



Prayers and Promises in the Bible **Unit IV**

Lessons 15 to 18

Lesson 15

Jonah 2:2-9
Malachi 3:10
John 15:7-12

Lesson 16

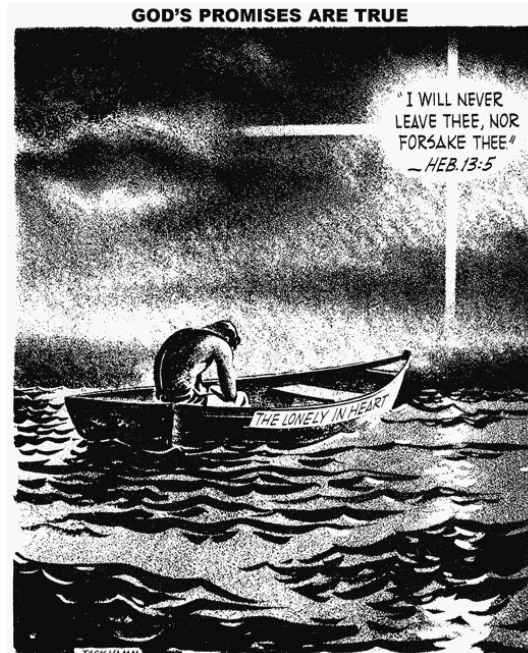
1 Kings 18:36-37
Isaiah 41:10
Jonah 1:1-3

Lesson 17

Acts 12:5-12
1 John 1:9
Revelation 3:19-22

Lesson 18

Habakkuk 3:2-19
Joshua 1:8
Psalms



Suggested methodology for each lesson: (More details on pages 3 & 4)

1. Fellowship
2. Take prayer requests
3. Pray
4. Read the text of the scripture prayer example.
5. Answer the questions A1-A7 as a group. Discuss briefly. Try to avoid answering A8 prematurely.
6. On the final A8 "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. This gives the Holy Spirit a time to speak, so don't rush it. The class leader should watch for the pencils and pens to quit moving. Those who finish first have their Bibles to read. Encourage them to remain quiet while others are still listening to the Holy Spirit.
7. Discuss your A8 *Think & Pray* answers. Never force anyone to share theirs.
8. Read the text of the scripture Bible promise.
9. Answer the questions B1-B3 as a group. Discuss briefly. Try to avoid answering B4 prematurely.
10. On the final B4 "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. This gives the Holy Spirit a time to speak, so don't rush it. The class leader should watch for the pencils and pens to quit moving.
11. Discuss your B4 *Think & Pray* answers. Never force anyone to share theirs.
12. For Lessons 6, 7 & 8 read the Bible passage to inspire prayer. For Lesson 9 each person selects their own passage.
13. Everyone should take a few minutes and write a prayer from the passage selected. Don't rush it, this is the best part. The class leader should watch for the pencils and pens to quit moving.
14. Those who would like to share their prayers aloud should do so. Never force anyone to share theirs.
15. Ask people to share what they have learned in the session that they would like to remember.
16. Fellowship

Each lesson takes us about an hour and a half when we do it on Friday nights. We only allow 15 minutes for steps 1-3. If people have trouble staying in those bounds, we take the prayer requests in writing and exchange them with each other to pray over during the week. Sometimes we run over and have to skip steps 15 & 16. When I taught it in Sunday School we did not have that much time, so we would take two or three weeks on each lesson.

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Prayers & Promises Methodology Overview for the Facilitator

Introduction: There is several ways these course materials might be used. Each page has question with at least one possible answer on the back, or if you print them one-sided the answers are on every other page. The real teacher of the course is the Holy Spirit, so if He tells you something different than the answer on the back, that is OK. The idea of this methodology is to let Him do the teaching.

The intent of the materials is that they would be used for small groups to study in home Bible studies or at church. However, because of the embedded answers it would also be possible to use them for individual study or for Homeschool parents to use with their children. The methodology described here assumes a small group with a facilitator. The facilitator takes responsibility for organizing the class and leading the discussion towards a consensus, but the doctrines taught and conclusions reached are the responsibility of the group as a whole. This point cannot be over emphasized.

Suggested Class Preparation: Publish a time, schedule, place and class synopsis inviting those you hope will attend. Make enough copies for all the expected students plus a few more. Make sure the meeting room is prepared. If possible have refreshments available. (Sometimes we have a meal before the class starts.) Allow about an hour and half for the class. If you are new at this kind of thing Google things like "Tips for Facilitators" and "Classroom Facilitation" and get some ideas about how to lead a class.)

Suggested First Class Introduction: Make sure everyone has similar expectations by going over the items in the next section. Give out your contact information. Gather their contact information. Decide how you are going to handle exceptions to the schedule plan for holidays, inclement weather, or illness.

