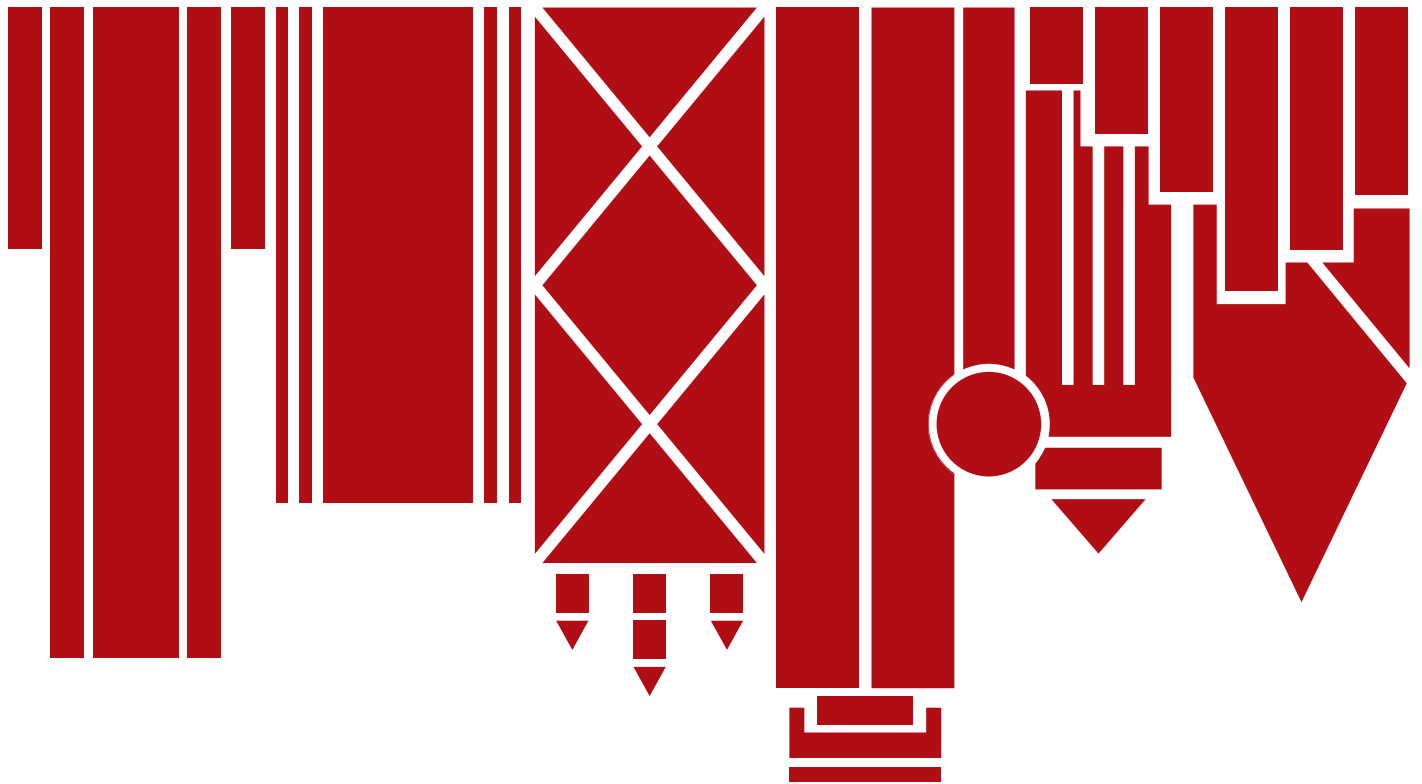


# F. Φ. C. U. S. ON JESUS



**"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**

# Introduction

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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.

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# The Bible

## The Old Testament

## The New Testament

GENESIS  
EXODUS  
LEVITICUS  
NUMBERS  
DEUTERONOMY

BOOKS OF LAW

JOSHUA  
JUDGES  
RUTH  
I SAMUEL  
II SAMUEL  
I KINGS  
II KINGS  
I CHRONICLES  
II CHRONICLES

HISTORY

EZRA  
NEHEMIAH  
ESTHER

JOB  
PSALMS  
PROVERBS  
ECCLESIASTES  
SONG OF SONGS

POETRY

ISAIAH  
JEREMIAH  
LAMENTATIONS  
EZEKIEL  
DANIEL

THE PROPHETS

MAJOR

HOSEA  
JOEL  
AMOS  
OBADIAH  
JONAH  
MICAH  
NAHUM  
HABAKKUK  
ZEPHANIAH  
HAGGAI  
ZECHARIAH  
MALACHI

MINOR

MATTHEW  
MARK  
LUKE  
JOHN

THE GOSPELS

ACTS

HISTORY

ROMANS  
1 CORINTHIANS  
2 CORINTHIANS  
GALATIANS  
EPHESIANS  
PHILIPPIANS  
COLOSSIANS  
1 THESSALONIANS  
2 THESSALONIANS

