

ABRAM'S CALL

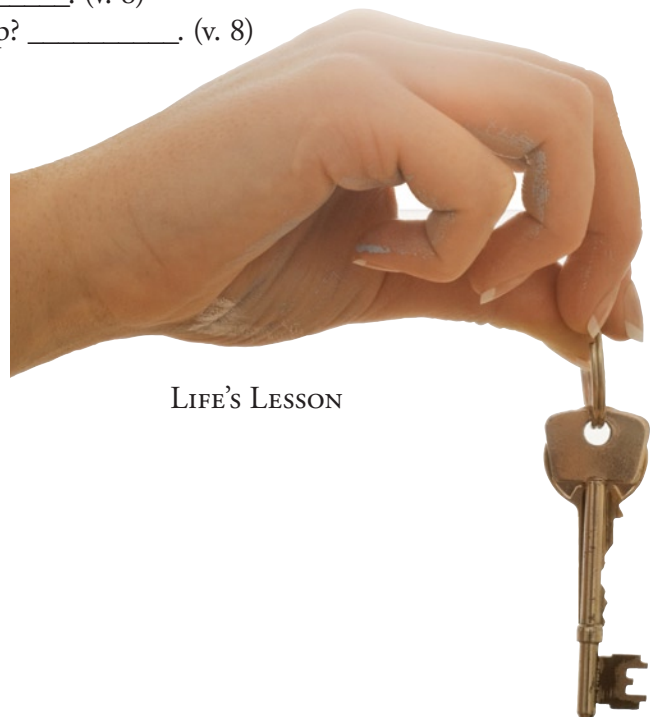
Read the printed text, Genesis 12:1-9, and complete the following. Then find your answers in today's "Word Search" puzzle to the right. Clues:

1. Abraham's original name: _____ (v. 1)
2. Abram was to leave his _____ (v. 1)
3. He told Abram to "Leave . . . go" _____ (v. 1)
4. Abram was to become a great _____ (v. 2)
5. Abram's _____ would be great. (v. 2)
6. God would _____ those who blessed Abram and _____ those who cursed him. (v. 3)
7. All the families and peoples on _____ will be blessed. (v. 3)
8. Abram was _____ years old when he left _____ (v. 4)
9. Abram's wife's name was _____ (v. 5)
10. Abram's nephew was named _____ (v. 5)
11. The new land promised to Abram was called _____ (v. 5)
12. Near Shechem or Sichem was a place called _____ (v. 6)
13. The designation of those inhabiting the land: _____ (v. 6)
14. To Abram's seed or offspring God would _____ land. (v. 7)
15. Abram built this to honor the Lord: _____ (v. 7)
16. From Canaan, Abram went east of what city? _____ (v. 8)
17. Abram did not pitch baseball. He pitched a _____ (v. 8)
18. Ai was located which direction from Abram's camp? _____ (v. 8)



KEY LESSONS IN FAITH

Below are listed some key statements or phrases in today's text, Genesis 12:1-9. In the right-hand column, explain or illustrate a lesson you can learn from that phrase or statement in the context of today's Scripture.



PHRASE OR PARAPHRASE

LIFE'S LESSON

So Abram left (v. 4a)

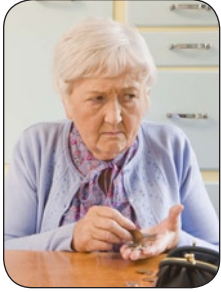
Abram was 75 years old (v. 4b)

He took his wife, nephew, and possessions (v. 5)

God: "To your offspring I will give this land" (v. 7)

Abram called on the name of the Lord (v. 8)

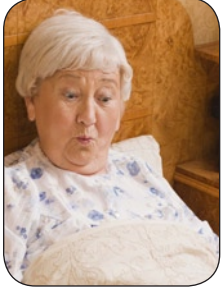
EMOTIONS, EMOTIONS!



Read today's printed text of Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18. Look for a mixture of emotions packed into this adventure in Abram's life. What did God give or teach Abram in response to these emotions?

