WHAT’S MISSING?

As they are, these common adages don’t make much sense. Fill in the missing words to make them complete.

1. Birds of a ______________ flock ______________.
2. A bird in the ______________ is worth two in the ______________.
3. Don’t judge a ______________ by its ______________.
4. Better ______________ than ______________.
5. Nothing ______________, nothing ______________.
6. ______________ killed the cat.
7. Never look a ______________ ______________ in the mouth.
8. There’s no such thing as a ______________ ______________.
9. Two ______________ don’t make a ______________.
10. ______________ makes ______________.
11. You can’t teach an old ______________ new ______________.
12. Stop and ______________ the ______________.
13. He who ______________ is lost.
14. ______________ twice, ______________ once.
15. Strike while the ______________ is ______________.

HELPING THE HURTNG

Read each of the Scriptures below, and consider how it can help you minister to those who are hurting. Then think of someone in particular to whom you will reach out this week.

Psalm 34:18 Matthew 11:28
Proverbs 25:25 Psalm 82:3
Isaiah 40:29 Matthew 25:40
PROCONSUL’S PERSPECTIVE
Read Acts 13:1-12. Then imagine that you are Sergius Paulus, and finish the sentences below in your own words.

When I heard that Paul and Barnabas were nearby, I sent for them because . . .

When I asked why they would come all the way from Antioch, I was shocked when they said that . . .

I believe Elymas was against my meeting with them because . . .

When Paul confronted Elymas and he became blind, I felt . . .

After seeing these things take place, I knew that . . .

From that day on, my life was . . .

THE POWER OF PRAYER
Prayer is the most important resource available to us. Read the following Scriptures about prayer, and then choose one that speaks to you. Remember the verse(s) as you pray on someone else’s behalf each day this week.

Psalm 143:1       James 5:16
Hebrews 4:16      1 Timothy 2:1-4
Psalm 130:1, 2    Matthew 21:22
Jeremiah 17:14    Mark 11:25
SAY WHAT?

Match the complicated directives with their more simplified versions.

_____ 1. Cast thy butadiene-based synthetic rubber substance into the refuse.

_____ 2. Immediately refrain from prattling whilst thy opening in the lower part of thy face is filled to capacity.

_____ 3. Ingest thy edible seeds or roots or stems or leaves or bulbs or tubers or non-sweet fruits of any of the numerous herbaceous plants.

_____ 4. Deposit thy soiled attire into the lavation space.

_____ 5. Remove dirt by scrubbing thy hard, bony, enamel-coated structures common to the jaws of most vertebrates.

A. Eat your vegetables.
B. Brush your teeth.
C. Throw your gum in the trash.
D. Put your dirty clothes in the laundry room.
E. Stop talking with your mouth full.

ROOTED AND BUILT UP

In Colossians 2:6, 7, Paul says: “As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

Evaluate how well your life communicates the gospel by rating yourself from 1 (low score) to 5 (high score) on the elements of Paul’s command to the Colossians.

1. I faithfully demonstrate that Jesus is in charge of my life. 1 2 3 4 5

2. My personal growth in my faith shows that Jesus is constantly building my character. 1 2 3 4 5

3. People can see that my beliefs are unshakable, being rooted firmly in the teachings of Jesus. 1 2 3 4 5

4. I am a lifelong learner, constantly studying the Scriptures with reliable teachers. 1 2 3 4 5

5. My expressions of thanks to God are obvious, showing others that I am grateful for all I have. 1 2 3 4 5
THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY

Rank the items below from those you’d MOST like to receive (1) to those you’d LEAST like to receive (10).

___ satin pajamas that belonged to Elvis Presley
___ the reconciliation of a broken relationship
___ 10-year subscription to *Miniature Donkey Talk* magazine
___ free Taco Bell for life
___ $500,000 cash
___ clean bill of health
___ free personal trainer
___ peace of mind
___ front-row tickets to your favorite Broadway play
___ hope for the future

BETTER TO GIVE

Read the following Scriptures and fill in the missing words.

