



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY[®]

*Program
Study Guides*

For

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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?

Gods of This World

Isaiah 44:6-8

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

Idolatry is the worship or adoration of anyone or anything _____ than the Lord God. Do people have idols they worship _____? We believe in the one true and living God, the One you can know through _____ the Scriptures. The God of the Bible is certainly different from the gods of this _____, different from the gods of _____ religions, and different from the _____ of ancient times. He is the all-wise, all-powerful, holy, and righteous Creator of all that _____. The Scriptures make it _____ that He is unique. This great God of ours has left us His wisdom, His guidance, and His message of love and salvation in the _____. Wouldn't it be tragic if we never took time to _____ what our great God says to us? This is why we believe it necessary to return each week to study God's Word.

The Lord God said, "You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 26:1). Idolatry includes the _____ of other gods, such as those of the nations surrounding Israel, images or idols, and the creation itself.

People in ancient times manufactured gods and worshiped the _____ of their own hands. Sometimes their sculptures _____ dead men that they admired, sometimes various animals, sometimes the blending of an animal with a man, and sometimes a demon. Their worship, however, was _____. That man-made idol couldn't do anything for them; but the God of heaven can be a great _____ to us.

Our reading today comes from the prophet Isaiah 44:6-8.

In Deuteronomy 4:28, Moses described _____ as "the work of man's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell." **Read what God's prophet Habakkuk asked in Habakkuk 2:18-20.** The Israelites _____ the idolatry of the nations surrounding them and from their foreign neighbors who lived in the land. When the family of Jacob was in Egypt before the days of Moses, they _____ all of the false gods and idols of the Egyptians. In Exodus 32, while Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments, the people _____ that Aaron make gods for them. Aaron took "the _____ from their hand and

fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf.” Egyptians worshiped a whole family of cows and bovine and bulls.

Read 1 Kings 11:2-3. Solomon turned his _____ away from the living God, and he went after the gods of his wives and served them. Because Solomon _____, God tore the kingdom apart and gave the northern ten tribes to his servant Jeroboam. When Jeroboam became king of Israel, he _____ golden calves at Bethel and at Dan. The Scriptures call him, “Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to _____” (1 Kings 22:52).

In later years, northern Israel tried to _____ their faith in the true God with the false gods that were surrounding them. God told them that if they _____ and _____ Him, He would protect them from their enemies. **Read 2 Kings 17:40-41.** God will not _____ or bless those who are double-minded. We must do _____ than give God first place; He is the _____ true and living God. He demands _____ our worship and service.

Read Psalm 86:8-10. First Corinthians 8:4 says, “we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but _____.” Paul is saying that idols are just material things made up by _____; there isn’t any god behind the idol. Sadly, through the years people haven’t _____ God, though He alone is _____ of it. They have followed their _____ ways or they have _____ followed false gods. **Read Jeremiah 2:12-13.** The Jews in Jeremiah’s day abandoned their _____ in the true God to _____ useless, false gods.

Why would anyone serve a _____ crafted idol and call it a god? **Read Isaiah 40:19-20.** A few chapters later, Isaiah _____ the people for worshiping an idol or thinking that an idol could help them in times of trouble. **Read Isaiah 44:14-17.** Again we ask why _____ the God of heaven to worship an idol? Here’s the reason why, because they could _____ the idol. An idol wasn’t holy and an idol didn’t give _____ commandments. If they served the God of heaven, they would have to _____ Him; but if they had an idol, that they themselves made, they could live however they _____. All they had to do was to keep the idol _____. Of course, their idol had no _____, no _____, no _____, and no _____. It was just a thing. But if you worshiped the gods of the idols, you could participate in a _____ filled with sexual immorality and evil. Many of the idols were of naked men or women and emphasized their sexual _____. Pagan worship often _____ drunkenness, revelry, and fornication. Ancient pagan _____ were often filled with priests and priestesses who filled the role of prostitutes.

Keeping the false gods happy _____ many abusive and cruel practices. **Read Psalm 106:35-38.** God knew that if His people _____ to the false gods they would become sexually immoral and kill their own children. True faith in God _____ the innocent and calls people to live holy and chaste lives. False religion is a shame and a tragedy for _____ it touches.

