

Activity Pages

SUMMER 2024
HOPE IN THE LORD

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.

Paul's Hope

Work with a partner to examine Colossians 1:24–2:3. Under the statements below, summarize what Paul is teaching about hope in today's text.

1. Paul's hope is connected to his servanthood.

2. Paul's hope is universal.

3. Paul's hope is communal.

My Hope

Complete each of the following sentences in the space provided.

1. Serving others gives me hope because . . .

2. When I consider Paul's hope for everyone to mature in Christ, I'm motivated to . . .

3. When I see Christians suffering for the cause of Christ, I want to . . .

Two Paraphrases

The following two sentences are paraphrases. Taking no more than one minute, see if you can fill in the blanks without looking up the verses:

I haven't come to _____ the law, but to _____ it. (Matthew 5:17)

The law _____, but the Spirit gives _____. (2 Corinthians 3:6)

I'm Changing!

Write a few sentences—or draw a picture!—to illustrate an area of your life that is being renewed because of the Spirit's power of transformation. Compare your answer to that of your partner or a friend.

Empowered Servants

Lesson 3, Romans 15:1-13, NIV

Reasons to Serve, Foundation for Unity

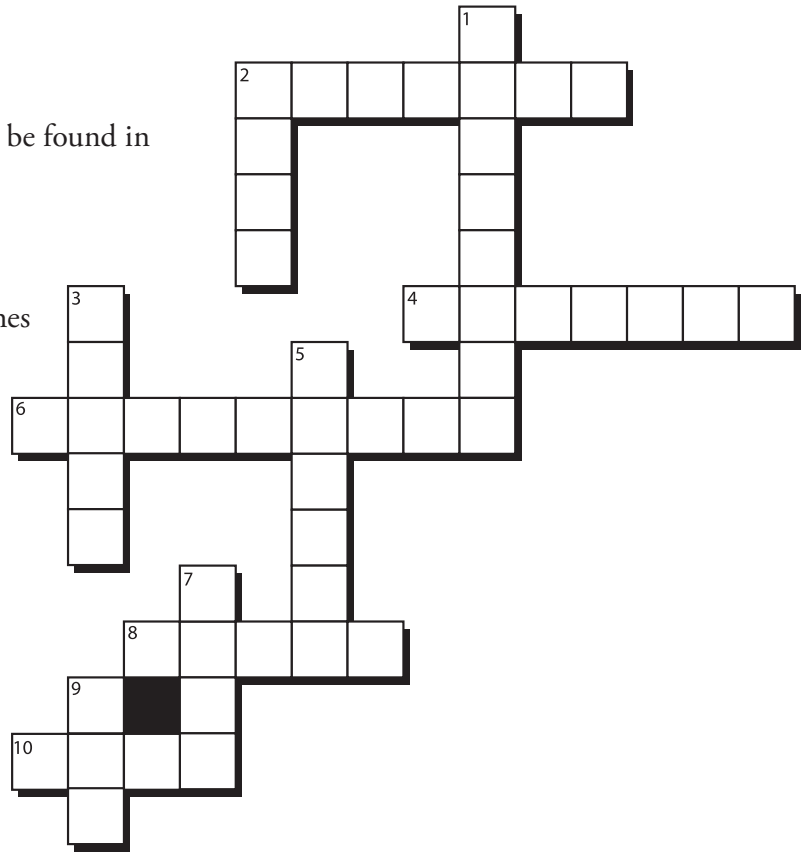
Each of the answers to this crossword puzzle can be found in today's text, Romans 15:1-13.

ACROSS

- 2. The one person Christ did not try to please
- 4. What our patience with each other accomplishes
- 6. These are the ones we shouldn't worry about pleasing
- 8. The means by which we receive hope
- 10. Jesus, like no one else on earth, is this

DOWN

- 1. The hope of Christ is for them, too
- 2. The Scriptures were written to bring us this
- 3. Christ ministered for this of God
- 5. What we strive to do for our neighbors
- 7. What we want for our neighbors
- 9. Our unity lifts this name



I Once Was Weak, But Now I'm Strong

Take one minute to write your responses to these two prompts:

<p style="text-align: center;">A time I found acceptance, despite my weakness.</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/>	<p style="text-align: center;">A time I discovered a significant weakness, in someone else.</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/>
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Share your answers with a friend. Then discuss the following question together and be prepared to share conclusions with the whole class:

What are a few practical ways I can be patient with weaker Christians?

