



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY[®]

*Program
Study Guides*

**For
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Never Alone Psalm 139:1-5

Living alone presents many emotional and spiritual _____. Today we're exploring what God _____ for those who live alone. The Scriptures are God's _____ book for everyone, in every stage of life, and in every circumstance. Whatever struggle or heartache you face, God has some _____ and help for you. He hasn't forgotten or abandoned you. He knows and _____ about you. I did a funeral for an elderly man who had no family at all. Three funeral directors and I carried his casket to the graveside service; two ladies from the nursing home and I sang some hymns. No one else attended. Six people, no family, no friends! This man was utterly alone and buried by strangers.

Loneliness is a growing _____ in our society. Loneliness is a widespread problem; and in fact, one in four people _____ about feeling lonely frequently. Persistent loneliness can _____ our mental and our physical health.

The LORD God said, "It's not _____ for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). Living without a spouse is _____, whether you've never married, become a widow, or have been divorced. Loneliness is painful and can _____ you into thinking that you are a loser or an outcast, but that's not necessarily so.

Our reading today comes from one of the Psalms of David, Psalm 139:1-5.

Loneliness makes people _____ sad and empty, cut off from others and needing companionship. Loneliness typically includes _____ because people need to connect with family. We all _____ a companion who shares our lives and dreams, who walks through life with us, who experiences our joys and sorrows, and who shares our responsibilities and decisions. Connecting with another is _____ than living in the same house. One can feel lonely even when _____ by other people.

The Bible tells of several people who lived lonely _____. Joseph, the son of Jacob, grew up in a large _____; but his half-brothers hated him so much that they sold him into _____. At a young age, he lived as a _____ in a foreign land, Egypt. His master's wife tried repeatedly to seduce him. When he refused her advances, she falsely accused him and he spent years in _____, separated from home and family. I can only imagine how Joseph must have felt. However, Genesis 39:21 says, "But the Lord was with Joseph and extended _____ to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer." Whatever Joseph _____, the Lord was with him. The Lord protected and provided for him what

he _____, even if his family was far away. Joseph was able to endure his hardships and keep his _____, because he knew the Lord was with him.

Jesus walked alone _____ of his life. He never had a wife and children, but gave Himself completely to His mission of _____ people from sin. Jesus had _____ all around Him all of His life. He grew up in a _____ with several brothers and sisters. He chose and trained twelve disciples who accompanied Him in His _____. Jesus often stayed in the home of _____ like Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. Multitudes _____ Him wherever He went. In spite of all this, Jesus _____ much of life alone and did what no other person could do. He went to the _____ alone. While praying at Gethsemane His disciples fell _____. His familiar friend, Judas, betrayed Him; Peter denied Him three times; and the rest were scattered from Him.

Like Joseph Jesus found _____ in His relationship with His Father in heaven. Jesus said, "Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I'm not alone, because the Father is with Me." (John 16:32). Jesus found the strength that He _____ in the Father, and so can you.

Read 1 Peter 2:21-23 where Peter revealed how Jesus dealt with lonely suffering. When Jesus suffered most, He put His life and His _____ into the hands of the heavenly Father. There He _____ comfort and support.

Jesus began and ended His ordeal on the cross with _____. The Lord Jesus prayed, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not _____ will, but _____ be done" (Luke 22:42). While Jesus wanted to _____ the cross on one hand, He wanted to _____ the will of the Father on the other. Hebrews 5:7 says, "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was _____ because of his reverence."

As they were crucifying the Lord Jesus He was praying, "Father, _____ them; for they do not know what they're doing" (Luke 23:34). Instead of _____ on their cruelty and the overwhelming pain of large nails going through His hands and feet, Jesus was _____ about their souls. Jesus prayed for them to be forgiven. We often focus on the _____ and the _____ in life, but Jesus focused on saving people from their _____.

In Matthew 27:46, the Lord Jesus "cried out with a loud voice, saying ... 'My God, my God, why have you _____ me?'" Did you know that these are words from Psalm 22:1. Psalm 22 is the _____ Messianic of all the psalms of David. It begins with a _____ of forsakenness; it speaks of the wagging of the head in verse 7; predicts the piercing of His _____ and _____ in verse 16; and speaks of the _____ of His garments in verse

18. Verse 27 speaks of all the _____ turning to and worshiping the Lord. Could it be the Lord Jesus was reciting this Scripture to Himself and reassuring Himself that His death was not in _____?

Jesus _____ entrusting Himself to the Father. Luke 23:46 says, “Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my _____!’ And having said this he breathed his _____.” From the beginning to the end of this excruciating ordeal, Jesus found His strength in _____. His example will _____ us in our times of pain and loneliness. First Peter 4:19 says, “Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall _____ their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.” When you’re lonely, entrust your soul to a _____ who will not let you down.

The apostle Paul provides another _____ for those who live as singles. He said, “To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to _____ single as I am” (1 Corinthians 7:8). He realized that not everyone had the gift to live the single life yet he felt there were many _____ to living as a single. Paul knew that having family would get in the way of his ministry, and he wanted to be _____ of any responsibility except to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul _____ faced great difficulties. They put Paul in prison five times, and he spent about five years of his life in _____. If you read through the book of Philippians, you wouldn’t think of Paul as depressed or defeated even though he was in prison when he _____ it. Instead, he spoke of his _____ in that letter more than twenty times.

