

## Questions Asked By Mid-Schoolers – Part 22

Michael R. Daily, June 2024

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 30 mid-schoolers who regularly attend church & AWANAs.

### How do I know I have made the right friends?

The Bible talks about two different categories of friends that we should have. The first is the peer friend. **Peer:** *one that is of equal standing with another; one belonging to the same societal group especially based on age, grade, or status.* The second type of friend is a person who is beyond you in age, grade, or status. We will discuss the peer friend first. The Bible tells us that “*Bad company corrupts good morals*” (**I Corinthians 15:33-34**). In other words, negative peer pressure is very real and very damaging. If the friends you spend time with engage in sinful activities or unhealthy talk you will be strongly influenced by them. This is true whether they are Christians or not. Its OK to interact with sinful people as part of normal life (going to school, work, sports, etc) and to share the gospel with them (as an acquaintance) but you don’t want to make them your closest friends because they will affect you. Think of yourself standing on a chair trying to pull up someone who is standing next to you on the floor. It is much easier for the person standing on the floor to pull you down from the chair than it is for you to pull them up onto the chair with you. Instead we are looking for friends who have similar moral standards and a Biblical worldview that is similar to ours. These kinds of friends can encourage us in areas of the Christian life where we are weaker than them and we can encourage them in areas of the Christian life where they are weaker than us (**Hebrews 10:24-25, I Samuel 23:16, Romans 1:12, Hebrews 3:12-13**). In this way we can sharpen and help each other (**Proverbs 27:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**).

The Bible tells us to not associate with people who: slander, gossip, are prone to anger, steal, and who lack self-control (**Proverbs 20:19, Proverbs 22:24-25, Proverbs 29:24-25, Proverbs 28:7**). **slander:** *the utterance of false charges or misrepresentations which defame and damage another’s reputation.* **gossip:** *a person who habitually reveals personal or sensational facts about others.* In addition, we seem to live in a time today where some people advocate public protests that can turn violent or destructive in order to get what they want. Yet the Bible tells us to not associate with these kinds of people. **Proverbs 24:21-22 [AMP] - My son, fear the LORD and the king; And do not associate with those who are given to change [of allegiance, and are revolutionary],<sup>22</sup> For their tragedy will rise suddenly, And who knows the punishment that both [the LORD and the king] will bring on the rebellious? Revolutionary:** *tending to or promoting a sudden, radical, or complete change.* Note: there are rare times where changes are needed that are worth risking your life for (ex: the American Revolutionary War) but people who continuously take this approach for lesser issues are to be avoided.

The Bible also tells us to not associate with Christians who are immoral, covetous, swindlers, idolators, revilers, and drunkards (**I Corinthians 5:9-13**). **immoral:** *conflicting with generally held standards of right behavior.* **covetous:** *marked by a desire for wealth or possessions that exceeds reasonable limits, or a desire for someone else’s possessions.* **swindler:** *one who obtains money or property by fraud or deceit.* **idolator:** *a person that intensely admires something or someone that is not usually a subject of worship.* **reviler:** *one who verbally abuses other people using harsh, condemning language.* **drunkard:** *one who is habitually intoxicated to the point where physical and mental control is markedly diminished.* A true friend is always looking for ways to help you become more than you currently are! **friend:** *one attached to another by affection or high regard; one that supports, confirms, or promotes another; one that is not hostile.* Anyone who tries to pull you down or hold you back or who calls you an “overachiever” is not your friend. Anyone who punishes you emotionally for trying to excel or for not behaving the way they want you to, is not your friend. These are people who are trying to manipulate you into doing what they want you to do. What if you don’t respond immediately to their texts or instant messages? What will happen to you? If a quick response from you is a requirement for inclusion in their activities, they are not your friend!

The kinds of peer friends we are looking for live a life of integrity, speak truth, do not slander nor do evil to others, and don’t talk to their friends in ways that demonstrate disapproval, blame, or condemnation (**Psalms 15:1-3**). They also do not tell others about personal information we have shared with them (**Proverbs 17:9**) and they are consistent in having a positive view of us (**Proverbs 17:17**). A true friend cares about what is best for you (**Philippians 2:1-4**) and, as a result, they will correct you gently if you are going in the wrong direction (**Proverbs 27:6**), will give you advice or information that could be useful to you (**Proverbs 27:9**), will encourage you to continue following and obeying God, will help you do things that you are not strong enough to do on your own, and will be patient with you (**Romans 15:1-6, I Thess 5:14-15**). One question you can ask yourself is, “After I’ve spent time with this person do I feel closer to God or farther away from Him?”

