# BELIEF AND UNBELIEF

How did each of the following individuals demonstrate both belief and unbelief? See if you can recall before looking up the passages cited. (Other passages are possible.)

	Belief	Unbelief	Passage(s)
Abraham			Genesis 12:1-4, 11-13; 15:6-8
Gideon			Judges 6:25-27, 34-40; 7:9-21
King David			1 Chronicles 21
Elijah			1 Kings 18:18–19:4
Queen Esther			Esther 4:11-16
Jonah			Jonah 1:1-3; 3:3

# **DESPERATION!**

In what sense do you find	d desperation on the	part of each of the f	following in today's	lesson text?
The afflicted son				
The father				
The foul spirit				
The disciples of Jesus				
The scribes				
When was a time of despe	eration for you like or	ne of the above? How	w did it affect your 1	relationship with God?

# "I WANT TO DO IT MYSELF"

From childhood, each person will find himself or herself saying, "I want to do it myself!" What was an occasion in your life when you found that desire to be satisfying and successful?

What was an occasion in your life when you found that desire to be frustrating and disastrous?

What are some positive elements of such a desire?

What are some negative elements of such a desire?



### HANDLING DISAPPOINTMENT

Disappointment comes when we don't get the answer or result we want. How do you see that happening in today's text?

How have you grown spiritually when this has happened to you?







# PETER AND JESUS

What is your impression of Peter's relationship with Jesus? Look at the following texts from the Gospel of Mark and briefly note <u>in this column</u> what you see.

	▼	
Mark 1:16-18		
Mark 6:45-52		
Mark 8:29		
Mark 8:31-33		
Mark 10:28		
Mark 14:27-29		
Mark 14:32-41		
Mark 14:66-72		

Now jot <u>in this column</u> your impressions of how that relationship is seen in Christians today.

### **MEMORY ASSOCIATIONS**

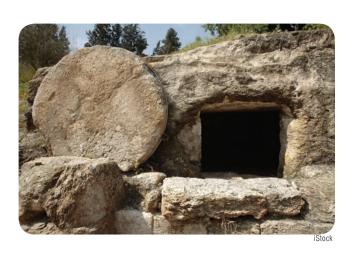
We can imagine that for the rest of Peter's life the sound of a rooster crowing caused him to recall his denials. But we can also imagine that for the rest of his life the aroma of fish cooking caused him to recall his reacceptance by the Lord (John 21:9-19). Look at the list of occasional sights, sounds, and aromas below and think of one Christian truth that each will remind you of from now on.

Garage door going up	 Hemera
Severe-weather alert	
Airplane overhead	
Baby crying	 2
Cinnamon	
Sneeze	
Siren	 iStoc

### HONORING THE DEAD

What are some ways we honor the dead today?	SILENCE
Which of these do you find most appropriate and meaningful?	RESPECT
Jesus was dead—of that there was no doubt—and His friends a death. What do the following passages reveal about their efforts to	
John 19:38-40	
Matthew 27:60	
Mark 16:1	
HONORING THE LIVING ONE	
Look up John 14:15 and write it here:	
Which commandments of Jesus can you recall? Write them bel	ow:





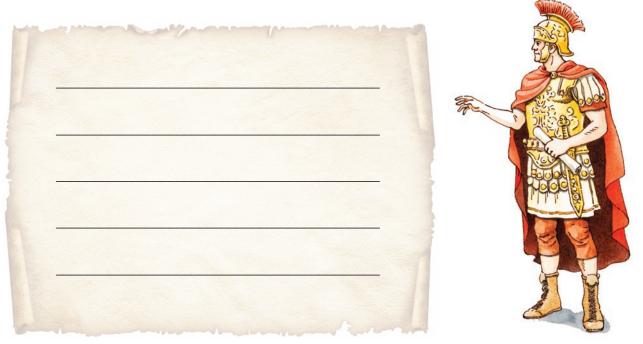
# JESUS HEALS AT A DISTANCE

Compare and contrast the texts below regarding healings that Jesus performed at a distance.

<u>Scripture</u>	Request <u>Made</u>	Jesus' <u>Response</u>	Result
Matthew 15:21-28			
Luke 7:1-10			
John 4:46-54			

# MY PRAYER, FROM A DISTANCE

Write a prayer of faith on behalf of someone who needs God's healing touch in his or her life. The healing needed can be of a spiritual, physical, or emotional nature.