Paul learned the secret of being _____ in whatever circumstances he found himself. He explains, “I know how to be brought _____, and I know how to _____. In any and every circumstance, I’ve _____ the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things _____ him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:12-13). Paul found God’s _____ was sufficient for him, even when he was suffering. Having God in his life _____ _____ for all the things that he didn’t have. Paul also understood what it’s like to face _____ alone. **Read what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:16-18.**

When you’re lonely, think on the _____ of God. They will _____ you. **Read what the Lord God said in Psalm 68:5-6.** If you have God with you, you have far _____ than many of the largest families. The Lord Jesus promised, “and lo, I’m with you _____, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). The Lord Jesus _____ with His people. I love the Lord’s promise in John 14:23, “If anyone loves me, he will _____ my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our _____ with him.” The Father and the Lord Jesus make their home with those who love Him enough to _____ Him. The Lord God _____ Joshua, “I will not fail you or forsake you” (Joshua 1:5). This promise is _____ to Christians in Hebrews 13:5. David said, “I’ve been young, and

now I'm old, yet I've not seen the righteous _____ or his children begging for bread" (Psalm 37:25). When no one else was there for David, _____ was (Psalm 27:10).

Read what God said to the people of Jerusalem through the prophet in Isaiah 49:15-16.

God thinks continually of His _____. He thinks of their physical _____, their spiritual _____, and their emotional _____. The Lord Jesus reminds us that "your Father knows what you _____ before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:8).

David kept himself aware of the _____ of God. Our reading today came from Psalm 139:1-5. David describes how intimately God _____ him. God knew everything about him, how he _____, how he _____, even what he _____ about. God had known David from his _____ in his mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-14). No one knows you and me as intimately as _____. He's watched over us every day of our lives, heard every prayer, known every thought, and provided every need. You cannot go anywhere outside the _____ of God.

How does this help? Because you too can say, "I'm not alone; the _____ is with me." You too can say His _____ is sufficient for you. You too can say He will _____ leave you or forsake you. Give yourself to God! The outspoken atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, who went to court to take _____ out of the schools, clearly sensed something was _____ from her life. She wrote in her diary in 1977 that she had failed as a _____, as a _____, and as a politician. In a half dozen places in her diaries O'Hair wrote, "Somebody, somewhere, _____ me." We all _____ to love and to be loved. There's one place in your heart and soul that no one can fill but God. The loneliest person in the world isn't the one who _____ family, but the one who has _____ God.

Some folks allow their love for God to _____ as years pass. **Read what the Lord Jesus said to the lukewarm church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:20.** The Lord Jesus wanted to _____ the warm and intimate fellowship He once had with the church in Laodicea, and He wants to have that same intimacy with you. Do you have a close, loving, peaceful relationship with the Lord?

Draw close to God; make Him _____ of your life every day! Become a Christian by placing your faith and your _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He will never _____ to you and wants to _____ you from your sins. Out of love, _____ of your sins by forsaking them and following the Lord. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, and be _____ into Christ, united with Him. We're crucified with Christ in baptism that our body of _____ might be done away with according to Romans 6:3-7. God _____ away our sins in baptism according to Acts 22:16. Oh, become a Christian today!

Keeping My Zeal

2 Peter 1:5-11

Some Christians live their lives to the fullest, while others _____ aimlessly. Some passionately pursue their _____, while others are lukewarm. How can we keep our passion and zeal for God _____? We love to study the Bible because we know the real _____ of the Bible is God. Peter said, "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit _____ from God" (2 Peter 1:20-21). Men didn't _____ up the words of the Bible; rather God's spokesmen, the prophets, were _____ by the Spirit to speak. They said what God _____ for us to know, to believe, and to do. Because the Bible is from God, we can _____ to understand the heart of God and His love for us.

Today we're asking the question, "How can I _____ my zeal for Christ and _____ my passion for God?" I don't want a bored and dull _____. I don't want to _____ what the Lord has done for me. The Lord created me, loved me, protected me, provided for me, taught me, disciplined me, and is preparing a home for me in _____. How could I become apathetic toward one who has heard my _____ and opened doors for me? David expressed my heart, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my _____ pants for you, O God. My soul _____ for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" (Psalm 42:1-2). God is our hope, our joy, and our Savior. Staying close to Him will _____ our passion alive.

Our reading today comes from 2 Peter 1:5-11.

Have you _____ been thirsty, really thirsty? The kind of thirst that _____ you find some water? Israel knew what it was to have _____ water available. Israel had seasons of rain and seasons that didn't have much rain. Their _____ would flow in the rainy seasons and _____ up at other times. They could collect water in their _____, hoping to have enough water to last until the rains returned. In the seventh century B.C., Israel turned its back on _____ and followed after the vain _____ of nations surrounding them. God said about Israel, "for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the _____ of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13). By forsaking God, they also had forsaken the _____ of life. Don't imagine something else can take the _____ of God. Nothing and no one can. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and _____ for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." When was the last time that you were thirsty for

righteousness or for God? When did you last feel that being close to Him, worshiping Him, or listening to Him was an immediate _____? It's easy to forget what you have and take God for _____. God _____ when people ignore Him, and forget Him, and forsake Him. Do you imagine that God will _____ to your side when you have neglected Him for many years?

