



FALL 2019



FALL 2019

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LEADER GUIDE INCLUDED

YOU—CONNECT. GROW. SERVE. GO!

**COMING NEXT QUARTER**

**AIN'T HE ALRIGHT!**

To understand God is to understand good.



**UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE**

Real compassion has real costs.



**CALLING ALL SAINTS!**

We must work to live out our call in a world filled with sin.



**FAITH ENGAGED**

Believers worship, work, and witness for God.



**STAYING THE COURSE**

What does faithfulness look like?



**LIVING ABOVE LOSS**

God is still the Healer of broken hearts.



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## HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN

You won't find it on a map, but a highway to heaven does exist. "The Roman Road" is explained in the Book of Romans in the Bible, and it tells how to go to heaven.

The road begins at Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." God is the source for our journey to heaven. He gives power for salvation to all who believe.

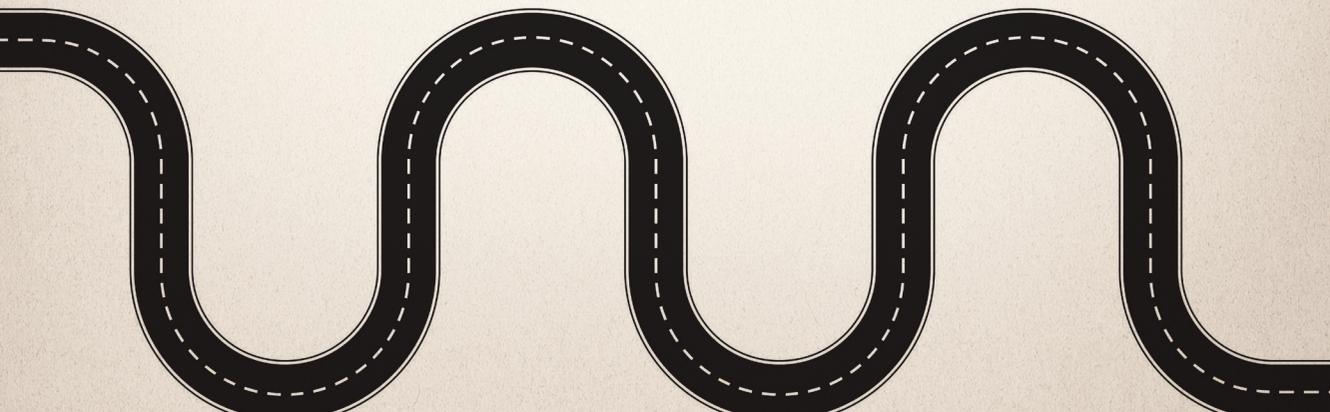
We need God's power because we have a problem with sin. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "Sin" means missing the mark or missing God's intended destination for us. None of us can reach that destination on his or her own because everyone is a sinner.

When we work, we earn money. Sin earns wages as well—wages of death. Because God loves all sinners, He has provided another route: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

The highway to heaven is found in Romans 10:9: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." We need to confess our sin and ask God for forgiveness. To confess Jesus as Lord involves agreeing with God about your sin and your need for salvation. You must repent of your sin, turning away from the direction in life in which you are going. To "believe in your heart" is to place your faith in Jesus, trusting that He died on the cross to pay for your sins. "But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

If you would like to have salvation in Jesus Christ, sincerely pray a prayer like this one: "Dear God, I confess to You my sin and need for salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Amen."

Share your faith in Jesus with a Christian friend or pastor. Becoming a Christian is your first step on the lifelong road of spiritual growth and service God desires for you. Follow Christ in believer's baptism by immersion and join a local church.





## Staying Fit ... Spiritually

We talk a lot about the importance of staying physically fit, but what about the health of your spirit? Connect, Grow, Serve, Go is a call to evaluate your present spiritual condition and discover ways to improve your spiritual health. Packed into each biblical concept—Connect, Grow, Serve, Go—is a simple way you can move forward, not remain stagnant. Best of all, these tools will stand the test of time—no “fad” diets here. They will help you become spiritually healthy, and stay that way.



WITH AN OPEN HEART  
*MARK 12:29-31*



IN BODY, MIND, & SPIRIT  
*ROMANS 12:2*



WITH WILLING HANDS  
*1 PETER 4:10-11*



WITH READY FEET  
*MATTHEW 28:19-20*

**Connect** urges you to worship, pray, fellowship, and relate to others in positive relationships at work, at home, and in other settings. Spiritual fitness results when you connect with God, with others, and with your church family.

**Grow** refers to learning and understanding more about God and His expectations of His people, which comes through Bible study. You grow by applying that knowledge to your everyday living.

**Serve** describes the work you do inside your church. Your church is full of ministry and service opportunities. You serve by using your spiritual gifts, skills, and passions to glorify God. All of us must work together for the church to function as God intended.

**Go** moves you outside the church and into the community and the world. Evangelism and missions are ways to go into your community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ. It might be uncomfortable at first, but you will experience firsthand the difference Christ can make through you.

