

1. God's Being

I. Basics

How does (or how should) the realization that God is always near affect you?

What is the relationship between God's glory and his presence?

What makes God a personal being?

What evidence is there that God interacts with people?

How can we relate to God if we cannot see him?

II. God's Pre-Eminence

Why is God greater than everyone and everything else? (Do not limit your answer to just what is mentioned in the verses.)

What is something about God that is beyond your ability to comprehend?

What are the implications of God's supreme power for the world?

Knowing that God can do all things, is there anything that you should ask and trust him to do?

How do you feel about God knowing everything? How does it encourage or challenge you?

2. God's Character

I. Holy Characteristics

What does holiness involve?

What are the implications of God's holiness for us?

Why is there so much injustice in the world when God is righteous and just?

How has God shown his faithfulness to you?

If God is good, how can anger be one of his characteristics?

II. Loving Characteristics

Explain in your own words what the Bible means by saying that "God is love" (1Jn 4:8, 16)?

What do you find particularly remarkable about God's love? How has God shown his love to you?

What does "compassion" mean? How does God show compassion?

How would you explain God's jealousy to a non-believer?

Choose one of God's personality characteristics that you either: (a) greatly value; or (b) need to be more conscious of. Say why you choose this.

3. Jesus Christ

I. General

What aspects of Jesus Christ's being and character mark him as being divine?

What points does Colossians 1:15-18 make that indicate that Jesus Christ is greater than all things?

What is one attribute of Jesus Christ that you need to be more mindful of in your daily living? How would doing so affect you?

What does the Bible mean by trusting or calling upon the "name" of Jesus Christ?

II. Jesus Christ and God

What does the Bible mean in saying that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? In what sense is he God's Son?

Why is the teaching that Jesus Christ is the Son of God so central and significant to Christianity?

What do you think Paul means in saying that Jesus Christ is "in very nature God" (Philippians 2:6)?

In what way/s are Jesus Christ and God one?

In prayer, should we be conscious of whether we are addressing God or Jesus Christ (or both)? Does it matter?

4. The Holy Spirit

I. General

What does the Bible mean in describing the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit of God”?

How do you find it helpful or encouraging recognizing the personal nature of the Holy Spirit, knowing that he is not simply a thing?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit communicate?

Are there any attributes listed that you had not previously associated with the Holy Spirit? Can you think of any other attributes of the Holy Spirit that were not mentioned here?

How you would explain the Holy Spirit to someone who had not heard of him.

II. God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit as One

What is your understanding of the Holy Spirit’s relationship to God and Jesus Christ?

How does Matthew 28:19 imply a very close association – even a oneness – between God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit?

What is the significance of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit all having divine attributes?

In acts that are attributed to all three of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (e.g. giving life, making people holy), do the three of them have the same roles or different ones?

In what ways are God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit one? In what ways are they different?

5. Angels, Satan and Demons

I. Angels

Have you or anyone close to you been aware of having an experience with angels? If so, what was it?

Why are angels so special?

What does the teaching about angels in this section show about God?

In what ways do angels help God's people?

In what way/s should the Bible's teaching about angels encourage us?

II. Satan and Demons

What is one way that Satan deceives people?

Why should you be wary of but not frightened of Satan?

What role do you think Satan plays in:

(a) temptation (as opposed to sinful human nature)?

(b) bad things that happen to Christians (as opposed to God's providence and/or "chance")?

How does a person come to be possessed by a demon?

What can we do for a person possessed by a demon?

6.

God's Creation

Do you believe that God created the world? Why or why not?

How should we respond to the teaching that everyone's life is dependent on God?

How or in what sense does God provide food for all creatures?

Jesus Christ has a major role in God's making and maintaining of creation. What does this illustrate about how God interacts with his world?

What does God being the creator of us and our environment mean for our relationship with him?

II. God's Creation of People

What is one way that the brevity of our lives should affect our thinking and/or our actions?

What is our "spirit"?

How should the fact that people are made in God's image influence us?

What motivation does Scripture give you to care for the environment?

How could you present (to a non-Christian) the world and how it continues to exist, as evidence for God's existence?

7. God's Sovereignty

I. God's Supreme Authority

How should God being the only God affect our attitudes and thoughts?

What reasons are there to believe that God reigns supreme in the world?