Good relationships demand _____ and _____. Just like a marriage or any relationship, it can grow _____; and so our love for God can grow _____ over time. If we want to strengthen our relationship, then we must take the _____ to make it grow and develop. We must first start paying close _____ to what God says. **Read Hebrews 2:1-3.** If we _____ to listen to God's Word, we'll fail to please Him and risk the salvation of our souls. Some people ignore God until they _____ Him. They focus their minds on the things of this world while they slowly _____ away from God to pursue their _____ interests. They _____ going to worship at church; they stop studying the Scriptures; they stop praying; and they begin talking and acting like the _____. When some disaster then comes along, they feel God is _____. God doesn't forget His people, but His _____ frequently forget Him.

If you really want to have God in your heart, take a long look at what the Lord endured on the _____. The Lord Jesus said, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will _____ all men to Myself" (John 12:32). The Lord Jesus _____ you beyond measure. He opened His heart to reach out to _____. He bore the cross to die for the _____, not just of the whole world, but also for you. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own _____ toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." He didn't rule you out because you were _____. The only people Jesus died for were _____. See the _____ of thorns on His head, see the _____ through His hands and feet, see His _____ bloodied by the scourge, see His _____ pierced by the soldier, and see His _____ offered for you. He suffered the _____ of people mocking Him. He sacrificed Himself, "and with his _____ we are healed." "The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us _____" (Isaiah 53:6). If the _____ of what happened on the cross doesn't touch you like it once did, perhaps it's because you've let other things cause your _____ to harden. Worldliness and sin cause people's hearts to grow _____.

Jesus didn't die on the cross to proclaim a _____ and _____ gospel that puts you in the center of the universe. He didn't _____ on the cross to help you become a millionaire, lose weight or overcome your fears and anxieties. He sacrificed Himself to redeem your soul from _____ and to give you _____ life. His blood _____ away your sin and causes you to be _____ again, so you'll be created in His image and become like Him. The Lord is interested in your _____ man; and one day He will _____ your soul on whether you gave of yourself as a humble servant.

In times of great prosperity, people tend to take their minds off God and put them on their own personal _____. **Read what Moses warned Israel as they were about to cross the Jordan and enter the promised land in Deuteronomy 8:11-14.** Don't let your blessings _____ you from remembering the One who gave you those blessings (James 1:17). Apart from God we would have _____. God is the One who gives us the _____ to think, to work, and to make money. **Read what Moses said in Deuteronomy 8:17-18.** The world wants you to be _____ of all of your accomplishments. The Lord wants you to _____ that every blessing you have comes from what God provides in you and for you.

Some people turn away from God because they've _____ some trying experience or circumstance. Rather than pull away from God, we need to _____ to God when we face a struggle or a heartache. We should _____ to God for strength, for help, for encouragement, and for assurance.

We draw close to God by making Him a _____ in our lives every single day. We study the Bible because it _____ God's thinking and His will for our lives. To know God we have to _____ to His words. We pray because we want God to _____ our hearts. God doesn't want us to _____ praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:13). If you want to be zealous for God, then make being with God a _____ exercise. You build good relationships; they don't just _____.

To draw close to God, remember what He has _____ for you. **Read what David said in Psalm 103:1-5.** God is ever _____ to you. Consider how God has answered your _____, given you the Scriptures that give us hope and comfort, and strengthened you through the years.

If you want to draw close to God, keep your eyes on _____. **Read Colossians 3:1-4.**

To draw close to God, focus on the _____. **Read Philippians 4:8.** When we concentrate on the negative, we lose _____ of God; but when we concentrate on the positive, we _____ more thankful to God.

If you wish to be close to God, you've got to give Him _____ in your life. You must get the _____ out of your heart and soul. Just as weeds can take over a garden, so spiritual weeds can take over your _____. Weeds _____ plants of the space and the nourishment that they need to grow and produce. Likewise, distractions of life can rob us of our _____ and our _____ for God. The Lord Jesus said, "The seed that fell among the thorns, this stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are _____ by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature" (Luke 8:14). Many Christians _____ to grow in their faith and in their relationship with God because they _____ themselves to things that push God out of their lives. We must _____ not to let the things of this world come between God and us.

Sin destroys our _____ to serve God because it replaces God and enslaves us. Ephesians 4:27 says, “do not give the devil an _____.” If you let sin into your life it will _____ your heart. The Lord Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that everyone who commits sin is the _____ of sin” (John 8:34). To overcome sin, you must put it to _____. Romans 6:11 says, “Even so consider yourselves to be _____ to sin, but _____ to God in Christ Jesus.” You can't cut down a weed and expect to kill it; you must _____ it. If you simply cut it down, you'll see it _____ back. Sin is like that. You can't just _____ on sin and expect that sin to go away. You must _____ it altogether. Unless it's completely stopped, it'll keep growing and crowding out what is good and productive.

You can't grow to be a productive and authentic Christian if you _____ God out by your whims and desires. You must give Him room in your life to _____. Many people let their jobs, and their hobbies, or their recreation come _____ God and themselves. None of these things is _____ in and of themselves; but if you let something, anything, take you away from your God, you can lose your _____. Jesus said, “But _____ the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

All this matters because it _____ our relationship and our zeal for God. When our relationship is _____, then our hearts want to serve God; but when our relationship is _____, we let other things dominate our lives. If you _____ to be zealous for God, then set your heart upon the Lord Jesus and upon all the blessings He has in store for you in eternity

Is there anything in your life that's _____ you from being close to God? Some people never pick up a _____, never utter a _____, and never go to _____. Is it any wonder that they feel _____ from God? They've _____ the Lord out of their lives; and people grieve God when they shut Him out. He hasn't _____ loving or caring for us, but it tears at God's heart to be abandoned by His people. If you're letting _____ have a place in your heart, then it's time to put an end to that sin. You can't love sin and love God at the same _____ (James 4:4).

