

"As the centuries pass, the evidence is accumulating that, measured by His effect on history, Jesus is the most influential life ever lived on this planet."

-- Kenneth Scott Latourette, Professor, Yale University

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Introduction

Nothing is more exciting or more difficult than trying to teach the majesty and depth of Christ in a few short pages. These lessons are an attempt to help disciples make disciples. Our prayer is that each reader would be brought face to face with Jesus and become as we are—radical, fired-up, crazy-in-love-with Jesus disciples. While any human attempt is completely inadequate to save people, we hope that you will see past the pages of this study, past even the pages of the Bible, and see the God who set everything in motion. Focus on Jesus is dedicated to the Father who planned it all, to Jesus who gave it all, and to the Holy Spirit who fills the earth with His presence. It is presented to learners and to learners who teach, that together we might win as many as possible. All glory be to God, forever and ever! Amen.

The Bible

The Old Testament

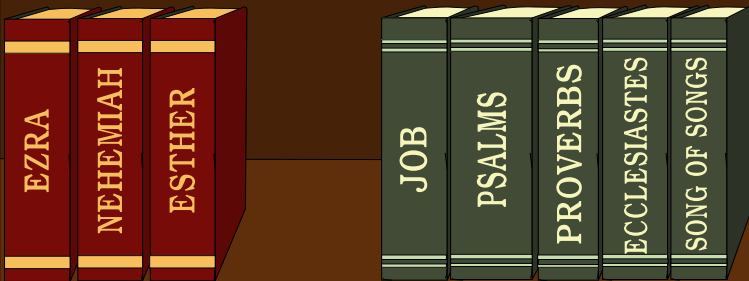
The New Testament



BOOKS OF LAW



HISTORY



POETRY



THE PROPHETS

MAJOR



MINOR



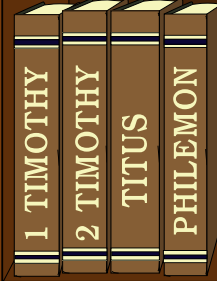
THE GOSPELS



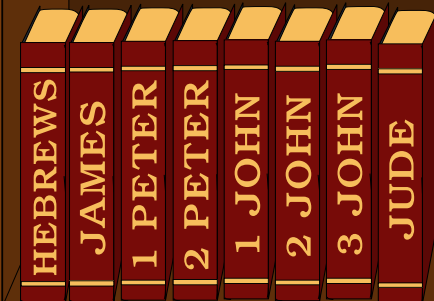
HISTORY



PAUL'S LETTERS



GENERAL LETTERS



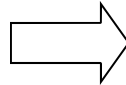
PROPHECY

GOD'S WORD

"The Bible is no mere book, but a Living Creature, with a power that conquers all that oppose it." - Napoleon

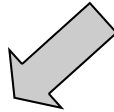
2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is
God-breathed.



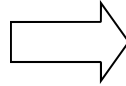
2 Peter 1:20-21

Where does prophecy
come from?



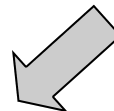
Hebrews 4:12-13

What power does
God's word have?



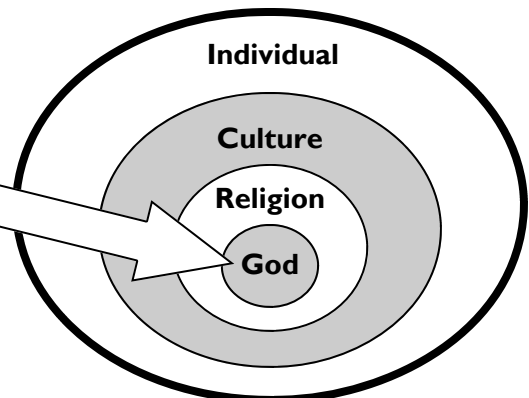
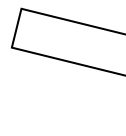
James 1:22-25

What should your
response to scripture be?



John 5:39-40

What is the point
of the Bible?



CHALLENGE:

Spend time everyday this week reading the Bible.
Use the homework to help you get started.

Homework: Apply the following to yourself.

