from God that they would make it safely through the storm. Did anyone else on board have a vision that we know of? _____
 What did they believe? _____
10. List the human efforts and solutions the sailors tried:
 (v. 17) _____
 (v. 19) _____
 (v. 29) _____
 (v. 30) _____
 List the things you have done to try to conquer your storm. _____

11. Have you ever wanted to run away from your storm? _____
 What did the soldiers do to keep the sailors from running away? (vv. 31-32)

 Does running away usually solve a problem? _____
12. What did Paul counsel the men on board the ship to do? _____

13. What did the sailors see that gave them hope? (v. 39) _____
 How do you think they must have felt when they struck the sandbar? (v. 41)

 Sometimes our hopes get dashed because we place our hope in the wrong answer or solution. The sailors tried to bring the ship to shore; they thought that was God's answer. What will happen to your hopes if God does not solve your storm your way? _____

14. How did they get to shore? (vv. 43-44) _____

15. What had God told Paul? (vv. 24, 34) _____

16. Has God revealed how He will solve your storm or problem? _____
 What has He promised you?
 Psalm 28:7 _____
 Psalm 31:24 _____
 Psalm 40:1-3 _____

Psalm 121 _____

Isaiah 40:31 _____

Philippians 4:19 _____

Hebrews 13:5-6 _____

17. In the space below write out a prayer to God expressing your hope and confidence in His promises. _____

STUDY GUIDE TO 2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

(Trials, Weakness, Problems)

Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 from two or three different versions and a paraphrase. Recommended are the *New American Standard Bible* and *The Living Bible*. After you have read these ten verses a few times, begin to concentrate your thoughts on verses 7-10.

Write a one-sentence summary of these three verses. _____

Answer the following questions:

1. Why was Paul given this thorn in the flesh? (v. 7) _____

2. What do you think Paul's "thorn" was? _____

Why do you believe it was that? _____

Does it say in the passage what Paul's "thorn" was? _____

3. Why do you think that God did not tell us what Paul's "thorn" was? _____

4. Do you have a "thorn in the flesh" that continually seems to defeat you? _____

What is your personal thorn? _____

5. Is it possible that Paul's "thorn" was similar to your thorn in the flesh? _____

6. What did Paul do about his “thorn”? _____

 Have you done the same about yours? _____
7. Could God have removed Paul’s “thorn” if He desired to do so? _____
 Why did God not remove Paul’s “thorn”? _____

8. Does God possibly have a reason for not removing your personal “thorn”? _____

 What do you believe is His reason in your case? _____

9. God told Paul, “My _____ is _____ for you.” (v. 9). Would He tell you something different? _____
10. Where is God’s power perfected? _____

11. What does Paul gladly do then? _____

 Why? _____
12. Paul says he is _____ (v. 10) with five things. What are they?
 a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
 d. _____
 e. _____
13. What should be your attitude about your “thorn” in the flesh? _____

14. This passage teaches us strength is given for weakness; not in spite of our weakness, but because of it. It is weakness that qualifies a man for divine strength. Are you qualified? _____

15. Grace is the catalyst that transforms every failure, every sin, every defeat, every imperfection and exploits them for spiritual growth and maturity. Does Romans 8:28 include your thorn in the flesh? _____

16. Read 1 Corinthians 15:10, “By the _____ [not *mistake*] of God I am, what I am” (from the *New American Standard Bible*).
17. What should be your attitude toward your “thorn” or any problem in your life? (1 Thess 5:18) _____

STUDY GUIDE TO JOHN 11

(God's love, purpose, and concern in suffering)

Read John 11 from two or three translations. Recommended are the *New American Standard Bible*, the *New International Version*, and *The Amplified Bible* translations.