1. Confusion (vv. 1, 2)

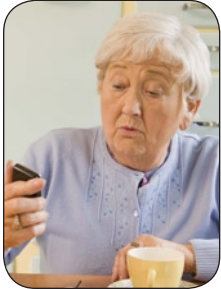
2. Anxiety (v. 3)



3. Trust (v. 6)

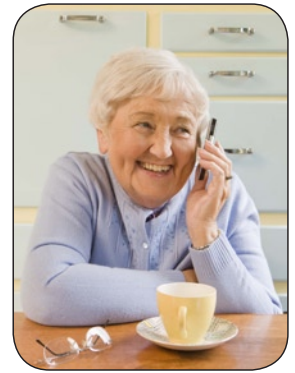
4. Fear (v. 12)

5. Peace (vv. 15, 16)



What lessons do you learn about God's nature or character from Abram's adventure?

What have you learned about trusting God and about how he may respond to your faith?



DEAR LORD

Dear Lord,

As you used Abram to bless future generations, I ask that you use me. If you will work through me, I promise that I will _____ in my quest to please you and bless your people. I promise this through the name of my Savior, amen.

Signed, _____

SACRIFICES AS TESTS

Abraham's call to sacrifice served as a test of his faith in God. The following questions may bring understanding to this unique request from the Lord. Jot your answers in the space provided.

1. How does the sacrifice that God asked Abraham to make remind you of a sacrifice that God made himself? Suggest a purpose for the requested sacrifice beyond putting Abraham to the test.

2. What did God learn about Abraham in his response to God's test? Does that word *learn* imply that God didn't know something about Abraham before? Why, or why not?

3. What did Abraham learn about himself as a result of the test?

4. What is the greatest sacrifice God has ever asked you to make? What did you learn from that experience?

5. Thinking of the name that Abraham gave to his place of his testing, what name would you give to the test that you mentioned above?

MY SACRIFICE

God may call you to make a sacrifice for the sake of other people or his church. This is your opportunity to respond to a call to sacrifice. On the horizontal cross beam, write a sacrifice you feel compelled to make. Scriptures that may prod your thinking are

"Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship" (Romans 12:1).

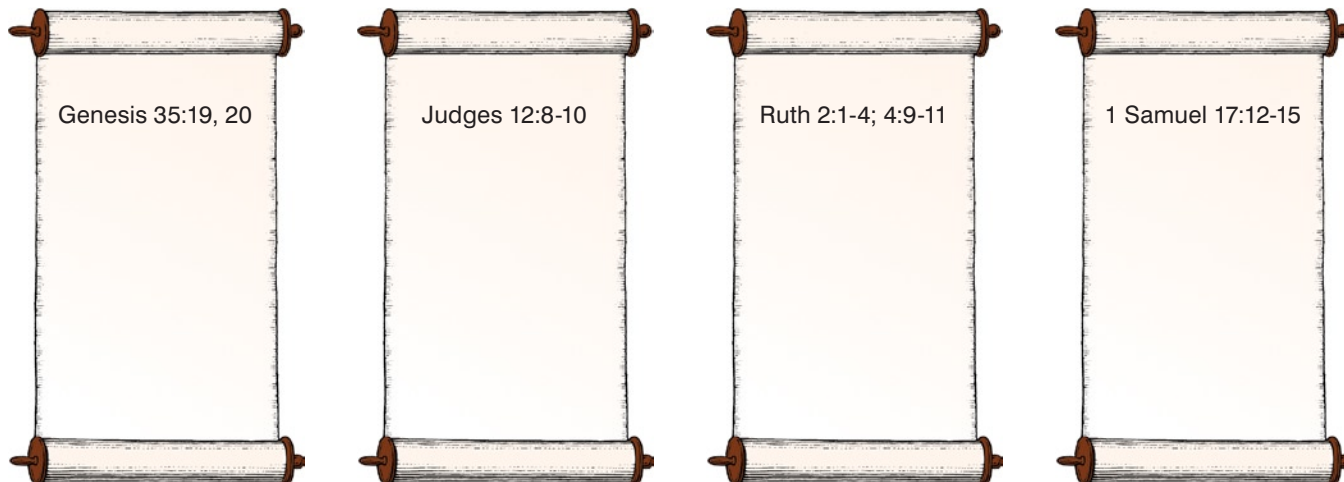
"If I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you" (Philippians 2:17).

