

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

***Session 1: Prayer and Posture—What Do We Do Before We Read?..... 2***

***Session 2: Reading the Text: Identifying Subunits ..... 10***

***Session 3: Reading the Text: Genre..... 14***

***Session 4: Context: Passage and Book ..... 21***

***Session 5: Whole Bible and Historical ..... 26***

***Session 6: Treasuring and Responding (Meditation and Application) ..... 32***

***Appendices ..... 41***

- ***APPENDIX I. Recommended Resources ..... 42***
- ***APPENDIX II. Levels of Biblical Context (Concentric Circles) ..... 46***
- ***APPENDIX III. Translation Comparison ..... 47***
- ***APPENDIX IV. Biblical Genre List..... 50***
- ***APPENDIX V. Using Cross-references and Footnotes ..... 51***
- ***APPENDIX VI. Memorization ..... 52***
- ***APPENDIX VII. Passages for Study ..... 54***
  - ***Genesis 12..... 55***
  - ***Psalms 1 ..... 57***
  - ***Jeremiah 29:1-14..... 58***
  - ***Matthew 4:1-11..... 59***
  - ***Matthew 5-7..... 60***
  - ***John 13-17..... 66***
  - ***Philippians 1-2 ..... 75***
  - ***1 John 1-3 ..... 79***



# SESSION ONE

*Prayer & Posture—What do we do before we read?*

## Workshop Overview

- **Session 1: Prayer and Posture—What do we do before we read?**
- **Session 2: Reading the Text: Identifying Subunits** How do we pay attention to what the text says and the way the text was written? How do we understand what a text is saying by how it is structured?
- **Session 3: Reading the Text: Genre** How do Biblical authors use different genres of literature? How do we read each one well?
- **Session 4: Context: Passage and Book** How do we read the Bible on its terms? How does understanding the immediate context help how we understand what we read? How does a larger book of the Bible unfold and impact our reading?
- **Session 5: Whole Bible and Historical** How does the whole Bible fit together? What are the movements of Scripture? How does paying attention to the context of a broader book, author, section of Scripture, and the whole Bible shape how we read? How does all of Scripture point to Jesus? “You fail if your study of Scripture does not lead you to Jesus.”<sup>1</sup> How does historical/cultural context impact our reading?
- **Session 6: Treasuring and Responding (Meditation and Application)** How do we learn to treasure God as He reveals Himself in Scripture? And how do we know how to respond faithfully?

## Notes/Questions

---

---

---

<sup>1</sup> Abernethy, 2.

---

---

---

### Why are we here?

- Because you have a desire to grow in and through engaging with Scripture.
- “God has given us a Bible that is for the hungry—for those desperate enough to depend on him for provision and who will exert great mental energy or endure seasons of dullness to eventually taste some honey.” - Andrew Abernethy <sup>2</sup>

**Recommended Resource:** *Savoring Scripture: A Six-Step Guide to Studying the Bible* by Andrew Abernethy. See Recommended Resources Appendix for more resources.

### Commitment

- I commit to do my part in engaging God’s Word faithfully & trust God will do His part.

### Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What can you expect?

- **Video Teaching** The video each week is designed to give you an introduction into the “what”, “why”, and “how” of each concept covered. These videos will be around 20 minutes and will prepare you for the next two elements.
- **Group Experience**—Transformation happens best in community. If you want to maximize your time in this workshop, take advantage of the opportunity to read with others.

---

<sup>2</sup> Andrew Abernethy, *Savoring Scripture: A Six-Step Guide to Studying the Bible* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2022), xvi.

- **Practice Based** -There is no substitute for reading the Bible. So, there will be opportunities to practice while we are gathered as well as practice/homework for you to implement throughout the week. If you want to maximize your experience, take advantage of these practice opportunities! The hope for this workshop is that you can better understand God’s Word, treasure God’s Word, and respond faithfully to God’s Word.
- **Growth Opportunities** There will be additional resources and exercises available throughout to ensure your opportunity to grow regardless of where you are on your journey of seeing, hearing, and being transformed by God through Scripture. You can look at the additional resources page at the end of your workbook.

**Where are you coming from?**

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

**DISCUSSION TIME**

**Discussion Questions**

1. What role did the Bible play in your earliest church experiences and how do you think that shaped you?
2. What does your practice of Scripture reading look like right now? How did you get to that point?
3. What difficulties do you face when it comes to the Bible (fear, confusion, boredom, skepticism, etc.)?
4. What do you hope to take away from this Workshop?

**Notes/Questions**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Purpose of Scripture

- **2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NIV)**

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

- “...to reveal himself to us, draw us near, speak to us, and transform us.” -Andrew Abernethy<sup>3</sup>

## Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

---

---

## How Should We Approach Scripture?

### Posture

#### *Teachable*

- **Psalm 119:33–35 (NIV)**

“Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end.

Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.”

- **Jeremiah 31:34 (NIV)**

---

<sup>3</sup> Abernethy, xxi.

“No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

- **John 14:26 (NIV)**

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

### Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

---

#### *Childlike Dependence*

- **Matthew 11:25–26 (NIV)**

“At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.’<sup>26</sup>Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.”

- **Good News!**

- When we turn to Jesus, we are **adopted** as children of God. We aren’t just childlike. We are actual **children** of God. **1 John 3:1 (NIV)**

#### *Trust*

- As His children, we can **trust** God as we approach Him in and through the reading of his Word.

#### *Family*

- We are part of a bigger family, and we can learn much from other believers.

*We come to Scripture as humble, expectant listeners and learners of a God who speaks. So, we slow down so we can listen up.*

### Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRACTICE

### Prayer

Write or choose a prayer to pray before opening the Bible.

- *Father, I come as your child. I long to sit at your feet and hear your voice. Send your Holy Spirit that I might savor the Son as I read your Word. I am hungry for You. Speak, O Lord. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*<sup>4</sup>
- *Here I am, Father. Your child is listening.*
- *Father, I trust that All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Equip me now through your Word*

If you find yourself wandering or distracted, recenter yourself with a phrase from your prayer.

