

Activity Pages

WINTER 2022–2023 FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

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.

Zechariah Hears from God

Lesson 1, Luke 1:8-20, NIV

An Astonishing Story

Cut out the following statements and distribute a statement to each learner in your group. Take turns in order of the statement's number and communicate the main point of the statement without using words. Decide whether to act out the statement or draw it on the board. Guess each statement to find out the entire story.

1. I was chosen by lot to burn incense in the temple.	6. The boy will be filled with the Holy Spirit before he is born.
2. I was afraid when I saw an angel of the Lord.	7. The boy will turn many people back to the Lord.
3. An angel told me not to be afraid—my wife would have a baby.	8. The boy will turn the hearts of parents to their children.
4. The baby will be a boy, and he will bring joy.	9. The boy will make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
5. The boy will never drink wine or fermented drink.	10. I did not believe the angel's promises, so I am unable to speak until the baby is born.

Baby Announcement

In your pair, read each Scripture reference and fill out the chart.

Reference	Greeting	Promise(s)	Instruction(s)
1. Luke 1:11-20			
2. Genesis 17:1-8, 15-22			
3. Judges 13:2-14			
4. 1 Samuel 1:1-18			

Zechariah Speaks

Lesson 2, Luke 1:57-66, 76-79, NIV

What's in a Name?

Circle one of the names below. Do not choose one if it belongs to a member of your class. In your small group, use the questions to discuss the names you circled.

Men's Names		Women's Names	
Anthony (Tony)	Roberto	Amy	Jasmine
Christopher (Chris)	Tyler	Elizabeth (Liz, Beth, Betty)	Kiara
Juan	William (Will, Bill)	Emily	Maria
Nicholas (Nick)	Xavier	Hannah	Rosa

Who do you know with that name?

What comes to mind when you think of someone who might have that name?

What dangers are there in assuming what kind of personality a person might have based on their name?

Prophecies

Look up the Old Testament prophecies in the righthand column. Then draw a line from the Old Testament reference to its corresponding prophecy in Luke.

Luke 1:76-79	Old Testament Prophecies
⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,	A. Isaiah 9:2
⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,	B. Malachi 3:1
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven	C. Jeremiah 31:34
⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.	D. Numbers 24:17

John the Baptist Appears

Lesson 3, Luke 3:2b-6, 15-18, NIV

Always Be Prepared

For each scenario, write down at least three steps that your group would take to prepare.



Scenario #1:

You are at home with your family, and you receive a tornado warning for your neighborhood. How do you prepare?

Scenario #2:

You are hosting a Christmas party for your extended family this week. How do you prepare?

Scenario #3:

You are the keynote speaker at a prestigious benefit dinner. How do you prepare?

Scenario #4:

You registered to participate in a marathon in three months. How do you prepare?

Relating to Jesus

In Luke 3:17, John the Baptist uses a metaphor of wheat and chaff to describe an aspect of the judgment that Jesus would bring. Read these Scripture references, write down the metaphor that is used, and explain how that metaphor describes the person and work of Jesus.

1. John 1:29 _____

2. John 6:35-40 _____

3. John 10:11-18 _____

4. John 15:1-5 _____

What new metaphor can you create to describe the person and work of Jesus? How would you explain that metaphor to the people in your community?

Mary Rejoices

Lesson 4, Luke 1:46-55, NIV

Awards Show

Imagine that you have been announced as the host of an awards show for your friends and family. In each of the following categories, write your choice for a winner and the reason for the decision.

Most creative: _____

Most courageous: _____

Most humorous: _____

Most generous: _____

How does it feel to brag on someone who is deserving of praise? _____

Song of Praise Template

Complete the prompts to create your own song of praise:

What are two ways that you want to honor God? _____

What is one reason that you want to praise God? _____

What is one characteristic of God to be praised? _____

What are four actions of God to be praised? _____

What is one promise from God that you want to praise him for? _____

Arrange the answers to the prompts in the form of a poem or song.

God Promises to Hear and Forgive

Lesson 5, 2 Chronicles 7:12-22, NIV

A Holy Place

Using markers or colored pencils, begin to draw or write about a holy place—real or imagined—in the space provided. You will have time to finish it after the session.