To be rid of sin, you must _____. Repentance is an act of the heart that says, “I will no longer do what _____ God, but what will _____ Him.” In repentance, we put a _____ to sin, but we must also be forgiven. The Lord forgives us when by faith and repentance we're willing to _____ Jesus Christ as the Son of God and be _____. In baptism, we're _____ with Christ, “in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin” (Romans 6:6). Baptism is that time that God _____ us from sin. Don't let your love for Christ grow _____. Don't grow _____ of your faith and lose heart. Renew your faith. Restore your heart. Revive your spirit. Demonstrate your faith and love. Listen to God, love God, pray to God, grow a desire for God, and tell everyone about His goodness and kindness in Christ Jesus. Get involved!

What Have You Done?

Psalm 15

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

How would your _____ describe you? Would they say you were a _____ person or a rascal? Today we're asking people to _____ at themselves to see how they've lived. When life is over, we'll look back at our lives wondering what we've done that _____. Did we please the _____ or did we please ourselves? Were we a _____ to the people around us or did we bring them _____? Many spend their entire lives pursuing _____ paths, but the one who is faithful to God pursues righteousness. What have you done with your life? What will people _____ about you?

Many Christians are content to be Christians in _____ only. They want to wear the name, but they aren't willing to take their _____ seriously. My friend, Steve Higginbotham, recently wrote about some misplaced _____ of people today. He said, "We want a Savior, but we don't want a _____. We want a crown, but we don't want a _____. We want a _____, but we don't want to sow the seed. We want to go to Heaven, but we won't go to _____. We want to grow spiritually, but we don't want to feed on his _____. We want Hollywood to 'clean up its act,' but we don't want to stop _____. We want the _____ to pray, even in school, but we don't want to pray. We want the Ten Commandments posted, but we don't want to _____ by their moral principles. We want to love God, but we don't want to abhor _____. We want to die the death of the righteous, but we don't want to abandon the lifestyle of the _____." People want to go to _____, but they don't live as Christians should. What about you? What have you done with your life?

Our reading today comes from Psalm 15.

The Bible gives some interesting assessments of people's lives. Genesis 5:24 says, "Enoch _____ with God, and he was not, for God took him." We learn from Hebrews 11:5, "By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see _____, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having _____ God." Walking with God pleases Him. James 2:23 calls Abraham "the _____ of God." Are you God's friend? God said, "I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my _____, who will do all my will" (Acts 13:22). Are you doing all the _____ of God?

Then, there is the evil King Jehoram who _____ all of his brothers with a sword. When he died, 2 Chronicles 21:20 says of him, "And he departed with no one's _____. They

buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.” In the New Testament, we find Judas Iscariot, who stole money from the money bag and _____ the Lord Jesus with a kiss. We also find Demas. Though Demas had once been faithful, 2 Timothy 4:10 says, “For Demas, in _____ with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.” Were you once faithful, and have you _____ away from the Lord? The Bible teaches that we’ll be _____ according to our works, whether good or bad. Jesus promised, “For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person _____ to what he has done” (Matthew 16:27). Jesus said, “And all the churches will know that I am he who _____ the mind and the heart, and I will give to each of you according to your _____” (Revelation 2:23). How we live matters. Our works tell what’s in our hearts, and the Lord will judge us by whether we have _____ Him or not.

The first thing God looks for in people is whether they _____ (Hebrews 11:6). A faithful Christian believes the _____ and knows the love of God. His faith is not merely a belief, but is a way of _____. He takes Whom he believes and what God _____ seriously.

There are different _____ of faith. Some people believe intellectually, they say God exists and His way is right, but their belief doesn’t influence their _____. They are believers in their _____ but not in their _____. God wants our faith to be _____ than that. He wants us to believe on the involvement level, that is, our faith should impact how we live and our _____. We ought to do more than just believe Christ Jesus rose from the _____. We live in obedience to Him, because we understand that He will _____ us up one day. We ought to do more than believe that Jesus is Lord; we ought to _____ Him as our Lord.

Unless our faith matters enough for us to _____ it, it’s not any good. We must _____ on what we believe. We must move from a _____ faith to a _____ one. **Read James 2:14-16.** We want a living, active faith that makes a _____ in our own lives and blesses the lives of others.

Someone asks, “Aren’t we saved by faith _____?” While it’s true that we’re saved by faith, to talk about “faith alone” is to talk about a _____ faith. **Read James 2:18-19.** Saying that you have faith, but are unwilling to demonstrate that faith makes you no better than the _____ who believe so strongly that they shudder at the thought of God. What are you doing with your faith? **Read James 2:20-24.** When God tested Abraham, Abraham demonstrated his faith by _____ his son Isaac upon the altar. Of course, God didn’t allow him to slay his son; God was _____ him to see if he would _____ Him. Many years earlier, God told Abraham to _____ his home and family and go to a strange place. Hebrews 11:8 says, “By faith Abraham _____ when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.” Faith obeys! A dead faith _____ a good game, but a living faith _____ what it believes.

