

MONDAY MORNING
Devotionals

MIKE MAZZALONGO

STUDENT WORKBOOK

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Monday Morning Devotionals

Mike Mazzalongo

This devotional series is designed to help Christians start their week off right. It is a spiritual exercise that sets the tone, begins the self-talk, and reminds the soul that our spirit is primary and should be fed first as each week begins.



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1. BLESSING OR BAIT?

Intro – The rule for catching fish _____

Satan’s Strategy for catching us _____

- Romans 6:23 _____

The main deception _____

FISH NEVER LEARN BETWEEN REAL FOOD AND BAIT:

- Bait _____
- Blessing _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What factors tend to make us more susceptible to temptation? Name three.

2. In your opinion, why do some people repeatedly give in to the same temptation?

3. What three things can Christians do to strengthen themselves to successfully resist temptation?

2. GRATITUDE: THE WAY TO HAPPINESS

The sure way to happiness _____

- Romans 1:18-23 _____

Ingratitude _____

- Philippians 4:10-13 _____

Paul was happy because _____

- Ephesians 5:15-20 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What one event, person or attitude leads you to personal unhappiness? Why?

2. How would the ideas in this lesson help you if applied?

3. Name three things, people or events in your life that bring you happiness today.
Give thanks for these.

3. JUST ONE SIN

Intro – Numbers 27:12-15 _____

GOD'S FEELINGS CONCERNING SIN:

1. God is so holy that _____

2. There is no such thing as _____

3. Coming “close” is _____

The point! _____

- Matthew 28:18-20 _____

- Mark 16:16 _____

- Acts 2:38 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What "small" sin in your life is hard to overcome? _____

2. God doesn't require perfection, but what does He require when it comes to our sins?

3. Describe the struggle and solution that every Christian experiences that Paul explains in Romans 7:14-8:1.

4. HOW TO BUILD A GOOD REPUTATION

Intro - Proverbs 22:1 _____

A GOOD NAME REQUIRES:

1. Keep _____

- Matthew 5:37 _____

- Psalm 15 _____

2. Keep _____

- Romans 12:1-2 _____

Summary _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does one begin to build a good reputation aside from the suggestions given here?

2. In your opinion, how should one rebuild their "name" once it has been compromised?

3. What are the greatest threats to one's reputation? How do we avoid these?

5. LET'S BE ON TIME

Intro: Punctuality _____

The late-comer has a _____ problem.

Being on time _____

I Chronicles 21:24

The question is, " _____ "

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Give the main reason for your punctuality/lack of punctuality. Where does this come from?

2. Describe 3 advantages of being on time, disadvantages of being late for worship.

3. What, in your opinion, is the best way to teach young people how to be punctual.

Have you taught this? If **yes** what were the results. If **no**, why not?

6. MAKING AND KEEPING FRIENDS

Intro - Friendships are important _____

HOW TO **MAKE** FRIENDS – RIGHT/WRONG WAY

1. Proverbs 19:4 _____

2. Proverbs 22:11 _____

- Proverbs 27:2 _____

HOW TO **KEEP** FRIENDS

1. Proverbs 16:28 _____

2. Proverbs 17:17; 18:24 _____

Summary _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the reasons that led to you losing a good friend. How could this have been avoided?

2. Is making new friends easy or hard for you? Why?

3. What could you improve in yourself that would make you a better friend?

7. THE "OLD" RULES

Intro - All the Rules (Ellen Fein, Sherrie Schneider) _____

THE "OLD RULES"

#1. Be _____ - Exodus 20:16

#2. Be _____ - Exodus 20:14

#3. Be _____ - Leviticus 19:2

Summary – There are many “new rules” _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What quality in a man/woman is most important to you? Why? _____

2. What "rules" would you add to the ones already mentioned in this devo? _____

3. What advice would you give someone who is contemplating a serious relationship with an unbeliever?

8. LESSONS ON LEADERSHIP

Intro - I Chronicles 14:12 _____

GOOD LEADERS:

1. Know _____

2. Can make _____

3. Obey _____

Summary _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a valued leader you have come in contact with and list some of the characteristics you admired about them.

2. In your opinion/experience, what one weakness lessens a leader's effectiveness. Provide an example.

3. What virtue or skill would you cultivate in yourself that would enable you to become a better leader?

9. THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

Intro – God’s greatest gift is _____

- I Peter 2:24 _____

EXAMINING FORGIVENESS

1. It is something _____

- Romans 3:23; 6:23 _____

2. Jesus _____

- Ephesians 1:7 _____

3. Jesus _____

- John 3:16 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define forgiveness. What happens when there is forgiveness?

