

Questions Asked By High Schoolers – Part 27

Michael R. Daily, January 2026

Other youth bible studies by Michael Daily available at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

These questions were submitted anonymously by a group of 50 high-schoolers who regularly attend church & AWANAs.

Why is Baptism associated with salvation in the Book of Acts?

The word “baptize” means “to submerge or immerse.” When the Bible uses the word “baptize” it means that a person was completely immersed in something. Many of the New Testament passages using the word “baptism” are talking about being immersed in the Holy Spirit when we become Christians (**I Corinthians 12:13**). This is a way of describing that when we became Christians we were permanently washed, regenerated, and sealed with the Holy Spirit (**Titus 3:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 6:1-7**). Water baptism is an outward symbol of our spiritual baptism into the body of Christ. Salvation and regeneration come when we receive and are baptized in the Holy Spirit at conversion, but water baptism is the outward expression of that event. Coming out of the water represents the beginning of a new life committed to obediently following Christ (**II Corinthians 5:17**). It is a demonstration to other Christians that we will follow and obey Christ, and it is a critical step in revealing whether our faith is real or not. Why? Becoming a Christian means that you have changed your mind (repented) about who will decide how you will live your life. Since Jesus is now your Lord, you are saying that He knows how you should live your life better than you do, and you are going to follow and obey Him. The first command Jesus gives all new Christians is to be baptized. So, if I don’t do that I am saying, “I commit to following Christ”, then I immediately say “no” to the first thing He tells me to do! If that happens then it’s clear that my profession of faith was not real. This is why baptism is so important. It reveals to ourselves and others what we really believe and protects us from self-deception. It is also one of our first efforts to be a witness for Christ and it provides great encouragement to the church to see God working in other people’s lives. In a nutshell, baptism engages the new Christian directly in Obedience to God’s Word, Witnessing, and Fellowship – some of the foundations of the Christian faith (**Colossians 2:9-14**). But baptism is not part of the salvation process. We are saved by faith alone (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

Baptism Is Not a Salvation Requirement – It’s an Obedience Issue!

I Corinthians 1:14 - I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius. Why would Paul say this if baptism was required for salvation? He would be thanking God that none were saved except Crispus and Gaius!

I Corinthians 1:17 - For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void. If baptism was required for salvation, then Paul would be saying, “Christ did not send me to bring salvation but to preach the gospel for some other reason” (note: the background of the passage is that groups of people were putting an inappropriate emphasis on who baptized them. Paul isn’t against baptism, he is just trying to make a point that baptism does not replace salvation by grace). **I Corinthians 15:1-8** provides a detailed outline of the most important elements of the gospel by which men are saved. There is no mention of baptism in these verses! Jesus promised that the thief crucified next to Him would be in Paradise that day, but the thief had no way to get baptized (**Luke 23:39-43**). Therefore, baptism can’t be a requirement for going to heaven.

Infant Baptism & Baptism for the Dead

If you believe that baptism is required to go to heaven you end up in some strange places. One place you end up is, baptizing newborn babies (e.g., Catholics). Why? Imagine you are the parent of a newborn baby, and you believe your child cannot go to heaven unless they are baptized. What would happen if they were to die while still a baby? Your child would not go to heaven, and it would be your fault because you did not baptize your child! So, you get that done as soon as possible. Another strange place you end up is, baptism for the dead (e.g., Mormons). Why would people do that? Imagine that good old Uncle Harry died, and he was a nice person, but Uncle Harry never did get baptized. So, Uncle Harry is sitting just outside heaven, and he can’t get in because he was never baptized. Let’s help out Uncle Harry and go down to the temple and get baptized for him. Then he will be allowed into heaven! Salvation comes through faith, by grace. There is nothing in the Bible that supports the need to complete a ritual action to enter heaven.

Baptism Soon After Becoming a Christian was Expected in the New Testament

During Biblical times, changing religions was often signified by baptism. People joining the Jewish faith were baptized, although its meaning was different than in Christian baptism (note: converts to the Jewish faith today are still baptized). So, there was a cultural expectation that if you became a Christian, you would immediately be baptized (**Acts 9:17-18, Acts 16:14-15, Acts 16:29-33, Acts 18:8**). “*The idea of an unbaptized Christian is simply not entertained in the New Testament.*” – **F.F. Bruce**. This is why some scripture passages show a close link between salvation and baptism. It’s not because it’s a requirement of salvation (it’s not) but because it’s the first step of obedience God expects from us.

How to Interpret Verses That Seem To Indicate Baptism is Required for Salvation

There are a few passages of scripture that people will point to as support for the idea that baptism is required for salvation. As stated previously, some form of baptism was a common cultural expectation during New Testament times

for people changing their religion. Converts to Judaism were baptized as part of a ritual cleansing ceremony. John the Baptist also baptized people with a baptism of repentance from sin in preparation for the Savior who would soon be revealed, but its purpose and meaning was different than the baptism of a Christian convert (**Acts 19:3-5**). So culturally it would have been a common expectation in the society of New Testament Israel for a new Christian to immediately be baptized after conversion. This baptism, in addition to being an act of obedience to Christ, was an outward demonstration of saving faith. However, the concept of baptism is not as familiar in many cultures as it was in New Testament Israel. So, what we see in the New Testament is the emerging of the action of immediately praying to receive Christ as a demonstration of saving faith, followed a little later by baptism.