John the Baptist said, “whoever believes in the Son has _____ life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the _____ of God abides on him” (John 3:36). God never speaks approvingly of a faith that will not _____. The disobedient can expect one day to see the _____ of God. A believer who will not obey will never enjoy God’s _____. **Read 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.** God loves everybody, but His grace and favor is extended to those who _____ and _____ Him.

Because of this, we must _____ from being spectators to being participants. Some say, “I love Jesus, but I don’t want to be in the _____.” The church is the _____ of Jesus, the _____ of Christ. If you love and want to be _____ Jesus, then you must be _____ of His church. The church was and is His idea and it’s His _____. Faith in Christ and worshiping with the church is not like going to a basketball game where we can sit in the stands and _____ others on the floor. God _____ each of us to sing, to pray, to listen to the Bible, to commune with Him in the Lord’s Supper, and to support the work of the church. Living for God means I am _____ producing fruit every day, working for His cause, carrying my cross, sharing the gospel, and blessing the lives of other people. The Lord Jesus said, “By this is My Father glorified, that you _____ much fruit, and so _____ to be My disciples” (John 15:8). Don’t _____ your faith, live it, live it out every day.

Ralph Grant in his book, Letters to the Seven Churches, told the story of the Franks during the Dark Ages. When the gospel came to Northern Europe, large numbers of these savage tribes were being _____. These people had been warriors for generations, so teaching them the ways of _____ was difficult. They were not _____ they wanted to give up their savage fighting, so they went into the waters of baptism holding their battle-axes up out of the water. They would say, “This _____ has never been baptized!” They were willing to make a commitment to Christ in some things but would not _____ their fighting.

Of course, one is either _____ baptized, or he’s not really baptized at all. There’s no such thing as baptizing “everything but the hand.” God only accepts us on His _____; and He will not accept anything less than a _____ commitment. God doesn’t want some parts of you; He wants _____ of you. This is one reason baptism into Christ is an immersion of the _____ person in water; baptism is a total commitment to God. The whole person is _____ and raised with Christ, the whole person has all his sins _____, and the whole person rises from the water to walk in _____ of life (Romans 6:4).

We sing the hymn, “All to Jesus I Surrender.” Have you _____ surrendered all to the Lord Jesus? Are you totally committed? Listening to the way some Christians talk, I wonder if their _____ were ever baptized? Some continually _____, and others constantly _____. Some tell dirty jokes, while others take the name of the Lord in _____.

Christians _____ half-truths, and others are given to slander. Taming the tongue is difficult, but becoming a Christian means keeping a close _____ on our mouths. James sadly said, “from the same mouth come both _____ and _____. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way” (James 3:10).

The selfish and evil thinking of some Christians makes you wonder if their _____ were ever baptized. Some are full of _____, while others are full of _____. They think _____ of others and they step on others to get an advantage. Becoming a Christian means putting Christ first, others second, and ourselves _____. **Read Philippians 2:3-4.**

Considering what some people watch on television or at the movies, you’d wonder if their _____ and their _____ were baptized? Some Christians have grown callous to sinful words, nudity, violence, anger, and _____ of immoral behavior. Years ago, people expected the movie industry to maintain some moral _____. If a movie contained ungodly language or behavior, people _____ and told the theater managers they didn’t care for such indecent movies. Today, one can hardly go to a movie or watch a television program that doesn’t have indecent language or behavior. What are you letting into your _____?

How some people treat others makes you wonder if their _____ were baptized? Some people simply don’t know how to be _____ with others or how to _____. They seem to have _____ the words of our Lord, “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12). Many people live with anger, fear, or hatred in their _____. **Read Ephesians 4:31-32.** How are you _____? Do you _____ God?

God sets the bar high for those who would follow Him. **Read what he Lord Jesus said in Luke 14:26-27.** God expects us to love Him _____ than anything else, and to put Him first. Someone asks, “Aren’t we saved by _____?” Yes, and that grace is a precious _____ that can’t be _____. Because the gift is precious, God _____ our lives to see whether we have genuinely received the gift or took it for granted. The Lord Jesus out of love paid a very high _____ to save us from sin. The Lord will _____ us according to our response to His grace. Have you lived in a way that _____ that you love the Lord?

To enjoy the gift of salvation, we must lovingly _____ to His grace by faith, by repenting of our sins, by confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and by being _____ into Christ. When we love the Lord, we don’t argue with the Lord about what to do but simply _____ Him. We obey _____ we believe, and our obedience _____ our faith. Acts 2:38 still says, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Won’t you do that today?

The God of the Bible Isaiah 40:25-26

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Who is the God of the Bible and what is He _____? Today we will look at what God _____ about himself. The Bible isn't simply another book; it's God's book, divinely inspired and full of _____. Through the Bible _____ reveals His character, His heart, and His nature. Bible history is truly His _____. Scripture reveals _____ He created and interacted with man through the centuries. God _____ everyone and has always wanted what is _____ for us. This is why we spend our time studying the Bible.

We know many _____ to believe in God: the starry heavens above, the moral law within, the complexity of the cells of our body are only a few. These things couldn't have just happened by _____; they came by intelligent _____. Only a supremely intelligent and powerful Being could have _____ them. Romans 1:20 says God's "invisible attributes, namely, his eternal _____ and divine _____, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made." We can perceive some things about God from looking at the _____, but to know God truly, we must go to _____.