1 Timothy 4:16

2 Peter 3:15-16

2 Timothy 4:2-5

2 Peter 1:16-18

Matthew 7:24-27

John 12:47-48

Psalm 119:105

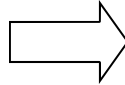
*"The existence of the Bible, as a book for the people, is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced. Every attempt to belittle it is a crime against humanity."
- Immanuel Kant*

THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

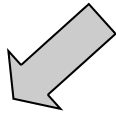
"He is the image of the invisible God . . ." - Paul

(For each passage, write the characteristics of Jesus that you observe.)

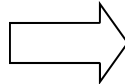
Luke 2:41-52



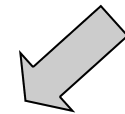
Mark 1:40-45



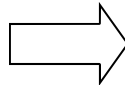
Luke 19:1-10



Matthew 21:12-17



Luke 20:1-8



John 13:1-15

QUESTION:

Read Philippians 2:5-11. How would following Jesus by imitating His character change your life? What excuses do you make for not being like Him? How do you think Jesus would respond if He heard them?

Homework: What does each tell us about Christ's Character?

Mark 10:13-16

Mark 10:35-45

Luke 5:27-32

John 2:1-11

John 11:1-45

Matthew 23:25-28

Luke 23:33-47

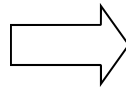
“The experience of myriads of souls, redeemed by Him from themselves and from the world, proves that history was cut in twain by the appearance of a Regenerator, who was not a mere link in the chain of common men, but One whom the race could not from its own resources have produced—the perfect Type, the Man of men.” - James Stalker

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!’” - Mark 1:15

John 18:33-37

How is God’s kingdom different from others?



Colossians 1:13

Its King = _____

1 Peter 2:9-12

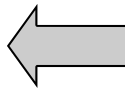
Its Subjects = _____

Luke 17:20-21

Its Location = _____

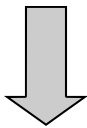
John 14:23-24

Its Laws = _____



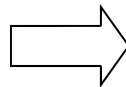
1 Corinthians 4:20

God’s Kingdom is not about empty words.



Matthew 13:44-46

What is the kingdom worth to you?



John 3:3-5

To see and enter, you must be _____.

CHALLENGE:

Read Matthew 6:33. How can you seek God’s Kingdom *first* in your life. (Study God’s word every day, attend church and ministry events, be devoted to this study, etc.)

Homework: What does each verse teach about the Kingdom?

Luke 1:32-33

Romans 14:17

Matthew 16:17-19

I Corinthians 6:9-11

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Matthew 13:31-32

Matthew 22:1-14

Matthew 25:14-30

SIN & GRACE

*"Here is a trustworthy statement that deserves full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." - Paul*

OUR PROBLEM

Romans 3:23

Everyone sins.

Mark 7:21-23

Sin starts inside
my _____.

Romans 6:23

Why do you think sin has
such a grave penalty?

GOD'S SOLUTION

Ephesians 2:3-10

Grace = Undeserved
favor or mercy.

Romans 8:1-4

Christ died in our place.
He suffered our penalty.

Titus 2:11-14

Why does God
save people?

QUESTION:

Read over Mark 7:21-23 again. How do you see these things coming from your own heart?

Homework: Apply the following to yourself.

