

# GOOD DAYS ARE COMING

Along with the bad news of a coming disaster, Jeremiah brought good news of God's promises of restoration. Unscramble the significant words in the prophecy from today's lesson text.

1. The people would return after being led away into ACIIPTTVY.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. After losing their land, the people would again SESPSOS it.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The people knew the city of AMEJURLES would be rebuilt.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Though many would die far away, the Lord will add to their EMBURNS on return from exile.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. God stated his intention that his replanted congregation be DEHASTELIBS.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. The new governor would come close to God and draw RANE to him.

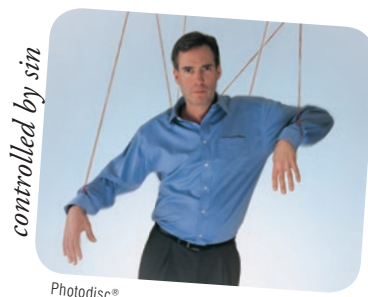
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Those who had been punished ones would be declared God's EEPPO.

\_\_\_\_\_

# BAD DAYS ARE DEPARTING

The phrases below describe those who are not part of God's family. Let them remind you of the blessings you have as God's child. Write a grateful prayer for such blessings.



*My Prayer*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OLD AND NEW

Differences between God's old and new covenants are listed below in code. Both lists use the same substitution code. When you have identified a word, use the known letters to decode the other words in the two lists. One entry is given to get you started.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Old Covenant</u>	<u>New Covenant</u>
1. Those in covenant: God and	LHJSKL KP SZTHMR	ALL BELIEVERS HRR XMRSMIMTZ
2. Delivered from	XKLOHDM KP PRMZP	XKLOHDM JK ZSL
3. Where law is written	JHXRMJZ KP ZJKLM	FEAHL FMHTJZ
4. Knowledge of God	JHEDFJ LMSDFXKT	HRR VLKC DKO
5. Sins covered by	HLSAHR ZHYTSPSYM	BMZEZ' ZHYTSPSYM

## IDENTIFY THE COVENANT

What a privilege to be living under the new covenant of grace rather than the old covenant of law and legalism! Read the following quotes and indicate which covenant pattern is being followed, *old* or *new*.

### Old or New?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. "Since I missed taking Communion last Sunday, I'm afraid that I won't go to Heaven if I die today."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. "Why can't I get the victory over this particular sin? I will trust Jesus for help and forgiveness."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. "I make sure always to tithe 10 percent so I know that I am 'good to go' with God."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. "No Christian should go to *that* kind of movie, so why did I see a church elder there?"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. "I realize I have the freedom to eat all kinds of food, but I always pause to consider how exercise of my freedom will affect others."



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# COUNTERINTUITIVE

To act in a counterintuitive way means to do something contrary to common sense. Many Bible accounts feature people who did just that in order to show their faith in God. In that regard, match the names on the right with the descriptions below (see if you can do it without looking up the reference).

- \_\_\_ 1. Marry a prostitute and have children with her as an object lesson for the Israelites of their unfaithfulness (Hosea 1:1-3).
- \_\_\_ 2. Prepare to stab your son to death and offer him as a sacrifice (Hebrews 11:17, 18).
- \_\_\_ 3. Pour 12 big jars of water on a sacrifice before asking God to set it on fire (1 Kings 18:25-38).
- \_\_\_ 4. Enter a fight as a featherweight going up against a heavyweight (1 Samuel 17).
- \_\_\_ 5. Go out to meet an angry man and his army to persuade them not to kill your husband, who insulted them (1 Samuel 25:23-32).
- \_\_\_ 6. Risk your life by entering the king's presence uninvited to save your people (Esther 4:11-5:2).
- \_\_\_ 7. Be 1 of 2 spies to stand against 10 others who contradict you and turn an angry mob against you (Numbers 13:30-14:10a).
- \_\_\_ 8. Tell a king to repent for committing adultery and murder (2 Samuel 12:1-7).