---

Connect, Grow, Serve, Go must impact YOU, the individual, before it can permeate your circle of friends, your Bible study group, and then the church as a whole. But balance is the key! We must be actively participating in all four areas if we want to be spiritually healthy. All Go and no Connect with God or other believers results in powerless activity and wears you out. A steady diet of Grow without the action of Serve or Go leads to unhealthy spiritual obesity and laziness. We need a balanced spiritual diet to remain fit and able to serve God in the ways He has gifted us.

The *YOU* lessons will help you Connect , Grow , Serve , and Go . Look for these icons throughout this issue. They will help you check and maintain your spiritual health.

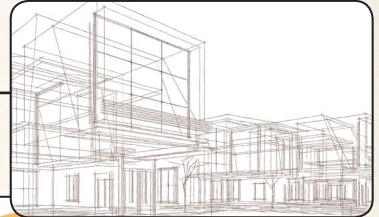
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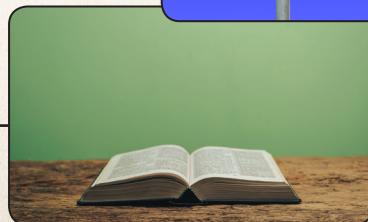
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# A WORD FROM THE GENERAL EDITOR **MARK CROSTON**

If you have never experienced heartache, the old saints would say, “Just keep on living!” I have certainly experienced my share. Among many other things, my first wife died after a ten-year struggle with breast cancer. What a terrible time that was. My plans were shattered, my finances were strained because of medical bills, I was left to hold life together with two grieving children in their late teens; and some who should have been allies, in their grief, became agitators. My heart was heavy, but my hope never diminished. These were times when like David I could have given up except for Psalm 27:13, “I am certain that I will see the LORD’s goodness in the land of the living.”



The studies in this quarter will fortify you for times when heartache comes your way. This quarter will discuss spiritual maturity, which gives us the strength to face troubling times; God’s faithfulness and the reminder that He will never leave us or forsake us; and hope that helps us see the bright side even in our darkest days.

Let me also say, we had an awesome time this summer at **Black Church Leadership and Family Conference!** There was something for the entire family. God moved in some amazing ways. There was powerful preaching, transformative teaching, wonderful worship, and fantastic fun. Make your plans now to be a part, **July 20-24, 2020.**

Thanks for joining me in this season of study. Grab your Bible and allow God to speak through YOU!

Be blessed!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Dr. Mark A. Croston, Sr.**

YOU General Editor

National Director of Black Church Partnerships

[www.lifeway.com/BlackChurchLife](http://www.lifeway.com/BlackChurchLife)



# A WORD FROM THE EDITOR...



“So don’t throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you need endurance, so that after you have done God’s will, you may receive what was promised” (Heb. 10:35-36).

It has been a little over seven years since I said yes to YOU and joined the LifeWay family. I’ve had the joy of serving in ministry alongside committed, gifted, and fun-loving coworkers passionate about service to God through service to His people. Included in our family are additional brothers and sisters throughout the country who have poured into YOU.

We know the number seven signifies completion. And as I write my final words as content editor, I am filled with mixed emotions: grateful for the many churches that continue to choose YOU to help equip God’s people; grateful for the people whose lives are impacted by this multicultural-focused Bible study; and looking forward to what the Lord has in store for me as I step into the next phase of my journey—with praise and thanksgiving in my heart.

God’s timing is always “on time.” These lessons on spiritual maturity, faithfulness, and heartache speak to His timing. They also remind me not only of how far God has brought me but also of His faithfulness toward churches, ministries, and individuals impacting lives for His kingdom. My heartfelt prayer is that you will continue to “be about His business!”

Because of His love and faithfulness,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beverly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay's doctrinal guideline, please visit [www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline](http://www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline).

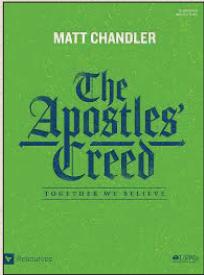
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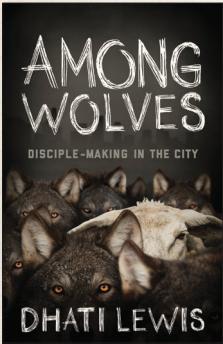
# SUGGESTED DISCIPLE-MAKING RESOURCES

Here's a list of resources you can use to deepen your understanding of the units of study this quarter. These resources complement the lessons for this quarter and can be used for small group study, midweek study, or personal Bible study.



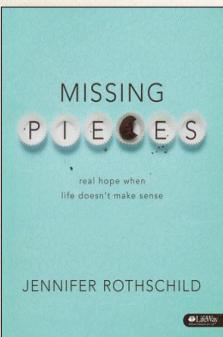
## THE APOSTLES' CREED (FOR UNIT 1)

Dive deeply into what Christians believe, why we believe it, and how to apply our beliefs in a life of informed, active, and practicing discipleship. *The Apostles' Creed* by Matt Chandler is a twelve-session study containing essential doctrines and beliefs that summarize the gospel and the foundation of our faith. This study will help believers improve evangelistic efforts, gain a succinct understanding of Christianity, its origins, and its basic theology, and transform your group into engaged disciples of Jesus who embrace and practice the essential doctrines of their faith.