Dorling Kindersley

Keep this prayer with you throughout the week so you can exercise "centurion faith" as you pray from a distance for God to meet the need!

# JESUS AND THE PHARISEES

Review the following texts, which describe some of Jesus' encounters with Pharisees. Summarize their accusations against Jesus.

<u>Scripture</u>	Pharisees' Accusations
Luke 5:17-26	
Luke 5:27-31	
Luke 5:33-39	
Luke 6:1-5	
Luke 6:6-11	

- 1. How do these accusations by the Pharisees compare and contrast with the thoughts of Simon the Pharisee in today's lesson?
- 2. After reading of Jesus' previous encounters with Pharisees, what might we assume about Simon's motives in inviting Jesus to dinner?
- 3. Based on the previous encounters with Pharisees, why would Jesus agree to eat dinner with Simon?

# **GRACE!**

Today's story is a reminder of the hymn "Amazing Grace," by John Newton. Write one or two stanzas of your own that describe God's grace toward you. Post this where you can be reminded of God's amazing grace in the week ahead—
a grace you are





# TRAVELING WITH JESUS

Today's text does not record the reaction of the disciples, except indirectly in Luke 8:36. Circle below the **three words** you think best describe their reaction to the exorcism and its aftermath.

Astonished	Bemused	Cautious	Delighted	Exuberant
Frightened	Guilty	Humbled	Irritated	Judgmental
Kicked	Leery	Minimized	Needed	Obligated
Peaceful	Qualified	Reeling	Sorry	Tranquil
	Uncertain	Vulnerable	Weak	
	Xenophobic	Yoked	Zealous	

# THE DIFFERENCES CHRIST MAKES

Make a list of the differences you have seen Christ make in people's lives. Be prepared to share this list with those who ask about faith in Jesus.



Post this list where you will be reminded to praise God daily for the differences Christ makes in your life and in the lives of your family and friends.

### POEM OR PRAYER OF GRACE

Using a letter from the word *grace* to begin each new line, write a poem depicting God's love for you and your acceptance of God's grace. If writing poetry isn't your thing, write instead a prayer expressing gratitude for God's grace.

R	
C	
E	

#### SONG OF THE PRODIGAL

Below are the lyrics to three stanzas, plus refrain, of the hymn "I've Wandered Far" (or, in some hymnals, "Lord, I'm Coming Home") by William J. Kirkpatrick. Keep these in your Bible to ponder as part of your daily devotions in the week ahead.

I've wandered far away from God, Now I'm coming home; The paths of sin too long I've trod, Lord, I'm coming home.

Coming home, coming home, Nevermore to roam, Open wide Thine arms of love, Lord, I'm coming home.

I've wasted many precious years, Now I'm coming home; I now repent with bitter tears, Lord, I'm coming home.

Coming home, coming home, Nevermore to roam, Open wide Thine arms of love, Lord, I'm coming home.

I'm tired of sin and straying, Lord, Now I'm coming home; I'll trust Thy love, believe Thy Word, Lord, I'm coming home.

Coming home, coming home, Nevermore to roam, Open wide Thine arms of love, Lord, I'm coming home.

### BAD ADVICE/GOOD ADVICE

Read the following bad advice a worldly person might give. Then read Luke 17:1-10 and write some good advice Jesus would give instead.

1. "Hey, kid, you are so uptight! Why don't you try some weed? I've been smoking it for years, and it hasn't hurt me."



Payback

2. "Wow, she made you look like a fool in that meeting. Here—I have a great idea for getting even with her."

3. "You've been praying about this problem forever and nothing has changed. Time to stop praying and move on!"



FORGIVENESS FORMULA

Clip out one or more of the images below to post where you will see it/them on a regular basis in the week ahead as a reminder to be a forgiving



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LEPROSY?

Complete the following True/False quiz to see how much you know about the disease mentioned in the lesson text for today.

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Leprosy was incurable until the twentieth century.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Another name for leprosy is Hansen's disease.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. As soon as a person is infected, he or she begins to show symptoms.
- 4. It is estimated that there are 1,000 leper colonies in India today.
- \_\_\_\_5. In certain poorer parts of the U.S. and Canada, leprosy is still a problem.
- \_\_\_ 6. Treatments of leprosy with antibiotics are provided free by the World Health Organization.
- \_\_\_\_ 7. The inflammation associated with leprosy affects only the visible parts of the body.
- \_\_\_\_ 8. There is a genetic component to the disease, as 95 percent of people are naturally immune to it.