The pagan gods of Greece and Rome were known to be selfish, petty, vindictive, and filled with every kind of _____. Their followers believed that their _____ was to keep these petty gods from getting angry with them, and so they worshiped and made sacrifices to them. If some great catastrophe happened, the pagan priests would blame it on the people's _____. The pagan priests and priestesses used the people's superstitions to _____ them.

No pagan god was ever _____ the God of the Bible. Our heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus to be a _____ for us; He never asked us to sacrifice our innocent children by making them pass through the fire like some of the kings of Judah did in ancient times. Pagan gods usually had a region or a city over which they were a god, but the God of the Bible is God over all the _____ and all the universe. The pagan gods were thought to be present in their image, or idol, and living in the _____ as a king in his palace. But Paul noted that men were _____ to think that they could exchange "the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles" (Romans 1:22-23). The Lord Jesus said in John 4:24, "God is _____," that is, God is not material, but spiritual.

The idolatry of ancient times kept people from _____ the true God who created us and provides for us the sun, and the rain, and every blessing. Physical forms can _____ fully represent God. When Solomon dedicated the temple, he prayed, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this _____ which I have built!" (1 Kings 8:27).

Read what Paul spoke to the pagan philosophers of Athens in Acts 17:22-23. They were _____ of the true God, because they had focused on making their own gods. They wanted to _____ a god rather than to recognize God as their Creator.

Idolatry isn't simply a _____ of the ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Greeks, or Romans. Idolatry wasn't simply a _____ to Israel. Many _____ have their own idols. Idolatry includes anything receiving worship other than the one _____ and _____ God. Idols don't have to be objects _____ the idols of old, but that doesn't mean that they aren't man-made gods. For instance, Colossians 3:5 figuratively speaks of _____ or covetousness

as idolatry. We defined idolatry earlier as “the worship or adoration of anyone or anything other than the Lord God.” Some truly worship and _____ their riches or their power, and this preoccupation leaves no _____ for God in their lives.

Why would anyone today worship some _____ god? Here’s why. If you worship God as God, then God has a _____ in your life and can _____ your life. But if you worship an idol of your own choosing, then you have power to do as you _____. Many people _____ sin and the devil as their idol. Second Corinthians 4:4 speaks of the “god of this _____”; and 1 John 5:19 says, “the whole world lies in the _____ of the evil one.” Who’s that? It’s the devil. He would like everyone to _____ he is God, and the devil wants to be a god to you. In 2 Corinthians 11:14, the Bible says, “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of _____.”

Remember what Satan did with the Lord Jesus, when Satan _____ Him. **Read Matthew 4:8-10.** The devil will _____ the world to you too, if you will just bow down and serve him. But remember that the devil is an evil _____ and is your greatest _____. If you follow him, you will surely lose your _____. Who you _____ matters. **Read what Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 16:24-26.**

Read what Joshua said in his last appearance before Israel in Joshua 24:14-15.

What about you, will you serve _____ or will you serve the _____? We all have _____; what will we do, what will we choose? **Read what 1 John 2:15-17 says.**

Choose to serve the Lord. Become a faithful, active _____. You can do that by placing your _____ and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, by turning away from sin to live a holy life in repentance, by _____ your faith in Jesus Christ, and by being _____ into Christ. Romans 6:3 says, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?” We are baptized _____ Christ. That is when we are _____ with Him in His death, His burial, and His resurrection. We are baptized into His death, and at that time His _____ cleanses us from sin. Today is the best day for you to become a Christian! Won’t you choose Christ?

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!

A True Testimony Luke 1:1-4

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

Can we _____ what the four gospel accounts say about Jesus? Today we're going to see _____ we should trust Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We search the Scriptures for the _____ about Jesus and about how we should live so that we may _____ Him. Jesus is Lord, and His word is the _____ in every moral and spiritual matter. Jesus didn't leave His _____ to chance memory or to hearsay. He intended for it to be _____ down and read for all time. He wanted us to be _____ of our salvation by giving us a message that is utterly true and trustworthy.