## AMONG WOLVES (FOR UNIT 2)

*Among Wolves* by Dharti Lewis is an eight-session Bible study that explores eight movements in the Book of Matthew that will help you create cultures of disciple making in your changing city. Our world is changing. Our cities and neighborhoods are brimming with vibrant diversity. And while communities may have embraced this change, many churches have not. In Matthew 10, Jesus challenged His disciples by telling them, "Look, I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves" (v. 16). And He is calling us to do the same—to make disciples wherever we live, work, and play.



## MISSING PIECES (FOR UNIT 3)

Does God care? Is He fair? Is He even there? Although you may know all the right answers, they don't always feel right. *Missing Pieces: Real Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense* by Jennifer Rothschild is an eight-session Bible study that provides a video-driven personal study experience for women. Explore these and other questions in this realistic look at the messy, mysterious uncertainties of faith. God's ways don't always make sense, but He is trustworthy. Come close to Him. Trust Him more than your feelings. God will reveal Himself and fill in your missing pieces.

Visit [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) or call 1-800-458-2772 for more information or to purchase any of these products.

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# REGIONAL

## OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

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Zion Baptist Church (ZBC), Marietta, Georgia, hosted the three-day YOU Fall 2019 lesson development conference, December 11–13, 2018. Pastor Eric Beckham, Dr. Sandra Ervin (church administrator), and Dr. Greg Odom (Christian education director) coordinated the conference. Known as the church “where everybody is somebody and Christ Jesus is Lord,” Zion Marietta is a 153-year-old, predominately African American church formed by former slaves in the heart of the historic downtown Marietta Square. Its vision is to reach all generations for Christ through teaching, worship, mission service, evangelism, and discipleship ministries.

The dynamic team of pastors, ministers of Christian education, student and young adult ministry leaders, Bible study teachers, and others included Dr. Mark Croston (YOU general editor); Eric Beckham (senior pastor, ZBC); Dr. Joy Eichelberger (adult teacher/deaconess, ZBC); Bianca Howard (children and youth pastor, ZBC); Joseph Howard (associate minister, Mt. Ephraim BC, Atlanta); John Mason (senior pastor, Providence Community BC, Marietta); Pam Mitchell (small group leader, ZBC); Maina Mwaura (minister/freelance journalist, Johnson Ferry BC, Marietta); Dr. Greg Odom (Christian education director, ZBC); B. J. Thompson (associate minister, Blueprint Church, Atlanta); and Jean L. Ward (senior pastor, East Atlanta Church). Beverly Sonnier (YOU content editor) served as the conference facilitator. It is our continued prayer that the team’s collective input reflected throughout this quarterly Bible study resource will assist and impact churches in their mission of making disciples and reaching the world for Christ.



# Unit 1

## Faith Engaged



## A Bible Study on Spiritual Maturity

“My, how big you’ve grown!” said no adult to another adult ever. Yet we often comment about children’s growth because we expect to see physical development. We delight in seeing children “grow up,” or become taller and more capable as time passes.

This unit is about a different type of growth—spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity, like physical growth, begins with birth. When we are born again in Christ, we are “babies in Christ” (1 Cor. 3:1). However, spiritual maturity doesn’t happen automatically. We need to take deliberate, ongoing steps to grow in our relationship with Christ—and to continue growing.

This unit focuses on our spiritual maturity and leads us to ponder these questions:

- What is spiritual maturity?
- What’s stopping me from completing the Lord’s mission?
- How do I acquire spiritual maturity?
- Could you be chosen for service?
- Why must I tell others about Jesus?

Can you celebrate your new birth in Christ and commit to growing in Him? If you haven’t accepted Jesus as your personal Savior, see page 2. Share this most important decision with a church leader or someone in your Bible study group, and get ready to grow together.

# Being and Seeing

Background Passage: Acts 2

Lesson Passages: Acts 2:38–43,47

**The Question:** What is spiritual maturity?  
**The Point:** Spiritual maturity is growing in our relationship with God.

## LESSON PASSAGES

ACTS 2:38-43,47

<sup>38</sup> **a** Peter replied, “\* Repent and be **b** baptized, each of \* you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the **c** Holy Spirit.

<sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, “Be \* saved from this \* corrupt generation!”

<sup>41</sup> So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

<sup>42</sup> They **d** devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the \* fellowship, to the **e** breaking of bread, and to prayer.

<sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles.

.....

<sup>47</sup> . . . praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## KEY WORDS

**a Peter:** Leader and spokesman for the twelve disciples. Acts 2 records his first public sermon.

**b Baptized:** With water. Not for salvation, but a sign of obedience and commitment to Christ.

**c Holy Spirit:** God’s presence in believers’ lives, empowering them to live righteously and differently from the corrupt, sinful people around them.

**d Devoted:** “Committed” (MSG); “continued steadfastly” (KJV); continually and faithfully devoting.

**e Breaking of bread:** Two interpretations: (1) eating together, and (2) taking the Lord’s Supper.

For more information about key words (\*), visit the glossary on pages 160–161.

