

LOVE AND OBEY GOD

Lesson 1, Deuteronomy 6:1-9, NIV

LIKE-MINDED

Rate how much you enjoy the objects or activities below using this scale:

- 5 = really enjoy
- 4 = like
- 3 = feel indifferent
- 2 = dislike somewhat
- 1 = really don't like

___ dogs	___ auto races	___ pizza
___ music	___ cats	___ movies
___ honey	___ football	___ flowers
___ milk	___ Bible study	___ anchovies

If time allows, compare and contrast your results with those of your classmates.

FAMOUS FAREWELL ADDRESSES

Whether you are a world political leader or an everyday servant of God, what you pass on to others can significantly shape their lives and their futures. Read the following Bible verses and famous speech quotations. In the blank below each quote, write your best guess of who gave the farewell address.

1. "As we peer into society's future, we . . . must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease and convenience the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow."

2. "To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings" (Philippians 4:20, 21). _____

3. "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, act like a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations . . . that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go" (1 Kings 2:2, 3). _____

4. "Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). _____

5. "The lesson of all this was, of course, that because we're a great nation, our challenges seem complex. It will always be this way. But as long as we remember our first principles and believe in ourselves, the future will always be ours. And something else we learned: Once you begin a great movement, there's no telling where it will end. We meant to change a nation, and instead, we changed a world." _____

LOVE AND SERVE GOD

Lesson 2, Joshua 24:1-3, 13-15, 21-24, NIV

SERVE THE LORD

In the word search puzzle below, find these 10 words taken from the Joshua 24:1-3, 13-15, 21-24 passage.

Abraham	C K V T E I O B E Y R S	Joshua
Canaan	E A K J S V W L D U E A	Lord
Choose	F N N R W J R K I S L T	Obey
Gods	O P A A Y P V E S F S V	Serve
Israel	X E K L A S T E S F D E	Witnesses
	L C K D R N N U Q X O D	
	W H R I I T O Q X V G L	
	C O B O I A B R A H A M	
	L O X W A U H S O J A F	
	E S Z D X G G Y F R D I	
	J E U P W E H L M A A R	
	N U A X N E D B W V D K	

Puzzle made at puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com

SIGNS OF YOUR FAITH?

Evaluate the potential usefulness or harm of using Christian products as self-reminder and witness to your service to God in light of today's key thought: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

	Helpful self-reminder	Harmful self-reminder	Useful as a witness	Harmful as a witness
Bumper sticker	—	—	—	—
Wristband	—	—	—	—
T-shirt	—	—	—	—
Plaque	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—

LOVE AND WORSHIP GOD

Lesson 3, Psalm 103:1-17a, 21, 22, NIV

SATISFIED WITH GOOD THINGS

Unscramble these words found in Psalm 103. Copy the letters in the numbered blanks to the blanks at the bottom to figure out the message.

1. HERTAF
_____ 1 _____
2. SESSADEI
_____ 4 13 11 _____
3. TINBEEFS
_____ 8 _____ 7 _____
4. TOSRUSSHENGI
_____ 6 _____ 3 _____ 12 16 _____
- 5 GEART
_____ 15 _____ 5 _____
6. RITNLASVEEG
_____ 10 _____ 9 _____ 2 14 _____

_____ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 _____

PRAISE JOURNAL

In Psalm 103 David begins by praising the Lord and listing many reasons why he deserves praise. Now it's your turn to praise him!

Praise the Lord, _____, praise his holy name!
(your name)

Praise the Lord, and don't forget all of the reasons why you are praising him!

List three reasons why you praise him.

I praise you because _____.

I praise you because _____.

I praise you because _____.

Lord, you have been merciful and gracious to me. I have seen your mercy and love when . . .

LOVE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF JESUS

Lesson 4, Luke 1:26-31; 2:22, 25-35, NIV

THE BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

There are 15 incorrect words in the mangled reproduction of Luke 1:26-31 below. With Bibles closed circle the incorrect words and write the correct word(s) above the words you circled.

In the seventh month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Michael to Bethlehem, a town in Galilee, to a widow pledged to be married to a man named Simeon, a descendant of Levi. The virgin’s name was Martha. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are barely favored! The Lord is with you.” Martha was greatly comforted at his words and wondered what kind of farewell this might be. But the angel said to her, “Be afraid, Martha; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a daughter, and you are to call him Immanuel.

THE GIFT OF JESUS

Simeon received a magnificent gift by being permitted to see and recognize Jesus, the Lord’s Christ, the Messiah. As you think about things we know about Simeon, consider in what ways these things do or do not apply to you.