### Prayer Space

---

---

---

---

### WHEN, WHERE, and WHAT?

- Commit to a time, a place, and what you will read over the next week.

#### WHEN

---

---

#### WHERE

---

---

#### WHAT

---

---

---

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from Abernethy, 16.





# SESSION TWO

## *Reading the Text: Identifying Subunits*

### DISCUSSION TIME

#### Discussion Questions

1. Were you able to maintain a consistent time to read each day? Why/Why not?
2. How was last week's practice of prayer and repetition?
3. What seemed helpful?
4. What did you learn? (About Scripture or yourself!)
5. Did anything new come to mind about how you have approached Scripture in the past?

#### What is Bible Study?

---

---

---

---

---

\*Passage = a set of verses that make up a unit of thought.

#### Why Study the Bible?

---

---

---

---

---

### DISCUSSION TIME

#### Discussion Questions





## **PRACTICE**

**PRAYER:** continue to pray (and even adjust) your prayer as you prepare to read.

**IDENTIFY SUBUNITS:** Work through at least one of the passages at the end of your workbook and practice identifying subunits, looking for repetition in ideas, words, or phrases, create a title, and provide a summary statement for the passage.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is exciting or intimidating about this exercise this week?
2. What are you committing to this week?

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Continue your practice of prayer before reading
- Choose one at least one passage to practice on this week
- Be prepared to share next week. Bonus if you share with someone what you are learning before we meet again.



### Sample Genres in Scripture\*

Genre	Where is it found?
Historical Narrative	Genesis, Exodus, Matthew
Genealogy	Genesis 5; 1 Chronicles 1-9; Matthew 1:1-17
Prophecy	Jeremiah, Micah
Proverbs/Wisdom Literature	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job
Psalms and Songs	Exodus 15:1–18; Judges 5; Psalms
Letters	Romans, James, 2 Peter
Apocalyptic	Daniel 7–12; Joel, Revelation

### Three Big Buckets:

Genre	Where is it found?
Narrative	General Narratives, Gospels, Parables
Poetry	Wisdom Literature, Psalms and Songs, Prophets
Prose Discourse	Biblical Law, New Testament Letters

## 1. Narrative—an art of storytelling

- Types of Narrative in Scripture:
  - General narrative, which applies to large chunks of the OT
  - Gospels
  - Parables

### Reading Narrative

- Pay attention to the **plot**, the **characters**, the **setting**, and the **patterns in the story**.
- To discover the plot, (1) look for how scenes relate to one another and, (2) the central conflict that unfolds across the narrative.
- To identify the characters, you could mark each name within the text or list them on a separate paper. “Look for the depiction of the characters, especially God as the main character.”<sup>5</sup> We learn about characters through their speech and action.
- To identify the setting, after reading the passage in context, identify where the story is set and as with subunits, where there is a change in setting.
- Finally, note the patterns the author might be trying to highlight.

---

\* See the Appendix for a Full Genre list.

<sup>5</sup> Abernethy, 31.

## Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

---

### Group Practice and Discussion Time

Matthew 4:1–11 *(Included in Passages at the end of the workbook)*

#### Plot

---

---

---

#### Characters

---

---

---

#### Setting

---

---

---

#### Patterns

---

---

---

**2. Poetry**—a rich and artistic form of human communication, but it's also some of the most difficult to read. Poetry often uses strong imagery, parallelism, and other literary devices to communicate truth.

- Where is it found?
  - Psalms
  - Prophets
  - Solomon
  - Apocalyptic

## Reading Poetry

- Follow parallelism from one line to the next. Biblical poetry often builds and develops through the poem. Ask, “How does each line develop the thought unfolding across the entire poem?”
  - **“Synonymous Parallelism”**—simple repetition of the same thought in slightly different words<sup>6</sup>
  - **“Antithetical Parallelism”**— contrasting one line with the next to highlight a thought.
  - **“Synthetic Parallelism”**—an idea developed or built upon from one thought to the next using parallelism.
- Pay attention to the imagery. Often the imagery will provide a picture of what the passage is communicating. Ask, “What is this image trying to help me see?”

## Parallelism Examples

- **“Synonymous Parallelism”**—**Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)** — But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;
- **“Antithetical Parallelism”**—**Ecclesiastes 10:2 (NIV)** — The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.
- **“Synthetic Parallelism”** **Psalm 24:3–4 (NIV)** — **3** Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? **4** The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

## Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

<sup>6</sup> F. L. Cross and Elizabeth A. Livingstone, eds., [\*The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church\*](#) (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 1227.



---

---

---

---

---

***\*\*\*See Appendix for Translation Comparison information***

## NEXT STEPS

- **PRAYER:** continue to pray (and even adjust) your prayer as you prepare to read.
- **IDENTIFY GENRE:** Identify the genre of a passage you would like to study.
- **WATCH THE BIBLE PROJECT VIDEO** on the genre matching the passage you identify to practice on this week. Find the videos at <http://www.cccgo.com/ScriptureWorkshop>

### Discussion Questions

1. What is exciting or intimidating about this exercise this week?
2. What are you committing to this week?



# SESSION FOUR

## *Reading for Context: Passage and Book*

### DISCUSSION TIME

#### Discussion Questions

1. Which passage did you work on this week? How did your understanding grow as you thought through the genre of the passage?
2. Did you share what you learned with anyone this week?
3. What questions do you have about what we have practiced so far?

#### Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

#### Context\*

- **Passage Context:** what comes immediately before and what comes immediately after what you are reading?
- **Book Context:** how does this passage fit within the message of the broader book?
- **Testament/Bible Context:** Where does this fall in the broader story of the Old/New Testament? What about the Bible as a whole?
- **Historical and Cultural Context:** How does the historical context inform how we understand this passage/verse?

#### Notes/Questions

---

---

---

\* See Appendix for Concentric Circles Example







would be a great place to start. Or you could choose the passages surrounding one of your favorite verses.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is exciting or intimidating about this exercise this week?
2. What are you committing to?

