

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 desperation on the part of each of the following in today's lesson text?

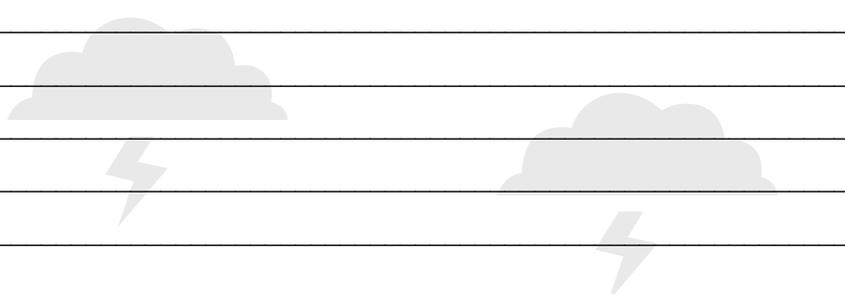
The afflicted son _____

The father _____

The unclean spirit _____

The disciples of Jesus _____

The scribes _____



When was a time of desperation for you like one of the above? How did it affect your relationship with God?

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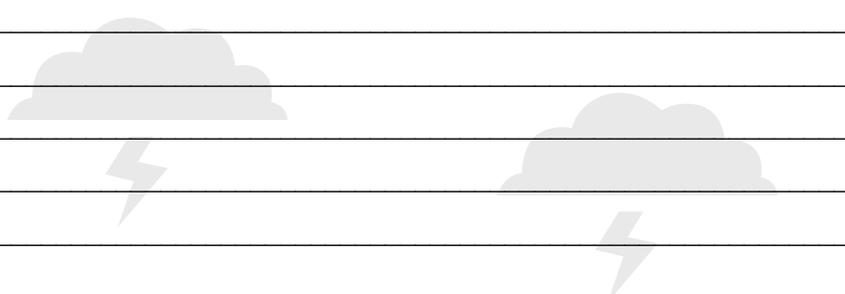
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When was a time of desperation for you like one of the above? How did it affect your relationship with God?

“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?



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What are some positive elements of such a desire? _____

What are some negative elements of such a desire? _____



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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?



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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 in this column 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 in this column 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 _____

Severe-weather alert _____



Airplane overhead _____

Baby crying _____



Cinnamon _____



Sneeze _____

Siren _____



HONORING THE DEAD

What are some ways we honor the dead today?

Which of these do you find most appropriate and meaningful? Why?



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Jesus was dead—of that there was no doubt—and his friends and followers wanted to honor him in his death. What do the following passages reveal about their efforts to do so?

John 19:38-40 _____

Matthew 27:60 _____

Mark 16:1 _____

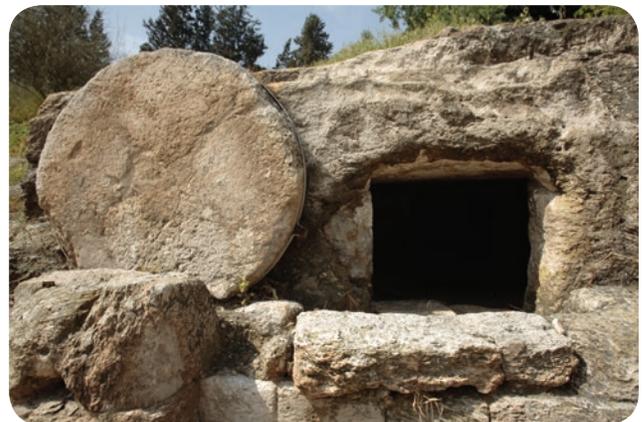
HONORING THE LIVING ONE

Look up John 14:15 and write it here: _____

Which commandments of Jesus can you recall? Write them below:



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JESUS HEALS AT A DISTANCE

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

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Request Made</u>	<u>Jesus' Response</u>	<u>Result</u>
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>	<u>Pharisees' Accusations</u>
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 to extend to others.



