

PHCOEL



Philippians & Colossians

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

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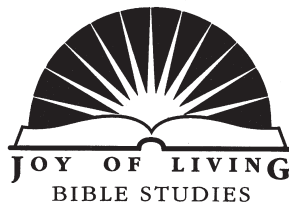
Joy of Living Philippians & Colossians Youth Bible Study

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Philippians & Colossians

Youth Bible Study

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Before you begin

An ideal curriculum for home-school, Bible class, Sunday School or personal Bible Study, **Joy of Living Youth Curriculum** is flexible and easy to use. Each lesson covers the same scripture passage as the adult **Joy of Living** Study.

Age:

This course encourages students of various ages to develop a habit of personal Bible study. Since the study requires reading the Bible and writing answers to the questions, the minimum age should be about 6 years old. Although the questions are geared to about age 10, older students will profit by gaining a basic knowledge of the Bible. Students over the age of 14 may be mature enough to study the adult **Joy of Living** course.

The lessons:

The study is divided into weekly units. Each week is divided into three sections:

- a suggested class schedule including craft and game ideas
- leader's lesson sheets (these contain the answers for the lesson completed by the students during the previous week)
- student questions for the next lesson (these are passed out at the end of the class)

Students complete the written lessons at home and are encouraged to do a few questions each day rather than trying to complete all the questions in one day. This will aid the students in developing a pattern of daily Bible Study. The "HARD" and "RISKY" questions are to inspire the student to think and reason and help them dig deeper into God's Word.

For homeschool or personal Bible study:

The curriculum may be used in a variety of ways:

- Lessons may be completed by the individual student and graded for accuracy. Discussion time is optional, although it is encouraged.
- Students within the same family or group may work on the lessons together. A discussion time with a parent or other adult is suggested.
- Adults may work one-on-one with the student(s) while they complete the lesson.
- Lessons may be used as part of family devotions. Read the portions of scripture aloud and use the questions to prompt discussion of the Bible passage.

For use with groups:

There is great flexibility in implementing this curriculum. Since each class has its own needs, space, finances, and time frame the class schedule is supplied as a general outline and can be changed to suit specific situations and needs.

Each class session has free time, recreation/snack time, question discussion time, and craft time.

Remember - Keep the pace moving to avoid boredom and trouble, while providing continuity.

Suggested time SCHEDULE to be adapted to individual group:

- 15 - 20 minutes. - unstructured free time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - game/snack time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - discussion time
- remaining time for craft

Helpful Hints for Groups

Facility/Equipment

- Whatever the class size, access to a gym or large game room is worthwhile for team play and group activities.
- If the church has the room, a separate cupboard for supplies is a plus.
- Access to a TV/VCR is helpful but not necessary.
- A volleyball or similar ball is good to have on hand for a variety of games.

Discussion Time

- Use the counting off system to divide the class into groups for discussion time. (Avoid, if possible, separating into groups according to age or family.)
- Each discussion group should have an adult leader. Older children should not be used (unless absolutely necessary) as leaders or sitters; they are there for fellowship and learning, too.
- With many of the questions there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are to encourage the student to think and reason and to dig deeper into God's Word. However, since discussion time is also a form of teaching, the leaders are given answers on their question sheets to aid them in the discussion, with occasional commentary insights added in brackets.
- As you discuss the lesson be careful not to belittle a student's opinion or idea. Even if the answer is wrong you can encourage the student by saying something similar to, "I like to see that you're thinking, do you think perhaps... (then give the correct answer)" or "I can see that you are thinking about the question, does anyone else have thoughts on this question?"

Teachers/Leaders/Helpers

- The number of leaders and helpers is determined by the size of the class. The ideal situation is one discussion leader per every 5 children.
- In addition to the main leader, it is helpful to have a game leader, and craft leader.

- Responsibilities are determined within each class structure.
- Parent volunteers may be requested when extra help is needed. If there is a large number of children, the parents have to volunteer only once or twice the entire year.
- Scheduling parents to bring treats is a financial bonus. Keeping cost to a minimum is being a good steward of God's resources.

Game Time

Although board games, puzzles, hidden pictures, crosswords, coloring, and quiet activities do not keep the attention of active children, they should not be ruled out as alternative game time activities. Ball games, races, or tag games are suggested and favored to holding everyone's interest.

Suggestions for obtaining craft ideas & supplies:

Garage/yard/rummage sales

library craft books

children's magazines

YMCA, Park & Recreation Dept., churches (almost every city has a summer program for children, which includes a craft time; they may have leftover craft supplies they would like to donate)

Supplies to have on hand for crafts not in kits:

glue, glue sticks, glue gun

scissors (at least 1 pair for every 2 students)

paint (tempera-washable)

paint brushes

paper towels

newspapers

construction paper

crayons

colored markers

colored pencils

paper cups, napkins (snack time)

various items to pass in relay races

balls, basketball, nerf, etc.

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- The International Bible Commentary, with the New International Version*. Originally Edited by F. F. Bruce, H. L. Ellison, G. C. D. Howley. First published 1979. Based on RSV version of the Bible. Copyright Picering & Inglis Ltd. 1979. New Edition 1986. Based on the New International Version of the Bible. Copyright Marshall Morgan and Scott Publications Ltd. 1986, England and Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Treasure Chest of Crafts*. Gospel Light Publications, Ventura, CA. 93006, 1990.

Scripture quotations in this course are from:

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The Holy Bible, New International Version, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 1986

Philippians & Colossians— Game & Craft List

	Game	Craft	Page
Week 1	Stepping Stones	Daisy Flower	8
Week 2	Floor Basketball	Oval Frame	13
Week 3	Milk Carton Ball Toss	Many Parts Cross	23
Week 4	Egg Roll	Philippian Post Newspaper	32
Week 5	Balloon Football	Paper Plate Buterfly	41
Week 6	Balloon Race	Landscape in a Basket	48
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Week 8	Base Tag	Stencil Poster	63
Week 9	Balloon Obstacle Race	Edible Cookie Bowl	72

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS — WEEK ONE

NO LESSON DISCUSSION

15 – 20 minutes free time – games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: STEPPING STONES

You will need four sheets of paper (construction, newspaper, etc.) of any size, any color. Divide class into two teams. Give the first person of each team two sheets of paper. Draw the start line and the finish line on the playing area with masking tape. At the signal the first person of each team must throw one sheet of paper onto the floor and jump onto it. He then throws the second sheet forward, steps on it, turns around and picks up the first sheet of paper. Rotating papers in this manner until he reaches the finish line. Then he runs back to his team, tags the second in line, and game continues until all have raced.

15 – 20 minutes discuss class rules

to end of class CRAFT: DAISY FLOWER*

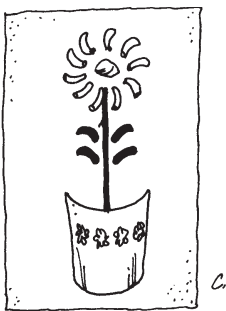
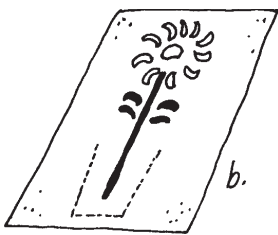
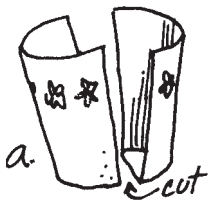
MATERIALS:

small paper cups
small shell macaroni
glue
scissors
felt-tip pens
6" x 9" colored construction paper or poster board
styrofoam meat trays (to hold glue for dipping)

large elbow macaroni
spaghetti or green pipe cleaners
spray paint (optional)
pencils

If colored flowers are desired, spray paint macaroni & spaghetti before class.

Cut one paper cup at a time in half from top to bottom (sketch a). Draw outline of cup on each piece of construction paper (sketch b). Glue pipe cleaner or spaghetti piece onto paper with end extending into "vase." Use shell and elbow macaroni pieces to make flower and leaves on stem. Use felt pens to decorate cup. Glue cup onto construction paper for vase (sketch c).



*from *A Treasure Chest of Crafts*, Gospel Light Publications, 1985, page 21. Used by permission.

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 1

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write all the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Philippians chapter 1 verses 1 – 6.

The book of Philippians is known as the book of joy. The word "joy" or "rejoice" is mentioned about 16 times in 104 verses (depending on the translation). Keep your eyes out for all the times these words are mentioned. Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey as recorded in Acts 16:12.

1. When we write a letter, we say "Dear ...", and we enter someone's name. Then we sign our name at the bottom. But when the letter to the Philippians was written, the person writing the letter put his name first. Who is this letter from?
2. What do the writers call themselves in verse 1?
3. The following verses are some of what the Bible says about Paul and Timothy. Underline or circle the words and phrases that tell you about each man. Put the information in the two columns on the next page. When your list is finished, you'll know a lot about each of them. (Note: Paul's former name was Saul before he met Jesus.)

Acts 7:55,58; 8:1 "But Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked upward into Heaven and saw the glory of God. And he could see Jesus standing at God's right hand.... They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. The people took off their coats. And they laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.... Saul was there when they killed Stephen. And he agreed that killing him was a good thing."

Acts 9:1-3,5,15,22 "Now Saul was in Jerusalem, threatening to kill the believers there. But then he went to see the High Priest. He asked for a letter addressed to synagogues in Damascus. The letter told the Jews there to help Saul persecute the believers in their city. They were to arrest all the believers, both men and women. And then Saul would bring them in chains to Jerusalem. Saul was almost to Damascus to arrest the believers there. But suddenly a bright light from Heaven shone down on him!... 'Who is speaking, sir?' Saul asked. And the voice replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are trying to hurt!'... But the Lord said [to Ananias], 'Go and do what I say. For Saul is my chosen instrument. He will preach my message to the Gen-

tiles and their kings. He also will preach to the people of Israel.’... Saul became more and more powerful in his preaching. And the Damascus Jews couldn’t stand against his proofs that Jesus was the Messiah.”

Acts 13:9 “But Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 16:1-3 “Paul and Silas went first to Derbe. Then they went on to Lystra, where they met a believer named Timothy. Timothy’s mother was a Christian Jewess, but his father was a Greek. Timothy was well thought of by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium. So Paul asked him to join them on their journey. And he circumcised Timothy before they left. Paul did this so he wouldn’t offend any of the Jews of the area. For everyone knew that Timothy’s father was Greek and hadn’t allowed this before.”

1 Corinthians 1:1 “From: Paul, chosen by God to be Jesus Christ’s missionary, and from brother Sosthenes.”

1 Corinthians 4:17 “I am sending Timothy to help you do this. He is one of those I won to Christ. He is a beloved and trusted child in the Lord. He will remind you of what I teach in all the churches everywhere.”

1 Timothy 1:2 [Paul is writing.] “To: Timothy. Timothy, you are like a son to me in the things of the Lord. Kindness, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

2 Timothy 1:5 [Paul is writing to Timothy.] “I know how much you trust the Lord. You trust him just as your mother, Eunice, and your grandmother, Lois, do. I feel sure you are still trusting him as much as ever.”

SAUL

TIMOTHY

4. **RISKY:** Paul thanks God for the Philippian Christians. He prays with joy because they share the gospel with him and with others. When Paul prays for the Philippians, in how many prayers does Paul thank God for the Philippian believers?

5. **PERSONAL:** Do you tell others about Jesus? Do you tell them that He took their punishment for the bad things they do? Do you tell them He did this so they wouldn't be apart from God forever? That's what Jesus did when He died on the cross. Do you think you are too young to do this? What does Jeremiah 1:5 say about the time when God calls people to tell others about Him?

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 7 – 14.

1. What does Paul want the Philippians to have more and more?
2. What does 1 Corinthians 13:1 say about love?
3. How does someone get to know more about Jesus and what He has done? See Ephesians 1:17 for your answer.

The dictionary says wisdom is “good judgment and knowledge of what is right and true” (HOLT).

4. What does James 1:5 say is one way for us to have wisdom?
5. **CHALLENGE:** Carefully read Philippians 1:12-14. Where do you think Paul was when he wrote this letter?

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 15 – 19.

1. Paul says some people spread the gospel because they love God. Others tell the gospel because they are jealous of Paul. How does Paul feel about these two kinds of people?
2. What does Jesus say in Mark 9:40?
3. **CHALLENGE:** Paul says in Philippians 1:19: “I am going to keep on being glad. I know that you pray for me and the Spirit helps me. So this is all going to turn out for my good.” How is this like what Paul wrote in Romans 8:28?

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 20 – 26.

1. **RISKY:** Why does Paul want to be brave?
2. What do these verses say about belonging to God?

Daniel 3:16-18

Romans 14:8

3. Paul wasn't afraid to die. He knew he would be with Jesus when that time came. What is he sure Jesus wants him to do?

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 27 – 30.

1. Paul says we have the privilege to trust in Christ and also to suffer for Him. What does James 1:2 say about the things we suffer, or the hard times we go through? These are called trials.
2. Sometimes the bad things that happen to us come from those who don't like us, or who are our enemies. What did Jesus say we should do for our enemies in the following verses?

Luke 6:27,28

Romans 12:20,21

3. **PERSONAL:** Do you pray for people who are mean to you? Are you kind to those who hurt your feelings? Do you have Luke 6:27,28 or Romans 12:20,21 memorized to help you remember what God's Word says we should do for our enemies and our friends?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS — WEEK TWO

DISCUSSION LESSON 1

15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: FLOOR BASKETBALL

With masking tape or chalk, draw a circle on the floor, a little larger than the size of a basketball. Draw another circle around the first circle about 3 or more feet outside the floor “hoop.” Divide players into two teams. Choose two players to “jump ball” to see who has first try to make a basket. Players with the ball may dribble, pass or shoot for a basket. But they cannot step inside the larger circle to do it. The opposing team tries to steal the ball and make a basket as well. When a basket is made, the other team gets the ball. Set a score or time limit. Play till either one is reached.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 1

to end of class CRAFT: OVAL FRAME

MATERIALS:

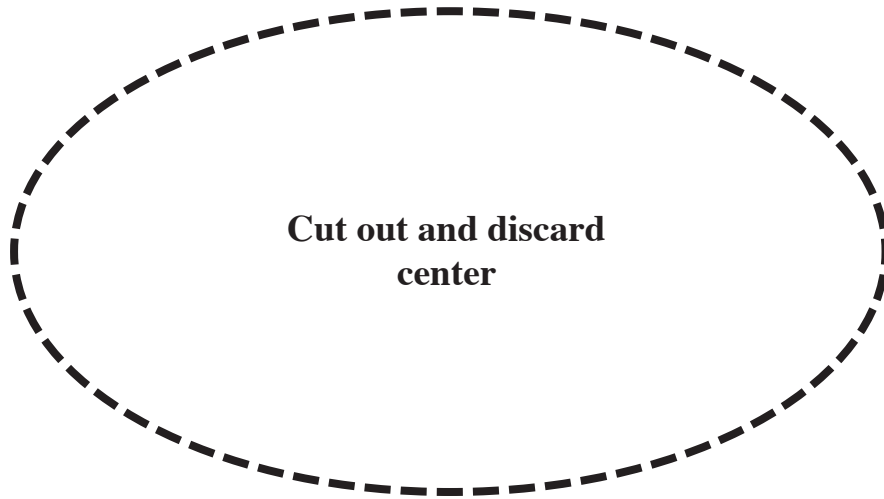
scissors	glue
yarn	aluminum foil
wrapping paper	crayons/markers
lightweight cardboard—	file folders, cereal box sides, etc.