1. Who are the four main characters in this story? (vv. 1-4)
a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____
2. In verse three, the account records that Jesus _____
Lazarus.
3. What is the purpose or end of the sickness to be? (v. 4)

4. In verse 5, Jesus' feelings toward Mary, Martha, and Lazarus are recorded. Put it into your own words.

5. What did Jesus do when He heard that Lazarus was sick? (v. 6) _____

6. Why does Jesus say He is going to Judea? (vv. 8-11) _____

7. The disciples thought that Lazarus was _____ but Jesus meant that he was _____. (vv. 11-14)
8. Jesus says in verse 15 that for the disciples' sake, He is glad that He was not there. Why does He feel that way? _____

9. Try to imagine yourself in Mary, Martha, and Lazarus's shoes while Jesus is staying away. Can you describe how they probably felt?

Mary and Martha: _____

Lazarus: _____

10. Is it likely that they wondered whether or not Jesus loved them if He was staying away? _____ Do you think Lazarus was disappointed because Jesus did not come? _____ How do you feel when God does not do what you want Him to do when you want Him to do it? _____

11. When Jesus arrived He found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for _____ days. (v. 17) What so you think were Mary and Martha's feelings at this time?

12. Whom does Martha declare Jesus to be? (vv. 18-27) _____

13. What does Jesus say about Himself? (vv. 25-26) _____

14. How did Jesus feel when Mary came to Him in tears? (v. 33) _____

15. Why did the Jews think Jesus was weeping? (vv. 35-36) _____

Was Jesus weeping for Lazarus? _____ Why do you think Jesus was so deeply moved? _____

Did Jesus know that Lazarus would rise again? (vv. 4, 23, 40)

16. How do you think Jesus and God the Father feel when we hurt today?

17. Why did Martha object to the stone being rolled away? (v. 39)

18. What do you suppose would have happened if Jesus had just shouted, “Come out” instead of saying, “Lazarus, come out!” _____

19. What two things did Jesus have the people do? (vv. 39, 41, 44) _____

- Could Jesus have done these things Himself? _____ Why do you think He asked the people to do these things? _____

20. How do you think Lazarus felt when the people began to set him free? _____

- Do you suppose that those grave clothes still had the stench of death on them?

21. Did all of the people believe in Jesus because of this great miracle? (vv. 45-46)

22. What was the Jews’ reaction to Jesus and what did they plan to do to Him? (vv. 45-53) _____

23. From this account, what do you learn about suffering? _____

24. What do you learn about emotions and weeping? _____

Is it all right to express deep emotions? _____ Is it a sign of weakness to cry? _____

25. If we are to follow Christ's example in this instance, how are we to react to our friends? (Rom 12:15) _____

26. Briefly describe in your own words what you think Lazarus felt and believed while he was sick and dying. _____

Do you think he felt discouraged and rejected? _____
Do you think Lazarus felt disappointed in Jesus while Lazarus lay there dying? _____
How would you have felt if you were in his place? _____

27. How do you think Lazarus felt when he came out of the tombs? _____

What do you think their touch communicated to Lazarus? _____

28. List at least five insights you have gained from your study of this incident in the life of Christ.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

GOD'S PURPOSES FOR SUFFERING

It gives us great comfort to know that God has a purpose for the trials and testings that come into our lives. There are at least six purposes of suffering:

1. *To draw us to Christ*

God often allows circumstances to come into the lives of those who are not yet believers, so that they will come to Christ. Suffering shows us our need for God and forces us to turn to Him.

2. *To prove His sufficiency*

We learn of His sufficiency only as we see our insufficiency. Every man's help is _____ (Psalm 108:12). Read Jeremiah 17:5, 7 and write your own paraphrase here: _____

In Psalm 91:14-16, what does God say He will do? _____

3. *For our good and His glory*

Read Romans 8:28. Does the "all things" include your circumstances, too?