PAUL'S LETTERS

1 TIMOTHY  
2 TIMOTHY  
TITUS  
PHILEMON

HEBREWS  
JAMES  
1 PETER  
2 PETER  
1 JOHN  
2 JOHN  
3 JOHN  
JUDE

GENERAL LETTERS

REVELATION

PROPHECY

# God's Word

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

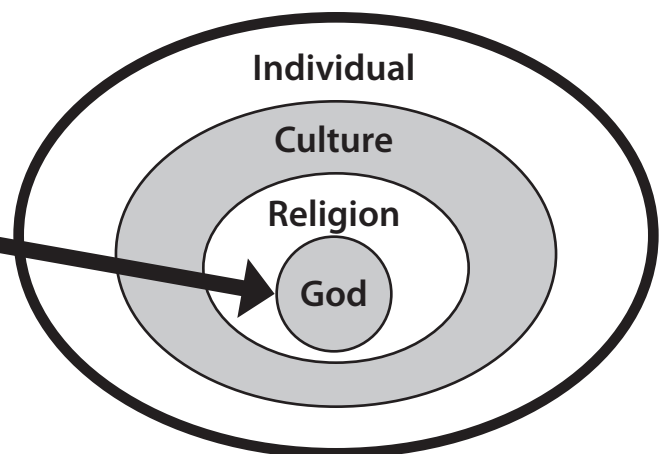
2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:20-21

Hebrews 4:12-13

James 1:22-25

John 5:39-40



## Challenge:

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

**Apply the following to yourself.**

1 Timothy 4:16

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2 Peter 3:15-16

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2 Timothy 4:2-5

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2 Peter 1:16-18

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Matthew 7:24-27

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John 12:47-48

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Psalm 119:105

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*“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*

# Life In the Body

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*"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*