Galatians 5:19-21

Romans 1:18-32

James 1:13-15

Titus 3:3-8

Ephesians 4:17-24

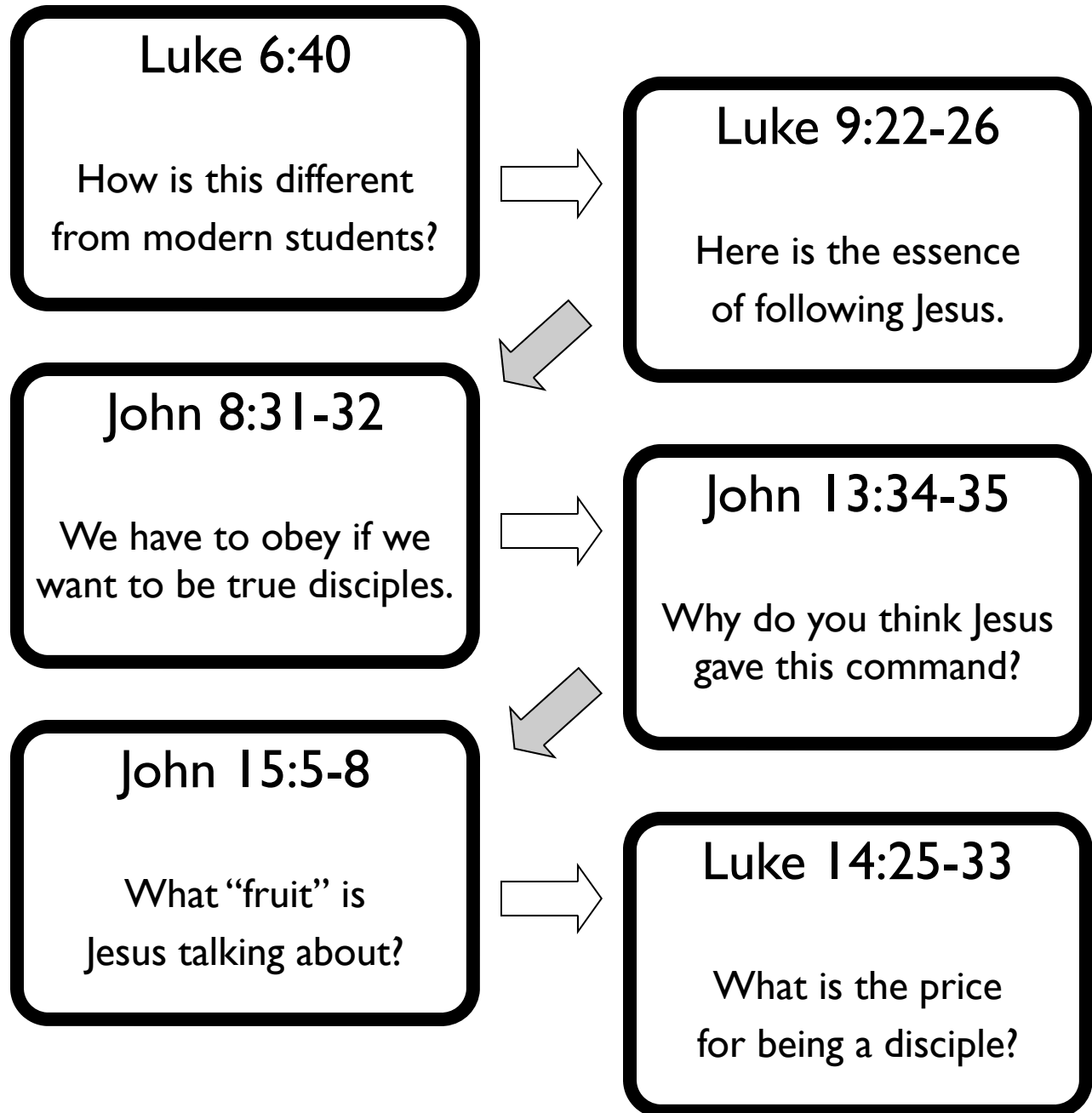
John 3:16-21

Romans 6-8

DISCIPLESHIP

“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.” - Acts 11:26

Disciple: *mathetes* (Greek); a learner, one who follows one’s teaching.
- Vine’s Concise Dictionary of Bible Words



QUESTION:

Based on these scriptures, are you living as a disciple? If so, how is that demonstrated in your life? If not, what is your response to today’s teaching?

Homework: Make a list of everything that you value—relationships, possessions, attitudes, dreams, plans, honors, sins, careers, degrees, etc. Which of these would be hardest for you to hand over to Christ? How could you see Him asking you to do so?

Apply the following to yourself.