Note that in the Book of Acts there are no examples of anyone praying to receive Christ! Why? Because everyone immediately submitted to baptism after conversion. Baptism provided the demonstration of faith that praying to receive Christ provides today. Also, the confusion created by infant baptism did not exist in the New Testament as it does today. The concept of praying to receive Christ as Lord and Savior was a developing concept in the New Testament as the gospel message spread outside of Israel. Note that most of the verses we use today that talk about receiving Christ (**John 1:12, Revelation 3:20**) are in the books authored by John the Apostle. These are the last books in the Bible to have been written (about 30 years after Acts was). So, as the gospel message spread out to the rest of the world, the concept of receiving Christ as Lord and Savior shows up in John's books. What this means is, we can use the idea of praying to receive Christ to better understand some of the problem passages related to conversions in the early church. Let's look at some verses that people use to argue that baptism is required for salvation. As we look at these verses ask yourself this question - if I replace "baptism" with "praying to receive Christ" does it make it easier to understand?

Acts 2:38&41 - Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit....." ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. "Repent, and each of you pray to receive Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit". "So then, those who had received his word prayed to receive Christ and that day there were added about 3,000 souls".

Mark 16:16 - He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. "He who has believed and has prayed to receive Christ shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned"

I Peter 3:21 - Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, "Corresponding to that, praying to receive Christ now saves you –"

Does praying to receive Christ save you? No, just as getting baptized does not save you. You are saved by faith and that faith is demonstrated by a willingness to pray to receive Christ and a willingness to be baptized. The problem is, other people cannot see your faith. All they can see is your outward actions. As a result, from the viewpoint of an outside observer, they might describe what they are seeing as praying to receive Christ saves you, or getting baptized saves you. **Acts 22:16 - Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.** "Now why do you delay? Get up and pray to receive Christ, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."

Born of Water?

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. This verse is sometimes misinterpreted to mean that you must be baptized in water, or you cannot enter God's kingdom. In reality, to be born of water means to be born physically. You may hear a pregnant woman that is starting the labor process say something like, "my water broke". This is because during a normal human birth there is a release of "water" which is really amniotic fluid. Everyone alive on the Earth was physically "born of water". So, Jesus is saying that in order for an adult to enter the kingdom of heaven, they must be physically born and then spiritually born again. Note: there are other passages that deal with the unborn and very young children going to heaven.

Does this mean that if we prayed to receive Christ we don't have to get baptized?

No. Baptism is a command that God expects us to obey today (**Matthew 28:18-20**). So, if you are a Christian and you have not been baptized yet, take care of that as soon as possible.

For more information on this topic please see, "Baptism & Salvation", and "The Conversion and Baptism of Paul" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(I Corinthians 12:13, Titus 3:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 6:1-7, II Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 2:9-14, Ephesians 2:8-9, I Corinthians 1:14, I Corinthians 1:17, I Corinthians 15:1-8, Luke 23:39-43, Acts 9:17-18, Acts 16:14-33, Acts 18:8, Acts 19:3-5, John 1:12, Revelation 3:20, Acts 2:38-41, Mark 16:16, I Peter 3:21, Acts 22:16, John 3:5, Matthew 28:18-20)

Is it OK for Christians to like fantasy fandoms with magic, lore-based gods & evil looking monsters?

Let's start by defining some terms.

- Fantasy:** *a genre of speculative fiction that involves supernatural or magical elements, often including completely imaginary realms and creatures*
- Fandom:** *a subculture composed of fans characterized by a feeling of camaraderie with others who share a common interest. Fans are interested in even minor details of the objects of their fandom and spend a significant portion of their time and energy involved with their interest, often as a part of a social network with particular practices, differentiating fandom-affiliated people from those with only a casual interest*
- Subculture:** *a group of people within a society that differentiates itself from the values of the mainstream or dominant culture to which it belongs. Subcultures develop their own norms and values regarding cultural, political, and sexual matters. Subcultures coexist within society while keeping their specific characteristics intact*

The first big issue we will discuss is the displacement of time

This, I think, is one of satan's best "judo moves" in today's world. If I can get you to enjoy spending the majority of your free time on things that have no eternal value – I win and you lose!

Proverbs 21:17 - He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not become rich.

Luke 8:14 - The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

Being part of a Fandom requires a person to spend a large portion of their free time supporting a social network with particular practices that encourage (i.e., require) someone to adapt their beliefs and behaviors to a subculture having its own norms and values. If you are spending a lot of time on things like this (i.e., fandoms, TV, movies, video games, phone scrolling, various social media) this is time that you are not really developing new skills. Although it may be fun to do these things, if this is where most of your free time is going it can leave you feeling frustrated and with low self-worth because you are not really progressing like you should (**Ephesians 5:15-17, Proverbs 21:25**). The average person spends 3.5 hours per day, every day, engaged with their electronics for leisure. Why not reduce this 3.5 hours of intake from the satanic world system and increase our time for taking in and meditating on God's Word and working on other skills and knowledge? We can do that if we want to. Try shutting off and powering down all of your electronics every day for 30 to 60 minutes and use that time for things that build your skills and your relationship with God. Then, later in the day, when you have the satisfaction of completing these investments in yourself, then you can watch a little TV or a movie, or look at your phone or play a video game. Even then we need to be selective about what we watch.