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Continue your practice of prayer before reading
- Read a large section of scripture aloud
- Read Jeremiah 25–29. How does the larger context impact how we understand the passage?
- Watch the Bible Project video that overviews the book you are currently reading
- Check out the Recommended Resources appendix or visit [www.cccgo.com/ScriptureWorkshop](http://www.cccgo.com/ScriptureWorkshop)



# SESSION FIVE

*Reading for Context: Big Picture and Historical/Cultural*

## DISCUSSION TIME

### Discussion Question:

1. Did you continue the practice of prayer before reading?
2. If so, what did you notice this week?
3. If not, how can we help you commit to seeing it through?
4. How did looking at Jeremiah 29:11 in context impact how you understand the verse?
5. Were there any tools and resources you used this week that were particularly helpful?
6. What questions do you have about what we have practiced so far?

## Whole Bible Context—“The Metanarrative of Scripture.”

### **Creation (Genesis 1–2)**

---

---

---

---

### **Fall (Genesis 3)**

---

---

---

---

### **Redemption (Genesis 3:15–the Gospels)**

---

---

---

---

## **Restoration (New Testament culminating in Revelation 21–22)**

---

---

---

---

### **Maintain perspective**

What is Scripture pointing towards?

- **Luke 24:25–27**
- **Luke 24:44–47**
- **John 5:39–40**

“You fail if your study of Scripture does not lead you to Jesus.”<sup>8</sup>

### ***Finding Jesus***

- Identify the initial meaning of an Old Testament passage
- Ask:
  - What does this passage teach about God, and how do we see this in Jesus?
  - Where does this passage fit within redemptive history?<sup>9</sup>
- Ensure your answer(s) align with the initial meaning

## **Notes/Questions**

---

---

---

### ***Theme Tracing***

- Look for repetition of words, images, and ideas that develop themes as the author illustrates their point.
  - This happens across different authors as the biblical authors develop a thought or idea.

***Recommended Resource: Bible Project Theme Videos***

### ***Biblical Allusions***

- Biblical authors develop, interact with, and allude to other texts in Scripture.

---

<sup>8</sup> Abernethy, 2.

<sup>9</sup> Abernethy, 90.





## Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### PRACTICE

**PRAYER:** continue to pray (and even adjust) your prayer as you prepare to read.

**WATCH A THEME VIDEO FROM BIBLE PROJECT:** Go to and watch a theme video that interests you. You could choose a theme that aligns with what you are currently studying, a theme that sounds interesting, or a series like “Royal Priesthood Series” to see a bigger picture of how some themes develop. Personally, begin paying attention to themes within a chapter, a book, or the Bible as a whole!

**EXPLORE ONE ASPECT OF HISTORICAL/CULTURAL CONTEXT ON A PASSAGE:** You could choose to reflect more on the notes on Revelation 3:15-18 or you could choose another passage. Look at the recommended resource list for tools that may be helpful. Some passages to consider:

- Jeremiah 25-29
- John 4:1-26
- Luke 8:43-48

### Discussion Question

1. What is exciting or intimidating about this exercise this week?

### NEXT STEPS

- Continue your practice of prayer before reading
- Watch a theme video from Bible Project
- Explore one aspect of historical context on a passage that interests you
- Be prepared to share what you learned next week. Bonus if you share with someone what you are learning before we meet again 😊
- Check out the RESOURCES at [www.cccgo.com/ScriptureWorkshop](http://www.cccgo.com/ScriptureWorkshop)

## Notes/Questions



# SESSION SIX

## *Treasuring and Responding*

### DISCUSSION TIME

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Did you continue the practice of prayer before reading?
2. If so, what did you notice this week?
3. If not, how can we help you commit to seeing it through?
4. How did looking at the context impact how you understand the verses you chose?
5. Were there any tools or resources you used this week that were particularly helpful?
6. What questions do you have about what we have practiced so far?

#### Transformation

- Encountering God through the reading of Scripture is a primary way God transforms us.
- Purpose of Scripture: "...to reveal himself to us, draw us near, speak to us, and transform us."<sup>12</sup>

**Psalm 119:103 (NIV)** — "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

#### Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### Transformational Reading

- **Meditation:** taking the truth of Scripture into your heart in the presence of God so that He might transform you.
- **Responding:** The appropriate response to God's invitation :
  1. Practice something from His Word (doing)

---

<sup>12</sup> Abernethy, xxi.

2. Grow to become a type of person considering His Word (being)
3. A new way of seeing because of His Word (seeing).<sup>13</sup>

## Notes/Questions

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

### Meditation

“...when we respond in trust to the Word of God, then prayer becomes a conversation with God...if prayer is to be a true conversation with God, it must be regularly preceded by listening to God’s voice through meditation on the Scripture.”<sup>14</sup>

- **What?**
  - Meditation is the focused “chewing” on God’s Word.
  - Allowing God’s Word to serve as a mirror that is reading you considering His Word.
  - Two words used to describe meditation in Psalms:
    - “To mutter” (Psalm 1:2)
    - “To ponder and question thoroughly” (Psalm 77:3, 6, 12)
- **How?**
  - **Pray:** Ask God to reveal what he wants you to see in this passage.
  - **Chew:** Mull over each word and each line of the passage or verse.
  - **Talk:** Speak with God about what comes out of your “chewing” on the passage.
  - **Ask:** Converse with God. “Am I living in light of this? What difference does this make? Am I taking this seriously? If I believed and held on to this, how would that change things? When, or if, I forget this, how does that affect me and all my relationships?”<sup>15</sup>
  - **Reflect:** Chew on the passage again in light of what comes out of your time talking and asking.

<sup>13</sup> Adapted from Abernethy, 153.

<sup>14</sup> Timothy Keller, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, (New York, NY: Dutton, 2014), 145.

<sup>15</sup> Keller, 148.





## Praying Scripture

- **Best place to start?**
  - Psalms or other prayers in Scripture.
- **What to do?**
  - Read the passage one time as a whole. Then, line by line, talking to God about whatever comes to mind as you read the text. Speak to the Lord about everything that occurs to you as you slowly read his Word. You do this even if what comes to mind has nothing to do with the text. Every thought that enters your mind as you are reading a passage of Scripture—even if that thought has nothing to do with the text before you now—is something you may bring to God.

## Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

---

## Faithful Response

**Matthew 7:24–27 (NIV) — 24** “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. **26** But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

- **Three ways the Holy Spirit works to bring us to a faithful response:**<sup>17</sup>
  1. **Illumination:** The Holy Spirit illuminates the truth of God in our hearts (John 14:26; 16:13–16; 1 Corinthians 2:14–16)

---

<sup>17</sup> Abernethy, 139-140

Pray: “God, illuminate my heart and mind to understand what you would have me do in response.” (Psalm 119:18)

- 2. **Personalization:** The Holy Spirit helps each individual believer walk faithfully in our life, circumstances, and context. (John 14:26; 16:13–16)

Pray: “God, is there a unique situation in my life you want to speak to? A specific relationship? A specific sin struggle? A specific area of unbelief?”

- 3. **Empowerment:** God doesn’t leave us on our own. Rather, He empowers us to take the steps of obedience He is calling us to.

**Philippians 2:12–13 (NIV) — 12** “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. “

### Notes/Questions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- **Two Sets of Helpful Questions**

- **Set 1:**

- 1. What does this passage teach me about God?
- 2. How does this aspect of God’s character change my view of self, community, or the world?
- 3. What should I do in response?<sup>18</sup>

- **Expansion from Jen Wilkin**

- Knowing God is \_\_\_\_\_, shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_, and therefore, I will \_\_\_\_\_ (how I will submit). How will I \_\_\_\_\_ with others?

---

<sup>18</sup> These three questions are adapted from Jen Wilkin, *Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), 98



---

---

---

## NEXT STEPS

- Remember, “God has given us a Bible that is **for the hungry**—for those desperate enough to depend on him for provision and who will exert great mental energy or endure seasons of dullness to eventually taste some honey.”<sup>20</sup>
- Commit to engaging in God’s Word daily. If you have a plan, continue that plan! If you need somewhere to start, work through one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) or a letter like Philippians.
- Commit to praying before you read to focus your heart and mind on God’s Word
- Commit to respond faithfully.
- Talk about what you are reading with others.
- Try memorizing a set of verses and meditating upon them.\*

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®  
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.  
Used with permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

---

<sup>20</sup> Andrew Abernethy, *Savoring Scripture: A Six-Step Guide to Studying the Bible* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2022), xvi.

\* see recommended passages in Appendix VI.

## **APPENDICES:**

**APPENDIX I.** Recommended Resources by Session (page 42)

**APPENDIX II.** Levels of Biblical Context (Concentric Circles) (page 46)

**APPENDIX III.** Translation Comparison—Differences and the value of using multiple (page 47)

**APPENDIX IV.** Biblical Genre List (page 50)

**APPENDIX V.** Using Cross-references and Footnotes (page 51)

**APPENDIX VI.** Memorization (page 52)

**APPENDIX VII.** Passages for Study (page 54)

## APPENDIX I. *Recommended Resources*

As we grow in confidence in how to encounter God through Scripture that leads to transformation, we would like to offer some resources to help us as we learn and grow together.

### Overview

- There are several helpful books that provide an introduction to reading Scripture. A few we recommend are:
  - [\*Savoring Scripture by Andrew Abernethy\*](#)
  - [\*Women of the Word by Jen Wilkin\*](#) (we believe this is great for men too!)
  - [\*How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart\*](#)
- For an advanced/graduate level resource
  - [\*Grasping God's Word by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays\*](#)

### Session 1: What do we do before we read?

- Recommended Resources:
  - [\*Savoring Scripture by Andrew Abernethy\*](#) (Step 1)
  - [\*Before You Open Your Bible: Nine Heart Postures for Approaching God's Word by Matt Smethurst\*](#)

### Session 2: Reading the Text: Identifying Subunits and Repetition

- Recommended Resources
  - [\*The Bible Project: How to Read the Bible Videos\*](#)
  - [\*Savoring Scripture by Andrew Abernethy\*](#) (Step 2)

### Session 3: Reading the Text—Genre

- Recommended Resources
  - [\*The Bible Project: How to Read the Bible Videos\*](#)
  - [\*Savoring Scripture by Andrew Abernethy\*](#) (Step 2)

### Session 4: Reading the Context: Passage and Book

- **Video Resources**
  - [\*The Bible Project: How to Read the Bible Videos\*](#)
- **Book Resources**
  - [\*Savoring Scripture by Andrew Abernethy\*](#) (step 3B)
- **Study Bibles**
  - A **Study Bible** can be a really helpful tool when used well. In a Study Bible, you will find notes in the margin that provide insight into the historical context, they offer notes to help explain the text, and provide helpful background information. As you use a Study Bible, it is important that you do the work to try to understand the text without jumping to the notes immediately when reading the

text. If something puzzles you, hold that before the Lord. Seek to understand it based on context. Reread a text to see if there is something you missed. Then, use the notes as a helpful guide. It is important to remember that the notes are someone's interpretation. Now, that "someone" is generally someone who has spent their lives trying to understand and teach God's Word. But they are not infallible. The notes are not authoritative like Scripture. There are many great study Bibles. A few we recommend are:

- [NIV Cultural Background Study Bible](#)
- [NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible](#)
- [ESV Study Bible](#)
- [CSB Study Bible](#)
- [NIV Study Bible](#)
  - FREE ONLINE: ESV Global Study Bible free online at [www.esv.org](http://www.esv.org)
    - Click "read now"
    - Click The Global Study Bible. Has many charts, maps, articles, etc.