What We Know About Simeon	Does/Doesn’t Apply to Me
Guided by the Holy Spirit (Luke 2:25a, 27)	
Righteous and devout (Luke 2:25b)	
Waiting for the Messiah, “the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25c)	
Realized the purpose of his life (Luke 2:26, 29)	
Able to recognize the fulfillment of God’s promises (Luke 2:30-32)	

LOVE GOD AND SERVE OTHERS

Lesson 5, Matthew 25:31-46, NIV

VIGNETTES OF KINDNESS

Vignette 1

MARIE (*hearing a knock on her door*): Hi, Denise.

DENISE (*talking hurriedly*): Hi, Marie. I'm sorry to bother you, but I was wondering if I could borrow a stamp.

MARIE: Sure, no problem. Come in out of the cold. I have a stamp right here.

DENISE: Oh, that's great. After I wrote checks and used up all my stamps to pay bills this morning, that's when I remembered I had a personal letter to mail as well, and I was one stamp short.

MARIE (*handing her a stamp*): Here you go.

DENISE (*reaching out her hand*): And here's the money for it.

MARIE: Oh, forget about it. You can lend me a stamp when I run out.

As Denise lays the envelope on the table to attach the stamp, Marie peeks down at it, then exclaims: What! You're writing to that Rutherford guy in prison? He's the one who broke into both of our houses! Why would you write to him?

DENISE: I just feel sorry for him. I found out his mother is very ill right now, so she isn't able to visit him.

MARIE: He should have thought about that before he became a burglar. How did you find out about his mother?

DENISE: Oh, I stopped by to find out which prison he's in, and there she was, sick from chemo.

MARIE: Poor lady. What a jerk her son was to get in trouble and leave his mother in the lurch. Why are you writing to him?

DENISE: I wanted to let him know I forgive him. I may even go visit him. He's barely out of his teen years. I thought he could use some encouragement.

MARIE: Well, you're a better person than me. I say, "Good riddance to bad rubbish!"

DENISE: Thanks again for the stamp. See you later.

MARIE: Sure thing. Bye, Denise.

Vignette 2

ALONSO (*waving hello*): Hey, Derek. I'm trying to finish up snowblowing before I go to work, and I just ran out of gas. Do you have any I could borrow?

DEREK: Sure thing. I got the gas can right here. My snowblower's all filled up, so help yourself.

ALONSO: Oh, that's great. Thanks so much. I'll fill it up tonight and bring it back.

DEREK: Sounds good. But why are you still snowblowing? Your driveway is clean as a whistle.

ALONSO: Yes, but I always do my neighbor's driveway whenever I do mine. And he won't be able to get out if I don't finish.

DEREK: You don't mean old man Jackson's driveway, do you? He's the grouchiest man around. I try to stay as far away from him as possible. Does he pay you to do it?

ALONSO: Oh, no. I just do it to help him out. He's got arthritis real bad and can't do it himself. And he needs to drive his wife to dialysis several times a week.

DEREK: Well, I hope at least he appreciates what you do.

ALONSO: Whether he does or not, I know he needs the help. Got to dash. Thanks, Derek.

DEREK: You bet. Bye.

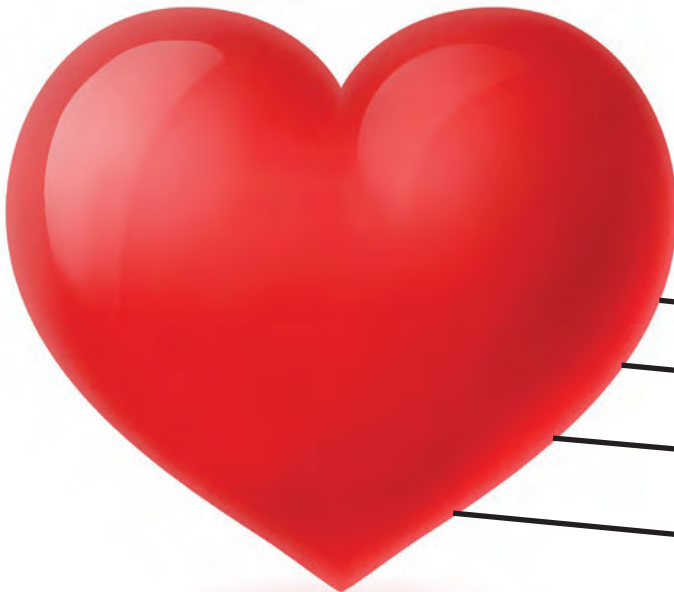
CAN YOU SPOT A LIAR?