**A. Abraham**  
**B. Caleb**  
**C. Elijah**  
**D. David**  
**E. Abigail**  
**F. Esther**  
**G. Nathan**  
**H. Hosea**

## COULD YOU DO IT?

Which of the following are you willing to do in spite of your circumstances?



- \_\_\_ Speak up for Jesus in a hostile crowd.
- \_\_\_ Make a faith promise pledge that's beyond your budget.
- \_\_\_ Witness to an unbelieving friend.
- \_\_\_ Forgive someone who has hurt you badly.
- \_\_\_ Give to a food cupboard while living on unemployment.
- \_\_\_ Risk losing your job by refusing to do anything unethical.

Circle the one that would be hardest for you to do. Write a prayer below that asks God for the courage and opportunity to be ready to do so when the time comes.

*Heavenly Father,*

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# THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

NARRATOR: The following conversation was overheard around 586 BC, during the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem.

AARON [*moaning and holding his stomach*]: I am so hungry, I could eat a horse.

REBEKAH: Aaron, you are out of luck. The horses are long gone; we ate the last one a month ago.

AARON: At this point, I'd settle for a nice, juicy mouse.

REBEKAH: As yucky as that sounds, I almost agree with you. What I'd like is a long drink of fresh water. But what is left at the bottom of the cisterns is very dirty.

AARON: Just how long has it been that those Babylonians have had us under siege?

REBEKAH: Sixteen months and counting. I hope it's over soon.

AARON: Well, it may well be. I heard that young prophet down at the temple say that God will overthrow our enemies at any time, and we just have to hang in there.

REBEKAH: But that's not what Jeremiah has been saying. According to him the Babylonians are carrying out God's judgment for our sins, and we're going to be carried off into captivity.

AARON: Yes, and look at what happened to him for saying it—he got thrown into prison. I'd rather believe that young guy. I need to have some hope.

REBEKAH: Actually, Marian told me she heard Jeremiah say that eventually God will bring us back from captivity, and then life will be good again.

AARON: I don't think we can trust that Jeremiah guy. The temple leaders say he's a crackpot.

REBEKAH: I don't know about that, but I do know I had better try to find some food for supper. I think I'll go see your sister, Mary, and ask if she has any grain left.

AARON: You may as well save yourself the trip; she doesn't live there anymore. They came and tore down her house.

REBEKAH: What?! Why would they do that?

AARON: They are using the boards and stones to shore up the walls where the Babylonians are trying to tear them down. They even tore down parts of the king's palace.

REBEKAH: Oh no! How much worse can things get?

AARON: Funny you should ask. I've been meaning to tell you that Mary asked if her family could move in with us.

REBEKAH: Oh, woe is me! [*They exit, she holding her head and he holding his stomach.*]

## MAKE THE CONNECTION

Match the words and phrases on the left with those on the right, according to Jeremiah 33.



Joy and praise  
Bride and bridegroom  
Health and healing  
Cleansing from sin  
Return from captivity  
Desolation

Abundant peace and security (v. 6)  
Rebuilding (v. 7)  
Forgiveness (v. 8)  
Prosperity and peace (v. 9)  
Silence (v. 10)  
Voices of thanksgiving (v. 11)



# RUNNING WITH THE REVELATION

God's instruction to Habakkuk was to write down a message plainly for rapid distribution so people would know God's will. In the area below, write down God's foundational message of hope that he wants all to read or hear today. What opportunities will you have to share this message personally?



## THE OLD IS NEW AGAIN!

### **Romans 1:16, 17**

*I am not ashamed of the gospel. . . . For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”*

### **Galatians 3:11**

*Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.”*

### **Hebrews 10:38**

*“But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.”*

Which New Testament quotation of Habakkuk 2:4 speaks to you most personally today? Why? Jot your reflections below:

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## MOVING FROM PAIN TO HOPE

Our picture of Job is of one moving from pain—both physical and emotional—to hope. Fill in the lines below, changing one letter on each line from the line above it in order to move from *PAIN* to *HOPE*. The clues on the right may help.

P A I N

— — — —

— — — —

— — — —

— — — —

— — — —

— — — —

— — — —

— — — —

H O P E

Job's friends didn't think his "bill" from God was \_\_\_\_\_.