**Acts 2:42-47**

**Romans 12:3-10**

**Hebrews 10:23-25**

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

**Matthew 18:15-20**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

## **Question:**

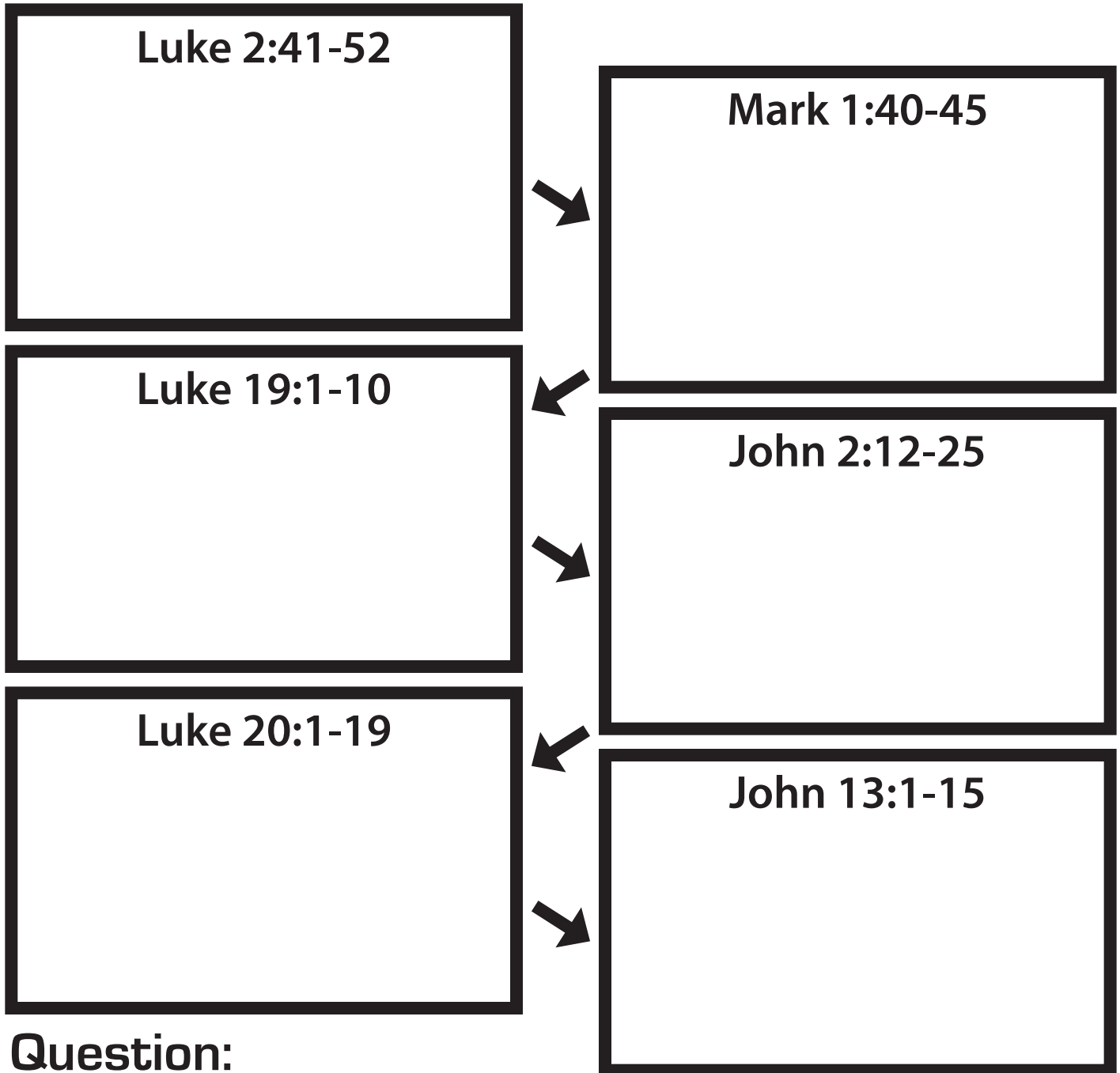
Read Matthew 16:13-20. Jesus said He would build His church. How do you think the instructions above compare to the modern idea of "church"?



# The Character of Christ

*"We cannot deduce anything about Jesus from what we think we know about God; we must now deduce everything about God from what we do know about Jesus."--Brennan Manning*

*"He is the image of the invisible God..."-- The Apostle Paul*



## 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?



# Jesus' Hard Teachings

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*"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*

*"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" -- Jesus (Luke 6:46)*

**Matthew 25:31-46**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

**Matthew 10:34-37**

**Matthew 5:21-30**

**Matthew 5:38-48**

**Matthew 7:13-27**

## Question:

Which of these teachings is the hardest for you to accept? Why?

What practical changes are required for you to live in obedience to the teachings in these passages?

Matthew 23:11-12

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Matthew 12:36-37

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Matthew 6:33

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Matthew 5:3-10

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Matthew 18:21-35

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Matthew 5:38-48

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Matthew 23:23-28

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# Sin

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*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." -- Paul (Romans 3:23)*

Sin = **Hamartia** (Greek) = "to miss the mark" (Vine's)

**James 1:13-15**

**Mark 7:21-23**

**Romans 1:18-32**

**1 Corinthians 4:4**

**James 4:17**

**Romans 6:19-23**

## Challenge:

The questions on the following page are designed to help you take stock of the impact sin has had on your life, past and present. Consider these things and record your answers in a journal or on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Read Mark 7:21-23, Galatians 5:19-21, and Romans 1:29-31. How have these been present in your life? Be prepared to share a few of these.
2. Sin is usually the result of us trying to meet healthy wants and needs in unhealthy ways. What legitimate needs are you trying to meet through sin?
3. Review 1 Corinthians 4:4. Knowing that you can't always trust your feelings, is there anything in your life that you aren't sure whether it's sinful or not?
4. Who have you hurt because of your sin? (yourself, God, friends, family, roommates, others--be specific) How has each been hurt?
5. In his letter to the Corinthian church, Paul says that true repentance includes a desire to see justice done and an eagerness to clear things up. (2 Corinthians 7:11) What steps do you need to take to make things right? (return things you've stolen, ask for forgiveness, etc.)