The Lord Jesus _____ His message from the Father and He _____ it faithfully to His disciples. **Read what Jesus explains in John 12:48-50.** Because our _____ matters to Jesus, Jesus gave us the Father's words accurately, precisely. Nothing is more _____ than to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to know His love and His salvation. All we _____ about Jesus comes from what we _____ in the New Testament. For this reason, we must _____ the Word of God to find the truth about Jesus. The New Testament _____ His love, His character, His miracles, and His teaching. We hold that the New Testament is indeed historically reliable, that we can trust it, and that we can trust what it says to be accurate.

Our reading today comes from The Gospel According To Luke 1:1-4. The Lord God gave us the Bible to _____ us how to be saved and how to please Him. The Holy Spirit moved men who were apostles and those closely associated with the apostles to _____ about the teaching and the events of Jesus' life. Because of this, those who wrote were in the right position to know the _____ about Jesus Christ.

John said about his gospel account, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have _____ in his name" (John 20:30-31). John knew the _____ of Jesus found in John 14:26. The Lord said, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will _____ you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." Again, He said, "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear _____ about me" (John 15:26).

The fact that their message was _____ by miraculous events is not something to set aside. In Acts chapter 3, Peter and John _____ a man in the name of Jesus at the Gate called Beautiful in the Temple, a man who had been lame for forty years, a man that everyone knew. When the authorities, who tried to put a _____ to faith in Christ, heard about it, they said, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign (or miracle) has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot _____ it” (Acts 4:16). The enemies knew the miraculous _____ of Christ and the apostles.

Read Hebrews 2:1-4. God confirmed, He put His seal on the message with these undeniable _____. Should we not _____ carefully to what is written in the New Testament?

The third gospel account was _____ by Luke. Luke wanted to know the _____ and he wanted to share it accurately with others. **Refer to the text of Luke 1:1-4.** Luke wanted to give Theophilus _____ about the things he was reading. We too can _____ that certainty by reading the New Testament.

Sir William Ramsay, a New Testament scholar and archaeologist, made a thorough _____ of the details of the book of Acts. He said, “Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy...this author should be placed along with the greatest of historians...Luke’s history is unsurpassed in respect of its trustworthiness.” F. F. Bruce, a renowned Biblical scholar agreed. He said, “Where Luke has been suspected of inaccuracy, and accuracy has been vindicated by some inscriptional evidence, it may be legitimate to say that archaeology has confirmed the New Testament record.”

When Paul testified about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ before King Agrippa, he said, “For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a _____” (Acts 26:26). What Jesus did was _____ to all who lived at that time. Peter could point to the miracles of Jesus before the Jews on Pentecost and say, “as you yourselves _____” (Acts 2:22). Even the high priest, Caiaphas, could say of the miracles of Jesus, that “this man performs many _____. And if we let him go on like this, everyone will _____ in him” (John 11:47-48). In Acts 2:32 Peter could say of the resurrection of Jesus that he and the other apostles were _____. In verse 37, Peter could say, “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for _____ that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus (and then he pointed his finger and said) whom you crucified.” All the _____ knew of the crucifixion; they knew about the earthquake; they knew about the veil that was torn in the temple and the period of darkness.

Jesus didn't have only one _____; He had twelve. Jesus didn't have merely one contemporary _____ of His life and teaching, but four. Should one of them have _____ the public, the others would have immediately censured him and corrected the testimony. Jesus came to bear _____ to the truth, and His disciples were committed to _____ the truth about Him and His teaching. They despised the _____ of making false claims, lying, or being greedy. They loved God and loved the _____ of men. As F. F. Bruce stated, "The earliest proclaimers _____ the fullest examination of the credentials of their message." They knew their message was _____!

The apostle Peter said, "For we did not _____ cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Peter 1:16). Likewise, John speaks of being an eyewitness. **Read what John said about Jesus in 1 John 1:1-3.**

At the crucifixion, John saw the soldier pierce the side of Jesus with a spear to make _____ that He was dead. **Read what John said in John 19:34-37.** Another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have _____" (Psalm 22:16-17).