Choose a verse that impresses on you the supremacy of God's power. Say why you choose it.

Who are God's enemies and how do they oppose him? What do we know of their defeat?

What plans has God carried out - in the world and/or in the lives of people you know?

II. God's Control over the World

How should the teaching that God has control over evil influence us?

Is there anything that makes you conscious of God's control over nature? If so, what and why?

To what degree does God impose his control over the nations? What does he do?

How can we reconcile the existence of oppressive regimes with the teaching that God establishes all ruling authorities?

How is God in control of individual lives? To what extent are people's plans subject to God's will?

8. God's Word

I. General

Should we accept every verse of Scripture as God's word? What dangers are there in not doing so?

In what ways do you think God speaks today?

What is one characteristic of God's word that you find particularly striking or encouraging? Why?

How can we use God's word to keep from sinning?

How can you draw hope and/or joy from God's word?

II. Key Old Testament Covenants

What is the importance of God's covenant with Abraham to us?

Is God's covenant with Israel relevant in any way to God's relationship with his people today? If so, how?

Which of the Ten Commandments do you need to be more mindful of? How would doing so affect you and your life?

What difference/s was there between the righteousness granted to Abraham and that made available to Israel through the law?

What has God done to fulfill his promise to David that David's dynasty would last forever?

9. The Problem of Sin

I. General

Give a definition of sin.

In what way/s is our nature a “sinful” nature?

What are some consequences that people experience because of their own sin?

What does it mean to be “spiritually dead” (Col 2:13)?

Choose one aspect of the teaching on sin in this study which you think people often overlook. If people took this to heart, how might it change them?

II. The Law’s Provision for Israel’s Sin

Explain as simply as you can the concept of making atonement for a person who has sinned.

What was the significance of blood being shed in offerings for sin?

Why was there a need for a priest to offer a sacrifice to God on behalf of a person?

Why do you think that the Israelites persisted in sin and broke God’s covenant with them?

How are God's people today better able than the Israelites to resist sin?

10. God's Judgment

I. Basics

How should the assertion that God is the judge of the world encourage us?

In what ways does God discipline and cleanse his people today?

What aspects of the above teaching show God's judgment to be just and fair?

How does knowing that we will be judged and repayed according to what we have done, influence what you do?

If God did not judge us, would there have been any need for Jesus Christ to die?

II. The Manifestation of God's Judgment

How do you think God may carry out his judicial retribution in the present time? Are there any happenings that you think may be a manifestation of God's judgment?

What do you think about God's judgment at times involving horrendous consequences? Do you think it is fair?

Why do you think that God's judgment of the wicked is not more immediate?

Explain the concept of "reaping" what one "sows".

What lessons can we learn from Israel and its experience of God's judgment and mercy?

11.

God's Promised Messiah

I. The Messiah's Identity

What elements of the gospel message are in the passages from Isaiah 53?

Why is the assertion that Jesus Christ is the Messiah so significant to the Christian faith?

What messianic prophecies does Jesus Christ fulfill? (Do not confine your answer to what is mentioned in this study.)

How could you use Jesus Christ's fulfillment of messianic prophecies in testifying to other people about Jesus Christ?

What do you find to be the most compelling evidence that Jesus Christ is the Messiah?

II. The Messiah's Purpose and Person

What does the teaching that God sent Jesus - including the reasons for him doing so - show us about God?

Why was it necessary for Jesus to become fully human?

Why is the doctrine of the "virgin birth" important? What does it show about Jesus?

Choose one of Jesus' personal characteristics that you need to work on imitating. (It does not need to be one listed in this section.) What is a situation where you could show more of this?

What does the assertion that God works through Jesus Christ show about their relationship?

12. Jesus Christ's Mission

I. God's Enablement of Jesus Christ

What is one situation where being more conscious of Jesus Christ's authority would help you? How would it influence you?

Are there any aspects of God's empowerment of Jesus that have parallels to God's work through Christians?

What bearing should Jesus Christ's knowledge and wisdom have on your relationship with him (e.g. in trusting him)?

How or in what sense did God work through Jesus Christ?

What is one major plan or goal that you have in life? To what degree is it based (as Jesus' life was) on God's will?

II. Jesus Christ's Ministry, Death and Resurrection

How is the power that Jesus displayed relevant to our lives today?

