

Questions Asked By Mid-Schoolers – Part 9
Michael R. Daily, 2015 (updated December 2015)

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.

What was the first sport mentioned in the Bible?

Some say the first sport mentioned in the Bible is baseball, because Genesis 1:1 says “In the big inning,” (ba dum tee!). But seriously, the New Testament mentions the ancient Greek Olympic games (**I Corinthians 9:24-27**) including the events of foot racing and boxing. Foot racing is also mentioned in numerous other verses including **Psalm 19:5**, **Ecclesiastes 9:11**, and **Hebrews 12:1**. Wrestling is mentioned in **Genesis 32:24-25** and **Ephesians 6:12**. It is likely that chariot and horse racing also occurred (**Nahum 2:4**, **Job 39:19-25**). Outside of the Bible we know the following about the ancient Olympic Games: The ancient Olympic Games were a one-day event until 684 BC, when they were extended to three days. In the 5th century B.C., the Games were extended again to five days. The ancient Games included running, long jump, shot put, javelin, boxing, pankration and equestrian events. The Pentathlon became an Olympic sport with the addition of wrestling in 708 B.C., and included running, jumping, and discus throw. The running contests included the stade race (200 meters), which was the pre-eminent test of speed, covering the Olympia track from one end to the other, the diaulos (two stades – 400 meters), and the dolichos (ranging between 7 and 24 stades). For the jumping events athletes used stone or lead weights called halteres to increase the distance of a jump. They held onto the weights until the end of their flight, and then jettisoned them backwards. The discus was originally made of stone and later of iron, lead or bronze. Wrestling was highly valued as a form of military exercise without weapons. It ended only when one of the contestants admitted defeat. Boxers wrapped straps around their hands to strengthen their wrists and steady their fingers. Initially, these straps were soft but, as time progressed, boxers started using hard leather straps, often causing disfigurement of their opponent's face. Pankration was a primitive form of martial art combining wrestling and boxing, and was considered to be one of the toughest sports. Equestrian events included horse races and chariot races and took place in the Hippodrome, a wide, flat, open space. <http://www.olympic.org/ancient-olympic-games?tab=the-sports-events> (**I Cor 9:24-27**, **Psalm 19:5**, **Ecclesiastes 9:11**, **Heb 12:1**, **Gen 32:24-25**, **Ephesians 6:12**, **Nahum 2:4**, **Job 39:19-25**)

Did Jesus have any sisters?

Yes. Jesus had multiple brothers and sisters. **Matthew 13:53-58** tells us that Jesus had more than one sister but their names are not mentioned and it does not tell us the exact number. This passage also tells us that Jesus had four brothers whose names were James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas (Jude). Although two of His brothers later authored books of the Bible (James and Jude) they do not appear to have become Christians until after Christ's resurrection. **John 7:2-5** tells us that His brothers did not believe in Him but by the time Paul had become a Christian James was recognized as a leader in the church (**Galatians 1:18-24**, **I Corinthians 15:3-7**). The fact that Jesus' own brothers authored two books of the Bible is significant. Jesus' brothers had known him for over 30 years. Imagine what it would take for two of your brothers to decide that you are their Lord, Savior, and God and to put it in writing! Even Jesus said that such a thing is not humanly possible (**Matthew 13:57-58**). In the first chapter of their books they refer to themselves as “bond-servants of Jesus Christ”. They also refer to Jesus as their Lord, Savior, and God (**James 1:1**, **Jude 1:1-2&24-25**). This is a remarkable testimony of their belief in the deity of Christ and a supernatural demonstration of the authoring of the Bible. Compare this to other religious writings. Are they authored by a person who was brother to a person they knew for 30 years and who they now worship as their Lord, Savior, and God? (**Matthew 13:53-58**, **John 7:1-5**, **Galatians 1:18-24**, **I Corinthians 15:3-7**, **James 1:1**, **Jude 1:1-2&24-25**)

Did Job ever sin? How many times?

Yes, Job was a sinner just as all men are sinners (**Romans 3:23**, **Job 15:14-16**). However, in **Job chapter 1** the Bible tells us that when tested with the loss of his wealth and family he did not sin (**verse 22**). **Job 2:7-10** tells us that when Job's health was taken away and his wife cursed him, Job responded appropriately and “In all this Job did not sin with his lips”. What these passages mean is that during the specific testing he was going through he responded to the testing properly and he did not do the sin that satan claimed he would do, specifically curse God to His face (**Job 1:11**, **Job 2:5**). As far as the number of sins Job committed no one knows. In fact, Job asked God this same question in **Job 13:23** - “How many are my iniquities and sins? Make known to me my rebellion and my sin. (**Romans 3:23**, **Job 15:14-16**, **Job chapter 1**, **Job 2:5-10**, **Job 13:23**)

What was Noah's wife's name?

Noah's wife is mentioned in **Genesis 6:18**, **Genesis 7:7-13** and **Genesis 8:16-18**. Her name is never revealed.

What does II Peter 1:20 mean when it says that individuals may not get their own interpretation of the scripture?