This is what we say in our class: "Sometimes the class might need to be canceled or the schedule otherwise altered. If we know ahead of time by at least a day we will send notifications by e-mail or facebook message. If it is less than 24 hours notice we will call each participant. Please provide your e-mail address, phone number and/or facebook name."

It is important to set the expectation that this study belongs to everyone, but if the discussion varies from the topic of the lesson, as the discussion facilitator it is your job to bring the discussion back into focus. When I explain this to our group I usually add, "Please don't take it personally. Also, no one is required to participate in the discussion, but if you do, I will take that to mean you think it has something to do with the topic of the class, and ask you to clarify it if I don't see the connection. Again, please don't take it personally." You may want to modify this expectation to better fit your particular group.

I also say something like this: "If you asked somebody about a car you would not be pleased to have them answer you as if you asked about food, and would not listen very long to their answer. For this reason we must practice listening to what is being said, not simply looking for a hook to bring up our pre-planned 'talking points.' As the facilitator, it is my job to let you know if you are talking without first listening. Everyone does that kind of thing from time to time. Please don't take it personally."

There are 4 lessons of 6 pages each. We suggest you get a three ring binder to keep them. Each page is independent from the others in the sense that the questions on the front of the page have the answers on the back. Please do not look at the answers on the back until the class has had a chance to answer the question on the front as a whole. There are different kinds of questions, each with their own methodology:

Suggested Typical Class Process: Each class should open and close with prayer.

This is how we handle prayer requests: "At the beginning of the class we will collect prayer requests in writing and then swap them randomly so one of your classmates can pray for your requests during the week and you pray for others. The purpose of this is threefold. (1) Take advantage of the power of intercessory prayer, (2) increase Christian fellowship, (3) and free your heart and mind of outside concerns so that you might better focus on what the Holy Spirit has to teach at this moment." We found that taking prayer requests verbally sometimes consumed the entire class time. Sometimes this is fine, and it may still happen, but most of the time it was just because a few people felt like airing their gripes.

Each lesson has two sections of objective questions and four discussion type questions. I usually only hand out one page at a time to the students. This helps everyone stay focused on the current questions.

(A) Example of Prayer in Bible: Ask for a volunteer to read the passage aloud. If no one volunteers you read it. Make sure you allow everyone time to find the passage. Ask for volunteers to answer the objective questions (A1 - 7) Most of the time this will not generate discussion, but it might, particularly if the scripture allows for more than one interpretation. Then read question A8 and ask them to take a few minutes to jot down their thoughts. At first and occasionally later on remind them the Holy Spirit is the teacher and they should ask Him what the answer is before writing anything. Take that time to pray, consider what your answer would be, and read the suggested answer on the back, if there is one. When their pencils and pens quit moving ask the class as a whole for their comments. (You may need to set an expectation of no doodling allowed.) Draw a consensus from the group or an understanding of what possible answers there might be. The answer the group comes up with is the right answer. The answer on the back, if any, is just the viewpoint of one more person.

(B) Scripture Promise: (Same as above.) Except the objective questions are B1-3 and the *Think & Pray* question is B4.

(C) Example of Using a Scripture Passage to Pray: Someone reads the passage aloud. As with the other *Think & Pray* questions, each person writes a prayer of their own. Ask for volunteers to read their results aloud. My experience is that at first people are reluctant to do this, but after the first couple of classes they can't wait to read their answer. This depends on you setting the expectation that all comments are positive. When everyone who is willing has read their answer read the one in the materials aloud. If everyone did not read theirs aloud give them one more chance. Then lead a discussion on what everyone learned from the way different people made the scripture into a prayer. There is a place on the last page for them to make notes about this.

Closing: I almost always ask someone else to say the opening prayer and say the closing prayer myself. If applicable, I try to remember and use phrases and sentences from the example prayers written by the students during that lesson.

One note of caution. The first time we taught this course we were so excited about the prayers, we started publishing them on a website. It almost killed the class. People think and write differently when they think it will become public. After that I do not even collect the answers let alone share them outside the class. It was amazing how close we became, and how quickly, through the writing and sharing of our scripture based prayers.



Lesson 15 - Example of Prayer in Bible

Jonah 2:2-9

Please read Jonah 2:2-9 and answer the following questions:

(A1) Who is praying? _____

(A2) Who besides God is listening? _____

(A3) What is being requested? _____

(A4) Who is/are the people who are expected to receive what is being requested?

(A5) How does the person praying try to convince God to answer?

(A6) What is the place, posture (kneeling, bowing, or what) and mode (silent, out loud, written) of the prayer? _____

(A7) What results, if any, are reported to the prayer? _____

(A8) How can we apply this to our own prayer life?

Think & Pray _____

Lesson 15 - Example of Prayer in Bible: Jonah 2:2-9

(You may have to look at the context before and after for some of the answers)

(A1, 3, 4, & 6) Jonah is praying from the belly of the fish (Verse 1) for his survival.

(A2) Only God can hear him.