What things about Jesus' life and teaching set him apart from other great teachers and their teaching?

What did Jesus mean by saying that "the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matt 4:17)?

Choose an aspect of Jesus' suffering and death that you find moving or particularly notable, and say why.

What makes you think Jesus was raised from the dead? (The group could make a list of reasons which could be used in talking to someone who is skeptical about it.)

13. Salvation through Jesus Christ

I. Salvation from Sin

The New Testament often refers to Jesus Christ's "blood". What is the significance of his "blood"?

How does Jesus Christ's death make atonement for sin?

Explain what the New Testament means by the term "righteousness". As part of your explanation, say how a person can become "righteous".

In what way/s does Jesus Christ and his death free us from sin?

Why is it so important that Jesus was raised from the dead? What would be the implications if he only died and did not rise from the dead?

II. Salvation for the World

Explain what Jesus meant in saying: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

How can simply believing in Jesus Christ bring eternal life?

How can the death of just one person, Jesus Christ, make amends for the sins of all people?

What is this "life" that people can have "abundantly" (John 10:10)?

What is involved in becoming or being a child of Abraham?

14. The New Order

I. Jesus Christ and the Law's Diminished Role

How does faith in Jesus Christ lead to righteousness?

How would you explain God's grace to somebody who was not familiar with it?

In what way did Jesus Christ realize or fulfill the law?

In what sense have God's people been released from the Old Testament Law?

How is the Old Testament Law relevant to Christians?

II. Key Elements of the New Order

What is the new covenant that God introduced through Jesus Christ?

How is the new covenant better than the old covenant?

What does Jesus Christ do in his role as high priest? How is this encouraging for you?

Explain what the kingdom of God involves.

How or to what degree do you think Jesus Christ asserts his sovereign authority today?

15. 'The Last Things'

I. Jesus Christ's Return and the Final Judgment

Are there any signs in the world today that Jesus Christ's return may be drawing near?

How does the teaching about Christ's return motivate and encourage you?

What do you find most challenging about the Bible's teaching on the final judgment, either in relation to yourself or to other people?

What factors will be taken into account when each person is judged?

What is your understanding of "the millennium"? Is there one of the common views that you think is most likely correct?

II. The Afterlife

Do you think much about eternity? What do you think it will involve for you?

List three ways in which the new creation will be better than the old. (You do not need to limit your answer to only what is mentioned in the above verses.)

What do you think that the "glory" that God's people will have will involve?

What does the prospect of living with and seeing God mean to you?

Have you become somewhat indifferent to the teaching about hell? How should we respond to it (e.g. in regard to ourselves or to others)?

16.

The Standing of God's People

What role does God play in a person becoming a Christian? What does the person do?

Why do Christians actually belong to God?

What is one significant way in which belonging to the family of God should affect our relationships with other Christians?

What are some key characteristics that mark the church as different from other organizations?

In what sense is the church God's temple? How should this affect the way we relate to one another in our church life?

II. Being 'in' Jesus Christ

What does being "in Jesus Christ" mean?

What are the implications or blessings of being "in Jesus Christ"?

In what sense do believers live with Jesus Christ?

What sorts of things should we do as working members of the body of Christ?

What do you think relating to God through Jesus Christ involves?

17. Keys to God's Interaction with His People

I. Basics

If we took the reality of God's presence with us to heart, how would it affect the way we think and act?

How do or how can God's people actually know God?

How does God show his love to you?

What is one of God's promises that you rely on (or try to rely on) in everyday life?

What does "grace" mean? Give a brief description of God's grace.

II. God's Holy Spirit in His People

What is significant about having the Holy Spirit?

How can we be confident that we do have the Holy Spirit?

Choose one of the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 (in *The Holy Spirit produces spiritual "fruit" in God's people*) that you need to focus on nurturing in yourself. What steps could you take to do this?

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

What should we do in order to rely on the Holy Spirit's help?

18. God's Transformation of His People

I. General

Describe in your own words the "spiritual life" that believers have.

In what ways are Christians a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)? What old things have gone?

What changes do you see in yourself, compared to before you became a Christian? How are you more like Jesus Christ?

Have you been conscious of God's discipline or testing? What is one point or verse in this section that you would find encouraging during such times?

How does God teach his people?

