

# JESUS INSTITUTES THE NEW COVENANT

*Lesson 1, Mark 14:17-25; Hebrews 8:6, 7, 10-12, NIV*

## A JEWISH HOLIDAY

The Israelites had various feasts and observances that we would refer to as holidays, each having specific traditions. Match the below list of Jewish traditions on the right with their associated holidays on the left. There are three traditions for every one holiday, and each tradition is only used once. The definitions may help you to make the correct associations.

### JEWISH HOLIDAYS

1. Pesach (Passover)
2. Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
3. Shabbat (Sabbath)

### TRADITIONS

- \_\_ a. Challah (egg-rich, yeast-leavened bread)
- \_\_ b. Haggadah (the book of readings for seder)
- \_\_ c. Hametz (leavened food banned during this holiday)
- \_\_ d. Machzor (or Mahzor, a Hebrew prayer book containing the Jewish liturgy for festivals)
- \_\_ e. Seder (a ceremonial dinner held to commemorate the exodus from Egypt)
- \_\_ f. Shamor (Observe or watch)
- \_\_ g. Shofar (a ram's-horn trumpet)
- \_\_ h. Tzom (Fasting)
- \_\_ i. Zakhor (the ethical duty to remember)

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a reminder of Christ's sacrificial death that allows us to be under the new covenant, under God's forgiveness. This new covenant is to define us as Christians, living with Christlikeness and anticipating Jesus' return. To gain more personal insight into the significance of communion, write down all the associations you have with each of the elements.

**Bread:**

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**Fruit of the vine:**

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# JESUS SEALS THE NEW COVENANT

*Lesson 2, Mark 15:6-15, 25, 26, 33-39, NIV*

## VARIOUS VIEWPOINTS

Distribute copies of the script below to seven learners before class, with one person each for the Narrator, Pilate, Jesus, and the Centurion and three students to read in unison for the Sanhedrin.

**NARRATOR:** Reads Mark 15:6-10.

**PILATE:** These Jewish leaders tax my patience. Why do they insist on bothering me with their petty religious issues? I'll show them. I'll release this Jesus as a goodwill gesture to the people. They love Jesus; they will not want him to die.

**THE SANHEDRIN:** The only way to get rid of Jesus is to have Pilate declare him a threat to Rome and to Caesar. We must stir up this crowd against Him, so Pilate has no choice but to condemn Jesus to death.

**JESUS:** These men behave as though they are in control of this situation. They do not realize that they are fulfilling God's plan. I stand here willingly and I will die willingly, not out of submission to Rome but in submission to my Father.

**NARRATOR:** Reads Mark 15:11-15, 25, 26.

**PILATE:** These people are idiots. Don't they realize they are pawns in the hands of their religious leaders? Yet while I don't really think Jesus is guilty, I will have to listen to them or risk my position. But I will have my revenge. I will place the title of "The king of the Jews" over him for all to see. Let's see how they like that.

**THE SANHEDRIN:** Finally, we will be free of Jesus. His followers will all scatter at his death, and we can resume life as usual. God shall surely reward us for guarding his law.

**NARRATOR:** Reads Mark 15:33-39 and Psalm 22:14, 15.

**THE CENTURION:** I do not know who this man is, but I know what people say about him. He was kind and forgiving; He healed people's diseases, and they say he even brought the dead back to life. I've never seen a man die the way he did. I think he must really be the Son of God.

**JESUS:** Father, I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like melted wax. My strength is gone, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws. You have brought me into the dust of death; into your hands I commit my spirit. Be not far from me.

## MY RESPONSE

How would you personally respond to the questions below?

1. In what ways is Jesus my king? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What actions evidence this to others who see me on a daily basis? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In what ways do I rely on God's power rather than my own? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What actions evidence this to others who see me on a daily basis? \_\_\_\_\_
5. In what ways am I willing to share the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection with others? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How can I do that this week? \_\_\_\_\_

# THE NEW COVENANT'S SACRIFICE

*Lesson 3, Hebrews 9:11-22, NIV*

## DAY OF ATONEMENT MATCH

Match the suggested feature of the Day of Atonement (see Leviticus 16; 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7-11) on the left with its counterpart on the right from the lesson.