2 Corinthians 9:6, 7

The point is this: whoever ______________ sparingly will also reap ______________, and whoever sows ______________ will also ______________ bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his ______________, not ______________ or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful ______________.

Matthew 7:11

If you then, who are evil, know how to give ______________ gifts to your ______________, how much more will your ______________ who is in heaven give good things to those who ______________ him!

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is ______________, but the free gift of God is ______________ ______________ in Christ Jesus our ______________.

Ephesians 2:8

For by ______________ you have been saved through ______________. And this is not your own doing; it is the ______________ of God.

James 1:17

Every ______________ gift and every ______________ gift is from above, coming down from the ______________ of lights, with whom there is no ______________ or shadow due to change.
Circles of Unity

Read Ephesians 4:1-16. In each of the circles below, write a word from the Scripture text that describes unity in the body of Christ.

Roadblocks to Unity

Think about what keeps you from unity with other believers. Circle the words that best describe your roadblocks to unity.

- Pride
- Anger
- Fear
- Laziness
- Stubbornness
- Comfort
- Indifference
- Resentment
- Arrogance
- Insecurity
- Selfishness
- Condemnation
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Read through each emergency situation and choose the appropriate response.

_____ 1. Your clothing catches fire
_____ 2. A grizzly bear makes physical contact
_____ 3. Your car is submerged in water
_____ 4. A live power line falls on your car
_____ 5. You see an approaching tornado while driving
_____ 6. You fall through the ice while skating
_____ 7. You’ve swallowed poison
_____ 8. Your friend has hypothermia
_____ 9. You’re lost in the woods
_____ 10. You’ve been stung by a jellyfish

A. Soak the affected area with vinegar
B. Open the window and escape
C. Don’t wander; travel only downhill
D. Stay inside and call 911
E. Warm the trunk first, not hands and feet
F. Fall to the ground and play dead
G. Stop, drop, and roll
H. Reach the edge, get horizontal, and kick your legs
I. Call the hotline; do nothing else
J. Pull over and seek shelter

REARVIEW MIRROR

Sometimes when we look back on a situation, we can see things more clearly than we did while they were taking place. God’s faithfulness to Daniel from the very beginning laid a foundation that would serve Daniel throughout his life. Read Daniel 1:3-21 and 6:1-23. Imagine that you are a mature Daniel, sitting in the den of lions. Use the prompts below to create a monologue from Daniel’s perspective.

*Here I am surrounded by hungry beasts who are as tame as kittens around me! It makes me think about the danger I anticipated when I was first brought to Babylon.*

*During those first years, my captors tried to turn me from a child of Israel into a Babylonian. They . . .* (see Daniel 1:3-7)

*I could have outright refused to follow any orders. But God led me to . . .* (see vv. 8-14)

*After our course of study, my friends and I earned a great reputation. Our captors discovered that a faithful Jew is superior to a Jew imitating a Babylonian when . . .* (see vv. 15-21)
BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

Read through the following situations. What would you do in each one?

Your best friend wants to take you out for a nice dinner to celebrate your birthday. She’s heard rave reviews about the new sushi place in town, and she even bought a Groupon so the two of you can go. Problem is, you HATE even the thought of sushi. What do you do?

Your grandson made you a tie at school. Out of felt. And chenille wire. And glittery pom-poms. You might even be allergic to it. But he can’t wait to see you wear it at his kindergarten graduation this weekend! What do you do?

A family from out of state moved in next door, so you left them a note inviting them over for a Saturday cookout. They stopped over to accept, and only then did you notice the multiple piercings, neck tattoos, and black fingernails—and that was just the dad! You’re pretty sure they won’t be comfortable around the other friends you also invited. What do you do?

A guy at work is trying to start a morning devotional group. You think it’s a great idea, but your boss obviously does not. You’re up for a really big promotion, so it’s important to stay on your boss’s good side. So when you’re specifically asked to join the devotional group, you feel more than a little torn. What do you do?

ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Use your cell phone to research and report on the persecution of Christians in the countries that are listed.