## Session 5: Reading for Context: Big Picture and Historical

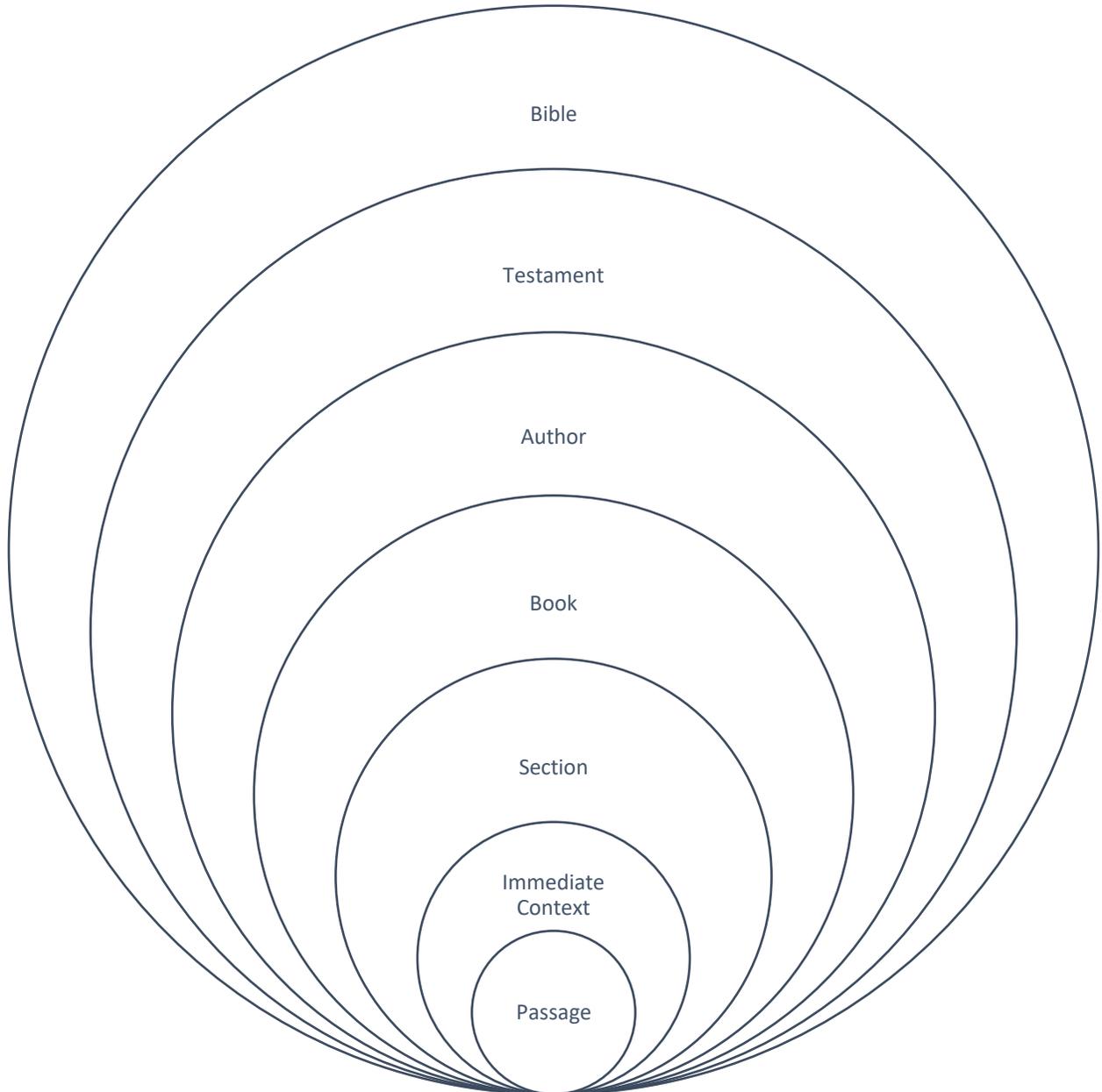
- **Video Resources**
  - [The Bible Project: How to Read the Bible Videos](#)
- **Study Bibles:**
  - A **Study Bible** can be a really helpful tool when used well. In a Study Bible, you will find notes in the margin that provide insight into the historical context, they offer notes to help explain the text, and provide helpful background information. As you use a Study Bible, it is important that you do the work to try to understand the text without jumping to the notes immediately when reading the text. If something puzzles you, hold that before the Lord. Seek to understand it based on context. Reread a text to see if there is something you missed. Then, use the notes as a helpful guide. It is important to remember that the notes are someone's interpretation. Now, that "someone" is generally someone who has spent their lives trying to understand and teach God's Word. But they are not infallible. The notes are not authoritative like Scripture. There are many great study Bibles. A few we recommend are:
    - [NIV Cultural Background Study Bible](#) (great for cultural/historical background)
    - [NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible](#) (great for tracing the big story of God through all Scripture)
    - [ESV Study Bible](#) (great for general Bible study. Has content that would be helpful for steps in sessions 2-5 in particular)
    - [CSB Study Bible](#) (great for general Bible study. Has content that would be helpful for steps in sessions 2-5 in particular)
    - [NIV Study Bible](#) (great for general Bible study. Has content that would be helpful for steps in sessions 2-5 in particular)

- FREE ONLINE: ESV Global Study Bible free online at [www.esv.org](http://www.esv.org)
      - Click "read now"
      - Click The Global Study Bible. Has many charts, maps, articles, etc.
- **Online Articles**
  - [Tracing Themes in Scripture by Julia Higgins](#)
- **Book Resources**
  - [Savoring Scripture by Andrew Abernethy](#) (Steps 3A and 4)
  - **Understanding God's Story**
    - Introduction: [The 30-Minute Bible by Craig Bartholomew and Paige Vanosky](#)
      - In 30 minutes a day for 30 days, you can work through this book and some selected passages to provide an overview of the story of Scripture. The book identifies six Acts:
        - Act One: God Establishes His Kingdom—Creation
        - Act Two: Rebellion in the Kingdom—Fall
        - Act Three: The King Chooses Israel—Salvation Initiated
        - Act Four: The Coming King—Salvation Accomplished
        - Act Five: Spreading the Good News—The Mission of the Church
        - Act Six: The Return of the King—Redemption Completed
    - Advanced: [The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story by Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen](#)

## Session 6: Treasuring and Responding

- **Book Resources**
  - [Prayer by Timothy Keller](#) (Chapter 10)
  - [Savoring Scripture by Andrew Abernethy](#) by Andrew Abernethy (Steps 5 and 6)

**APPENDIX II. *Levels of Biblical Context (Concentric Circles)***



## APPENDIX III. Translation Comparison—Differences and The Value of Using Multiple

It is important to remember that the Biblical writers did not write in English. The Bible contains translations from three different ancient languages—Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. Translation is both an art and a science as translators attempt to reflect different subtleties of the text.