The word translated as “interpretation” means “to explain in elaborate detail”. **II Peter 1:20-21 - But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.** Scripture was given to us by God and must be interpreted according to certain rules. People reading the scriptures are not free to create their own meaning for the passage. **I Peter 1:10-12** tells us that this is also true for the people through whom the scriptures were written and also for angels. Even when prophets and angels communicated the Words of God to man that does not mean they fully understood the meaning of the words they transmitted. Their job was to communicate God’s words, not explain their meaning. God’s Words have been transmitted to man through a large number of diverse people (about 40) over a 1,400 year period. Each of these people received a small piece of God’s revelation. But now we have all of God’s revelation to Man in the form of the completed Bible. So, what do we do now to interpret God’s Word? We make careful searches and inquiries. **I Peter 1:10-12 - As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come to you* made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.**

We follow certain rules in doing our Bible searches and inquiries.

Rule of the Total Mind of God - To understand a biblical principal we must seek what God says on it from the entire Bible using the Bible to interpret the Bible. We don’t isolate one passage and try to interpret it. We search the whole Bible for relevant information on the topic. Other passages will tell us what the verse we are interested in does not mean and some passages will help us understand what it does mean. The more fully we understand the entire Bible the more likely we are to come to the correct interpretation. This is why regular Bible reading and study are so important.

Rule of Language - God selected specific words in communicating His revelation to us. We are not free to change the meaning of the words or the modifications of meaning imposed by grammar. Our job is to understand it, not change it. So, we look up key words in an English dictionary and do word studies in the Hebrew and Greek to make sure we understand what the words God selected actually mean. When you do this you’ll often find that words are more specific or mean something different than you thought they did. This website has resources you can use: <http://biblehub.com/>

Rule of First Meaning - Obvious meaning is embraced unless the passage is presented as symbol, parable or prophecy.

Rule of Clear vs. Obscure - We don’t abandon clear passages for the obscure. If there are 50 clear passages on a topic and one obscure passage we don’t ignore the clear passages to create a meaning for the obscure one – we seek the whole mind of God on the issue.

Rule of Subjugation - All experiences, events and authorities are subject to Scripture. If we experience something as true, but the Bible says it is false, we deem it to be false. If we experience it as false, but the Bible says it is true, then we deem it to be true. Our decisions in life are not based on majority rule or personal experience, but on the authority of God’s Word. Culture isn’t neutral, it is fallen and sinful. When they conflict, culture is wrong and scripture is right. Feelings are subject to the Bible. When they conflict, feelings are seen to be wrong and the Bible is right. Neither Ministry Success, Miracles, Healings, Praise, Gifts, nor Visions substantiate or invalidate the Word of God.

Rule of Stated Authority - Don’t imply things not stated in Bible. For example, some people might think that if God wants wives to submit to husbands then it must also be true that women are to submit to men. But the Bible doesn’t say that, so we can’t imply it.

Rule of Limitations – There are a number of limitations that we must stay within when interpreting the Bible. There are Secret Things that God has chosen not to reveal (don’t try to guess), there are Higher Things or revelation that God has chosen not to explain (don’t guess), Things We are Too Sinful to Understand where the meaning of the revelation is clear but we can’t understand God’s motives or thinking (don’t become God’s judge), and Extra-Biblical Revelation or spiritual experiences that yield knowledge not presented in the Bible (don’t let them become your authority over the Bible).

Rule of Doctrine vs. Historical Revelation – Is the passage a doctrinal passage or one of historical revelation? Doctrinal passages are universally applicable to all people, at all times in history, in all nations and cultures. Historical revelation is a passage that records something that happened to someone but it is not universally applicable. When you read a doctrinal passage it feels like God is preaching a sermon to you. When you read a passage that is historical narrative it feels like you are watching a TV show about something that happened to some other person.

Rule of New Covenant vs. Old Covenant - Some things came through to the new covenant, some didn’t.

If we follow these rules, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will come up with the correct interpretation in most cases. However, we have one final limitation that Paul tells us about in **I Corinthians 13:12 - For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.** The Greek word used for dimly is "ainigma" which means "riddle or puzzle". Our understanding of God's Word will be perfected when we get to heaven. (**II Peter 1:19-21, I Peter 1:10-12, I Corinthians 13:12**) For more information on this topic see, "How To Avoid False Doctrine" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

How do you find a part of the Bible that has an answer to your question?