"Let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:15, 16).

"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5).

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem, which means “house of bread,” is also called *Ephrath* (Genesis 35:19) or *Ephrathah* (Micah 5:2), which means “fruitful.” This little town was honored to become the birthplace of our Savior, which is appropriate because many of Jesus’ ancestors also were connected with this little village. Search the following Scriptures and discover the names of these people and their association with Bethlehem.



MARY’S MAGNIFICAT . . . AND MINE TOO!

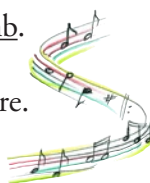
Mary’s song of praise was very personal to her, but it may make us wish to burst forth with our own song. Let’s allow the carol “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” to be our song of praise today. As you read these verses, underline every title or descriptive phrase given to Jesus in the song. Try to find at least eight of them, including the one already marked as a sample. Then, to the right of the song, note why this description or title is important to you.



WHY IT’S IMPORTANT

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest Heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to appear, Jesus our Immanuel here.
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”



Hail the Heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings:
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”



== Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 4, “The Lord Keeps His Promise” (Luke 1:46-55; 2:1-7, NIV) ==

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THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH

Today's text in Genesis 39 ends with a simple but profound declaration in verse 21 that the Lord was with Joseph. In that simple truth, a godly life succeeds. For each of the following texts from chapter 37, write what was happening to Joseph that, on the surface, seemed to indicate the Lord had abandoned Joseph.

- Genesis 37:4 _____, but the Lord was with Joseph!
Genesis 37:5 _____, but the Lord was with Joseph!
Genesis 37:10 _____, but the Lord was with Joseph!
Genesis 37:17b, 18 _____, but the Lord was with Joseph!
Genesis 37:23, 24 _____, but the Lord was with Joseph!
Genesis 37:28 _____, but the Lord was with Joseph!
Genesis 37:36 _____, but the Lord was with Joseph!

Now write Genesis 39:2 here:

Can you daily sense God's presence enough that you could sign your own name below?

"In all my circumstances, the Lord is with me." Signed _____

TOO STRONG? YOU'RE WRONG!

First Corinthians 10:13 reveals a truth we often deny. What does it say about these cop-out remarks about temptation?



On the copy of
1 Corinthians 10:13
below, replace each second person
pronoun (*you*) with the first person *me* or *I*.

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

— Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 5, "Joseph Shows Character" (Genesis 39:7-21a, NIV) —

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GOD'S GIFTS AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Joseph's God-given ability to interpret the dreams of others resulted in great responsibility. In what ways do you see each of the following gifts from God imposing responsibility on you? How are you doing with each?

Financial prosperity

Musical talent

Knowledge of the Scriptures

Technological skill

Interpersonal skills

Teaching skills



ONE IN WHOM THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS

Pharaoh characterized Joseph as one who had the Spirit of God. Paul characterizes the one who is led by the Spirit as producing certain fruit (Galatians 5:22, 23, to be studied in Lesson 13 of this quarter). In what sense did Joseph reflect the fruit of the Spirit? (*Option:* Preview next week's lesson text of Genesis 45:3-15 before you answer.)



Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self-control

Would anyone observing you declare, "Can we find anyone like this . . . , one in whom is the spirit of God?" (Genesis 41:38)? If not, why not?

== Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 6, "Joseph Finds Favor" (Genesis 41:37-46, 50-52, NIV) ==

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BROTHERS AND OTHER STRANGERS

Joseph's dealings with his family reflect several principles of godly relationship. How do you see each of the following truths at work in Genesis 45:3-15? Identify a verse or verses where the principle is affirmed.

1. Someone has to take the first step.
2. Face-to-face is the best way to resolve conflict.
3. Sensitivity to the other person's emotions is a must.
4. Be prepared to cry and embrace.
5. Talk, talk, talk it out!
6. Expect mixed emotions when reconciling.
7. Don't hesitate to review the event and/or words that broke the relationship.
8. Seeing the presence of God in all circumstances is key. He can work all things together for good.