## MEMORY VERSE

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

# Being and Seeing

Acts 2:38-43,47



## What is spiritual maturity?



### UNIT 1 LESSON 1

When my son was born, my parents began making periodic marks on a doorframe to indicate his height. They added marks for his younger sister later. It was fun to see how quickly the children grew! These “growth charts” are so special that we have talked about moving the doorframe when my parents leave the house. The marks indicate growth, or physical milestones. However, the fact that we “grow up” physically doesn’t mean we mature spiritually. Spiritual maturity is growing in our relationship with God.

## Focal Passage Outline

### BEGIN WITH SALVATION

(Acts 2:38-41)

### BEING DEVOTED TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE

(Acts 2:42)

### SEEING GOD AS GREATER

(Acts 2:43,47)

## BEGIN WITH SALVATION ACTS 2:38-41

“My, how big you’ve grown!” Have you heard people say that to a child, especially when they haven’t seen the youngster for a period of time?

**What are physical signs of growth? Is it possible to become so “grown up” physically that you do not need to grow spiritually? Why or why not?**

Growth is best observed when we have a starting point for comparison. The starting point for spiritual maturity, or growing in our relationship with God, is salvation. Salvation is our new birth as believers (see Key Word \* **saved**, pp. 160–161, and Diggin’ Deeper, p. 13).

Today’s Scripture begins by describing the salvation of a large number of people. This experience is recorded in the Book of Acts, which was written by Luke and tells the story of the early church. **a** Peter (see Key Words, p. 11) stood up among a large crowd and began to preach the gospel of Christ. Those who heard asked Peter and the apostles a key question: “What should we do?” (Acts 2:37) Peter’s response is recorded in today’s Scripture passage.

**Read Acts 2:38-41 and circle the action words in Peter's response.**

In verse 40, Peter stressed that a relationship with God begins with salvation. Turn to page 2 and read “Highway to Heaven,” which explains how salvation is gained. You won’t find it on a map, but a highway to heaven does exist. The Roman Road is explained in the Book of Romans in the Bible; it tells how to go to heaven. If you haven’t asked Jesus into your heart, this would be a great time to do so.

**How would you explain salvation to someone else? With whom can you share the good news of Christ's saving grace?**

In verse 40, Peter called believers to “be **saved** from this \* **corrupt generation**” (see Key Words Glossary, pp. 160–161). When Peter described the world’s condition as “corrupt,” he did not mean corrupt beyond salvation. Rather, this refers to corrupt from the beauty of God’s intentional and unique design for His people. We often fall short of being the beautiful people God calls us to be in mind, body, and spirit. To learn more, read the feature article “The Beauty of Our Intended Design” on pages 29–30.

## BEING DEVOTED TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE ACTS 2:42

Have you ever played charades? It’s a game in which one person uses gestures to illustrate a word or concept, while others try to guess what is being acted out. Let’s give it a try.

**How would you communicate the word *church* in a game of charades? What actions would you show?**

Sometimes we get so focused on what is done in church (preaching, singing, teaching, even eating!) that we don’t consider the true meaning of church. It’s important to *be* the church—not act *like* a church. Luke describes “church” in Acts 2:42-47 without ever using the word (see Did You Know? on p. 14). Let’s take a closer look at verse 42. Check out the Key Word **d** *devoted* (see Key Words, p. 11). This word describes the manner in which the new believers, who had gathered as the first church, shared responsibilities.



## Diggin’ Deeper



## Salvation

Salvation is accomplished through the person and work of God’s Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The biblical idea of salvation involves three concepts:

- **The rescue from danger, harm, or even death of an individual, group, or nation.** Most specifically, the rescue from sin and death (Rom. 6:23).
- **Renewing of the spirit.** Humanity fell from the original condition of moral purity into a state of sin. God’s salvation renews the spirit of a person to lead a life that is morally pleasing to Him (Ps. 51:10-12).
- **Restoration of a right relationship with God.** Sin separates from God, but salvation restores (Rom. 5:10).

# Being and Seeing

Acts 2:38-43,47



## Did you know?

While Luke does not use the word *church* in Acts 2:42-47, he describes it precisely. Today we use the word *church* in at least four different ways:

- **Building:** Place where the body of Christ meets. The Bible never applies the word *church* to a building or specific place of worship.
- **Denomination:** Groups of congregations who form a larger representation of the body of Christ.
- **Local congregation:** A gathering of believers in a geographical area.
- **Universal church:** Believers placed by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ and, therefore, become a part of the universal church.

Read Acts 2:42 and complete the following:

“They devoted themselves to the \_\_\_\_\_, to the \_\_\_\_\_, to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_.”

The earliest converts were eager to learn, so they were **devoted** to the apostles’ teaching. Bible study remains a core function of the church. We never outgrow our study of God’s Word because it is alive! The Book of Acts also records that the new believers focused on \* **fellowship** (see Key Words Glossary, pp. 160–161). When you hear the word *fellowship*, you might think of a church event or even a physical area of your church. Some churches have an area known as the fellowship hall.

**In what ways does your church use the word *fellowship*? What does *fellowship* mean to you?**

The Greek word *koinonia* is translated “fellowship” in Acts 2:42. It refers to a bond of common purpose and devotion that binds Christians to one another and to Christ. This unity with other believers is grounded in common devotion to God. We can certainly share a meal together, but fellowship adds the element of laughing together, crying together, and caring for one another.