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

You may not think that this time in God's Word (even just reading one chapter a day) could make that much difference, but it does (**Romans 12:2**). Meditating on scripture keeps us from being conformed to this world's way of thinking, renews our mind to think more the way that God thinks about things, and helps us understand what the will of God is. As a result, we will feel better and won't have the anxiety and depression that those have who instead meditate on the messages of satan's World System (**II Corinthians 1:3-5, Philippians 4:6-7**). For more on this topic please see, "How To Develop A Biblical Worldview", available at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

The second big issue is content

Does the content of the Fandom have any inherent value other than entertainment? Does it teach you new skills or enable you to grow toward your goals in life? Does it glorify violence or worthless things?

Psalms 101:3 - I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.

Psalms 11:5 - The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates.

We like to think we can watch anything and listen to anything and it doesn't affect us – but it does.

Proverbs 4:23 - Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.

Colossians 3:2 - Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

What we allow our minds and hearts to dwell on affects our destiny. Contrary to popular belief, your successes and failures in life will be determined by a series of small decisions, each of which, at the time, does not seem significant (but they are). The outcome of these small decisions will be determined by what you allow your heart and mind to dwell on, which directly relates to what you watch and listen to. This is why God says we need to be diligent in controlling what we allow into our hearts and minds – it will determine the course of our lives. Satan has set things up so that we are exposed to a relentless stream of the World System's values all day long through social media, the news, TV shows, movies, games, our phones, and other things. As a result, we end up thinking about and meditating on the values of the satanic World System, even if we don't want to. **Meditate: to give serious and careful thought to. To ruminate, chew over, think about, question, or wrestle with in our thoughts.** Whether we want to or not, our minds think about whatever is put in front of them. This is why corporations spend so much money on advertising. The more the idea of buying a product is put in front of someone, the higher the likelihood they will take action and buy the product – it works!

A recent news article titled, *"Taylor Swift Makes Sure Never to Do This 1 Thing. Neuroscience Says She's Right"*, revealed what Taylor Swift does to improve her happiness and reduce anxiety. She keeps social media apps off her phone. Ms. Swift says, *"Anything you put in your brain, it's gonna, like, internalize," Swift said. "I have a real priority on being peaceful and happy. I'm not going to have a messy, dramatic feeling about something that doesn't actually matter and isn't real. Because we live in a moment of a lot of rage baiting. Getting attention has been monetized. So you have to just know what world we live in."* More importantly, the article goes on to state, *"A large number of studies have shown that eliminating social media use makes people both happier and mentally healthier. In one study, after just a week without social media, subjects had greater wellbeing, and less depression and anxiety than those in a control group who didn't change their social media usage"*. <https://apple.news/AkYOReZeiTF6U5gaEP1mTMQ>

As you decide what to do keep these principles in mind:

- 1) Satan wants to divert your time and attention to as many things as possible that have no eternal value. Don't let him.
- 2) Make sure the content of your entertainment has values that are not in opposition to God's values.

(Proverbs 21:17, Luke 8:14, Ephesians 5:15-17, Proverbs 21:25, Philippians 4:8, Romans 12:2, II Corinthians 1:3-5, Philippians 4:6-7, Psalm 101:3, Psalm 11:5, Proverbs 4:23, Colossians 3:2)

What is leadership and why is it important?

reference: The Extraordinary Leader, John H. Zenger & Joseph Folkman, ISBN 0-07-138747-1

The Bible describes leadership not as a position but as being a living example that others want to imitate and being someone that others choose to be influenced by (**I Thessalonians 1:1-10, Hebrews 13:7**). Why are people so interested in leadership? Because studies have shown that people who are perceived to be leaders have, on average, 15 times more productive impact than someone who is diligent and hardworking, but not a leader. American business and the U.S. military have spent many millions of dollars on research on understanding leadership. The first question they looked at is: are leaders born or can they be made? The research showed that leaders can be made - you can train and develop someone into a leader. Of course, we knew this from the Word of God before the research was done. **II Timothy 2:2 - The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.** Faithful men can be taught to be leaders. Second, if it is possible to make leaders, how exactly do you go about doing it? The results shocked the researchers because it was not what they expected.

Research has found that there are about 16 leadership skills. Most are interpersonal skills and a few are technical skills. In each of these skills a person is either Incompetent, has Basic Competency, has Average Competency, has Above Average Competency, or has Extraordinary Competency. What the research found is that other people view someone with a skill that is above Basic Competency but below Extraordinary Competency as basically being the same. So, anything that falls anywhere in this band is thought of by most people as the same - as being average - at least in terms of viewing someone as a leader. On the other hand, if a person is Extraordinarily Competent at one thing people, because of the way they are wired, assume the person is competent in other areas of life, until proven otherwise. They give you the benefit of the doubt, and they listen to what you have to say about things other than what you are extraordinarily competent at – this is called the Halo Effect. People key off certain things. It's just the way they are. **I Samuel 16:7 - But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."**

You're watching TV and a commercial comes on showing a famous basketball player in slow motion doing his slam dunks and draining his 3-point shots – then he stops, looks in the camera, and he holds it up, what is it? The shoe, or the underwear, or whatever it is. Now, do you really believe that that basketball player is the most technically knowledgeable person to talk about that shoe? Of course not. So why is he on TV instead of someone else? The reason is, he is extraordinarily competent at putting a ball through an apparatus and because of that extraordinary competency there is a segment of the population that wants to hear whatever he has to say. They will listen closely to what he says about the shoe and will consider it and a certain percentage of them will then go out and buy the shoe. It works – that's why

American business keeps doing it. A famous actor is giving testimony to congress about environmental issues. Now, do you really believe that actor is the most scientifically knowledgeable person about environmental issues? Of course not. So why are they talking to congress? Because this person is extraordinarily competent at playacting, congressmen are very interested to hear whatever they have to say – it's the halo effect. It doesn't matter what the competency is in – it might be sports, or music, or math – it could be chess. Did you know that if you are a grand master in chess there are millions of people in the world that would love to hear whatever you have to say? It doesn't matter what it is – if you have an extraordinary competency in something, a certain segment of the population will be interested to hear whatever you have to say. They may or may not agree with what you say but they will listen and consider it.