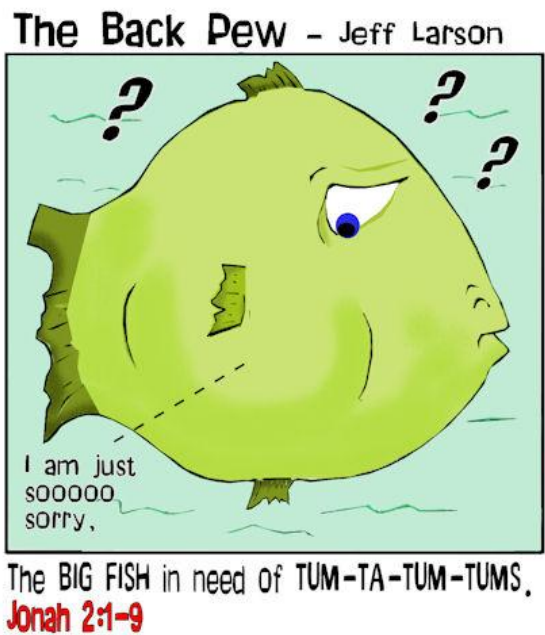
(A5) Jonah uses an interesting method of trying to convince God. He does not ask God for anything directly, although it is clear what he wants. Jonah just thanks God and praises Him as if the prayer were already answered. It takes a lot of faith to pray that way. He promises he will worship and thank Him.

(A7) The result of the prayer is that the fish spits the prophet out. (Verse 10)

(A8) I think it very likely that this prayer is of the kind promised in Romans 8:26. I think Jonah simply cried out in anguish, and what we read here are the words of the Holy Spirit.

Keep in mind these are examples. There are many more prayers and promises in the Bible than are mentioned in these lessons.

Notes from class discussion:





Lesson 15 - Scripture Promise

Malachi 3:10

Please read Malachi 3:10 and answer the following questions:

(B1) Who is speaking to whom? (You will need to look at the context.)

(B2) What is promised to whom?

(B3) What are the conditions of the promise being fulfilled, if any?

(B4) Does this promise apply to us? Why or why not?

Think & Pray _____



Lesson 15 - Scripture Promise: Malachi 3:10

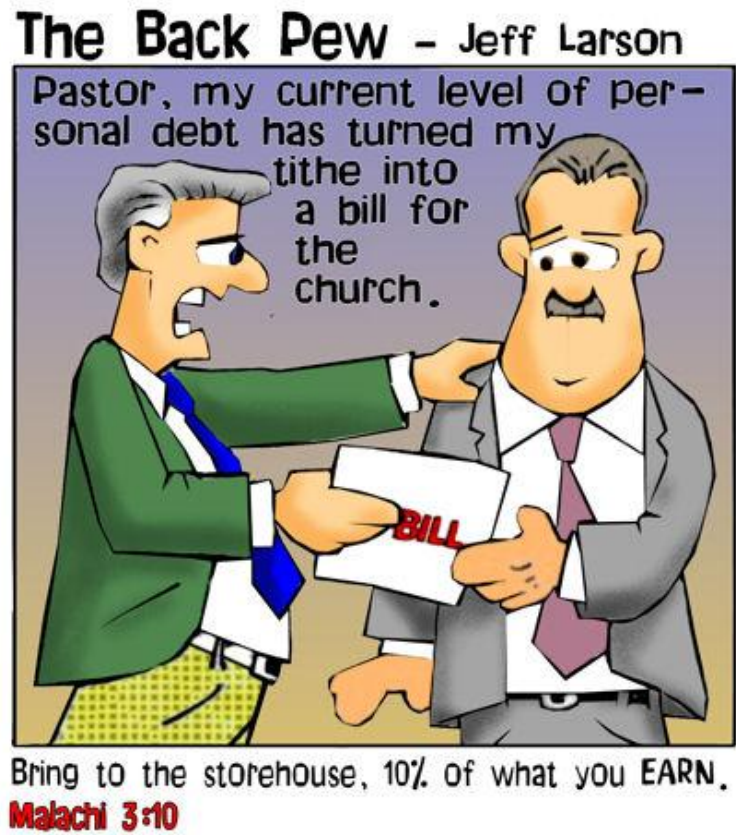
(B1) Who is speaking to whom? The Lord is speaking to His people. (Verse 6)

(B2) What is promised to whom? Abundant blessings that overflow our capacity to receive them.

(B3) What are the conditions of the promise being fulfilled, if any? That we tithe. (i.e. give 10% to God)

(B4) I highly recommend you meet the conditions for this promise being fulfilled.