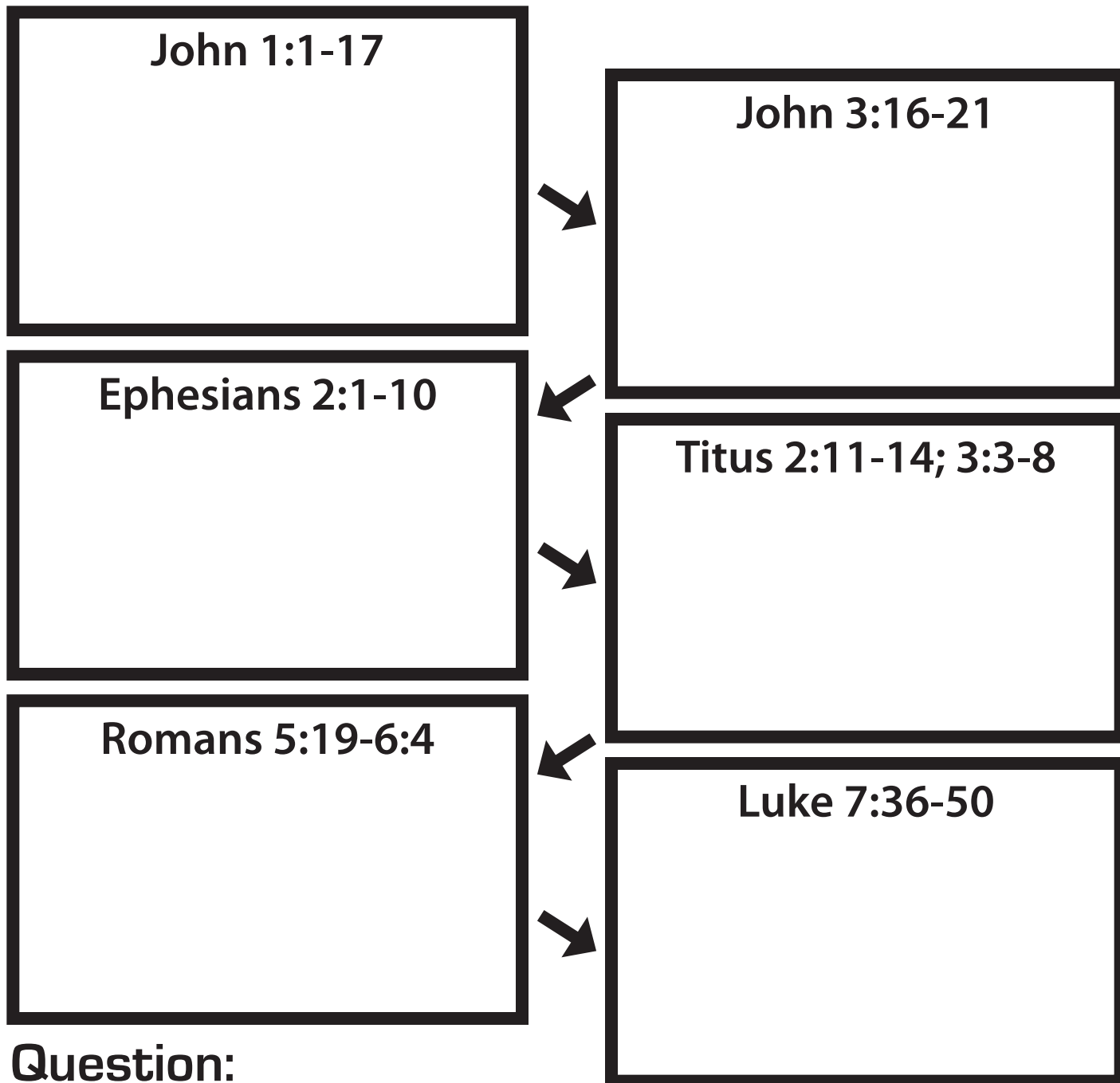
*"The Bible presents sin by way of major concepts, principally lawlessness and faithlessness, expressed in an array of images: sin is the missing of a target, a wandering from the path, a straying from the fold. Sin is a hard heart and a stiff neck. Sin is blindness and deafness. It is both the overstepping of a line and the failure to reach it--both transgression and shortcoming. Sin is a beast crouching at the door. In sin, people attack or evade or neglect their divine calling. These and other images suggest deviance: even when it is familiar, sin is never normal. Sin is disruption of created harmony and then resistance to divine restoration of that harmony. Above all, sin disrupts and resists the vital human relation to God .... Sinful life, as Geoffrey Bromily observes, is a partly depressing, partly ludicrous caricature of genuine human life."*

*-- Cornelius Platinga Jr., Not the Way It's Supposed to Be*

# Grace

*"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." -- John 1:17 (NIV)*

Grace = **Charis** (Greek) = "undeserved favor or mercy"



## Question:

Read Luke 15:11-32.