If/Then Covenant

Read through 2 Chronicles 7:12-22. Work with a partner to fill in the chart with our responsibilities under the **If** heading and God's promises or consequences under the **Then** heading. Then form a group of four by joining with another pair to discuss the questions below the chart.

<i>If...</i>	<i>Then...</i>

How do you see God's promises in this passage? Are they conditional or unconditional? Why?

God Promises to Restore

Lesson 6, Isaiah 43:1-4, 10-12, NIV

Fear-o-Phobia

Work with a partner to match the phobia to its description. Then talk together about the question following the list of phobias.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Cynophobia | A. The fear of thunder and lightning |
| _____ 2. Mysophobia | B. The fear of situations involving people |
| _____ 3. Agoraphobia | C. The fear of snakes |
| _____ 4. Social Phobias | D. The fear of dirt or uncleanness |
| _____ 5. Astraphobia | E. The fear of spiders |
| _____ 6. Pteromerhanophobia | F. The fear of situations in which escape is difficult |
| _____ 7. Acrophobia | G. The fear of injections |
| _____ 8. Ophidiophobia | H. The fear of heights |
| _____ 9. Trypanophobia | I. The fear of flying |
| _____ 10. Arachnophobia | J. The fear of dogs |

What fears hold you back?

God's Protection

With a partner, consider one or more stories of despair in our world today. List ways to recognize God's protection in these circumstances. How can you respond as a witness to God's protection in these circumstances?



God Promises to Guide

Lesson 7, Isaiah 48:3-8a, 17, NIV

The Googles Know

Take a quick peek at your smartphone or other electronic device. Jot down examples of how companies, through their targeted ads and e-mails, seem to “know” you.

What predictions are companies making based on your past behavior and/or searches? In what ways do predictions and reality overlap in these situations?



Win or Learn

A common slogan in athletics is “win or learn.” Fill out the questions below to discern if this slogan is at work in your life.

Stubbornness and pride can lead to terrible loss—often seen in professional sports. What is the most painful pride-related sports loss you have experienced or witnessed?



What did time reveal to be the lesson in this situation?

How does the mantra of “win or learn” fit into your life? How does Isaiah 48:17 help you?

God Promises Light

Lesson 8, Isaiah 58:6-10, NIV

Compare the Passages

Jesus also tells us to care for those who are suffering. Complete the chart by writing down instructions and blessings that come from obeying the commands. Circle words or ideas found in both passages.

Scripture	Instructions	Blessings
Isaiah 58:6-10		
Matthew 25:31-46		

Complete the following sentence:

Since God's attitude toward the needy is _____,

I must _____.

Passage Prompts

Read through Isaiah 58:6-10 to find the exact words to solve each clue.

Clues	Answers
1. A people group God cares about (v. 6)	The ___ p _____
2. The burden of poverty is like this farm tool (v. 6)	A _____ e
3. Lacking sufficient food (v. 7)	The _____ g _____
4. Those without adequate attire (v. 7)	The _____ d
5. Needy family members (v. 7)	Your _____ f _____
6. Quality in those who help others (v. 8)	_____ n _____
7. When you obey God, feel free to do this (v. 9)	_____ l
8. How God will respond when you do #7 (v. 9)	_____ w _____
9. Dispelled by those who help the hungry (v. 10)	_____ s
10. Usually the brightest time (v. 10)	___ o _____

God Promises His Presence

Lesson 9, Joel 2:21-27, NIV

Hope Quotes

Based on your study of Scripture and life experience, how would your group respond to someone who made any of the following statements?

Once you choose hope, anything is possible.

We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.

The miserable have no other medicine, but only hope.

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

Hope's Foundation

For a Christian, hope is not some power-of-positive-thinking exercise in self-help. Instead, our hope is based on the sure foundation of God himself. Find statements about hope from the list of Bible references below. Rewrite three of these in your own words.