As a result, the least effective way for someone to improve their ability to be a leader is to work on all the skills that they are not extraordinary at and improve them, but not to an Extraordinary Competency level. Why? Because even though a great deal of effort and improvement will occur, the perception of the person by others (as a leader) will not change. As a result, the person trying to become a leader will get discouraged. They have worked very hard to improve and yet people still don't listen to them – they must be a real loser to work that hard and improve so much and still see no impact from it. They will then give up and decide to live life as someone who can never be a leader, its too hard and they must be too far away to achieve it. Instead, they need to identify the one or two things they are really good at and pour their energy into getting even better in those things and push them to an Extraordinary level. If they do that it will take less work, be more fun, and will result in 72% of people viewing them as a leader! So, the best way for someone to improve their ability to be perceived as a leader is to find one or two things that they are naturally Above Average at and then develop those few skills to an Extraordinary Competency level. An example of this can be seen in the popular 1986 movie, "Top Gun" about a class of Navy fighter pilots attending the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School. In real life only 5% of Navy fighter pilots (i.e., naval aviators) can attend the school. Using the research on leadership, the school selects the top 5% best fighter pilots in the fleet, based on their natural skills, talents, and abilities, and sends them to this school. In the movie, the class is listening to their senior instructor's introductory talk and this is what he says: *"Gentlemen, you are the top 1% of all naval aviators - the elite, the best of the best. We'll make you better. Fly at least two combat missions a day, attend classes in between, and evaluations of your performance. Now in each combat sequence you're going to meet a different challenge. Every encounter is going to be much more difficult. We're going to teach you to fly the F-14 right to the edge of the envelop, faster than you've ever flown before - and more dangerous."* - **Commander Mike "Viper" Metcalf, Top Gun Commanding Officer, Top Gun Movie Character**

In real life, the Top Gun graduates return to their squadrons and are expected to become leaders in teaching other pilots the things they learned at the school. And because these pilots have reached an Extraordinary Competency level, the other pilots are willing to listen to them, learn from them, and be influenced by them.

In addition to having one or more Extraordinary Competencies there is a second thing that is required in order to be perceived as a leader - not having any "fatal flaws". A fatal flaw is when a person is Incompetent at one of the leadership skills. Fatal flaws have a negative halo effect that is more powerful than anything else. So, if you want to be a leader the first thing you have to do is get rid of any fatal flaws you have. Then focus on improving your one or two best strengths to an extraordinary level. Fatal flaws do not have to be improved to a high level of competency. Just to a level of Basic Competency. Lets talk about what the most common fatal flaws are. The interesting thing about these fatal flaws is that they are not technical in nature. In other words, you can work on them right now as a teenager. The biggest fatal flaw has been found to be a lack of character. Contrary to what you might see in the movies, personal character plays the biggest role in whether or not other people perceive you to be a leader (**II Corinthians 8:21-23**).

The other most common fatal flaws are:

1. **Inability to learn from mistakes** – hid mistakes, did not alert others quickly, did not take quick action to fix, and did not move on but brooded about it. Everyone makes mistakes. When I make a mistake at work I am usually in my boss's office that same day giving him a "heads up" on what I did so that he is not caught off guard when he finds out from someone else. People who do not handle their mistakes appropriately are not viewed as leaders.
2. **Lack of core interpersonal skills** – being abrasive, arrogant, or mean. Also, if you do not do the following people will not view you as a leader even if you have an extraordinary competency:
 - Look people in the eye when you talk to them. Learn and use people's names**
 - Say & do things that communicate you are listening/understanding** (nod your head)
 - Do not dominate the conversation – get them to talk. Inquire about other's ideas and activities**
 - Laugh at their jokes** (one of my customers did not want to work with one of my staff. When I asked why he thought for a moment and said, "He doesn't laugh in the right places")
 - Praise others hard work and effort when they deserve it.**
 - Smile when meeting and greeting other people.** (even when you don't feel like it)
3. **Lack of openness to new or different ideas** (reacting negatively when someone has a new idea)
4. **Lack of accountability/attitude of responsibility** (its not my fault, blaming other people, making excuses)
5. **Lack of Initiative** (Its not my job)

Notice that all of these are things you can work on right now as a teenager.

Key Point: *Get rid of your fatal flaws now so that you can focus on your competencies later.*

Starting in mid-school and up through high school Satan is going to hammer you with a message every day. He's going to point to each of your skills and tell you that you are not very good at this and you are only average at that and, yes, you are good at that one thing but that thing is kind of silly and not very important. He's going to say, "It seems to me that there are an awful lot of people who are better than you at an awful lot of things. You know kid, I'm not sure you have what it takes to make it in the adult world. It's a complicated place and I'm not sure you can cut it. Leader! I'm not sure you'll even survive!" It's important to understand that these are all lies. Things don't work that way. What you should say instead is: "I'm OK at this and above average at that, and not so good at this, but look at this thing God has given me that I am good at. That's my ticket." And that is what you should develop and bring to an extraordinary level. God has given you natural talents and gifts. If you are a Christian, He has given you at least one supernatural spiritual gift. These are the things that you can develop to an extraordinary level.