Please read the answer to the previous question before continuing. The most critical single thing you do is try to read a chapter of the Bible every day. Ask God to show you one principle, idea, or command that perhaps you never saw before or that you needed to be reminded of. Write this principle or command down with the reference of the verse that best communicates this. Also ask God to show you how to apply this principle, idea, or command to your life. Let's say you did this every day of the week but you miss a few days here and there, so you do this for 5 days out of every week on average. And every year something happens so instead of doing this 5 days a week for 52 weeks you do it for 48 weeks. After a year you would have spent time with God in $5 \times 48 = 240$ chapters of the Bible. How many chapters are there in the Bible? About 1189. $1189 \div 240 = 5$ years. In other words, after doing this for, on average, about 5 days a week give or take, God will have personally taught you something from every single chapter of the Bible after only 5 years. You will have a better understanding of how God thinks about things, and more knowledge of Him and the Bible than 70% of all Christians! (according to the Barna Group). One of the things that will happen during our Bible time is God will emphasize a passage of the chapter to us but it will be something we don't understand. In those instances what should we do? In these cases we should find another Christian during the week and ask them about it. For example, you may be at AWANAs or Sunday school or youth ministry and you can ask your youth minister, teacher, pastor, or even another Christian youth about it. Just tell them you were reading in chapter so and so of the Bible and came across a passage that said such and such but you were not sure what it meant and ask them what they think it means. Also, if you are not reading the Bible regularly then when you come to Bible study with others you may not get as much out of it. You may find yourself struggling with what is being taught in your class or by your pastor because the ideas and concepts seem new or foreign to you. You may wonder, "Does the Bible really say that? Is that really what God thinks about that topic?" Instead of learning and growing you find yourself confused and struggling while the class moves on. On the other hand if you have been having a regular Bible reading time, God will often teach you things before your pastor or class studies them. Then, when your class studies the topic you will already have learned the same ideas from God previously. Instead of struggling you will be encouraged because you will see that God has taught others the same thing he taught you. You will say, "I thought that is what God meant when He showed it to me during my quiet time but I wasn't sure. Now I see that God is teaching others this same thing so now I feel strengthened in believing it. I also see that God can teach me directly from His Word." Instead of struggling and not believing, your belief becomes a conviction.

With this habit in place we are now in a position to find answers to difficult questions on our own. How do we do it? We apply the 9 principles of Bible search and inquiry discussed in the previous question's answer. We study the whole mind of God on the topic in question by asking God to help us remember relevant passages from our daily Bible reading. As God brings Bible phrases to mind we can do word searches from these remembered passages using Bible search websites such as: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=> As we do our word searches many verses will come up. We then read the verses ignoring those that don't appear to be relevant to the question. For example if I am doing a study on the Holy Spirit's ministry to Christians I will do a word search on "spirit" and look at the results from the New Testament. I will then ignore the passages that talk about evil spirits or other types of spirits that are clearly not referring to the Holy Spirit. When we find a verse that appears relevant to the topic we open the whole chapter that the verse is in and read that chapter. If a section of the chapter appears relevant to our topic we copy and paste the section into a Word document and move to the next passage in our search results. We continue this process until we have reviewed all of the relevant passages we know of. We then think of other key words that could pull in other relevant passages and repeat the process until we feel that we have covered the topic area. For example, in my study on the Holy Spirit, God will remind me of a passage from my Bible reading time where the Holy Spirit is called the "Helper" so I will do a Word search on "helper" limited to the New Testament books and read the relevant chapters that come up. Once I have all the verses that I can find (i.e. the whole mind of God) in a Word document I can now ask God to teach me what these passages say. Since the Bible never contradicts itself all of these passages must fit together. So, we use the remaining 8 rules for Bible search and inquiry from the previous question's answer and determine how the truths of all of these passages fit together. As you follow this process the Holy Spirit will reveal the answer to your question.

(Ps 119:82, Ps 119:105, Ps 119:140, Ps 119:148, Ps 119:162, Ps 5:3, Isaiah 66:2, Acts 17:10-11, II Timothy 2:15)

I am trying to have a quiet time but its always been hard for me. Where do I start? How do I keep it going?

Please read the answer to the previous question before continuing. First, you are to be commended for making the effort you are making. This is not easy for anyone. Our enemies (the world system, our flesh, and satan) make it difficult because as you saw in the previous question's answer this is one spiritual discipline that is likely to have the single largest impact on your life and the lives of those around you. It is this discipline to spend time in God's Word learning from Him that will convert the knowledge of the Bible you have received from others into deeply held convictions that are demonstrated in the way that you live your life. As a result satan works hard to convince us that doing this is not that important in the grand scheme of things. But what does God say about it? How important is it to Him? It turns out that this activity and other similar activities are in His list of the top five most important things He will reward us for at the judgment. The Bible teaches that God will reward us for every act of sacrifice and service done out of love and devotion to Him (**I Corinthians 3:10-15**). In addition God has 5 special awards (crowns) given for faithful service in various areas of life. The Crown of Life (**James 1:12, Revelation 2:10, Revelation 3:11**) is given for exceptional perseverance in the face of adversity, the Crown of Exultation (**I Thessalonians 2:19-20, Philippians 4:1**) is given for faithfulness in witnessing, the Crown of Glory (**I Peter 5:1-4**) is given for faithfulness in helping other Christians grow in the faith, the Crown of Righteousness (**II Timothy 4:7-8, I John 3:2-3**) is given for those who have purified themselves and eagerly look to the Second Coming of Christ. The fifth crown is the Imperishable Wreath (**I Corinthians 9:24-27**).

I Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

This passage talks about the "perishable wreath" and the "imperishable wreath". In the ancient Olympic Games that Paul is referring to the winners did not get a gold medal like they do today. Instead a wreath of plant material was put on their head. Why? This was their crown. Have you ever seen pictures of an ancient ruler like Julius Caesar? They often are shown with a wreath of plant material on their heads. Why? Because that was their crown. This was demonstrated in the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece. In honor of the creation of the ancient Olympic Games by Greece, the 2004 Olympic champions were given a "perishable wreath" to place on their heads (in addition to their medals). So, the picture God wants to communicate to us is one that we can all relate to. We are exercising daily self-control in the disciplines of the Christian life – those things that have the characteristics of athletic training (quiet time, prayer, scripture memory, etc.). We push ourselves just as hard as someone who is trying to win the Olympic gold medal. Why? Because we want to receive a special crown from God Himself. A crown named the Imperishable Wreath. Do you think there are days when the person training for the Olympics wakes up and doesn't feel like training that day? Of course, but they do it anyway. Those who have been faithful in things like quiet time, bible study, scripture memory, or prayer (think of them as different Olympic "events") will receive this special crown from God at the judgment. Also, stay encouraged. Just because you miss days here and there it's OK. Think of yourself as an Olympic athlete. Missing a few days of training here and there is not going to make much difference. But if you start missing weeks and months it will. So, don't be too hard on yourself. If you miss a day that's fine just get back to it tomorrow. For more information on this topic see, "Practicing A Quiet Time" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/> Recommended Book: John S. Mahon, Lord, Teach Us to Pray: How to Have a Daily Quiet Time Alone with God, WestBow Press, March 2015, ISBN-13: 978-1490869131

(I Corinthians 3:10-15, James 1:12, Revelation 2:10, Revelation 3:11, I Thessalonians 2:19-20, Philippians 4:1, I Peter 5:1-4, II Timothy 4:7-8, I John 3:2-3, I Corinthians 9:24-27, II Timothy 2:15, Psalm 5:3, I Timothy 4:6-7)

Jesus says there are people standing there who will not die before the second coming. What does He mean?

Actually, Jesus didn't say that. What He said was that some of those standing there would not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom (**Matthew 16:28, Luke 9:27, Mark 9:1**). Since all of the people standing there have died and the Second Coming has not happened yet we know that Jesus was not referring to His Second Coming – He was referring to something else. What is the "something else"? Jesus was referring to the transition that would shortly occur where God would now be working through the Christian Church instead of through Israel. To see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom meant that they would be witnesses of his transfiguration which occurred a few days later (**Matthew 17:1-9, Luke 9:26-36, Mark 9:1-13**), His resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven (**Romans 1:1-4, Luke 24:36-51, Acts 1:1-9**), and the gifts of His Spirit conferred upon them (**Acts 2:1-47**) at Pentecost. It meant that some would live to see the destruction of the nation of Israel and the spread of the gospel to the ends of the Earth. Except for Judas, all of the apostles lived up through Pentecost. John, the last apostle to die, saw Israel scattered, the temple destroyed, and the gospel proclaimed across Asia, Rome, Greece, and other parts of the world.

(Matt 16:24-28, Luke 9:26-36, Mark 9:1-13, Matt 17:1-9, Romans 1:1-4, Luke 24:36-51, Acts 1:1-9, Acts 2:1-47)

Are people who believe the KJV of the Bible is the only correct translation idolizing this Bible version?

God's Word was not communicated to man in English. It was communicated in Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew. Inerrancy applies to the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek manuscripts. When we say the Bible is perfect and without error we mean that the original text is completely accurate, true, and perfect. Inerrancy does not refer to copies or translations, only to the original manuscripts. Copies and translations are inerrant only to the extent that they reproduce the original documents. This is why pastors study the Greek and Hebrew texts of the Bible and discuss the meanings of the original words in their sermons. They want to make sure anything lost in translation is restored in your understanding of the original message. This is important because something is always lost in a translation, including the KJV!

In order to minimize the loss of information that occurs in translation there are 3 things that can be done.

- 1) Translate using the highest reading grade level possible for the intended audience (i.e. 12th grade vs 3rd grade)
- 2) Use a more word-for-word translation approach instead of a thought-for-thought approach
- 3) Create a new translation whenever English changes enough that existing translations become difficult to understand

The reason people like the KJV is because it was translated at a 12th grade reading level and takes a strong word-for-word translation approach. As a result it is an excellent Bible. However, the weakness of the King James Version is that it was translated into English in the 1600s and the English language of 400 years ago is not the same as it is today. For example, let's read Luke 8:1-3 translated into English around 1200 AD and see if its good enough for us to use today.

Luke 8:1-3 (Middle English, circa 1000's to 1400's)

And it was don aftirward, and Jhesus made iourney bi citees and castels, prechyng and euangelisyng þe rewme of ²God, and twelue wiþ hym; and sum wymmen þat weren heeled of wickid spiritis and sijknnessis, Marie, þat is clepid Maudeleyn, of whom seuene deuelis ³wenten out, and Joone, þe wijf of Chuse, þe procuratoure of Eroude, and Susanne, and many opir, þat mynystriden to hym of her ritchesse.

If you lived in England in the year 1200 you would think this is a great translation. But is it great now or is it time to do a new English translation? Let's read Luke 8:1-3 translated into English in 1611 and see if its good enough for us to use.