Photocopy the pattern on the following page for each student. Trace back and front of frame onto cardboard and cut out, removing oval from front as shown on pattern. Cut out an 8” x 5” piece of wrapping paper or aluminum foil. (If using aluminum foil, you may wish to crumple and open up, for texture, before continuing.) Use paper/foil to cover front of frame, wrapping the extra 1/2” behind cardboard on each side. Glue edges of paper or foil to cardboard. Cut out center oval from paper or foil, cutting about 1/2” away from cardboard oval edge, then wrap the extra 1/2” paper/foil behind cardboard oval edge, and glue to secure. Place a line of glue along the bottom and sides of frame back, then glue to unfinished side of frame front. For hanging, glue the ends of an 11” piece of yarn to the top corners at back of frame. Slide scripture verse or picture (see Week 2 Schedule, Page 3) through the top opening.

Frame Patterns

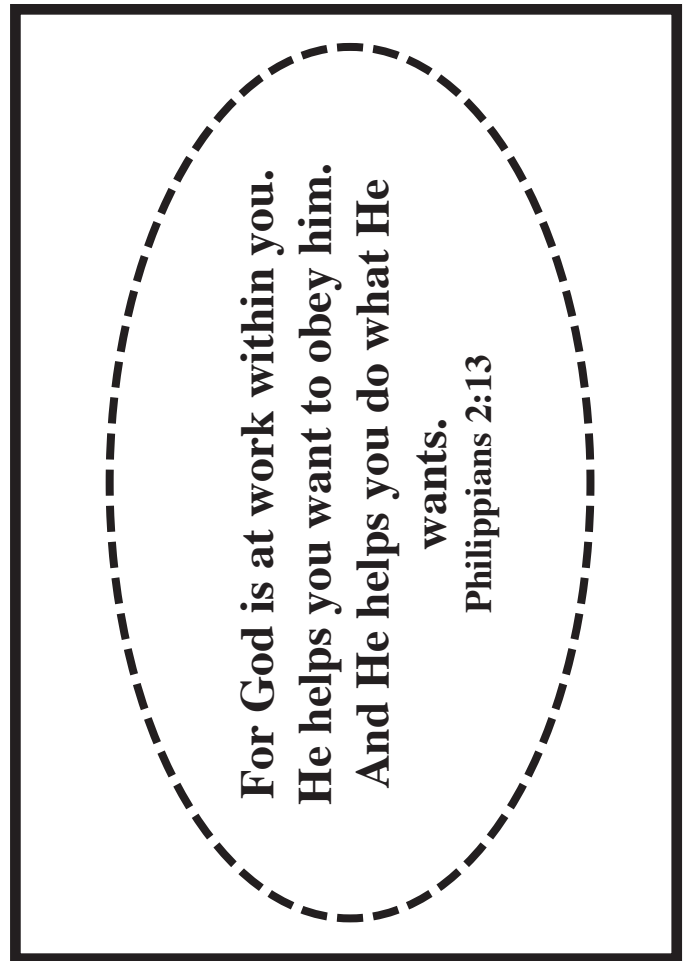
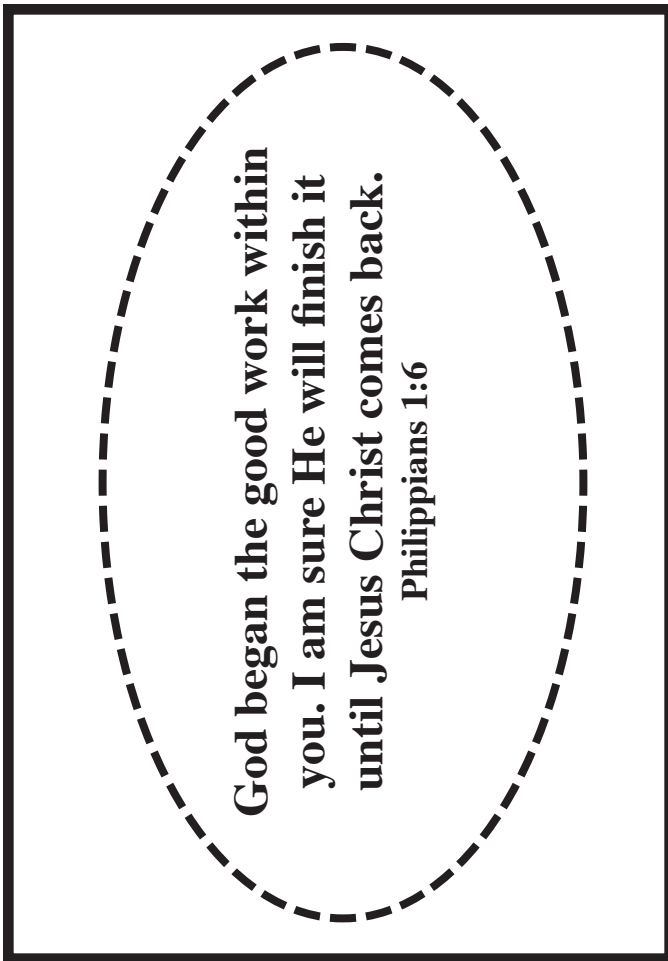
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Front



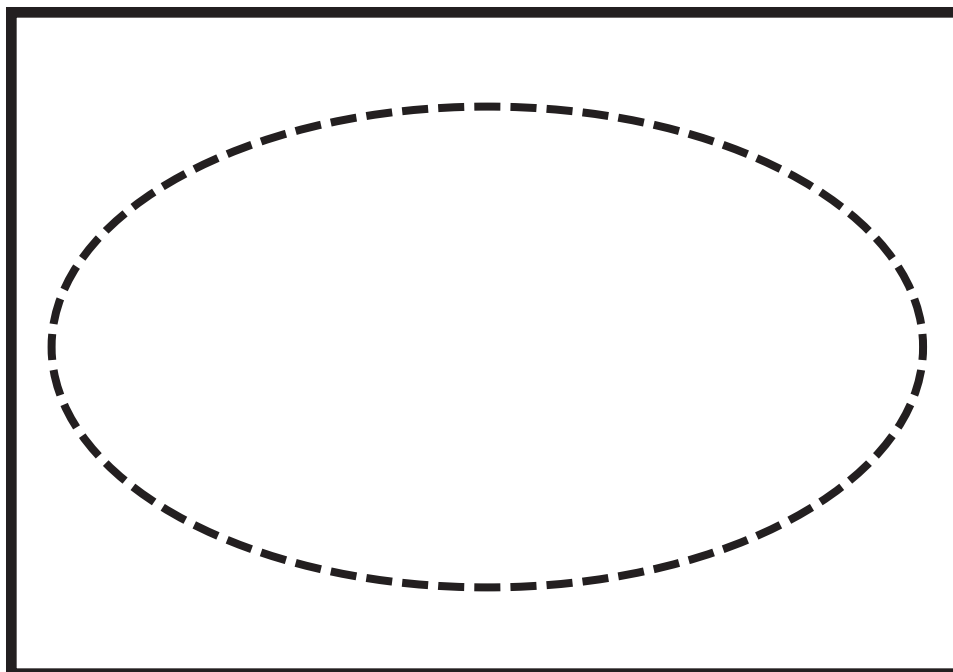
Back

*Back is smaller than front so edges will not show
when it is glued behind front.*



Photocopy one copy of this page per student.

Use one of the scripture verses above in the frame, or draw a picture in the blank oval below.



PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 1 — ANSWERS

Read Philippians chapter 1 verses 1 – 6.

The book of Philippians is known as the book of joy. The word “joy” or “rejoice” is mentioned about 16 times in 104 verses (depending on the translation). Keep your eyes out for all the times these words are mentioned. Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey as recorded in Acts 16:12.

1. When we write a letter, we say “Dear ...”, and we enter someone’s name. Then we sign our name at the bottom. But when the letter to the Philippians was written, the person writing the letter put his name first. Who is this letter from? Verse 1. Paul and Timothy.
2. What do the writers call themselves in verse 1? Slaves, servants, etc. of Jesus Christ.
3. The following verses are some of what the Bible says about Paul and Timothy. Underline or circle the words and phrases that tell you about each man. Put the information in the two columns on the next page. When your list is finished, you’ll know a lot about each of them. (Note: Paul’s former name was Saul before he met Jesus.)

Acts 7:55,58; 8:1 “But Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked upward into Heaven and saw the glory of God. And he could see Jesus standing at God’s right hand.... They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. The people took off their coats. And they laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.... Saul was there when they killed Stephen. And he agreed that killing him was a good thing.”

Acts 9:1-3,5,15,22 “Now Saul was in Jerusalem, threatening to kill the believers there. But then he went to see the High Priest. He asked for a letter addressed to synagogues in Damascus. The letter told the Jews there to help Saul persecute the believers in their city. They were to arrest all the believers, both men and women. And then Saul would bring them in chains to Jerusalem. Saul was almost to Damascus to arrest the believers there. But suddenly a bright light from Heaven shone down on him!... ‘Who is speaking, sir?’ Saul asked. And the voice replied, ‘I am Jesus, the one you are trying to hurt!’... But the Lord said [to Ananias], ‘Go and do what I say. For Saul is my chosen instrument. He will preach my message to the Gentiles and their kings. He also will preach to the people of Israel.’... Saul became more and more powerful in his preaching. And the Damascus Jews couldn’t stand against his proofs that Jesus was the Messiah.”

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him to join them on their journey. And he circumcised Timothy before they left. Paul did this so he wouldn't offend any of the Jews of the area. For everyone knew that Timothy's father was Greek and hadn't allowed this before."

1 Corinthians 1:1 "*From:* Paul, chosen by God to be Jesus Christ's missionary, and from brother Sosthenes."

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2 Timothy 1:5 [Paul is writing to Timothy.] "I know how much you trust the Lord. You trust him just as your mother, Eunice, and your grandmother, Lois, do. I feel sure you are still trusting him as much as ever."

SAUL

People laid their coats at his feet
Agreed killing Stephen was a good thing
Was in Jerusalem threatening to kill the believers
Went to Damascus to persecute the believers to bring them in chains to Jerusalem
Jesus speaks to him
Is Jesus' chosen instrument to the Gentiles and their kings
Became powerful in his preaching
Was filled with the Holy Spirit
Met Timothy in Lystra
Jesus Christ's missionary

TIMOTHY

His mother was a Christian Jewess,
his father was Greek
Joined Paul on his journey
Paul circumcised him
Beloved and trusted child in the Lord
Like a son to Paul
Trusts the Lord
Mother is Eunice, grandmother is Lois

4. **RISKY:** Paul thanks God for the Philippian Christians. He prays with joy because they share the gospel with him and with others. When Paul prays for the Philippians, in how many prayers does Paul thank God for the Philippian believers? Verse 3: ALL. "ALL my prayers for you are full of praise to God!" (italics added)

5. **PERSONAL:** Do you tell others about Jesus? Do you tell them that He took their punishment for the bad things they do? Do you tell them He did this so they wouldn't be apart from God forever? That's what Jesus did when He died on the cross. Do you think you are too young to

do this? What does Jeremiah 1:5 say about the time when God calls people to tell others about Him? “I knew you before you were shaped in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart. I chose you as my spokesman to the world.”

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 7 – 14.

1. What does Paul want the Philippians to have more and more of? Verse 9: “My prayer for you is that you will overflow more and more with love for others. I pray that you grow in spiritual knowledge and insight.”
2. What does 1 Corinthians 13:1 say about love? “I may be able to speak in every language in Heaven and earth. But if I didn’t love others, I would only be making noise.”
3. How does someone get to know more about Jesus and what He has done? See Ephesians 1:17 for your answer. “I pray for you all the time. I ask God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you wisdom. Then you will see and understand who Christ is and what he has done.”

The dictionary says wisdom is “good judgment and knowledge of what is right and true” (HOLT).

4. What does James 1:5 say is one way for us to have wisdom? “If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him. He will gladly tell you. He is ready to give wisdom to all who ask him. He will not scold you.”
5. **CHALLENGE:** Carefully read Philippians 1:12-14. Where do you think Paul was when he wrote this letter? In prison, verse 14: “Because I am in prison, many here seem to have lost their fear of chains! Somehow my patience has cheered them up. They have become more and more bold in telling others about Christ.” [Although Paul was in prison, chained between two guards, his joy for the Philippian church was not diminished. Outside circumstances did not alter his joy, his joy was in Jesus Christ, not in others or things.]

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 15 – 19.

1. Paul says some people spread the gospel because they love God. Others tell the gospel because they are jealous of Paul. How does Paul feel about these two kinds of people? Verse 18: “I don’t care why they do it. The fact is, the Good News about Christ is being preached, and I am glad.”
2. What does Jesus say in Mark 9:40? “Anyone who isn’t against us is for us.”
3. **CHALLENGE:** Paul says in Philippians 1:19: “I am going to keep on being glad. I know that you pray for me and the Spirit helps me. So this is all going to turn out for my good.” How is this like what Paul wrote in Romans 8:28? “Everything that happens to us is working for our good. We know this is true if we love God and fit into his plans.”

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 20 – 26.

1. **RISKY:** Why does Paul want to be brave? He wants to be brave for Christ. Verse 20: “I eagerly expect and hope that I will never be ashamed of what I do. I expect that I will always be ready to speak boldly for Christ. Even now, just as in the past, I hope that I will be an honor to Christ. This is true whether I live or die.”

2. What do these verses say about belonging to God?

Daniel 3:16-18 “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego gave him this answer. ‘O Nebuchadnezzar,’ they said. ‘We are not afraid of what will happen to us. If we are thrown into the flaming furnace, our God can save us. And he will save us out of your hand, O king. But if he doesn’t, even then we will never serve your gods. And we will never worship the gold statue you have made.’”

Romans 14:8 “Living or dying we follow the Lord. Either way we are his.”

3. Paul wasn’t afraid to die. He knew he would be with Jesus when that time came. What is he sure Jesus wants him to do? Verses 25,26: “Yes, I am still needed here. So I feel certain I will be staying on earth a little longer. That way I can help you grow and become happy in your faith. My staying will make you glad. It will give you reason to glorify Christ when I come back to visit you.”

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 27 – 30.

1. Paul says we have the privilege to trust in Christ and also to suffer for Him. What does James 1:2 say about the things we suffer, or the hard times we go through? These are called trials. “Dear brothers, is your life full of trouble and trials? Then be happy.”

2. Sometimes the bad things that happen to us come from those who don’t like us, or who are our enemies. What did Jesus say we should do for our enemies in the following verses?

Luke 6:27,28 “Listen, all of you! Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Pray for the happiness of those who curse you. Ask God to bless those who hurt you.”

Romans 12:20,21 “Instead, feed your enemy if he is hungry. If he is thirsty give him something to drink. If you do this you will be ‘heaping coals of fire on his head.’ That means he will feel bad about what he has done to you. Don’t let evil be the winner. Crush evil by doing good.”

3. **PERSONAL:** Do you pray for people who are mean to you? Are you kind to those who hurt your feelings? Do you have Luke 6:27,28 or Romans 12:20,21 memorized to help you remember what God’s Word says we should do for our enemies and our friends?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 2

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write all the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Philippians chapter 2, verses 1 – 4.