_____ Read John 11:4. What was the purpose of Lazarus's sickness? _____

What do you learn from Hebrews 5:8? _____

What does 1 Thessalonians teach us? _____

4. *To draw us to His Word*

Read Psalm 119:67. What does this say to you? _____

What did the psalmist's afflictions do for him? (Psalm 119:71) _____

What is the purpose for the incidents recorded in the Old Testament? (Rom 15:7)

5. *For discipline*

Read Hebrews 12:5-8. Who does God discipline? _____

How does God discipline us? _____

Does this relate to Psalm 119:75? _____

Can you feel the same way about your afflictions? _____

6. *To minister to others*

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Write your own paraphrase of these verses:

Not all of these purposes apply to you at this time in your current circumstances, but perhaps some do. Which of these purposes relate to your situation?

Why these? _____

What should be your attitude toward your circumstances (1 Thess 5:18)?

LEARNING TO ENDURE HARDSHIPS AND TRIALS

Read Hebrews chapters 11 and 12 and from three different translations and answer the following questions.

1. What does the “therefore” of Hebrews 12:1 refer to? (The word *therefore* always looks back and has the idea of “since what you have just read is true, you should do the following.”) _____

2. The writer says we are to do two things. What are they? (v. 1)
a. _____
b. _____

3. Why are we to “lay aside” or “strip off” every encumbrance and sin? (v. 1)

Do you have an encumbrance you need to “lay aside”? _____
What is it? _____

4. How are we to run the race set before us? _____

5. On whom are we to fix our eyes as we run this race? (v. 2) _____

Read Matthew 14:22-33. Write out the story in these verses in your own words.

What happened to Peter when he put his eyes on something besides Jesus?

What will happen to you if you stop trusting Jesus to help you run the race set before you? _____

Who helped Peter in his failure? _____

6. Why did Jesus endure the cross? (Heb 12:2) _____

Do you think He enjoyed the experience at the cross? _____

Where is Jesus now? _____

7. What does “for consider” or “remember” at the first of verse 3 really mean?

How do you do what verse 3 says? _____

Why are we to meditate on Jesus? _____

8. What does verse 4 mean? _____

9. In light of what you have read, what should be your attitude toward your current circumstances? _____

10. In the space below write a prayer of recommitment, stating your desire to fix your eyes on Jesus and endure the race before you. _____

RESTORING LOST LOVE

Read Revelation 2:1-6 from two or three different versions. Recommended are the *New International Bible*, *The Amplified Bible*, or the *New American Standard Bible*.

After you have read these verses two or three times, complete the following questions.

1. List the good things mentioned about the church at Ephesus. (vv. 2-3)

2. What is the one things held against the church at Ephesus? (v. 4) _____

3. What is the church at Ephesus commanded to do? (v. 5) _____

4. What is the church told to remember? (v. 5) _____

5. What is the church told to do? (v. 5) _____

6. In a dictionary, look up the word *repent*. Write a definition of this word in your own words. _____

7. Applying the principles of these verses, what is the way that lost love can be restored to a relationship? (List three steps.) _____

8. If step 1 is to “remember the heights from which you have fallen,” make a list of the things you remember about your mate and relationship from those early days of young love. _____

9. List the ways your relationship has changed and the things which have changed.

10. If step 2 is repent, what would this mean for you in this relationship?

11. Are you willing to repent? _____ Do you want to change the relationship? _____ Write a prayer of confession and repentance expressing your heart’s desire to God. _____

12. If step 3 is “do the things you did at first,” list the things that you did early in your relationship that communicated love to your mate. _____

13. When will you begin to do these things again? _____

14. Write a brief paragraph expressing what you will say to your mate in light of this study. _____

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE AS A MATE

Read Genesis 1:26-31 and 2:18-25 in more than one version of Scripture.

1. In whose image did God create man? _____
2. In reading Genesis 1:27, consider how mankind bears the image of God. Is the image of God borne only by the male? _____ Who else carries the image of God? _____
3. In 1:28, God gives His first commands to His new creatures. Was this command given only to the man? What are the four parts of this command?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
4. In light of what you have read here, what should your attitude be toward your mate and his or her place before God? _____

5. Who first said it was not good for a man to be alone? _____
6. How did God enable Adam to see his need for a mate? (2:20) _____

7. Notice that God uses a different word to describe how the female came into existence (2:21). What word or words has He used in other verses to describe His creative activities? 1:21 _____
1:25 _____ 2:19 _____
What word does He use in 2:22 for the formation of the woman? _____

The Hebrew word translated here has the idea of something built with extra special care. God fashioned the woman with extra attention to the details so she would be a helper suitable for the man.