SURPRISE!

Imagine the surprise of Joseph's brothers at the time of today's text, Genesis 45:3-15. They thought him long gone into slavery, perhaps even dead. Yet they found him in royal power in Egypt. Surprises may elicit a variety of emotions. How do you see each of these as possible in moments of surprise? Check the ones you think should be "put on hold" in order to avoid doing something unbiblical. Explain your reasoning.

Fear

Joy



Anger

Confusion

Dread

Anxiety

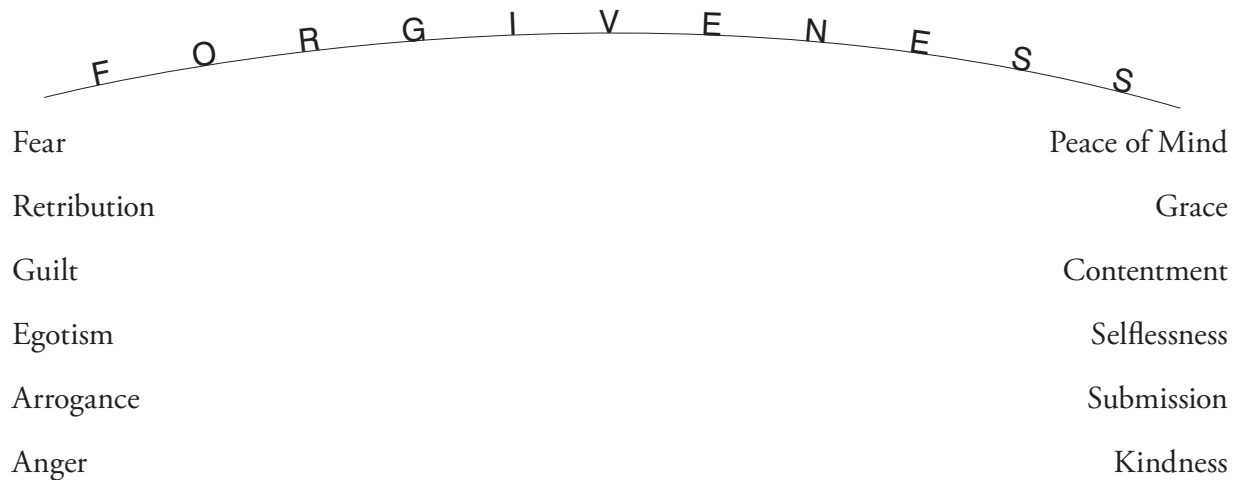
Shock



Denial

BRIDGING THE GAP

Forgiveness is the bridge between contrasting emotions and states of mind. Between the opposite terms below, briefly note how forgiveness works to “bridge the gap.”



RELATIONSHIPS AND PIVOTAL MOMENTS

Forgiveness is one option at pivotal moments in relationships. It is usually the best option. For each of the following relationships, give an example of a pivotal moment calling for reconciliation and forgiveness.