Matthew 28:18-20

Luke 9:57-58

Luke 9:59-60

Luke 9:61-62

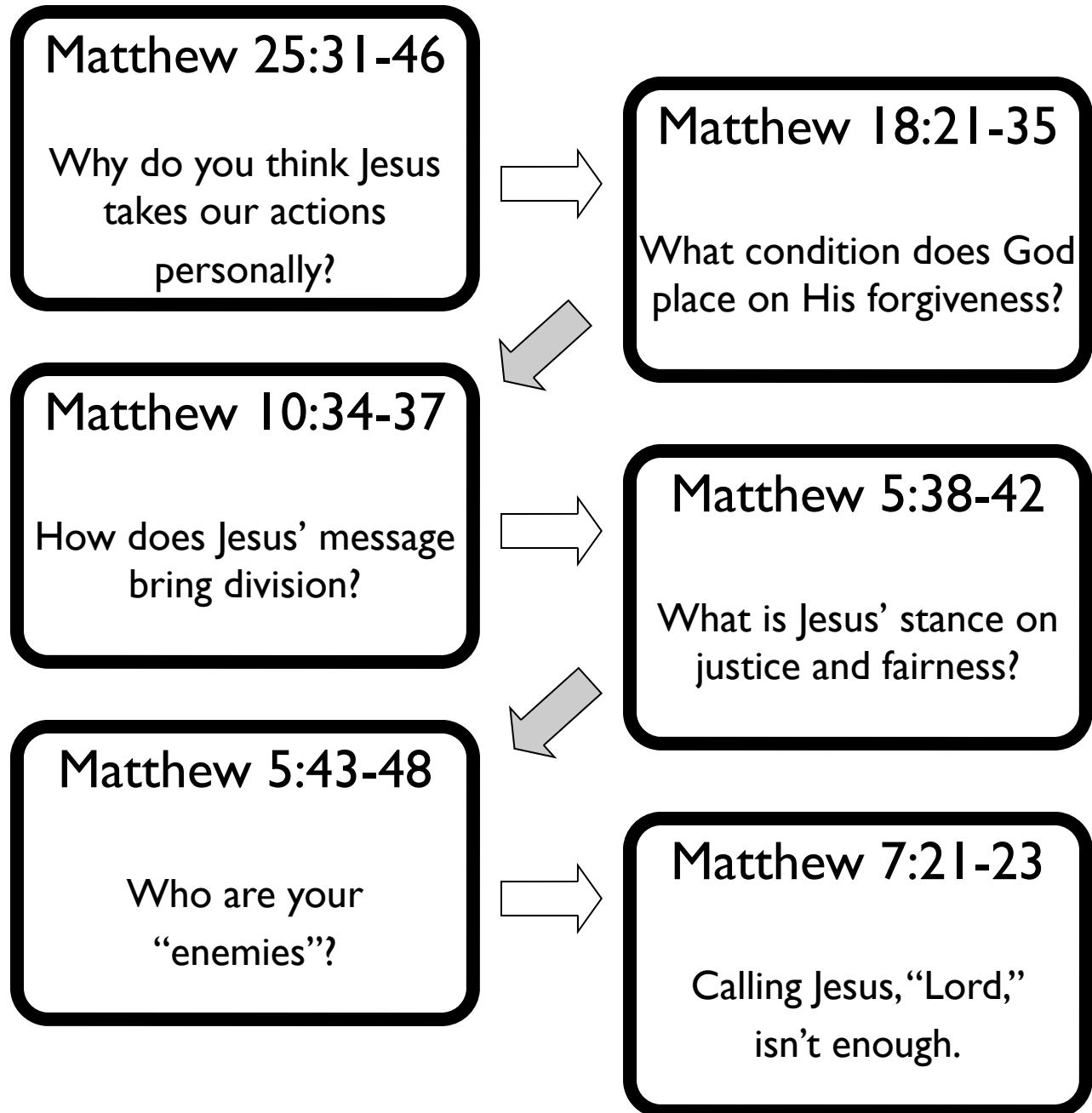
John 12:42-43

“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. It remains an abstract idea, a myth which has a place for the Fatherhood of God, but omits Christ as the living Son.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

JESUS' HARD TEACHINGS

"I have no idea how the fans of Christianity Lite reconcile their approach to religion with the teachings of Jesus, or how they become comfortable ignoring what He said." - John MacArthur, Hard to Believe



QUESTION:

**Which of these teachings is hardest for you to accept? Why?
What are you unwilling to give up for Jesus?**

Homework: How would accepting each of these teachings change your life?

Matthew 23:11-12

Matthew 12:36-37

Mark 13:13

Read each of these passages and apply to yourself:

Matthew 5-7 The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 23 The Seven Woes

James was Jesus' physical brother. Read his letter about living for Jesus. What is most challenging to you?

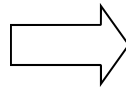
FAITH & OBEDIENCE

"Faith is not belief. Belief is passive. Faith is active."

- Edith Hamilton

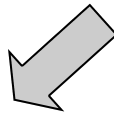
Hebrews 11:1,6

How does the Bible describe faith?



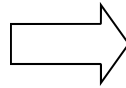
Romans 1:16-17

Salvation comes from _____ by faith.