In addition to peer friends the Bible recognizes another type of friend who is a person who is beyond you in age, grade, or status. The Bible refers to these people as wise men and people who are in authority. **Proverbs 13:20 – He who walks with wise men will be wise but the companion of fools will suffer harm.**

**Proverbs 22:11 – He who loves purity of heart and whose speech is gracious, the king is his friend.** Note: when the book of Proverbs refers to “the King” it is referring to anyone who is in a position of authority over you. So, not only can we have peer friends but also friends who are in a different peer group than we are in. Compared to you these wise men have less time, have more knowledge (**Proverbs 10:14**), have more understanding (**Proverbs 4:7**), have more honor and respect given to them (**Prov 3:35, Proverbs 22:29**), have more power or influence (**Proverbs 24:5**), and are selective with who they share their wisdom with (**Proverbs 23:9, Proverbs 3:7, Proverbs 20:3, Proverbs 3:35**). If we want to be friends with wise men and have access to their wisdom there are some things we can do to help this along. The first is to accept reproof from them (**Prov 6:23, Proverbs 15:31**). **reproof: criticism for a fault.** The reason why is that wise men don’t share their wisdom with people they don’t think will improve. But if they think you have the potential to improve they will tell you how to do it. Walking with wise men will, in fact, make you wise just as God says. Unfortunately, it is also emotionally challenging because walking with wise men can make you feel stupid! This is probably why more people don’t do it. But the tradeoff is worth it. Other things you can do to make wise men your friends is to be willing to receive their commands, act on them, and not be lazy (**Proverbs 10:8, Proverbs 10:26**), be humble (**Proverbs 11:2**), listen to their advice (**Prov 12:15, Prov 13:10**), act wisely on their behalf (**Proverbs 14:25**), watch out for and protect them (**Proverbs 27:18, Proverbs 20:6**), and not try to compete with them (**Proverbs 25:6-7**). These things will help make wise men your friends and, in return, these wise men will share their wisdom with you and will advocate for you behind the scenes. **advocate: to support or argue for; to plead in favor of someone or something.** For a detailed study on this topic please see, “Walking With Wise Men”, at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

**(I Corinthians 15:33-34, Hebrews 10:24-25, I Samuel 23:16, Romans 1:12, Hebrews 3:12-13, Proverbs 27:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Proverbs 20:19, Proverbs 22:24-25, Proverbs 29:24-25, Proverbs 28:7, Proverbs 24:21-22, I Corinthians 5:9-13, Psalm 15:1-3, Proverbs 17:9, Proverbs 17:17, Philippians 2:1-4, Proverbs 27:6, Proverbs 27:9, Romans 15:1-6, I Thess 5:14-15, Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 22:11, Proverbs 10:14, Proverbs 4:7, Proverbs 3:35, Proverbs 22:29, Proverbs 24:5, Proverbs 23:9, Proverbs 3:7, Proverbs 20:3, Proverbs 3:35, Proverbs 6:23, Proverbs 15:31, Proverbs 10:8, Proverbs 10:26, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 13:10, Proverbs 14:25, Proverbs 27:18, Proverbs 20:6, Proverbs 25:6-7)**

### Do I really have any worth in life?

Yes you have tons of worth! But it is normal to sometimes feel like you don’t. Why? Because satan has a vested interest in convincing you that you don’t have much worth. If you believe your life is not worth much, you won’t fulfill God’s purposes for your life and you won’t be a threat to his kingdom! The best way to do this is for satan and his world system to convince you to think of yourself as worthless. The Bible says, **Proverbs 4:23 [NCV] - Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.** The antidote to this is to believe what God says about you, not what other people or the satanic world system says about you (**Romans 12:2**). You are a special creation of God, designed to live for eternity. God was very intentional in deciding to create you (**Isaiah 64:8, Ecclesiastes 11:5**). The Bible tells us that before God created you He put a lot of thought into it (**Romans 8:28-30**). For example, He decided what your physique, personality, and interests would be (**Ps 139:13-16**), what your spiritual gifts and ministry calling would be (**Rom 11:29**), and what purpose you would fulfill in His plans (**Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 49:5, Psalm 22:9-10, Galatians 1:13-17, Ephesians 1:11**). Once all of that had been determined He created you and here you are! During this life God will use you to fulfill a purpose He has for you (**II Timothy 1:9**) and along the way He will also develop your faith (**I Peter 1:6-7**) and character (**Ephesians 4:13**) which are extremely important to Him. He will also have a personal relationship with you (**II Peter 3:18**) in preparation for spending eternity with you. The key to staying on track is to focus on understanding God’s will, staying away from sin, and putting your energies, resources, and priorities into studying God’s Word and putting what you learn into practice.