In addition, new converts were **devoted** to prayer. Can we pray alone? Absolutely. And we should. But churchwide prayer has incredible power. When you are praying for your church and its members and they are doing the same, God tends to move in a magnificent way. Being committed to a local church body allows us to pray for others and be prayed for by others. A good church helps improve and encourage our prayer life, which in turn helps strengthen our relationship with Christ.

**When have you experienced the power of prayer personally? When have you seen God move through the prayers of your church?**

## SEEING GOD AS GREATER ACTS 2:43,47

I love the word *awe*! I immediately picture the face of a child seeing something amazing for the first time. It’s a look that is indescribable. Awe is something you can’t explain, especially God’s work. One

## Live It!

Growing in our relationship with God begins with salvation—a gift and a promise. Our suspicious human minds sometimes think of gifts as having strings attached and promises as being made to be broken. We need to set aside that human thinking and recognize that God’s gifts and promises are true!

This week, if you have not accepted God’s gift of salvation, refer to page 2. Share this important decision with your pastor or a church leader. To mature in Christ, review information under “Being Devoted to a New Way of Life” (pp. 13–14). Then select a characteristic of the first church for focus this week to help you grow in your relationship with God.

such example is recorded in John 9:1–12, where Jesus healed a man who had been blind since birth. Likewise, Acts 2:43 notes that the new believers were filled with awe when they saw God at work.

**Reflect on how praise songs and hymns describe awe in relationship to God. Consider these: “How Great Thou Art” and “Awesome God.” What others can you name and sing?**

The new believers learned how to live and love together. They were less materialistic and not attached to stuff. God is greater than our stuff! To learn more about how the first believers grew in their relationship with God, read the *Biblical Illustrator* article “The Earliest Converts.” Log on to [www.lifeway.com/YOU](http://www.lifeway.com/YOU). Click on the DOWNLOADABLES tab for additional study helps for Unit 1, Lesson 1.

**Read Hebrews 10:25. How does this encourage believers to gather together?**

The way others responded to the believers is recorded in Acts 2:47. When believers unite, the unsaved are drawn to God. Revelation 12:11 describes the ultimate victory of believers’ testimony!

## SO WHAT? How does this apply to me?

When we talk about church, we usually say we are “going to church.” That means we’re going to a building in which a group of believers meet. The Book of Acts reminds us that we are the church. When we accept God’s free gift of salvation, we become His children and part of His church. From there we begin to grow toward spiritual maturity in our relationship with Him.

• **How has this study encouraged you in your spiritual growth?**



• **How does being part of a church help you grow spiritually?**

• **Which part of the Book of Acts’ description of the early church amazes you most? Why?**

### 1. GLOW, THEN GROW

Exodus 34:29

The glow of motherhood reveals the presence of new life long before the tell-tale sign of a baby bump. Although it reveals the presence of new life, it's the bump that evidences the baby's growth. The spiritual maturity journey has a similar flow. The joy of salvation gives us a Moses-like glow as we are introduced to God's presence. However, only time spent with the Father will mature us into strong, faith-filled believers. First comes the glow; then comes the growth!

***Father, endow me with a spiritual glow; nurture and sustain its radiance with Your Word.***

### 2. AFTER THE "GLOW"

Exodus 35:1

If salvation is the glow, then spiritual maturity must be the afterglow. Time spent in the presence of God brings an automatic, lingering change in how one speaks, thinks, and acts. Moses, after descending from Mount Sinai, not only carried visible evidence of his encounter with God but also an inner radiance that motivated him to follow God's instructions. We see that as he faithfully delivered God's commandments to the Israelites. Question: Are you living in the afterglow—glowing, growing, and going?

***Gracious Father, I vow to actively live in the afterglow of Your presence, seeking to learn more about You and Your plan for my life.***

# DAILY READINGS

### 3. ME, MYSELF, AND I

Galatians 5:7

Eighties' Saturday night television produced a deeply "Christian" woman who asked various people a contorted-faced question, "Who made you do that?" Most times she would offer up a pious, yet comedic, response, "SATAN!" Not so funny is the deep truth found in what is known as comedic genius: Christians give Satan too much credit! When seeking an answer to who prevents us from completing God's mission, the popular answer is Satan, but the accurate answer is "me myself, and I!"

***God, sometimes I'm guilty of believing more in Satan's power than in salvation's liberating power; forgive me and renew my determination to complete my life's mission.***

### 4. REALITY CHECK

Jonah 2:1-4

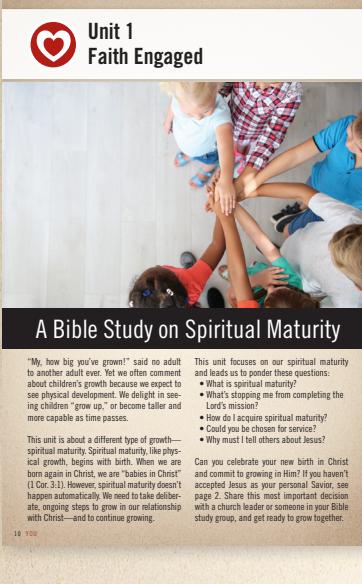
Jonah would have loved the twenty-first century. Its wave of reality shows, virtual reality simulators, and online societies would have been a perfect escape route, as opposed to landing in the belly of a real, live water creature large enough to house a grown man. Ironically, it was the reality check he needed. Even better, it's what we need! Spiritual growth requires shifting from a self-centered focus to a God-centered focus regardless the assignment.