Luke 8:1-3 (Early Modern English, circa 1400's to 1600's)

And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, **2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, **3** And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.**

What do you think? Is this a good translation for us to use? If you lived in England in the year 1611 you would think its great! But is it great now or is it time to do a new English translation? Some people would say that this is good enough. With a little extra effort on our part we can understand and use this translation. Others might say that some of the phrases are odd. For example, what exactly does it mean "shewing the glad tidings"? Why are there "seven devils" instead of one? What does it mean to "minister unto him of their substance"? By the way, this translation is known as the King James Version. Let's read Luke 8:1-3 translated into American English in 1971 and see if its good enough to use.

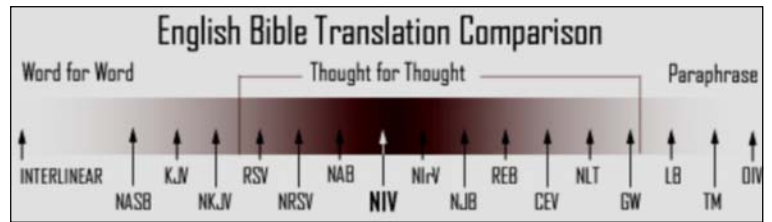
Luke 8:1-3 (Modern English, American, circa 1971)

Soon afterwards, He *began* going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, ² and *also* some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

Is this a good translation for us to use? If you lived in America in the year 1971 you would think its great! But is it great now or is it time to do a new English translation? Some people think this is an excellent translation that adheres to the original meaning with a high standard. Others would say that some of the English is awkward and unnatural and results in a translation that is not as "readable" as it could be. Which one of these things is most important to you? Which one are you willing to give up? This translation is known as the New American Standard Version (NASB) and is the Bible that I use. The table on the right will give you a general idea of the grade level of some of the more popular translations and paraphrases.

| Translation | Grade Level | Translation | Grade Level |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| KJV | 12 | CEB | 7 |
| RSV | 12 | NKJV | 7 |
| NASB | 11 | NLT | 6 |
| NRSV | 11 | GW | 5 |
| ESV | 10 | Message | 4-5 |
| NIV | 7-8 | NCV | 3 |
| HCSB | 7-8 | NIRV | 3 |

Another reason for making a new translation is to improve communication of the message across differences in cultures. Cultural references that were clear in ancient Israel or Greece may not be as clear today. In trying to address the cultural differences between the ancient world of the Bible and today's world, a type of translation has emerged referred to as a "thought-for-thought" translation instead of the more traditional "word-for-word" type of translation. Below is a chart which shows the various Bible translations and paraphrases in terms of the translation philosophy that was used. The closer the translation is to a word-for-word type the more accurate in the details it will tend to be compared to the original Greek and Hebrew documents. The closer the translation is to a thought-for-thought type the more it moves toward being in "everyday language" that is easier to read but leaves out some of the original detail.



<http://www.apologeticsindex.org/graphics/translations2.gif>

Its these kinds of tradeoffs you need to keep in mind when selecting a translation. With all of the different English translations currently available no one would go to all the effort of doing another translation unless they thought there was something inadequate about the other translations. What is the inadequacy they are trying to fix in their translation? Keep in mind that to achieve the objective of their translation the translators also gave something else up. What is the something they gave up and what will you need to do to compensate for this tradeoff they made if you use their translation? Its critical that you do a little research to understand what the translators were trying to do in their translation.

When deciding on what translation of the Bible you should use there are four critical things to consider.

- 1) Who are the translators? (Like it or not the doctrinal preferences of the translators will come through in questionable passages).
 - a) Do they come from a Catholic background, Protestant background, or a mix?
 - b) Are they doctrinally conservative, liberal, or a mix?
 - c) How many translators were there? One person? Fifty? (More is usually better for checks and balances).
- 2) Is it trying to be more of a word-for-word translation (also known as "formal equivalence") or more of a thought-for-thought translation (also known as "dynamic equivalence") or something in between?
(word-for-word translations tend to be more accurate in the details but can take a little extra effort on your part to fully understand)
- 3) Is the grade level too high or too low to be effective with a particular audience? (Who is the intended audience?)
- 4) Has the language shifted significantly? (languages are slowly and constantly changing all the time)

In addition to translations there are other books called paraphrases. A paraphrase is when someone (usually one person) reads the Bible and then rewrites it in their own words. The resulting book is not the Bible. However, most users of these paraphrases forget that and think they are studying God's Word when they are not. One of the paraphrases, The Living Bible, calls itself a Bible which adds to the confusion. Two of the more popular paraphrases are The Living Bible and The Message. The Living Bible came out in the 1970's and filled a legitimate need for an easy to understand "Bible" for children. It was written at a 4th grade level by Dr. Kenneth Taylor (a conservative Baptist) for his young children. In 2002 Eugene H. Peterson, an evangelical Presbyterian wrote "The Message", also at a 4th grade reading level. These are fine if your reading level really is around the 4th grade. Otherwise its better to use an actual translation of the Bible instead of a paraphrase. My personal recommendation is to use a translation done by a team of conservative evangelical scholars that is the highest reading grade level and the strongest word-for-word style that you can stand, and is relatively recent. Try them out online at: <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/> then pick the one you think best meets your needs. For more information on this topic see, "Can I Really Trust The Bible?" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

Why is there less about the Holy Spirit in the Bible than about God and Jesus?