How do we know that what they wrote in the New Testament is _____? Could we _____ this in a court of law? Simon Greenleaf, who served as a distinguished professor of law at Harvard University, wrote a book defending the testimony given by the authors of the New Testament. He said, "Let the testimony (that is, of the Gospels) be _____, as it were given in a court of justice on the side of the adverse party, the witness being subjected to a rigorous cross-examination. Well, the _____ is that it will be confidently believed, and that it will be an undoubting conviction of their integrity, ability, and truth."

When the disciples preached and wrote about the resurrection of Jesus, they knew that they would _____ persecution. **Read the warning of Jesus in John 15:18-20.** Regardless of what the officials ruled or did to the disciples, they continued to _____ the gospel of Christ. They lived in poverty, endured beatings and imprisonment, and often paid the ultimate price of an early _____ by violence. Why would they do this? They certainly would not have _____ so much for a myth that they fabricated! They wouldn't even allow the smallest _____ to their testimony. They were preaching and writing for the _____. It never entered their minds to evangelize the nations for any other _____. One can clearly see the _____ of the apostles in the words of Peter and John to the Sanhedrin in Acts 4:19-20.

Christianity started and spread in a very _____ environment. Both the Jews and the pagan nations _____ the Christians. The enemies of Christianity could have stopped the mouths of the evangelists if they could have _____ the resurrection didn't really happen. All they

had to do was produce the _____ of Jesus Christ. The enemies of Jesus and His disciples could not _____ the claims of His resurrection or keep His disciples from telling the story again and again. Tertullian said, “the blood of the martyrs was the _____ of the church.” They were _____ to sacrifice themselves for their faith, knowing their sacrifice would lead to the conversion of others. The Lord Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his _____” (John 15:13). They truly _____ what they _____ and were willing to die for their faith.

Someone says, “Well Phil, I know the apostles and early prophets were inspired; but how can I be _____ that what is written is from the Lord Jesus?” Jesus made provision for His words to be _____ for all time. He _____ to “send prophets and wise men and scribes.” Scribes? (Matthew 23:34). Yes, scribes! The scribes were inspired men who _____ down what the Lord taught. The apostle Peter spoke of those writing _____ who gave us God’s will (2 Peter 1:20-21). When he said this, he wasn’t merely speaking of the Old Testament, because Peter spoke of Paul’s writings as _____ (2 Peter 3:16).

We’ve taken time to study this because we want to be _____ of our faith, that it’s _____. If Jesus spoke with great care and precision when He delivered the Father’s words to us, shouldn’t we take great care to _____ the truth? You can _____ Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We couldn’t know anything for certain about God unless He had _____ Himself to us. We couldn’t know how to be _____ or how to have eternal life unless God revealed that, too. Thankfully, God revealed His _____ by giving us His inspired scriptures. God didn’t want us to _____ about our salvation or to _____ our own religion. He wanted us to know the truth (1 John 5:13). We can know the truth! The Lord Jesus promised, “If you _____ in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31-32). We want to be free from sin, free from falsehoods, and free from man-made religion. We want and need to _____ and _____ the Lord in every matter. Thankfully, we can _____ the truth in the Scriptures!

If you want to be right with the Lord, _____ the Lord’s teachings. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart. Believe that He is the Son of God and believe the gospel. If you want to be right with God, _____ of your sins. Forsake everything that is _____, and cling to what is good and right. Confess Jesus Christ as the Lord and the Son of God. If you wish to be saved, you must be _____ into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water in His _____. When you’re baptized, the Lord will _____ away your sins; He’ll give you _____ of life (Romans 6:4). Don’t wait. Obey the Lord today.

The All Sufficient Word

John 16:12-15

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

God's inspired Word teaches us _____ we need to know to live as Christians and to have eternal life in heaven. We can find all the spiritual _____ that we need in Scripture. The Bible makes it clear that God, from the beginning, desired that His authoritative revelations be _____ down and preserved for later generations. Moses wrote down all the _____ of the Lord in Exodus 24:4, and his book was preserved in the Ark (Deuteronomy 31:26). God _____ that His laws be read to all the people every seven years so that they and their children who did not know the law could learn to fear the Lord.