***God, my Master, help me do the right thing at the right time with the right attitude.***

# HOW TO TEACH



## Step 1: Read the Lesson and study the Leader Commentary.



**Unit 1 Faith Engaged**

**A Bible Study on Spiritual Maturity**

"My, how big you've grown!" said no adult to another adult ever. Yet we often comment about children's growth because we expect to see physical development. We delight in seeing children "grow up," or become taller and more capable as time passes.

This unit is about a different type of growth—spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity, like physical growth, begins with birth. When we are born again in Christ, we are "babes in Christ" (1 Cor. 3:1). However, spiritual maturity doesn't happen automatically. We need to take deliberate, ongoing steps to grow in our relationship with Christ—and to continue growing.

This unit focuses on our spiritual maturity and leads us to ponder these questions:

- What is spiritual maturity?
- What's stopping me from completing the Lord's mission?
- How do I acquire spiritual maturity?
- Could you be chosen for service?
- Why must I tell others about Jesus?

Can you celebrate your new birth in Christ and comment to growing in Him? If you haven't accepted Jesus as your personal Savior, page 2. Share this most important decision with a church leader or someone in your Bible study group, and get ready to grow together.

**UNIT 1, LESSON 1**

**Being and Seeing**

Background Passage: Acts 2  
Lesson Passages: Acts 2:38-43, 47

**The Question:** What is spiritual maturity?  
**The Point:** Spiritual maturity is growing in our relationship with God.

**LESSON PASSAGES**  
ACTS 2:38-43, 47

**Peter replied:** "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

"For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, "Be saved from this corrupt generation!"

So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles.

... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**KEY WORDS**

- Peter:** Leader and spokesman for the twelve disciples. Acts 2 marks his first public sermon.
- Baptism:** With water, but by immersion, not a sign of obedience and commitment to Christ.
- Devoted:** Self's presence in believers' lives, expressing trust in God (devotion) and directed toward God.
- Devoted:** "Committed" (NRSV); "devotedly" (ESV); "devotedly" (NIV); "devotedly" (NASB).
- Breaking of bread:** See interpretations of eating together, and of taking the Lord's Supper.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** About key words, visit the glossary on pages 102–105.

**MEMORY VERSE**  
Acts 2:38

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

**BEFORE YOU TEACH FOR UNIT 1, LESSON 1 (pp. 11–15)**

**STEP 1 OVERVIEW THE UNIT.**  
As you prepare to begin a new unit, spend quiet time reviewing the lessons. Read the unit introduction (p. 10). Locate the title, The Question, and The Point for each week's lesson. Especially consider your answer to the Question for this lesson: "What is spiritual maturity?" Reflect on what has helped you grow in your relationship with God and share your thoughts with the group.

**STEP 2 EXTEND AN INVITATION.**  
Beginning a new unit is an excellent time to invite people to Bible study. In addition to contacting regular attendees, get in touch with those who have been absent. Have any new individuals or families moved to your neighborhood? Do you visit, take a small gift as an introduction to tell them about the new unit. A copy of YOU will help them feel connected to the group and prepared to learn.

**STEP 3 FOCUS ON FELLOWSHIP.**  
Prophesied in Old Testament to the early church as described in this lesson, Read the Holy Word fellowship and comments about the early church "Being Devoted to a New Way of Life." On a scale of 1–5, with 1 being biblical fellowship (kenosis) and 5 a church party, how would you rank your church's fellowship? How can you help your group see fellowship as a way of life rather than an event or location?

**STEP 4 SEE GOD AT WORK.**  
This lesson title is "Being and Seeing." How are you seeing God at work? When have been filled with awe? Praise and sing or listen to some praise songs, such as "How Great Thou Art" and "Our God is an Awesome God." Share links to these with your class through social media or texts.

**LOOK BACK**  
Welcome members and guests. Briefly review last week's session (YOU Summer 2019, Unit 3, Lesson 6). Ask a helper to read The Question ("What does it mean to trust Jesus as Savior?") and The Point ("You can trust Jesus with your past, present, and future."). Refer to the Live It! challenge (p. 97), and invite volunteers to share how they did it into practice. Ask, How did the study help you understand *trusting Jesus as Savior*? Lead the group in reading last week's Memory Verse, Roman 10:9.

**YOU OBJECT LESSON**

**ROLLS OF STRING OR RIBBON**  
Provide string or ribbon and scissors to volunteers and ask them to measure their height, and then cut off that much string or ribbon. Learners might want to work in pairs or small groups. Invite learners to display their height strings after measuring. Ask, Is there anyone present who is the same height now as you were when you were a newborn baby? Display a twenty-inch length of string and state that it represents the average length (height) for a newborn baby. Say, Observe all of our new growth physically since being born. We also called it *growing spiritually* after being born in Christ. **Make by saying:** This week, when you see a piece of string or ribbon, remember to make spiritual maturity a priority.