It is because of the nature of the Holy Spirit's ministry. The Holy Spirit's primary ministry during the Church Age that we live in (100 AD to the Rapture) is to point people to Jesus Christ (**John 15:26-27**), convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (**John 16:8**), and conform Christians into the image of Christ (**II Corinthians 3:17-18**). The Holy Spirit regenerates non-Christians into Christians (**Titus 3:4-7, I Corinthians 6:9-11, John 6:63**), sanctifies Christians (**I Peter 1:1-2, II Thessalonians 2:13-14, I Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 1:13-14, I Corinthians 12:12-13**), equips them for service with spiritual gifts (**I Corinthians 12:7**), illuminates God' Word for them (**John 16:13-14**), produces fruit in their lives (**Galatians 5:22**), and empowers them to obey Christ (**I Peter 1:1-2, Acts 1:8**). The Holy Spirit is also the one who wrote the Bible (**II Peter 1:19-21**) and is the one who will resurrect us and give us new bodies in the future (**Roman 8:9-11**). In order to be most effective in His ministries the Holy Spirit does not draw attention to Himself. Rather He continually points to Christ (**Hebrews 1:1-2**) and He uses His book, the Scriptures to do so (**Ephesians 6:17**).

(John 15:26-27, John 16:5-15, II Cor 3:17-18, Titus 3:4-7, I Cor 6:9-11, John 6:63, I Peter 1:1-2, II Thess 2:13-14, I Cor 3:16, Eph 1:13-14, I Cor 12:12-13, I Cor 12:7, Gal 5:16-26, Acts 1:8, II Peter 1:19-21, Romans 8:9-11, Romans 8:26-27, Hebrews 1:1-2, Ephesians 6:17)

Do I have to share my faith to be a Christian? When it comes to sharing my faith I freeze up so what do I do?

Yes. When we became Christians we were given the ministry of reconciliation and are now His ambassadors to those who don't know Him (**II Corinthians 5:17-20, Acts 1:8**). If we refuse to represent Him it indicates that we would rather have the approval of men instead of the approval of God (**John 12:42-43, Romans 1:16, II Timothy 1:8-9**). It is also an indicator that we don't love Him very much (**John 14:23-24**). OK, so what do we do exactly? Sharing our faith or witnessing is something we grow in over time. We start small and then progress to more difficult things. What is the first step? The first step in witnessing is baptism. If you have not been baptized yet, that is your first assignment, just as it was when Paul became a Christian (**Acts 22:12-16**). Why? Because when getting baptized you are witnessing to all of those who are in attendance in your church. Once you have completed that, the next thing is to do a thorough Bible study on the topic of witnessing. For a detailed study on this topic please see, "Good Works, Witnessing, & Evangelism" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/> This study includes a 5 minute presentation of the gospel. Memorize the 11 verses and customize the dialog to fit your life but remember the focus of the presentation is on the gospel using the Sword of the Spirit, God's Words (**Ephesians 6:17**). Your testimony is not really about you its about Christ (**II Corinthians 4:5, I John 5:11-13**). This is why it is important to spend your 5 minutes sharing from God's Word what the person needs to know to become a Christian instead of sharing things about yourself that will only be relevant to a small percentage of people. Some people may argue that Paul talked about himself when he preached on Mars Hill or before Agrippa but these were special cases. In one case Paul was invited to give a philosophy talk by the Greeks on Mars Hill and he was following their presentation format. In the other case Paul was in a court of law on trial and was presenting his legal case following their presentation format. If you are invited to give a talk to a philosophy college class or to defend yourself in a court of law you can do the same but this is not the situation we are in when we share our faith with a friend, neighbor, or stranger on the street. Also, some people may say that you don't need to prepare to share your faith because the Holy Spirit will give you the words to say but these passages of scripture are talking about Christians during the Tribulation when access to God's Word will be very limited. For those of us living in the Church Age (before the rapture) God wants us to prepare ahead of time (**I Peter 3:15**).

OK, now that you have the gospel presentation memorized and you have "over prepared" (practiced it until you can say it easily even in a distracting environment) you can present it to people in your church. Perhaps there is a children's class you can present it in. What about during Vacation Bible School? If someone visits your Sunday School class or Awana group this would be a good person to ask, "Can I share with you how I became a Christian? It only takes 5 minutes". In fact, make it a point to share the gospel with visitors to your church that you come in contact with since it only takes a few minutes. They are already open to listening to religious ideas since they chose to come to your church. Look for these opportunities and take advantage of them. Do the same thing with your Christian friends and relatives. Each time you do this, it will get a little easier. Although you might assume that all of these people are already Christians you will find when you share the gospel clearly with them that some of them are not, even though they are supportive of Christian things. You might even lead some to Christ!

