

# SUMMER 2025 SACRED ALTARS AND HOLY OFFERINGS

# FROM WHAT TO WHY

Reproduced below are the words between God and Cain. Considering what you know about the character of each, why was each statement made or the question asked?

#### What Was Said/Asked

- God: And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.
- God: Where is Abel thy brother?
- Cain: I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?
- God: What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.
- God: And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.
- Cain: My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.
- God: Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.

#### Why It Was Said/Asked

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### **GIFTS COMPARED**

Working with one or two partners, complete the following after reading the account of the widow's offering as recorded in Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4.

Offerings Compared: How the widow's offering was like Cain's \_\_\_\_\_

Offerings Contrasted: How the widow's offering was unlike Cain's \_\_\_\_\_

# Noah Builds an Altar

Lesson 2, Genesis 8:13-22; 9:11-13, KJV

### WHY APPRECIATE RAINBOWS?

This photo has been viewed nearly 800,000 times on the Internet.

Why the fascination with rainbows?



Photo © Ronald L. Nickelson; used by permission.

Estimate percentages of people's first reaction when seeing a rainbow. Numbers must add up to 100%.

\_\_\_\_% think of or comment on the rainbow's beauty.

\_\_\_\_% think of or mention the pot-of-gold myth.

\_\_\_\_\_% think of or mention the scientific explanation for the rainbow's formation.

\_\_\_\_\_% think of or mention the "ROYGBIV" color arrangement.

\_\_\_\_\_% think of or mention God's promise never again to flood the entire earth.

100%

What can you do to make the percentage of the last category higher? Write ideas below.

# **MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE**

What does God expect His people to understand about rainbows in terms of meaning (mental image) and significance (implications)? Write your thoughts below.

Meaning of rainbows in the Old Testament:

Significance of rainbows in the Old Testament:

Special note on the concepts of meaning and significance: When you hear the word *table*, the image of furniture having a flat surface comes to mind—that's *meaning*. If a mother says to her son, "It's time to come to the table," the implication is that it's time for dinner—that's *significance*.

# **QUESTIONS, I HAVE QUESTIONS**

With the help of your partner, examine today's Scripture text and list questions you would like to ask the main characters in the story.

Questions I'd like to ask Abraham: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions I'd like to ask Isaac:

Questions I'd like to ask God: \_\_\_\_\_

Compare your questions with those written by other class members.

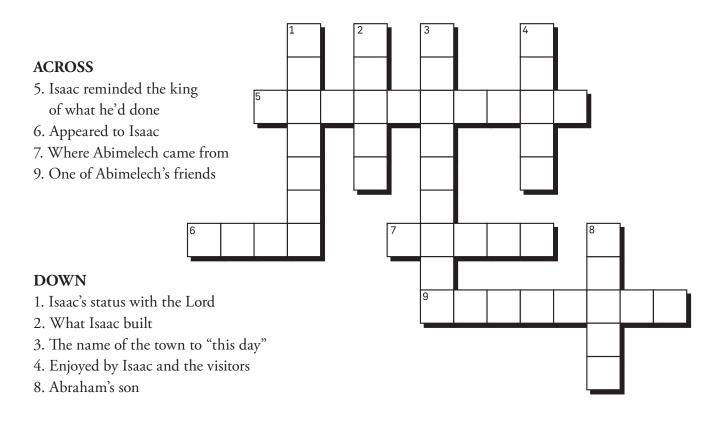
# **LOOKING FOR TRUST**

Use the word *trust* to create a five-item acrostic that lists parts of your life where you would like to trust God better.



# **CLUES FROM TODAY'S STORY**

Work with a partner to complete the crossword puzzle below. Read Genesis 26:24-33 to find the answers.



# **GOD, THE COVENANT MAKER**

Use the blanks to summarize the passages as indicated.

	What God Said	What God Did	How the Person Reacted
Abraham:			
Genesis 12, 15			
Isaac:			
Genesis 26			
Jacob:			
Genesis 28			

### LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

Think about things we buy, win, earn, display, and keep that help us memorialize an event or accomplishment of the past. In what ways do such things help us look to the future? In what ways can they hinder in that regard? List ideas below.