Modern English translations are often charted along a continuum that has formal equivalence on one end and dynamic equivalence on the other.

Formal equivalence works to accurately preserve both the meanings and the forms and sentence structure of the original language. In other words, a literal or word-for-word translation. The ESV, NASB, KJV, NKJV are examples of formal equivalent translations.

Dynamic equivalence's goal is to provide a thought-for-thought translation of the original. The NIV, CEB, NRSV, and NLT fit in this category.

The CSB has coined the term “optimal equivalence” to capture their translation philosophy. Optimal equivalence leaves no aspect of the original text unaccounted for while using natural English that is as easily comprehended as possible. The goal is to bring together literal and readable.

To find out which type of translation philosophy a Bible version uses, look at the introduction to the Bible. The philosophy and process of translation should be stated.

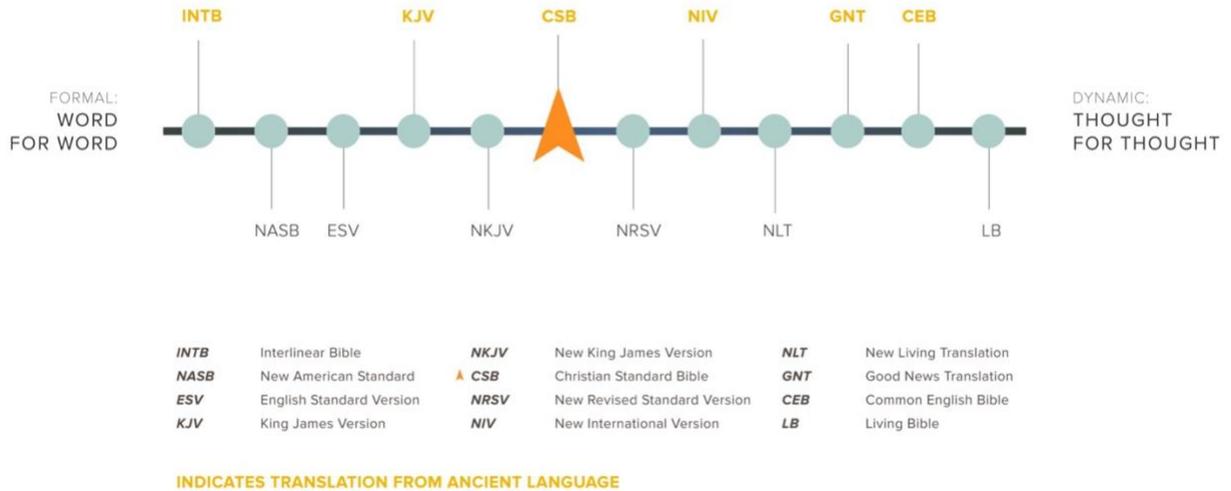
By reading multiple translations, you can gain a broader understanding of what a text is communicating. In doing this, it is helpful to have a range of translation philosophies reflected in the ones you choose. Generally, three translations will be sufficient for you to use.

Identify a passage and read it in three different translations. I would recommend using the ESV or NASB as one, then pick between the NIV and NLT, and then finally use the CSB for a third translation. If you are thinking about this on a spectrum from word for word translations to thought for thought, this will give you a good representation of the spectrum. As you read, try to identify what the passage is trying to communicate and any differences or similarities between the translations that can help you understand the original intent of that passage.

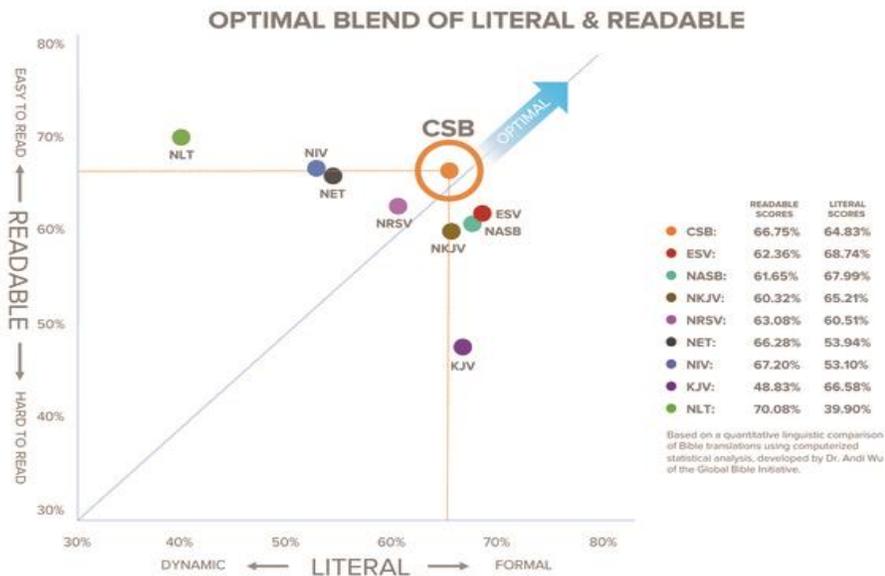
There are several websites and apps that will allow you to compare translations for free.

- [www.bible.com](http://www.bible.com) is the web version of the YouVersion Bible app. On the website, you can look at two translations side by side. If you use the YouVersion app on your phone, the web version will look similar and have similar navigation.
- [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) allows you to search for any passage and add up to five parallel translations.

## BIBLE TRANSLATION CONTINUUM



\*Figure from Christian Standard Bible website: <https://csbible.com/about-the-csb/translation-philosophy/>



\*Figure from Christian Standard Bible website: <https://csbible.com/about-the-csb/translation-philosophy/>

## **APPENDIX IV. *Biblical Genre List***

Here is a more complete categorizing of Biblical Genre. Note the overlap of books between different categories (e.g., Genesis and Exodus in both Narrative and Law. Ezekiel and Daniel in both Narrative and Major Prophets).