We know Joshua "made a _____ with the people... And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God" (Joshua 24:25-26). We know "Samuel told the people the ordinances of the kingdom, and _____ them in the book and placed it before the LORD" (1 Samuel 10:25). God told Isaiah to "go, write it on a tablet before them, and inscribe it on a scroll, that it may serve in the time to come as a _____ forever" (Isaiah 30:8). We know Ezra "set his heart to _____ the Law of the Lord, and to _____ it and to _____ his statutes and rules in Israel" (Ezra 7:10).

The New Testament writers used the phrase "It is written" over _____ times. They stressed the _____ of the written word of God. In Matthew 22:29, Jesus rebuked the Sadducees because they did not know "the Scriptures nor the _____ of God." God undoubtedly intended from the beginning that His words and deeds would be _____ in Scripture. What God writes is not just written, but _____ written for all people, in all places, for all time.

Our reading is found in the Gospel According To John 16:12 -15.

From the beginning, God has never allowed men to _____ or _____ with His revealed will. God said through Moses, "You shall not _____ to the word that I command you, nor _____ it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2). Again, God said, "Everything that I command you, you shall be _____ to do. You shall not add to it or take from it" (Deuteronomy 12:32). God's Word does not need editing and cannot be _____. Proverbs 30:5-6 says, "Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar."

Paul told the Corinthians that they "were not to go _____ what is written" (1 Corinthians 4:6). Later Paul said it's disgraceful and underhanded "to practice cunning or to tamper with

God's _____ word" (2 Corinthians 4:2). When some Jewish leaders tried to pervert the gospel, Paul said that they were _____ (Galatians 1:8-9). When some false teachers tried to change the doctrine that Christ came in the flesh, John said, "Anyone who goes too far and does not _____ in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9). Anytime people tamper or edit the teaching of God, they will find that they lose the _____ of God.

At the end of the book of Revelation, John warned against anyone tampering with that particular book (Revelation 22:18-19). Of course, what is true of the book of Revelation, is true of _____ book of the New Testament. We must not add to or take away anything from what God has caused to be _____.

Why would God _____ adding or taking away from His scriptures? It's because God's message is _____ and _____. It says everything that God intended to say; to change the Scripture in any way challenges God's _____ and His _____. Changing God's words to suit our _____, or rewriting God's laws to _____ ourselves, is an act of utter rebellion and dishonors God. Changing God's teaching or His moral laws, says _____ are smarter and wiser than God, that they know better than He knows. That's presumptuous!

Read Psalm 19:7-13. David knew the perfection of God's Word and he didn't want to presume that he could _____ upon it. Presumptuous _____ is a great transgression in God's eyes.

Jesus promised His apostles that they would receive the Holy Spirit, who would give them _____ the spiritual truths that God wanted us to know. The Lord Jesus said, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:26). They not only had the privilege of _____ the voice of Jesus, they would also have the Spirit to _____ them of the Lord's teaching. **Read what Jesus said in John 16:12-13.** The Lord Jesus knew the apostles would face many _____ and they would need guidance into all the truth. Jesus was not going to withhold any truth; the Spirit was to _____ them in their lifetime into all the truth. If they received all the truth, then we cannot expect that _____ truth would come in other centuries. They received every truth that was _____ by the church to live as God would have them live and to have eternal life.

The apostle Peter said, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the _____ of him who called us to his own glory and excellence" (2 Peter 1:3). Peter wasn't like some today who feel as if they were _____ out of some spiritual truth that they can only find outside the Scriptures – in some human tradition or in some idea or that they think came directly from the Holy Spirit. He wasn't like some who think our culture's _____ trump whatever God said long ago. He saw that everything that we _____ can be found in the Bible.

Paul also _____ the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures. **Read what he wrote the young preacher, Timothy, in 2 Timothy 3:14-17.** Paul didn't point Timothy to later-day prophets, to church councils, or to cultural trends that would _____ the teaching of the Lord. He told Timothy to _____ back to Scripture. We must do the same. The Scriptures can make us _____ to salvation; and they are God-breathed and profitable. We aren't _____ anything when we possess the Scriptures. Acts 17:11 says, "Now these (that is the Berean's) were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, _____ the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so." They wanted to _____, so they went to the Bible!