2. Explain how Jesus obtains your forgiveness.

3. Why do we sometimes continue to feel guilty for past sins, even if they have been forgiven?

10. GIVING GOD 100%

Intro - Asa, King of Judah _____

War with Northing Kingdom. _____

- II Chronicles 16:7-9 _____

Hanani rebukes Asa _____

1. God _____

2. God _____

Summary _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a time when you held back from the Lord. What were the results?

2. With all the evidence of His love around us, why do we hold back in giving Him 100%?

3. Aside from Jesus and Apostles, who is your hero of faith in the New Testament? Why?

11. THE FIGHT FOR FAITH

Intro – The British Humanish Association _____

Slogan – “There’s _____ no God. Now stop _____ and enjoy your life.”

Not even true atheistic because _____

It’s a meek form of _____

The psychology is wrong _____

Christians should _____

- Psalms 14:1 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In your opinion what part of the Christian faith do you find hardest to believe? Why?

2. In a discussion with a non-believer what argument would you feel is the strongest for belief? Why?

3. What do you look forward to the most about heaven? Why this?

12. BRINGING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST

Intro - Our teens are inviting their friends to church.

SUGGESTIONS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

1. Make sure _____

2. Let your friend know _____

3. Be concerned _____

There are ways to demonstrate your concern:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe how you successfully brought a friend/family member to Christ. _____

2. In your opinion, what is the main obstacle in bringing others to Christ?

How do you overcome this? _____

3. Share one way you use to begin sharing Christ with someone.

13. JESUS DOESN'T DO FUNERALS

Intro – Whenever Jesus was at a funeral _____

- Luke 7:11-17 _____

- Matthew 9:18 _____

- John 11: 38-40 _____

JESUS' ACTIONS AT FUNERALS TEACHES:

1. Jesus can _____

2. Only dead people _____

3. God wants _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What passage of Scripture do you want read at your funeral? Why?

2. Formulate a prayer that you would make if asked to pray at a Christian friend's funeral.

3. What words of comfort would you say to the relatives of someone who died but was not a believer?

14. HE COULD HAVE DONE MORE

Intro - Jesus could have accomplished so much more _____

However, he only _____

Most of us have plans and dreams but _____

Jesus chose to _____

When we consider our choices _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In your opinion, what is the best way to know God's will for your life on a daily basis? Explain.

2. How do you know what isn't God's will?

What are the signs that help you know that something or someone is not from God?

3. What do you do when you have to make an important decision but have not been able to discern God's will?

15. KEEPING YOUR VOWS

Intro – Wedding vows _____

1. Vows are _____

2. Live _____

- I Corinthians 10:13 _____

3. Give _____

- Philippians 2:3-11 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. For those unmarried, write down three vows you would make on your wedding day. For the married, write down three vows you would make if you were renewing your vows.

2. Aside from fidelity, which vow do you find hardest to keep? Explain why.

3. Name several things required to enable a person to keep a vow.

16. CUP FEVER

Intro - Montreal, Canada _____
- Montreal Canadians Hockey _____

- Luke 6:31 _____

In the church everyone _____

- I Peter 5:4 _____

If the Habs lose _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In your opinion, what one thing tends to cause division in families, at work or in church? _____

2. What is the best way to foster unity among people? Why? _____

3. Explain how you would go about restoring a broken relationship.
Why do you think this would work?

17. DENY SIN, NOT SELF

Intro – Colossians 2:20-23

Asceticism _____

Self-denial _____

Denial of sin _____

Light / darkness _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the benefits of voluntary fasting and prayer often mentioned in the Bible?

2. Why is deprivation of the body and asceticism not profitable as a way to know God or His will?

3. How would you defend against or resist a movement to impose food or marriage in the church?

18. FACTS ABOUT PRAYER

1. Only _____

- John 9:31 _____

- Hebrews 11:6 _____

2. Our prayers _____

- James 5:15-16 _____

3. God _____

- Matthew 7:7 _____

- Luke 18:1 _____

- Colossians 4:2 _____

- I Thessalonians 5:17 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who do you pray for the most? Why? _____

2. Describe an answered or unanswered prayer in your life. How did this affect you?

3. In your opinion, what is the most effective thing you can do in order to have your prayers answered? The most destructive thing to hinder prayer?

19. KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL

Intro – Shannon Miller – 1992 Olympics _____

- Colossians 3:1-4 _____

KEEPING YOUR EYE ON HEAVEN REQUIRES 3 THINGS:

1. Deal _____ - Colossians 3:5-11

2. Develop _____ - Colossians 3:12-15a

3. Learn _____ - Colossians 3:15b-17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you do differently when you need to focus? How could you improve?

2. What weakness seems to take your focus off of heavenly things and rest on earthly things. How can you improve? _____

3. What advice would you give to a new Christian just beginning their walk in Christ.

20. HOW TO HELP THE UNSAVED DIE

Intro _____

WHAT CAN BE DONE:

1. Be _____

- Matthew 5:16 _____

2. Be _____

- Hebrews 4:15-16 _____

3. Do not _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the efforts and results you have had in sharing your faith with relatives and friends.

2. What would you say to comfort someone who has lost a friend or family member to suicide?

3. What words would you like engraved on your tombstone? Why?

21. EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Intro – Matthew 6:9 _____

1. Pray to the _____

2. Pray with _____

- Isaiah 29:13 _____

3. Pray and then _____

- Matthew 6:10-13 _____

• Pray first _____

• Pray first _____

• Pray first _____

- James 5:16 _____

Has God not heard your prayers lately? Perhaps:

- _____

- _____

- _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a time when God answered one of your prayers. How did this effect you? _____

2. What are some ways that can help a believer raise the level of respect and honor for God in prayer?

3. What are the ways God reveals His plans for your life as you pray to Him?

22. TRUST IS LIKE A ROPE

Intro - Hebrew word for trust is "rope" _____

TRUST BUILT AND DESTROYED

1. Making a rope _____

2. Destroying a rope _____

ROPE ANALOGY LESSONS

A. Ropes are _____

B. Everybody needs _____

C. The strongest rope _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a broken relationship you've experienced in your life and the things that led to the break-up.

2. What is your personal approach to build trust with others?
What are the risks you have to take to create a strong "rope" of trust?

3. Describe the character of the person you trust the most in your life.
Which elements of their character is the most important?

23. A FATHER'S PRAYER

Intro – If I had only one prayer _____

1. Hunger _____

- Matthew 5:6 _____

2. A faithful _____

- Matthew 24:13 _____

3. The ability _____

- Philippians 4:6-7 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the things mentioned do you think is most important for yourself or your child? Why?

2. Create your own list of three things you would ask the Lord for you or your family. Why these?

3. Why do you think some of your prayers are not answered? What changes may need to be made?

24. RAISING CHRISTIAN KIDS

Intro - Do people get more religious with age?

Findings:

A. _____

B. _____

APPLICATION

- Proverbs 22:6 _____

- Psalms 92:12-15 _____

PRACTICE POINTS FOR PARENTS

1. Teach _____

2. Teach by _____

3. Don't _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the first type of religious training you received and have you followed this into adulthood? Why or Why not? _____

2. Who was your religious mentor? What made him/her effective in teaching you?

3. Have you been able to pass on your faith? How? Why not? _____

25. LAP TALK

The story _____

The resolution _____

The Christian experience _____

The lesson _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some effective ways we can help integrate visitors and new members into the life of the church?

2. Who was the person that helped you feel part of the "family" at church and what did they do to bring you in?

3. In your opinion, what are the greatest obstacles to forming meaningful relationships not only at church but every area of life? How do you overcome these?

26. WHAT IS MATURITY?

Intro - Parents and teens often discuss _____

Teens think maturity means:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Parents think maturity means:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

God's view of maturity:

1. _____

2. _____ (John 12:24)

3. _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As a parent, how do you consciously measure your child's maturing process?

2. What, in your opinion, could churches do to encourage teens to be faithful Christians?

What do you think they are doing that discourages young people from attending church services?

3. What can grandparents do to help mature their grandchildren?

27. THE GOOD IDEA OF AMERICA

Intro – July 1776 _____

COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD IDEAS

1. Good ideas are _____

2. Good ideas are _____

BAD IDEAS:

- F. Nietzsche _____

- K. Marx _____

3. Good ideas _____

- II Timothy 3:26 _____

GOD BLESS AMERICA – PSALMS 144:15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were President, what one law would you initiate that would bless this country?