There are other things you can do that will help improve your sense of self-worth. As a teenager it can be overwhelming to imagine yourself doing some of the things you see adults doing like working at a job, raising children, owning a house and car, paying taxes and bills, and spiritual things like sharing the gospel, leading bible studies, and many other things. It can seem impossible to ever get to the point where you could do these things yourself. But remember that all of these adults were once your age with the same feelings you have. Yet, somehow they learned to successfully do all of these other things. The key is two things: time and steady effort. There is a saying that is memorable if not a little bit too cute, “Yard by yard, life is too hard but inch by inch, life is a cinch!” In other words, the key to making progress in life is doing a little bit of something valuable every day. If you spend some time every day learning something new or practicing a skill, your progress will feel small and slow but in reality you will make real and effective progress. Some examples are reading a chapter of the Bible, working on your memory verse or the Bridge Illustration for five minutes, spending some time on your school work, exercising, or practicing a sport or musical instrument or other hobby (**I Corinthians 15:58**). Just spending a few minutes every day investing in yourself and in developing a new skill or area of knowledge (ex: reading an expert’s book) can increase your sense of self-worth because you are learning and growing (**Pr 13:4, Pr 10:4, Pr 12:27**).

The opposite is also true. If you are spending a lot of time on entertainment (TV, movies, video games, phone scrolling, and 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 time is going it can leave you feeling frustrated and with low self-worth because you are not really progressing like you should (**Proverbs 21:25, Proverbs 21:17, Luke 8:14**). The average person spends 3.5 hours per day, every day, engaged with their electronics for leisure (social media, phone, TV, video games, etc.). Why not reduce this 3.5 hours of intake from the 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. We have the time! Try shutting off and powering down all of your electronics everyday 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**).

**(Proverbs 4:23, Romans 12:2, Isaiah 64:8, Ecclesiastes 11:5, Romans 8:28-30, Psalm 139:13-16, Romans 11:29, Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 49:5, Psalm 22:9-10, Galatians 1:13-17, Ephesians 1:11, II Timothy 1:9, I Peter 1:6-7, Ephesians 4:13, II Peter 3:18, I Corinthians 15:58, Proverbs 13:4, Proverbs 10:4, Proverbs 12:27, Proverbs 21:25, Proverbs 21:17, Luke 8:14, Philippians 4:8).**

### **Where do mentally disabled people go because they can't really comprehend the gospel?**

Although the Bible does not address this issue directly it does have a lot to say about the salvation of those who cannot comprehend the gospel such as small children and the unborn. From this we can say that it would be most consistent for God to treat everyone who lacks this comprehension the same as He would a very young child or infant and that is what we will look at for this study. For example we see that there is a state of innocence in the Bible that God describes as those who "have no knowledge of good or evil" when He rejects Israel from entering the Promised Land (**Deut 1:34-40**). In this example, God decrees that none of the adults of Israel will enter the Promised Land because they are an evil generation (except for Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb) but the "little ones" who have "no knowledge of good or evil" will enter. Its clear that God is holding the adults accountable but none of the small children. Another example is when God judges Israel for sacrificing their children to false gods by burning them to death and promises to bring calamity on them for doing this. In describing the situation God describes the murdered children as "the blood of the innocent" so once again God is declaring the small children as innocent in His eyes (**Jeremiah 19:1-6**). In **Ezekiel 16:20-21** God continues to comment on this same sin with a strong statement of ownership that the children that were killed were "My children". He could have said "the children" or "your children" but He went out of His way to state that the children they killed belonged to God Himself. God is going to throw His enemies into Hell at the end of the age but not those who belong to Him. A third example is when David's new born baby died. When the baby died David said, "I will go to him, but he will not return to me." (**II Samuel 12:21-23**) David would not have said, "I will go to him" if the baby went to Hell. David knew that he would see his son again because his baby son went to heaven. Finally, Jesus Himself made some very strong statements regarding small children and the kingdom of God. For example, in **Luke 18:15-17** Jesus stated, "*Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.*" Note that He said that the Kingdom of God belongs to not only children but also to those who are like children (i.e "*such as these*"). This is God's default position with those who have no knowledge of good or evil – heaven belongs to them (**Matt 19:13-14, Matt 18:1-3**)!