**BEING AND SEEING (TEACHING PLAN)**  
FOR UNIT 1, LESSON 1 (pp. 11–15)

**INTRODUCTION**

Prior to the session, display a child's growth chart or locate a picture of one. Invite group members to share experiences with growth charts or summarize the first part of the lesson introduction on page 12.

Say, We cherish growth charts because their markings indicate growth, or physical milestones. We like to look back and remember how children have developed. However, the fact that we "grow up" physically doesn't mean we mature spiritually. Explain that spiritual maturity is growing in our relationship with God.

Position today's session as the first in a new unit about spiritual maturity. Use the unit introduction on page 10 to provide an overview of the new unit. Transition into today's lesson by explaining that it tells the story of the early church in the Book of Acts. Summarize the first two paragraphs of the Leader Commentary on page 105, beginning with the words: "The Book of Acts."

**DIG INTO THE TEXT**

**BEGIN WITH SALVATION ACTS 2:38-41**

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud Acts 2:37. Write the question on the board: "What should we do?" (Acts 2:37). Read out that Peter's response is recorded in today's Scripture passage. Read Acts 2:38-41 aloud, asking learners to listen for action words as you read. Focus on verse 40. Say, Peter stressed that a relationship with God begins with salvation. Use the Holy Word saved and read or summarize Digger Deeper (p. 13) to provide insight into salvation.
- Invite learners to turn to page 2, and briefly overview "Highway to Heaven." Encourage those who have not accepted Jesus as their personal Savior to consider doing so today. Ask, How would you explain salvation to someone else? With whom can you share the good news of Christ?
- Read or summarize the last paragraph under the heading "Begin with Salvation" (p. 12) that begins "In verse 40." Discuss. In what ways is our world corrupt from God's intended design? How do you experience hope through salvation?

**BEING DEVOTED TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE ACTS 2:42**

- Describe the game charades, in which one person uses gestures to illustrate a word or concept and others try to guess what is being communicated. Invite learners to guess the word you will communicate. Go through the motions of activities in a church, such as greeting, preaching, taking an offering, and eating.
- Say, Sometimes we get so focused on the church's activities (singing, preaching, taking an offering) or even physical appearance (for example, a steeple) that we don't consider the true meaning of church. It's important to be the church, not act like a church.
- Summarize it invite a volunteer to read did "We Know" (p. 14) to explore more about the way the word church is used today. Discuss: How would these help

LEADER PAGES | YOU 103

**Step 2: Prepare to teach an exciting lesson using the Before You Teach page for each lesson.**

**Step 3: Use the Teaching Plan for each lesson to prepare and facilitate an in-depth discussion of the lesson passage. Don't forget that you can cut out the Teaching Plan if you want to be on the same page as members of your group.**

**LEADER COMMENTARY**  
UNIT 1, LESSON 1 (pp. 11–15)

**Being and Seeing**  
Lesson Passages: Acts 2:38-47  
**The Question:** What is spiritual maturity?  
**The Point:** Spiritual maturity is growing in our relationship with God.

This commentary is designed to help you think about the question, "What is spiritual maturity?" and drive home this one truth: *Spiritual maturity is growing in our relationship with God.*

**FOCUS ON THESE POINTS**

**Being with Salvation (Acts 2:38-41)**  
The Book of Acts tells the story of the early church. In Acts 2, we see that the Spirit descended on the gathered believers and Peter stood up among a large crowd and began to preach the gospel of Christ (2:1-40).

The Holy Spirit empowered and directed Peter as he preached the gospel of Christ to the crowd. The Spirit caused the spoken word to penetrate the hearts of many of the people. Peter explained that they must each one "Repent and be baptized... in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (2:38). To repent means "to change one's mind and heart, to turn from the sin of trying to save oneself, and to turn to Jesus as the only means of salvation." Being baptized in Jesus' name means to be immersed in water as a symbol that one has been forgiven of sin and has become a true child of God by faith in Jesus. Such baptism is a way believers give public witness of their faith in Christ.

Peter also stated that those who repented and would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This further course confirmed to them that they and their children would receive the benefit of the promise of salvation and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. The gospel is for all people, no matter what they have done.

Luke recorded the results of Peter's sermon and the Spirit's work with writing concisely: "So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them" (v. 41). These were people who not only received the gospel message as true but also lived it out in their lives.

The Bible lists four specific acts the people believed and devoted themselves to. All four of these specifics are included under the umbrella of "the church." Thus, we can confidently say that the new converts were baptized,

and integrated into the body of Christ. One cannot join God's church without joining God's family through faith in His Son. After receiving Christ as Savior, we must join a local church, as these new converts did.

**Being Devoted to a New Way of Life (Acts 2:42)**  
First, the new members of the early church were devoted to the apostles' teaching. The greatest commandment teaches us to love God with all our heart, mind, strength, and might (Luke 10:27). For us to love God with our whole being, we must sit under joyful teachers of His Word, the Bible.