1. What does Paul say will make his joy complete?
2. Paul tells the Philippians not to do something. We should do as Paul says. What is it Paul tells us to do in verses 3,4? Some Bibles might have the word "conceit" in verse 3. Conceit means: "Excessive or flattering belief in oneself; vanity" (HOLT).
3. **PERSONAL:** What is your attitude when you are asked to do chores around your house? How do you act when you are asked to clean up someone else's mess? What does 1 Corinthians 10:24 say is the best attitude to have?

Read Philippians chapter 2, verses 5 – 11.

1. **RISKY:** Look at the meaning of conceit again (see question 2 above). Do you think Jesus had an attitude of conceit?
2. How do the thoughts found in Galatians 5:26 give you more understanding about the attitude that God wants in His child?
3. Even though Jesus was God, the Son, He chose to be a servant. Why did He make that choice? See Matthew 20:28 for your answer.

Ransom means "to set free by paying a demanded price" (HOLT).

4. How obedient was Jesus to the will of God the Father?

5. What does Paul say about Jesus' name?

6. **PERSONAL:** Have you thanked Jesus for the sacrifice He made for you? Have you agreed with God that you have sinned (confessed your sins)? Have you asked Jesus to come into your life so you can live for Him and do things to please Him? If not, why not do it now? When you confess to God you have sinned and ask His forgiveness, He forgives. When you ask Jesus to help you live for Him, He does. That's when you become a child of God. He wants this for you. That's why Jesus died, FOR YOU!

Read Philippians chapter 2, verses 12 – 18.

1. **PERSONAL:** There is a saying: Your reputation is what you do in front of other people; your character is what you do when you are alone and no one sees you. In verse 12 Paul says that since he isn't with the Philippians they obey what he taught them more. If Paul were writing to only you, which do you think he'd want you to have, a good reputation, or a good character? Why?

2. What does 1 Corinthians 15:33 say about character?

3. So far in Philippians, we have read two verses about God working in us. What do they say?

Philippians 1:6

Philippians 2:13

4. How should we do everything we are asked to do?

5. Why should you do things in this way?

6. **RISKY:** God gives us power inside to do what He wants. This power comes from the third person of the Trinity. Two parts of the Trinity are God the Father and God the Son. Who do these verses say is the third person of the Trinity?

Romans 5:5

Romans 8:26

Read Philippians chapter 2, verses 19 – 30.

1. **HARD:** Why is Paul going to send Timothy to see the Philippians?

2. **RISKY:** When is Paul going to send Timothy?

3. Who else is Paul going to send back to them and why was he sent to Paul in the first place?

4. This man was so sick he almost died. Why?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS — WEEK THREE

DISCUSSION LESSON 2

15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: MILK CARTON BALL TOSS

With masking tape draw a small circle on the floor. Place a clean, empty milk carton, 1/2 gallon size, with pour spout opened all the way to form a square, in the center of the circle. Players stand outside the circle. Each player has 10 tosses with a small ball, one that will easily fit into the milk carton opening (tennis, golf, ping pong, etc. In turn, each player tosses the ball. Score is kept for the number of “baskets” each player makes. More tries can be given if desired.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 2

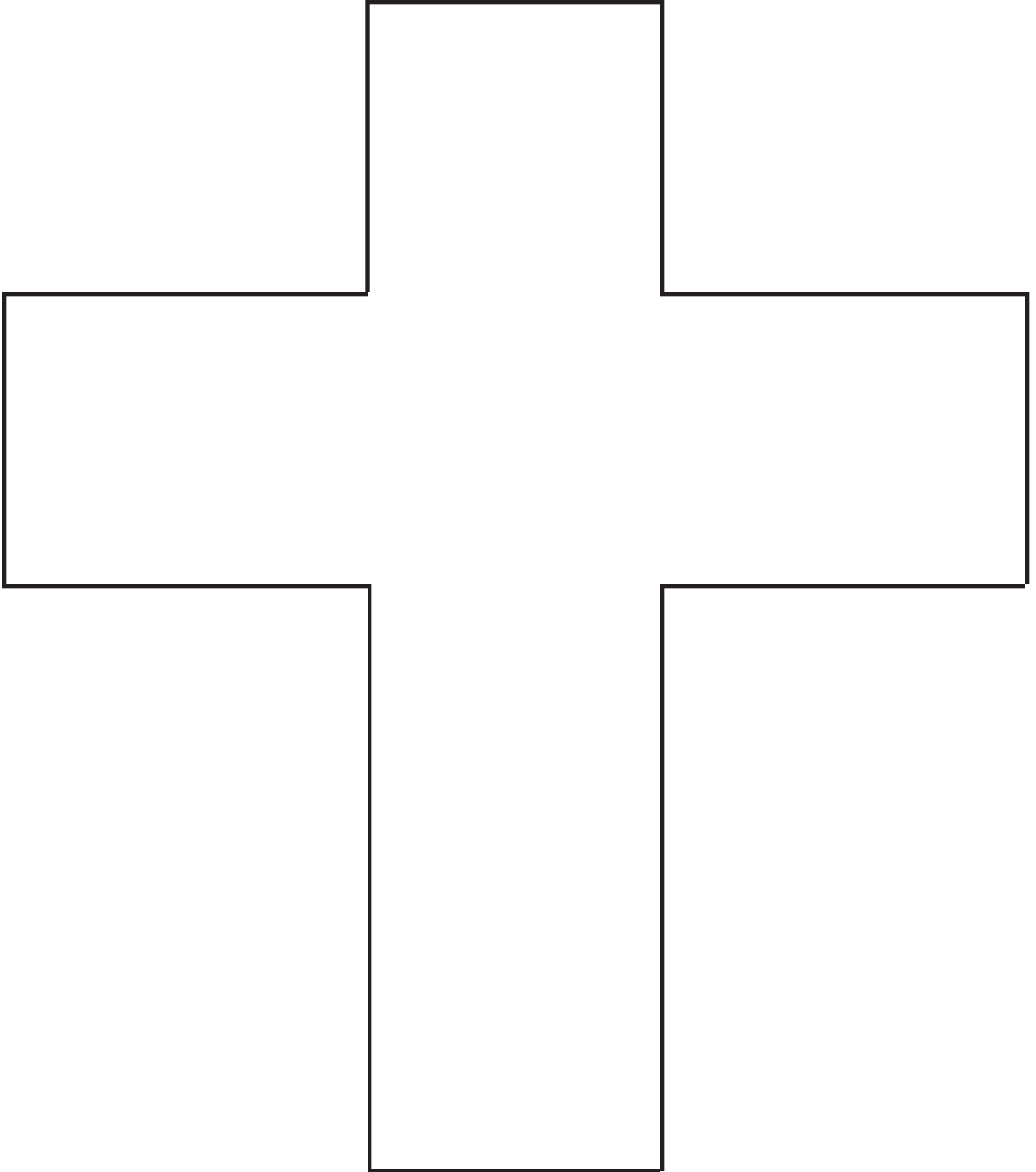
to end of class CRAFT: MANY PARTS CROSS

MATERIALS:

poster board or construction paper
extra fine black markers
recycled small jigsaw puzzle pieces
6” length of 1/8” ribbon or yarn

jumbo craft sticks
glue
scissors
spray shellac

Before class, cut one cross for each student out of the poster board or construction paper from the pattern on the next page. Form a cross from two jumbo craft sticks, glue together at the center. Choose one or more of this week’s verses to write around the edges of the poster board cross with the marker. Center the craft stick cross onto the poster board cross and glue together. Glue one layer of puzzle pieces onto craft stick cross. For second layer, choose puzzle pieces that resemble little bodies; if necessary, trim ends of puzzle pieces to resemble people. Draw faces (two dot eyes & a mouth) on top rounded end. When first layer is dry, glue puzzle piece “people” on top of first layer. Let dry. To hang, glue ribbon or yarn ends to top back of poster board. Spray with shellac.



PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 2 — ANSWERS

Read Philippians chapter 2, verses 1 – 4.

1. What does Paul say will make his joy complete? Verse 2: “Then make me truly happy by loving each other. Agree with each other. Work together with one heart and mind and purpose.”
2. Paul tells the Philippians not to do something. We should do as Paul says. What is it Paul tells us in verses 3,4? Some Bibles might have the word “conceit” in verse 3. Conceit means: “Excessive or flattering belief in oneself; vanity” (HOLT). “Don’t be selfish. Don’t live to impress others. Be humble. Think of others as better than yourself. Don’t just think about your own affairs. Be interested in others and in what they are doing.”
3. **PERSONAL:** What is your attitude when you are asked to do chores around your house? How do you act when you are asked to clean up someone else’s mess? What does 1 Corinthians 10:24 say is the best attitude to have? “Don’t think only of yourself. Try to do what is best for others.”

Read Philippians chapter 2, verses 5 – 11.

1. **RISKY:** Look at the meaning of conceit again (see question 2 above). Do you think Jesus had an attitude of conceit? **NO.** Verse 6: “He was God, but he did not demand and hold on to his rights as God.” [When Jesus emptied Himself, it did not mean He lost His divine nature. He gave up His glory, to be regained later, and subjected Himself to the limitations of time and space, knowledge and power. Yet He still had more knowledge and power than mere man (SHEPHERD’S NOTES).]
2. How do the thoughts found in Galatians 5:26 give you more understanding about the attitude that God wants in His child? “Let’s not look for honors or try to be popular. These things make people jealous and cause hard feelings.”
3. Even though Jesus was God the Son, He chose to be a servant. Why did He make that choice? See Matthew 20:28 for your answer. “You must do just as I do. For I, the Messiah did not come to be served. Instead, I came to serve. And I came to give my life as a ransom for many.”

Ransom means “to set free by paying a demanded price” (HOLT).

4. How obedient was Jesus to the will of God the Father? Verse 8: “He humbled himself even more. He went so far as to die a criminal’s death on a cross.”

NOTE: The following description of the crucifixion may not be appropriate for some age groups. Use it at your discretion. “Punishment by the cross was confined to slaves or malefactors (evil-doers) of the worst class. (It) was preceded by scourging with thongs, to which were sometimes

added nails, pieces of bone, etc., to heighten the pain, often so intense as to cause death. The criminal carried his own cross, or a part of it, in which case another was compelled to share the burden. The condemned was stripped of his clothes; and, the cross having been previously erected, he was drawn up and made fast to it with cords or nails, although sometimes he was fastened to the cross, which was afterward raised. The limbs of the victim were generally three or four feet (some say 18") from the earth. Before the nailing or binding took place a medicated cup was given out of kindness to confuse the senses and deaden the pangs of the sufferer, usually of "wine mingled with myrrh," because myrrh was soporific. Our Lord refused it that his senses might be clear (Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23). If the nailing was the most painful mode in the first instance the other was more so in the end, for the sufferer was left to die of sheer exhaustion, and when simply bound with thongs, it might take days to accomplish the process; for usually a strong pin projected out of the central stem, on which the body of the sufferer rested. Instances are on record of persons surviving for nine days" (UNGER'S).]

5. What does Paul say about Jesus' name? Verse 9-11: "Yet it was because of this that God raised him up to Heaven. God gave him a name which is above every other name. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in Heaven and on earth and under the earth. Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is to the glory of God the Father."
6. **PERSONAL:** Have you thanked Jesus for the sacrifice He made for you? Have you agreed with God that you have sinned (confessed your sins)? Have you asked Jesus to come into your life so you can live for Him and do things to please Him? If not, why not do it now? When you confess to God you have sinned and ask His forgiveness, He forgives. When you ask Jesus to help you live for Him, He does. That's when you become a child of God. He wants this for you. That's why Jesus died, FOR YOU.

Read Philippians chapter 2, verses 12 – 18.

1. **PERSONAL:** There is a saying: Your reputation is what you do in front of other people; your character is what you do when you are alone and no one sees you. In verse 12 Paul says that since he isn't with the Philippians they obey what he taught them more. If Paul were writing to only you, which do you think he'd want you to have, a good reputation, or a good character? Why?
2. What does 1 Corinthians 15:33 say about character? "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character'" [NIV].
3. So far in Philippians, we have read two verses about God working in us. What do they say?

Philippians 1:6 "God began the good work within you. I am sure he will finish it until Jesus Christ comes back."

Philippians 2:13 “For God is at work within you. He helps you want to obey him. And he helps you do what he wants.”

4. How should we do everything we are asked to do? Verse 14: “Don’t complain or argue in anything you do.” [“Complaining or arguing have a negatively contagious effect among a body of Christians” (SHEPHERD’S NOTES). The Israelites in their wanderings are the first example of how contagious complaining can become.]
5. Why should you do things in this way? Verse 15: “Then no one will be able to speak a word of blame against you. You are to live pure lives as children of God around tough and crooked people. Shine out among them like beacon lights.”
6. **RISKY:** God gives us power inside to do what He wants. This power comes from the third person of the Trinity. Two parts of the Trinity are God the Father and God the Son. Who do these verses say is the third person of the Trinity?

Romans 5:5 “Then we are able to hold our heads high and know that all is well. Why? Because we know how dearly God loves us. He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.”

Romans 8:26 “And in the same way the Holy Spirit helps us with our prayers. We don’t know what we should pray. So the Holy Spirit prays for us. He has feelings that can’t be spoken with words.”

Read Philippians chapter 2, verses 19 – 30.

1. **HARD:** Why is Paul going to send Timothy to see the Philippians? Verse 19: “If the Lord is willing, I will send Timothy to see you soon. Then when he comes back, he can cheer me up. He can tell me all about you and how you are getting along.”
2. **RISKY:** When is Paul going to send Timothy? Verse 23: “I hope to send him to you. I will do this when I find out what will happen to me here.”
3. Who else is Paul going to send back to them and why was he sent to Paul in the first place? Verse 25: “Meanwhile, I thought I ought to send Epaphroditus back to you. You sent him to help me in my need. He and I have been real brothers, working and battling side by side.”
4. This man was so sick he almost died. Why? Verse 30: “He risked his life for the work of Christ. He was near death while doing things for me that you couldn’t do.”

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 3

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write all the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Philippians chapter 3, verses 1 – 6.

1. What did Paul repeat in verse 1 which he previously wrote in Philippians 2:18?

2. Who are the dogs?

3. Circumcision was the outward sign of God's covenant with Abraham. See Genesis 17:9-12 for a better understanding of the covenant. What did Paul write about circumcision in Romans 2:28,29?

4. Paul says not to be sure of your know-how (or ability, achievements, skills, or talents). What does Jesus say in John 15:5 we can do with our own skills that will honor Him?

5. What proof does Paul give that he has a right to put hope in his own ability to save himself?

Read Philippians chapter 3, verses 7 – 11.

1. Paul says that being the best Hebrew he could be, or doing whatever he could to get people to honor and respect him was worthless. He figures it's gone. It's of no value to him. But what is valuable is being Christ's servant. What does Jesus say is of great value, or worth a lot, in Matthew 13:44?
2. What does Paul call the most important thing in his life?
3. **PERSONAL:** Have you ever given up anything for Christ? Have you had to give up a Sunday morning ball game to attend church? Have you left a party because sinful stuff was going on? Share with your group if you want. Or is the Holy Spirit tugging at your heart to confess that you have given up Christ for something else? Then you can ask for help to be true to Christ when a choice has to be made.
4. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of the word "righteous"?