8. In Genesis 2:18, God says He will make for man a _____.
_____. The idea from the original Hebrew is “one who corresponds to in every way.” The picture is of someone who will meet all of Adam’s needs in every way. It is like two pieces of a puzzle fitting perfectly together. She will be capable of meeting all of Adam’s needs and he will be capable of meeting all of her needs.

9. In 2:24, three things take place. What are these three actions?
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

10. The verbs *leave* and *cleave* are very strong verbs in Hebrew. *Leave* has the idea of totally severing all emotional ties and dependency. *Cleave* has the idea of welding together, so that they cannot be separated. The leaving must be completed before the cleaving can be completed! As you evaluate your relationship with your mate, do you see some areas where your mate has not left which may be affecting your relationship? _____

In all fairness, are there some areas in your relationship with your parents where you are still too dependent? _____ What are these, and how do you think they might be affecting your relationship with your mate? _____

11. Oftentimes, unreconciled emotional conflicts between you and your parents can be carried over into your marriage relationship. You will respond to or react to your mate as you sometimes did to your parents! Can you see this in your relationship with your mate? What and where, specifically? _____

12. “Becoming one flesh” (2:24) is a process that takes time and involves every aspect of your life totally merging with the life of your mate. List three or more areas where you need to work on your life, so that you can better merge with your mate.

a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

13. Since God created the woman to meet the man’s needs and the man to meet the woman’s needs, you both should be actively trying to understand and meet each other’s needs. List several areas of need that you see in your mate. _____

For each need listed, determine at least one way you can improve on how you are meeting that need, and write these suggested improvements below: _____

14. To complete this study, recommit yourself before the Lord to meet your mate’s needs. Ask the Lord to forgive you, and commit yourself to be what your mate needs you to be. Finally, verbalize this commitment to your mate (1 Thess 5:24).

STUDY GUIDE TO 1 PETER 3:7

(Christian Husband)

Read 1 Peter 2:11-3:7 from two or three different translations and a paraphrase. Recommended are the *New American Standard Bible*, the *New International Version*, and *The Living Bible*. Then answer the following questions.

1. What does “in the same way” refer to? (1 Pet 2:23) _____

2. Write a paraphrase of this verse in your own words: _____

3. What does it mean to “be considerate” of her? _____

4. How do you treat her “with respect as the weaker partner”? _____

5. In what areas are you lacking in sensitivity toward your wife? List five specific areas that you think of:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
6. What does Peter say happens when you are not considerate of your mate? _____

7. What steps can you take to show more sensitivity toward your wife? _____

STUDY GUIDE TO 1 PETER 3:1-6

(Christian Wife)

Read this passage from two or three different translations and a paraphrase and then answer the following questions. Recommended are the *New American Standard Bible*, the *New International Version*, and *The Living Bible*.

1. What does “in the same way” mean? (v. 1) _____

Read 1 Peter 2:11-25 and paraphrase what this passage is saying: _____

What did Jesus do to enable Him to stand in an adverse situation? _____

Is this to be your example? _____

2. What does it mean to be submissive to your husband? (v. 1) _____

3. Why are you to be submissive to your own husband? (v. 1) _____

4. How will your husband be won over? _____

Not by _____, but by your _____

What will he see if you are living a godly life? (v. 2) _____

What do you think the word *purity* means? _____

What do you think the word *reverence* means? _____

5. What type of beauty does Peter tell you to manifest? (vv. 3-4) _____

How much time each day do you spend working on your outer beauty? _____

How much time each day do you spend working on your inner beauty? _____

6. What does Peter say makes you a “daughter of Sarah”? (v. 6) _____

7. This passage refers specifically to a woman married to a non-Christian husband. However, the principles apply to any woman married to a husband who is disobedient to the Word, and they can be applied to every marriage at one time or another. How do you evaluate yourself in light of this passage? _____