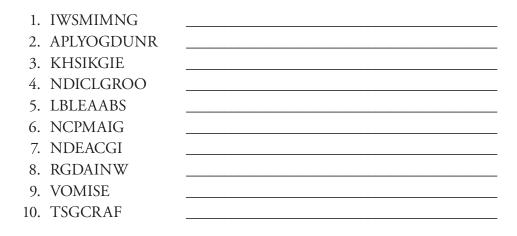
	Ways they can help us look ahead	Ways they can hinder looking ahead
Yearbooks: _		
Photo albums: _		
Diplomas: _		
Trophies: _		
[Other]:		

How would you know if you were in the hinder mode rather than the help mode?

### The Boy Jesus in the Temple

# CHILD'S PLAY

In a minute or less, unscramble the words below to find activities commonly enjoyed by children and teens.



Talk with the group about how these activities help children and teens grow and learn into adulthood.

# **JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**

Draw a line from Column A to the correct answer in Column B.

Column A
1. Jesus' age when the events of Luke 2:41-52 took place
2. The reason Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem
3. The number of days that passed
4. Where Jesus was found
5. Jesus sat with them
6. The feelings of those who heard Jesus
7. Mary's question
8. Jesus' reply
9. Where Jesus and His family went after the temple
10. What Jesus grew in as He became older

Column B
A. the temple
B. doctors
C. "Why has thou dealt with us?"
D. 12
E. Passover
F. "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"
G. 3
H. amazed and astonished
I. Nazareth
J. wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man

### Lord of the Sabbath

### LORD OF THE SABBATH

In the word search below, find these words from Mathew 12:1-8. Words can go in any direction or can share letters as they cross over each other.

Bread	Mercy
David	Pharisees
Disciples	Priests
Greater	Sabbath
House of God	Sacrifice
Jesus	Son of Man

GNYZKLDR D R Ρ S KXEGAU Ν OR L Ζ Y Ρ F Α K G A D X Q V P ΜW D U S B Ρ SDFRBZ 7 ZR UAU R ZRDQ S С Κ J С ΚO S U Α SBEI KHV ΕC Q R ΕK Е Т Α 0 DAU С S Α 1 Ν Ν S Η F S V В D DPU D G R Т 0 0 Y LCD LE ORY Т 1 Х S J UQEWC ТҮН Х 0 V E L SREU G WΕ С В ΗU В R С 0 XRETAERGDKL ΖΕ Y Т S н SCXMEPHAR E Е S RFUG XNAMFONOSL Κ J F I W E X X J C O X 0 J D

### **MISSING WORD**

With a partner, fill in any missing words from Matthew 12:1-8.

- At that time Jesus went on the \_\_\_\_\_\_ day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.
- 2. But when the \_\_\_\_\_ saw it, they said unto him, behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day
- But he said unto them, have ye not read what
  \_\_\_\_\_ did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;
- 4. How he entered into the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not

lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

- 5. Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the \_\_\_\_\_\_ in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?
- 6. But I say unto you, that in this place is one \_\_\_\_\_\_ than the temple.
- 7. But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have \_\_\_\_\_, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.
- 8. For the Son of man is \_\_\_\_\_\_ even of the sabbath day.

### **Cleansing the Temple**

### ZEAL!

According to the dictionary, what is the correct definition of the word zeal?

- A. eagerness and ardent interest in pursuit of something
- B. an emotion that is deeply stirring or ungovernable
- C. lack of feeling or emotion

Share with a partner about a time when you experienced zeal.

What was the outcome of that zeal?



Lesson 8, John 2:13-25, KJV

© Getty Images

# MIXED-UP MANUSCRIPT

Work with a partner to determine the missing words from John 2:13-25.

- 1. And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 13)
- And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 15)
- 3. And said unto them that sold \_\_\_\_\_\_, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. (v. 16)
- 4. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The \_\_\_\_\_\_ of thine house hath eaten me up. (v. 17)

- 5. Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in \_\_\_\_\_ days I will raise it up. (v. 19)
- 6. But he spake of the temple of his \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 21)
- 7. Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many \_\_\_\_\_ in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. (v. 23)
- 8. And needed not that any should testify of man: for he \_\_\_\_\_\_ what was in man. (v. 25)

### Jesus Predicts the Temple's Destruction

Lesson 9, Matthew 24:1-14, KJV

# **TEMPLE Q & A**

Work in a small group to answer these questions about the temple in Jerusalem. Look up the Scripture references below and answer the questions.