Notes from class discussion:





Lesson 15 - Scripture Inspired Prayer

John 15:7-12

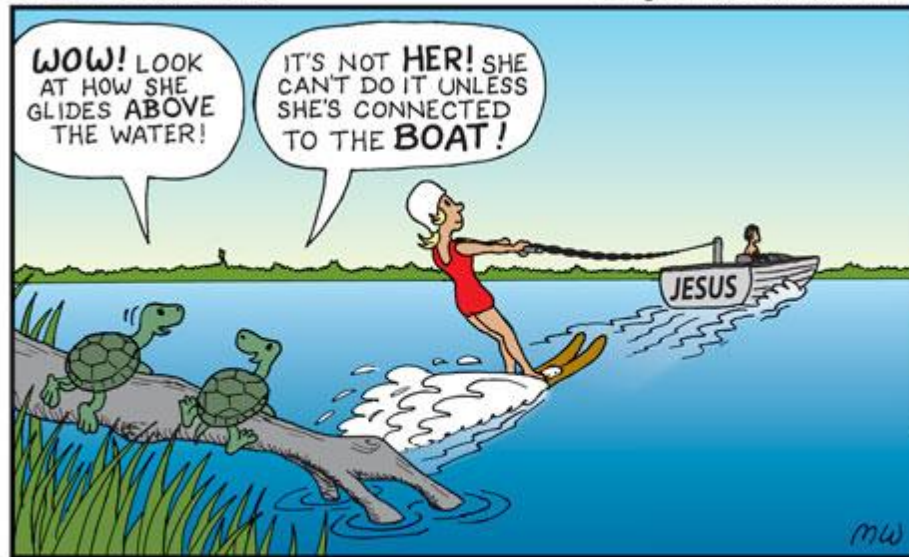
Using a Scripture Passage to Pray:

Change the passage John 15:7-12 into a prayer:

Think & Pray

CONNECTION

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

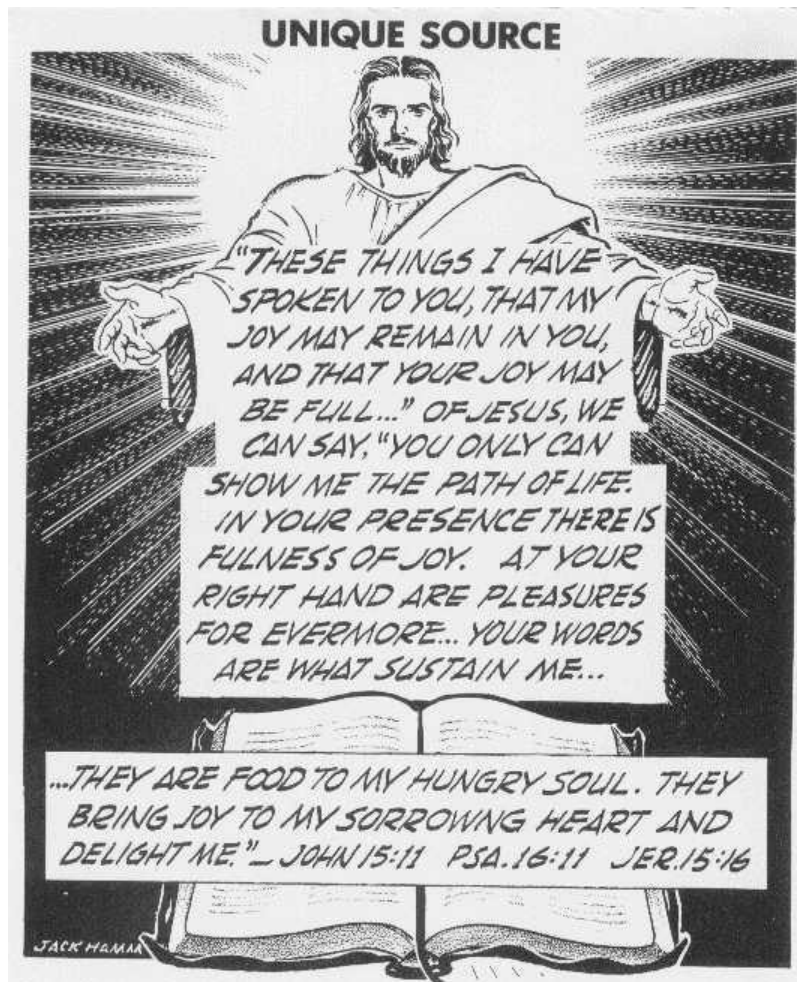
- JOHN 15:5 NIV

Lesson 15 - Changing the passage John 15:7-12 into a prayer:

One possible way of many:

Our prayer: Father in Heaven, You have promised that if we live in You and what You say lives in us, then when we pray You will listen. I pray that we will give all glory and honor to You when we produce spiritual fruit, showing that we are your disciples. Jesus, thank You for loving us. Let us live only in Your love. You obeyed God's commandments so You were able to live in His love. Give us strength to also obey God's commandments, so that we will also live in His love. Thank you for your Word so that our joy will be complete. Give us the strength and courage to love others as You have loved us. AMEN

What did you learn from the prayers of the other people in the class?