II. Spiritual Attributes

Choose one of love, faith and hope - and say what is unique about the believer's experience of it.

What did Jesus mean in speaking of his disciples' joy being "complete" (cf. John 15:11)?

To what degree do you experience God's joy and peace? What things can we do to have more of this joy and peace?

What wisdom and knowledge does a Christian have that others do not have?
How do Christians come to have such wisdom and knowledge?

Choose one verse or passage in this section that encourages you, and say why.

19. God's Care of His People

I. God's Saving of His People

How should believing that God is always able to save, affect the way we act and think?

What troubles with adversaries have you had in which God has helped you?

Is there anything that you need God to set you free from? What can you do to receive his help?

In what sense had John's readers "conquered the evil one" (1Jn 2:14b)?

Even with all the wonderful promises in the Bible, dreadful things still happen to some of God's people. Why do you think this is so?

II. God's Preservation of His People

How does God provide for you? How do you or how should you respond to this?

In what ways does God strengthen his people? (Answer as if you were explaining this to a new Christian.)

How is God a "refuge" for his people? What did David mean in speaking of taking refuge in God (cf. 2Sam 22:2-3)?

What assurance do we have that God will keep us, protecting us from being snatched away from him - or falling away from him?

Choose a verse from this or the previous study to bear in mind during difficult times. Either rewrite it in your own words or say why you chose it.

20. God's Plans for His People

I. General

How specific do you think God's plans are for each Christian?

What examples do you know of, where God has worked in bad things for his purposes?

Are you aware of a particular role or kind of work that God wants you to do? If not, what can you do to be open to God guiding you towards the work he wants you to do?

Pick a verse or concept that should make an impact on a Christian's approach to serving God. What impact should this have?

How does God guide us?

II. God's Plans for Israel

How do you interpret or understand the Old Testament prophecies of Israel's future renewal?

How does Israel's promised spiritual renewal mirror the renewed relationship of God and his people that has followed what Jesus Christ accomplished?

What aspects of our life with God in the afterlife are reflected here?

What encouragement can believers today draw from these verses?

What is the position or relationship of modern-day Israel in relation to God's people in general?

Why do we need to become like little children to enter God's kingdom (cf. Matt 18:2-4)?

Explain in your own words what it means to “repent”.

What does believing in Jesus Christ involve?

Explain the relationship between being forgiven and being made righteous or justified.

Are you sure of being right with God – and of salvation? If so, why?

II. Staying Right with God

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Why do you obey God?

Why is it important for believers to do good deeds?

How do we live by the Holy Spirit?

What do you need to bear in mind the most in order to better live by the Holy Spirit?

What does living “in” Jesus Christ involve?

22. Having Faith in God

I. Faith and Hope

What tips could you give to a younger Christian on how to “live by faith”?

How does trusting in God help you?

What is something that you need to learn to have faith in God to do?

What does putting your hope in God involve doing?

Why is hope important for faith? Can you think of any other reasons why hope is important?

II. What Not to Do

At what times do you doubt or lack faith? How can you counteract this?

What would you say to a believer beset with fear, to help them to instead trust in God?

What will you do the next time you get afraid or worried? (You could pick a verse to learn, in order to recall when faced with fear or worry.)

Do you trust in anything besides God? If so, what could you do to change the focus of your trust to God?

Choose a verse from this study to bear in mind for the next time you begin to be afraid or worry. Either rewrite it in your own words or say why you chose it.

23. Loving, Fearing and Obeying God

I. Loving and Fearing God

How does one love God? How can you love God more?

Why do you think that, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," is the greatest commandment?

What does fearing God involve? What differences are there between fearing God and fearing other people or things?

Do you agree that fear of God counteracts fear of people or things? If so, why?

How do you feel about the idea of fearing God? What is good about it?

II. Obeying God

What is one thing you could bear in mind or do that would help you obey God better?

What measures could you take to more effectively read and learn God's word?

What are the main attractions that tempt you to not obey God? Choose one thing (not necessarily from this chapter) that diminishes such attractions.

What does being a disciple of Jesus Christ involve?

Choose one aspect of Jesus Christ's example that you should imitate better.
What is a situation you are likely to encounter in which you could do so?

24. Communing with God

I. Being Close to God

What does “seeking God” involve doing?