8. List five things you are going to do to help you better apply the principles of this passage:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

9. Does this guarantee that your husband will change? _____

How long must you seek to fulfill these principles in your life? _____

How can you do this? (1 Pet 2:23) _____

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A HUSBAND

Read Ephesians 5:15-6:20. Concentrate particularly on Ephesians 5:23-33. Also read 1 Peter 3:7-9. Read the passages in more than one version of Scripture.

1. Notice the context of Paul's instructions to the wife and husband. What immediately precedes these instructions? (5:15-21) _____

What immediately follows the section dealing with interpersonal relationships? (6:10-20) _____

Why do you believe Paul placed these instructions about our relationship in this context? _____

2. In Ephesians 5:18, Paul instructs everyone to be filled with the Spirit. In verses 19-21, he then lists four evidences of being filled with the Spirit. What are they?
 - a. v. 19 _____
 - b. v. 19 _____
 - c. v. 20 _____
 - d. v. 21 _____
3. In light of this, _____ is to be the lifestyle of all believers, not just wives. (v. 21)
4. In verse 23, Paul says the husband *is* the head of the wife. He does not *become* the head of the wife; he does not demand the headship, he _____ the head like _____ is the Head of the Church.
5. Make a list of five responsibilities you think headship should include.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
6. Does *headship* mean the husband will be a dictator? _____ does it mean that the wife has no say in decisions? _____
7. Read John 13. From this passage, how does Jesus say a person should lead others?

8. List five ways you can lead your wife the way Christ led the disciples:
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____
9. In Ephesians 5:25, Paul instructs the husband to love his wife as _____ loved the Church, and _____ Himself for her.
10. In your own words, describe how Christ loved the Church. What did His love for the Church cause Him to do? (Rom 5:8; see also Phil 2:3-11) _____

- If you are to love your wife as Christ loved the Church, what must you do then?

11. What was the condition of the Church when Christ died for her? Was the Church deserving of His love? (see also Eph 2:1-10) _____

- Does your wife's attitudes or actions remove your responsibility to fulfill the command that God has given you in Ephesians 5:25? _____
12. Verses 26 and 27 tell what Christ's great love is going to accomplish for the Church. These verses tell why Christ gave Himself up for her, and your love as a

husband is to accomplish similar purposes in your wife. In light of this, whom do you think God is going to hold responsible to some degree for you wife's growth?

13. As you evaluate your love for your wife in light of Christ's example, do you see some areas where you have been selfish and have not been fulfilling your responsibility? List these areas, and with each one list one specific activity you can engage in to begin to more adequately fulfill your responsibility.

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14. Ask the Lord to forgive you for your failure to fulfill His commandment (1 John 1:9) given to you in Ephesians 5:25-33. Also ask your wife to forgive you. Recommit yourself before the Lord to love your wife as Christ loved the Church (1 Thes. 5:24). Verbalize this commitment to your wife. It helps to write your confession to your wife and your commitment to her on a separate sheet of paper. This will enable you to say exactly what you want to say.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A WIFE

Read Ephesians 5:15-6-20 concentrating particularly on Ephesians 5:22-24. Also, read 1 Peter 3:16. Read the passages in more than one version of Scripture.

1. Notice the context of Paul's instructions to the wife and husband. What immediately precedes these instructions? (Eph 5:15-21) _____

What immediately follows the section dealing with interpersonal relationships? (6:10-20). _____

Why do you believe Paul placed these instructions about our relationships in this context? _____

2. In Ephesians 5:18, Paul instructs everyone to be filled with the Spirit. In verses 19-21, he then lists four evidences of being filled with the Spirit. What are they?
 - a. v. 19 _____
 - b. v. 19 _____
 - c. v. 20 _____
 - d. v. 21 _____

3. In light of this, _____ is to be the lifestyle of all believers, not just wives (v. 21).

4. In v. 23, Paul says the husband is the head of the wife. He does not become the head of the wife; he does not demand the headship, he _____ the head like _____ is the Head of the Church.