### DAY OF ATONEMENT

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Once a year
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. First covenant or testament
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Blood of animals
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Temporary cleansing
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Offered by humans
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Holy Place
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. High priest
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Purified flesh

### JESUS' SACRIFICE

- a. Jesus Christ
- b. Heaven
- c. Eternal redemption
- d. One time only
- e. Through the Holy Spirit
- f. Blood of Christ
- g. Purged or cleansed conscience
- h. New Testament

## HEBREW PARALLELISM

Hebrew poetry is known for its parallelism—repetition of the same thought with different words in consecutive lines of poetry. Using some of the main ideas below from today's lesson text, construct a poem using parallelism to praise God for his sacrifice of Jesus. (See Psalm 24 for a good example of parallelism.)

**Write your poem on the lines below.**

Christ is a superior high priest.

Jesus was a superior sacrifice to those that

were offered in the Old Testament.

Christ entered into a sanctuary superior to the tabernacle.

Christ instituted a better covenant.

God made a better promise through Jesus' sacrifice.

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# HEARTS UNITED IN LOVE

Lesson 4, Colossians 2:1-15, NIV

## CHRISTIAN PERKS

Find the benefits of being a Christian as listed in Colossians 2:1-15. Use the clues below to help you find the correct answers. Circle the benefits in the puzzle.

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. A treasure hidden in Christ                    | J V C Z I M M C T B E W |
| 2. What binds us together                         | F T I R Z I Z Z B L E K |
| 3. A result of full understanding                 | J M P R O X A U S J F H |
| 4. Though absent in body, Paul is present in this | D S D O T S R M C U H M |
| 5. The person in whom God's fullness dwells       | Z A O H T I S H R I W L |
| 6. Jesus is the head of all ____                  | J F E H E T R E G Y S P |
| 7. We are ____ and raised with Christ             | S I B D R I L I H K B S |
| 8. Where our sins are nailed                      | F R X A S D V G P C C B |
| 9. What Paul hoped to comfort and encourage       | Y R E T S Y M O D S I W |
| 10. Paul wanted them to know the ____ of God      | X H V W R B T H I W K R |
| 11. They were no longer ____ in their sins        | L T O J O T J O M E S R |
| 12. Those over whom Christ triumphed              | S S L Q N P S R F O H X |

## GROWTH SYMBOLS

Create a different symbol (such as Æ § © ‡ √ ≠ Ø ∞ # & Δ † Σ) for each of the spiritual growth tasks below. Then place the symbols on a calendar as shorthand reminders to guide you in a month of committed habits that will help you develop a more steadfast faith.

Bible study

Daily devotional time

Prayer time

Life conversations with a mentor or accountability partner

Family devotions

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# RIGHT ATTITUDES

Lesson 5, Matthew 5:1-12, NIV

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Match each of the following names with a description. You may not be familiar with all the names, but this quiz will be easier once you understand its theme!

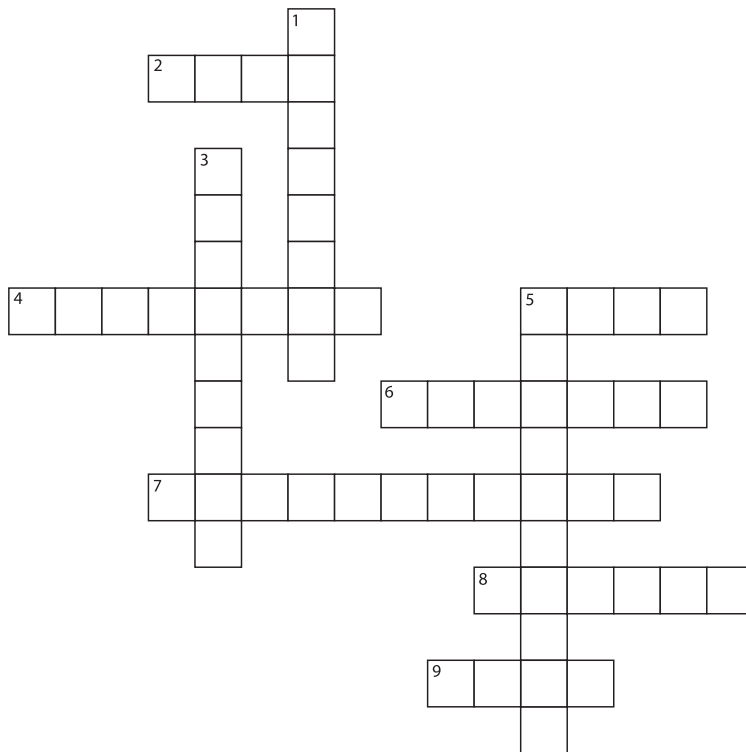
- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Curly Howard          | a. Con man in <i>Pinocchio</i>                  |
| _____ 2. Lady Antebellum       | b. Gigantic member of Robin Hood's Merry Men    |
| _____ 3. Honest John           | c. White supremacist                            |
| _____ 4. "Sweet" Saraya Knight | d. Country group that is mostly male            |
| _____ 5. Little John           | e. Author of <i>The Neverending Story</i>       |
| _____ 6. Michael Ende          | f. Only clean-shaven member of the band ZZ Top  |
| _____ 7. Don Black             | g. Member of the Three Stooges with a crew cut  |
| _____ 8. Frank Beard           | h. Loudmouthed, obnoxious professional wrestler |