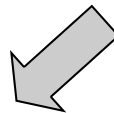
Ephesians 2:8-10

God wants to save us and use us through faith.



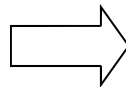
James 2:24,26

What is the relationship between faith and action?



John 14:23

How can you know if you love Jesus?



1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Past belief is not enough to save us.

CHALLENGE:

Before the next lesson, make a list of things which stand in the way of God's will in your life. Is Christ Lord over your life yet? Are you ready to make Him Lord?

Homework: How does each passage define the life of faith?

James 2:14-26

1 John 2:3-6

Romans 12:1-2

Hebrews 11-12:3

Provide your thoughts on the following quote:

“It is necessary, therefore, that we be prompt in the practice of good works. For He forewarns us, ‘Behold, the Lord comes and His reward is before His face, to render to every man according to his work.’ ... Let us therefore earnestly strive to be found in the number of those who wait for Him, in order that we may share in His promised reward. But how, beloved ones, shall we do this? By fixing our thoughts on God through faith. By earnestly seeking the things that are pleasing and acceptable to Him. By doing the things that are in harmony with His blameless will. And by following the way of truth, casting away from us all unrighteousness and sin.”

- Clement of Rome, a ministry companion of Paul

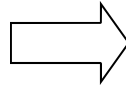
THE REBIRTH

"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

- Jesus

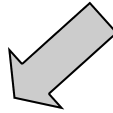
John 3:3-7

Christ's rebirth has two parts: _____ and _____.



2 Corinthians 7:8-11

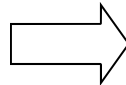
Repentance is more than being sorry. Much more.



Acts 2:36-40

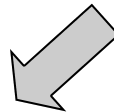
Be baptized for _____.

What promise does Peter make? Who is this promise for?



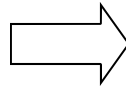
1 Peter 3:21

What does God do in baptism? What do I do?



Galatians 3:26-27

Baptism is where we put on Christ.



Acts 22:16

How were Paul's sins washed away?

CHALLENGE:

Complete the homework on the next page. Describe in God's own words the rebirth Jesus talked about. Have you been reborn as the Bible describes it? If not, are you ready?

Homework: Using only phrases from the following scriptures, write out what the Bible teaches about repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

1 Peter 3:10-11

James 4:7-10

2 Timothy 2:25-26

Isaiah 55:6-7

Luke 13:3-5

Acts 2:36-40

Using only phrases from the following scriptures, write out what the Bible teaches about baptism.