Lesson 16 - Example of Prayer in Bible

1 Kings 18:36-37

Please read 1 Kings 18:36-37 and answer these questions:

(A1) Who is praying? _____

(A2) Who besides God is listening? _____

(A3) What is being requested? _____

(A4) Who is/are the people who are expected to receive what is being requested?

(A5) How does the person praying try to convince God to answer?

(A6) What is the place, posture (kneeling, bowing, or what) and mode (silent, out loud, written) of the prayer? _____

(A7) What results, if any, are reported to the prayer? _____

(A8) How can we apply this to our own prayer life?

Think & Pray _____

Lesson 16 - Example of Prayer in Bible: 1 Kings 18:36-37

(You may have to look at the context before and after for some of the answers)

(A1) Who is praying? Elijah

(A2) Who besides God is listening? A large crowd of Israelites and 450 prophets of Baal.

(A3) What is specifically being requested? That God take the sacrifice by fire. (See 1Kgs 18:24)

(A4) Who is/are the expected recipient(s) of what is being requested? The crowd of Israelites will witness God's power.

(A5) How does the person praying try to convince God to answer? Reminding God how His name will be glorified.

(A6) What is the place, posture and mode of the prayer? He is on top of Mt. Carmel, probably standing up, but it does not say. He is speaking aloud.

(A7) What results, if any, are reported to the prayer? "...fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench." 1Kgs 18:38 The people worship God and kill the prophets of Baal.

(A8) If you are expecting an answer that might cause some damage, you might want to stand out of the way a little. More seriously, if your prayers aren't being answered, you might want to consider that you are praying to the wrong god. Are you treating God as if He is Santa Claus or a kindly old wizard in a white robe instead of your Lord and Master?

Notes from class discussion:





Lesson 16 - Scripture Promise

Isaiah 41:10

Please read Isaiah 41:10 and answer these questions.

(B1) Who is speaking to whom?

(B2) What is promised to whom?

(B3) What are the conditions of the promise being fulfilled, if any?

(B4) Does this promise apply to us? Why or why not?

Think & Pray

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Mild mannered Joe Christian knows that when trouble arises... **THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR...**
The **HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD** is here! **Ro 8:26-27**

Lesson 16 - Scripture Promise: Isaiah 41:10

(B1) Who is speaking to whom? God is speaking through the prophet to the nation of Israel.

(B2) What is promised to whom? His people are promised strength and help.

(B3) What are the conditions of the promise being fulfilled, if any? They must not be fearful or anxious.

(B4) Do not fear, God's help is on the way.

Notes from class discussion:

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



God hears our cries, and answers our prayers no matter if we are on a Mt. top or in life's valley. **Ro. 8:38-39**



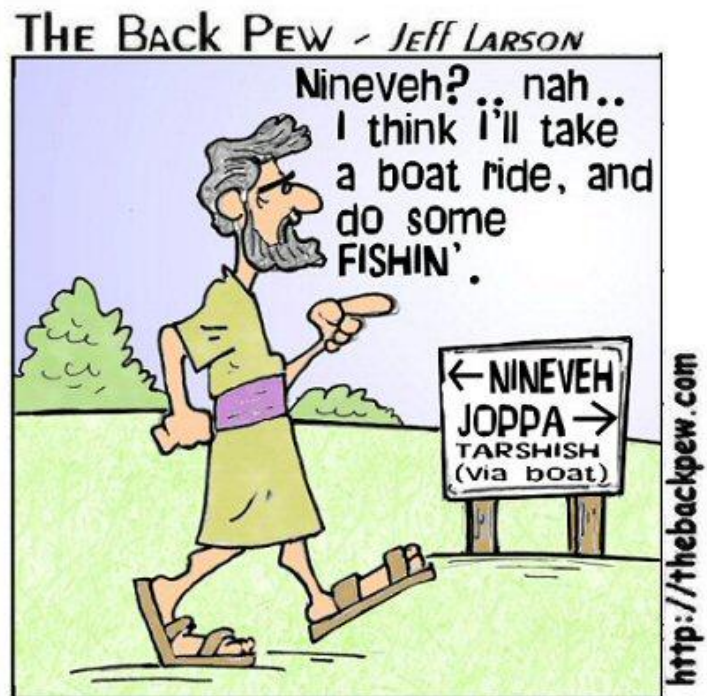
Lesson 16 - Scripture Inspired Prayer

Jonah 1:1-3

Using a Scripture Passage to Pray:

Change the passage **Jonah 1:1-3** into a prayer:

Think & Pray _____



God calls Jonah to travel to Nineveh and preach. Jonah goes with plan B. **Jonah 1:1-3**
BAD PLAN!! *When God says go.. you best be gain'.*

Lesson 16 - Changing the passage **Jonah 1:1-3** into a prayer:

One possible way of many:

Lord, Let me have a listening ear that I may always recognize Your voice when you come to me with instructions. Help me to always be willing to go where You send me even if it is to a place I am afraid to go. Help me to recognize wickedness and speak against it. Help me to never flee from Your presence Lord. But if I do, be gentle in bringing me back. Amen.