It will probably take you 6 months to a year to get to this point. Now its time to think about those outside your church. The first step here is to get used to letting people know you are a Christian. How do you do this? Simple. When they ask you questions you answer truthfully. For example, if they ask, "Did you do anything interesting this weekend?" Instead of saying, "No", you could say, "Yes, I went to church like I usually do." Now they know you are a Christian or some type of religious person. When people ask me what I do I often say, "Well, I'm trained as an engineer but what I really enjoy doing is working with teenagers at my church". Think of ways you can answer common questions so that people can tell that you are a Christian. Each of these steps from baptism to this point are challenging and difficult. The important thing is to keep things moving and progressing and to not just stop. As you continue to progress, things that used to be hard will become easier for you.

Now that most of the non-Christians know that you are a "religious person", they may occasionally ask you questions or comment on something good they saw you do. Since you are prepared to share the gospel with them using a 5 minute presentation, you can often steer their inquiry to the gospel. If they ask you, "What do Christians believe?" you can say, "Well, I can show that to you in about 5 minutes with an illustration", or if they say, "I was impressed with what you did in that situation" you can say, "Its because I am a Christian. May I share with you how I became a Christian? It only takes 5 minutes". The key here is to always be ready. Review your verses once a week and carry a pen and folded piece of paper in your shirt pocket everyday so that you will always be ready if God gives you the opportunity to share your faith.

If you can find one or two Christian friends to work on all of this with it will be more encouraging for you than trying to do it alone. On a final note, there is a special reward or Crown that God will give to those who have been faithful to share their faith - the Crown of Exultation (**I Thessalonians 2:19-20, Philippians 4:1**) For more information on this topic see, "Good Works, Witnessing, & Evangelism" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(II Corinthians 5:17-20, Acts 1:8, John 12:42-43, Romans 1:16, II Timothy 1:8-9, John 14:23-24, Acts 22:12-16, Ephesians 6:17, II Corinthians 4:5, I John 5:11-13, I Peter 3:15, I Thessalonians 2:19-20, Philippians 4:1)

If somebody uses God's name in vain or curses on a video on Youtube or a movie does God still hear/feel it?

Yes. Videos and movies are forms of recording or documenting actions, thoughts, beliefs, and values. During Biblical times these technologies did not exist. Instead, the state of the art in recording technology during Biblical times was the scroll or book. Therefore, we can take principles from the Bible related to books and apply them to other forms of recording. The Bible tells us that the books we read can affect what we believe (**John 20:30-31**) and that books that have no positive value should be destroyed (**Acts 19:18-20**). God also tells us that we should not set worthless things before our eyes because they can cause us to fall away from the faith and into disobedience (**Psalms 101:3**). God also tells us to not view or listen to anything that will cause us to dwell or think about things that are not helpful because it will lead us into sin (**Philippians 4:8**). Finally, by watching and listening to videos and movies made by foolish people we will suffer harm (**I Corinthians 15:33**). In contrast, reading books or watching videos made by wise men will help us increase in wisdom (**Proverbs 13:20**). The bottom line is that any actions, thoughts, beliefs, or values communicated by book, video, movie, or any other recording technology is of concern to God because of the positive or negative effects it can have on the people exposed to them. One application of these truths is: if you have any books, videos, movies, music, etc. that are not good throw them in the trash instead of selling them or donating them so that other people will not be harmed by them.

(John 20:30-31, Acts 19:18-20, Psalm 101:3, Philippians 4:8, I Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 13:20)

How did people get to heaven before the cross?

By believing what God had revealed to them up to that point in history. The Bible extensively explains the case of Abraham, for example, by saying that when God revealed something to him or made a promise to him Abraham believed it and acted upon it and, as a result, God credited his faith to him as righteousness (**Gen 15:6, Gal 3:6-9, Rom 4:1-25, James 2:22-23**). In a similar manner the Old Testament believers entered heaven because they believed God when He said that He would provide a savior (in the future) to save them from their sin problem (**I Peter 1:10-11**). For example, Adam believed God when He said that the Seed of the woman would conquer Satan (**Genesis 3:15**). As time went on God revealed more and more about the coming savior to the Old Testament prophets so that people who believed God and who died looking forward to the coming savior were considered righteous because of their faith in what God had said, so they went to heaven (**Hebrews 1:1-2**). So, Old Testament believers went to heaven because they believed what God told them about the coming future savior and we will go to heaven because we believe God about the savior who has already come (and who will come again)!

(Genesis 15:6, Galatians 3:6-9, Romans 4:1-25, James 2:22-23, I Peter 1:10-11, Genesis 3:15, Hebrews 1:1-2)

How do we know that God is there if we can't see Him?