First, Paul said the Scriptures are profitable for _____. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a _____ to my feet, And a _____ to my path." Christianity has always been a _____ built on teaching or doctrine. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in John 8:31-32.** Only the truth can make us _____. Acts 2:42 says that the early church "devoted themselves to the apostles' _____ and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." That teaching is _____ for us in the New Testament. Saying goodbye to the elders of the church at Ephesus, Paul said, "And now I commend you to God and to the _____ of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). They needed Scripture to make them _____ and to save them. Paul urged Timothy, "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, you entrust to faithful men who will be able to _____ others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Paul was interested in perpetuating what had _____ been taught, not in looking to some later day church canon or supposed prophecy.

Second, the Scriptures are profitable for _____. Scripture teaches us convincingly what is right and wrong and _____ us for our sins. The psalmist cried out, "How can a young man keep his way _____? By guarding it according to your _____." **Read Psalm 119:9-11.** Many think that we should never make anyone feel _____. Without a doubt, some have _____ guilt. God gave us a conscience for a _____. When we see the _____ that Christ paid for our sins and we learn that we've done wrong, our guilt and our godly sorrow leads us to _____. Repentance is a change of _____ that leads to a change of _____. If we never received a rebuke for sin, we would never see a _____ for change. Reproof gives a need for the third thing that's mentioned in Scripture, and that's _____. We have teaching, then we have reproof, and then we have correction.

The Scriptures _____ us to repent and correct the wrongs we have done, and to leave the false teachings we have believed and come to the truth. In Acts 18, we're introduced to a Jew named Apollos, who was an eloquent _____, but he was only acquainted with the baptism of _____ and did not know about baptism into _____. **Read Acts 18:26.** Apollos didn't get _____ at Priscilla and Aquila for their correction. When we're

corrected, we shouldn't get angry either, but should _____ change and thank God for the truth. The truth corrects us.

Fourth, Scripture is profitable for _____ in righteousness. The instructions of the New Testament and the examples found in Scripture train us how to love and to care for others, to serve and worship God, to evangelize, to restore the fallen, and to be the church that Jesus loves. It teaches us how to _____ godly and to go to heaven. It teaches how to be like Jesus in every way.

When the Spirit revealed the gospel truth to the apostles, He revealed it for _____. We must preach the _____ that they preached in the first century if we wish to remain right with God. **Read 1 Peter 1:22-25.** Psalm 119:160 says, "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures _____." The gospel that purified souls in the first century is the _____ gospel that purifies souls today. There's only one imperishable _____ planted in the hearts of people causing them to be born again into Christ. That seed existed in the first century and it will _____ until the end of time. If we corrupt or change that seed, it won't _____ a truly born again person. It'll produce something else _____ of the truth. Our souls are purified by _____ to the Lord's gospel truth, not by obedience to a gospel that's reconfigured to suit some human tradition or to fit our culture today. We need the Word of God.

Since Scripture is all sufficient, then it's the _____ authority on all doctrinal and moral matters. Let's not correct what God has said, but _____ and _____ Him. We must not only abide within the teaching, but also _____ what God teaches (Jude 3). The contents of our faith was once for all time delivered _____ and _____. Jude warned the church of _____ teachers who would exploit them and lead them into immorality. They would _____ the Word of God and _____ their own religion. What happened then is _____ happening. To be _____ to Christ, remain in the teaching of Scripture. Don't allow human traditions, false prophecies, or man-made religion to _____ you away from the truth. The Bible contains _____ we need to know to be saved, to serve the Lord, and to have eternal life. When people _____ to or _____ from what God teaches in the New Testament, they've left the faith and they left the truth. Just as false prophets in Jeremiah 23:16 spoke out of their own imagination, so many are _____ their own religions today.

This is why we teach what the apostles taught about _____. We tell people what Peter told them in Acts 2:38, "Repent, and each of you be _____ in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." We tell them what Ananias told Paul in Acts 22:16, "And now why do you _____? Get up and be baptized, and _____ away your sins, calling on His name." Today, if you believe in the Lord Jesus as the Christ, repent of your sins and be baptized, immersed in water, so your sins may be washed away.