## UNEXPECTED WORDS

Place the words below into the grid. How are these words unexpected descriptions of a person blessed by God?

**Words:**

- poor
- mournful
- meek
- hungry
- thirsty
- merciful
- pure
- peacemakers
- persecuted
- slandered



# FULFILLING THE LAW

*Lesson 6, Matthew 5:13-20, NIV*

## BIG CLAIMS

Below the names of companies are scrambled, followed by their advertising slogans. Unscramble the names to find out who is making these big claims. What are they promising? How factually accurate are they?

1. earlhy-vaddision—American by Birth. Rebel by Choice. \_\_\_\_\_
2. krallham—When you care enough to send the very best. \_\_\_\_\_
3. trawaml—Save Money. Live Better. \_\_\_\_\_
4. sheetawi—Breakfast of Champions. \_\_\_\_\_
5. dailydensn—The happiest place on earth. \_\_\_\_\_
6. grubre gink—Have it your way. \_\_\_\_\_
7. armhonat—Fueling the American Spirit \_\_\_\_\_
8. sribhi sawyira—The world’s favorite airline. \_\_\_\_\_
9. acoc alco—It’s the real thing. \_\_\_\_\_
10. tegiltel—The Best a Man Can Get \_\_\_\_\_

## PASS THE SALT, TURN ON THE LIGHT

Evaluate your “saltiness” or “bright-lightedness” by choosing a metaphor found below that best fits you. What changes do you need to make to be saltier or brighter?

Popcorn Salt—My world would just not “taste” the same were it not for my presence. I add a godly influence that has stirred spiritual thirst in my friends.

Rock Salt—I have a potent presence, but I tend to present truth in too big of chunks. My influence is too easily brushed off without penetrating the surface.

Garlic Salt—Salt is salt, but sometimes my actions leave a bad taste in the mouths of others.

Candlelight—My glow for God is alluring, but in a romantic, mystical sort of way. It can be so subtle that others do not see God in every detail and in all His glory.

Strobe light—My pulsating beams draw attention, but because my godly behavior is on again, off again, I am more of a distraction than an illuminator.

Crystal chandelier—The light of my life is refracted through the prisms of God’s eternal truth. I am there, but people do not really see me. Rather they view God’s radiance showering my world with beautiful points of light.

## CRIME CLASSIFICATION

Which of these crimes are usually considered felonies (F), and which are considered misdemeanors (M)?\*  
What are some factors considered when classifying crimes in this way?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Health insurance fraud
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Tampering with an odometer
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Cruelty to animals
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Witness tampering
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Escape from custody
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Using a fraudulent cigarette tax stamp
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Delivering liquor to a minor
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Obstructing mosquito control
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Receiving kickbacks
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Selling fireworks without a permit

\*These examples are taken from the Connecticut General Statutes.

## DISSECTING THE TEXT

Take apart our Scripture verse for today by filling in these blanks with words or paraphrases from the cited verses.

**Big Sin #1** (Matthew 5:21) \_\_\_\_\_

Source of that sin (Matthew 5:22) \_\_\_\_\_

Remedy (Matthew 5:23, 24) \_\_\_\_\_

Danger if not remedied (Matthew 5:25, 26) \_\_\_\_\_

**Big Sin #2** (Matthew 5:27) \_\_\_\_\_

Source of that sin (Matthew 5:28) \_\_\_\_\_

Remedy (Matthew 5:29, 30) \_\_\_\_\_

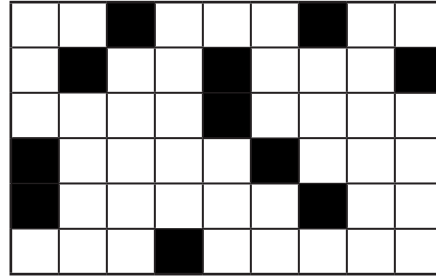
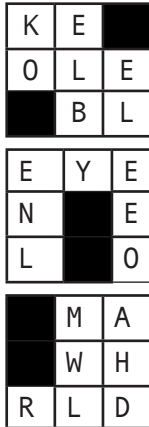
Danger if not remedied (Matthew 5:31, 32) \_\_\_\_\_