- North Korea
- Iran
- Pakistan
- Egypt
- China
- Saudi Arabia
- Nigeria
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam
- Eritrea
A Prayer for an Obedient Faith
Lesson 8, Daniel 9:4-8, 15-19, ESV

Mark My Words

Something has been lost in translation! Read through Daniel’s prayer of Daniel 9:4-8 and make the needed corrections.

I prayed to the Lord my God and made excuses, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and everlasting love with those who love him and keep his law, we have sinned and done wrong and acted badly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.

We have not paid attention to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to some the people of the land.

To you, O Lord, belongs holiness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have trespassed against you.

To us, O Lord, belongs justification, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have done nothing wrong.

By Definition

Confess, verb
1. Admit or state that one has committed a crime or is at fault in some way.
2. Admit or acknowledge something reluctantly, typically because one feels slightly ashamed or embarrassed.

Synonyms: admit, acknowledge, reveal, disclose, divulge, avow, declare, profess

What do you need to confess to God in prayer? __________________________________________

Recognize, verb
1. Identify (someone or something) from having encountered them before; know again.
2. Acknowledge the existence, validity, or legality of.

Synonyms: acknowledge, accept, admit

What about God do you need to recognize when you pray? ________________________________

Appeal, verb
1. Make a serious or urgent request, typically to the public.
2. Apply to a higher court for a reversal of the decision of a lower court.

Synonyms: ask urgently/earnestly, make an urgent/earnest request, call, make a plea, plead

What appeal would you like to make to God through prayer? ______________________________
Oddly Enough

Read through the situations below and choose the correct answer.

1. What are the odds of your being hit by lightning this year?
   a) 1 in 36,000
   b) 1 in 275,000
   c) 1 in 960,000

2. What are the odds of a girl born in 2011 living to the age of 100?
   a) 1 in 3
   b) 1 in 15
   c) 1 in 50

3. What are the odds of your dying in a plane crash?
   a) 1 in 3,200
   b) 1 in 5,600
   c) 1 in 8,000

4. What are the odds of your dying from contact with a venomous plant or animal?
   a) 1 in 9,000
   b) 1 in 42,000
   c) 1 in 56,000

5. What are the odds of your being hit by lightning and winning the lottery?
   a) 1 in 3,000,000
   b) 1 in 72,800,000
   c) 1 in 2,600,000,000

Give Me Strength

Read the following Scriptures about strength, and fill in the missing words.

“He gives _______________ to the _______________, and to him who has no might he increases strength.” (Isaiah 40:29).

“Splendor and majesty are before _______________; strength and _______________ are in his place.” (1 Chronicles 16:27).

“Be _______________, and let your heart take _______________, all you who wait for the Lord!” (Psalm 31:24).

“Behold, God is my _______________; I will _______________, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my ________________, and he has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2).

“My _______________ is sufficient for you, for my _______________ is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

“I can do _______________ things through _______________ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).
WORTHY OF TRUST?

Decode the following words and phrases describing someone who goes back on a promise, by changing each letter to the letter immediately preceding it in the alphabet.

1. XJTIZ-XBTIZ
   ____________________________________________

2. CMPXJOH IPU BOE DPME
   ____________________________________________

3. EPVCMF-UBMLJOH
   ____________________________________________

4. XFBTFMJOH PVU
   ____________________________________________

5. GMJQ-GMPQQJOH
   ____________________________________________

LIVING FAITH

From today’s lesson, we know that action fosters faith, and a strong faith spurs us on to more action. To have a living faith, we must be both nurturing and exercising it. Use the chart below to make a specific plan to nurture and exercise your own faith in the upcoming weeks. The items in the left-hand column represent specific areas of your faith in which you can make plans to grow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Money/Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Disciplined Faith

Lesson 11, James 3:1-12, ESV

What's Your Excuse?

Choose two or three of these excuses and tell about a time when they might be used. Feel free to add a couple more of your own!

1. The devil made me do it.
2. I was born with a bad temper.
3. There just aren't enough hours in the day!
4. I'm not a morning person.
5. The heart wants what the heart wants.
6. I'm only human!
7. My speedometer must be calibrated wrong.
8. Who can make ends meet in this economy?
9. ______________________________________________________________________
10. ______________________________________________________________________

Control

Use James 3:1-12 to match the objects on the left with the things that produce or control them on the right.