HUSBAND—WIFE

PARENT—YOUNG CHILD

PARENT—TEENAGER

ADULT—AGING PARENT

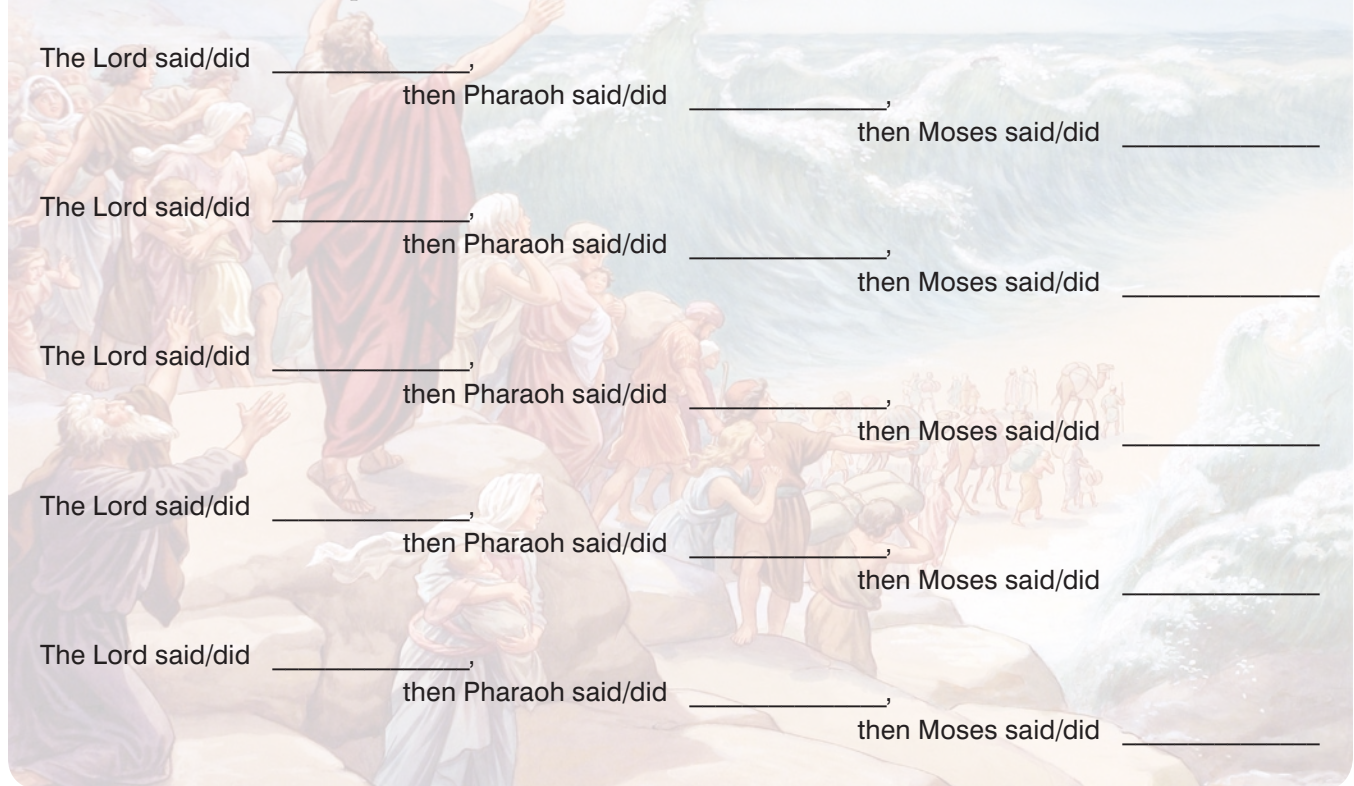
EMPLOYEE—EMPLOYER

CHRISTIAN—CHRISTIAN

NEIGHBOR—NEIGHBOR

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Exodus 14 records the events to be celebrated in the song of today's text in Exodus 15. The Lord, Pharaoh, and Moses are the main characters in that story. See if you can recall from memory five things each of these characters said or did, in sequence. Check the text of Exodus 14 and 15 for answers.



The Lord said/did _____,
then Pharaoh said/did _____,
then Moses said/did _____

The Lord said/did _____,
then Pharaoh said/did _____,
then Moses said/did _____

The Lord said/did _____,
then Pharaoh said/did _____,
then Moses said/did _____

The Lord said/did _____,
then Pharaoh said/did _____,
then Moses said/did _____

The Lord said/did _____,
then Pharaoh said/did _____,
then Moses said/did _____

“I WILL SING TO THE LORD”

God has done many marvelous things that should elicit our praise. Each day this week, add one thing that so impresses you that you want to break into song.

Monday, I will sing to the Lord because

Tuesday, I will sing to the Lord because

Wednesday, I will sing to the Lord because

Thursday, I will sing to the Lord because

Friday, I will sing to the Lord because

Saturday, I will sing to the Lord because

Sunday, I will sing to the Lord because



NO OTHER GOSPEL

Paul begins the Spirit's teaching to the first-century Galatian Christians (and all Christians since) by reacting to news of another or different gospel. Look at Galatians 1:6–2:14 and count the number of times the word *gospel* appears. Write your number here: _____. Now examine each of these affirmations about the gospel and identify a text where the affirmation is given.