1. _____

2. _____

1. _____

2. _____

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.



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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.

G

R

A

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.”



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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!”



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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 person continually.



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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?



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Parent

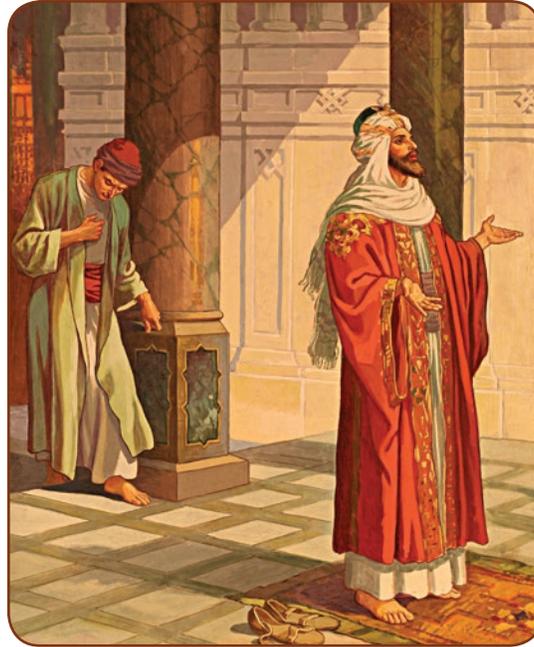


Someone else

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 tax collector. 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.”

HUMBLE AT HEART?

	<u>Never</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Usually</u>	<u>Always</u>
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.	___	___	___	___

What changes in actions or attitudes does humility require of you? Jot ideas below.

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.

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



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AS A LITTLE CHILD

Select one area where you need to be more “like 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.

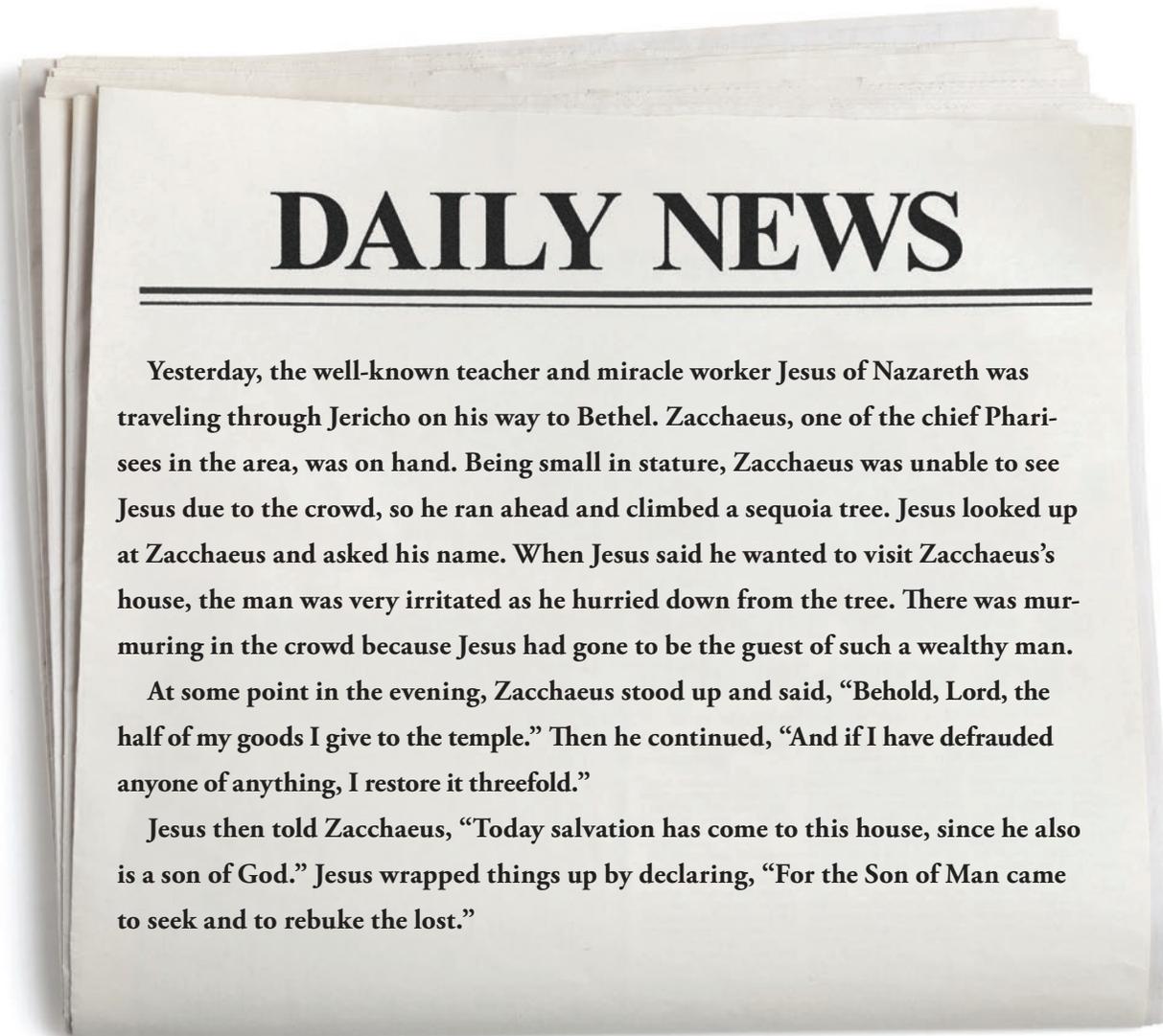
TRUSTING God even when (or especially when) you are unsure of the outcome.