Acts 2:36-40

John 3:1-7

Colossians 2:9-12

1 Peter 3:21

Galatians 3:26-27

Acts 22:16

Romans 6:3-11

Ephesians 4:4-5

Titus 3:4-7

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 16:16

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

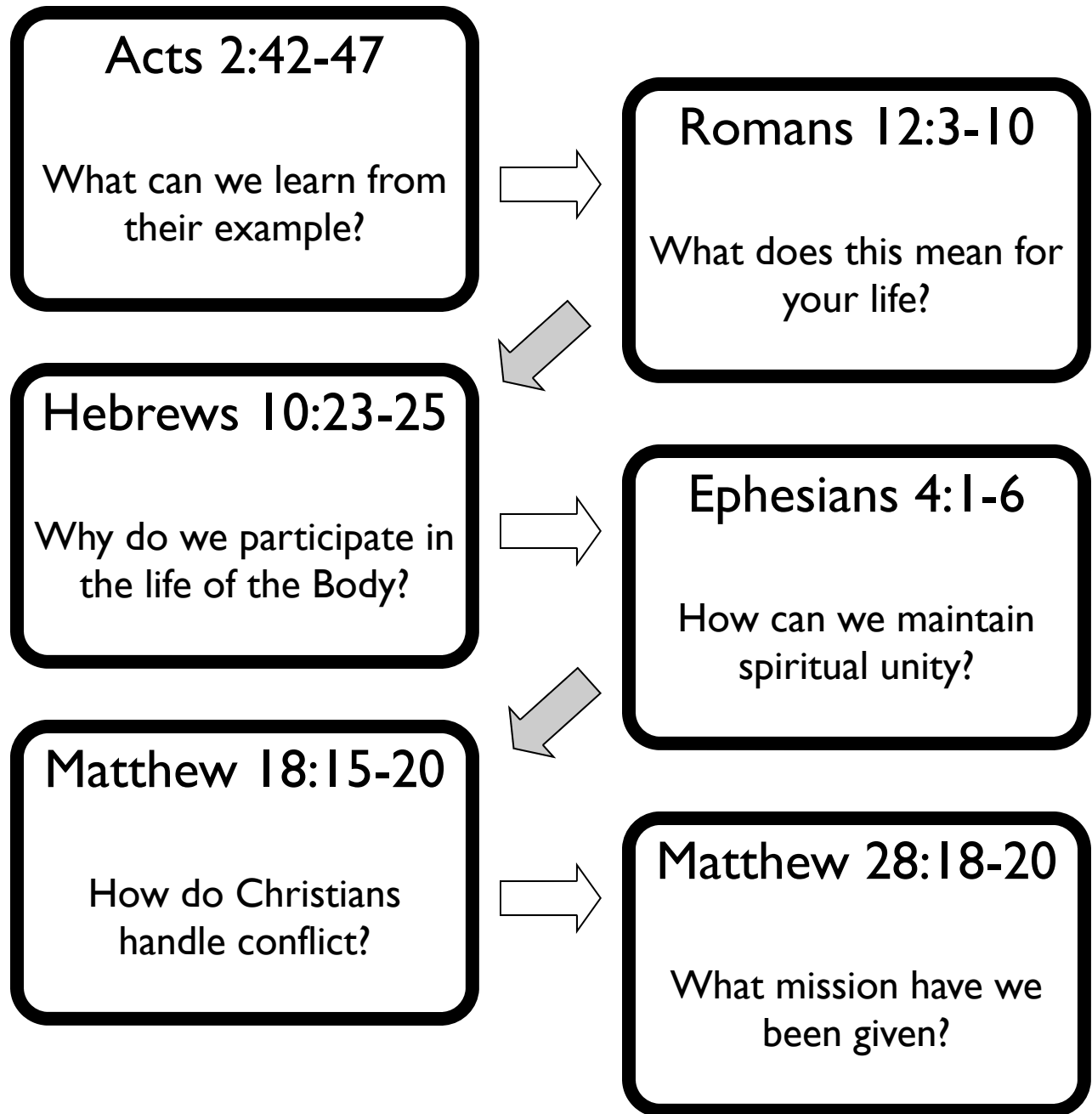
(Also consider these examples of conversion in Acts: 2:36-42, 8:12-13, 8:26-39, 9:1-19, 10:44-48, 16:13-15, 16:25-34, 18:7-8, 19:1-7. Do any of these Biblical experiences look like your experience?)

“It is His will that all who have believed be baptized for the remission of sins. Hence those who have thought that baptism is nothing else than the badge and mark [or symbol] by which we profess our religion before men, in the same way as soldiers attest their profession by bearing the insignia of their commander, have not attended to what was the principle thing in baptism; and this is, that we are to receive it in connection with the promise: ‘He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.’”

- John Calvin

LIFE IN THE BODY

“I pray also for those who will believe in me . . . that all of them may be one . . . so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” - Jesus



QUESTION:

Read Matthew 16:13-20. Jesus said He would build His church. How do you think the instructions above compare to the modern idea of “church”?

Homework: Write how Christians should love one another.