Scripture	My Paraphrase
Psalms 31:24	
Psalms 33:18	
Psalms 78:7	
Psalms 119:81	
Psalms 147:11	
Ephesians 2:12-13	
Colossians 1:27	
1 Thessalonians 5:8	
1 Peter 1:3	

Résumé of Those Called

Lesson 10, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, NIV

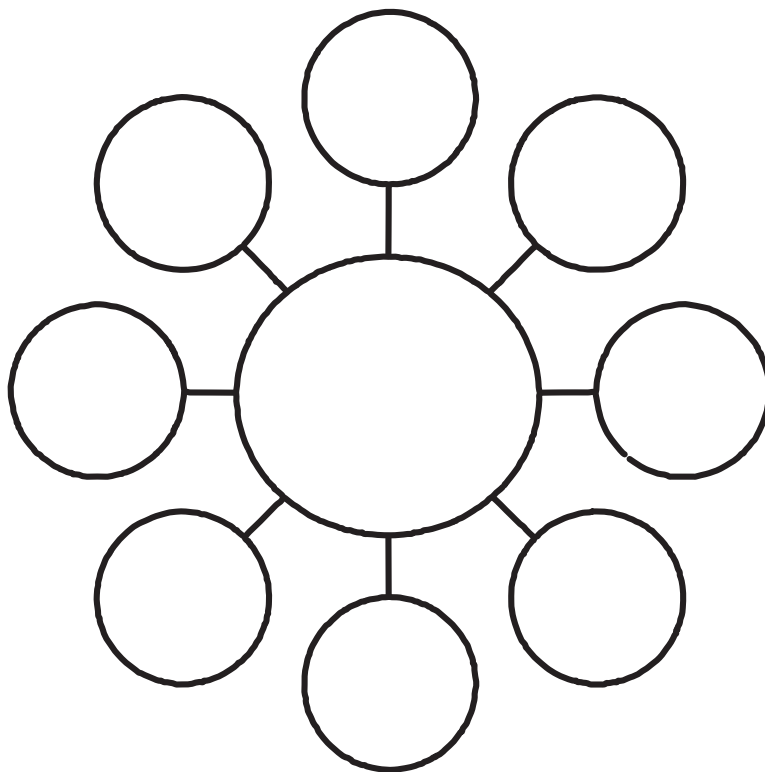
Word Web

Choose one of the following words found in 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and write it in the center bubble: **foolishness, wisdom, power, weakness.** Then, with the help of your partner, brainstorm associated words and write those words in the surrounding bubbles.

How do the associated words help you understand the main word?

In what ways do the associated words deepen your interpretation of the main word?

What does 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 teach you about the meaning and implications of the main word?



Praying for Wisdom

Complete the following prompts. Share your answers with a classmate and pledge to pray for each other throughout the upcoming week.

A situation where I need God's wisdom: _____

An example of when I followed the world's wisdom instead of God's wisdom: _____

I notice that the differences between the world's wisdom and God's wisdom are: _____

How does James 1:5-6 inform Christians about asking God for wisdom? _____

Reminder of the Call

Lesson 11, 2 Timothy 1:3-14, NIV

A Marvelous Mentor

Read 2 Timothy 1:3-14. Write any examples, actions, and words of Paul that would encourage Timothy in his spiritual life. Indicate the verse(s) where each one is found.

Example	Actions	Words

Hold Fast

Read 2 Timothy 1:13. Talk with a partner about how to encourage the two people below to hold fast to God's grace.

Scenario 1: During lunch at work, Amelia has had several conversations with a coworker who is a Jehovah's Witness. Since the coworker can quote many Bible verses to support her ideas, Amelia is starting to have doubts about Jesus being the Son of God. How can you encourage her to "hold fast?"

Scenario 2: Marcus is having problems in his marriage. He has talked about this separately with two of his Christian friends, but they are giving him very different advice. How can you encourage him to "hold fast" as he decides what to do?

Responsibility of Those Called

Lesson 12, James 2:1-12, NIV

The Dangers of Favoritism

Describe a situation for at least two of the groups below that could be caused by favoritism. Include how that is harmful to both parties.