<b>Narrative</b>	Numbers	Zechariah
Genesis	Deuteronomy	Malachi
Exodus		
Numbers	<b>Poetry</b>	<b>The Gospels</b>
Joshua	Psalms	Matthew
Judges	Song of Songs	Mark
Ruth		Luke
1, 2 Samuel	<b>Wisdom</b>	John
1, 2 Kings	Job	
1,2 Chronicles	Proverbs	<b>Epistles/Letters</b>
Ezra	Ecclesiastes	Romans
Nehemiah		1, 2 Corinthians
Esther	<b>Major Prophets</b>	Galatians
Job	Isaiah	Ephesians
Isaiah	Jeremiah	Philippians
Jeremiah	Lamentations	Colossians
Ezekiel	Ezekiel	1, 2 Thessalonians
Daniel	Daniel	1, 2 Timothy
Jonah		Titus
Haggai	<b>Minor Prophets</b>	Philemon
Matthew	Hosea	Hebrews
Mark	Joel	James
Luke	Amos	1, 2 Peter
John	Obadiah	1, 2, 3 John
Acts	Jonah	Jude
	Micah	
<b>Law</b>	Nahum	<b>Apocalyptic</b>
Genesis	Habakkuk	Daniel
Exodus	Zephaniah	Revelation
Leviticus	Haggai	

## **APPENDIX V. *Using Cross-references and Footnotes***

In most reference or study Bibles you will notice two features that can be helpful in tracing biblical themes or allusions: Cross-references and Footnotes.

### **Cross-reference**

When reading a passage, you may notice a lowercase letter denoted at the end of a verse. These are cross-references, which is a verse in scripture that points to the same theme, word, or subject mentioned in the passage that you are reading. In most reference Bibles or study Bibles, cross-references will be noted with lower case letters in the center, on the edge, or at the bottom of the page. If you are trying to trace a theme or more clearly under what a passage might be communicating, a cross-reference can be a helpful resource for allowing one passage help you understand a different passage.

### **Footnotes**

You might also notice an upper-case letter used to denote one of a few possible things: (1) Background information (unknown geographic locations, historical background, objects/occupations. Unfamiliar symbolic actions. Different beliefs; References to information contained in another part of the Bible (references to people, events/customs, OT Quotations, Parallel passages); (2) Linguistic information (the meaning or sound of a particular word in Greek or Hebrew, explanations of figures of speech or symbols); (3) Interpretational information (textual variants in the ancient manuscripts, literal translations, alternative interpretations, or puzzling statements). These can be helpful as you are studying a passage to understand challenges in interpreting a certain passage or to provide greater background information on what you are reading.

### **Dangers in using Cross-references or Footnotes**

There are a several of dangers to watch for in using Cross-references or footnotes. Here are two: First, you can find yourself chasing rabbit trails that (a) lead away from understanding the text you are studying or (b) lead you away from encountering God through a passage because you begin to treat it as a puzzle. Second, you can get caught up in questions about manuscripts or translations that may not be helpful. If you find yourself getting stuck here, begin looking at different translations to see how that might help you understand or interpret a passage.

## APPENDIX VI. Memorization

**Index Card:** Write the verse(s) on one side of an index card and the verse reference on the other side. Carry the card around with you so you can work on memorizing in your free time. If you have a habit of grabbing your phone when board, try reaching for the index card!

**Record Yourself:** Try recording yourself on your phone reading the verse(s). Listen back to the recording while you're driving, working out, cleaning your house, grocery shopping, etc.

**Make It Visible:** Tape the verse(s) to the bathroom mirror or to your car dashboard and work on it as you go about your day. You can also put it as your desktop or phone background. With discipline, this can be incredibly helpful.

**Repetitive Writing:** transcribe the verse(s) by hand. Rewrite the verse(s) over and over or use hand-lettering or other creative illustrations or pictures as way of putting it in your mind.

**Repetitive Recitation:** Read the verse(s) out loud in 5 minute increments and repeat (while allowing some time for your mind to rest). Worked out as a discipline, this could look like:

- Reading/Reciting it out loud 4 times per day for a week
- Then, read/recite it out loud once a week for a month
- Then read/recite it once every three months for a year
- And then read/recite it once every year

**\*For longer passages:**

- Read a verse out loud 10 times, paying attention to each word as you read.
- Say the verse out loud 10 times without looking.
- Intentionally think back to the verse at times throughout the day. Put it on a note card and place it somewhere you will see it frequently. Put it in your pocket and look at it rather than your phone when you have time.
- Each day say the verse out loud 10 times. For a longer passage, add a verse either each day, or every other day. So, say the one you know out loud 10 times, then read the next verse out loud 10 times.
- Intentionally think back to both verses together throughout the day. Add the next verse to the note card.
- Each day, say the verse(s) out loud together 10 times.

**Recommended Passages to Memorize:**

- Genesis 1:26–27
- Exodus 34:6–7
- Numbers 6:24–26
- Deuteronomy 6:6–7
- Psalm 51:1–4

- Psalm 121:1–2
- Psalm 145:1–3
- Lamentations 3:22–23
- Matthew 11:28–30
- Matthew 22:37–39 (or 34–40)
- Matthew 28:16–20
- John 3:14–18
- John 15:1–5
- Romans 5:1–5 (or 1–10)
- Romans 8:26–30 (or 28–39)
- Ephesians 4:11–16
- Philippians 2:5–11
- Philippians 3:7–11
- Philippians 4:4–7 (or 4–13)
- Colossians 1:15–20
- 2 Timothy 3:14–17
- Titus 3:3–8
- Jude 24–25