Do you tend to think of God as being more like the father or the brother in this story? Which of the two do you identify with?

According to many scholars, James and Galatians were written at about the same time (c. 45-50 AD). This would make them the first two books of the New Testament. Yet on the surface they seem to have nearly opposite messages. Read them back to back and use the questions below in your study.

## James

Write down everything you can glean about the recipients of this letter and the problems they were having.

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What do you think James wanted to accomplish in writing this letter?

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## Galatians

Write down everything you can glean about the recipients of this letter and the problems they were having.

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What do you think Paul wanted to accomplish in writing this letter?

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How do you reconcile the messages of these two letters?

What do you think is their combined message to you?

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# Faith & Obedience

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

*-- Edith Hamilton*

Hebrews 11:1,6

Romans 1:16-17

1 John 2:3-6

James 2:14-26

John 14:23

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

## Challenge:

Based on what you have learned, do you have Biblical faith?  
Before the next lesson, make a list of things that stand in the way  
of obedience to God's will in your life.



# Discipleship

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*"The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch." -- Acts 11:26*

Disciple = **Mathetes** (Gr) = "a learner; one who follows one's teachings" (Vine's)

Luke 6:40

Luke 9:22-26

John 8:31-32

John 13:34-35

John 15:5-8

Luke 14:25-33

## 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

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**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 give up for Christ? How could you see Him asking you to do so?**

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**Read chapters 15 through 28 of Acts.  
Write down what each person did in response to hearing the Gospel.**

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**Write down each time you see the Spirit at work and how He works.**

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*“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*

# Rebirth

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

*-- Jesus*

**John 3:3-7**

**2 Corinthians 7:8-11**

**Acts 2:36-40**

**1 Peter 3:21**

**Galatians 3:26-27**

**Acts 22:16**

## **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?

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

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

1 Peter 3:10-11

2 Timothy 2:25-26

Luke 13:3-5

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

James 4:7-10

Isaiah 55:6-7

Acts 2:36-40

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

Acts 2:36-40

1 Peter 3:21

Romans 6:3-11

Matthew 28:18-20

John 3:1-7

Galatians 3:26-27

Ephesians 4:4-5

Mark 16:16

Colossians 2:9-12

Acts 22:16

Titus 3:4-7

I 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?)

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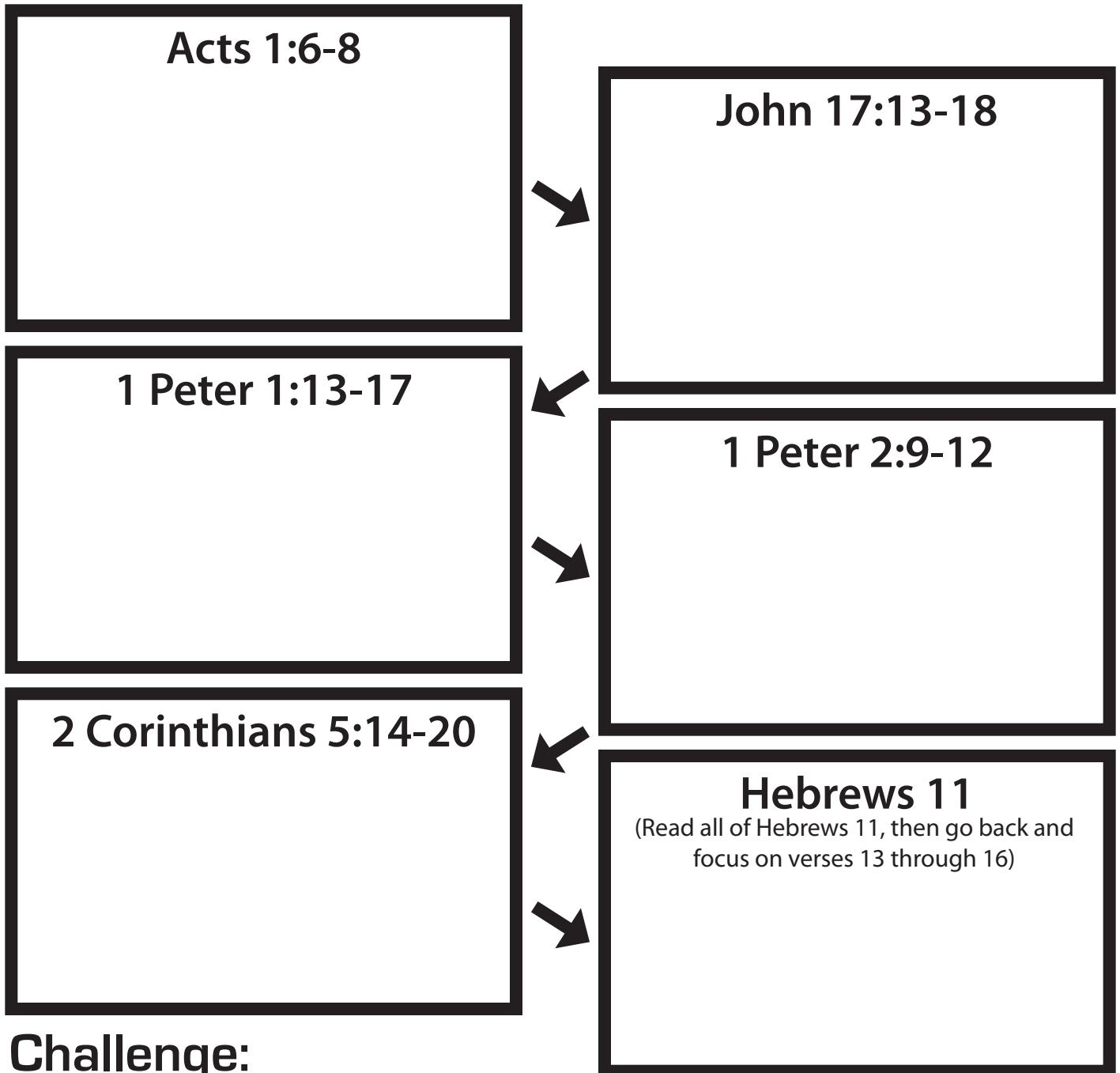
*"It is His will that all who have believed be baptized for the remission of sins. Hence those who have thought that baptism is nothing else than the badge and mark [or symbol] by which we profess our religion before men, in the same way as soldiers attest their profession by bearing the insignia of 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

