



WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

It is the Instruction Manual from God.

Lesson 3D - What is the Purpose of the Bible

➡ TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, “HOW SHOULD WE LIVE OUR LIFE”

ACTION #1 - SEEK THE LORD

Amos 5:4-5 - Seek Me and live; but do not seek Bethel, nor enter Gilgal, nor pass over to Beersheba; For Gilgal shall surely go into captivity; and Bethel shall come to nothing. Seek the Lord and live.

1. “SEEK the _____ and _____.”

A Quick Reminder

- Every human being is searching (seeking) for some kind of purpose to follow & fight for.
- It is not always conscious; God built us to accomplish something. We live our whole lives to find it.
- We will either look in the right places or the wrong places to find this purpose or “power”.
- We grow up with desires, dreams, and talents; where did we get those?

Matthew 6:32-33 - Don't worry; God knows what you need. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these needs will be added (provided) to you.

2. Even though we don't do it very well, what should be the first thing we do in our search for purpose, direction, and satisfaction in life? _____
3. ___Yes ___No After we search in all the wrong places, and then mess up our lives “big time”, can we turn around and try it again?

ACTION #2 - TRUST THE LORD

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways pay attention to Him, and He will direct your paths.

4. “TRUST in the _____ with _____ your heart ..and He shall _____ your paths.”

A Quick Reminder

- Every human being wants to trust in something or someone; we are built that way.
- Remember the feeling leaning against a wall to rest, or leaning into someone for a hug?
- Inside of ourselves we need to find someone to trust; outside, we cannot always find it.
- “Entrust” means “to crawl inside of someone and hold on”; that “someone” is directing your paths.

John 3:16 - For God so love the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him [receives Him] will not perish but have eternal life.

Acts 8:37 - The Ethiopian Servant said to Philip, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”. [I believe John 3:16.]

5. This Ethiopian did not have all the answers to life (Acts 8:27-29). He was on the road with his job; he stopped by to go to church; he was reading the Bible on way home. What had he not done yet? _____
6. ___Yes ___No Does believing in the existence in God make you a Christian (believer)?
7. ___Yes ___No Is believing that God has a solution for my sin problem enough?
8. ___Yes ___No Does receiving the solution (Jesus died for me) make me a believer?
- After seeking, you finally find the answer. (God brings Himself to your attention.)
 - After finding, you believe that God is trustworthy. (You give your life to Him. “Be my Savior”.)
 - After believing, like a new friend, you want to get to know God better. (This is the Christian life.)

ACTION #3 - FEAR THE LORD

Matthew 10:28-31 - *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two birds worth very little money, yet not one falls to the ground dead without God knowing it. The very hairs on your head are numbered. Fear not; you are more valuable than several birds.*

9. Yes No Do you think that "fearing God" means "walking around terrified that God might strike you dead at any moment?"
10. Yes No Is that the kind of relationship you see between God and Adam?

A Quick Reminder

- *The word "fear" means "to have a reverent awe & respect for someone on purpose".*
 - *This is a different meaning than "to be afraid". Fearing God is not being afraid of Him.*
 - *This "fear" sees God as "the only One who wants me, loves me, and has the power to protect me".*
 - *"Fear" chooses God as the only way, and does not hesitate to embrace God with his whole heart.*
11. The book of Proverbs states: (Fill in the blanks.)
- Prov. 9:10 - **The Fear of the Lord** is the beginning of _____.
 - Prov. 1:7 - The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of _____.
 - Prov. 14:27 - The Fear of the Lord is a _____ of life.

Review

- *Embracing God with your whole heart is the beginning of finding the right direction (wisdom).*
 - *Embracing God with your whole heart is the beginning of being keenly aware of your choices.*
12. More from the Proverbs:
- Prov. 1:29 - The Fear of the Lord does not hate laziness knowledge sin.
 - Prov. 3:7 - The Fear of the Lord leads us away from _____.
 - Prov. 14:26 - The Fear of the Lord leads to strong _____.
 - Prov. 15:16 - The Fear of the Lord leads to food beauty Satisfaction
 - Prov. 29:25 - The Fear of the Lord leads to _____.

