

Activity Pages

SPRING 2024 EXAMINING OUR FAITH

These Activity Pages Are Designed To:

- Engage students in a way that lecture and open-ended discussion don't.
- Gain insight on what has been learned and what hasn't.
- Encourage students to learn from one another and build vital relationships, in keeping with Proverbs 27:17 and Galatians 6:2.

Tips For Using Activity Pages:

- Instructions are on each lesson's "Involvement Learning" page (for teachers) and Activity Page (for students).
- Use these pages as optional alternatives for "Involvement Learning" activities.
- Limit individual work time and focus on facilitating discussion among learners.
- Encourage students to complete take-home work by discussing their results in the next class session.

Maximize Group Activity Time!

- Instead of viewing group activities as empty time for you as the teacher, look for opportunities to encourage and challenge your students.
- Pray silently during the activity for the participants' spiritual growth! Pray for them by name, calling on the Lord to bless each person.
- Circulate among the groups of learners and observe their interactions to discover your learners' level of spiritual maturity.
- Pray that the Spirit will fall on your classroom, equipping your students with knowledge and filling them with passion to boldly proclaim the good news.

Sustaining Our Faith

Lesson 1, Jude 17-25, NIV

Dear Friends

Use a concordance to find other uses of “dear friends” in the New Testament. A few have been provided to get you started. Read these Scriptures and write down any insights they offer.

Romans 12:17-19

Hebrews 6:9-12

1 John 4:7-12

2 Corinthians 7:1

1 Peter 2:11-12

3 John 11

Philippians 2:12-18

1 John 3:2-3

What is the expected behavior of those considered “dear friends”?

Build Yourselves Up

Write ideas for implementing the imperatives from Jude 20-21. Then put a star next to the imperative you will focus on this week.

How I can build up my faith:

How I can pray in the Spirit:

How I can keep myself in the love of God:

How I can look for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Testing Our Faith

Lesson 2, 2 Corinthians 13:5-11, NIV

Fruit of the Spirit Test

One way to test faith is to examine the presence of spiritual fruit (see Galatians 5:22-23). Rate the presence of the fruit in your attitudes and responses to others in the past week.

1 = not present, 2 = somewhat present, 3 = very present

LOVE	1	2	3
JOY	1	2	3
PEACE	1	2	3
FORBEARANCE	1	2	3
KINDNESS	1	2	3
GOODNESS	1	2	3
FAITHFULNESS	1	2	3
GENTLENESS	1	2	3
SELF-CONTROL	1	2	3

What is your "grade"?

Count up your points!

A = 25–27

B = 22–24

C = 19–21

D = 16–18

F = 15 or less

In what areas did you rate yourself highest/lowest and why?

My Prayer for You

In 2 Corinthians 13:7-9, Paul describes his prayer that other believers be honest, strong, and perfect. Think about one friend you can pray for daily during the upcoming week. Fill in the blank with the person's first name. Customize the prayer by adding personal insights and specific requests below each section. Place the prayer in a visible location as a reminder for daily prayer.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for putting _____ [friend's first name] in my life and allowing me to see him/her grow in the faith. I pray that he/she will do no evil but be blameless in the eyes of God and man, choosing in every circumstance to do what is good and right.

I rejoice when _____ is firm in his/her faith, and I pray that you would strengthen him/her day by day, to accomplish whatever you place before him/her faithfully.

My prayer is for nothing less than _____'s complete restoration and perfection, which I know is only possible through your Spirit.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

To Do and Not to Do

Use the table below to separate the “to do” commands and the “not to do” commands in 1 Peter 3:8-17.

TO DO

NOT TO DO



With Gentleness and Respect

In the space below, write an “elevator pitch” (a short speech that could be delivered while traveling between floors) in response to the question, “Why do you have hope?” Consider especially what this answer should look like when given “with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15).

Worst-Case Scenario

Consider each of the following worst-case scenarios. For each scenario, work with your group to develop a response to each scenario.

1. You are being chased through a jungle ... by a wild gorilla.
2. You are crossing a rushing river ... in a barrel.
3. You are eating honey ... and encounter a grizzly bear.
4. You are swimming in the ocean ... and spot a shark fin.
5. You are camping ... and get caught in a snowstorm.
6. You are baking a cake ... and use salt instead of sugar.
7. You are giving an important speech ... and you have continuous hiccups.
8. You are exhausted ... and discover bedbugs have infested your bed.