To know something is "to have understanding of (something); to be acquainted with or familiar with something" (*WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY*). Knowing Christ means, "to have personal acquaintance or experience with. To 'know' Christ is to be in an intimate relationship with Him through faith" (*SHEPHERD'S NOTES*).

5. **HARD:** Can anyone keep ALL the Commandments and be righteous? See James 2:10 to help you with your answer.
6. What does Isaiah 64:6 say about all the good things, or righteous things, we do when we do them in our own way, and with our own skills?

7. What does Philippians 4:13 say about everything we do if Christ lives in us and we depend on Him to help us?
8. In Philippians 3:10, Paul is speaking about the resurrection when he says: “I have given up everything else. I have found it to be the only way to really know Christ. It is the way to experience the power that brought him back to life. It is the way to find out what it means to suffer with him.” What does Jesus say about the resurrection in John 11:25?
9. **CHALLENGE:** The Old Testament speaks of the resurrection of the Spirit. It says in Ecclesiastes 12:7, “Then the dust goes back to the earth as it was. And the spirit goes back to God who gave it.” How can the spirit of a person return to God? **HINT:** Look at what you learned about the word “know” and what you learned about the resurrection. Put that together and you’ll have an answer.
10. **PERSONAL:** Do you know Christ? Will your spirit return to God? You can know Christ and His resurrection.
- John 1:12 “But to all who received him, he gave the right to become God’s children. All they needed to do was to believe in him.”
- John 8:31 “Jesus said to them, ‘You are truly my disciples if you live as I tell you to.’”
- 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”
- Romans 8:11 “The Spirit of God raised up Jesus from the dead. This Spirit lives in you. He will make your bodies live again after you die. How? Because this same Holy Spirit lives in you.”

Read Philippians chapter 3, verses 12 – 21.

1. Paul says he isn't a perfect Christian. But he does say he presses on to take hold of something. What do these verses say Paul is reaching for?

Matthew 25:46

1 Timothy 6:12

Paul's language in verse 12 means he is running a race and is looking forward to receiving the prize. His prize is much different, as you learned in the question above, than someone running in a real race. But he says he keeps looking forward to his goal, to the prize he will receive. When running in a race you look at the goal line and try with all your might to reach it. You don't run backwards to reach it. And you don't run looking behind you at the start line, thinking if you had a better start you'd be closer to the finish line and the prize. In the same way, once you become a Christian, you keep looking forward to your prize of eternal life. You aren't always thinking about all the things that you've done wrong, because Christ has forgiven your sin. But you continue to confess your sin when you commit it, and you go on. You study God's word to learn how to live to please Him. That is what Paul is saying in verse 12.

2. How do the enemies of Christ live and what will happen to them?
3. What are Christians waiting for?
4. **PERSONAL:** How many verses have you memorized so far? Which verse did you memorize in this lesson?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS — WEEK FOUR

DISCUSSION LESSON 3

15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: EGG ROLL

Choose teams, equal in size if possible. Set goal lines. First person on each team has a hard cooked egg placed in front of him. At the signal, the leader kneels down and with the tip of the nose pushes the egg to the other goal line. When reached, he picks up the egg and races back to his team and places the egg in front of the next team player who kneels down who begins to push it, and the runner goes to the end of the line. The last player leaves the egg at the goal line, races back to the end of his team line and they all sit down. The first team to sit wins.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 3

to end of class CRAFT: PHILIPPIAN POST NEWSPAPER

MATERIALS:

white paper	newsprint
pencils/markers/crayons	ruler
hole punch	yarn
stapler	glue

The class will create a newspaper using the information from their study in the book of Philippians. Look at your local newspaper to see the type of articles, comics, advertisements, etc. are found. Stories can be written or drawn on white paper. There are a few assembly options: use newsprint and write directly on it, or paste the articles on it. Or, the leader can take the articles and transfer them to a computer and assemble on newsprint the following week. Below are suggestions for articles, headlines, and story lines.

Topic: Paul's imprisonment when writing Philippians. Source: Acts 16:22-34. Type: Article. Title: PAUL IN PRISON. Story line: "Philippi: Today in Philippi a reporter..."

Topic: Paul's first visit to Philippi. **Source:** Acts 16:11-15; 28:16; Philippians 1:12-14. **Type:** Story or picture. **Title:** VISITATION!! **Story line:** "Philippi: who appeared, but Paul in..." or, "A ROMAN colony: A group of women had an encounter..."

Topic: Paul defends his lineage. **Source:** Acts 23:6; Romans 11:1; Philippians 3:5,6. **Type:** Want Ad. **Text:** "Wanted: Training to be a Hebrew of Hebrews..."

Topic: Paul's meeting Christ and preaching about Him. **Source:** Acts 9:1-12; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; 2 Corinthians 12:1-4. **Type:** CARTOON.

Topic: Paul encourages giving thanks. **Source:** Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:18. **Type:** Personals. **Text:** "Thank you to all my friends..."

Topic: Paul encourages hanging with the Lord, or running the race, and doing good. **Source:** 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Galatians 6:9; 2 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 12:1. **Type:** Sports Section & Photo. **Text:** "The apostles are way ahead of the..."

Topic: Timothy. **Source:** Acts 16:3; 17:14; 19:22; Romans 16:21; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10; 2 Corinthians 1:1,19; Philippians 1:1; 2:19; Colossians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:2,5,6,18; Philemon 1. **Type:** Advertisement. **Text:** "low cost prison beds, unbreakable chains, charming snakes, warm coats, trustworthy horses, mules, camels for long trips, new ships just launched.

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 3 – ANSWERS

Read Philippians chapter 3, verses 1 – 6.

1. What did Paul repeat in verse 1 which he previously wrote in Philippians 2:18? REJOICE. “Whatever happens, be glad in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you this. It is good for you to hear it again and again.”
2. Who are the dogs? Verse 2: “Watch out for those wicked men. I call them ‘dangerous dogs.’ They say you must be circumcised to be saved.” [Those in the first century knew this image of dogs portrayed by Paul speaks of something to be feared. These dogs were not the household pets we see today. They were dirty, ran in packs and were uncontrolled and dangerous to all that got in their way, and as scavengers carried diseases. Dogs were also hated by Eastern peoples.]
3. Circumcision was the outward sign of God’s covenant with Abraham. See Genesis 17:9-12 for a better understanding of the covenant. What did Paul write about circumcision in Romans 2:28,29? “For you were born of Jewish parents. You have gone through the Jewish ceremony of circumcision. But that doesn’t make you a real Jew. No, a real Jew is anyone whose heart is right with God. For God is not looking for those who cut their bodies in circumcision. He is looking for people with changed hearts and minds. Whoever has that kind of change will be praised not by you but by God.”
4. Paul says not to be sure of your know-how (or ability, achievements, skills, or talents). What does Jesus say in John 15:5 we can do with our own skills that will honor Him? “Yes, I am the Vine. You are the branches. Whoever lives in me and I in him will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can’t do anything.”
5. What proof does Paul give that he has a right to put hope in his own ability to save himself? Verses 5,6: “I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I was born into a pure Jewish home. It was a branch of the old original Benjamin family. So I was a real Jew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees. They demand strict obedience to every Jewish law and custom. And honest? Yes, so much so that I tried to destroy the Church. I tried to obey every Jewish law down to the very last point.” [Benjamin, the youngest of Jacob’s sons was the only one born in the Promised Land. The first king of Israel, Saul, came from the tribe of Benjamin. Paul was not one of those that had been scattered and had forgotten their native language. His family had kept to the Jewish traditions and language. He was more than a Pharisee. He was set apart and dedicated his life to keeping the Law meticulously.]

Read Philippians chapter 3, verses 7 – 11.

1. Paul says that being the best Hebrew he could be, or doing whatever he could to get people to honor and respect him, was worthless. He figures it is gone. It's of no value to him. But what is valuable is being Christ's servant. What does Jesus say is of great value, or worth a lot, in Matthew 13:44? "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure a man found in a field. In his joy, he sold all he had to get the money to buy the field. And with the field, he got the treasure, too!"
2. What does Paul call the most important thing in his life? Knowing Christ. Verse 8: "Everything else is worthless. It can't be compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have put aside all else. I count it worth less than nothing, in order that I can have Christ."
3. **PERSONAL:** Have you ever given up anything for Christ? Have you had to give up a Sunday morning ball game to attend church? Have you left a party because sinful stuff was going on? Share with your group if you want. Or is the Holy Spirit tugging at your heart to confess that you have given up Christ for something else? Then you can ask for help to be true to Christ when a choice has to be made.
4. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of the word "righteous"? "Doing, or according with, that which is right; upright; equitable; esp., free from wrong or sin; virtuous" (WEBSTER'S NEW COLLEGIATE).
5. **HARD:** Can anyone keep ALL the Commandments and be righteous? See James 2:10 to help you with your answer. "What if someone keeps every law but makes one little slip? He is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law."
6. What does Isaiah 64:6 say about all the good things, or righteous things, we do when we do them in our own way, and with our own skills? "We are all infected and impure with sin. We put on our robes of righteousness, but we find they are dirty rags. Like the leaves in fall, we fade, dry up, and fall down. And our sins, like the wind, blow us away."
7. What does Philippians 4:13 say about everything we do if Christ lives in us and we depend on Him to help us? "I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ. He gives me strength and power."

Paul says he wants to know Christ. To know something is "to have understanding of (something); to be acquainted with or familiar with something" (*WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY*). Knowing Christ means, "to have personal acquaintance or experience with. To 'know' Christ is to be in an intimate relationship with Him through faith" (*SHEPHERD'S NOTES*).

8. In Philippians 3:10, Paul is speaking about the resurrection when he says: “I have given up everything else. I have found it to be the only way to really know Christ. It is the way to experience the power that brought him back to life. It is the way to find out what it means to suffer with him.” What does Jesus say about the resurrection in John 11:25? “Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies, will live again.’”
9. **CHALLENGE:** The Old Testament speaks of the resurrection of the Spirit. It says in Ecclesiastes 12:7, “Then the dust goes back to the earth as it was. And the spirit goes back to God who gave it.” How can the spirit of a person return to God? **HINT:** Look at what you learned about the word “know” and what you learned about the resurrection. Put that together and you’ll have your answer. [When we “know” Christ, we are guaranteed to have a resurrection and live forever with Him.]
10. **PERSONAL:** Do you know Christ? Will your spirit return to God? You can know Christ and His resurrection.

John 1:12 “But to all who received him, he gave the right to become God’s children. All they needed to do was to believe in him.”

John 8:31 “Jesus said to them, ‘You are truly my disciples if you live as I tell you to.’”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”

Romans 8:11 “The Spirit of God raised up Jesus from the dead. This Spirit lives in you. He will make your bodies live again after you die. How? Because this same Holy Spirit lives in you.”

Read Philippians chapter 3, verses 12 – 21.

1. Paul says he isn’t a perfect Christian. But he does say he presses on to take hold of something. What do these verses say Paul is reaching for?

Matthew 25:46 “And they shall go away into punishment forever. But the righteous will go into everlasting life” (italics added).

1 Timothy 6:12 “Fight on for God. Hold tightly to the eternal life that God has given you. Hold on to the good confession you have spoken before many people” (italics added).

Paul’s language in verse 12 means he is running a race and is looking forward to receiving the prize. His prize is much different, as you learned in the question above, than someone running in a real race. But he says he keeps looking forward to his goal, to the prize he will receive. When running in a race you look at the goal line and try with all your might to reach

it. You don't run backwards to reach it. And you don't run looking behind you at the start line, thinking if you had a better start you'd be closer to the finish line and the prize. In the same way, once you become a Christian, you keep looking forward to your prize of eternal life. You aren't always thinking about all the things that you've done wrong, because Christ has forgiven your sin. But you continue to confess your sin when you commit it, and you go on. You study God's word to learn how to live to please Him. That is what Paul is saying in verse 12.

2. How do the enemies of Christ live and what will happen to them? Verse 19: "Their future is eternal loss, for their god is their enjoyment. They are proud of what they should be ashamed of. All they think about is this life here on earth" (italics added).
3. What are Christians waiting for? Verse 20: "But our homeland is in Heaven, where our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is. We are looking forward to his return from there."
4. **PERSONAL:** How many verses have you memorized so far? Which verse did you memorize in this lesson?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 4

Before you begin your lesson:

- Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- With some questions, it might be helpful to write all the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Philippians chapter 4, verses 1 – 3.

1. What does Paul call the Philippians? He uses four words.
2. Paul says the Philippians now know how to stand firm in the Lord. They can do this if they do what he told them to do in Philippians 3:20,21. What did he tell them?

3. What do these verses say about standing firm?

1 Corinthians 16:13,14

2 Corinthians 1:21,22

Ephesians 6:11

4. Paul gives the names of three people in verses 2 & 3. Who are the ones that don't agree?

5. Even though these two people are disagreeing, where are their names written?
6. Whose name gets written here according to Malachi 3:16? The word used is “scroll” or “book of remembrance.”

Read Philippians chapter 4, verses 4 – 8.

1. What does Paul say two times in verse 4 that he already said in Philippians 2:18 and 3:1? (This is a good verse to memorize.)
2. What does he say everyone should be able to see in a Christian?
3. **RISKY:** Paul says not to worry about anything. 1 Peter 5:7 says: “Let God have all your worries and cares. He is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.” How does Paul tell us to do this?
4. After we have prayed what are we supposed to do?
5. What does John 14:27 say about God’s peace?

6. **CHALLENGE:** Philippians 4:8 says we should think about what is true, noble, good, right, pure, lovely, the fine and good things in others, anything that is praiseworthy, and everything for which you can praise God. But sometimes we think bad, ugly, unkind, selfish, complaining thoughts. What does God's Word tell us to do with those thoughts in 2 Corinthians 10:5?

Read Philippians chapter 4, verses 10 – 21.

1. What is the secret Paul has learned?
2. If you were in a ball game and wore a red shirt and everyone else wore a white one, you would stand out among them. You would be someone special. What made the Philippians stand out to Paul?
3. What does Paul call the gifts the Philippians sent with Epaphroditus?
4. Paul sends greetings from the Christians in Rome. Who else sends a greeting? This greeting tells us Paul never stops witnessing and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
5. How many verses did you memorize during your study in Philippians? Which one was your favorite?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS — WEEK FIVE

DISCUSSION LESSON 4

15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BALLOON FOOTBALL

Divide into two teams. Assign a number to each player. Teams must have matching numbers. Mark two goal lines parallel to each other. Teams line up along opposing goal lines. Place a balloon between the two goal lines. The leader calls out a number. The two players with that number get on their hands and knees, crawl to the balloon, then try to blow it across the opponent's goal line. The loser must join the winning team. Game continues until all players are on one side; or the team with the most players at the end of game time wins the game.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 4

to end of class CRAFT: PAPER PLATE BUTTERFLY

MATERIALS:

newspaper
tempera paints
plastic spoons
clear tape

bowls
paper plates
black pipe cleaners

Cover work area with newspaper. Pour paint into bowls. Fold the paper plate in half and reopen. Give each child a plastic spoon. Have them pour paint onto one side of the fold, not too much, about 1/4 teaspoon each of several colors. Have them fold the plate along the crease previously made, and gently press up and down the folded plates. They may use their hands or fists to rub the plate back so the paint squishes inside. Open the plate and see the butterfly. Allow to dry in the sun for about 15 minutes or more. Tape the pipe cleaners onto the tops of the butterfly as antennae.