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

One way I will work on being more childlike is _____

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.



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.



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 curtain 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 “infants in Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:1); **cinnamon**—“we are the aroma of Christ to God” (2 Corinthians 2:15); **sneeze**—we are to pray for the sick (James 5:15); **siren**—the sound of “the trumpet 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 is the burial custom of the Jews” (John 19:40).

Honoring the Living One. Many responses are possible.

Lesson 5

Jesus Heals at a Distance. **Matthew 15:21-28:** A Canaanite woman (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 the word”; Jesus was astonished at his faith; the servant was healed. **John 4:46-54:** An official asked Jesus to come heal his son; Jesus said, “Go; your son will live”; the official 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 tax collectors and sinners; **5:33-39,** disciples do not fast; **6:1-5,** disciples violate the Sabbath by plucking heads of grain; **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.

Tax Collector—ashamed, downcast, extortionist, humble, mercy-seeking, reviled, self-effacing, sinful, unjust, unpopular. Note: “lover of money” could apply to either or both. The tax collector went home “justified.”

Lesson 12

Childlike or Childish?

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

S N E P O + I + + + + + N
+ E + + + + M + + + + R
+ E L + + + + P + + P + O
+ D + F + + + + U + + O + B
+ Y + + I + + G + G L + U + B
+ + + + S N + N + + S T + U
+ + + + I H I + + + + I + T
+ + + + T + V + + + + N V S
+ U N S P O I L E D + + G + E
+ + U + L + + + + + + + +
+ R + + + + I N N O C E N T
T N E I D E B O + + + + D + +
+ + + + + + + + + + U + +
+ + + + + + + + + + R + +
+ + + + + E L B A H C A E T

Lesson 13

The Truth About Zacchaeus. Replace *Bethel* with *Jerusalem*; replace *Pharisees* with *tax collectors*; replace *sequoia* with *sycamore*; replace *asked* with *spoke* or *called*; replace *irritated* with *joyful*; replace *wealthy* with *sinful*; replace *temple* with *poor*; replace *threefold* with *fourfold*; replace *God* with *Abraham*; replace *rebuke* with *save*.