Responses and Reactions

In a minute or less, circle your most likely response to each scenario. Discuss your conclusions with your small group.

1. Your boss informs you that you cannot talk about Jesus at work.
 - a. You comply without trouble.
 - b. You challenge your boss, asking why.
 - c. You tell your boss that you cannot promise to do this.
 - d. You talk about Jesus anyway.
2. A coworker criticizes you for praying at lunch.
 - a. You shrug it off and ignore it.
 - b. You converse with the coworker regarding the importance of prayer.
 - c. You stop praying from that point forward.
 - d. You pray louder at your next lunch.
3. A friend says that she no longer attends church because of the hypocritical behavior of some Christians.
 - a. You say that Christians are the worst.
 - b. You listen carefully to her experiences.
 - c. You explain why she is wrong.
 - d. You talk about how Jesus never spoke or acted hypocritically.
4. A neighbor complains that you went door-to-door to invite people to Easter services.
 - a. You invite the neighbor over and apologize.
 - b. You tell the neighbor that everyone should attend church on Easter.
 - c. You ignore the neighbor.
 - d. You go door-to-door again, making sure that everyone receives an invitation.
5. A colleague tells you that the Bible is corrupt and cannot be trusted.
 - a. You stay quiet to avoid confrontation.
 - b. You ask for an explanation.
 - c. You point out all the Bible verses that prove it isn't corrupt.
 - d. You say, "No, it isn't!"

The Resurrection: Key to Faith

Lesson 5, Mark 16:1-8, NIV

Rest of the Story

Read Mark 16:1-8 and Luke 24:1-12. Work with your partner to compare these two accounts by answering the following questions. Be ready to share your responses with the whole class.

List details that are the same in both accounts. _____

List details that are different in the accounts. _____

What benefit is there in having multiple Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection? _____

Why do you suppose the disciples reacted as they did? _____

What does their reaction say about their understanding of Jesus? their attitude toward women? their state of mind? _____

Notes for a Letter

Think of a friend or family member who may not believe in the resurrection of Jesus. What could you share in a letter to help that person accept this fact? Work with a partner to list responses under each heading.

Here's why I believe in Jesus' resurrection: _____

Here's how belief in Jesus' resurrection has changed my life: _____

Here's why my life is better because I believe in Jesus' resurrection: _____

Here's why I think Jesus' resurrection is essential for you to believe: _____

Faith of the Persistent

Lesson 6, Luke 5:17-26, NIV

God's Definition of a Friend

Scripture teaches us a lot about friendship. The following verses can be summarized into three main categories: 1–God's friendship with us; 2–Our friendship with God; 3–Our friendship with one another. Work with a partner to read the following verses and sort them into three categories listed below.

Exodus 33:11

Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 18:24

Proverbs 27:6

John 15:13

John 15:14

James 2:23

Which verses teach about God's friendship with us?

Which verses teach about our friendship with others?

How do these verses define friendship?

What is a way to describe our friendship with God?

How do the verses show you how to act as a friend to another person?

Remarkable Friendship

Use the clues to fill in the words above. Words can go across or down. Letters are shared when the words intersect.