So, how do you figure out what you are good at? Try lots of things and see how you do. Someone may come up to you after something and say, "Hey, you're pretty good at that!" If 4 people come up to you and say that, guess what? You're probably pretty good at it. Then find out who the top people in America are at the thing you are good at. Read their book, take their class, go to their workshop, call them on the phone and ask questions – dive in, engage, and push it to an extraordinary level and people will begin to view you as a leader. They will listen to what you have to say and will consider it – they may not always agree or believe you, but they will listen carefully to what you have to say and will consider it. For a more detailed study on this topic please see, "Overview of Leadership for Teenagers", at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(I Thessalonians 1:1-10, Hebrews 13:7, II Timothy 2:2, I Samuel 16:7, II Corinthians 8:21-23)

Why is my life so boring, repetitive, and pointless without anything fun happening?

Please read the answers to the previous two questions first. The primary reason you are feeling this way is because you are transitioning from being a child to being an adult. As a result, the activities of childhood no longer seem interesting, challenging, or fun (**I Corinthians 13:11**). That's a good thing! It's time now to shift your mindset and activities to those of an adult. As a high school student you only have a few years left before you will be a legal adult (i.e., age 18) and will be making adult decisions that will impact the course of your life. It's best to spend these next few years gaining wisdom and experiences that will prepare you to be successful in your adult life.

Dr. James Dobson compares this transition to a spaceship launching. Some young people launch successfully because they are well prepared (**Proverbs 4:7**). Others blow up on the launch pad or struggle to reach an optimal orbit (**Proverbs 3:35**). It's an interesting analogy. For example, when we sent astronauts to the Moon for the first time how did we do it? It was something that was extremely dangerous and it was impossible to gain experience doing it. You get one shot. You succeed or fail. No do overs! The way we prepared for it was the extensive use of physical simulations. We built replicas of the actual ships and equipment that would be used but modified them so that problems could be intentionally introduced during the simulated mission to see how the engineers and astronauts would respond. During the simulations the engineers and astronauts would experience the same emotions and constraints they would experience during a real mission. Hundreds of simulations were done with every possible problem introduced into the simulations. The result was that most of the time the astronauts and engineers would make the wrong decision or response and the mission would fail. They would then talk about why the action or decision made seemed like the right one, but turned out to be wrong. They then figured out what a better response would have been and ran the simulation again. Eventually, they would figure out the best course of action to solve each problem resulting in a successful mission and they would practice them over and over until they became automatic responses.

If we can do something similar as teens to prepare for launch into the adult world that could increase our chances of success without having to learn everything the hard way (i.e., by failing first). The good news is researchers have found that for most of the activities of life, a mental simulation is just as effective as a physical simulation.

What is a mental simulation? It's basically a well-crafted story about what happened to someone in a particular life situation where they had to choose from multiple courses of action. The story contains all the relevant information to make a decision as well as multiple courses of action to choose from. One of the more popular, but wrong, courses of action is taken (in the story) and the result is revealed including the results, constraints, and emotions the person would experience which comes as a surprise to the person listening. The best course of action, although not something that is popular, is then described along with the positive results and emotions that would be experienced.

Reference: "Made To Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive And Others Die", Chip & Dan Heath, Random House, 2007.

So, where can a teen get these stories (i.e., mental simulations)? They come in various forms but there are really only two primary sources: 1) The Bible (**Proverbs 6:23**), and 2) Experienced people who have passed through these life decisions and have come out on the other side successfully (**Job 12:12, Proverbs 10:14, Proverbs 13:20**). For example, there is one book of the Bible, Proverbs, that states that the reason God wrote that specific book was to give wisdom to teenagers! Teens should be reading out of the book of Proverbs everyday!

Proverbs 1:1-4 [AMP]

The proverbs (truths obscurely expressed, maxims) of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: ² To know [skillful and godly] wisdom and instruction; To discern *and* comprehend the words of understanding *and* insight, ³ To receive instruction in wise behavior *and* the discipline of wise thoughtfulness, Righteousness, justice, and integrity; ⁴ That prudence (good judgment, astute common sense) may be given to the naive or inexperienced [who are easily misled], And knowledge and discretion (intelligent discernment) to the youth,

The second source is stories from experienced people who have passed through these life decisions and have come out on the other side successfully. Your parents might be a good source for some of these stories. There are also Christian books written that can provide this type of wisdom. I have a website with Bible studies (that can be downloaded for free) for teens that is designed to address most of the information and decisions teens need to prepare for to have a successful adult life. You can find the website by searching on, "Michael R. Daily youth bible studies", or use this link:

<http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

You can also engage in Christian disciplines and ministry service activities and develop your skills and experience in these areas. Focus on developing and applying the disciplines of the Christian life (daily Bible reading, attending/leading Bible studies, memorizing scripture, prayer, learning how and sharing the gospel, learning how to fellowship with other Christians, giving, serving, abstaining from sexual immorality and sensuality). This is by far the most important thing.