## **APPENDIX VII. *Passages for Study***

**Genesis 12**

**Psalm 1**

**Jeremiah 29:1-14**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**Matthew 5–7**

**John 13–17**

**Philippians 1–2**

**1 John 1–3**

## Genesis 12:1–20 (NIV)

**12:1** The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. **2** “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” **4** So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. **5** He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. **6** Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. **7** The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. **8** From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. **9** Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev. **10** Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. **11** As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are. **12** When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live. **13** Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.” **14** When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. **15** And when Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. **16** He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels. **17** But the LORD inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram’s wife Sarai. **18** So Pharaoh summoned Abram. “What have you done to me?” he said. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? **19** Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!” **20** Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

## **Psalm 1 (NIV)**

**1:1** Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, **2** but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. **3** That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. **4** Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. **5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. **6** For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

## Jeremiah 29:1–14 (NIV)

**29:1** This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. **2** (This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) **3** He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said: **4** This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **6** Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. **7** Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” **8** Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. **9** They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD. **10** This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. **11** For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **12** Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **13** You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. **14** I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

## **Matthew 4:1–11 (NIV)**

**4:1** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **3** The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” **4** Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” **5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. **6** “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” **7** Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” **8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. **9** “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” **10** Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” **11** Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

## Matthew 5–7 (NIV)

**5:1** Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, **2** and he began to teach them. He said: **3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. **5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. **6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. **7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. **8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. **9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. **10** Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **12** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **13** “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. **14** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **17** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. **19** Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. **21** “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ **22** But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister’ will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. **23** “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there

remember that your brother or sister has something against you, **24** leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. **25** “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. **26** Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny. **27** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ **28** But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. **30** And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. **31** “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ **32** But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. **33** “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ **34** But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; **35** or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. **36** And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. **37** All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. **38** “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ **39** But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. **40** And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. **41** If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. **42** Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. **43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44** But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46** If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? **47** And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than

others? Do not even pagans do that? **48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**6:1** “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. **2** “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **3** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **5** “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **6** But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **7** And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** “This, then, is how you should pray: “ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, **10** your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. **11** Give us today our daily bread. **12** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. **13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ **14** For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15** But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. **16** “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **17** But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, **18** so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **19** “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **22** “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. **23** But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be

full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! **24** “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. **25** “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? **26** Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? **27** Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? **28** “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. **29** Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. **30** If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? **31** So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32** For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**7:1** “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. **2** For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **3** “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? **4** How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. **6** “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. **7** “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. **9** “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? **10** Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? **11** If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! **12** So in everything, do to others what

you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. **13** “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. **14** But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. **15** “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. **16** By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? **17** Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **18** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. **19** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. **21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ **23** Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ **24** “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. **26** But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” **28** When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, **29** because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

## John 13-17 (NIV)

**13:1** It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2** The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. **3** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; **4** so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. **5** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." **8** "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." **9** "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" **10** Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." **11** For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. **12** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. **13** "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. **16** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. **18** "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.' **19** "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. **20** Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me." **21** After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me." **22** His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. **23** One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. **24** Simon Peter motioned to this disciple

and said, "Ask him which one he means." **25** Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" **26** Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. **27** As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." **28** But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. **29** Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. **30** As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. **31** When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. **32** If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. **33** "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. **34** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **36** Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." **37** Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." **38** Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

**14:1** "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2** My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going." **5** Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" **6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." **8** Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." **9** Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10** Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me,

who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. **15** “If you love me, keep my commands. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—**17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **19** Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **20** On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. **21** Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” **22** Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” **23** Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. **24** Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. **25** “All this I have spoken while still with you. **26** But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **27** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. **28** “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. **29** I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. **30** I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, **31** but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.

**15:1** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more

fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. **5** “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. **9** “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other. **18** “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. **19** If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. **20** Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. **21** They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. **22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. **23** Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. **24** If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. **25** But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’ **26** “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who

goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. **27** And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

**16:1** “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. **2** They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. **3** They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. **4** I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, **5** but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ **6** Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. **7** But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8** When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** about sin, because people do not believe in me; **10** about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; **11** and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. **12** “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14** He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. **15** All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.” **16** Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.” **17** At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” **18** They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.” **19** Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? **20** Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. **21** A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. **22** So with you: Now is your time of grief,

but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. **23** In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **24** Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. **25** “Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. **26** In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. **27** No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. **28** I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.” **29** Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. **30** Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.” **31** “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. **32** “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. **33** “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

**17:1** After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. **2** For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. **3** Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **4** I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. **5** And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. **6** “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. **8** For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. **9** I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. **10** All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. **11** I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. **12** While I was

with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. **13** “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. **14** I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. **15** My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. **17** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. **19** For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. **20** “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **21** that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—**23** I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. **24** “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. **25** “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. **26** I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

## Philippians 1-2 (NIV)

**1:1** Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: **2** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **3** I thank my God every time I remember you. **4** In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **7** It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. **8** God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. **9** And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. **12** Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. **13** As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. **14** And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. **15** It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. **16** The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. **17** The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. **18** But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. **20** I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **22** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! **23** I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; **24** but it is more necessary for you that I

remain in the body. **25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. **27** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel **28** without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. **29** For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, **30** since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

**2:1** Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2** then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. **3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. **5** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; **7** rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! **9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **12** Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. **14** Do everything without grumbling or arguing, **15** so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky **16** as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ

that I did not run or labor in vain. **17** But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. **18** So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. **19** I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. **20** I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. **21** For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. **22** But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. **23** I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. **24** And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon. **25** But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. **26** For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. **27** Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. **28** Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. **29** So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, **30** because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

## **1 John 1–3 (NIV)**

**1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **2** The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. **3** We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** We write this to make our joy complete. **5** This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. **8** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**2:1** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. **2** He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. **3** We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. **4** Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. **5** But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: **6** Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. **7** Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. **8** Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. **9** Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. **10** Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. **11** But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them. **12** I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. **13** I am

writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. **14** I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. **15** Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. **16** For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. **17** The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. **18** Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. **19** They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. **20** But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. **21** I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. **22** Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. **23** No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. **24** As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. **25** And this is what he promised us—eternal life. **26** I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. **27** As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. **28** And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. **29** If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

**3:1** See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **3** All

who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. **4** Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. **5** But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. **6** No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. **7** Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. **8** The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. **9** No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. **10** This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. **11** For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. **12** Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. **13** Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. **15** Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. **16** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. **17** If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? **18** Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. **19** This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: **20** If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. **21** Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God **22** and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. **23** And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. **24** The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.