- 1. Who sought to build a temple to replace the tabernacle? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Who built the first temple?
- 3. How long did it take to build?
- 4. Who destroyed that temple? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Who were some people involved in rebuilding the temple after exile?
- 6. Who oversaw the rebuilding of the temple during Jesus' day?

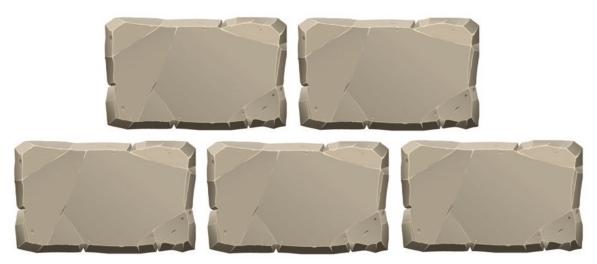
Need help? Review the following Scriptures:

- 2 Samuel 7 Ezra 1
- 1 Kings 6 Ezra 3
- 2 Kings 25 John 2
- 2 Chronicles 36



# **STRONG BUILDING BLOCKS**

In each block, write one spiritual habit that can help you endure in your faith. Share your results with your partner.



# WHAT NOT TO FALL FOR

We hear a lot about the scams people fall victim to. Today's lesson stresses one scam that Christians should not fall for. Complete the fallen phrase below to reveal what it is. *Each letter will go only in one of the boxes directly above it.* 

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# **TRUE OR FALSE**

Circle the correct answer!

True / False	1. Paul mentions "gold" as a building material.
True / False	2. The temple in the New Testament era is the church building.
True / False	3. If a work is burned up on judgment day, it means the builder becomes unsaved.
True / False	4. To be wise by God's standards, one must first be wise by the world's standards.
True / False	5. Paul mentions Apollos and Cephas in the lesson.

# **AGREE/DISAGREE**

Decide whether your group *agrees* or *disagrees* with each statement below. Be prepared to give a majority and a minority report on each issue to the class.

- 1. It's better to build a ministry out of "silver" than not at all.
- 2. There are some occasions when it's OK to boast about a ministry or church leader
- 3. Ministries that are "made of straw" are better burned up now than on judgment day.
- 4. It's possible to be wise both in the ways of the world and the ways of God.

agree | disagree agree | disagree agree | disagree agree | disagree

# **APPROPRIATE CARE**

Imagine that you have in your possession the items listed below. They don't belong to you but are on loan from a friend. Describe the condition the friend will expect the items to be in when you return them.

#### VALUED ITEM EXPECTED CONDITION ON RETURN

A China tea set:	 _
A lawnmower:	 _
A car:	_

### **THE PRICE**

Write a keyword that supports 1 Corinthians 6:20 from each text below:

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Psalm 74:2:	1 Corinthians 7:23:	
Matthew 20:28:	Titus 2:11-14:	
John 8:36:	1 Peter 1:18-19:	
Acts 20:28	Revelation 5:9:	

Now, print your name in the first blank and write a commitment in the second.

laving been purchased and redeemed by the blood of Christ, I,	
do hereby determine to make this one important change in my life:	
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## **VENN DIAGRAM**

Choose the arrangement of three circles below that best depicts the relationship among the concepts of *peace, unity,* and *nearness* as set forth in Ephesians 2:13-18. The more the circles overlap, the more interrelated they are. Write those three words in the circles of the diagram you choose, one word per circle. Be prepared to defend your choice!

	FEALE	Unity	Nedifiess	
Diagram A	Diagran	n B	Diagram C	
Diagram D	Diagram	n E		9iagram F

# **HENCEFORTH, NO LONGER**

Each passage below uses the word *henceforth* to indicate the transformational power of Jesus Christ. Summarize the change in the "Before" and "After" blanks.

	Before	After
Romans 6:6		
2 Corinthians 5:15		
2 Corinthians 5:16		
Ephesians 4:14		

# **MATCH GAME**

After you are given the 16 cards illustrated below, shuffle them. With all cards facedown, turn over any two. If they match, remove those two and keep them in front of you. If they do not match, turn them back facedown. Group members take turns doing the same until all cards are removed. Proceed as the class teacher directs.