What did you learn from the prayers of the other people in the class?





Lesson 17 - Example of Prayer in Bible

Acts 12:5-12

Please read Acts 12:5-12 and answer the following questions:

(A1) Who is praying? _____

(A2) Who besides God is listening? _____

(A3) What is being requested? _____

(A4) Who is/are the people who are expected to receive what is being requested?

(A5) How does the person praying try to convince God to answer?

(A6) What is the place, posture (kneeling, bowing, or what) and mode (silent, out loud, written) of the prayer? _____

(A7) What results, if any, are reported to the prayer? _____

(A8) How can we apply this to our own prayer life?

Think & Pray _____

Lesson 17 - Example of Prayer in Bible: Acts 12:5-12

(You may have to look at the context before and after for some of the answers)

(A1) Who is praying? The church as a whole.

(A2) Who besides God is listening? Probably they heard each other, but the Bible is not explicit.

(A3) What is being requested? The Bible does not say, but from the results, they were praying for his release.

(A4) Who is/are the people who are expected to receive what is being requested? Peter

(A5) How do those praying try to convince God to answer? By being earnest, fervent and persistent.

(A6) What is the place, posture and mode of the prayer? Many were at the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, (v 12), but the wording of this verse and verse 5, makes it likely the prayer was being offered from multiple locations.

(A7) What results, if any, are reported to the prayer? An angel releases Peter from prison.

(A8) How can we apply this to our own prayer life? Earnest, fervent, persistent, prayer is effective. Getting others to pray with you is a good idea. Don't quit. You must have faith the answer is on the way.

Notes from class discussion:





Lesson 17 - Scripture Promise

1 John 1:9

Please read 1 John 1:9 and answer the following questions:

(B1) Who is speaking to whom?

(B2) What is promised to whom?

(B3) What are the conditions of the promise being fulfilled, if any?

(B4) Does this promise apply to us? Why or why not?

Think & Pray _____

WRONG TURN

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- 1 JOHN 1:9 NIV

Lesson 17 - Scripture Promise: 1 John 1:9

(B1) Who is speaking to whom? John is speaking to his readers.

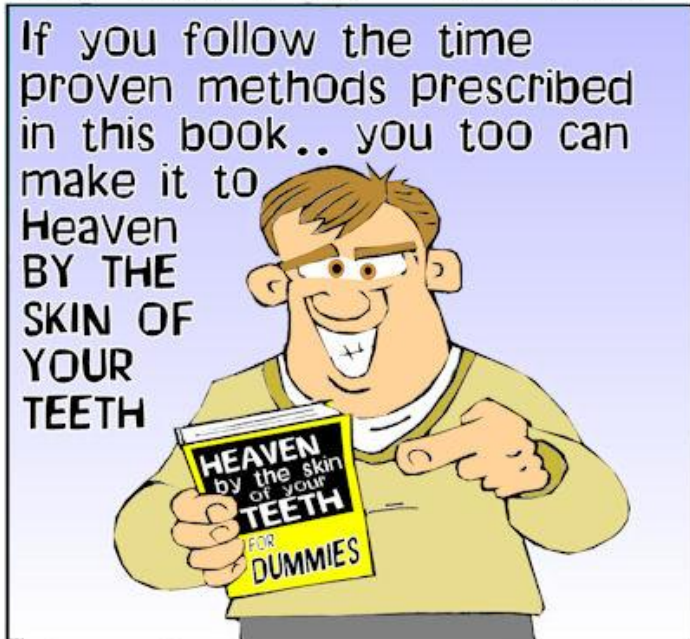
(B2) What is promised to whom? Forgiveness of sin and cleansing of all unrighteousness is promised to all those who meet the conditions of the promise.

(B3) What are the conditions of the promise being fulfilled, if any? We must confess our sins.

(B4) Why not be honest to God about our faults? He already knows what they are anyway.

Notes from class discussion:

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Salvation IS NOT a fad diet, or any get rich quick infomercial message. **1 John 1:9**



Lesson 17 - Scripture Inspired Prayer

Revelation 3:19-22

Using a Scripture Passage to Pray:

Change the passage **Revelation 3:19-22** into a prayer:

Think & Pray _____

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



<http://thebackpew.com>

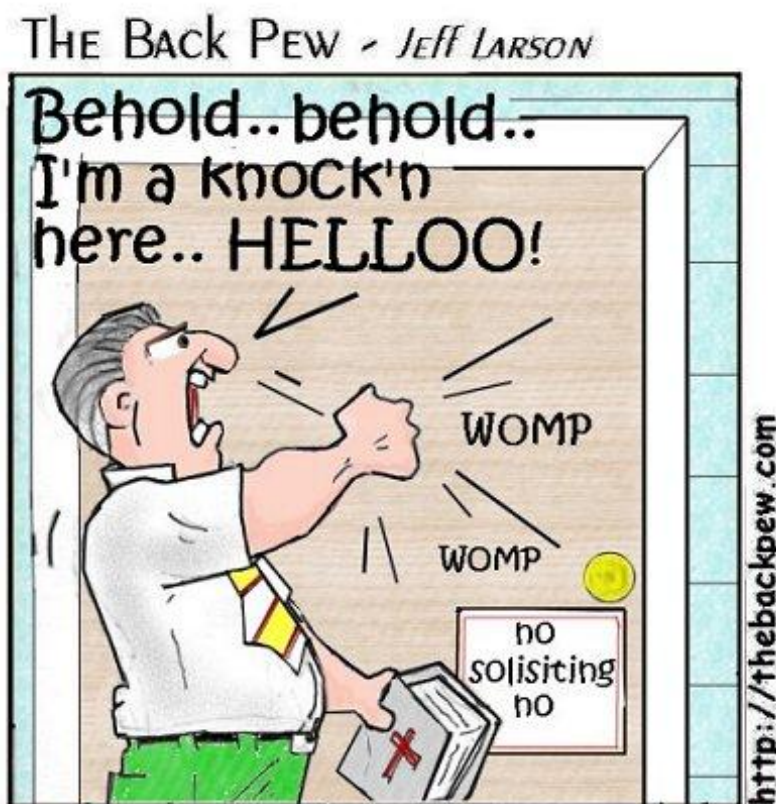
Your faith is not hot, or cold, but lukewarm. So I will spit you out like room temp 'church' coffee. **Rev. 3:14-27**
(The church of Laodocia)

Lesson 17 - Changing the passage **Revelation 3:19-22** into a prayer:

One possible way of many:

Thank You Father in Heaven that You correct and discipline everyone You love, including me and those gathered here with me. Help us to take Your discipline seriously, and change the way we think and act. Thank You that You are standing at the doors of our hearts and knocking. Help us to always listen to Your voice and always open the door of our heart to You. Come Lord Jesus and we'll eat together Your spiritual food. Help us to overcome the struggles of this world. Thank you for allowing us to win the victory and sit with You on Your throne. Give us ears to listen to what Your Spirit says, because we too are saved in Christ. AMEN

What did you learn from the prayers of the other people in the class?



Former door to door salesman Chet Newcombe, and new believer is now taking his new cause door to door.



Lesson 18 - Example of Prayer in Bible

Habakkuk 3:2-19

Please read Habakkuk 3:2-19 and answer the following questions:

(A1) Who is praying? _____

(A2) Who besides God is listening? _____

(A3) What is being requested? _____

(A4) Who is/are the people who are expected to receive what is being requested?

(A5) How does the person praying try to convince God to answer?

(A6) What is the place, posture (kneeling, bowing, or what) and mode (silent, out loud, written) of the prayer? _____

(A7) What results, if any, are reported to the prayer? _____

(A8) How can we apply this to our own prayer life?

Think & Pray _____

Lesson 18 - Example of Prayer in Bible: Habakkuk 3:2-19

(You may have to look at the context before and after for some of the answers)

(A1) Who is praying? Habakkuk, the prophet.

(A2) Who besides God is listening? Unknown. Someone named Shigionoth is reporting the prayer (Verse 1), so at least it seems likely he listened to it, although it is possible he simply wrote it down later when Habakkuk told him about it.

(A3) What is specifically being requested? That in the midst of His wrath, God will remember to have mercy. (Verse 2)

(A4) Who is/are the expected recipient(s) of what is being requested? The implication seems to be God's people will benefit from God's mercy, but it is not clearly stated. Since Habakkuk talks about hiding and trembling, it is possible the prophet was more selfish in his expectations.

(A5) How does the person praying try to convince God to answer? Habakkuk reminds God of his past mercies, and proclaims that no matter what happens, he will serve God.

(A6) What is the place, posture and mode of the prayer? In verse 16 Habakkuk is trembling in the temple, so it seems reasonable that is where he was praying. The posture and mode is not reported.

(A7) What results, if any, are reported to the prayer? The book of Habakkuk reports no results with regard to the mercy in the midst of wrath, but I think we can safely assume that the character of God assures us He will be merciful.

(A8) Of the most interest to me is the change in the prophet's heart as he prays. In verse 16 he is trembling in fear, but before he is done he is confident that God will take care of him. I believe this is the most frequent result of prayer – God changes the heart of the person praying.