Let's Make A Deal, Pt. 1

Work with a partner to match the contract with the person concerned.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. I made a deal with God to rescue Sodom if he found 10 righteous people alive there. | A. Jonah |
| 2. I made a deal with my brother for bread and stew in return for my birthright. | B. David |
| 3. I made a deal with God to dedicate my child to him if he gave me a son. | C. Daniel |
| 4. I made a deal with Laban to marry his daughter in exchange for seven years of work. | D. Abraham |
| 5. I made a deal with God from the stomach of a big fish to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving. | E. Hannah |
| 6. I made a deal with the spies that my family would be saved in exchange for their protection. | F. Jacob |
| 7. I made a deal not to eat the king's meat or drink his wine for 10 days. | G. Esau |
| 8. I made a deal with Jonathan not to tell his father, the king, my whereabouts when my seat at the table was empty. | H. Rahab |

Let's Make A Deal, Pt. 2

Discuss with your partner how the deals above worked out. What lesson(s) do you learn about “dealing” with God yourself?

A Defense and a Testimony

How would you outline the 32 verses of Acts 26 in their entirety? Work in your group to do so by filling in the blanks below. Note: four sections are given below, but you may end up with fewer or more.

Section I, Acts 26:1 through 26:_____

Section Title _____

One-sentence summary of this section: _____

Section II, Acts 26:_____ through 26:_____

Section Title _____

One-sentence summary of this section: _____

Section III, Acts 26:_____ through 26:_____

Section Title _____

One-sentence summary of this section: _____

Section IV, Acts 26:_____ through 26:_____

Section Title _____

One-sentence summary of this section: _____

My Key Takeaway

If you began telling your life story in the same way Paul did, what would you say? Fill in the narrative prompts below.

What I did in my wrong-headed past: _____

How God got hold of me: _____

As a result, a change I've made is . . . _____



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Hope and Despair

Read the printed text below and color-code the verses by highlighting elements of hope in green and elements of despair in yellow.

Lamentations 3:16-24

¹⁶ He has broken my teeth with gravel;
he has trampled me in the dust.
¹⁷ I have been deprived of peace;
I have forgotten what prosperity is.
¹⁸ So I say, “My splendor is gone
and all that I had hoped from the LORD.”
¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.
²⁰ I well remember them,

and my soul is downcast within me.
²¹ Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
²² Because of the LORD’s great love we are not
consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him.”

This I Call to Mind

In the space below, write down what you call to mind when you are fighting despair and seeking hope.

Biggest Sources of Stress

List your top six sources of stress in order of most stressful to least.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Compare your answers with a partner. Then jot down your answers to these questions:

How do you relieve stress?

How do guilt or shame make these stressors harder to deal with?

Continual Proclamation

Pick a point on the line that approximates your experience of God today.

God seems near ●—————● far from me right now.

I am struggling most with _____.

“I will always have hope; I will praise [God] more and more” because _____

Why Do People Break Traffic Laws?

Which of these traffic violations are you guilty of? Write your reason next to each.

Speeding, even one mile per hour over the limit _____

Driving with expired license plates _____

Running a red light _____

Ignoring a stop sign _____

Having an improperly installed car seat or booster seat _____

Making an illegal U-turn _____

Parking violations _____

Not yielding _____

Driving with seatbelt unbuckled _____

Driving without a license _____

Texting and driving (illegal in 48 states) _____

Driving without insurance _____

Turning without using a turn signal _____

How do your explanations compare to the self-justifications people give for breaking God's laws?

Delightful Precept

Describe a time when you have taken joy in God's Word. Include the Bible story or verses that inspired this reaction as well as the circumstances of your life at the time. _____

Write down one or two habits that might help you experience more joy when you study God's Word.

Write a brief prayer for the Spirit's guidance as you seek God and his ways.