Regarding Job's friends, more was being \_\_\_\_\_ than done.

Job may have been sitting in the desert \_\_\_\_\_.

Job's \_\_\_\_\_ of friends were "playing a sad, sad song."

The men's \_\_\_\_\_ of friendship was being sorely strained.

Job's appearance was down to skin and \_\_\_\_\_.

"Oh, that this might all be over and \_\_\_\_\_ with!" seemed to be Job's lament.

Each of Job's friends came off looking like a \_\_\_\_\_!

## WHEN FRIENDS TURN BAD

How did Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar change from being good counselors to bad, merely increasing Job's sorrow in the process?

What makes it hard to help someone who is suffering terribly? What ways have you found to be a friend during the hard times?

## WAITING FOR A REDEEMER

Job hoped for a redeemer, although the full revelation of that concept came after his time. Many others since Job's day have hoped for a redeemer as well. For example, Jessie B. Pounds (1861–1921) expressed her confidence in a Redeemer in the hymn titled "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth." Ponder some of the words to this hymn, out to the right, and decide whether you will make the thoughts your own.



*I know that my Redeemer liveth,  
And on the earth again shall stand;  
I know eternal life He giveth,  
That grace and power are in His hand.*

Refrain

*I know, I know, that Jesus liveth,  
And on the earth again shall stand;  
I know, I know, that life He giveth,  
That grace and power are in His hand.*

The hymn writer's thoughts are mine too! Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT JOB SAW; WHAT I SEE

Viewing injustice all around him, Job expresses a sentiment that many of God's children have thought and uttered through the ages: *When, God, will you make things right?* Examine the statements below and assign a letter to each of them, according to the list to the right. Each letter can be used once, more than once, or not at all.

- \_\_\_ 1. God's justice is seemingly delayed. I wish he would act now! (Job 24:1, 12).
- \_\_\_ 2. The children of single parents are being taken advantage of in some way (Job 24:9a).
- \_\_\_ 3. Poorer people are being victimized by the rich through predatory lending practices, etc. (Job 24:9b-11).
- \_\_\_ 4. A general lack of kindness is evident, especially toward those whose family situations are far from ideal (Job 24:21).
- \_\_\_ 5. The shady characters of this life always get their due sooner or later (Job 24:22-24).

*A – I see this personally almost daily.*

*B – I see this personally from time to time and often in the news.*

*C – I see this only occasionally, either personally or in the news.*

*D – This isn't even on my radar.*

After you have made your choices above, the question becomes *what now?* Jot your ideas in that regard below, considering Matthew 25:31-46 and Luke 16:19-31 as you do so.

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## WHAT GOD SEES

Job rightly concludes that God's eyes are on the ways of the wicked (Job 24:23). God is the one who sees all. How should this affect our actions? The texts below will offer insight as you jot your ideas in the box.

Genesis 16:13	Deuteronomy 11:11, 12	2 Chronicles 16:9a
Psalms 34:15		Proverbs 15:3
Jeremiah 32:19	Hebrews 4:13	1 Peter 3:12

Circle the passage that has the most impact on you. Commit it to memory as one of your spiritual weapons against Satan, the accuser.

# JOB'S GOD, OUR GOD

In which verses of today's text do you find affirmations of, or an implied reference to, the attributes or nature of God?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ___ 1. Omniscient (all-knowing)        | ___ 6. Omnipotent (all-powerful)        |
| ___ 2. Beyond human understanding      | ___ 7. Honors obedience                 |
| ___ 3. Gracious                        | ___ 8. Self-revealing                   |
| ___ 4. Worthy of obedience and worship | ___ 9. Capable of anger                 |
| ___ 5. Will bring about justice        | ___ 10. Honors prayers of the righteous |

## BFWP

Do you want to be a BFWP—a best friend who prays? When God says “My servant Job will pray for you” (Job 42:8), he suggests that one of the most important elements of spiritual support is intercessory prayer. Identify seven individuals you care enough about to approach God on their behalf, and identify one area for which you will intercede for each of them:

**NAME**

**REQUEST**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



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*Remember: God got Job into a right relationship with him before commissioning that man to intercede for his friends (see Job 42:1-6 for the elements of Job's personal faith and repentance). Be sure that you too are in a right relationship with God before praying for others!*



# TEMPLE BUILDING: A CHORAL READING

Two individuals will read the parts of *Solo 1* and *Solo 2*, and two others will read *Duet* together. The rest of the class will be divided between *Group 1* and *Group 2*. (If your class is too small for this, have the two *Solo* readers also read *Duet*.) Before the reading, everyone should circle their parts as visual cues. (The reading consists of the Scripture texts 1 Peter 2:4, 5; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; and 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, in that order.) After the reading, discuss ways to make both the individual “temple” of one’s self and the collective “temple” of the church more holy in the coming week.

**Group 1:** As you come to him, the living Stone.

*Solo 1:* Rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him.

*Solo 2:* You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**Group 2:** Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers.

**Group 1:** But fellow citizens with God’s people.

*Duet:* And also members of his household.

**Group 2:** Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

*Solo 1:* In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

*Solo 2:* And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

**Group 1:** Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?

*Solo 1:* If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person.

*Duet:* For God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

**Group 2:** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.

*Solo 2:* You were bought at a price.

*Duet:* Therefore honor God with your bodies.

**All:** We are the temple of God.



# EZEKIEL'S ALTAR

As you work through today's lesson, draw a line to connect each name of a feature below with the correct part of the diagram on the right.

## Altar Hearth

## Rim

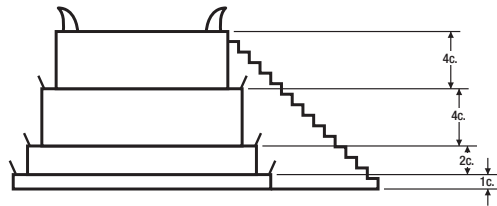
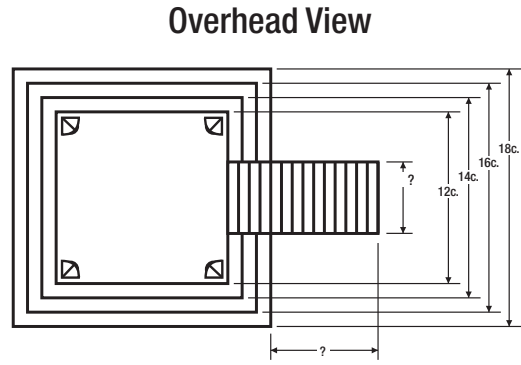
## Gutter

## Upper Ledge

## Horns

## Lower Ledge

## Steps



### Side View

# OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is our great high priest. Complete the acrostic below to identify some of the activities Jesus performed on our behalf. One example is given to get you started.



**O  
F  
Sacrifice  
E  
R  
I  
N  
G**



# NEW TESTAMENT PRIESTLY DUTIES

Read 1 Peter 2:4, 5, 9 to examine your duties as a member of the New Testament priesthood. Jot your discoveries below.

# A RIVER RUNS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Throughout Scripture we see the image of river or water used to convey the abundant life that comes from God. Look up the Scripture references below and record the imagery used in each verse.

## Scripture Image

Genesis 2:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 1:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 12:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 41:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 43:19 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 48:18 \_\_\_\_\_

John 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_

John 4:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 22:1, 2 \_\_\_\_\_



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# A MEDITATION FOR OTHERS

Write a devotion or prayer this week based on the metaphor of the river. Share your result with other class members via e-mail or social media. Consider compiling a booklet of the meditations and/or prayers from your classmates for sharing with members of your church who are shut-ins.



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## NEW INHERITANCE

Find the words to the right in the puzzle below, which contains the geographic reference points in today's study.

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



Berothah  
Damascus  
Gilead  
Hamath  
Hauran  
Hazar Enan  
Hazer Hattikon  
Hethlon  
Jordan  
Kadesh  
Mediterranean  
Sibraim  
Tamar  
Zedad

## NEW BEGINNINGS

Without using your Bible, see if you can match the Scripture references on the left with the “new beginnings” on the right.