PHILIPPIANS LESSON 4 — ANSWERS

Read Philippians chapter 4, verses 1 – 3.

1. What does Paul call the Philippians? He uses four words. Verse 1, brothers, joy, crown, friends.
2. Paul says the Philippians now know how to stand firm in the Lord. They can do this if they do what he told them to do in Philippians 3:20,21. What did he tell them? [We belong to heaven. Jesus is in heaven, and He will return. He will change our bodies. He controls all things.] “But our homeland is in Heaven, where our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ is. We are looking forward to his return from there. When he comes back, he will change these dying bodies of ours. He will make them into glorious bodies like his own. He will use the same mighty power that he uses to rule all things.”
3. What do these verses say about standing firm? [Standing firm is a word picture the Philippians knew well. The “Roman armies were well known for standing unmoved against the enemy. The church was to stand in the same way” (SHEPHERD’S NOTES).

1 Corinthians 16:13,14 “Be careful. Stand true to the Lord. Act like men. Be strong. Do everything with kindness and love.”

2 Corinthians 1:21,22 “Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come” (NIV).

Ephesians 6:11 “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes” (NIV). [The full armor is listed in Ephesians 6:14-18.]

4. Paul gives the names of three people in verses 2 & 3. Who are the ones that don’t agree? Euodias and Syntyche. [Hints are given throughout this book of problems within the Philippian congregation. This situation is not something that just cropped up. The quarrel between these two was severe enough to split the church. Paul urges these women to agree. He doesn’t tell them how to accomplish this, but to figure it out for themselves. He is placing responsibility for their differences back onto their shoulders. They were to have “the same attitudes and values that Christ had,” because they were sisters in the Lord and they had “fought with Paul for the gospel” (SHEPHERD’S NOTES).]
5. Even though these two people are disagreeing, where are their names written? Book of Life.

6. Whose name gets written here according to Malachi 3:16? The word used is “scroll” or “book of remembrance.” “Then those who feared and loved the Lord spoke of him to one another. And the Lord had a Book of Remembrance drawn up. In this book he wrote the names of those who respected and loved him.”

Read Philippians chapter 4, verses 4 – 8.

1. What does Paul say two times in verse 4 that he already said in Philippians 2:18 and 3:1? (This is a good verse to memorize.) Rejoice or be full of joy.
2. What does he say everyone should be able to see in a Christian? Verse 5: “Let everyone see that you have mercy in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon.” [As 1 Corinthians 13:5 states, “Love does not demand its own way.” Likewise, “gentleness” or “mercy” puts others’ needs before its own.]
3. **RISKY:** Paul says not to worry about anything. 1 Peter 5:7 says: “Let God have all your worries and cares. He is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.” How does Paul tell us to do this? Philippians 4:6: “Don’t worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything. Tell God your needs, and don’t forget to thank him for his answers.”
4. After we have prayed what are we supposed to do? Verse 6b: “thank him [God] for his answers.”
5. What does John 14:27 say about God’s peace? [Jesus said] “I am leaving you my peace! And the peace I give isn’t like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”
6. **CHALLENGE:** Philippians 4:8 says we should think about what is true, noble, good, right, pure, lovely, the fine and good things in others, anything that is praiseworthy, and everything for which you can praise God. But sometimes we think bad, ugly, unkind, selfish, complaining thoughts. What does God’s Word tell us to do with those thoughts in 2 Corinthians 10:5? “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (NIV).

Read Philippians chapter 4, verses 10 – 21.

1. What is the secret Paul has learned? Verse 12: “I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned a secret. I can be content and happy in every situation. It doesn’t matter if I have a full stomach or am hungry. I am content if I have plenty or am in need.”
2. If you were in a ball game and wore a red shirt and everyone else wore a white one, you would stand out among them. You would be someone special. What made the Philippians stand out to Paul? Verses 15,16: “You know that I brought the Good News to you. Then I went on my way, leaving Macedonia. Only you Philippians became my partners in giving and receiving. No other church did this. Even when I was over in Thessalonica you sent help twice.”

3. What does Paul call the gifts the Philippians sent with Epaphroditus? Verse 18: “At the moment I have all I need. I have more than I need! I am supplied with the gifts you sent me when Epaphroditus came. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that pleases God well.”
4. Paul sends greetings from the Christians in Rome. Who else sends a greeting? This greeting tells us Paul never stops witnessing and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Verse 22: “All the other Christians here want to greet you. Those who work in Caesar’s palace especially say ‘hello.’”
5. How many verses did you memorize during your study in Philippians? Which one was your favorite?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 5

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write all the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Colossians chapter 1, verses 1 – 10.

There is no longer a city of Colosse. But, when it was a city, it was about 100 miles east of Ephesus in the Lycus River valley. An earthquake destroyed the city shortly after Paul wrote this letter, and it was never rebuilt. All kinds of people lived there. Greeks came because of commercial and military takeover. Jews moved there when they were scattered after the Babylonian captivity. Romans came due to politics and the lure for commercial wealth.

Paul did not set up the church in Colosse. In fact, he never visited this church. It is believed Epaphras established this church. Many false teachers lived here and were trying to turn the Christians away from Christ's teachings. Although Jews and Gentiles lived in Colosse, it is likely there were no Jewish believers in this church.

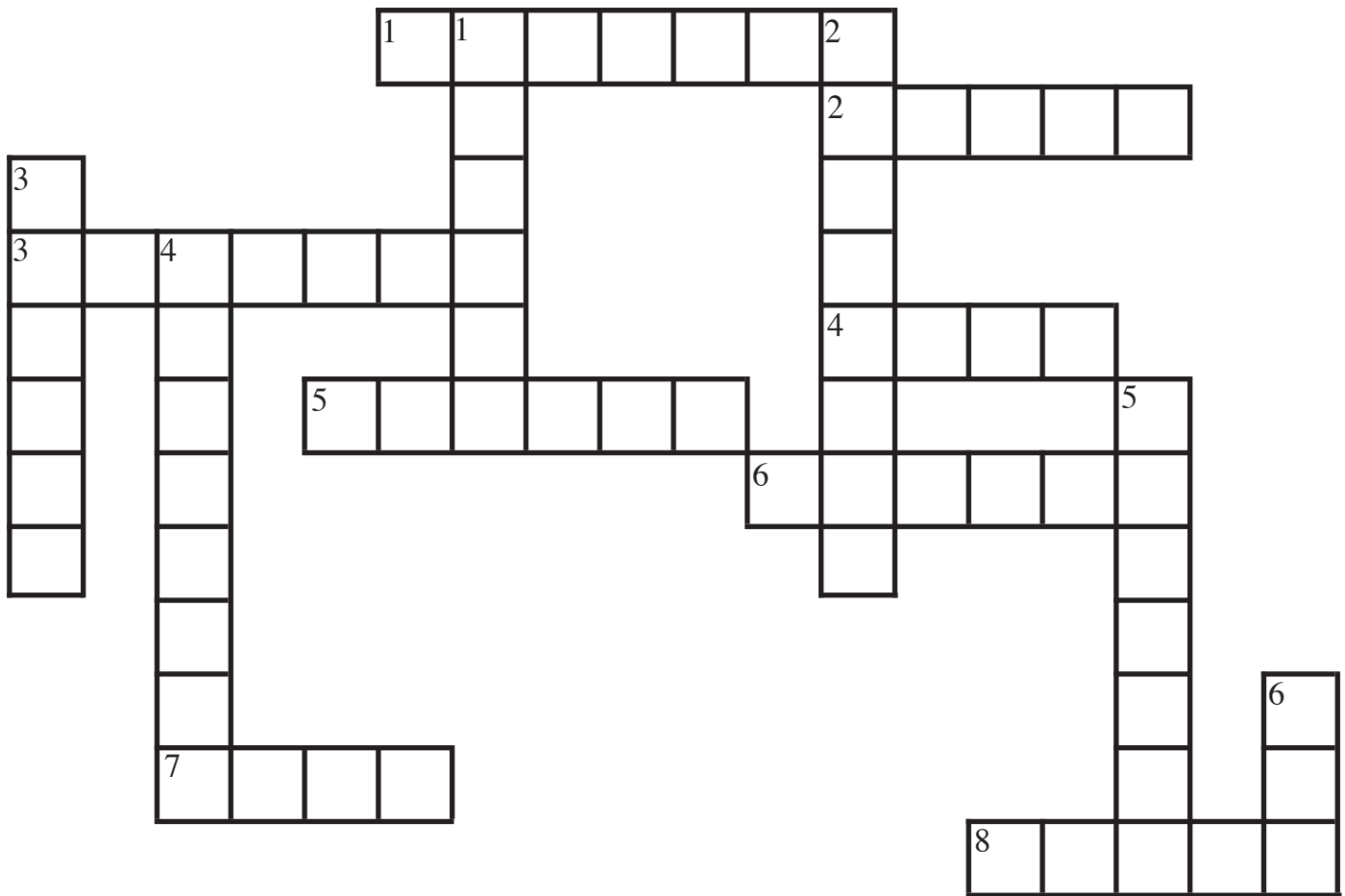
Work this crossword puzzle like any others you may have tried. But, you will need your Bible to answer the clues below and fill in the squares on the next page. (If you are having trouble with the answers, try using the NIV version.)

ACROSS

1. Paul calls himself this. (Verse 1)
2. Paul greets the brothers at Colosse with grace and this. (Verse 1)
3. Paul says Timothy knew the Bible since he was this young. (2 Timothy 3:15)
4. This is stored in heaven. (Verse 5)
5. Paul wants the Colossians to live a life that is _____ of the Lord. (Verse 10)
6. God is this to Jesus. (Verse 3)
7. The Colossians have this feeling for all Christians. (Verse 4)
8. The Gospel is growing all over this place. (Verse 6)

DOWN

1. Paul thanks God and Jesus for the Colossians in this way. (Verse 3)
2. He told the Colossians about God's grace. (Verse 7)
3. Paul wants the Colossians to be filled with the knowledge of God's will through spiritual and understanding. (Verse 9)
4. Paul calls the Colossians holy and _____. (Verse 2)
5. Paul calls Timothy this. (Verse 1)
6. All of the Bible was given by him. (2 Timothy 3:16)



Read Colossians chapter 1, verses 11 – 29.

1. We find Paul’s prayer for the Colossians in verses 9–14. He says he prays for them to be strengthened with God’s power. Where is God’s power in the believer? See Ephesians 3:16 for your answer.

2. What does Romans 8:26 say this power will help us do?

3. In Colossians 1:12, Paul says Christians share in an inheritance. Before we can understand “inheritance,” we need to know what it means to inherit something. The dictionary says to inherit something is “to come into possession of at the death of a former owner; to receive by birth from one’s parents or ancestors” (HOLT). In other words, to receive something that belonged to someone else. Another dictionary says an inheritance is: “A possession or blessing, esp. one received by gift or without purchase” (WEBSTER’S NEW COLLEGIATE) What does Matthew 25:34 say is our inheritance?

4. What do Christians have in Jesus?

5. What do these verses say about Jesus?

Genesis 1:1

John 1:1-3

Colossians 1:16

6. If you look in a mirror, you see an image of yourself. There aren't two of you, but one in two places. What does Jesus say in John 10:30 about Himself and the Father?

7. **HARD:** What has Jesus done for you?

8. Paul speaks about a mystery in Colossians 1:27. "A mystery is not something which must be kept secret," but a hidden truth which God is happy to uncover when it is the right time (F.F. Bruce). What does Paul say this mystery is in these verses?

Romans 16:25,26

Ephesians 3:6

9. With whom is Paul to share the mystery of Jesus and what is it?

10. **PERSONAL:** Paul struggles and works to share the Gospel with Gentiles, who are unsaved. Do you share the gospel with others? How might you do this?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS — WEEK SIX

DISCUSSION LESSON 5

15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BALLOON RACE

Divide into teams. Blow up as many balloons as you have teams. Teams stand behind the goal line. At the signal, the first person on each team puts the balloon between his knees and races towards the opposite goal line. Once crossed over, he removes the balloon and races back to the next player in line who puts the balloon between his knees and repeats the process. Game is won when the first team has all its players sitting down, and the first player holds the balloon in his hands. If a balloon is dropped on the way to the goal line, player picks it up and resumes going for the goal.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 5

to end of class CRAFT: LANDSCAPE IN A BASKET (from *Treasure Chest of Crafts*)

MATERIALS:

inexpensive plastic dropcloth cut into sheets

baskets from thrift stores or garage sales

assorted nature items: driftwood, twigs, pebbles, small rocks, pinecones, shells, etc.

potting soil

activated charcoal from a nursery

water

scissors

sand

two or three 2-inch live plants

OPTIONAL:

decorative fabric cut into sheets

glue gun

cotton batting

use artificial plants, florist's block in place of live plants

Line basket with plastic so that the plastic drapes over edges of basket. Spread a 1/4" layer of charcoal on bottom. Add potting soil to just below rim of basket. Press gently. Dig holes for the plants and place them in the holes; pat soil firmly. Add nature items for decorations. A twig can be a fallen tree, sand can be a beach, etc. Trim off excess plastic with scissors. Keep garden where it gets lots of light, but don't put in direct sunlight or parts of the plant may burn. Water when the top inch of soil dries out.

OPTIONAL: *Use artificial plants, and create an attractive, non-growing centerpiece. Line basket with the cloth, place florist block inside and stick plants into it. Cover the base with cotton batting, shells, sand etc.*

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 5 — ANSWERS

Read Colossians chapter 1, verses 1 – 10.

There is no longer a city of Colosse. But, when it was a city, it was about 100 miles east of Ephesus in the Lycus River valley. An earthquake destroyed the city shortly after Paul wrote this letter, and it was never rebuilt. All kinds of people lived there. Greeks came because of commercial and military takeover. Jews moved there when they were scattered after the Babylonian captivity. Romans came due to politics and the lure for commercial wealth.

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Work this crossword puzzle like any others you may have tried. But, you will need your Bible to answer the clues below and fill in the squares on the next page. (If you are having trouble with the answers, try using the NIV version.)