5. Write out your personal definition of the word *subject*: _____

In light of the dictionary definition, write down five things you do to demonstrate this attitude of subjection to your husband.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

6. Does your subjection mean that you are inferior to your husband? _____
Jesus Christ subjected Himself to the Father (John 10:18; 17:4). Does that mean He is inferior to God the Father? _____ (To say He is inferior to the Father is to say that He is not God. Obviously subjection does not mean you are inferior.)

7. It takes a certain strength and confidence for a person to subject himself to another. Jesus demonstrated this strength and confidence (John 13, Phil 2) when He submitted Himself. How can you gain this kind of strength and confidence? (1 Pet 2:23) _____

8. From what you read in this passage, does it matter what kind of husband you have? _____
What is to be your attitude, regardless of you husband's behavior or attitude? (Eph 5:22) _____

List below the times or situations where it will be hardest for you to have this attitude: _____

9. As you evaluate your response to your husband's love in light of Christ's command and example, do you see some areas where you have been selfish and have not been fulfilling your responsibility? List these areas, and with each one list one specific activity you can engage in to more adequately fulfill your responsibility

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

10. Ask the Lord to forgive you for your failures to fulfill His commandment (1 John 1:9) given to you in Ephesians 5:22. Also ask your husband to forgive you. Recommit yourself before the Lord to respond to your husband's leadership. Verbalize this commitment to your husband. It helps to write out on a separate sheet of paper your confession and commitment to your husband. This will enable you to say exactly what you want to say.

WHAT ABOUT DIVORCE?

This study guide will help you think through the subject of divorce in light of Scripture on the subject. The study will not make a decision for you but should help you focus your thinking more clearly.

1. Read Malachi 2:16 and write in your own words what this verse says about divorce. _____

2. Read Matthew 19:1-11. It would be helpful to read it from two or three different translations or paraphrases. After you have done this, answer the following questions.

a. Who came to Jesus? (v. 3) _____

b. What was their purpose in asking the question on divorce? (v. 3) _____

c. Write their question in your own words. (v. 3) _____

d. What is Jesus' answer? (vv. 4-5) _____

e. From Jesus' answer, what do you think God's ideal is? _____

f. How do the Pharisees respond to this answer? (vv. 6-7) _____

g. Notice the change from what the Pharisees said about Moses' words on divorce and what Jesus said about Moses' words (vv. 7-8). The Pharisees used the word *command* and Jesus used the word *permitted*. Explain the difference in the meanings of these words. _____

h. Why did Moses permit divorce? (v. 8) _____

i. What does Jesus say about divorce? (v. 9) _____

j. What does the reply of the disciples mean? (v. 10) _____

k. Jesus says in verse 11 that some people should marry and some should not. What do you think verse 11 means? _____

l. In verse 9, there is an except clause. Reread this verse and write it in your own words. _____

3. Read Matthew 5:31-32. Write in your own words what Jesus is saying about divorce.

4. Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-16. After you have read this passage several times, answer the following questions.

a. What do verses 10 and 11 teach about divorce separation? _____

b. Verses 12-16 apply to a person who is married to an unbeliever. If the unbeliever is willing to continue living with the believer, what does Paul say the person should do? (vv. 12-13) _____

c. If the unbeliever wants to leave, what does Paul say to do? (vv. 15-16)

5. From what you have read, can a person get a divorce? _____

Do you feel that the Lord likes divorce? _____

Do you feel a person should get a divorce? _____

6. Are divorce and adultery unforgivable sins? _____

What does 1 John 1:9 say about forgiveness? _____

Does forgiveness remove the consequences of sin? _____

7. From what you have read, how would you counsel a person who asks you about divorce? _____

8. What questions does this study raise for you? List below any you would like to discuss with your counselor. _____