Lamentations 3:27 [AMP] - It is good for a man that he should bear The yoke [of godly discipline] in his youth.

Then, talk to your youth minister about what mission opportunities are available. As you get older there will be more options for missions available to you in terms of short-term mission trips.

Think about what your next step as an adult is going to be. Are you going to get a job? If so what type? What can you do right now to prepare for that job? You can usually find an organization associated with that profession that can help you get that information. Are you going to join the military? Again, use the internet to investigate what your options are, what it will be like, and how to prepare. Are you going to go to college first and get a degree? Again, start investigating what jobs result from which degrees and what you will need to do to prepare. For example, before I went to college I decided I wanted to get an engineering degree and I found out that I could take some tests and get college credit ahead of time. I did some independent studying over the summer after graduating from high school, then spent a day taking tests at the college I wanted to go to. I was able to get credit for a full semester (half a year) of college classes just by preparing for and taking a few hours of tests. This gave me some flexibility throughout my time in college that I was able to leverage by spending more of my time on Christian ministry activities. How about marriage? What are you doing to prepare for a successful Christian marriage? Are you going to be a stay-at-home Mom? If so that's great! What are you doing now to prepare for that? How about financial literacy? Now is a good time to be learning about how to handle money, saving, and investing. Exercise will become more important as you get older in order to maintain your health. Its time to start developing a regular exercise program that you can sustain and enjoy. There is no shortage of things to learn and activities to be involved with in preparation for being a successful adult (**Prov 24:5, Prov 15:31, Prov 12:15, Prov 13:10**).

They are just different from what you did as a child. For more information on this topic as well as some examples of mental simulations please see, "Walking With Wise Men" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(I Corinthians 13:11, Proverbs 4:7, Proverbs 3:35, Proverbs 6:23, Job 12:12, Proverbs 10:14, Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 1:1-4, Lamentations 3:27, Proverbs 24:5, Proverbs 15:31, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 13:10)

How should we act toward people who do awful things like rape or kidnapping, murder, etc.

You can't trust a kidnapper around children so do we treat them differently?

The things listed in this question are unusual sins done intentionally by someone that cause severe damage, suffering, or death to someone else. As a result, God directs that the secular government act as His avenger to bring condemnation and wrath against these people (**Romans 13:1-4, Proverbs 20:26, I Timothy 1:9-10**).

Romans 13:1-4

Every person is to be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. ³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴ for it is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a servant of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

condemnation: *to declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil usually after weighing evidence and without reservation*
avenger: *one who inflicts punishment in retaliation for an injury or offense*
wrath: *strong vengeful anger; retributory punishment for an offense or a crime*

Notice that God has given this function to the secular government and not to us as individual citizens. For the three crimes you have mentioned, God has communicated what the sentence should be for each of these. For kidnapping, the sentence is to be death (**Exodus 21:16, Deuteronomy 24:7**). For murder, the sentence is to be death (**Genesis 9:6, Exodus 21:12, Numbers Chapter 35**). For rape, the sentence is to be death (**Deuteronomy 22:25-27**). This is not surprising given the severity of these particular crimes. Not all crimes lead to death (**I John 5:16-17**), but these particular crimes are supposed to. God also states that it is important to execute a criminal's sentence quickly and not let a lot of time go by once they have been convicted because if the sentence is not executed quickly evil people are encouraged in their criminal behaviors (**Ecclesiastes 8:11**). Eight times in the Bible God states that the death penalty is necessary to "purge the evil from among you". Since these people are to be put to death quickly by the government, there is no direction given in the Bible for how we, as citizens, are to treat them, since they should not be among us.

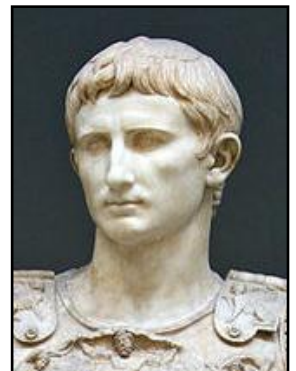
But what happens if you live in a society where the secular government does not follow God's sentencing plan for criminals? In this situation, these people continue to live. They often spend time in prison but, eventually, many of them will be released back into society. As a result, we (citizens) will have to provide oversight and controls to protect innocent people from them possibly committing similar crimes again. For example, if I was pastoring a church that had a pedophile recovery support group I would prohibit access to areas where children are present and I would have security people watching over their meetings at all times. This doesn't mean that we don't love these people and forgive them when they are repentant. But it does mean that we recognize that they have succumbed to unusual and highly destructive temptations in the past and are vulnerable to doing so again. We also recognize that innocent people need to be protected from them if they do fall into these sins again.

(Romans 13:1-4, Proverbs 20:26, I Timothy 1:9-10, Exodus 21:16, Deuteronomy 24:7, Genesis 9:6, Exodus 21:12, Numbers Chapter 35, Deuteronomy 22:25-27, I John 5:16-17, Ecclesiastes 8:11)

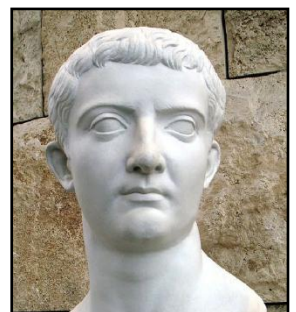
How long was Jesus' hair?