_____ 1. Horse                              A. Freshwater source
_____ 2. Ships                              B. A spark
_____ 3. Forest fire                        C. Grapevines
_____ 4. The body                           D. Mankind
_____ 5. Animals, birds, reptiles, sea creatures  E. Helm
_____ 6. Figs                                 F. The tongue
_____ 7. Grapes                              G. Bit
_____ 8. Fresh Water                        H. Fig tree
FAITHFUL DISCIPLES
Lesson 12, Acts 9:36-43, ESV

WHOM YOU GONNA CALL?

Using the prompts below, figure out whom you need to call for the situation described. Then locate that person within the puzzle. The words may be forward, backward, horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

G X M D R O L D N A L R K M
R G E R H T J P H R A E R Z
I B C O D N J H H E Y C E Z
M M H B E A D Z P T U I B E
P S A U N T I P L H P F M U
L M N T T N E H A G J F U Y
M U I N I U L A R I D O L D
K S C T S O Y R D F A E P U
L D E V T C X M L E M C N H
J X O A D C P A O R L I I A
C T Z C I A Z C N I G L S W
R I M G T X J I D F Z O C H
T Q C F U O U S T Y L P R U
M R H L C O R T T U T O R L

You need help with schoolwork. Your house catches fire. You have a fever.
You need help with your taxes. Your tooth aches. Your sink is leaking.
You need to fill a prescription. You witness a crime. Your car won’t start.
Something breaks in your apartment.

BE LIKE

Read the following verses about Jesus and make a note about how you might better imitate and represent Him in a modern environment.

Mark 1:35
Matthew 6:9-13
Luke 23:34
John 11:41, 42
John 17:1-7
Mark 4:35-41
Matthew 14:22-33
PRIORITIES

Number the items below from 1–10 based on your priorities, with 1 being the highest priority and 10 being the lowest.

___ Food
___ Water
___ Career
___ Family
___ House and grounds
___ Stable income
___ Exercise
___ Education
___ Travel
___ Sleep

TACTICS, ALLIES, SPOILS

In 1 Timothy 6:11-21, Paul lays out something of a battle plan for Timothy and, by extension, for all Christians. Read the lesson text and make notes below on the tactics, allies, and spoils Paul describes.

Tactics (How do we fight?)
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Allies (Who is in our army?)
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Spoils (What do we win?)
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
Lesson 1
What’s Missing? 1=feather, together. 2=hand, bush. 3=book, cover. 4=late, never. 5=ventured, gained. 6=curiosity. 7=gift horse. 8=free lunch. 9=wrongs, right. 10=practice, perfect. 11=dog, tricks. 12=smell, roses. 13=hesitates. 14=measure, cut. 15=iron, hot

Lesson 3
Say What? 1=C. 2=E. 3=A. 4=D. 5=B.

Lesson 4
Better to Give: Use your Bible to check your answers.

Lesson 6
In Case of Emergency: 1=G. 2=F. 3=B. 4=D. 5=J. 6=H. 7=I. 8=E. 9=C. 10=A.

Lesson 8
Mark My Words: I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.
We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.
To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you.
To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you.

Lesson 9
Oddly Enough: 1=c. 2=a. 3=c. 4=b. 5=c.

Give Me Strength: Use your Bible to check your answers

Lesson 10
Worthy of Trust?: 1=Wishy-washy. 2=Blowing hot and cold. 3=Double-talking. 4=Weaseling out. 5=Flip-flopping.

Lesson 11
Control: 1=G. 2=E. 3=B. 4=F. 5=D. 6=H. 7=C. 8=A.

Lesson 13
Possible responses: Tactics—We should pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, generosity, goodness, and meekness over worldly riches. We should turn away from godless conversation. We should bring peace and grace to those around us. Allies—We should create allies by guiding others away from the idea of earthly success and toward the same kind of eternal life. Spoils—Our prize is not worldly riches but a godly, peace-filled life here on earth and eternal life after.