**A. Exodus 32**

**B. 2 Samuel 12**

**C. Job 42**

**D. Jeremiah 31**

**E. Jonah 3**

**F. John 21**

**G. Acts 15 &  
2 Timothy 4**

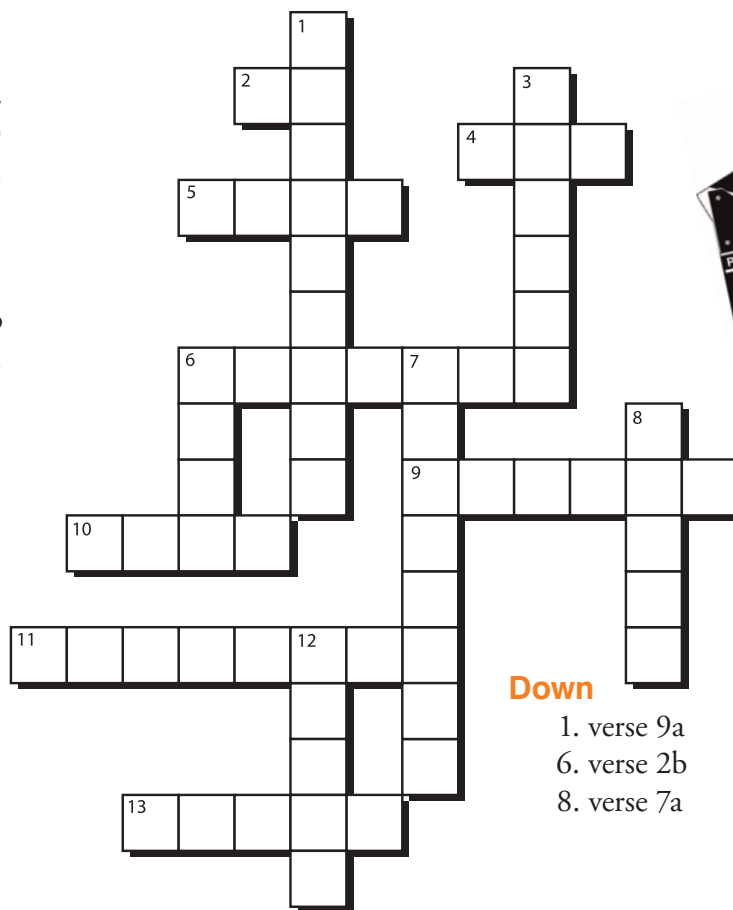
- \_\_\_ 1. Moses intervened and God did not destroy the Israelites for worshipping a golden calf.
- \_\_\_ 2. The Ninevites repented after God sent a prophet to preach to them.
- \_\_\_ 3. God offered a new covenant that was to be implemented after the Babylonian exile.
- \_\_\_ 4. David experienced God's forgiveness after repenting of sins of the Bathsheba incident.
- \_\_\_ 5. Peter experienced reinstatement after he had denied Jesus.
- \_\_\_ 6. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar avoided God's wrath when sacrifices and prayer were offered on their behalf.
- \_\_\_ 7. Paul acknowledged John Mark to be “helpful . . . in my ministry” after earlier concluding otherwise.

# ACTION!

In today's lesson, God calls Israel to specific action, and he promises to respond with actions of his own. Complete the puzzle below by selecting an action listed in each verse that matches the spaces available.

## Across

- 2. verse 12
- 4. verse 10
- 5. verse 8a
- 6. verse 8c
- 9. verse 11
- 10. verse 2c
- 11. verse 7b
- 13. verse 2a



## Down

- 1. verse 9a
- 3. verse 7c
- 6. verse 2b
- 7. verse 9b
- 8. verse 7a
- 12. verse 1



# SING!

Many Christian songs and hymns are based on today's text or otherwise reflect the text's themes. List below the titles of seven songs and/or hymns in that regard; sing one each day during your devotional time in the week ahead.