# Sent Into the World

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*"Go into all the world..." -- Mark 16:15*

*"A ship in the harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." -- William Shedd*



## Challenge:

Complete the "Sent Into the World" worksheet on the next three pages. Considering everything you have learned through this study, what will your ministry look like when you go out into the world to make disciples?

# Sent Into the World

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*As this study comes to a close, it's imperative that you allow God to turn your focus outward and begin seeking those He wants to impact through you.*

**Who are some people in your life that you believe may not be right with Christ? What specific prayers can you begin praying for them??**

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**List the top four or five most significant needs you see in your peers.**

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**What are the three or four most important personal contributions you can bring to meeting those needs?**

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*"When you are on your death bed, you will be asking only two questions: Who did I love? Who loved me? You won't be thinking about your GPA, MBA, IRA, or BMW. You will be overwhelmed by the depth (or lack of depth!) of relationships you formed during your brief stay on this planet."*

*--Steve Shadrach, The Fuel and the Flame*

*"I wonder if it might be true that if we are not engaged in spiritual friendship, there are things we can never learn as disciples--no matter how many Bible studies we join, classes and courses we complete, sermons we take notes on, verses we memorize, doctrines we affirm. Might spiritual friendship be an essential dimension of our own training as disciples, an experience we need as much as others do? And further, might it be fair to say we cannot really call ourselves disciples if we are not following Jesus' and Peter's example of being 'friends of sinners'--spiritual friends who love, accept, learn with, and teach those who are missed by God, precious to God?"*

*--Brian McLaren, More Ready Than You Realize*

# Sent Into the World

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*Consider again Matthew 13:44-46.*

**Was this your response to the best news?**

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**What have you “sold” for the Kingdom?**

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**What do you need to sell?**

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***The primary difference between Jesus and any other “good” person was his purpose. Are you living your life on purpose? How does that line up with His? How is that demonstrated in your life?***

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*“The Master said that he who “does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (Matthew 10:38). Deitrich Bonhoeffer, the German martyr, caught the meaning of this when he wrote, ‘When Jesus calls a man, he bids him come and die.’ We have no reason or right to choose another way than the way God chose in Jesus Christ. The Cross is both the symbol of our salvation and the pattern of our lives. When our dogmatic beliefs and moral principles do not realize themselves in discipleship, then our holiness is an illusion.”*

*--Brennan Manning, The Signature of Jesus*



# Notes

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