If God did in fact, create us, then we need to _____ Him. We need to know _____ we can come into a relationship with Him and what He desires from us. We can't find that in the woods or by the seashore; we _____ God by looking into His divinely revealed Word, the Bible. Only the Bible can help us _____ His character, His nature, and His love for us.

Our reading today comes from Isaiah 40:25-26.

How do you _____ God? J. B. Phillips wrote a book entitled, *Your God Is Too Small*. He saw that what many _____ God was like and how the Bible _____ God were quite different. Many people have never taken the time to _____ what the Bible actually says about the nature and the character of God. Some simply _____ on one aspect of the Lord's nature and _____ other aspects that are just as important. God is gracious, but God is also _____ and _____. God is compassionate, but He will also _____ evildoers who will not _____. God is not lopsided in character. He doesn't have _____ like we do.

Read Isaiah 55:8-9. Since we are imperfect and weak creatures, it's _____ to understand our Creator who has no imperfections or weaknesses. We'd like to _____ that He's just like us, but He isn't. We compromise, but He doesn't. We _____, but He doesn't. We lie to ourselves, but God never lies. He is indeed _____.

God is not a “_____” or simply an immovable object, like some people think. Scripture describes God as a _____. He thinks, feels, acts, loves, wills and judges. He has the _____, the emotions, and the _____ of a person. He can be _____ as He was in Noah’s day in Genesis 6. He can love and He showed that love by giving Jesus for our _____. He can rejoice when sinners _____, as He does in Luke 15. He can _____ and He asks us to reason with Him in Isaiah 1:18. He can become _____ and does so with those who will not repent. God can _____ and _____ for the future. When Jesus prayed, He prayed “Our _____.” Christians have a relationship with God as a _____ would with his father. God made man in His own _____, so that man has an intelligent and moral spirit.

When Jesus came to earth, He had _____ and _____; but the Father in heaven and the Holy Spirit are not physical or material. Jesus said, “God is _____, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). The Lord said, “a spirit does not have flesh and blood” (Luke 24:39). **Read what Paul told the philosophers at Athens in Acts 17:24-25 and verse 29.**

Sometimes children ask, “Where did God come from?” The answer is that God has _____ existed. He is self-existent. Acts 17:28 says, “in Him we _____ and _____ and have our very being.” God introduced himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14 as, “I AM WHO I AM.” This phrase was revered as the holy _____ of God by the Israelites.

God is not only spirit and self-existent, He is also _____. God does not have the limitations that _____ have. Space and time cannot _____ God. As to time, God is _____ (Psalm 90:2). Unlike us, God exists _____ of time (2 Peter 3:8). He created time for _____, but He is not limited by it. Nor is God limited by _____ (1 Kings 8:27). Proverbs 15:3 says, “The eyes of the LORD are in _____ place, Watching the evil and the good.”

Beyond this, we must _____ that God is all-wise and all-knowing. God knows and understands all things about people, about nature, about animals and the universe. **Read Romans 11:33-36.**

God is not only all-knowing, He’s also all-_____. Jesus said, “With God all things are _____” (Mark 10:27). Job 42:2 says God “can do _____ things.” Jeremiah said, “Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too _____ for You” (Jeremiah 32:17). Being all-powerful doesn’t mean that God can or will perform _____ impossibilities, such as making a square circle or a stone so large it can’t be moved.

Ephesians 4:6 says there is “one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.” God is certainly _____. The first of the Ten Commandments says, “You shall have no

other gods before Me.” That is, no other gods besides Me. Man-made gods are forbidden, because they are imaginary and don’t _____. Idols can’t _____ the true grandeur and glory of the eternal God who doesn’t live in temples made with hands (Acts 17:24). Men sin against God when they _____ the immortal God and _____ creatures as the pagans did with idolatry in ancient times (1 Corinthians 8:4).

Since God is Lord of _____, He is sovereign. God _____ the nations. According to Jeremiah 18:7-10, God plants and uproots nations. According to Acts 17:26, He “made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.” God now commands all men everywhere to _____ (Acts 17:30). At the end of the world, God will _____ each of us according to our works and according to His Word.

God doesn’t show favoritism, but He accepts men from every nation who _____ him and do what is _____ (Acts 10:34-35). Because God is _____, we can regard what He teaches as righteous (Psalm 19:9). God’s moral and religious _____ will stand firm at the judgment. God hasn’t given us any weak or useless _____. Each one has a _____.

As we consider God’s _____, we must realize that God is utterly holy. Isaiah tells of the seraphim who cry out, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts” (Isaiah 6:3). James 1:13 says, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God _____ be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.” God commands His children, “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16). Because God is holy, _____ is offensive. People today are keenly aware of what offends _____, but they may not know what offends _____. While God loves the sinner and has provided a way of _____, God still gets offended when the people He loves sin against Him.

God’s grace doesn’t _____ out His holiness. God _____ approves of sin (Habakkuk 1:13). According to Hebrews 6:18, “it is impossible for God to _____,” or to commit any sin. It’s God’s holiness that demands _____ when people sin. God’s goodness means that He cannot _____ sin. Sin is sin, because God knows it’s destructive and _____. God speaks out against sin, because He _____ people. Being holy is _____ for people; and sin is always _____.