Expectant Watchfulness

Lesson 9, Psalm 130, NIV

God's Response

Work with a partner to imagine how God might have responded to the psalmist who wrote Psalm 130. Provide other Bible verses that support your answers.

Prompt 1: How did God respond to the request to hear the psalmist?

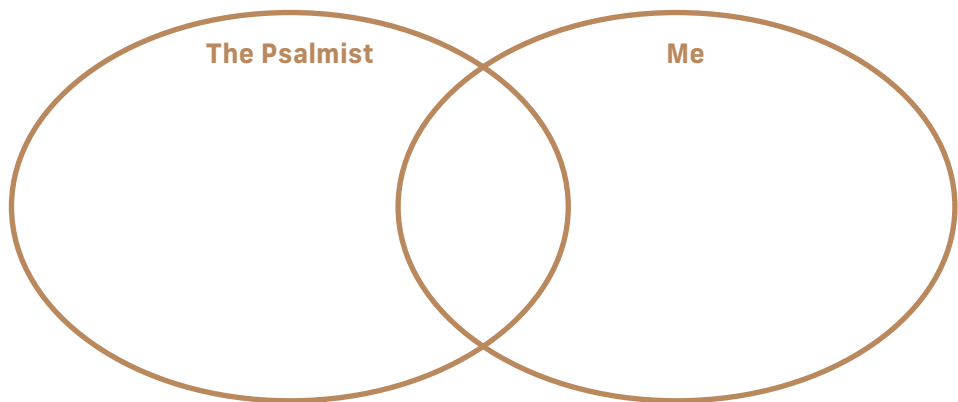
Prompt 2: What does God say about his ability to forgive sins?

Prompt 3: How would God encourage you as you are waiting for him?

Prompt 4: What message would God want you to share with his people?

Expectant Watchfulness

Use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast the psalmist's waiting described in Psalm 130 with a circumstance in which you are currently waiting on God. Write a short prayer based on the psalm regarding your own current experience.



The Word of God

Lesson 10, 1 Thessalonians 2:13–3:5, NIV

The Word at Work

Take a minute or less to circle the words or phrases that demonstrate the work of the Word of God in a person's life (sources: Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-23; 2 Peter 1:5-6). Then compare and contrast your list with your study partner. Discuss how the works you circled manifest themselves in the lives of believers in ways that all can see.

anger	factions	idolatry	self-control
brotherly kindness	faithfulness	impurity	selfish ambition
charity	fits of rage	jealousy	sexual immorality
chastity	forbearance	joy	sloth
covetousness	gentleness	kindness	strife
debauchery	gluttony	knowledge	temperance
diligence	goodness	love	vainglory
discord	gratitude	lust	virtue
dissensions	greed	patience	wantonness
drunkenness	hatred	peace	witchcraft
envying	humility	rioting	

Ideas for Encouragement

Use this list to help you decide on at least one way you can encourage a fellow believer this week. Circle your choices in each category, then share your ideas with a partner.

Who will you encourage?

- family member
- co-worker
- employer/employee
- caregiver
- neighbor
- peer/friend
- other

How will you do it?

- by message (card/email)
- by phone call
- by a hug or handshake
- with a meaningful gift
- with invitation for a meal
- with a piece of art/craft
- by doing simple chores
- other

What will you talk about?

- Jesus at work in his life
- that you notice how she responds to God's Word
- how his faith inspires you
- God's faithfulness
- Scriptural promises that are relevant
- other

The Children of God

With the help of a partner, brainstorm and list below ways that believers can do righteousness and love other believers as described in 1 John 3:10. Then answer the questions that follow.

Do Righteousness

Love Other Believers

What roadblocks prevent you from doing righteousness and loving other believers?

How will you deal with such hindrances?

What is one behavior from each column that you want to begin doing this week?

Resist Sin

Fill in each section as completely as possible and use it as a guide to help you resist sin.

1. What is one sinful habit that you desire to end? _____
2. What is your plan to end that habit? _____
3. What is one righteous habit that you desire to begin? _____
4. What is your plan to begin that habit? _____
5. Who could be an accountability partner to assist you as you end one habit and take up another?