ACROSS

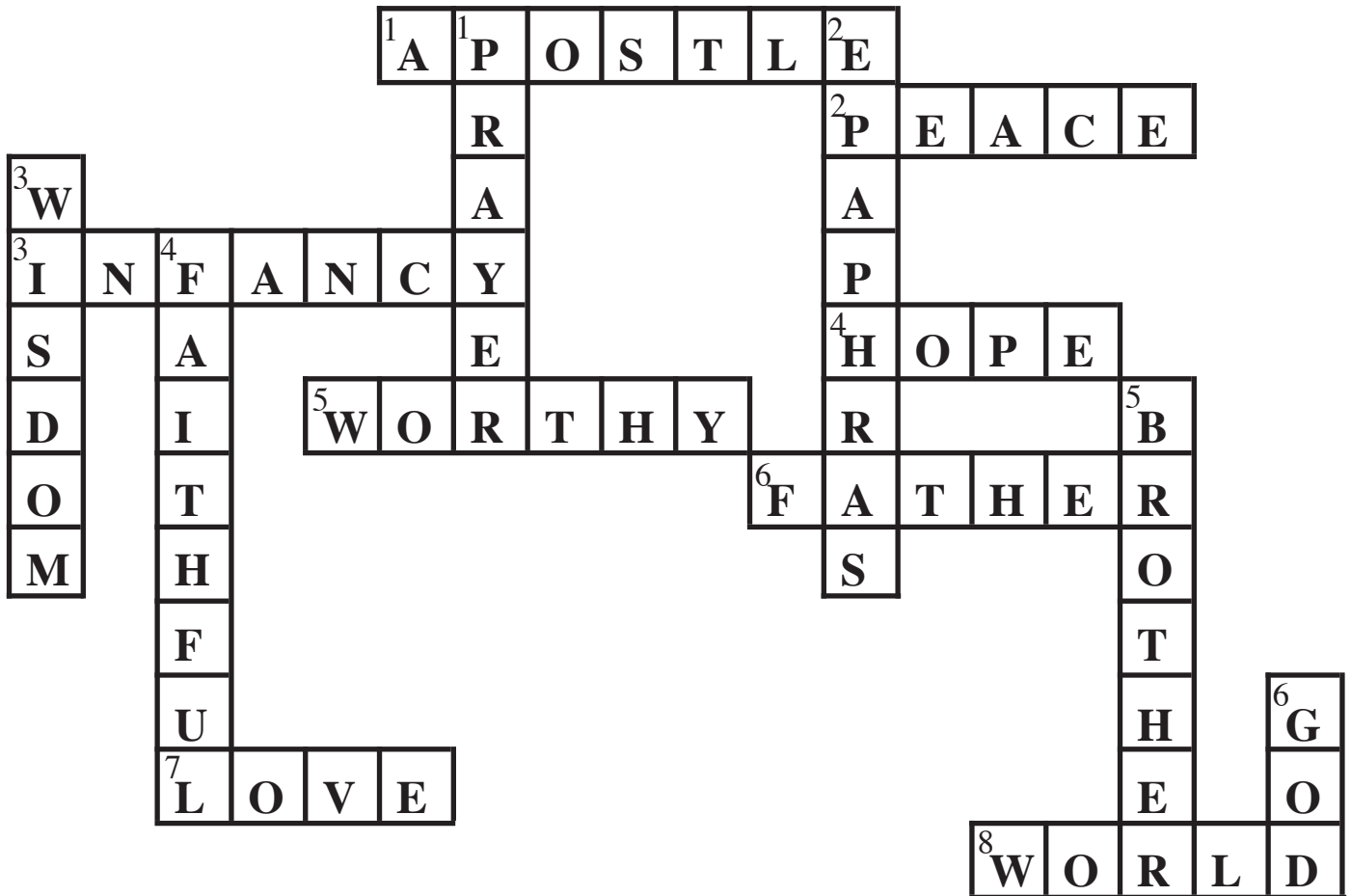
1. Paul calls himself this. (Verse 1) **APOSTLE**.
2. Paul greets the brothers at Colosse with grace and this. (Verse 1) **PEACE**.
3. Paul says Timothy knew the Bible since he was this young. (2 Timothy 3:15) **INFANCY**
4. This is stored in heaven. (Verse 5) **HOPE**
5. Paul wants the Colossians to live a life that is **WORTHY** of the Lord. (Verse 10).
6. God is this to Jesus. (Verse 3) **FATHER**
7. The Colossians have this feeling for all Christians. (Verse 4) **LOVE**
8. The Gospel is growing all over this place. (Verse 6) **WORLD**

DOWN

1. Paul thanks God and Jesus for the Colossians in this way. (Verse 3) **PRAYER**
2. He told the Colossians about God's grace. (Verse 7) **EPAPHRAS**
3. Paul wants the Colossians to be filled with the knowledge of God's will through spiritual and understanding. (Verse 9) **WISDOM**
4. Paul calls the Colossians holy and **FAITHFUL** (Verse 2)
5. Paul calls Timothy this. (Verse 1) **BROTHER**
6. All of the Bible was given by him. (2 Timothy 3:16) **GOD**

Read Colossians chapter 1, verses 11 – 29.

1. We find Paul's prayer for the Colossians in verses 9–14. He says he prays for them to be strengthened with God's power. Where is God's power in the believer? See Ephesians 3:16 for your answer. **"I pray that his glorious riches will strengthen you inwardly. He will do this through His Holy Spirit."**



2. What does Romans 8:26 say this power will help us do? “And in the same way the Holy Spirit helps us with our prayers. We don’t know what we should pray. So the Holy Spirit prays for us. He has feelings that can’t be spoken with words.”
3. In Colossians 1:12, Paul says Christians share in an inheritance. Before we can understand “inheritance,” we need to know what it means to inherit something. The dictionary says to inherit something is “to come into possession of at the death of a former owner; to receive by birth from one’s parents or ancestors” (HOLT). In other words, to receive something that belonged to someone else. Another dictionary says an inheritance is: “A possession or blessing, esp. one received by gift or without purchase” (WEBSTER’S NEW COLLEGIATE) What does Matthew 25:34 say is our inheritance? “Then I, the King, shall speak to those at my right. I will say, ‘Come, blessed of my Father. Come into the Kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world.’”
4. What do Christians have in Jesus? Forgiveness and freedom. Verse 14: “His Son bought our freedom with his blood and forgave us all our sins.”
5. What do these verses say about Jesus?

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

John 1:1-3 “Before anything else existed, there was God’s Son. He was the Word, and he was with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. He created everything there is. Nothing exists that he didn’t make.”

Colossians 1:16 “Christ created everything in Heaven and earth. He created the things we can see and the things we can’t see. All kings and kingdoms, rulers and powers were made by Christ. He made them for his own use and glory.”

6. If you look in a mirror, you see an image of yourself. There aren’t two of you, but one in two places. What does Jesus say in John 10:30 about Himself and the Father? “I and the Father are one.” [This is a very simplistic picture of the true meaning of the word image as used here. Christ reveals the full nature and being of God. He is not a replica or likeness. He is God revealed to man. God is invisible, but Christ made Him visible. Simply, like the invisible man becoming “visible” by adding clothes.]
7. **HARD:** What has Jesus done for you? Verse 22: “He has done this through the death on the cross of his own human body. As a result, Christ has brought you into the very presence of God. You are standing before him holy, with nothing left against you.”
8. Paul speaks about a mystery in Colossians 1:27. “A mystery is not something which must be kept secret,” but a hidden truth which God is happy to uncover when it is the right time (F.F. Bruce). What does Paul say this mystery is in these verses?

Romans 16:25,26 “I commit you to God. He is able to make you strong and steady in the Lord. This is part of the good News, just as I have told you. This is God’s plan of salvation for you Gentiles. It has been kept secret from the beginning of time. The prophets foretold it. And God commanded that this message be preached everywhere. That way people around the world will have faith in Christ and obey him.”

Ephesians 3:6 “The secret is that the Gentiles will share with the Jews in all God’s riches. They are invited to belong to his Church. All of God’s promises through Christ are theirs too. This happens when they accept the Good News about Christ.”

9. With whom is Paul to share the mystery of Jesus and what is it? Verse 27: “The riches and glory of his plan are for you Gentiles, too. This is the secret: *Christ in your hearts is your only hope of glory.*”
10. **PERSONAL:** Paul struggles and works to share the Gospel with Gentiles, who are unsaved. Do you share the gospel with others? How might you do this?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 6

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard: it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write all the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Colossians chapter 2, verses 1 – 5.

1. Paul says he has struggled for the church at Laodicia and Colosse. What he means is that he has been in prayer that the teaching of the Gospel is correct and for the spiritual growth of the people of these churches. Even though he has never met the Colossians, he still wants what is best for them. What does he say in verse 2 that he wants for the Christians in Colosse and Laodicia?

2. **PERSONAL:** The dictionary says "encourage" means "to give hope or courage to; to urge by showing approval; to aid" (HOLT); "to spur on; to give help" (WEBSTER'S SEVENTH). How can you encourage someone today?

3. Paul says we should be united in love. How can we do this according to these verses?

Leviticus 19:18

Romans 12:10

1 Corinthians 13:5

1 Peter 3: 8,9

4. When the Holy Spirit helped men to write God's truth in the Old Testament, sometimes they didn't understand what they were writing. This is called a mystery. God hid information from his people until the right time for it to be unmasked. The Old Testament gives clues about Jesus, but He didn't come to earth until it was the right time. What do the verses below tell you about secrets and mysteries?

Isaiah 48:6

Romans 16:25,26

1 Timothy 3:16

5. **HARD:** Where are the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden?
6. Have you ever gone on a treasure hunt? You look and look for something someone has hidden, or lost. What does Jesus tell us in Matthew 6:19-21 about treasures?

Read Colossians chapter 2, verses 6 – 12.

1. Paul says to be on the lookout for people who try to teach wrong things about Jesus. He doesn't want Christians to be led away from God and the Gospel. How can Christians keep from being lead away from God?

Psalm 119:11

2 Timothy 2:15

2 Timothy 3:16

2. **CHALLENGE:** What does Paul call Christ?
3. Circumcision means the cutting away of flesh. What do these verses say is the circumcision of Christ?

Deuteronomy 30:6

Romans 2:29

4. **PERSONAL:** Do you have a changed heart? Have you confessed your sins and asked Jesus to make your heart new? Are you willing to live to please God? Why not confess your sins and ask Him to give you a new, clean heart, and begin today to live to please Him.

Read Colossians chapter 2, verses 13 – 23.

1. When did God make us alive with Christ? See Romans 5:8 for your answer.
2. Is it right or wrong to judge other people because of what they eat or drink? Give verse(s) with your answer.
3. **CHALLENGE:** If you are in a race and win, you get a prize. Paul talks about a prize in verse 18. What is the prize he talks about in 1 Timothy 4:8?
4. **PERSONAL:** How many verses have you memorized? Which verse did you choose this week to hide in your heart?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS — WEEK SEVEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 6

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship (you may wish to start craft early)

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: OPEN & CLOSED

Form a circle. Chose one player to begin the game and to tell the secret of the game, which is to hand a pair of plastic or blunt scissors to his neighbor opened or closed. Give the leader the scissors. He passes them saying, “I pass these scissors _____” and he passes them opened or closed. The next player says, “I received these scissors _____ [he says what he thinks he should say], and I pass them _____” (opened or closed). If a player gets it right, he removes himself from the game until all have played.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 6

to end of class CRAFT: NAPKIN RINGS * (from *Treasure Chest of Crafts*)

MATERIALS:

lightweight cardboard (i.e. cereal box sides)	
pencil, toothpick	scissors
large & small bowls	wooden spoon
measuring cup	teaspoon
rolling pin	cookie sheet
dull kitchen knife	clear acrylic spray
oven	acrylic paint/brushes

DOUGH: (enough for 8-12 napkin rings)

2 cups flour (not self-rising)	1 cup salt
1 cup cornstarch	1 cup water
1 tsp. glycerin	

Before class: Trace the patterns from the next page onto the cardboard. Cut one pattern for every two or three students.

In class: Mix flour, cornstarch, salt in the large bowl. Mix glycerin and water in small bowl. Combine wet and dry ingredients and knead for 5 minutes, until smooth. Divide dough among students. Use the rolling pin to flatten dough to 1/4” thickness. Lay patterns on dough and cut out with knife. A design can be made by using a toothpick or pencil tip to make light impressions. Place rings on cookie sheet and bake for 1 hour at 275°. Turn oven off and allow rings to cool in oven for 1 hour to prevent cracking. If desired, paint with acrylic paints and allow to dry. Spray with clear acrylic spray.

Napkin Ring Patterns



PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 6— ANSWERS

Read Colossians chapter 2, verses 1 – 5.

1. Paul says he has struggled for the church at Laodicia and Colosse. What he means is that he has been in prayer that the teaching of the Gospel is correct and for the spiritual growth of the people of these churches. Even though he has never met the Colossians, he still wants what is best for them. What does he say in verse 2 that he wants for the Christians in Colosse and Laodicia? “I have prayed that you will be encouraged and knit together in love. I have prayed that you will have the rich experience of knowing Christ. I want you to know him with clear understanding For God’s secret plan, now at last made known, is Christ himself.”
2. **PERSONAL:** The dictionary says encourage means “to give hope or courage to; to urge by showing approval; to aid” (HOLT); “to spur on; to give help” (WEBSTER’S SEVENTH). How can you encourage someone today?
3. Paul says we should be united in love. How can we do this according to these verses?

Leviticus 19:18 “Do not seek vengeance. Do not bear a grudge. Love your neighbor as yourself. For I am the Lord.”

Romans 12:10 “Love each other like brothers. Enjoy giving each other honor.”

1 Corinthians 13:5 [Love] “is never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not angry. It does not hold grudges. It will hardly notice when others do it wrong.”

1 Peter 3:8,9 “Also, you should be like one big family. You should be full of kindness toward each other. Love one another with tender hearts and humble minds. Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t snap back at those who say unkind things about you. Instead, pray for God’s help for them. We are to be kind to others. And if we are, God will bless us for it.”

4. When the Holy Spirit helped men to write God’s truth in the Old Testament, sometimes they didn’t understand what they were writing. This is called a mystery. God hid information from His people until the right time for it to be unmasked. The Old Testament gives clues about Jesus, but He didn’t come to earth until it was the right time. What do the verses below tell you about secrets and mysteries?

Isaiah 48:6 “You have heard what I said would happen and you have seen it fulfilled. But you refuse to agree it is so. Now I will tell you new things I haven’t said before. I will tell you secrets you haven’t heard.”

Romans 16:25,26 “I commit you to God. He is able to make you strong and steady in the Lord. This is part of the Good News, just as I have told you. This is God’s plan of salvation for you Gentiles. It has been kept secret from the beginning of time. The prophets foretold it. And God commanded that this message be preached everywhere. That way people around the world will have faith in Christ and obey him.”

1 Timothy 3:16 “It is true that living a godly life is not an easy matter. But the answer lies in Christ. He came to earth as a man and was proved pure in his Spirit. He was served by angels and was preached among the nations. The world believed in him, and he was received up to his glory in Heaven.”

5. **HARD:** Where are the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden? **In Christ**, verses 2c & 3: “For God’s secret plan, now at last made known, is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
6. Have you ever gone on a treasure hunt? You look and look for something someone has hidden or lost. What does Jesus tell us in Matthew 6:19-21 about treasures? “Don’t store up treasures here on earth. For they can rust away or they might be stolen. Store them in Heaven where they will never lose their value. And there, they are safe from robbers. If your treasures are in Heaven, your heart will be there, too.”

Read Colossians chapter 2, verses 6 – 12.

1. Paul says to be on the lookout for people who try to teach wrong things about Jesus. He doesn’t want Christians to be led away from God and the Gospel. How can Christians keep from being lead away from God?

Psalm 119:11 “I have thought much about your words. I have stored them in my heart. That way they will hold me back from sin.”

2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth” (NIV).

2 Timothy 3:16 “The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God. It is useful to teach us what is true. It helps us to know what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us do what is right.”

2. **CHALLENGE:** What does Paul call Christ? Verse 10: “So you have everything when you have Christ! Then you are filled with God through your union with Christ. He is the *highest Ruler*. And he is over every other power.”
3. Circumcision means the cutting away of flesh. What do these verses say is the circumcision of Christ?