# TRANSFORMING LOVE

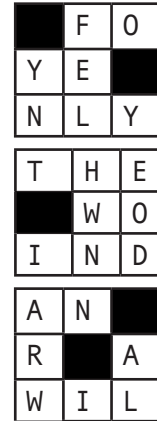
Lesson 8, Matthew 5:38-44, NIV

## CONSEQUENTIAL QUOTE

Place or copy the puzzle tiles into this grid to form a quote about the consequences of vengeance.

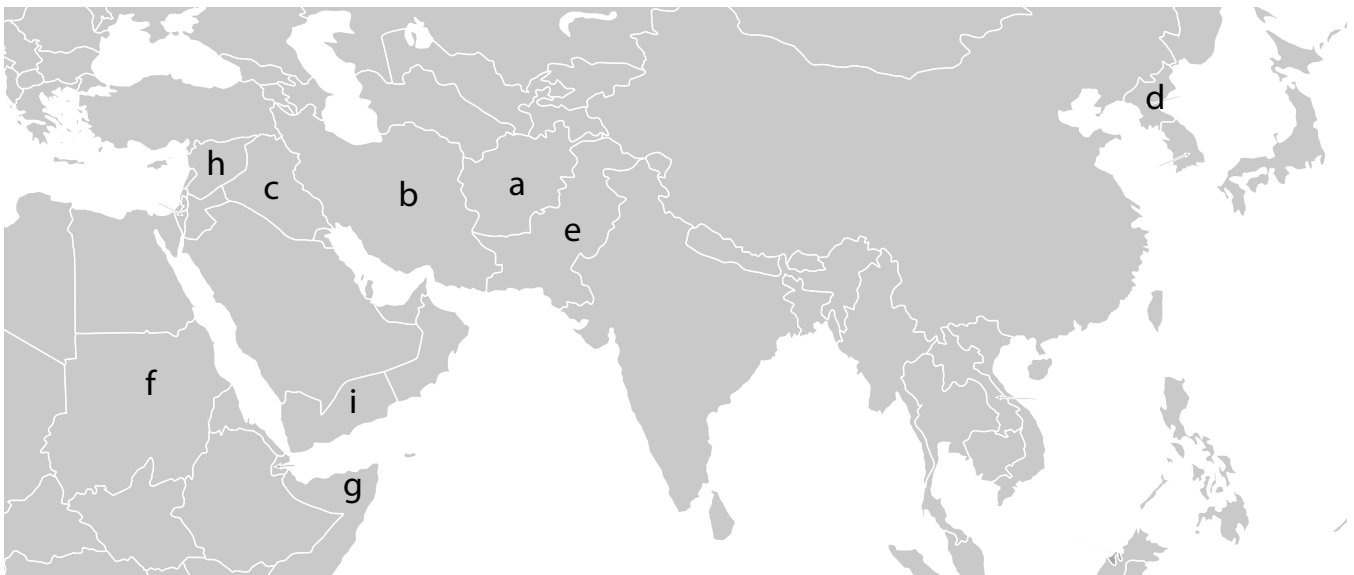


—Mahatma Gandhi



## PERSECUTION MAP

The countries listed below are considered to be those most likely to persecute Christians. Choose a country and pray for its leaders this week.



- a. Afghanistan
- b. Iran
- c. Iraq

- d. North Korea
- e. Pakistan
- f. Sudan

- g. Somalia
- h. Syria
- i. Yemen



# SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

*Lesson 9, Matthew 7:1-6, 15-23, NIV*

## HOW DO YOU RATE?

Ask your fellow class members about their experiences with rating systems. Try to have various class members initial each one of these statements about ratings.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Had a 3.0 or better grade point average in high school.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Knows credit score.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Last movie seen was rated PG.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Has never eaten at a five-star restaurant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Has recently had a performance review at work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Reads book reviews before reading a book.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Owns a car with a high MPG rating.

## TRUE OR FALSE?

This is an easy true/false test—because all the following statements are false according to our lesson text! But just to make it a challenge, be ready to explain why the statement is false and correct it.