What do you think about during times of inactivity (e.g. travelling on the train)? What could you do to remind yourself to focus on God in such times – as well as at other times?

Do you need to make better provision in your daily routine for meeting with God? If so, what could you do?

How is knowing God similar and/or different to knowing another person?

What can we do to know God better?

II. Praying to God

How does one “pray in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 1:20)?

What is meant by “pray continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)? How can we do this?

What is the significance of asking for things in Jesus’ name?

How do you think fasting helps in praying?

Will you receive whatever you ask for in prayer, if you believe? Explain your answer.

25. Exalting God

I. Instructions

What effect does praising and thanking God have on you?

What measures could you take to help yourself consistently praise and give thanks to God?

What is one thing in your everyday life that you would approach differently if you kept in mind the command to “do everything for the glory of God” (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:31)?

How does a person “rejoice”? What does it involve doing?

What are some ways that believers today may be prone to dishonor God?

II. Reasons to Exalt God

What is one of the things that you find most amazing about God?

Choose a verse (not necessarily from this study) that particularly inspires you to praise God. Explain why it does.

What is something that has occurred recently that you could praise or thank God for?

State one thing about God or one thing he has done, that you can readily rejoice in.

Make a list (to refer to in your prayer times) of things for which to praise and/or thank God, including concepts and even verses from this and the previous sections.

Why is it important to meet together with other Christians?

What is meant by: “Submit to one another” (Eph 5:21)? What are some common situations in which we ought to do this?

What is involved in having fellowship with other believers?

What do you (or could you) share in with people in your church?

Why does loving other Christians indicate that we are people of God?

II. Caring for the Body

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What is involved in praying “earnestly”?

What steps could you take to pray more consistently for members of your church?

Can you think of a time when another Christian encouraged you? How did this affect you?

What could you do this week to encourage a particular Christian in need of it?

Are you aware of anyone in your church that needs practical support? How could you assist them?

27. Worshiping God

I. General

What aspects of your church's worship times do you enjoy most? Is there any change that you would like to suggest?

Why should we worship God? (Do not limit your answer to just what is mentioned in the verses.)

What does it mean to worship God "in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24)?

How do we worship God "with reverence and awe" (Heb 12:28)?

What do you do to worship God? Is there anything else that you should do?

II. Offerings

Why is it important to give to God?

Do you agree that we should give the "firstfruits" to God? If so, why do you think it is important to do so?

How is Mark 12:41-44 applicable to us?

Is there any change you should make in how or what you give to God?

To what extent is your life a “living sacrifice” (Rom 12:1)?

28. Serving God

I. Preliminary Instructions and Insights

Why should we serve God? And how are we better off for doing so?

What should we do to prepare ourselves to serve God?

How devoted are you to serving God? What changes could you make to be more devoted?

What do you understand Jesus to mean when he says that God “cuts off every branch of mine that does not produce fruit” (John 15:2)?

What should one do in seeking to be guided by God?

II. Doing God’s Work

How can we ensure our work will produce “the kind of fruit that will last” (John 15:16)?

In what ways should the following factors influence us in doing God’s work: without Jesus we “can accomplish nothing” (John 15:5); and it is God who makes the fruit of our work “sprout and grow” (1Cor 3:6–7)?

What are the advantages of working with other believers in serving God?

Which gift of the Holy Spirit do you think you have? If you are not sure, how could you find out?

What work do you do for God? What other work could you do for God?

29. Significant Practices

I. Symbolic Rites

What is meant by being baptized in (or into) the name of Jesus Christ?

Does a person need to be baptized to be a Christian?

Explain the significance or meaning of the Lord's Supper?

Should you do anything differently when you take part in the Lord's Supper (either before or during it)?

Is there any practice amongst Christians and churches today that you think is - like circumcision - needless, or even detrimental?

II. Other Significant Practices

What does "confessing" Jesus Christ involve?

Why is it important to confess Jesus Christ?

What are the advantages or benefits of keeping the Sabbath holy?

How could you use fasting in your life as a believer?

What is the significance of laying hands on people?

30. Church Leadership

I. General

What part does God take in the choosing of church leaders? How can churches take this into account when choosing leaders?

State two or three key ways in which a leader should be an example for others to follow.

What aspect of care do you yourself value the most in a church leader?

What things should a church leader do to strengthen members in the faith?