Final Thoughts

- *Fearing the Lord = Not messing up your relationship with God; remember, it is a process.*
- *The first time you "Fear the Lord" is the day you accepted Christ as Savior; the journey begins.*
- *Fearing the Lord = You value the things that God values; you tell Him; that is called "worship".*
- *Fearing the Lord = You relive the day you became a believer; you remember it every day.*

ACTION #4 - LOVE THE LORD

Deuteronomy 6:5 - *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*

Matthew 12:37-40 - *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*

13. You shall _____ the _____ your God with all your _____, with all your _____, and with all your _____.

A Quick Reminder

- *"Love" means "an intentional act of reflecting God's character" to those around us.*
- *This kind of love ("agape") only comes from God; if He doesn't give it to us, then we don't have it.*
- *The moment we become a believer, this "agape" love is available to shine through our lives.*
- *"Agape" love can only be demonstrated through self-sacrifice (God to man; man to God & others).*
- *We don't always show it; Remember - Jesus said, "Peter, do you love me?"
Peter answered, "Lord, You know that I like You".*

ACTION #4 - LOVE THE LORD (Continued)

Psalms 18:1-3 - I love you, LORD; you are my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. I called on the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and he saved me from my enemies.

14. Talk is cheap. This psalm shows David on the run, desperate, and afraid for his life. "I love you" sounds good when you list all the stuff you get from God. Do you think David's words are ___ shallow & religious or ___ deeper than that?

Check this out.

- *The Hebrew word for "love" in this verse refers to a mother's love for a newborn child.*
- *It appears that Psalm 18:1 & 116 are the only two verses in Psalms that say "I love you, Lord."*
- *Read through a Bible concordance & find a man saying "I love you, Lord." Just a thought.*

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 - And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? To FEAR the Lord your God; to WALK in all His ways; to LOVE Him; to SERVE the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to OBEY God's commands designed for your good.

15. ___ Yes ___ No Could fearing (honoring) God be a proof that you love God?

16. How does "walking in God's ways" prove that you love God?

17. ___ Yes ___ No Are you going to work hard for & serve someone you don't love?

18. What would be your motive for obeying someone? Why would you do it?

A Personal Note

I tried to honor (respect) my father; it was mostly "he scared me". I worked hard at "walking in his ways" (obeying him); if I didn't , he hit me (hand, belt, foot). One time I got sick of it and told him to go to hell; I ran out of the house into the dark night. I still loved him; no, I'm not crazy; he was the only one on the planet that I wanted to please. Somewhere in his heart, he must love me; I was ten. "Maybe, he doesn't think I love him. I will prove it." I gave him his paper; I raked up the leaves when he didn't ask; I always tried to clean up my messes; I watched him work in the garage; I broke things so that he would fix them. I tried to sit in his lap. (Surely, he'll love me)

19. What was I trying to do with my father? ___ Wish he would die? ___ Hope my mother would leave him? ___ Prove I wore big boy pants? ___ Prove I loved him? ___ Hate him?

Let Me Make this Clear

- *My father actually loved me but he was afraid of failure and really had no plan.*
- *God really loves me; He is not afraid of failure, and He does have a plan for my life.*



John 21:15-17 - Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, do you love Me? [Peter said "yes"]. Jesus continued, "Feed My lambs" [those hungry people who need Me].

20. I love you so much that I give you:

- a. Ps. 18:1 Strength - You give others _____.
- b. Ps. 116:1 Listening ear - You _____ to others.
- c. Ps. 145:20 Protection - You _____ others.
- d. Deut. 5:10 Mercy - You show _____ to other

- *We love God by demonstrating what Jesus would do for others. "Our" love won't cut it. Jesus' love within us will.*
- *God sees what we are doing, and He celebrates in heaven that we love Him; then, He tenderizes men's hearts.*
- *Man sees what we are doing; man knows we love them & are serving somebody great - somebody they want too.*

ACTION #5 - WORSHIP THE LORD

Let's Review

- Man searches for God ("Seek") to find out who is the answer to life & its problems.
- Man & God find each other, and man is convinced that God is the answer ("Believe") he's looking for.
- Man chooses God as his Savior & begins to know God ("Fear") more closely.
- Man realizes how much God loves him, and so he reaches out to other seekers ("Love").

1. ___Yes ___No It is natural for man to want to worship something.

The word "worship" comes from the word "worthship; "worship" = "You are worth it, Lord."