2. What, in your opinion, is the best feature of the U.S.A. and why do you think this?

3. What, in your opinion, is the worst feature of the U.S.A. and why do you think this?

28. FOREVER PRAISE

Psalms 111:1-10 _____

Psalm 111 praises God for a variety of things:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

WHY "FOREVER" PRAISE?

1. God's works and greatness _____

2. Those who praise Him are _____

3. Eternal praise is the _____

Summary _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Approximately how much time do you spend praising God each day excluding Sunday?

2. What personal, concrete benefits do you derive from praising God?

3. Give three reasons that you have for praising God today. _____
Formulate a prayer of praise including these. _____

29. NO GOOD TIME TO DIE

Intro – Freak accidents _____

There’s no good time to die _____

The harsh reality _____

For unbelievers _____

Christians _____

- John 6:44 _____

With Christ, if death catches us by _____ it won’t catch us _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you prepared for your eventual death?
Does it follow Jesus' teaching and the example of the Apostles? (Acts 2:37-38)

2. Can people go to heaven without faith in Jesus? Why? Why not?

3. How old does a child have to be in order to be baptized? Why that age?

30. THE ROD OF DISCIPLINE

Intro - Proverbs 13:24 _____

SOLOMON'S IDEAS CONCERNING DISCIPLINE

1. Discipline is _____

2. Discipline is _____

3. Discipline needs _____

4. Lack of _____

Summary _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What, in your opinion, is the hardest type of discipline to administer to children? Why?

2. Who was the disciplinarian in your family? What was their method? Was it successful?

3. Which of your children were the most (least) difficult to discipline? Why?

31. FRIENDSHIP STEW

Katherine Lowry _____

1. Going through _____

- Romans 12:10-15 _____

- Galatians 6:2 _____

2. Sharing _____

- Romans 12:13 _____

3. Forgiving _____

- Ephesians 4:32 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is your best friend? Why?

2. Describe one thing this person has done or said which has cemented your friendship.

3. Think of a person you once had a friendship with but no longer do, and explain:

What broke the friendship? _____

What would be necessary to renew that friendship? _____

32. BEFORE YOU SAY "WHY NOT"

Intro - Many people make decisions by simply asking the questions, "why not?"

1. Is it _____ ? Is it _____ ?

2. Is it _____ ?

3. Is it _____ ?

WHEN YOU THINK, "WHY NOT?"

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the process you use in making decisions. _____

2. Explain why "waiting on the Lord" is a good spiritual habit to cultivate.

3. Describe how you would advise someone who has asked your help in making an important decision.

33. HOW TO PERSEVERE IN PREACHING

Intro – Preachers sometimes quit. _____

HOW PREACHERS PERSEVERE

1. Read _____

2. Concentrate _____

3. Do not _____

4. Deal with _____

5. Realize _____

- I Timothy 4:16 _____

Summary _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe what you like about your favorite preacher. Why?

2. How can you personally help your preacher to persevere?

3. What, in your opinion, can elders do to encourage preachers in their ministry?

34. WEDNESDAY NIGHT: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Intro - Wednesday evening services are inconvenient. _____

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

1. Get off _____

2. Spiritual _____

Is it necessary? _____

3. A chance _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When did you start attending a mid-week service at your church? Why?

2. Name one blessing you have received as a result of attending a mid-week service.

3. If you or a Christian you know doesn't attend mid-week service, describe the reason why not. Describe what would need to change in order to begin regular attendance.

35. SHE WAS A GOOD DOG

Intro – Bristo _____

She was a good dog:

Doggy Heaven

Opportunity

Challenge

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe your experience with the loss of a pet.
How was it explained to you (or how did you explain it to others)?

2. At what time or age should we explain the true finality of physical death to children?
Why this time or age?

3. How would you explain the death of a close relative (uncle, aunt, grandpa, etc.)
to a 10-year-old child? Why this approach?

36. THE PROBLEM OF PROCRASTINATION

Intro _____

1. Procrastination _____

- Proverbs 10:45 _____

2. Procrastination _____

- Proverbs 20:4; 26:13 _____

3. Procrastination _____

- Proverbs 27:1 _____
- Acts 24:24-25 _____

Are you a procrastinator? _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What types of things do you tend to procrastinate? Why?

2. Describe several ways that a friend with this bad habit could use to change.

3. Describe something or some action you are putting off at the moment.
What will you need to take action now?

37. THE SUICIDE DOCTOR

Intro - Dr. Jack Kevorkian

Defense of suicide

1. Our life

- Exodus 20:13

2. Suffering

3. Suffering

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever dealt with someone who was terminally ill? How did you treat/comfort them?