Deuteronomy 30:6 “He will cleanse your hearts. He will cleanse the hearts of your children and of your children’s children. You will love the Lord your God with all your hearts and souls. And Israel shall come alive again!”

Romans 2:29 “No, a real Jew is anyone whose heart is right with God. For God is not looking for those who cut their bodies in circumcision. He is looking for people with changed hearts and minds. Whoever has that kind of change will be praised not by you but by God.”

4. **PERSONAL:** Do you have a changed heart? Have you confessed your sins and asked Jesus to make your heart new? Are you willing to live to please God? Why not confess your sins and ask Him to give you a new, clean heart, and begin today to live to please Him.

Read Colossians chapter 2, verses 13 – 23.

1. When did God make us alive with Christ? See Romans 5:8 for your answer. “But God showed his great love for us. He sent Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”
2. Is it right or wrong to judge other people because of what they eat or drink? Give verse(s) with your answer. **Wrong**, verses 16,17: “So don’t let anyone blame you for what you eat or drink. It doesn’t matter if you celebrate holidays and feasts or new moons or Sabbaths. These rules ended when Christ came. They were only shadows of the real thing which is Christ himself.” [Paul is referring to the Jewish laws that were the picture of Christ.]
3. **CHALLENGE:** If you are in a race and win, you get a prize. Paul talks about a prize in verse 18. What is the prize he talks about in 1 Timothy 4:8? “Bodily exercise is all right. But spiritual exercise is much more important. It helps you in everything you do. So exercise your spirit. Practice being a better Christian. This will help you now in this life and in the *next life*, too.”
4. **PERSONAL:** How many verses have you memorized? Which verse did you choose this week to hide in your heart?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 7

Before you begin your lesson:

- Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- With some questions, it might be helpful to write all the scripture verses on your paper.

Figure out the missing word in the sentence and fill in the blanks. Then, using the number below each letter, fill in the section at the end of the lesson to end up with a Bible verse.

All the answers are found in Colossians 3. Read the whole chapter, and then read the first sentence below. Carefully read several verses until you come up with the missing word. Each letter has a number below it, and that number stays with the same letter. To help finding the missing words easier, after you find each missing word, put the letters in all the matching numbered spaces in the other sentences after it.

(This is based on *The Simplified Living Bible* text. If you have a different Bible, you may have trouble finding the right words to fill in the sentences. You may have to think of words that are similar to what your Bible text says that will fit in the sentence.)

Read all of Colossians chapter 3.

- Everything you do should be to please God. That way, you are storing your treasures in $\bar{8}$ $\bar{5}$ $\bar{1}$ $\bar{19}$ $\bar{5}$ $\bar{12}$. (Verse 1)
- Jesus sits beside God in the place of honor and $\bar{\quad}$ $\bar{\quad}$ $\bar{\quad}$ $\bar{\quad}$ $\bar{\quad}$. (Verse 1)
14 13 20 5 15
- God will send His $\bar{1}$ $\bar{12}$ $\bar{7}$ $\bar{5}$ $\bar{15}$ upon everyone who worships idols. (Verse 6)
- Before a person became a Christian he did many wrong things. He was angry, worshipped fun things, said bad words, and sometimes he $\bar{\quad}$ $\bar{\quad}$ $\bar{\quad}$ $\bar{\quad}$.
(Verses 8-9) 10 9 5 4
- A Christian lives his life so he can be more like $\bar{3}$ $\bar{8}$ $\bar{15}$ $\bar{9}$ $\bar{16}$ $\bar{17}$.

6. Christians should not hold grudges. They should forgive those people who hurt them because God _ _ _ _ _ them. (Verse 13)
6 13 15 7 1 19 5
7. _ _ _ _ must rule in a Christian's heart. (Verse 14)
10 13 19 5
8. Jesus brings peace. So Christians should not _ _ _ _ . (Verse 15)
6 9 7 8 17
9. Jesus' teachings will make us _ _ _ _ . (Verse 16)
20 9 16 5
10. We should sing to the Lord with psalms, hymns, and _ _ _ _ songs. (Verse 16)
16 14 9 15 9 17 18 1 10
11. Everything we do should be done in the _ _ _ _ of Jesus. (Verse 17)
12 1 11 5
12. _ _ _ _ submit. (Verse 18)
20 9 19 5 16
13. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ love. (Verse 19)
8 18 16 2 1 12 4 16
14. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ obey. (Verse 20)
3 8 9 10 4 15 5 12
15. Fathers should not _ _ _ _ _ their children. (Verse 21)
14 18 17 4 13 20 12
16. _ _ _ _ _ _ obey. (Verse 22)
16 10 1 19 5 16
17. All the work we do should be done with all our _ _ _ _ . (Verse 23)
8 5 1 15 17
18. There is a _ _ _ _ _ for everyone who works for the Lord.
15 5 20 1 15 4 (Verses 23,24)
19. Remember, the Lord is _ _ _ _ _ you. (Verse 23)
20 1 17 3 8 9 12 7
20. If we don't do our best for God, He will _ _ _ us in a way we won't like.
(Verse 25) 14 1 21

Here is the place to transfer your answers and discover the Bible passage.

6 13 15 9 12 3 8 15 9 16 17 17 8 5 15 5 9 16 1 10 10

13 6 7 13 4 9 12 1 8 18 11 1 12 2 13 4 21 16 13

21 13 18 8 1 19 5 5 19 5 15 21 17 8 9 12 7 20 8 5 12

21 13 18 8 1 19 5 3 8 15 9 16 17! 17 8 5 12 21 13 18

1 15 5 6 9 10 10 5 6 20 9 17 8 7 13 4

17 8 15 13 18 7 8 21 13 18 15 18 12 9 13 12 20 9 17 8

3 8 15 9 16 17 8 5 9 16 17 8 5 8 9 7 8 5 16 17

15 18 10 5 15 1 12 4 8 5 9 16 13 19 5 15 5 19 5 15 21

13 17 8 5 15 14 13 20 5 15

3 13 10 13 16 16 9 1 12 16 **2:9 - 10**

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS – WEEK EIGHT

DISCUSSION LESSON 7

15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BASE TAG

Use old file folders cut in half or cereal box sides for “bases,” one for each player. Scatter bases around the playing area. Choose IT, who stands on one of the bases near the center of the playing area. Other players each stand on one base. When IT leaves his base, so must the others. IT tries to tag a player before the player reaches a new base. Only one player may stand on a single base. If a player is tagged, he becomes the new IT.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 7

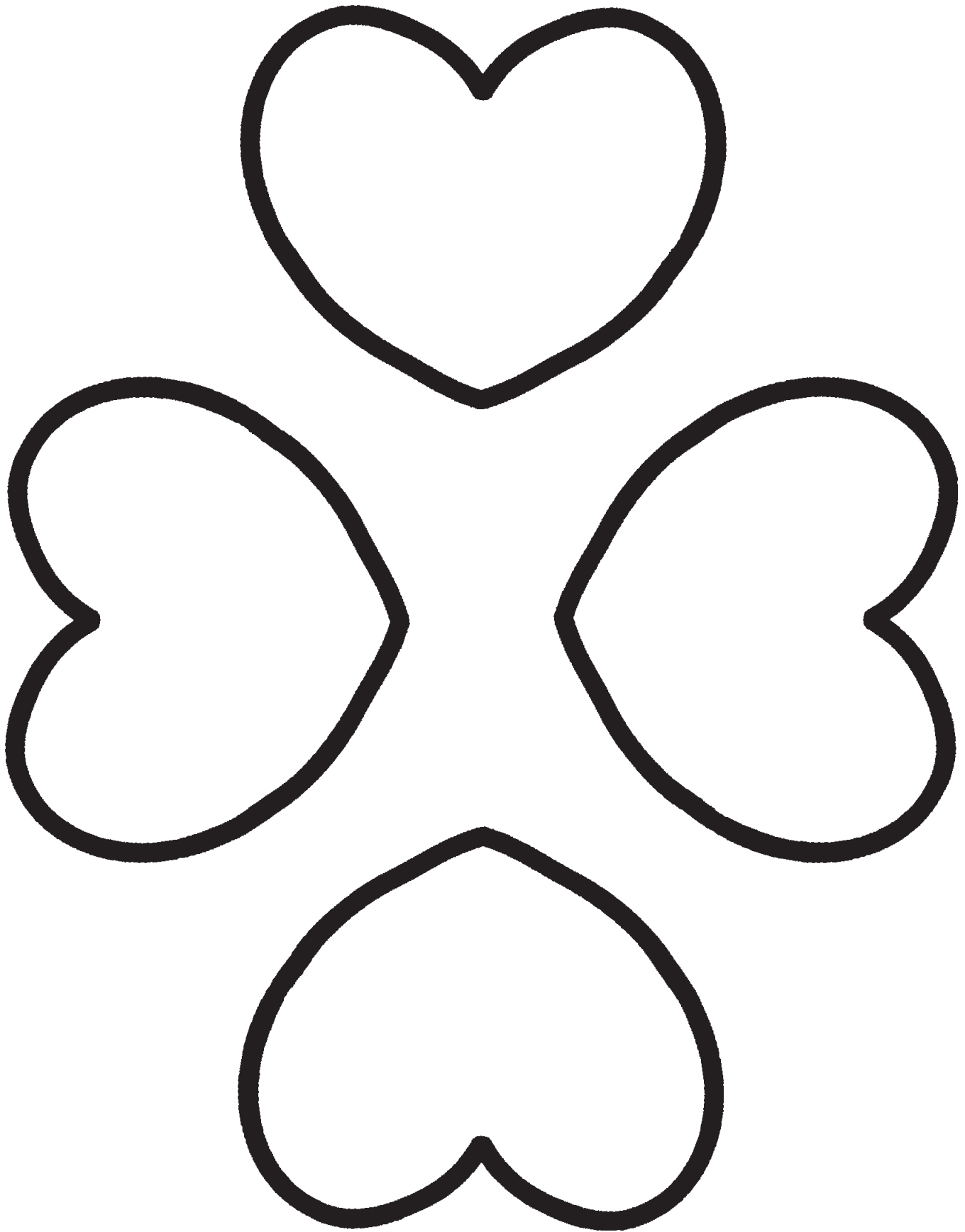
to end of class CRAFT: STENCIL POSTER (from *Treasure Chest of Crafts*)

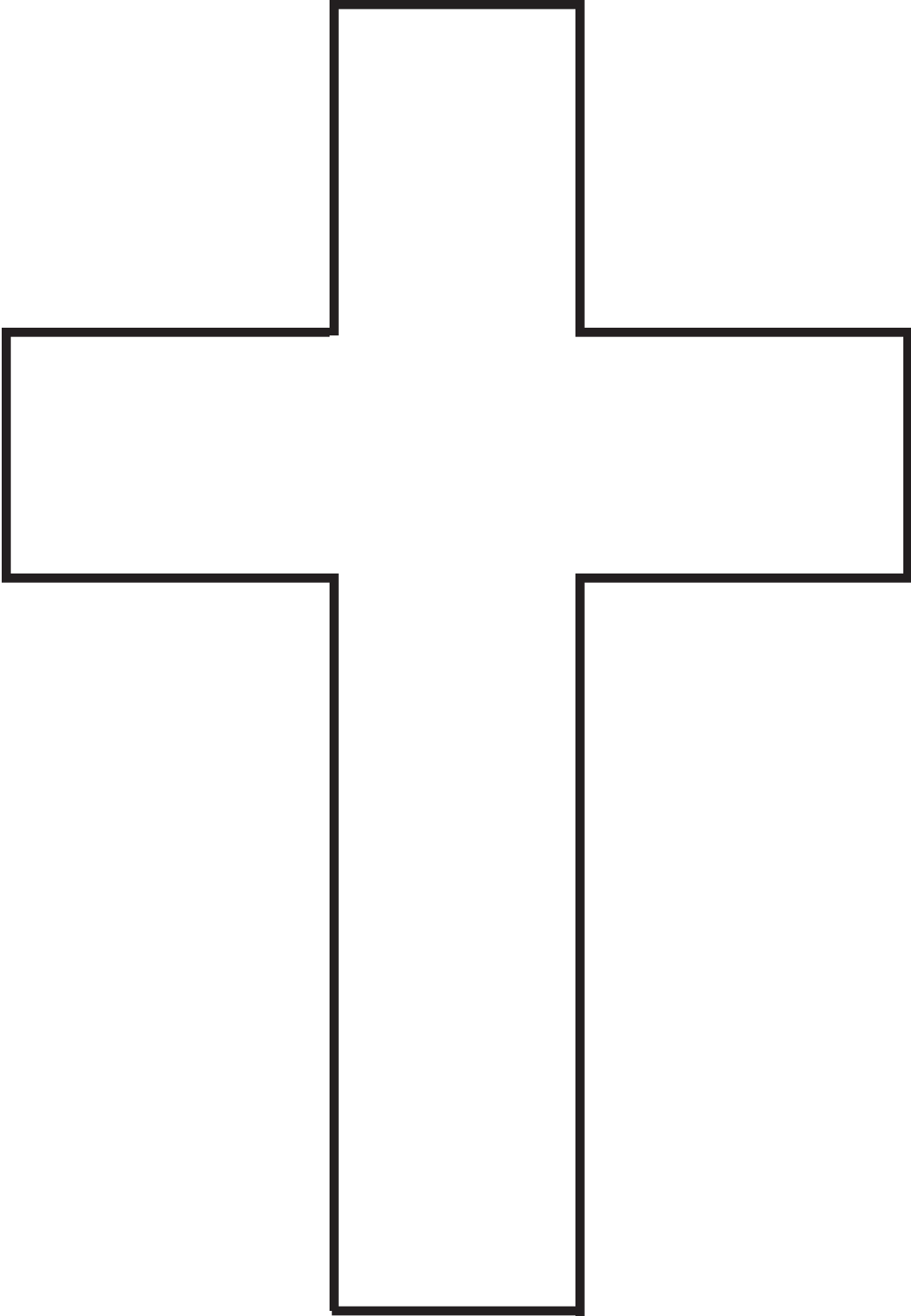
MATERIALS:

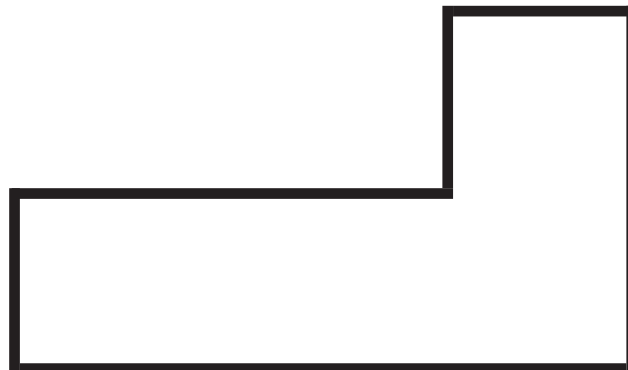
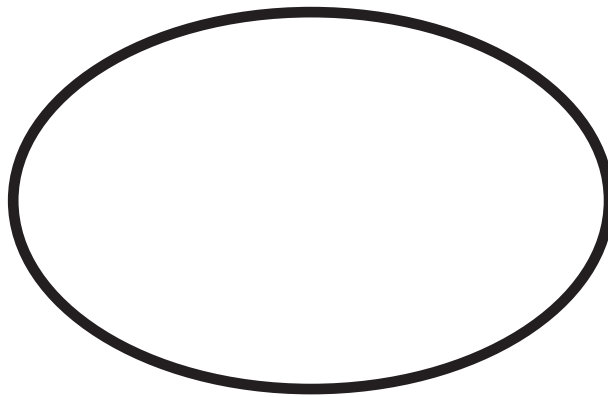
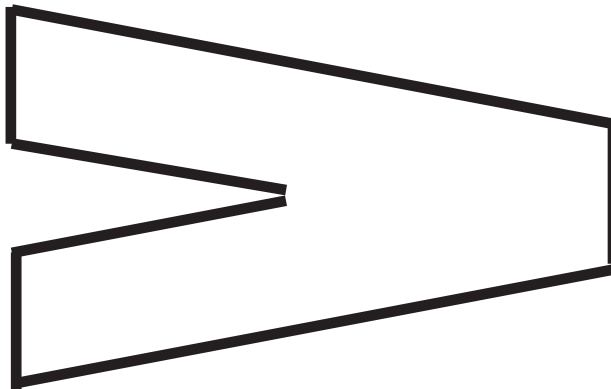
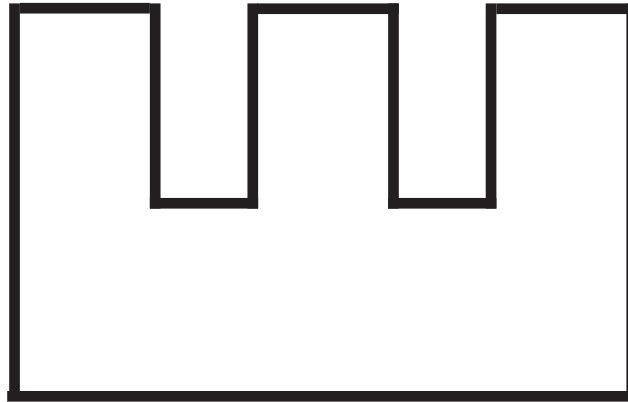
lightweight cardboard (i.e. cereal boxes, old file folders)	
old toothbrushes	scissors
small pieces of screen	several colors dry tempera paint
shallow containers	sponges
paper towels	shallow cardboard boxes
newspapers	cover-up shirts
masking tape	construction paper

Before class: Copy stencil patterns from the following pages to separate pieces of cardboard. Cut one pattern of each design for every 2 or 3 children. Mix dry tempera paint with a small amount of water in shallow containers. Paint should be **very** thick to avoid running under stencil. Cover work area with newspapers. Wet paper towels and sponges to be prepared for messy fingers or accidents.

In class: Use the shirts for clothing protection if needed. Direct children to trace a stencil pattern onto lightweight cardboard then cut out and discard inside piece. Tape stencil frame onto construction paper with masking tape. Place paper in bottom of cardboard box. Dip toothbrush in paint and brush it on screen so that the paint spatters on paper. Help child carefully remove stencil to prevent smearing. Allow paint to dry. Child may make another stencil, lay it over the first “painting,” and repeat the process with the same or a different color. Or, the child may use one stencil in various positions on the paper.







PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 7 — ANSWERS

Figure out the missing word in the sentence and fill in the blanks. Then, using the number below each letter, fill in the section at the end of the lesson to end up with a Bible verse.

All the answers are found in Colossians 3. Read the whole chapter, and then read the first sentence below. Carefully read several verses until you come up with the missing word. Each letter has a number below it, and that number stays with the same letter. To make finding the missing words easier, after you find each missing word, put the letters in all the matching numbered spaces in the other sentences after it.

(This is based on *The Simplified Living Bible* text. If you have a different Bible, you may have trouble finding the right words to fill in the sentences. You may have to think of words that are similar to what your Bible text says that will fit in the sentence.)

Read all of Colossians chapter 3.

1. Everything you do should be to please God. That way, you are storing your treasures in H E A V E N. (Verse 1)
8 5 1 19 5 12
2. Jesus sits beside God in the place of honor and P O W E R. (Verse 1)
14 13 20 5 15
3. God will send His A N G E R upon everyone who worships idols. (Verse 6)
1 12 7 5 15
4. Before a person became a Christian he did many wrong things. He was angry, worshipped fun things, said bad words, and sometimes he L I E D. (Verses 8-9)
10 9 5 4
5. A Christian lives his life so he can be more like C H R I S T.
3 8 15 9 16 17
6. Christians should not hold grudges. They should forgive those people who hurt them because God F O R G A V E them. (Verse 13)
6 13 15 7 1 19 5
7. L O V E must rule in a Christian's heart. (Verse 14)
10 13 19 5
8. Jesus brings peace. So Christians should not F I G H T. (Verse 15)
6 9 7 8 17
9. Jesus' teachings will make us W I S E. (Verse 16)
20 9 16 5
10. We should sing to the Lord with psalms, hymns, and S P I R I T U A L songs. (Verse 16)
16 14 9 15 9 17 18 1 10

11. Everything we do should be done in the N A M E of Jesus. (Verse 17)

12 1 11 5

12. W I V E S submit. (Verse 18)

20 9 19 5 16

13. H U S B A N D S love. (Verse 19)

8 18 16 2 1 12 4 16

14. C H I L D R E N obey. (Verse 20)

3 8 9 10 4 15 5 12

15. Fathers should not P U T D O W N their children. (Verse 21)

14 18 17 4 13 20 12

16. S L A V E S obey. (Verse 22)

16 10 1 19 5 16

17. All the work we do should be done with all our H E A R T. (Verse 23)

8 5 1 15 17

18. There is a R E W A R D for everyone who works for the Lord.

15 5 20 1 15 4 (Verses 23,24)

19. Remember, the Lord is W A T C H I N G you. (Verse 23)

20 1 17 3 8 9 12 7

20. If we don't do our best for God, He will P A Y us in a way we won't like.

(Verse 25) 14 1 21

Here is the place to transfer your answers and discover the Bible passage.

F O R I N C H R I S T T H E R E I S A L L
6 13 15 9 12 3 8 15 9 16 17 17 8 5 15 5 9 16 1 10 10

O F G O D I N A H U M A N B O D Y. S O
13 6 7 13 4 9 12 1 8 18 11 1 12 2 13 4 21 16 13

Y O U H A V E E V E R Y T H I N G W H E N
21 13 18 8 1 19 5 5 19 5 15 21 17 8 9 12 7 20 8 5 12

Y O U H A V E C H R I S T! T H E N Y O U
21 13 18 8 1 19 5 3 8 15 9 16 17 17 8 5 12 21 13 18

A R E F I L L E D W I T H G O D
1 15 5 6 9 10 10 5 6 20 9 17 8 7 13 4

T H R O U G H Y O U R U N I O N W I T H
17 8 15 13 18 7 8 21 13 18 15 18 12 9 13 12 20 9 17 8

C H R I S T. H E I S T H E H I G H E S T
3 8 15 9 16 17 8 5 9 16 17 8 5 8 9 7 8 5 16 17

R U L E R. A N D H E I S O V E R E V E R Y
15 18 10 5 15 1 12 4 8 5 9 16 13 19 5 15 5 19 5 15 21

O T H E R P O W E R. C O L O S S I A N S 2:9 - 10
13 17 8 5 15 14 13 20 5 15 3 13 10 13 16 16 9 1 12 16

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 8

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write all the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Colossians chapter 4, verses 1 – 6.

1. Why should masters treat their slaves justly and fairly?
2. How should Christians treat everyone according to Matthew 7:12?
3. **HARD:** What three things should you do about prayer?
4. What does Psalm 5:3 say about prayer?
5. **PERSONAL:** Do you spend time in prayer every day? Why not start doing that today? There are many things you can talk to God about. Confess your sins; ask His help to do the right thing during the day; pray that your words will be encouraging to others and not hurtful; you can pray for your family and friends, government officials, your pastor, and many others. Give it a try. You will be talking with God and He will answer you! Write down here who and what you want to pray for today.

6. Paul says in Colossians 4:6, “Let your words be kind as well as real. Then you will have the right answer for everyone.” What do these verses say about what and how we say things?

Proverbs 10:21,32

Proverbs 12:19

7. Paul says we are to use every chance we get to tell others about Jesus Christ. Why? See James 4:14-15 for your answer.

8. What do these verses say is the reason we should tell others about Jesus?

John 3:17

Acts 2:21

Acts 4:12

9. How should we speak to others about Jesus? See 1 Peter 3:15 for your answer.

10. **PERSONAL:** Is Jesus your Lord and Savior? Have you asked Him to forgive your sins and save you? Why not stop and ask Him now? Then ask Him to help you with your prayers and the words that come out of your mouth.

Read Colossians chapter 4, verses 7 – 9.

1. What do you learn about Tychicus in this passage and in Acts 20:4? The “he” in Acts 20:4 means Paul.

Colossians 4:7-9

Acts 20:4

2. What do you learn about Onesimus in this passage and in Philemon 10-12, and 15-16?

Colossians 4:7-9

Philemon 10-12, 15-16

Read Colossians chapter 4, verses 10 – 18.

1. **CHALLENGE:** If Aristarchus, Mark, Barnabas, and Justus are the only Jews among Paul’s fellow workers, who are the other workers?

2. What is Epaphras always doing for the Colossians?

3. What should the Colossians do with this letter after reading it?

4. **PERSONAL:** How many verses have you hid in your heart? Can you say just one for your class?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS — WEEK NINE

DISCUSSION LESSON 8

15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BALLOON OBSTACLE RACE

Use objects in your room to create an obstacle course: chairs, books, newspaper laid on the floor, etc. One at a time, holding a blown-up balloon between the legs, each player must go inside one obstacle, outside the next, inside the next, and so on. Use a watch or a stopwatch, to time each player. Lowest time wins.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 4

to end of class CRAFT: EDIBLE COOKIE BOWL*

MATERIALS:

small tins (clean tuna cans, pot pie tins, etc.)

1 1/2" round cookie cutter

electric mixer

aluminum foil

cooling rack

rolling pin

oven

medium & large bowls

vegetable cooking spray

assorted cookies, candies, etc.

waxed paper or rolling cloth

Dough:

1/4 cup slivered almonds finely ground

1 1/4 cups flour

1/2 tsp. salt

2/3 cup sugar

1/2 tsp. vanilla

1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa

4 tbsp. margarine, softened

1 egg

Mix together flour, cocoa, almonds and salt in a medium sized bowl. In a large bowl, beat on medium speed margarine, sugar, egg, and vanilla until light and fluffy. Beat in flour mixture.

Roll dough out to 1/8" thickness. Cut out with round cookie cutter. Line the tins with aluminum foil and spray foil with cooking spray. Cover tins with cutouts, slightly overlapping them. Bake in 350° oven 10 – 12 minutes or until edges are firm. Place on cooling rack. When cool, carefully lift off from tin and discard foil. Place other cookies, candies, ice cream, or other snacks in bowl. Cover with plastic wrap until ready to eat.

**Creative Cook's Kitchen*

COLOSSIANS LESSON 8 — ANSWERS

Read Colossians chapter 4, verses 1 – 6.

1. Why should masters treat their slaves justly and fairly? Verse 1: “You slave owners must be just and fair to all your slaves. Always remember that you have a Master in Heaven who is closely watching you.” [Cruelty to slaves was a common practice among Roman masters. Paul is saying Christian masters must not follow Roman practice towards their slaves.]
2. How should Christians treat everyone according to Matthew 7:12? “Do for others what you want them to do for you. This is the meaning of the laws of Moses and the words of the prophets.”
3. **HARD:** What three things should you do about prayer? Verse 2: “Don’t be weary in prayer. Keep at it! Watch for God’s answers, and remember to be thankful when they come.” [“Prayer is a basic expression of the Christian faith” (SHEPHERD’S NOTES).]
4. What does Psalm 5:3 say about prayer? “Each morning I will look to you in heaven. I will tell you what I need. I will pray with all my heart.”
5. **PERSONAL:** Do you spend time in prayer every day? Why not start doing that today? There are many things you can talk to God about. Confess your sins; ask His help to do the right thing during the day; pray that your words will be encouraging to others and not hurtful; you can pray for your family and friends, government officials, your pastor, and many others. Give it a try. You will be talking with God and He will answer you! Write down here who and what you want to pray for today.
6. Paul says in Colossians 4:6, “Let your words be kind as well as real. Then you will have the right answer for everyone.” What do these verses say about what and how we say things?

Proverbs 10:21,32 “A godly person gives good advice. But a rebel is destroyed by lack of common sense... The upright say words that are helpful. But the wicked speak words of rebellion.”

Proverbs 12:19 “Truth stands the test of time. But lies are soon brought into the open.”

7. Paul says we are to use every chance we get to tell others about Jesus Christ. Why? See James 4:14-15 for your answer. “How do you know what is going to happen tomorrow? For the length of your lives is like the morning fog. Now you see it. But soon it is gone. You should say, ‘If the Lord lets us, we shall live. We will do this or that.’”

8. What do these verses say is the reason we should tell others about Jesus?

John 3:17 “God did not send his Son into the world to judge it. He sent his Son to save it.”

Acts 2:21 “But anyone who asks for mercy from the Lord shall have it and shall be saved.”

Acts 4:12 “There is salvation in no one else! Under all Heaven there is no other name for men to call upon to save them.”

9. How should we speak to others about Jesus? See 1 Peter 3:15 for your answer. “Quietly trust yourself to Christ your Lord. If anybody asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him. Do it in a gentle and respectful way.”

10. **PERSONAL:** Is Jesus your Lord and Savior? Have you asked Him to forgive your sins and save you? Why not stop and ask Him now? Then ask Him to help you with your prayers and the words that come out of your mouth.

Read Colossians chapter 4, verses 7 – 9.

1. What do you learn about Tychicus in this passage and in Acts 20:4? The “he” in Acts 20:4 means Paul.

Colossians 4:7-9 A loved brother, hard worker, serves the Lord with Paul, sent by Paul to the Colossians to comfort and cheer them.

Acts 20:4 He was from Asia and went with Paul to Asia.

2. What do you learn about Onesimus in this passage and in Philemon 10-12, and 15-16?

Colossians 4:7-9 A loved brother, was a Colossian.

Philemon 10-12, 15-16 Paul considered him a son, Paul led him to the Lord, Philemon is Onesimus’ master and Paul is sending him back to Philemon after he ran away, he is Philemon’s brother in the Lord also.

Read Colossians chapter 4, verses 10 – 18.

1. **CHALLENGE:** If Aristarchus, Mark, Barnabas, and Justus are the only Jews among Paul’s fellow workers, who are the other workers? Although Paul doesn’t say there are other workers, if there were, they must be believing Gentiles.
2. What is Epaphras always doing for the Colossians? Verse 12: “Epaphras, from your city, a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his love. He is always praying for you. He asks God to make you strong and perfect. He asks God to help you know his will in everything you do.”
3. What should the Colossians do with this letter after reading it? Verse 16: “After you have read this letter, pass it on to the church at Laodicea. And read the letter I wrote to them.”
4. **PERSONAL:** How many verses have you hid in your heart? Can you say just one for your class?