Jesus is commonly imagined to have European facial features and long hair due to the earliest paintings of Jesus showing Him looking that way. The problem is, most of the well-known paintings of Jesus were first created during the Renaissance and were funded by the kings of Europe or by other rich people of that time period. Since the kings of Renaissance Europe were paying for the paintings to be made, they wanted Jesus to look like them - with long hair. This is why most images of Jesus today show him with long hair and European features.

But the Bible tells us that Jesus had short hair. **I Corinthians 11:14-15 - Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him.¹⁵ but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? For her hair is given to her for a covering.** The Bible makes it clear that long hair is not God's will for men. Since Jesus always did the will of God in all things, He would not violate scripture by having long hair. Therefore, Jesus had short hair. *"Oh, but Mr. Daily, in the culture of that time period perhaps what we think of as being long hair was actually considered short in that culture!"* That's easy to check. We can look at artifacts from that time period and see what the prevailing hairstyles were. Roman emperors had their image minted on the currency of the day and many of these coins are in existence today. The picture on the right is a statue of Imperator Caesar Divi Filius Augustus (aka Caesar Augustus of **Luke 2:1**), the first emperor of Rome, who reigned from 12 BC to 14 AD. Notice he had short hair.



The second picture is a bust of Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti Filius Augustus (aka Tiberius Caesar of **Luke 3:1**), second emperor of Rome (14 AD to 37 AD). He also had short hair. Before, during, and after the time of Christ, every Roman ruler from Julius Caesar to Trajan had short hair. But what about the people of Israel during the time of Christ? What was their hairstyle? Unlike the Greeks and Romans, the people of Israel did not like to make graven images of themselves, but others did it for them.



For example, the Arch of Titus in Rome was built around 82 AD by the Roman emperor Domitian to commemorate the military victories of his older brother, Titus, including the Siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD that ended the nation of Israel for 1,875 years.

This Roman monument shows enslaved men of Israel being taken off into captivity. The monument shows that the Hebrew men had short hair. As you can see, the definitions of short and long hair during the time of Christ are about the same as they are today. *"Oh, but Mr. Daily, Jesus had long hair because He was a member of the Nazarite sect. They did not believe in cutting their hair. After all He was known as Jesus the Nazarene!"* These are not the same thing. Being a Nazarene means a person is from the town of Nazareth, nothing more (**Matthew 2:19-23**). In Jesus' time, the word "Nazarene" not only referred to someone from Nazareth, but was also used to mean that something or someone was "despised" or held in contempt (**John 1:45-47**).



"Nazarene is not at all the same word as Nazarite. It is a different word in the Hebrew and you must not confuse the two. Never suppose that when you say, 'He shall be called a Nazarene,' that it signifies that He was called a Nazarite. Nazarite, among the Jews, would have been a title of honor, but Nazarene is simply a name of contempt."
 – Charles H. Spurgeon, Sermon No. 1632, "The Nazarene and the Sect of the Nazarenes", page 2.

There was no sect or group of people referred to as "Nazarites". However, the Old Testament does make reference to the Nazirite Vow. The Nazirite Vow came into existence before the town of Nazareth even existed. There is no relationship between the words Nazareth and Nazirite. The term Nazirite Vow refers to a short-term vow (thought to be typically 30 to 100 days long) that a Jewish person could make to demonstrate their willingness to be set apart for the service of God. There is no record in the Bible that either Jesus or His parents declared Jesus to be dedicated to God under a Nazirite Vow. The requirements of the Nazirite Vow are detailed in **Numbers 6:1-20**. During the time period of the Nazirite Vow the person cannot drink any alcoholic beverages, vinegar, or grape juice and they cannot eat any grapes, raisins, or anything that includes elements of the grapevine including grape seeds or the skin of grapes. They also cannot cut their hair but must let it grow and they cannot go near a dead person nor attend funerals even for close family members. In addition, if someone dies unexpectedly next to someone under a Nazirite Vow the person under the vow would have to shave their head, offer doves, pigeons, and a lamb for a sacrifice and their previous efforts under the vow would be declared void and they would essentially have to start over (**Numbers 6:9-12**). At the completion of their vow they would also shave their head (i.e. they would not continue to have long hair once the vow was completed) and would go back to drinking wine and would be released from all the requirements of the vow (**Numbers 6:13-20**). The next question is, "Is it possible to be under the Nazirite Vow for a person's entire life?" Yes. There appear to be three possible examples of this in scripture. In all three cases women who were barren were given sons. In all three cases their parents put them under a lifelong vow before they were born. A barren woman was told by an angel to put her future son (Samson) under a lifelong Nazirite Vow (**Judges 13:3-7,24**). Another barren woman promised to dedicate her son to God if she could have a son. When the son was born (Samuel) he lived separated from his parents in service to God from the day he started eating solid food (**I Samuel 1:11,20-28**). The third example is John The Baptist. The angel Gabriel stated that John would drink no wine or liquor. John appears to have been under a vow and lived an eccentric life in the desert until his public appearance (**Luke 1:7-15, 80**).

Note: *In contrast to these events the angel that appeared to Mary made no mention of razors or wine drinking restrictions in the instructions given to Jesus' parents as were made to Samson's and John's parents. Also, there is no mention of Mary or Joseph dedicating Jesus under a Nazirite Vow as was done by Samuel's mother. In other words, we see no evidence that Jesus was under a Nazirite Vow.*

In fact, just the opposite. Compared to the eccentric ways of John the Baptist, Jesus appeared to be a wine drinker and someone who ate anything (**Luke 7:33-34**). If Jesus was under a Nazirite Vow we know that as the perfect Son of God He would have met all of the requirements perfectly. But when we look at the scriptures, we see multiple instances where Jesus violated the Nazirite Vow requirements – specifically drinking wine (**Luke 22:17-20, Mark 15:36-37**) and intentionally approaching dead people (**John 11:14-15, Luke 7:11-17, Luke 8:49-55**).