Mark 9:50

John 13:14

Romans 15:7

Romans 15:14

Galatians 5:13

Galatians 6:2

Colossians 3:16

I Thessalonians 3:12

I Thessalonians 5:11

Hebrews 3:13

James 5:16

I Peter 1:22

I Peter 3:8

I Peter 4:9

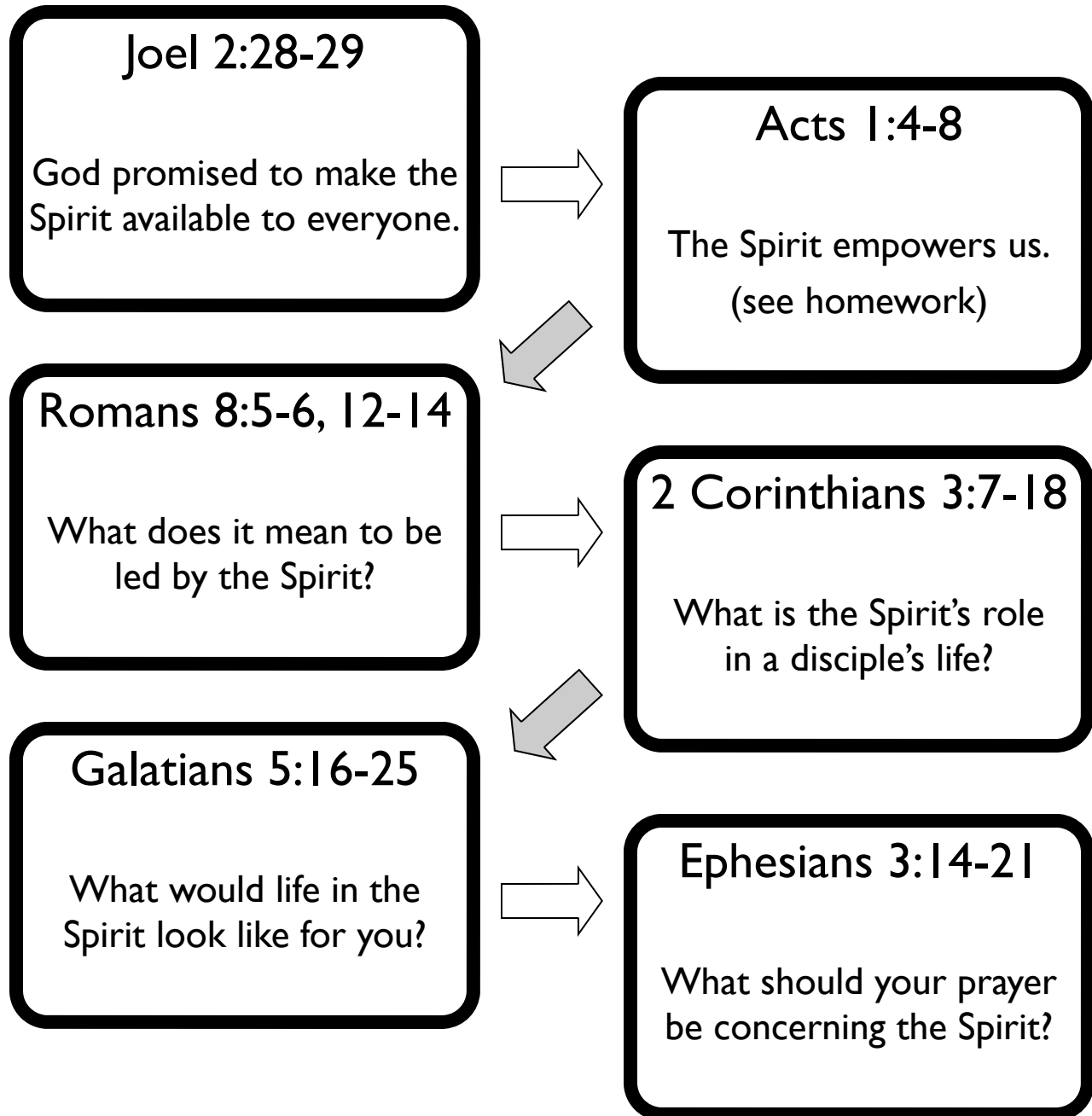
I Peter 4:10

Read Ephesians chapters 4 & 5. Which commands are most challenging to you?

Read Acts 4:32-35 & 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. What does the example of these two churches say to you?

LIFE BY THE SPIRIT

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” - Paul



CHALLENGE:

Begin listening and responding to the Spirit’s guidance in your life. Ask Him to use you in some special way this week.

Homework: Write what the Spirit does for us.

- Micah 3:8 _____
- John 16:8 _____
- John 16:13 _____
- Romans 15:16 _____
- Romans 8:26 _____
- 1 Corinthians 2:13 _____
- 1 Corinthians 12:11 _____
- 1 Corinthians 12:13 _____
- 2 Corinthians 3:17 _____
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 _____
- Ephesians 1:13-14 _____
- Ephesians 3:16 _____
- Ephesians 4:3 _____
- 1 John 2:20-27 _____

Read Romans chapter 8. What does it teach you about the Spirit's role and power in your life?

Read 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14. What problem do you think Paul was addressing? How does 13:1-7 solve all our problems?

Notes

Notes