- \_\_\_ 1. Being a critical person has no negative consequences for the critic (vv. 1, 2).
- \_\_\_ 2. Since we are imperfect, “Do as I say, not as I do,” is good advice (vv. 3-5).
- \_\_\_ 3. When someone refuses to listen to your advice, keep giving it until they surrender (v. 6).
- \_\_\_ 4. Of course, you can judge a book by its cover! (v. 15).
- \_\_\_ 5. There is really no good way to tell whether a person’s advice and teachings are worthy of being followed (vv. 16-20).
- \_\_\_ 6. We should accept a person’s spiritual testimony at face value (vv. 19-21).
- \_\_\_ 7. Miraculous signs and grand accomplishments are a sure sign that a person walks with God (vv. 22, 23).

# A COVENANT BETWEEN FRIENDS

*Lesson 10, 1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7, NIV*

## ACQUAINTANCE . . . OR FRIEND?

Novelist S. E. Hinton once wrote, “If you have two friends in your lifetime, you’re lucky. If you have one good friend, you’re more than lucky.” She spoke to the fact that we may have many acquaintances we call friends, but a “good friend” is more than a pal or a regular dinner companion. A good friend demonstrates loyalty and may even take risks on your behalf, just as Jonathan did with David.

### Remembering My Friends

In this space, list all the people who would think of you as their friend. Write as many names as you can in this space in one minute. \_\_\_\_\_

Now go back and circle the one or two people whose loyalty to you over time makes them more than an acquaintance. How is your friendship with this person or two people different from your relationship with the others? Write two or three answers here. \_\_\_\_\_

## DEMONSTRATING HIS FRIENDSHIP

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5 and 19:1-7. In this space, write attributes of Jonathan’s friendship with David.

How did Jonathan show that David was more than his pal?

## STRENGTHENING OUR FRIENDSHIP

Notice that Jonathan reached out to David to promise his friendship to him. What actions could you take to demonstrate your friendship to someone who is or could be close to you?

My Friend’s Name	What I’ll Do

# A MOTHER-DAUGHTER COVENANT

Lesson 11, Ruth 1:6-11, 14-18, NIV

## IN-LAW DIARIES

Pretend you are Ruth or Naomi. What would you record in your diary after the events recorded in each of the Scripture paragraphs indicated below?

<i>Ruth</i>	<b>Ruth 1:1-5</b> <i>Naomi</i>
<i>Ruth</i>	<b>Ruth 1:6, 7</b> <i>Naomi</i>
<i>Ruth</i>	<b>Ruth 1:8-10</b> <i>Naomi</i>
<i>Ruth</i>	<b>Ruth 1:11-14</b> <i>Naomi</i>
<i>Ruth</i>	<b>Ruth 1:15-18</b> <i>Naomi</i>

## BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

In the space below, jot the names of people or situations you know where great loss or loneliness has been experienced. Try to think of at least 10 examples.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

In which of these situations could you bring comfort or demonstrate love? Circle at least one of them. Decide what you can do this week to be a blessing with the person or need you have circled.

# A COVENANT TO MARRY

Lesson 12, Ruth 3:1-6, 8-12, 16-18, NIV

## HIDDEN MESSAGE, HELPFUL MESSAGE

Solve the following cryptogram to reveal a truth we can take away from the story of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz.

### A Lesson for All of Us

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	19					4	21				11						24	14	9						

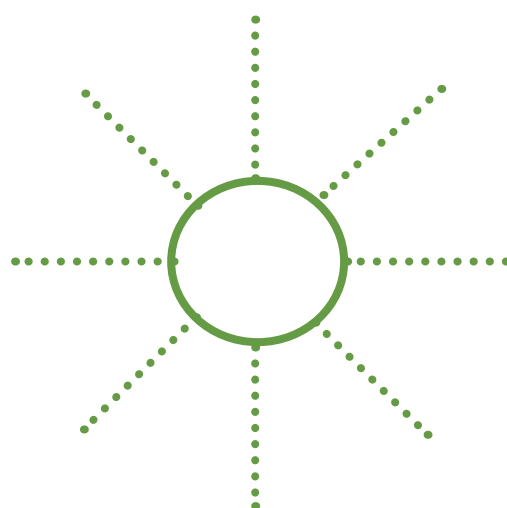
G               B L         S S         S   T H         S               H         S H              
 4 23 15   19 11 13 14 14 13 14   9 21 23 14 13   25 21 23   14 21 23 25  
        T     G R     T                 T H         R   R         L         T               S H               S  
 2 7 9 13 4 24 2 9 12   2 7   9 21 13 2 24   24 13 11 3 9 2 23 7 14 21 2 26 14

After you have completed the sentence, talk with another class member to reflect on this principle. Share either a positive or negative example from your experience.