- Rise up!* (Mon) \_\_\_\_\_
- Spread good news!* (Tue) \_\_\_\_\_
- Our God reigns!* (Wed) \_\_\_\_\_
- Lift your voice!* (Thu) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Lord comforts!* (Fri) \_\_\_\_\_
- See God's salvation!* (Sat) \_\_\_\_\_
- God is with us!* (Sun) \_\_\_\_\_





## Lesson 1

### *Good Days Are Coming*

1. captivity, 2. possess, 3. Jerusalem, 4. numbers, 5. established, 6. near, 7. people

## Lesson 2

### *Differences*

1. nation of Israel, all believers; 2. bondage of flesh, bondage to sin; 3. tablets of stone, human hearts; 4. taught neighbor, all know God; 5. animal sacrifice; Jesus' sacrifice

### *Identify the Covenant*

1. old, 2. new, 3. old, 4. old, 5. new

## Lesson 3

### *Counterintuitive*

- 1-H, Hosea (Hosea 1:1-3); 2-A, Abraham (Hebrews 11:17, 18); 3-C, Elijah (1 Kings 18:25-38); 4-D, David (1 Samuel 17); 5-E, Abigail (1 Samuel 25:23-32); 6-F, Esther (Esther 4:11-5:2); 7-B, Caleb (Numbers 13:30-14:10a); 8-G, Nathan (2 Samuel 12:1-7)

## Lesson 4

### *Make the Connection*

joy and praise, prosperity and peace (v. 9); bride and bridegroom, voices of thanksgiving (v. 11); health and healing, abundant peace and security (v. 6); cleansing from sin, forgiveness (v. 8); return from captivity, rebuilding (v. 7); desolation, silence (v. 10)

## Lesson 5

### *Running with the Revelation*

Various entries are possible, but an obvious one is John 3:16.

## Lesson 6

### *Moving from Pain to Hope*

paid, said, sand, band, bond, bone, done, dope.

### *When Friends Turn Bad*

See Job 2:11-13; 13:4; 16:2; 19:3.

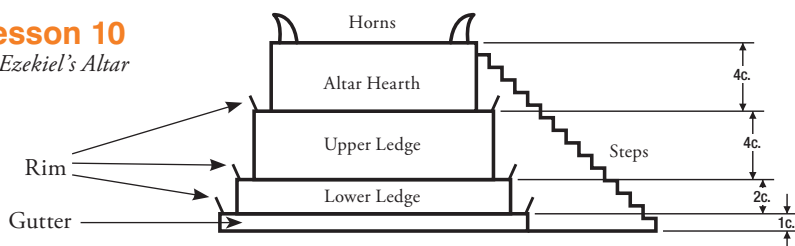
## Lesson 8

### *Job's God, Our God*

Possible answers (your learners may make good cases for others): 1-verse 2; 2-verse 3; 3-verses 8, 9; 4-verse 9; 5-verse 7; 6-verse 2; 7-verses 8-10; 8-verse 5; 9-verse 7; 10-verse 10

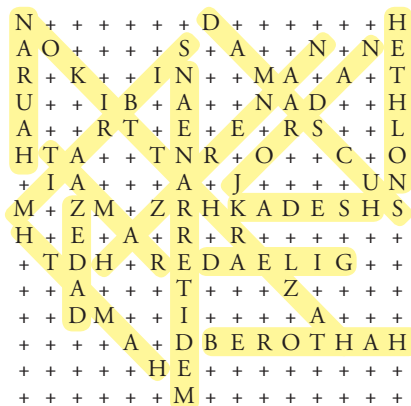
## Lesson 10

### *Ezekiel's Altar*



## Lesson 12

### *New Inheritance*



### *New Beginnings*

- 1-A; 2-E; 3-D; 4-B; 5-F; 6-C; 7-G

## Lesson 13

### *Action!*

#### Across

2. verse 12-go
4. verse 10-see
5. verse 8a-lift
6. verse 8c-returns
9. verse 11-depart
10. verse 2c-free
11. verse 7b-proclaim
13. verse 2a-shake

#### Down

1. verse 9a-comforted
3. verse 7c-reigns
6. verse 2b-rise
7. verse 9b-redeemed
8. verse 7a-bring
12. verse 1-awake