What do you do in fulfilling your responsibilities as a church member towards your leader/s? Is there anything else you could do?

II. Teaching in the Church

Why is the Bible critical for Christian teaching?

What is one aspect of the way good preachers teach that you find helpful, as a listener?

Choose a common characteristic of false teaching and - if you can - give an example of how it can be seen in false teaching in the church today.

How can we recognize false teachers and false teaching?

If you were aware of false teaching in your church or fellowship, what action could you take?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 mentions a number of characteristics of love. Which of these do you: value the most; and need to bear in mind the most (in order to better love others)?

Do you have enemies? What can you do to love them?

How is a person who forgives better off for doing so? (Do not limit your answer to just what is mentioned in the verses.)

In what ways do you judge others? How can you avoid doing this?

Consider the actions/principles being proposed in Matthew 5:38-42 (*Be Meek*). Can you think of a situation you may well find yourself in, where one of these could be applied?

II. Antitheses of Love

Choose one person that you have a lot of contact with. What is one way or area in which you could put their interests ahead of your own?

How do you deal with your anger? Do you have any tips on how to control anger?

What causes bitterness? What outcomes can it have if we remain bitter?

How can we stop ourselves from grumbling or complaining?

Which of the things mentioned do you see as most prominent in yourself? What verse/s could you use to help counteract this?

32. Justice

I. Justice in Action

Why is it more important to do what is right and just than to make offerings to God (cf. Prov 21:3)?

Are there any situations where you find it hard not to show favoritism?

To what extent is Jesus' command to sell your possessions and give to the poor (Luke 12:33) meant to be taken literally?

Why is giving justice to the poor linked with knowing God (Jer 22:15b-16a)?

Almost all of us are able to do more to speak up for and provide for the poor. What could you do? What do you intend to do?

II. Being True

Give an example of how a person has shown faithfulness to you. Describe what it meant to you.

What does integrity involve?

Is telling a lie ever justifiable?

Is there anything in which you find it hard not to be hypocritical?

Is there a situation where you might be tempted to make dishonest gain? How can one who is susceptible to such temptations learn to resist?

33. Wisdom

I. Being Wise

How can one distinguish between godly wisdom and worldly wisdom? What is the difference?

Do you actively try to gain more wisdom? What things should you do - or do differently - to achieve this?

What personality traits or attitudes help one to readily accept correction and rebuke?

What areas of weakness do you have in regard to your speech? What can you do about them?

How does one's heart determine one's words (cf. Matthew 12:34-35)?

II. Antitheses of Wisdom and Knowledge

Explain the connection between foolishness and ungodliness.

If one has a quick temper, what measures could one take to keep it in check? For example, what personal attributes could one develop to counter it?

How does sin lead to spiritual ignorance?

How do people become closed-minded? How can we recognize if we ourselves are closed-minded (e.g. in regard to aspects of the Bible's teachings)?

How can a person study the Scriptures thoroughly, yet like the Jewish religious leaders (cf. John 5:39-40) fail to grasp key things that they say?

34. Common Relationships

I. Family Relationships

What are some specific things husbands should do in applying the teaching regarding loving their wives?

Should wives submit to their husbands? Explain your answer.

What aspects of your parents' love and care did you value and feel you should imitate?

What things should disciplining of children involve – and not involve?

What other things could you do for your parents and/or grandparents?

II. Civil Relationships

Is there a situation where you find it hard to obey the governing authorities? Is there anything that you can or should do about it?

In what sense are the governing authorities God's servants (cf. Rom 13:3b-4)?

What can we do on behalf of other citizens who are not treated justly by the authorities - in our own country or overseas (e.g. in regard to Christians persecuted by their government)? What do you intend to do?

Are you in a position of authority over others? If so, how can you improve the way you relate to those under your authority?

In relating to your employer, what do you need to keep in mind the most?

35. Spreading the Gospel

I. Instructions

Write down what you think are the main points to mention when telling someone the gospel.

What should we tell people about the kingdom of God?

What have you witnessed personally (regarding God or Jesus Christ) that you can tell others about?

Is there anything in this section that you - or Christians generally - tend to overlook when spreading the gospel?

Who could you share the gospel with? Do you need to do anything beforehand to prepare?

II. Insights

What evidence is there that the gospel message has not been made up? Do you know of a good book or resource about this?