IMPORTANT NEWS!

- ___ A. The gospel can be perverted.
- ___ B. The perversion of the gospel is worthy of eternal condemnation.
- ___ C. The gospel is not a human idea.
- ___ D. The gospel is worthy of confrontation and no compromise.
- ___ E. The gospel is the same for Jew and Gentile.
- ___ F. It is possible to act in a way inconsistent with the purity of the gospel.

PREACHING AND THE GOSPEL

Paul emphasizes the preaching he was committed to and the fact he was committed to preaching it. Today's text might be considered a summary of a sermon of Paul. See if there is a flow of thought in Paul's argument. You might not use all the statements below, or you may wish to add more. At the end, write his/your call to commitment.



First, _____ leads to _____,
... then _____ leads to _____,
... then _____ leads to _____,
... then _____ leads to _____.

Commitment:

"Since the gospel _____,
... then I must _____."

QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

Paul begins today's text, Galatians 3:1-14, with a series of sharp rhetorical questions. Consider these similar questions for your own Christian status.

1. Thinking about the last time you took your eyes off the crucified Christ, what "bewitched" you that caused that to happen? How did you recover from the problem?

2. Do you ever lapse into thinking that your salvation depends on you? If so, how do you correct your thinking?

3. Do you expect to receive God's eternal salvation because of your good deeds? If not, then on what basis?

4. In what ways are you like and unlike Abraham?



"CURSES! FOILED AGAIN!"

In the old movie serial *The Perils of Pauline*, the villain often exclaimed "Curses! Foiled again!" when the hero stopped the villain's nefarious plans. Paul speaks of being "cursed," "being made a curse," etc., in today's text. Try to complete each of these statements without looking at your Bible.



Cursed is the one who _____
(Galatians 3:10)

Christ redeemed us from the curse by _____
(Galatians 3:13a)

The Old Testament pronounced a curse on anyone who

(Galatians 3:13b)

What can you do this week to get Satan to say, "Curses!
Foiled again!"?

WHICH CAME FIRST?

Paul argues by use of chronology in today's text in Galatians 3 and 4. First, circle the one in each of the following pairs that came first. Then write a brief explanation of why that matters to Paul's argument.

Who came first, Moses or Abraham?

Why it matters: _____

Which came first, promise or law?

Why it matters: _____

Which came first, Genesis 12 or Exodus 20?

Why it matters: _____

Which came first, slavery or redemption?

Why it matters: _____

IN THE WILL

Each one who has accepted Christ as Redeemer gains an inheritance, as Paul affirms in today's text. On the following document, enter your name and then some of the blessings you have inherited as God's child. When you complete your list, confirm your acceptance, and then pause to word a prayer of thanksgiving for your adoption into God's family.



*Having loved _____ [your name],
I, the Father, in that love and grace have
bequeathed the following to my child:*

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

*Having received all the rights and
privileges of an heir, I, _____
[your name], accept these blessings.*

SOWING THE SPIRIT

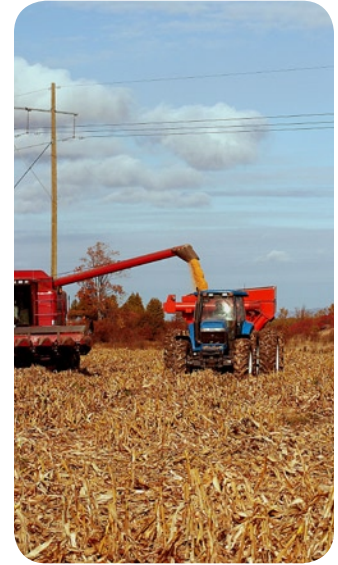
The Christian who is “walking in the Spirit” has as one foundational goal of character and behavior: to “sow the Spirit” every step of his or her way. What “Spirit seed” will you need to sow this week to reap each of the following? You may wish to make this a record of actual events and your choices this week.