A8) Notes from class discussion:



Lesson 18 - Scripture Promise

Joshua 1:8

Please read Joshua 1:8 and answer the following questions:

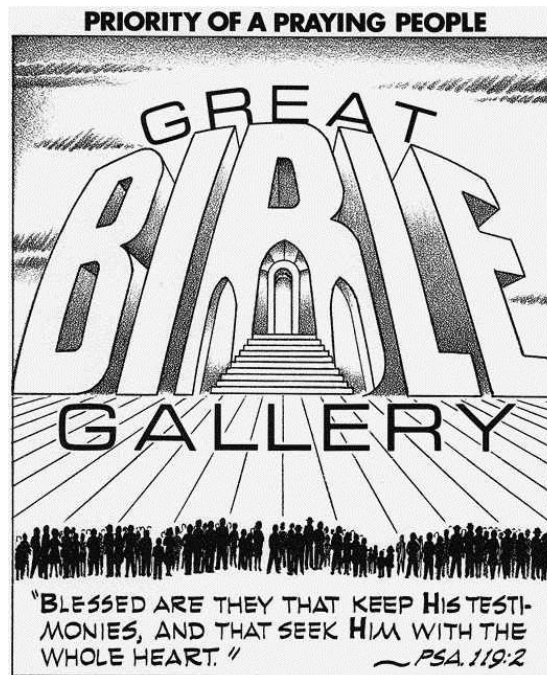
(B1) Who is speaking to whom?

(B2) What is promised to whom?

(B3) What are the conditions of the promise being fulfilled, if any?

(B4) Does this promise apply to us? Why or why not?

Think & Pray _____



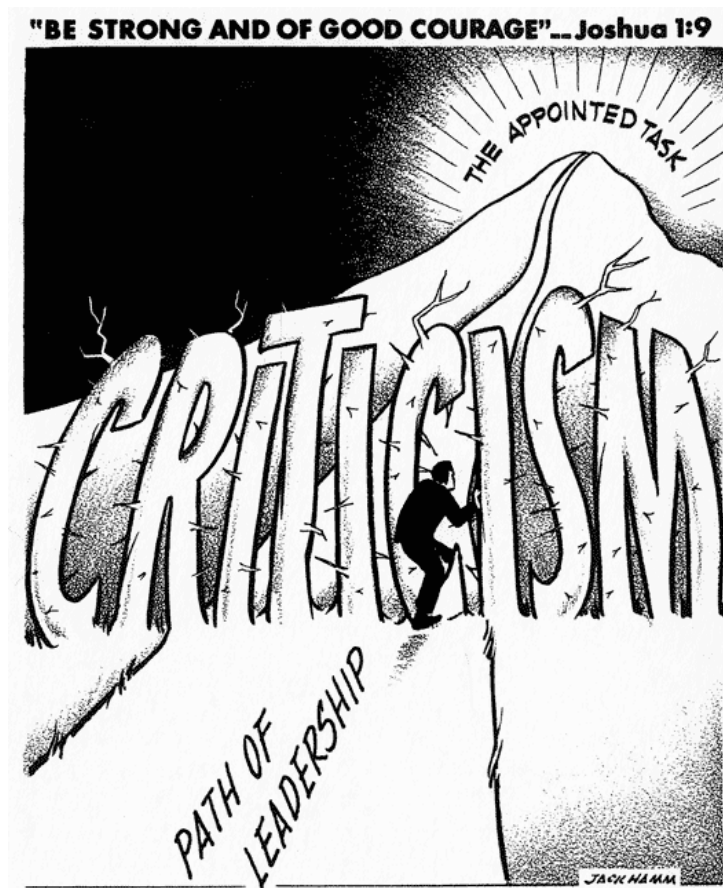
Lesson 18 - Scripture Promise: Joshua 1:8

(B1 & 2) The Lord is speaking to Joshua and promises him success and prosperity.

(B3) Thinking about and talking about God's word at all times will lead to a careful obedience to it. This obedience will in turn lead to a prosperity and success.

(B4) The interesting thing here is the cause and effect relationships. Doing things God's way leads to prosperity and success, period. It is not like we do things God's way and God miraculously intervenes to keep a promise. His ways are the laws of the universe, and as such, are self fulfilling.

Notes from class discussion:





Lesson 18 - Scripture Inspired Prayer

Psalms

Using a Psalm to Pray.

Change any passage from the book of Psalms into a prayer. I used Psalm 119:1-12 on the back. Some of the Psalms do not even have to be changed. They can be prayed just like they are because they are prayers.

Think & Pray _____



Lesson 18 Changing the passage **Psalm 119:1-12** into a prayer:

One possible way of many:

Father, You have blessed me for I am safely covered by the blood of Jesus. In Your sight I am blameless. Help me to observe Your testimonies and seek You with ALL my heart. As I walk in Your ways guide me away from unrighteousness. Give me strength to diligently keep Your precepts. Establish my ways in You. With Jesus as my savior I will not be ashamed. Thank You Lord for Your righteous judgments. Do not forsake us. Help us to keep our ways pure by keeping your word. Help us to seek you with all our heart. Do not let us wander from Your commandments. Let us treasure Your word in our hearts so that we might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD; Teach us Your statutes. AMEN

What did you learn from the prayers of the other people in the class?