**(Deut 1:34-40, Jeremiah 19:1-6, Ezekiel 16:20-21, II Samuel 12:21-23, Luke 18:15-17, Matt 19:13-14, Matt 18:1-3)**

### **How do I help someone who is upset over something I see as superficial?**

### **What do I do if someone has a wrong view on the world, Bible, or God but isn't receptive to correction?**

### **How do I help someone who won't get baptized yet claims to be saved?**

These questions all share a common trait – how to influence and persuade people to change their minds and their behavior. This also happens to be one of the primary tasks of leaders in every walk of life. As a result, a great deal of research has been done on how to be most effective at persuading people to change their minds and behavior. Let's discuss this general issue first then look at some examples of specific things you can do.

As you are finding out, persuading other people to change their minds and behaviors is not easy! It requires quite a bit of effort and, even if you do it perfectly, there is no guarantee that the person will change their behavior. They are always free to do whatever they decide to do (**Deuteronomy 5:29, Matthew 23:37, II Timothy 2:24-26**). Even if you have legitimate authority over someone (ex: you are their boss at work) you can't actually make them do anything. You can punish them if they don't do what you want and you can reward them if they do what you want but you can't actually make them do anything! This is why, even in the military, the ability for leaders to persuade other people to change their minds and behavior is extremely important.

Most of what I'm going to recommend comes from the book, "Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard", by Chip and Dan Heath. This book does an excellent job of taking most of the research on changing people's behavior and presenting it in a book that is easy to read and understand by just about anyone. It also presents the information using an analogy that is easy to remember. **Analogy:** *a comparison of two unlike things based on resemblance of a particular aspect; inference that if two or more things agree with one another in some respects they will probably agree in others.*

**Here is the analogy:** Picture a man riding on the back of a large elephant through an extremely dense and impenetrable jungle. The man and his elephant are trying to move through the jungle but are going in a direction that is different than the one you would like them to go in. You have a particular destination in mind that you would like them to end up at and it requires that they move in a new direction through the jungle. What do you do?

**Let's explain the analogy:** The man riding on the elephant represents the rational part of the person you are trying to persuade. If the man doesn't see a logical reason (that is to his benefit) to change his direction he is not going to. So, we have to have a way of showing him that the change from his current path to the new path makes logical sense and that the change will be to his benefit in some way. Let's call this, "directing the rider". Unfortunately, even if we completely convince the man that this change is the right thing to do, his behavior will probably not change (**Proverbs 29:19**)! Why? Because the elephant is much larger and more powerful than the rider and doesn't easily do what the rider wants. The elephant represents the emotional part of the person that affects their decisions. A simple example would be that the rider knows it is to his benefit to eat his vegetables and avoid sweets but the elephant wants another piece of cake! Most of the time the elephant wins. So, if we want to be effective at persuading other people to change their behavior we will have to address both the rational part and the emotional part of the person (**Ezra 7:10**). Let's call this second part, "motivating the elephant". But even if we do both of these perfectly, the person will probably still not change their behavior! There is one more thing we have to do. The jungle represents the difficulty of the path you want them to go down. But what if you cut a clear, wide path through the jungle from where the elephant and rider are to the destination you want them to get to? If you did that the easiest path forward for the elephant and rider would also be the one you want them to go down! Let's call this, "shaping the path". If we do all three things (direct the rider, motivate the elephant, and shape the path) we will have maximized the probability that the other person will change their mind and their behavior. As you can see this is probably a lot more work than what you were hoping for but these are the things leaders have to do if they want to be effective at changing other people's beliefs and behaviors. It requires patience and, even when done exactly right, will not be accepted by everyone (**I Thessalonians 5:14-15, Proverbs 9:7-9**).

**Directing the Rider:** Directing the rider is often the easiest part of the process. We can show them from the Bible what God has to say about an issue and what He wants us to do to take action on it (**Isaiah 1:18-20, Acts 19:8**). Although this is a very important first step, it usually is not enough by itself to get people to change their behaviors (**Proverbs 29:19**).