What responsibility do you feel to tell others the gospel?

Can you tell of any instances - ones you have either witnessed or know of - where you are sure of God's power being behind the spreading of the gospel?

In what ways are you aware of spiritual warfare?

Some people worry a lot about Satan and demons, while others are not concerned at all. How should we view them?

What is one spiritual weapon you could make better use of? How could you?

Explain Paul's claim that believers have "complete victory" through Christ against adversaries and hardship (Rom 8:37; cf. vv. 31-39).

Do you have any "gods", things that you give a higher priority to than you do to God? If so, what can you do about them?

37. Rejecting Sin

I. Encountering Sin

What effects of sin have you been aware of in your own life, or in the lives of people you know?

What should we do about sin that we have committed?

What is involved in turning back to God with all our heart (cf. Joel 2:12)?

Why is it important to be sorry for sin? To what extent should we be sorrowful?

Is there any response to our own sin that is mentioned here, that you have not previously considered or often overlook? If so, how do you think this response might be helpful?

II. Avoiding Sin and Being Holy

Explain in your own words what it means to “live according to the Spirit” (cf. Romans 8:3b-5)?

How does being preoccupied with doing what is right – including doing good deeds – help us to avoid sin? What right or good things could you be more focused on doing?

What suggestions would you give to someone who is struggling to avoid sin?

What is involved in being holy?

Is there anything of this world - even something that is not necessarily sinful in itself - which you need to separate yourself from?

38. Major Pitfalls

I. Pride

What are the dangers of thinking that you are wise or clever?

How can we avoid being self-righteous?

Why is pride so detrimental to a relationship with God?

Do you boast about yourself in any subtle (or not so subtle) way?

How does one “be humble”? What attitudes and actions does it involve?

II. Riches and Sex

How do riches form a barrier to our relationship with God?

If you are presently contemplating buying new clothes or making renovations to your house, how necessary are these? What steps can we take in order to be content and get by with what we have?

Do you use/invest your money primarily for your future on earth or your future in the afterlife?

How is sexual sin detrimental to oneself?

What should we do in order to “test and examine our ways” (Lam 3:40)?

39. Hard Times

I. General

Are there any phrases and depictions of suffering in these verses that you identify with – from past or present experience of intense suffering? If so, which?

How do you think you would find it helpful to grieve and mourn over loss “before” God?

Is there a verse/s that you turn to in hard times – or can you think of one/s that would be helpful? If so, share it with the group.

What is involved in trusting in God during suffering?

How should we apply Old Testament verses such as Psalms 91:9–12 in the light of New Testament verses which speak of faithfulness to Jesus Christ bringing suffering, even death?

II. Praying in Hard Times

What is meant by “pour out your heart” to God (cf. Psalms 62:8)? How does doing this help in suffering?

Apart from God’s response, how does persisting in prayer benefit a suffering person – both during the suffering and afterwards?

What is one thing mentioned (or perhaps a verse) that you ought to keep in mind when facing hard times? How would it help you?

With a difficult time in your life in view – past or present – compose a prayer acknowledging your difficulty but also giving praise and thanks to God. Perhaps draw upon phrases from the verses.

Can you think of a time when God responded to suffering – either in your life or that of someone close to you?

40. Persecution

I. The Persecution of God's People

What kinds of persecution, if any, have you faced because of your faith?

Believers in some countries face intense persecution. What obligations do we have to them as fellow believers? How can we support them?

What is your understanding of the concept of an antichrist of the end times?

What points should Christians bear in mind from the teachings about the time of the beast or antichrist, even in facing persecution in the present?

Choose a verse or passage from the last section (*God's Care of Persecuted Believers*) that you find particularly striking or encouraging. How would you use it or find it helpful when facing persecution?

II. What to Do in Persecution

How do faith and hope inspire endurance (cf. 2 Thes 1:4; 1 Thes 1:3)?

What attitude and actions should be part of our response to those who persecute us?

How could you bring yourself to rejoice in persecution and difficulties?

What would you do if you were experiencing persecution? How could you bring yourself to respond in the ways mentioned in this section?

Choose a blessing of enduring persecution and difficulties – not necessarily from this chapter – that you can particularly relate to. (It may be one you have experienced or simply find encouraging.) Say why you chose it.