2. What would you say to the family of someone who had committed suicide?

3. How can we prepare our teens and young adults to deal with thoughts of suicide (common in this age group)?

38. WHEN SOMEONE LEAVES...

Intro - The discipling of church members _____

1. Don't be _____

- Matthew 7:13-14 _____

2. Do _____

- I Corinthians 5:13 _____

3. Withdraw _____

- I Corinthians 5:11; II Thessalonians 3:14-15 _____

4. Be _____

5. Pray _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What type of sin would qualify one for disfellowshipment. What type would not?

2. If you were sent to speak to a brother or sister who was disfellowshipped, what would you say to win them back? Why this approach?

3. Can someone be disfellowshipped for not attending worship services? Why yes or no?

39. MIRACLES DON'T SAVE

Intro - Luke 17:19 _____

A. Faith-healers today _____

- Matthew 14:13-21 _____

B. Faith-healers today _____

C. The Bible - Romans 1:16 _____

D. The true test for modern miracles _____

- Acts 8:20 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between God's providence and miracles?

2. Why did Jesus and later on, the Apostles, perform miracles?

Aside from healing, what purpose did they serve?

3. Did miracles cease? If so, why? If not, why not?

40. GUARDING AGAINST GREED

Intro - Luke 12:15 _____

1. It breeds _____

2. It breeds _____

3. It breeds _____

- Matthew 7:7-8 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think people never seem to be content?

2. How do we teach children to be content with what they have?

3. When are the times you are most satisfied? Why can't you remain in that state at all times?

41. MINISTERING TO THE MINISTER

Intro – Visiting a church past its “prime” _____

The condition of the **service**.

The condition of the **preacher**.

The condition of the **sermon**.

The surprise!

The lesson:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite part of the worship service? Why?

2. If you had advice to give to preachers in general, what would that be?

3. What, in your opinion, does Paul the Apostle mean when he declares:
"I am not ashamed of the gospel. For it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..."

42. KISSING UP

Intro - "kissing up" _____

Greek word for worship means _____

THE DIFFERENCE:

1. People do not deserve _____

2. We can manipulate _____

- Matthew 15:8 _____

3. God can _____

Summary: When in worship, try to remember:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Give an example of manipulation you often see others (yourself?) use to gain favor with others.

2. Which part of worship do you think God enjoys the most? Why? _____

3. Have you ever been "caught up in the Spirit" while praying?
Describe the experience. Can you duplicate it at will?

43. SEEK THE KINGDOM

Intro – Matthew 6:31-33 _____

Seeking the kingdom sometimes feels more difficult than keeping the Law.

The difference is between _____ and _____

1. To _____ means _____

2. To _____ means _____

James promises:

A. If you seek _____

B. If you seek _____

SUMMARY – WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What form does seeking the kingdom take in your life?

2. Describe an attitude, failure, weakness you've left behind since you began seeking the Kingdom.

3. What is one way you help others begin seeking the Kingdom?

44. TRUE AWAKENINGS

Intro - 1990 movie: "Awakenings" _____

- Matthew 12:22-28 _____

Some are awakened by the gospel _____

REACTIONS INCLUDE:

1. Like the Pharisees _____

2. Like the De Niro character _____

3. Like the blind and mute man _____

Who do you relate to? _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kind of "coma" were you in before being awakened by the gospel?

2. What element of the gospel message or life of faith sparked your awakening?

3. What, in this world, is the strongest influence inducing you back to sleep?

45. HOW IMPORTANT IS 1 VOTE?

Intro - We often feel very small in this world. _____

When it comes to one person, one vote:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1645 - Oliver Cromwell _____ | 1875 - France _____ |
| 1649 - Charles I _____ | 1876 - Rutherford Hayes _____ |
| 1776 - America _____ | 1923 - Adolf Hitler _____ |
| 1845 - Texas _____ | 1947 - Selective Service _____ |
| 1868 - President Johnson _____ | _____ |

-
- | | | | |
|------|---------|-------|--------------|
| Adam | Abraham | Moses | Jesus |
| Noah | Joseph | Mary | Peter & Paul |
-

We think groups changes the world.

1. Your vote is _____
2. Your vote is _____
3. Your vote is _____

- Mark 16:16 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you vote in elections? Why yes or no?