In addition, God is unchangeable; He, Himself said, “I am the Lord, I do not _____” (Malachi 3:6). Moses wrote, “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should _____; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19). God doesn’t have the weaknesses of fickle men who _____ at a whim (James 1:17). We can count on Him to keep His _____. We can also count on

His commandments and His moral _____. Culture doesn't change God. Right and wrong do not change with the _____.

God is _____. Jesus said that the Father in heaven "causes His _____ to rise on the evil and the good, and He sends _____ on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45). Even though men were foolish and disobedient, God's kindness and love appeared in Christ Jesus (Titus 3:5). God's mercy can save even the _____ of sinners when they repent and turn to Him. That's because God is love. We know what love is and what good is, because of the great _____ of our God in Christ Jesus. **Read 1 John 4:7-11.** God's character teaches us how to _____ and how to _____. We love because He _____ loved us (1 John 4:19).

Why does this matter? The more we _____ about God, the more we _____ Him and the more we want to be _____ Him. Christ embodied every good and righteous thing, and everything He did _____ us and gives us life (John 15:13). We need to know the Lord Jesus; and the more we know Him, the _____ our understanding of our Father in Heaven will be.

God is God. He created us, gives us life, and will judge us at the last day. Whether we accept or approve of Him, He's still the one _____ and _____ God. God's power, His teaching, and character hasn't changed, even if our _____ changes. What we _____ or feel about God doesn't define Him. God defines and describes Himself through His _____ Word. We must accept Him on His _____. The God of the Bible is very different from many _____ beliefs. Some serve a _____ god that they _____ existed rather than the true God revealed in Scripture. This is why we must _____ the Scriptures. We want the _____ God.

Paul called the God of the Bible "_____ God" in Philippians 4:19. Is He your God? Be honest: are you living in such a _____ that honors or dishonors God, that pleases or offends Him? If you are living in such a way that God is offended shouldn't you think about your _____?

To get right with God, love and believe in Jesus Christ. Believe that He died for your sins and arose from the dead. Make Him your Lord by turning from your sins in _____. With your love, and faith, and repentance, _____ your faith and be _____ into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water for the forgiveness of your _____. Baptism is the time when God _____ the old man of sin and _____ you up to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-7). In baptism God acts upon you, making you His _____, adding you to the _____, forgiving your sins, and giving you eternal life. The Bible says, "Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16). Won't you do that today?

One of a Kind

Acts 4:8-12

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The Lord Jesus is _____ unique. No one in all history _____ with His love, His purity, or His honesty. Today we're going to see _____ Jesus is one of a kind. We know the Scriptures come from _____, and there is no other volume in all the earth like the Bible.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Because it's God's Word, the Bible can _____ in our lives like no other book. It can teach us the _____, keep us straight, and _____ us to do what is right. God _____ us greatly through the Bible.

In all of _____, Jesus stands unique; He is one of a kind. We can _____ no one so pure, so kind, so humble, so loving, or so honest. He sets the _____ for morality, for sacrificial giving, for compassion, and for righteousness. He is our only _____, our only _____, our only _____, and our only _____ of eternal life. The apostle Paul said of Jesus, that He "became to us _____ from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord'" (1 Corinthians 1:30-31). What is Jesus to you? How do you _____ Him? Have you set Him apart as _____ in your life? Is He one of a kind in your life? When you boast, do you boast in the Lord?

Our scripture reading is from Acts 4:8-12.

Dr. James Francis wrote this brief essay about Jesus Christ in 1926, "Here is a man who was _____ in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He _____ in a little carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years, He was an itinerant _____. He never _____ a home. He never wrote a _____. He never held an _____. He never had a _____. He never went to _____. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never _____ two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that _____ accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. . . While still a young man, the tide of popular _____ turned against Him. His _____ ran away. One of them _____ Him. He was turned over to His _____. He went through the mockery of a _____. He was nailed upon a _____ between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property that He had on earth – His _____. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed _____ through the pity of a friend. Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and _____ He is the centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress. And I am far within the mark when I

say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not _____ the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that one solitary life.”

Jesus _____ and _____ indeed one of a kind! We can thank God that He came to this _____ and gave Himself that we might have forgiveness, that we might have eternal life, and hope. Because of Jesus, we have reconciliation with the Father. Because we _____ in His name, the Father hears and answers. Because of Jesus, we can become _____ of God and fellow heirs with Christ in heaven. How is Jesus able to do all this?

First, Jesus is unique because He has _____ existed. **Read John 1:1-3.** Some see Jesus as nothing more than a _____; others see Him only as a traveling preacher. The Bible, however, teaches that Jesus was in the beginning and _____ you and me. In Revelation 22:13 Jesus said, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the _____ and the _____, the beginning and the end.” The Lord Jesus told the Jews, “Truly, truly, I say to you, _____ Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). In saying this, Jesus revealed His divine _____, that He’s always existed.

Second, Jesus is unique in that He _____ prophecies made hundreds of years before His birth. You cannot find prophecies of other religious _____ like those that are made about Christ. The apostles appealed repeatedly to God’s prophecies found in the Old Testament to show Jesus is the _____ prophet and the Messiah. J. Barton Payne listed _____ Old Testament prophecies about Jesus. Alfred Edersheim, a Jewish Christian scholar, cited _____ Old Testament passages referring to the Messiah. The Jews _____ that a Messiah would come, and Jesus fulfilled those well-known prophecies precisely as no one else could.