According to FBI interrogation experts, there are telltale clues that a person is lying. Indicate whether each statement is a good sign that the person is Lying (L) or Truthful (T).

- __ 1. They can tell their story chronologically forwards and backwards.
- __ 2. They use a lot of words and tell their account in considerable detail.
- __ 3. They use mostly first person pronouns (I, my) rather than third person pronouns (he, she, it).
- __ 4. They say the word *no* with a drawn-out sound (noooooo) or in a singsong voice.
- __ 5. They speak faster and more loudly than usual.
- __ 6. They are obviously infuriated at being accused.
- __ 7. They answer questions simply and directly.
- __ 8. They point their feet toward the exit.

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Paul prays for the Thessalonians and asks the Lord to “direct your hearts into God’s love.” John states that Christians are to “love one another” and “walk in love.” Yet other things these apostles say may seem very unloving (compare 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14; 2 John 10). Within the heart below explain why the directives of Paul and John are indeed based in love.



Paul identifies some people as “wicked,” and he prays to be delivered from them.

John identifies certain people as “deceivers” and “antichrist.” He tells the Christians not to take them into their houses or even greet them.

Graphic: © RedlineVector / iStock / Getty Images Plus

PRIDEFUL BIBLE CHARACTERS

Each of these Bible passages describes someone whose pride got the better of him. Look up the passage and write a brief statement to indicate the effect it had on that person's life.

Person	Passage	Effect
Haman	Esther 3-7	
Herod	Matthew 2:1-8, 16-18	
Hezekiah	2 Chronicles 32:25	
James and John	Mark 10:35-45	
Nebuchadnezzar	Daniel 4:28-33	
Satan/Serpent	Genesis 3:1-15; Luke 10:18	
Uzziah	2 Chronicles 26:1-5, 15b-21	

What good, if anything, have you seen result from worldly pride? _____

PRIDEFUL HEART VS. HUMBLE HEART

Summarize today's lesson by drawing lines that connect the words to the hearts they characterize. In the prideful heart circle the words that reflect the dangers to which pride can lead in thoughts, words, and actions. Do the same for the heart of humility. Be prepared to discuss which words or phrases, if any, might apply to both hearts.

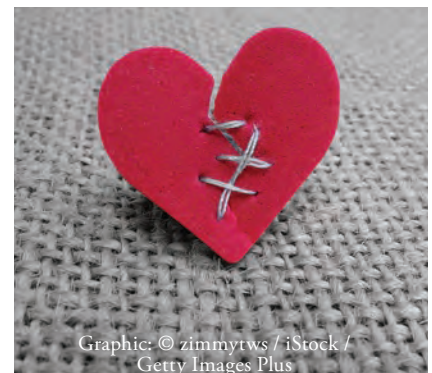


adultery
affliction
cleansing
desires

double-mindedness
enmity
envy
fighting

lust
mourning
purification
resistance to the devil

submission
wars
grace
friendship with the world



REJOICE IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

Lesson 8, *Philippians 1:12-21, NIV*

GOD'S REDEMPITIVE WORK

Match the terrible historical events below with the gospel-advancing outcome of each event.

1. The dispersion of Christians after the stoning of Stephen (Acts 8:1-4)	A. Multiple translations of the Bible in the common language of the people are created.
2. The persecutions of John Wycliffe (late 1300s), John Hus (early 1400s), and William Tyndale (early 1500s)	B. Massive growth of the underground church in China begins.
3. The persecution of Martin Luther after he nailed his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Door in 1517.	C. The gospel begins to spread outside of Jerusalem.
4. The massacre of Christians during the Boxer Rebellion (1900)	D. Thousands of high school students worldwide come to Christ and are emboldened for Jesus.
5. The shooting death of Rachel Scott at Columbine High School (1999)	E. The Protestant Reformation begins.

While it is common to experience fear and sadness during difficult circumstance in life, we can still rejoice knowing that God will one day redeem our suffering. God doesn't waste anything that happens to those wholly devoted to him.

WHAT'S STOPPING YOU?

The apostle Paul's arrest put a sudden stop to his missionary travels. But God used this apparent roadblock to advance the gospel. Select **one** problem below that you currently experience, and tell how God can use this apparent roadblock to advance the gospel.