ACROSS

3. The Son of Man has _____ to forgive sins.

6. The religious leaders believed that only _____ could forgive sins.

7. The people said that they had seen _____ things.

9. The people were _____ when they saw the man stand up.

DOWN

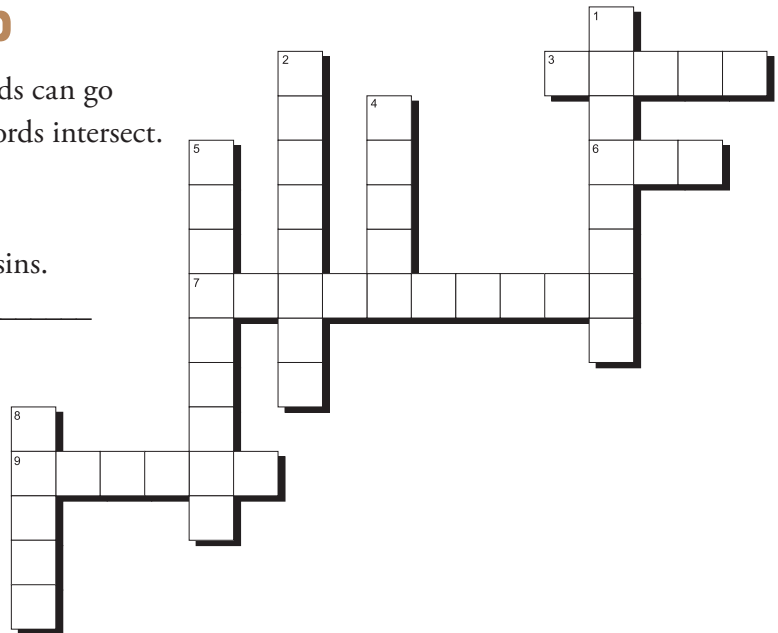
1. Jesus told the man "your sins are _____."

2. Jesus said that only this person could forgive sins.

4. "The _____ of the Lord" was present in Jesus.

5. teachers of the law and this group were sitting nearby Jesus as he taught.

8. Jesus saw the _____ of the friends.



Faith of a Centurion

Lesson 7, Luke 7:1-10, NIV

The Centurion, the Servant, and the Savior

Consider the conversations and events mentioned in today's text. Imagine yourself as the centurion, the centurion's servant, or the centurion's friends. What might your character(s) have written in their diary at the end of this day? Compare your notes with those of others in your small group. Choose one of the headings below and combine your group's notes into an entry you can share with the whole class.

The Centurion

The Servant

The Friends

Jumbled Words, Clear Messages

Work with a partner to unscramble the words in each sentence below. Then answer the two questions.

1. God ntwas ot veas yyobdeerv. _____
2. Ereht ear on iseradoubn tiwh Jesus. _____
3. On atamtre rou tisnoiop, Jesus si evoab. _____

How do the resulting sentences reflect truths in today's Scripture text?

How will you share one of the messages with your friends or family in the upcoming week?

Faith of an Anointer

Lesson 8, Luke 7:36-39, 44-50, NIV

An Encounter with Jesus

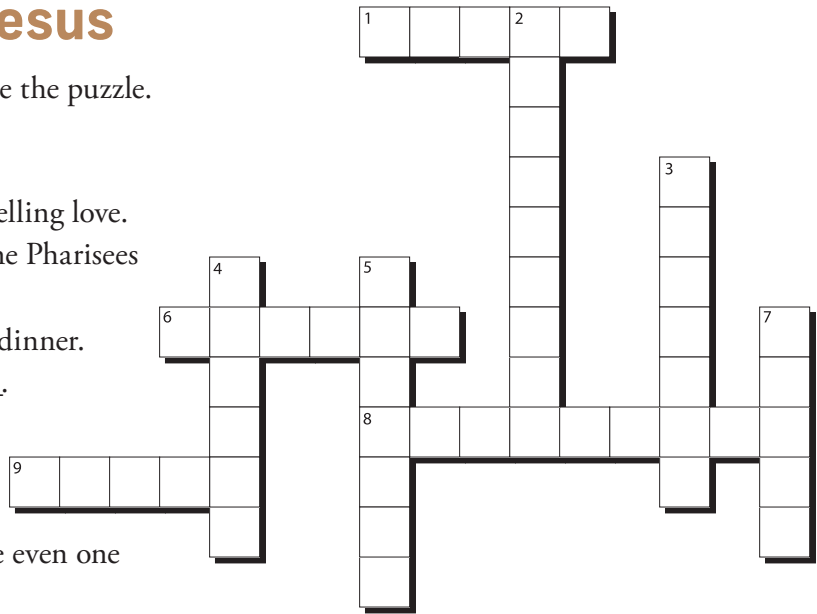
Read Luke 7:36-39, 44-50, and complete the puzzle.

ACROSS

1. She had a bad reputation and a compelling love.
6. Not the kind of person with whom the Pharisees usually spent time.
8. One from this group invited Jesus to dinner.
9. Today's drama took place in a _____.

DOWN

2. Not just any jar.
3. Some doubted whether Jesus could be even one of those.
4. An uninvited guest _____ Jesus' feet.
5. A sign of repentance.
7. We're not sure why the Pharisee invited _____ to dinner.