Family	False doctrine	Food	Financial
distraction!	distraction!	distraction!	distraction!
Family	False doctrine	Food	Financial
distraction!	distraction!	distraction!	distraction!
ENDURING	ENDURING	ENDURING	ENDURING
TRUTH	GRACE	JESUS	CITY
ENDURING	ENDURING	ENDURING	ENDURING
TRUTH	GRACE	JESUS	CITY

# **OLD FOCUS VS. NEW FOCUS**

Work with your partner to mark the following phrases, terms, and passages with either "*A*" for the old covenant or "*B*" for the new covenant. Then, look up the four Scripture references to discover two more items for each covenant.

1. earthly city	6. sacrifices of praise; fruit of lips
2. ceremonial food	7. sacrifice of goodness
3. continuing city	8. blood of Jesus
4. established with grace	9. blood of beasts/animals
5. Jesus suffered outside city	10. animals burned outside camp
Deuteronomy 14:3-8	Numbers 35:25-28
Mark 7:17-19	Hebrews 8:1-2

# **METAPHOR UNMIXER**

Match the metaphor on the left with its meaning on the right.

#### **The Metaphor**

- \_\_\_\_\_1. Break the ice
- \_\_\_\_\_2. Spill the beans
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Raining cats and dogs
- \_\_\_\_\_4. Once in a blue moon
- \_\_\_\_\_5. Bite the bullet
- \_\_\_\_\_6. Hit the nail on the head
- \_\_\_\_\_7. A piece of cake
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The ball is in your court
- \_\_\_\_\_9. Add fuel to the fire
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The best of both worlds

#### **The Meaning**

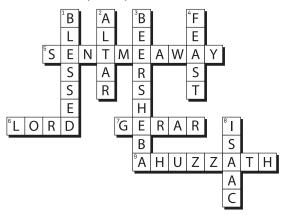
- A. To reveal a secret or disclose information
- B. To do something rarely
- C. To make a situation worse
- D. To endure a painful experience with courage
- E. To have advantages of two contrasting things
- F. To get interactions going in a social setting
- G. To experience heavy precipitation
- H. To describe something that is very easy
- I. To stress someone's responsibility
- J. To describe an observation as being exactly right

# **15 FOR ACTIVE STONES**

What can active stones do as God's spiritual house is built? Look up the 15 passages below and find out!





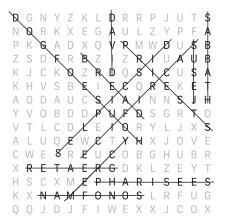


#### Lesson 6

**Child's Play:** 1–Swimming; 2–Playground; 3–Hiking; 4–Coloring; 5–Baseball; 6–Camping; 7–Dancing; 8–Drawing; 9–Movies; 10–Crafts

**Jesus in the Temple:** 1–D; 2–E; 3–G; 4–A; 5–B; 6–H; 7–C, 8–F; 9–I; 10.–J

#### Lesson 7 Lord of the Sabbath:



**Missing Word:** 1–sabbath; 2–Pharisees; 3–David; 4–house; 5–priests; 6–greater; 7–mercy; 8–Lord

#### Lesson 8

Zeal: A. eagerness and ardent interest in pursuit of something

**Mixed Up Manuscript:** 1–Jerusalem; 2–table; 3–doves; 4–zeal; 5–three; 6–body; 7–believed; 8–knew

#### Lesson 9

**Temple Q & A:** 1–David; 2–Solomon; 3–seven years; 4–Babylonians; 5–Cyrus/Ezra; 6–Herod the Great

#### Lesson 10

Don't Fall for It:

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-	<b>True or False:</b> 1–T; 2–F; 3–F; 4–F; 5–T																													

#### Lesson 13

**Old Focus vs. New Focus:** 1–A; 2–A; 3–B; 4–B; 5–B; 6–B; 7–B; 8–B; 9–A; 10–A.

Deuteronomy 14:3-8: dietary rules regarding clean and unclean

Mark 7:17-19: all foods declared clean

Numbers 35:25-28: succession of high priests who die

Hebrews 4:14–5:10; 8:1-2: one great high priest who lives forever

#### Lesson 14

**The Metaphor Unmixer:** 1–F; 2–A; 3–G; 4–B; 5–D; 6–J; 7–H; 8–I; 9–C; 10–E.