SOW this

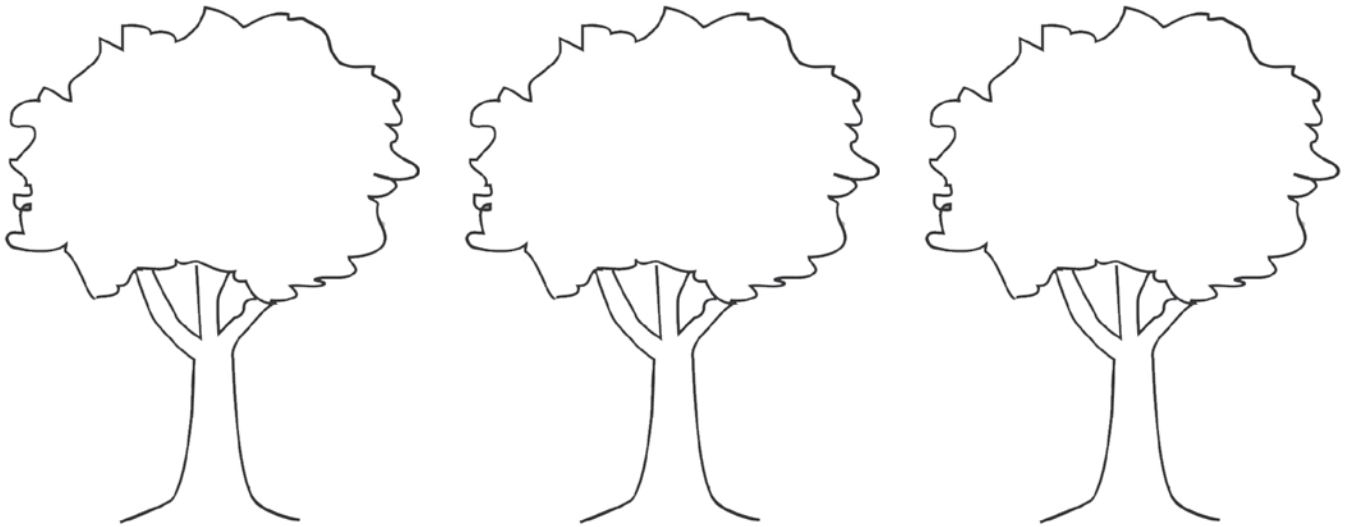
to REAP this

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control



AN INADEQUATE ORCHARD

As you examine your own growth in the Spirit, what is your fruit orchard missing? On the fruit trees below, write in on one or more of the fruit of the Spirit you see as inadequate (immature) in your own walk, your own orchard.



What could happen if you don't correct this problem (Luke 13:6-9; John 15:2a)?

What needs to be pruned from your life so this growth can happen (John 15:2b)?

What nourishment is needed (John 15:5)?

Lesson 1 Abram's Call

1. Abram; 2. country; 3. Lord; 4. nation; 5. name; 6. bless, curse; 7. earth; 8. seventy-five (without the dash), Haran; 9. Sarai; 10. Lot; 11. Canaan; 12. Moreh; 13. Canaanite; 14. give; 15. altar; 16. Bethel; 17. tent; 18. east

Word Search Solution:

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

Lesson 4 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Genesis 35:19, 20—burial place of Jacob's wife Rachel;
Judges 12:8-10—home of Ibzan, one of the judges; Ruth
2:1-4; 4:9-11—home of Boaz and Ruth; 1 Samuel 17:12-
15—home of David.

Lesson 7 Brothers and Other Strangers

a variety of responses are possible.

Lesson 10 No Other Gospel

Number of times *gospel* occurs in Galatians 1:6–2:14: 10.
A-1:7; B-1:8, 9; C-1:11; D-2:5; E-2:7; F-2:14

Lesson 10 Preaching and the Gospel

There is no one right "answer" to this, since some learners may focus on nuances in the flow while others take a broader look.

Lesson 11 Curses! Foiled Again!

"does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law" (Galatians 3:10)
"becoming a curse for us" (Galatians 3:13a)
"is hung on a tree" (Galatians 3:13b)

Lesson 12 Which Came First?

Abraham
promise (Galatians 3:16, 17)
Genesis 12
slavery (Galatians 4:3, 5)