Key Point: *Jesus was not under a Nazirite Vow and therefore, He had short hair.*

Why Is This Important?

The primary reason this is important is because it reveals what our final authority on Biblical doctrine is. If the Bible is the Word of God then Jesus had short hair because of **I Corinthians 11:14-15** (a doctrinal passage).

For a detailed study on doctrine please see, "How To Avoid False Doctrine" at:

<http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

If we don't believe that Jesus had short hair then it reveals that we are either ignorant of this passage or that we are using something other than the Bible as our final authority on what is true and what is not. As a result, what the Bible says becomes optional. In this case we have elevated personal feelings, preferences, cultural norms, or paintings above the Word of God and are judging whether this aspect of the Bible is worthy of being believed and acted upon or not. This is why issues such as this that may appear, at first, to not be significant are actually critical to our faith. Why? Because if you can't believe the Bible when it clearly reveals the truth of something simple, like Jesus' hair, then you really have no reason to believe any of it – it all becomes optional.

What harm could it do to believe the idea that Jesus had long hair? Long hair in men, all else being equal, communicates that a man is eccentric (this was intentional in the Nazirite Vow), not part of the mainstream of society, has a rebellious nature, does not easily submit to authority, or is, perhaps, effeminate. Fathers know this instinctively and know that if their sons have long hair it will make a poorer first impression with other men who are in positions of authority or decision making. In order to spare their son the negative impact of this poor impression, the father pressures his son to get regular haircuts. And what happens? The son says, "But Jesus had long hair!" The father, not being aware of what the Bible says and having seen paintings of Jesus all over the walls of his church clearly showing Jesus having long hair, realizes that he has lost the argument. The father's authority has been undermined. But, the father still knows that he is right.

Many people claim to have seen visions of Jesus either in their dreams, visual appearances, or in objects such as the Shroud of Turin. In these appearances does Jesus have long hair? If so, and we believe the Bible, we know immediately that the appearance is not really Jesus. It may or may not be supernatural but its not from God. By believing what God has told us in the Bible about the length of Jesus' hair we have been prepared to spot these deceptions, and we can quickly take appropriate action.

For more information on this topic please see, "Why Jesus Had Short Hair & Why That's Important" and "The Dangers of Extra Biblical Revelation" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(I Cor 11:14-15, Luke 2:1, Luke 3:1, Matt 2:19-23, John 1:45-47, Numbers 6:1-20, Judges 13:3-24, I Sam 1:11-28, Luke 1:7-80, Luke 7:33-34, Luke 22:17-20, Mark 15:36-37, John 11:14-15, Luke 7:11-17, Luke 8:49-55)

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why is Baptism associated with salvation in the Book of Acts?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 12:13, Titus 3:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 6:1-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 2:9-14, Ephesians 2:8-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 1:14, I Corinthians 1:17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why is Baptism associated with salvation in the Book of Acts?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:1-8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 23:39-43*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 9:17-18, Acts 16:14-33, Acts 18:8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why is Baptism associated with salvation in the Book of Acts?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 19:3-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 1:12, Revelation 3:20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 2:38-41, Mark 16:16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why is Baptism associated with salvation in the Book of Acts?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 3:21, Acts 22:16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 3:5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 28:18-20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Is it OK for Christians to like fantasy fandoms (magic, lore-based gods & evil looking monsters)?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 21:17, Luke 8:14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 5:15-17, Proverbs 21:25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Philippians 4:8, Romans 12:2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Is it OK for Christians to like fantasy fandoms (magic, lore-based gods & evil looking monsters)?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 1:3-5, Philippians 4:6-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 101:3, Psalm 11:5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 4:23, Colossians 3:2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What is leadership and why is it important?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 1:1-10, Hebrews 13:7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 2:2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Samuel 16:7, II Corinthians 8:21-23*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why is my life so boring, repetitive, and pointless without anything fun happening?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 13:11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 4:7, Proverbs 3:35*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 6:23, Job 12:12, Proverbs 10:14, Proverbs 13:20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why is my life so boring, repetitive, and pointless without anything fun happening?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 1:1-4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Lamentations 3:27*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 24:5, Proverbs 15:31, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 13:10*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How should we act toward people who do awful things like rape, kidnapping, and murder?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 13:1-4, Proverbs 20:26, I Timothy 1:9-10*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 21:16, Deuteronomy 24:7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 9:6, Exodus 21:12, Numbers Chapter 35*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How should we act toward people who do awful things like rape, kidnapping, and murder?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 22:25-27*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I John 5:16-17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ecclesiastes 8:11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How long was Jesus' hair?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 11:14-15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 2:1, Luke 3:1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 2:19-23, John 1:45-47*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How long was Jesus' hair?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Numbers 6:1-20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Judges 13:3-24*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *1 Samuel 1:11-28*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How long was Jesus' hair?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 1:7-80*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 7:33-34, Luke 22:17-20, Mark 15:36-37*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 11:14-15, Luke 7:11-17, Luke 8:49-55*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?