### HOW GRATEFUL ARE YOU?

Pick one person in the categories illustrated and jot responses to the following questions:

Why am I grateful for this person's influence on me?

How have I shown that gratitude so far?

How can I show my appreciation in the days ahead?



Preacher





Teacher



Parent



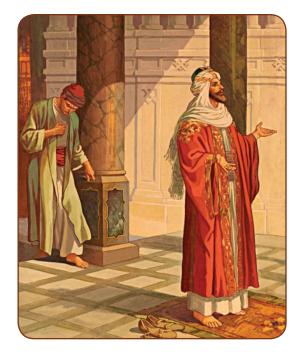


Someone else

### **CHARACTER ANALYSIS**

As you read through Jesus' parable about the two men at prayer, identify which words or phrases below apply to the Pharisee and which apply to the publican. Some labels may apply to both.

Ashamed
Blameless
Downcast
Extortionist
Fasts
Honorable
Humble
Hypocrite
Judgmental
Lawkeeper
Legalist
Lover of money



Mercy-seeking
Respected
Reviled
Self-effacing
Self-righteous
Showy
Sinful
Smug
Superior
Tither
Unjust
Unpopular

Using some of the words above, describe the actions and attitudes displayed by the two men as they prayed. Indicate which man went home "justified."

	Never	<u>Sometimes</u>	<b>Usually</b>	Always
1. I compare myself to others and judge them accordingly.	·			
2. I have a hard time admitting when I've been wrong.				
3. I like to impress others with my accomplishments.				
4. I struggle with confessing any secret sin.				

### CHILDLIKE OR CHILDISH?

In the word puzzle below, see how many words you can find that describe both good, childlike qualities and negative, childish qualities. The seven positive ones are horizontal and diagonally upwards, while the six negative are vertical and diagonally downwards.

SNEPOLINUETROMN CERLLIAMLSEPULR B E L U G R E B P O X I P W O O D Q F T S X A W U E K O U B UYSLIUEGAGLPUXB NDEZHSNRNOLS RYFIMIHIST I N I P C A W T R V T E A W D N V S W U N S P O I L E D G E G O E X L U Y L E B B A Y X E D URTELGNINNOCENT TNEIDEBOYEXIDEG AVDEPZNDWNTOUCI JOVBQTOINUSNRRV HUQPOYELBAHCAET



### AS A LITTLE CHILD

Select one area where you need to be more "as a little child" with regard to your citizenship in the kingdom of God. How will you develop spiritually in that area in the week ahead?

**DEPENDENT** on your heavenly Father to provide for you.

**OPEN** to God's leading and willing to let Him guide you into new paths.

TRUSTING God even when (or especially when) you are unsure of the outcome.

HUMBLE enough to stop trying to control situations and outcomes by your own strength.

One way I will work on being more childlike is	
5	

### THE TRUTH ABOUT ZACCHAEUS

A reporter for the *Jericho Daily News* got some of his facts wrong when he wrote about Zacchaeus's encounter with Jesus. Change one word in each sentence so that it has the correct information.

# DAILY NEWS

Yesterday, the well-known teacher and miracle worker Jesus of Nazareth was traveling through Jericho on His way to Bethel. Zacchaeus, one of the chief Pharisees in the area, was on hand. Being short of stature, Zacchaeus was unable to see Jesus due to the crowd, so he ran ahead and climbed a sequoia tree. Jesus looked up at Zacchaeus and asked his name. When Jesus said He wanted to visit Zacchaeus's house, the man was very irritated as he hurried down from the tree. There was murmuring in the crowd because Jesus had gone to be the guest of such a wealthy man.

At some point in the evening, Zacchaeus stood up and said, "Lord, the half of my goods I give to the temple." Then he continued, "And if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him double."

Jesus then told Zacchaeus, "This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of God." Jesus wrapped things up by declaring, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to rebuke that which was lost."

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### **GRAND GESTURES**

Thinking of the vow Zacchaeus made in Luke 19:8, what similar "grand gesture" could you make to show Jesus your gratitude for your salvation? Jot ideas below.