Scripture Story, Contemporary Attitudes

Write a description of each person from today's story based on their words and actions, as recorded in Luke 7:36-39, 44-50. Write a short prayer in response to how you do or do not act like that person on a regular basis.

Jesus _____

The Pharisee _____

The woman _____

Faith of a Canaanite

Lesson 9, Matthew 15:21-28, NIV

Consider the Background

The events of Matthew 15:21-28 raise questions best answered by considering the culture and times in which those events occurred. With your partner, consult the commentary, study Bibles, or Internet sources to answer the following questions:

Who were the Canaanites? _____

What barriers did the woman break to reach out to Jesus? _____

How do the reactions of the disciples and Jesus illustrate the presence of these barriers? _____

What other discoveries have you made that would help one understand the text? _____

Challenging Her Faith

Compare Matthew 15:21-28 and John 4:4-26. Work with a partner to study each section of John 4:4-26 and describe how Jesus challenged the Samaritan woman and strengthened her faith.

John 4:4-8 _____

John 4:9-12 _____

John 4:13-15 _____

John 4:16-18 _____

John 4:19-24 _____

John 4:25-26 _____

Justified by Faith

Lesson 10, Romans 3:21-30, NIV

Coming Up Short

On an index card, write down only the numbers of the statements that apply to you. Fold your card so no one can see what you wrote.

1. I have done something I regret.
2. I have a persistent sin in my life that I've been unable to conquer.
3. I have put something higher than God in my life.
4. I have loved myself more than my neighbor.
5. I have lied, stolen, or coveted.
6. I have secretly hated someone in my heart.

Your leader will collect the cards and redistribute them randomly. As each number on the list is called, raise your hand if that number is on the card you received. Pray silently for the anonymous person whose card you received.

God Of All

In one minute, list as many Old Testament examples as you can of God's care and concern for Gentiles:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

In one minute, list as many New Testament examples as you can of God's care and concern for Jewish people:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Compare your lists with a partner. Then discuss why it's important to know God as the God of all.

Counted as Righteous

Lesson 11, Romans 4:13-25, NIV

Promises

Our responses to God's promises are often based on our experience with promises other people have made . . . and perhaps broken. Discuss these questions with one or two friends:

1. Give an example of a time when someone kept a promise to you. How did that impact your relationship?
2. Describe a time when you broke a promise to someone. What was the result?
3. How can we rebuild trust when promises have been broken?
4. How can we rebuild a sense of trust with God when we have failed him or when we feel disappointed that he does not do what we want?

A 90-Year-Old Bucket List

Below is a list of accomplishments of people age 90+. Check the box beside any activity you would like to do. If you have done it (or a form of it), note how old you were!

- Run a marathon at age 104
- Become the oldest college graduate at 95
- Win the Nobel Prize in economics at 90
- Be an active water skier at 100
- Become the world's oldest newlyweds at 103 and 91
- Skydive on your 100th birthday
- Ride around on a Harley Davidson motorcycle at 90
- Direct a feature film at 102
- Model for British Vogue's centennial issue at 100
- Publish a book at 90

In your group, discuss things God could accomplish with you and for his church, spiritually, in your elder years.

Reconciled to God

Lesson 12, Romans 5:1-11, NIV

Vocabulary Quiz

Define the following words based on our study of Romans so far, providing verse citations that inform your answers.

Justification _____

Faith _____

Peace _____

Grace _____

Hope _____

Glory _____

Righteousness _____

Love _____

Reconciliation _____

Not Only So!

Describe a trial you are experiencing, then brainstorm words that relate that experience to ways the Holy Spirit is working in your heart.

Glory in tribulations _____

Patience _____

Character _____

Hope _____

Not ashamed _____

Write a prayer acknowledging how you think the Holy Spirit is forming you through this trial and for whatever you need to experience growth in this situation. Focus on the Holy Spirit's work, not a specific outcome.

Who Has Believed?

Lesson 13, Romans 10:1-17, NIV

Zeal Without Knowledge

Pick one of the topics below that you are not an expert on. You will explain the topic to a partner with great zeal in one minute or less. You may not research the topic before explaining.