2. ___Yes ___No In Acts 7:42, it says that God will let you worship what you want to.
3. ___Yes ___No Look back at Acts 7:41. We worship stuff that we've seen our whole lives.
4. Acts 7:41 - Worship is: celebrating ___ what God has done for mankind, ___ loving something you made with your own hands.
5. In Acts 24:14, one way to worship is to believe _____.
6. In Romans 10:9, another way to worship God is to _____.
7. In John 9:38, when you said, "I _____", you worshipped the first time.
8. In John 12:20, when the Greeks came to Jerusalem & said, "We want to Jesus", what were they doing? _____
9. ___Yes ___No Will mankind worship the creation rather than God on purpose?
10. In Genesis 1:27, why is it impossible for true & legitimate worship from man to go to anyone but God? _____
11. ___Yes ___No When I go to church, give a donation, read the Bible, love someone who is not so pleasant, pray to the Lord, sing songs of encouragement & praise, apologizing to someone, crying with someone, defend someone or confess sins to God, I am worshipping.
12. Can you imagine the pain in the heart of God (who paid for your sins & totally forgave you) when He sees you turn away from Him, and bow down to a rock, wood statue, drugs, sex, power, addiction, or anything that leaves Him out of your life. Please comment.

-
- Your first act of true worship is to say to God, "You are worth it. Take over my life."

ACTION #6 - OBEY THE LORD

A Few Beginning Thoughts

- The word "obey" means "to pay attention to the person in charge".
- Obeying is a struggle where we say, "I am convinced you are right & I submit to you."
- God gives you the choice to submit to the boss you want to follow.
- Mankind says, "You obey me or less." That's the way most of us learned obedience for a while.
- God says, "I understand you want to disobey sometimes; I will help you obey every step of the way; I will certainly give you a choice between blessing & trouble; choose Me - I've never failed anyone."

13. ___True ___False If you live your life disobeying everyone in your life path, can we assume that you are not interested in obeying God?
14. ___True ___False If you try your best to obey the authorities over you in life, might we assume that you are trying to obey & please God.
15. ___True ___False If you live a rebellious, disobedient life in your heart, this disobedient attitude is not going to spill over into your daily behavior & conduct.

THE BIBLE SAYS

16. In Acts 5:29, "obey _____ rather than _____."

17. In Ephesians 6:1, "obey your _____."

18. In Colossians 3:22, "obey your _____."

19. In 2 Thessalonians 3:14, "obey God's _____."

20. In Romans 6:17, ___Yes ___No You can obey God right in the middle of a sinful life.

21. In Philippians 2:12, ___Yes ___No You want to make obeying God a habit.

22. In Hebrews 11:8, you need _____ in the person you are obeying.

- ***A Thought: when the person you must obey is a jerk, dishonest, and a liar, you have a decision to make. Whatever you decide, do it for God.***

The Benefits of Obeying God

23. ___Yes ___No 1 John 3:22 **God is really pleased with you.**

24. ___Yes ___No Would that be important to you?

25. ___Yes ___No Heb. 11:8 **You receive more courage for the next time.**

26. ___Yes ___No Would that be important to you?

27. ___Yes ___No Isaiah 1:19 **God will spread rewards throughout your life.**

28. ___Yes ___No Would that be important to you?

ACTION #7 - SERVE THE LORD

A Few Beginning Thoughts

- *To "serve" is more than "working for someone". This would represent two people bound together.*
- *"Serving the Lord is expressing your love for God by doing whatever God opens up for you.*
- *"To serve" is to "get excited about helping someone even when it is inconvenient for you".*

1. Galatians 5:13 - Serving is the same as _____.

2. Romans 1:9 - You serve God with your _____.

3. 1 Thess. 1:9 - Be choosy whom you serve; He must be _____ and _____.

4. Psalm 100:2 - "Serve the Lord with _____."

5. Joshua 24:15 - ___Yes ___No We were born wanting to serve (use my energies) for the Lord.

Some Examples of Servants of God (Ordinary people who chose to work for God)

6. Luke 2:37 - What did this woman do to serve" _____

7. Luke 10:34- How did this man serve someone else? _____

8. John 6:9 - How did a young boy serve the Lord? _____

9. ___Yes ___No Should you even bother to help if you don't think it's worth much?

10. ___Yes ___No Serving others is a command, but it is also a choice and a decision.

11. ___Yes ___No Have you ever served two "masters" (two ways of life at the same time)?

- ***A man told me he had two masters (drugs & God); the more drugs he did, the more he hated God.***

A Personal Thought - I am a Christian. I can also be a hypocrite and a fake. I am also selfish & self-centered. I grew up avoiding a close relationship with people. I did not want to know people's troubles; I wasn't able to help them anyway; Let someone else do it. As my Christian life grew, I felt an inner courage to reach out to a needy person. My big fear was to have to help them again. I wanted no commitment or dependency on me. One day God said to me, "Remember when you were alone & searching. I sent a person into your life; that person brought Me along. I made a life-long commitment to you; you've been dependent on me ever since."