## MY RELATIONSHIP MATRIX

Write your name in the center of the circle below. On each line write the name of someone with whom you have a regular relationship, such as a coworker, family member, neighbor, or friend.

- Make the line a solid line if you feel your relationship with this person is healthy and strong.
- Circle the name of the person whose relationship causes the most stress. How could improved integrity—on their part or yours—make this relationship healthier?
- Pray about a plan for improving your relationship with this person.



# MARRIAGE: A COVENANT OF MUTUAL LOVE

*Lesson 13, Ephesians 5:21-33, NIV*

## MARRIAGE BROKEN

Look at the four pictures below. What's going on in these marriages? Choose one and write a paragraph or story to describe the problems this marriage is facing.



Photos: © omgimages / Ridofranz / alexsokolov / djedzura / iStock / Getty Images Plus

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## MARRIAGE MENDED

What principles from Ephesians 5:21-32 could help and heal these marriages? Write a paragraph of biblical counsel to the couple whose picture above you described.

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### Lesson 1

**A Jewish Holiday:** 1=Pesach (see Exodus 12); Haggadah (b), Hametz (c), Seder (e). 2=Yom Kippur (see Leviticus 23); Machzor (d), Shofar (g), Tzom (h). 3=Shabbat (see Exodus 31); Challah (a), Shamor (f), Zakhor (i).

### Lesson 3

**Day of Atonement Match:** 1=d. 2=h. 3=f. 4=c. 5=e. 6=b. 7=a. 8=g.

### Lesson 4

**Christian Perks:** 1=wisdom. 2=love. 3=riches. 4=spirit. 5=Christ. 6=power. 7=buried. 8=cross. 9=hearts. 10=mystery. 11=dead. 12=powers.

**Christian Perks solution::**

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+ + C + + + + + + + + +
+ + + R + + + + B + + +
+ + + + O + + U + + + +
D + + + T S R + C + + +
+ A + + + I S H + + + +
+ + E + E T R E + + + +
S + + D R I + I H + + +
+ R + A S + + + P C + +
Y R E T S Y M O D S + W
+ H V W + + + + + + + R
+ + O + O + + + + + + +
+ + L + + P + + + + + +
    
```

### Lesson 5

**What's in a Name?** 1=g. 2=d. 3=a. 4=h. 5=b. 6=e. 7=c. 8=f.  
**Unexpected Words solution:**

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      M
      |
  1 P U R E
      |
      R
      |
      C
      |
      I
      |
      A
      |
      F
      |
M O U R N F U L          5 P O O R
      |               E
      D               |
      |               |
      E               |
      |               |
      R               |
  7 P E A C E M A K E R S
      |               |
      D               |
                    8 H U N G R Y
                    |
                    T
                    |
                    M E E K
                    |
                    D
    
```

### Lesson 6

**Big Claims:** 1=Harley-Davidson. 2=Hallmark. 3=Walmart. 4=Wheaties. 5=Disneyland. 6=Burger King. 7=Marathon. 8=British Airways. 9=Coca Cola. 10=Gillette.

### Lesson 7

**Crime Classification:** 1=F. 2=M. 3=M. 4=F. 5=M. 6=F. 7=F. 8=M. 9=F. 10=M.

**Dissecting the Text** (suggested answers): **Big Sin #1**=murder. Source of that sin=uncontrolled anger. Remedy=reconcile with the person. Danger if not remedied=feud will continue until someone pays. **Big Sin #2**=adultery. Source of that sin=lust for another. Remedy=avoid the temptation at all cost. Danger if not remedied=destruction and devaluation of marriage.

### Lesson 8

**Consequential Quote solution:**

A	N		E	Y	E		F	O
R		A	N		E	Y	E	
W	I	L	L		O	N	L	Y
	M	A	K	E		T	H	E
	W	H	O	L	E		W	O
R	L	D		B	L	I	N	D

### Lesson 9

**True or False?** Answers can be drawn from the lesson text.

### Lesson 12

**Hidden Message, Helpful Message:** God blesses those who show integrity in their relationships.

### Lesson 13

**Broken Marriage:** arguing, distant/unengaged, raised voices, marriage counseling.