- Bitcoin
- Ionic bonds
- Latin grammar
- Building a table
- Baking at high altitude
- Cross-country skiing
- Fuel-injected engines
- Artificial intelligence
- Spontaneous combustion
- Competitive curling

After you've explained the topic to a partner, spend a few minutes researching it.

Did you get any information right?

What is the most serious error you made in explaining the topic?

What are the dangers of explaining with zeal something that you don't have any great knowledge of?

Who Has Believed?

Who shared the gospel with you? What difference has that made in your life?

Who will you share the gospel with?

Lesson 5

Rest of the Story:

List details that are the same in both accounts. Sample answers: Set very early in the morning on the first day of the week; women, including Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body; the women found the stone rolled away, and Jesus' body gone; an angelic announcement of the resurrection.

List details that are different in the accounts. Sample answers: Mark mentions one angel while Luke mentions two; variation in the dialogue between the angels and the women; different women named; Mark says that the women remained silent, but Luke mentions that the women told the disciples.

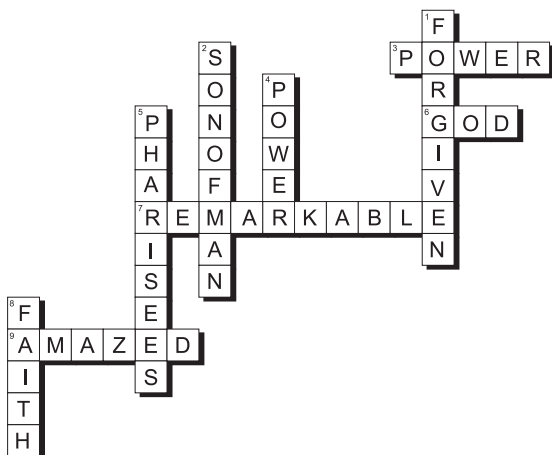
What benefit is there in having multiple Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection? Responses may vary. The core similarities and minor differences between the texts highlight the truth of the accounts without writers copying one another verbatim to "get their stories straight." Other responses may vary.

Why do you suppose the disciples reacted as they did? Answers will vary.

What does their reaction say about their understanding of Jesus? Their attitude toward women? their state of mind? Answers will vary.

Lesson 6

Remarkable Friendship:



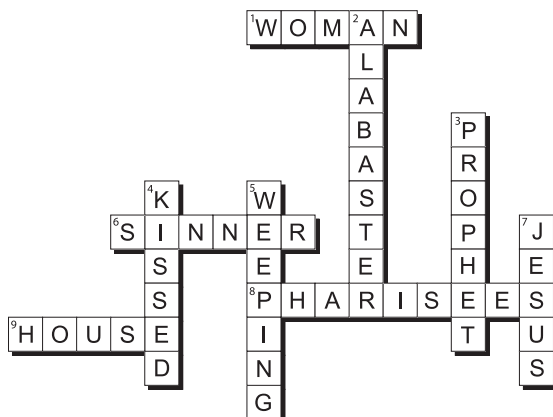
Lesson 7

Jumbled Words, Unmixed Messages:

1. God wants to save everybody.
2. There are no boundaries with Jesus.
3. No matter our position, Jesus is above.

Lesson 8

An Encounter With Jesus:



Lesson 9

Consider the Background:

Who were the Canaanites? "Canaanite" was a general term used for people in the Promised Land before the Israelites conquered it.

What barriers did the woman break to reach out to Jesus? Ethnic (Canaanite and Jewish) and cultural (between men and women; compare John 4:27).

How do the reactions of the disciples and Jesus illustrate the presence of these barriers? The disciples wanted to send her away, and Jesus said he had come for the lost sheep of Israel.

What other discoveries have you made that would help one understand the text? Answers will vary.

Lesson 12

Vocabulary Quiz:

Wording will vary; Scripture references below can inform answers.

Justification: See Romans 4:25.

Faith: See Romans 3:22, 26, 30; 4:13, 16.

Peace: See Romans 5:1-2.

Grace: See Romans 3:24; 4:16; 5:2.

Hope: See Romans 4:17-18; 5:2-5.

Glory: See Romans 3:23; 4:20-21; 5:2-3.

Righteousness: See Romans 3:21-26; 4:13, 22-24.

Love: See Romans 5:5-8.

Reconciliation: See Romans 5:10-11.