<i>Between parents and children:</i>	<i>In a work situation:</i>
<i>In church leadership toward members:</i>	<i>With a teacher and students:</i>

Welcoming Newcomers

Circle the person in each pair who you think your congregation would give a warmer welcome.

A well-known musician / A struggling artist

A family with several children / A middle-aged couple of empty nesters

A divorced woman / A widower

A young professional / A college student

A guest preacher / A visiting youth minister

How would your congregation's welcome be expressed?

How can your congregation improve its ability to avoid showing favoritism to newcomers?

Results of the Call

Lesson 13, 1 Peter 2:1-10, NIV

Which Category?

Circle the answer to the following questions which best identifies you. Share your answers with a partner to discover similarities and differences between you.

- ___ 1. What is your primary mode of transportation?
(A) Car/Van (B) Truck/SUV (C) Motorcycle (D) Other
- ___ 2. What is your preference in pets?
(A) Cats only (B) Dogs only (C) Both (D) Other/No pets
- ___ 3. What most closely identifies your age group?
(A) 25 or younger (B) 26–45 (C) 46–65 (D) 65 or older
- ___ 4. What is your strongest identity as a sports fan?
(A) Football fan (B) Baseball fan (C) Hockey fan (D) Other/None
- ___ 5. What was the composition of your siblings growing up?
(A) Only child (B) Only brother(s) (C) Only sister(s) (D) Both
- ___ 6. What is your preferred breakfast food?
(A) Eggs/Protein (B) Cereal/Carbs (C) Fruits/Veggies (D) None

Set Apart

Use the following designations to indicate how different you are from a secular person in each category.

1. Very similar 2. Somewhat similar 3. Somewhat different 4. Very different
- ___ A. The music I listen to ___ E. The diligence with which I complete responsibilities at home or at work
- ___ B. The language I use when I'm upset ___ F. The attention I give to my physical appearance
- ___ C. My involvement in school and community activities ___ G. The way I drive
- ___ D. My attitude toward those in authority ___ H. My charitable giving

What areas do you feel convicted to be different and set apart from the world?

Lesson 1

Baby Announcement

Luke 1:13-17: Greeting: Do not be afraid; Promise: Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son; he will prepare people for the Lord. Instructions: Call his name John.

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-19: Greeting: I am God Almighty; Promise: I will make a covenant between me and you; you will be the father of many nations; Sarah will bear a son; Instructions: Call her Sarah; call him Isaac.

Judges 13:2-14: Greeting: You are barren and childless; Promise: You will give birth to a son; Instructions: Do not drink wine or fermented drink or eat anything unclean.

1 Samuel 1:1-18: Greeting: How long are you going to stay drunk; Promise: May the God of Israel grant what you have asked of him; Instruction: Go in peace.

Lesson 2

Prophecies

Verse 76: B; Verse 77: C; Verse 78: D; Verse 79: A

Lesson 3

Relating to Jesus

1. "Lamb of God" describes Jesus' role as a sacrifice for human sin. 2. Jesus is "the bread of life" because he provides sustenance for spiritual hunger. 3. Jesus is "the good shepherd" because he cares for his people, like a shepherd who cares for a flock. 4. Jesus is "the true vine" because life is found in him and only through him will his people bear spiritual fruit.

Lesson 6

Fear-o-Phobia

1. J; 2. D; 3. F; 4. B; 5. A; 6. I; 7. H; 8. C; 9. G; 10. E

Lesson 8

Passage Prompts

1. oppressed; 2. yoke; 3. hungry; 4. naked; 5. own flesh; 6. righteousness; 7. call; 8. answer; 9. darkness; 10. noonday

Lesson 11

A Marvelous Mentor

Possible answers: Example—Was a prisoner (v. 8); Suffered for the gospel (vv. 8, 12); Was a preacher, apostle, and teacher (v. 11). Actions—Prayed for him (v. 3); laid hands on him to bestow a spiritual gift (v. 6); was his teacher (v. 13). Words—Said he cared about Timothy (v. 4); Praised his faith (v. 5); Taught about God's Spirit (vv. 7, 14); Called him to a holy life (v. 9); Gave a strong statement of faith (v. 12).