**Motivating the Elephant:** Motivating the elephant is accomplished not by using logic or information but by using a demonstration, simulation, or story that connects emotion to the behavior you want to change. For example, health officials in Thailand used this approach in an anti-smoking campaign. Rather than telling smokers their habit was bad, they had little kids come up to smokers on the street and ask them for a light. Not surprisingly, the shocked smokers told the kids no. Many even lectured the little boys and girls about the dangers of smoking. But before turning to walk away, the kids handed the smokers a note that said, "You worry about me ... But why not about yourself?" At the bottom was a toll-free number smokers could call to get help. Calls to that line jumped more than 60% during the campaign. If a demonstration is not possible sometimes a simulation can be used. Pilots and astronauts prepare for dangerous missions by working through simulations that include dangerous situations. The simulation gives them the chance to perfect their behaviors and responses while experiencing all the emotions they would in a real event. But demonstrations and simulations can be expensive. Another method that can be just as effective in many situations is telling an appropriate story. If the story is constructed properly it becomes an effective "mental simulation" that can have an emotional impact and can "motivate the elephant". An excellent example of using a story as a mental simulation to make an emotional connection and change someone's mind can be found in **II Samuel 12:1-15**. For ideas on how to construct effective stories that can "motivate the elephant" please see the book, "Made To Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die", by Chip and Dan Heath.

**Shaping the Path:** Here's a simple example of shaping the path. I noticed many years ago that if you set out an uncut cake still in its baking pan on a table for teenagers to snack on it won't get eaten. The teenager would have to cut the cake and try to cut a piece size that is not considered by others watching to be too big or too little. They would then have to pry the piece of cake out of the pan and transfer it to a plate without making a big mess that others might laugh at. Then they would need to find a fork and napkin without bumping into other people and then leave with their cake. The result being it's easier for them to grab something else and not the cake! But if we pre-cut the cake and transfer all the pieces to individual plates and add a fork to each plate we have shaped the path and made it easier for them to choose to take the cake. Now all the student has to do is grab a napkin and a plate with the cake and fork already on it. The result being all of the cake gets eaten! The good news is that shaping the path can be so powerful that many times positive change can occur by directing the rider and shaping the path without having to motivate the elephant. An example of

shaping the path in the Bible is when God told David he would not be the one to build the temple but that David's son Solomon would do it. David's response was to draw up all the construction plans and gather up all the materials for the temple before Solomon became king. When Solomon became king all he had to do was build the temple with the materials already provided using the plans already drawn up (**I Chronicles 28:1-21, I Chronicles 29:1-30**).

Before attempting the change start by asking the person some discovery questions to determine what the real issue is. For example, if they view something that seems superficial as important, ask them why they feel that it is important. Hold yourself back from suggesting your viewpoint and just try to get them to verbalize what they are really concerned about (**Proverbs 18:13**). You will often find that the problem is something different than what you thought it was. Also, by having them answer the question out loud they can hear themselves saying something that, when heard out loud, doesn't really seem like a good reason, even to them! Having them hear their own answer and not liking it is much more powerful than hearing the same conclusion coming from someone else! As you listen to them explain why they feel the way they do try to determine if the problem is the rider, the elephant, or the path. If the problem is the rider, you may want to show them what the Bible has to say about the issue (**II Timothy 3:16-17**) and show it to them while speaking in a way that is calm and gentle (**Proverbs 16:21, Proverbs 25:15**). If the problem is the elephant, try to figure out what issue is causing the emotional resistance. Sometimes people imagine that making a change is going to be more painful or unpleasant than it really will be. Or they may imagine that they can't see any positive or pleasant benefits that will result from the change. In this case a story about someone (or yourself) who already made the change and what their experiences were like (both pro's and con's) can help. In many cases shaping the path can really help. For example, I had a pastor once who was trying to get Christians in his church who had never been baptized to get baptized. The problem was not with the rider. They all had been convinced that God wanted them to get baptized. The problem was the elephant. They did not want to go through the discomfort and possible embarrassment (imagine all the things that could go wrong, AHHH!) of being publicly baptized. To overcome this resistance the pastor walked them through a detailed explanation of every minute of the process of being baptized from leaving their house for church all the way through exactly how they would be able to dry their hair off and return to the church service. He then went one step further to help shape the path. He volunteered to be baptized with them (even though he had been baptized years ago) and to go first. He would be right there every step of the way and would take care of any unexpected problems that showed up (none did) so they did not have to worry about that. As a result, all of the people who needed to get baptized were baptized. One last thought: Its good to be efficient with things but not with people. In order to be effective with people we will often need to do things that are not very time efficient (i.e. effort and time directing the rider, motivating the elephant, and shaping the path).