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#### Lesson 1

Belief and Unbelief. Answers are obvious from the texts cited.

Desperation! The text is specific regarding the sense of desperation only for the father. Responses concerning the other four individuals and groups may vary in conclusions and will require some "sanctified imagination" on the part of the learners.

#### Lesson 2

"I Want to Do it Myself" Responses to the first two questions will be personal to the learner. A positive element of an "I want to do it myself" attitude is avoidance of slothfulness (Proverbs 12:27; Galatians 6:4; Hebrews 6:12; 2 Thessalonians 3:12; etc.). A negative element is the danger of pride (Daniel 4:28-37; Luke 12:16-21; etc.) Other responses are possible.

Handling Disappointment. Disappointment is evident in verse 22.

#### Lesson 3

Peter and Jesus. Regarding the middle column, learners are likely to see the following: immediate obedience (Mark 1:16-18), hardened heart (6:45-52), awareness of Jesus' true identity (8:29), misunderstanding of Jesus' mission (8:31-33), an "all-in for Jesus" outlook (10:28), extreme devotion (14:27-29), unawareness of what was about to happen to Jesus (14:32-41), a "not-all-in for Jesus" outlook (14:66-72). Entries in the rightmost column will be based on the personal experiences of the learner.

Memory Associations. Many responses are possible, but here are a few: garage door going up—"the veil of the temple" is now torn (Mark 15:38), signifying the access we have to God through Christ; severe-weather alert-judgment is coming (Revelation 8:7); airplane overhead—Christ has ascended to Heaven; baby crying—we need to move on from being "babes in Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:1); cinnamon—"we are unto God a sweet savour [aroma] of Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:15); sneeze—we are to pray for the sick (James 5:15); siren—the sound of "the trump[et] of God" will signal Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

#### Lesson 4

Honoring the Dead. Many responses are possible for the first question. Some possibilities: flowers and/or flags on graves, Memorial Day observances, eulogies, and obituaries. Responses to the second question will be personal to the learners. The three texts list actions and attempted actions to treat Jesus' dead body "as the manner of the Jews is to bury" (John 19:40).

Honoring the Living One. Many responses are possible.

#### Lesson 5

Jesus Heals at a Distance. Matthew 15:21-28: A woman of Canaan (a Gentile) persistently asked Jesus to heal her daughter; Jesus admired her faith and said her daughter was healed; she returned home to find it so. Luke 7:1-10: A centurion sent "elders of the Jews" to Jesus to "come and heal his servant," but changed the request to just "say in a word"; Jesus was astonished at his faith; the servant was healed. John 4:46-54: A nobleman asked Jesus to come heal his son; Jesus said, "Go thy way; thy son liveth"; the nobleman believed and found his son healed.

#### Lesson 6

Jesus and the Pharisees. Luke 5:17-26, blasphemy, since only God can forgive sins; 5:27-31, eats and drinks with publicans and sinners; 5:33-39, disciples do not fast; 6:1-5, disciples violate the Sabbath by plucking ears of corn; 6:6-11, healed on the Sabbath.

#### Lesson 7

All responses are personal to the learners.

#### Lesson 10

What Do You Know About Leprosy? 1–T; 2–T; 3–F (those infected typically show no symptoms for five years or more); 4–T; 5–F (leprosy is extremely rare in these countries); 6–T; 7–F (it also affects the nerves and respiratory tract); 8–T.

#### Lesson 11

Character Analysis (answers may vary):

**Pharisee**—blameless, fasts, honorable, hypocrite, judgmental, lawkeeper, legalist, respected, self-righteous, showy, smug, superior, tither.

**Publican**—ashamed, downcast, extortionist, humble, mercy-seeking, reviled, self-effacing, sinful, unjust, unpopular. <u>Note</u>: "lover of money" could apply to either or both. The publican went home "justified."

#### Lesson 12

Childlike or Childish?

**Childlike**—innocent, loving, obedient, open, teachable, trusting, unspoiled; **Childish**—impulsive, needy, pouting, rude, self-ish, stubborn

#### Lesson 13

The Truth About Zacchaeus. Replace Bethel with Jerusalem; replace Pharisees with publicans; replace sequoia with sycomore; replace asked with spoke or called; replace irritated with joyful; replace wealthy with sinful; replace temple with poor; replace double with fourfold; replace God with Abraham; replace rebuke with save.