Naming the Problem	How might God redeem this?
A. Health issue	
B. Financial bind	
C. Relationship strain	
D. Controversy in the congregation	
E. Persecution	

IMITATE CHRIST

Lesson 9, Philippians 2:1-11, NIV

LEVELS OF AUTHORITY

Put the following designations in order of rank, from lowest (8) to highest (1).

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| ___ Major | ___ Colonel |
| ___ Captain | ___ Brigadier General |
| ___ Master Sergeant | ___ Lieutenant |
| ___ Major General | ___ Lieutenant General |

In what ways does a person's rank or status have the potential of interfering with his or her relationships?

HIDDEN MESSAGE

Cross out words in the following categories to reveal a hidden message that gives the first step in getting along with others.

Vegetables

Words that rhyme with "dark"

Furniture

Words that have more than one "o"

Animals

Words with double consonants

carrot	mark	care	dog	chair	look
about	chest	pig	lark	opposite	bear
peas	what	loony	is	lettuce	stark
beginning	meaningful	table	to	sofa	happen
park	other	giraffe	annoyed	people	desk

Hidden message:

PRESS ON IN CHRIST

Lesson 10, Philippians 3:7-14, NIV

ULTIMATE PRIZES?

Match the world-famous prize with its description.

__ 1. Nobel Peace Prize	A. For achievements in newspaper, magazine, journalism, literature, and musical composition.
__ 2. Academy Award	B. For outstanding achievement in music performance.
__ 3. The Pulitzer Prize	C. One of the five awards, the other four being for work in chemistry, physics, medicine, and literature.
__ 4. Grammy Award	D. Honors a living person who has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works.
__ 5. The Templeton Prize	E. Any one of 24 awards for artistic and technical merit in the American film industry.

LOSSES AND GAINS

What have you lost or gained since becoming a Christian? Read and consider Matthew 10:39; Mark 10:28-31; and Luke 14:26 in your responses.

Category	What have you <i>lost</i> because of your faith in Christ in this area of life?	What have you <i>gained</i> because of your faith in Christ in this area of life?
Relationships		
Vocation		
Purpose		
Dreams		

OUR LOVING GOD

Lesson 11, Psalm 48:1-3, 9-14, NIV

FOLLOW THE LEADER?

List the country with which each leader on the left is associated. Each country on the right can be used only once.

Alexander the Great	_____	A. Canada
Catherine the Great	_____	B. France
Genghis Khan	_____	C. Greece
Gustavus Adolphus	_____	D. India
Joan of Arc	_____	E. Mongol Empire
Mahatma Gandhi	_____	F. Russia
Nelson Mandela	_____	G. South Africa
Pierre Trudeau	_____	H. Sweden
Queen Victoria	_____	I. United Kingdom

BE AN OVERCOMER

What things about modern culture tend to block a truthful view of God's being in control and protecting us? Rank-order the following list from 1 (most serious) to 8 (least serious).

- | | |
|--|--|
| ___ A. National nightly news reports | ___ B. Local nightly news reports |
| ___ C. Talk shows | ___ D. Entertainment choice and temptations |
| ___ E. Vested interests | ___ F. The court system |
| ___ G. Overt persecution of Christians | ___ H. Redefinition of truth as personal to the individual |

Where do you most agree with your fellow students? Why?

Where do you most disagree with your fellow students? Why?

OUR MIGHTY GOD

Lesson 12, Psalm 66:1-9, 16-20, NIV

SING AND SHOUT

Read Psalm 66. The hidden words for the puzzle are the answer to the clues.

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

Clues

1. Talking to God _____
2. Strength or might _____
3. Personal opponents _____
4. Populated planet _____
5. Expressing approval _____
6. Produce melodious
sounds _____
7. To be glad _____
8. Center of emotions _____

Discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker

BOASTING ABOUT GOD

Psalm 66 celebrates God's supreme name, power, and works. Use that as inspiration to suggest ways "all the earth" (v. 4)—including you—can brag about God and "make his praise glorious" (v. 2) today. See also Psalm 44:8.

*"In God we make our boast all day long,
and we will praise your name forever."*

(Psalm 44:8, NIV)

OUR RESCUING GOD

Lesson 13, Psalm 91:1-8, 11-16, NIV

METHODS OF PROTECTION

Make the single best match between the list of protective things on the left with the thing protected from on the right. Each entry on the right is to be used only once.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Sunscreen | A. Copyright infringement on software |
| ___ 2. Air bags | B. Nuclear war |
| ___ 3. Barry Manilow songs played over speakers | C. Burglars |
| ___ 4. Bike helmet | D. Loitering teenagers |
| ___ 5. Digital Rights Management | E. Brain injury |
| ___ 6. Doormat that says "The neighbors have better stuff" | F. Traffic accident |
| ___ 7. Deep mountain bunker | G. Sunburn |

While people are able to protect themselves from some dangers, God is able to protect and rescue from all threats, no matter the circumstances. When was a time He protected you?