Commit to praying every day this upcoming week for God to give you the grace and strength to resist sin and pursue righteousness.

The Rules of Life

Lesson 12, Titus 1:1-3; 2:11-15, NIV

Waiting Game

With a partner, rank on a scale of 1 to 8 how difficult it is to wait for each of these things. (1=Easiest; 8=Most difficult)

____ A freshly baked cake

____ Paying off a major loan

____ A passing train

____ Week-long vacation

____ Vegetables grown from your garden

____ Retirement from work

____ Results of a medical test

____ Wedding anniversary

Why did you rate these things as you did?

Does waiting get easier or harder with age?

Personal Timeline

Create a timeline of your faith journey. Include information about when you accepted God's gift of grace. What other spiritual events are milestones in your life? How can you use this timeline to share your faith with others?



The Washing of Regeneration

Lesson 13, Titus 3:3-11, NIV

What a Mess

Choose one of the following scenarios and develop a plan with your group to clean up the mess.

Scenario 1: Your dog is covered in mud and smells musty. When you weren't looking, the dog ran inside and jumped on your couch. How will you clean the furniture and the dog?

Scenario 2: While you were away on vacation, a water pipe burst in the upstairs bathroom of your house. You returned home to find the downstairs furniture stained, the carpet moldy, and the ceiling damaged and falling apart. How will you clean the house and fix the plumbing?

Scenario 3: An overnight thunderstorm came through your town. It brought down tree limbs, tossed your patio furniture into your neighbor's yard, and tipped over your potted plants. How will you clean up after the storm?

Scenario 4: You drove your kids and their friends to school. One kid threw up, one spilled juice, one drew on the car seat with a marker, and one won't stop crying. What steps do you take to make everything right?

Profitable Responses

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

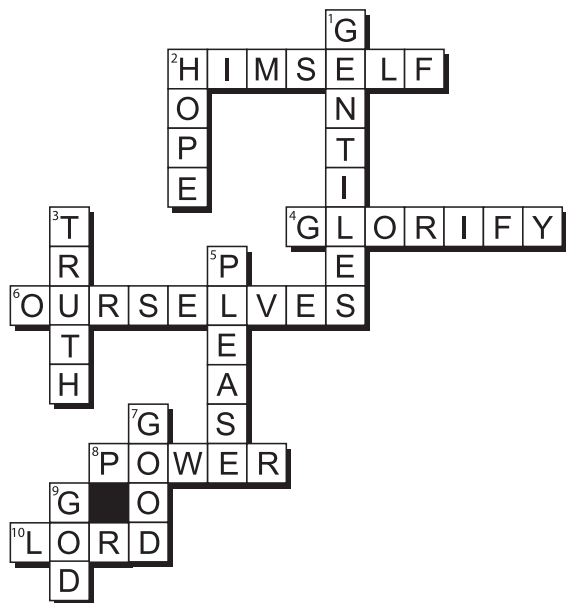
1. A neighbor asks, "If you believe God can do anything, do you also believe he can create a rock too heavy for himself to lift?"
 - a. You try to explain the complex nature of God.
 - b. You ignore your neighbor.
 - c. You say, "I can't answer that, but I can tell you how God lifted a burden from me that no one and nothing else could."
2. At a social event, attendees compare their families' histories, including respectability in the community, grandparents who made significant contributions, and children who are successful in school.
 - a. You change the topic and honor other people's families rather than your own.
 - b. You listen, amused, but don't get involved.
 - c. You argue about whose parents are better.
3. Your church's benevolence committee cannot agree on how to distribute funds.
 - a. You take charge and make an executive decision.
 - b. You pray for unity and do your best to mediate a good compromise.
 - c. You say, "This is what is wrong with the church today!" and walk out.

Lesson 2

Two Paraphrases: abolish, fulfill; kills, life

Lesson 3

Reasons To Serve, Foundation For Unity:



Lesson 4

Let's Make A Deal: 1. D; 2. G; 3. E; 4. F; 5. A; 6. H;
7. C; 8. B

Lesson 13

Profitable Reponses: 1. C; 2. A; 3. B