2. Share a time in your life when you made a difference in a situation or another person's life.

3. What could you say or do to exert your influence for Christ in your surroundings?

46. FREEDOM FROM SIN

Intro - Romans 6:17-18 _____

1. Freedom _____

A. Romans 8:13 _____

B. Romans 6:23 _____

2. Slaves _____

- I Corinthians 13:6 _____

- Matthew 5:6 _____

Summary - Acts 2:38 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the kind of person you were before your conversion to Christianity. _____

2. What does "freedom in Christ" mean for you personally? _____

3. Which spiritual goals do you strive for above all others? Why? _____

47. HONOR TO WHOM IT IS DUE

Intro _____

Larry's Work _____

Larry's Attitude _____

Larry's Reward _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the person at your work, church or school who is an "unsung hero."

2. What, in your opinion, is the secret to serving effectively and quietly?

3. On a scale of 0 (I want all the credit for all I do) to 10 (my sole motivation is to honor God by serving others) where do you fit?

What would you need to do in order to move forward:

1 digit: _____

3 digits: _____

48. A 1,000 CHOICES ALONG THE WAY

Intro - Following Jesus along the "narrow way" requires: _____

NO MATTER THE CHOICES, THEY ARE ALWAYS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share one of the most difficult decisions that you've had to make as a Christian. How did this decision impact your life as a believer?

2. Do you have a regular process in making important decisions, and if so what steps do you follow? Why?

3. What type of worldly behavior is hardest for you to give up? Why?

49. LIVING ON THE BRINK OF HOPE

Intro _____

Proverbs 13:2 _____

In the Thessalonian church _____

COPING WITH HOPE

1. Hope _____

- Matthew 6:34 _____

2. Be thankful _____

3. Seek _____

- Matthew 6:33 _____

Summary

A. _____ B. _____ C. _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the hardest type of "waiting" you've experienced? Why? _____

2. What is difficult about living only in today? How have you managed to accomplish this (or not)?

3. Aside from heaven itself, what other spiritual things do you look forward to?

50. PSALM OF SUFFERING

Intro - Psalms 6:1-10 _____

vs. 1 - Fear _____

vs. 2-3 - Impatience _____

vs. 4-5 - Bargaining _____

vs. 6-7 - Depression _____

vs. 8-9 - Joy _____

vs. 10 - Confidence _____

LESSONS

A. To suffer _____

B. There is not _____

C. Stay _____

The true test of suffering _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time of suffering in your life and any life lessons you learned as a result.

2. What is the most difficult part of suffering for you? How do you manage this?

3. Recount the ways you helped another in their time of suffering. _____

51. PROMISED / NOT PROMISED

Intro – Expectations and disappointments _____

PROMISED

1. Always _____

(Hebrews 13:5) _____

2. Provide _____

(Matthew 6:31-33) _____

3. Execute _____

(Romans 12:17-19) _____

4. You _____

(Romans 8:1) _____

5. Your _____

(I Thess. 4:13-18) _____

DID NOT PROMISE

It _____

Provide _____

Life _____

You _____

You _____

Summary - _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a disappointment of failed expectations in your past. How did you deal with it?

2. Which of God's promises fulfills your greatest expectation or need?

3. Has there ever been an expectation that you had which God did not promise? What was it? How did you deal with the fact that God had not promised this to you?

52. DEALING WITH PAIN AT CHRISTMAS

Intro - Why Christmas time is special _____

REMEMBER

1. The world may have forgotten you, but _____

- Psalms 46:1; 7 _____

2. Suffering, like all thing in this life, is only _____

3. It is okay to _____

- Ecclesiastes 3:1 _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a time in your life when you know that only God "got you through it." _____

2. Aside from Christmas time, are there any other events that trigger negative emotions in you?
How have you coped? Why do you think these are still triggers?

3. Where is your peaceful place? How do you get there? _____

53. LOOK FOR THE RAINBOW

Intro – Natural disaster affect many people. _____

- Genesis 7:11 _____

ONLY GOD CAN PROVIDE DURING TRAGEDIES

1. Only God _____

- Luke 12:33 _____

2. Only God _____

- James 1:2-4 _____

3. Only God _____

- Genesis 7:11; II Peter 3:5-10 _____

The suffering is great _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever experienced a natural tragedy (hurricane, fire, flood, etc.)? Explain.

2. What Scripture would you use to comfort someone who experienced this kind of trauma?

How would you comfort them? _____

3. How would you answer a person who was blaming God for their loss of health, or a loved one, or their home in a fire, etc.?

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