IN NEED OF PROTECTION

Find the words on the right that describe things from which we need God's protection and rescue.

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

Conflict	Job
Depression	Money
Fear	Purpose
Hardship	Sickness
Heartache	Uncertainty

When finished, pick one area with which you struggle most. Exchange thoughts with your puzzle partner and commit to pray for each other in the week ahead. During those prayers, remind yourself of the Lord's willingness to watch over and protect you in all circumstances.

Lesson 1

Famous Farewell Addresses: 1=President Dwight Eisenhower. 2=Apostle Paul. 3=King David. 4=Jesus. 5=President Ronald Reagan.

Lesson 2

Serve the Lord:

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

Lesson 3

Satisfied with Good Things: 1=father. 2=diseases. 3=benefits. 4=righteousness. 5=great. 6=everlasting. **Message:** Find the blessings.

Lesson 4

The Big Announcement: Change: Seventh to sixth. Michael to Gabriel. Bethlehem to Nazareth. Widow to virgin. Simeon to Joseph. Levi to David. Martha to Mary. Barely to highly. Martha to Mary. Comforted to troubled. Farewell to greeting. Be to Do not be. Martha to Mary. Daughter to son. Immanuel to Jesus.

Lesson 6

Can You Spot a Liar? 1=T, since liars have rehearsed the story one way but get confused when telling it in reverse order. 2=L, since they are working hard to convince you and give you more information than needed. 3=T, since liars use third person to put distance between themselves and what they are saying. 4=L. 5=L, since they are working hard to convince you. 6=T, since this is how innocent people act. 7=T, but liars are more likely to use complex sentences. 8=L, since they are hoping to leave as soon as possible.

What's Love Got to Do with It? Paul's love is evident in his desire that the gospel be preached unhindered (2 Thessalonians 3:1, 2), so that many more can receive eternal life. He also wants those who have already believed not to fall under the destructive influence of wrong teaching (3:6-10), not in today's lesson text). The latter is also the basis of John's love (2 John 7-11).

Lesson 7

Prideful Heart vs. Humble Heart: adultery / desires / double-mindedness / enmity / envy / fighting / friendship with the world / lust / wars connect with the **prideful heart**; affliction / cleansing / grace / mourning / purification / resistance to the devil / submission connect with the **humble heart**.

Lesson 8

God's Redemptive Work: 1=C. 2=A. 3=E. 4=B. 5=D.

Lesson 9

Levels of Authority (lowest rank to highest): 8–Master Sergeant. 7–Lieutenant. 6–Captain. 5–Major. 4–Colonel. 3–Brigadier General. 2–Major General. 1–Lieutenant General.

Hidden Message: Care about what is meaningful to other people.

Lesson 10

Ultimate Prizes? 1=C. 2=E. 3=A. 4=B. 5=D.

Lesson 11

Follow the Leader? Alexander the Great, C–Greece. Catherine the Great, F–Russia. Genghis Khan, E–Mongol Empire. Gustavus Adolphus, H–Sweden. Joan of Arc, B–France. Mahatma Gandhi, D–India. Nelson Mandela, G–South Africa. Pierre Trudeau, A–Canada. Queen Victoria, I–United Kingdom.

Be an Overcomer: Responses will be subjective.

Lesson 12

Sing and Shout: Prayer in vv. 19, 20. Power in v. 3. Enemies in v. 3. Earth in v. 4. Praise in vv. 2, 8. Sing in v. 4. Rejoice in v. 6. Heart in v. 18. KJV and NIV.

+ + P O W E R S + + + +
+ + + + + I R + + + E
+ + + + + N + E + + S +
+ + + + G + + Y + I + +
+ + + + H + + A A + + N
S E I M E N E R + + + +
+ E + + A C P P + + + +
+ + A + R + I + + + + +
+ + + R T + + O + + + +
+ + + + T + + + J + + +
+ + + + + H + + + E + +
+ + + + + + + + + R +

Lesson 13

Methods of Protection: 1=G. 2=F. 3=D. 4=E. 5=A. 6=C. 7=B.

In Need of Protection:

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