**(Deuteronomy 5:29, Matthew 23:37, II Timothy 2:24-26, Proverbs 29:19, Ezra 7:10, I Thessalonians 5:14-15, Proverbs 9:7-9, Isaiah 1:18-20, Acts 19:8, II Samuel 12:1-15, I Chronicles 28:1-21, I Chronicles 29:1-30, Prov 18:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, Proverbs 16:21, Proverbs 25:15)**

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

**JEREMIAH 15:16**

**THEME: *How do I know I have made the right friends?***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:33-34***

**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: *Hebrews 10:24-25, I Samuel 23:16, Romans 1:12***

**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: *Hebrews 3:12-13, Proverbs 27:17-18, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12***

**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 do I know I have made the right friends?*

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** *Proverbs 22:24-25, Proverbs 29:24-25, Proverbs 28:7*

**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:** *Proverbs 24:21-22, I Corinthians 5:9-13*

**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 15:1-3, Proverbs 17:9 & 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:** *How do I know I have made the right friends?*

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** *Philippians 2:1-4, Proverbs 27:6 & 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:** *Romans 15:1-6, I Thessalonians 5:14-15*

**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:** *Proverbs 13:10 & 20, 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?**



**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

*JEREMIAH 15:16*

**THEME:** *How do I know I have made the right friends?*

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** *Proverbs 22:11 & 29, Proverb 24:5*

**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 23:9, Proverbs 3:7, Proverbs 20:3, 6, & 19*

**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, Proverbs 15:31*

**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 do I know I have made the right friends?*

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** *Proverbs 10:8, 14, & 26*

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 11:2, Proverbs 12:15*

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:** *Proverbs 14:25, Proverbs 25:6-7*

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?

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

*JEREMIAH 15:16*

**THEME:** *Do I really have any worth in life?*

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** *Proverbs 4:23, Romans 12:2, Isaiah 64:8*

**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:** *Ecclesiastes 11:5, Romans 8:28-30, Psalm 139:13-16*

**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:** *Romans 11:29, Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 49:5, Psalm 22:9-10*

**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?**

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

*JEREMIAH 15:16*

**THEME: *Do I really have any worth in life?***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Galatians 1:13-17***

**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: *Ephesians 1:11, II Timothy 1:9***

**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 Peter 1:6-7, Ephesians 4:13***

**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: *Do I really have any worth in life?***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Peter 3:18, I Corinthians 15:58***

**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 13:4, Proverbs 10:4, Proverbs 12:27, Proverbs 21:17 & 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: *Luke 8:14, Philippians 4:8***

**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: *Where do mentally disabled people go because they can't really comprehend the gospel?***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 1:34-40***

**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: *Jeremiah 19:1-6***

**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: *Ezekiel 16:20-21***

**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: *Where do mentally disabled people go because they can't really comprehend the gospel?***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Samuel 12:21-23***

**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?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 18:15-17***

**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: *Matthew 19:13-14, Matthew 18:1-3***

**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 do I help someone who 1) is upset over something I see as superficial, 2) has a wrong view but isn't receptive to correction, 3) who won't get baptized yet claims to be saved?*

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** *Deuteronomy 5:29, Matthew 23:37*

**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:** *II Timothy 2:24-26, Proverbs 29:19*

**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:** *Ezra 7:10, I Thessalonians 5:14-15*

**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?**



**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

***JEREMIAH 15:16***

**THEME: *How do I help someone who 1) is upset over something I see as superficial, 2) has a wrong view but isn't receptive to correction, 3) who won't get baptized yet claims to be saved?***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 9:7-9***

**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: *Isaiah 1:18-20, Acts 19:8***

**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: *II Samuel 12:1-15***

**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?**

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

***JEREMIAH 15:16***

**THEME:** *How do I help someone who 1) is upset over something I see as superficial, 2) has a wrong view but isn't receptive to correction, 3) who won't get baptized yet claims to be saved?*

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** *I Chronicles 28:1-21*

**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 Chronicles 29:1-30*

**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 18:13*

**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 do I help someone who 1) is upset over something I see as superficial, 2) has a wrong view but isn't receptive to correction, 3) who won't get baptized yet claims to be saved?*

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** *II Timothy 3:16-17*

**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:** *Proverbs 16:21*

**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 25:15*

**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?**