God intentionally set things up so that we can't see Him (**John 1:18**). He did this because He wants us to exercise faith by believing in Him without having overwhelming evidence (**Hebrews 11:1-2, II Corinthians 5:7**). In other words if the evidence was overwhelming then people would be forced to admit He existed even though they might resent it (**Psalms 14:1-2**). That is not what God is interested in because the angels (both fallen and godly) are already in that situation (**James 2:19**). Instead He wanted something different for people (**John 20:24-29**). He wanted people to love Him and give their allegiance to Him by faith (**Hebrews 11:6, II Chronicles 16:9**). To accomplish that He created the universe with enough evidence of His existence that it is reasonable to believe in His existence but that would also allow a person who wanted to not believe in Him to not be forced to (**Romans 1**). As a result we can neither prove the existence or non-existence of God even though the evidence He has given us shows that it is reasonable to believe in Him. In fact, there is enough evidence that God tells us that anyone who does not believe in Him really has no excuse (**Romans 1:20**). He then wrote the Bible to give us the specifics of what we needed to know about Him (**Hebrews 10:4-10**). This low key approach results in people being able to make a choice about whether they want to love and worship Him or not, without them feeling forced to do it. Having said that, the Bible tells us that various forms of evidence have been provided by God for His existence. Examples are the physical universe itself (**Psalms 19:1-4**), man's unique longing to have an eternal existence (**Ecclesiastes 3:11**) which animals and plants don't have, and man's unique moral sense of right and wrong (**Romans 2:14-15**) which animals and plants don't have. Finally, keep in mind that you already believe many things that you can't see. Do you believe in the existence of atoms? Atoms can't be seen because they are smaller than the wavelength of visible light. In fact, the Bible told us thousands of years ago that the world we can see is made up of things we can't see – i.e. atoms (**Hebrews 11:3**). Atoms are an example of another type of evidence for His existence – the supernatural knowledge put in the Bible long before science discovered it.

(John 1:18, Hebrews 11:1-3, II Corinthians 5:7, Psalm 14:1-2, James 2:19, John 20:24-29, Hebrews 11:6, II Chronicles 16:9, Romans 1, Hebrews 10:4-10, Psalm 19:1-4, Ecclesiastes 3:11, Romans 2:14-15)

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: What was the first sport mentioned in the Bible?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 9:24-27*

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: *Psalm 19:5 Ecclesiastes 9:11, Hebrews 12:1*

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: *Genesis 32:24-25, Ephesians 6:12, Nahum 2:4, Job 39:19-25*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Did Jesus have any sisters?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 13:53-58, John 7:2-5*

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: *Galatians 1:18-24, I Corinthians 15:3-7*

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: *James 1:1, Jude 1:1-2 & 24-25*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Did Job ever sin?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 3:23, Job 15:14-16, Job 13:23*

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: *Job chapter 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: *Job 2:7-10*

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: What does II Peter 1:20 mean about individual interpretation of scripture?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Peter 1:20-21*

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?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 1:10-12*

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: *I Corinthians 13:12*

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 you find a part of the Bible that has an answer to your question?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 119:82, 105, 140*

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 119:148, Psalm 119:162, Psalm 5:3*

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?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 66:2, Acts 17:10-11, II Timothy 2:15*

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: Quiet times are hard for me. Where do I start? How do I keep it going?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 3:10-15, James 1:12, Rev 2:10, Rev 3:11*

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: *I Thess 2:1-20, Phil 4:1, I Peter 5:1-4, II Timothy 4:7-8, I John 3:2-3*

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?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 9:24-27*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: What does it mean the people standing there will not die before the 2nd coming?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 16:28, Luke 9:27, Mark 9:1*

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 17:1-9, Luke 9:26-36, Mark 9:1-13*

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: *Romans 1:1-4, Luke 24:36-51, Acts 1:1-9, Acts 2:1-47*

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: Why is there less about the Holy Spirit in the Bible than about God and Jesus?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 15:26-27, Hebrews 1:1-2, Ephesians 6:17, John 16:8*

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 Corinthians 3:17-18, Titus 3:4-7, I Corinthians 6:9-11, John 6:63*

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 1:1-2, II Thess 2:13-14, I Cor 3:16, Eph 1:13-14, I Cor 12:12-13*

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: Why is there less about the Holy Spirit in the Bible than about God and Jesus?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 12:7, John 16:13-14*

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: *Galatians 5:22, I Peter 1:1-2, Acts 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: *II Peter 1:19-21, Romans 8:9-11*

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: Do I have to share my faith to be a Christian? What do I do?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 5:17-20, Acts 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: *John 12:42-43, Romans 1:16, II Timothy 1:8-9*

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: *John 14:23-24*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Do I have to share my faith to be a Christian? What do I do?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 22:12-16*

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: *Ephesians 6:17, II Corinthians 4:5, I John 5:11-13*

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: *I Peter 3:15, I Thessalonians 2:19-20, Philippians 4:1*

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?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: If somebody curses on a video or movie does God still hear/feel it?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 20:30-31, Acts 19:18-20*

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?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalms 101:3, 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?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:33, 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: How did people get to heaven before the Cross?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 15:6, Galatians 3:6-9, Romans 4:1-25, James 2:22-23*

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: *I Peter 1:10-11, Genesis 3:15*

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: *Hebrews 1:1-2*

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: How do we know God is there if we can't see Him?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 1:18, Hebrews 11:3*

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?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 11:1-2, II Corinthians 5:7*

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 14:1-2, James 2:19, John 20:24-29*

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 we know God is there if we can't see Him?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 11:6, II Chronicles 16:9*

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 chapter 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: *Hebrews 10:4-10, Psalm 19:1-4, Ecclesiastes 3:11, Romans 2:14-15*

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?