The prophets knew that Jesus would be a son of David, that He would be _____ in Bethlehem of Judea, that He would be betrayed by a _____ for thirty pieces of silver, that He would be crucified, that His _____ would not be broken, that soldiers would _____ over His clothes, and that darkness would cover the land. The prophets knew that He would _____ triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey, that He would _____ in parables, and that He would _____ from the dead on the third day. Isaiah, the prophet, knew that He would make His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death.

The Lord Jesus could say, “these are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are _____ about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44). Jesus said the prophets _____ about Him in John 5:39. Peter could claim, “the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus _____” (Acts 3:18). Yes, Jesus

fulfilled the many prophecies given about Him over hundreds of years. Can anyone else make such a claim? No, Jesus is indeed one of a kind.

Third, Jesus is unique in that He was born of a _____. Isaiah made the prophecy about Him in Isaiah 7:14. **Read how the apostle Matthew records its fulfillment in Matthew 1:20-25.** The virgin birth is unique; and only God could make that _____.

Fourth, Jesus is unique in that He never committed a single _____. Peter said, “He committed _____ sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth” (1 Peter 2:22). Jesus could ask, “Which one of you _____ me of sin?” (John 8:46). Could you say that? Jesus could not have sacrificed Himself for _____ sins if He Himself had committed sins. First John 3:5 says, “You know that he appeared in _____ to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.” Because He was sinless, He was the perfect high _____ and the perfect _____. **Read Hebrews 4:15-16 and 7:26-27.**

Fifth, Jesus is unique, because He bodily _____ from the dead. The Lord Jesus confidently predicted “that He must go to Jerusalem and _____ many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be _____” (Matthew 16:21). The eyewitnesses to His death and resurrection say it _____ precisely that way. Through the years, others have predicted that they would rise from the dead, but no one has; no one else has risen, _____ Jesus Christ. One can visit the tombs of the world’s great religious leaders, and those tombs possess the _____ of those leaders. Jesus’ tomb, however, is _____. Jesus did not get resurrected in an emergency _____ after an accident. He wasn’t given a _____ after His heart stopped. No, they took His dead body to the _____. Pilate would not release His body until he was _____ that Jesus was dead. That’s why the soldier pierced His side with the _____. John 19:34 says that when he was pierced with that spear, “immediately blood and water came out,” giving _____ that He had died. There can no _____, He truly was dead. They _____ His body “in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews” (John 19:40). He spent three days in the tomb, but He arose just as He _____.

Both His disciples and His enemies knew the _____ where He was buried. His enemies tried to prevent His disciples from _____ the body and claiming a resurrection. **Read Matthew 27:62-66.** But the guards and the seals, the governor’s seal, couldn’t _____ Jesus from rising from the dead. God planned and ordained His resurrection. David prophesied a thousand years before the time of Christ, “For you will not abandon my _____ to Sheol, or let your holy one _____ corruption” (Psalm 16:10). The apostle Peter cited this passage and declared, “God raised Him up again, putting an _____ to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power” (Acts 2:24). Again, Peter said of David, “he

foresaw and _____ about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God _____ up, and of that we are all, (that is all the apostles), witnesses” (Acts 2:31-32).

Jesus had _____. He appeared on twelve occasions to His _____. Paul said, “He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at _____, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:6). His disciples were _____ at first, and some had hardened their hearts in unbelief. Acts 1:3 says Jesus “presented Himself _____ after His suffering, by many convincing _____, appearing to them over a period of forty days.” They _____ Him, heard Him, touched Him, and _____ with Him. In being resurrected like this, Jesus is one of a kind. These disciples who could hardly believe at first, were _____ and courageous after the forty days. They told the _____ of His resurrection again and again in spite of all the opposition and persecution.

Some skeptics claim Jesus wasn't the _____ god that died and was resurrected. They say Jesus actually _____ this idea from some pagan gods. The problem with this claim is that the reports of pagan gods dying and rising from the dead can only be found _____ the first century. While there are reports of dying and rising gods among the pagan religions, there are no reports of someone dying for the _____ of mankind and rising up _____ like Jesus did. What we do find is pagan religions talking about the changing _____ of winter to spring being like a resurrection. No, the _____ story is indeed unique; and there simply is no one like Jesus Christ.

Why does this matter? Because the Lord Jesus Christ is the one and _____ Son of God, who can _____ our souls. Everything in history before Jesus points _____ to Him, and our calendars point _____ to Him. He is Lord of all _____, of all _____, of all tongues and of all _____. He is indeed one of a kind. We must place our _____ and _____ in Jesus.

Read what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

The word “gospel” means good news, and _____ Jesus did is good news for you and me. He died for our _____; He arose so that we might have _____. Like the Christians of old, we need to receive the _____, believe it, and hold fast to it. The gospel has the _____ to save you, and if you receive and obey it, it can. Put your _____ in Jesus, and in His Word. Repent of your _____ and begin following the Christ. Confess your faith in the Lord Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. And be _____ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you're baptized into Christ, according to Romans 6:3-7, you'll be _____ with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Then you'll be raised with Him to walk in _____ of life, free from sin, and with the hope of eternal life. No one can _____ you that life but Jesus. Follow Him; serve Him! And do it today!