Second, devoted to fellowship remained important. In this context, "fellowship" means close and intimate relationships. Think of the devotion of these believers led to the breaking of bread. Partaking in the Lord's Supper serves as a great reminder to the incredible suffering Jesus did on our behalf. It reminds us why our salvation is even possible. To partake testifies to our connection with a church. Finally, the new converts were devoted to prayer. Being committed to a local church body allows us to pray for ourselves and pray for by others. A good church helps improve and encourage our prayer life, which in turn helps strengthen our relationship with Christ.

**Seeing God as Creator (Acts 2:43, 47)**  
In addition to their worship, these believers became actively involved in the work of the Lord. Their work also included learning how to live and love together. They sold their possessions and made sure everyone had plenty. This was voluntary, contemporary, and discretionary. This was a group of people, joined by their love for God, who voluntarily chose to help one another.

The result of the church's doing what they did in Acts 2:42-46 is that they impacted the world. When believers unite in fellowship, people outside the church are drawn in. Thus, that's how you grow. Discovering the church as described in Acts 2, can help us move toward spiritual maturity or growing in our relationship with God.

LEADER PAGES | YOU 105

## Step 4: Visit [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) for more leader commentary, articles to enhance your understanding of the lesson passage, and a midweek plan that can be adapted for midweek or worship services.

# BEFORE YOU TEACH

FOR UNIT 1, LESSON 1 (pp. 11–15)

## STEP 1 OVERVIEW THE UNIT.

As you prepare to begin a new unit, spend quiet time previewing the lessons. Read the unit introduction (p. 10). Locate the title, The Question, and The Point for each week's lesson. Especially consider your answer to The Question for this session: "What is spiritual maturity?" Reflect on what has helped you grow in your relationship with God and share your thoughts with the group.

## STEP 2 EXTEND AN INVITATION.

Beginning a new unit is an excellent time to invite people to Bible study. In addition to contacting regular attenders, get in touch with those who have been absent. Have any new individuals or families moved to your neighborhood? As you visit, take a small gift as an icebreaker to tell them about the new unit. A copy of YOU will help them feel connected to the group and prepared to learn.

## STEP 3 FOCUS ON FELLOWSHIP.

Prayerfully reflect on fellowship in the early church as described in this lesson. Read the Key Word **fellowship** and comments about it under the heading "Being Devoted to a New Way of Life." On a scale of 1–5, with 1 being biblical fellowship (*koinonia*) and 5 a church party, how would you rank your church's fellowship? How can you help your group see fellowship as a way of life rather than an event or location?

## STEP 4 SEE GOD AT WORK.

This lesson title is "Being and Seeing." How are you seeing God at work? When have you been filled with awe? Pause and sing or listen to some praise songs, such as "How Great Thou Art" and "Our God Is an Awesome God." Share links to these with your class through social media or texts.



## LOOK BACK

Welcome members and guests. Briefly review last week's session (YOU Summer 2019, Unit 3, Lesson 4). Ask a learner to read The Question ("What does it mean to trust Jesus as Savior?") and The Point ("You can trust Jesus with your past, present, and future."). Refer to the Live It! challenge (p. 97), and invite volunteers to share how they put it into practice. **Ask:** *How did the study help you understand trusting Jesus as Savior?* Lead the group in reading last week's Memory Verse, Roman 10:9.

# YOU OBJECT LESSON



## ROLLS OF STRING OR RIBBON

Provide string or ribbon and scissors to volunteers and ask them to measure their height, and then cut off that much string or ribbon. Learners might want to work in pairs or small groups. Invite learners to display their height strings after measuring. **Ask:** *Is there anyone present who is the same height now as you were when you were a newborn baby?* Display a twenty-inch length of string and state that it represents the average length (height) for a newborn baby. **Say:** *Obviously, all of us have grown physically since being born. We're also called to grow spiritually after being born in Christ.* **Close by saying:** *This week, when you see a piece of string or ribbon, remember to make spiritual maturity a priority.*

## INTRODUCTION

Prior to the session, display a child's growth chart or locate a picture of one. Invite group members to share experiences with growth charts or summarize the first part of the lesson introduction on page 12.

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### BEGIN WITH SALVATION

#### ACTS 2:38-41

- **Invite a volunteer to read aloud Acts 2:37.** Write the question on the board: “*What should we do?*” (Acts 2:37). Point out that Peter's response is recorded in today's Scripture passage. Read Acts 2:38-41 aloud, asking learners to listen for action words as you read. **Focus on verse 40.** **Say:** *Peter stressed that a relationship with God begins with salvation.* Use the Key Word **saved** and read or summarize Diggin' Deeper (p. 13) to provide insight into salvation.
- **Invite learners to turn to page 2, and briefly overview “Highway to Heaven.”** Encourage those who have not accepted Jesus as their personal Savior to consider doing so today. **Ask:** *How would you explain salvation to someone else? With whom can you share the good news of Christ?*
- **Read or summarize the last paragraph under the heading “Begin with Salvation” (p. 13) that begins “In verse 40.”** **Discuss:** *In what ways is our world corrupt from God's intended design? How do you experience hope through salvation?*

### BEING DEVOTED TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE

#### ACTS 2:42

- Describe the game charades, in which one person uses gestures to illustrate a word or concept and others try to guess what is being communicated. Invite learners to guess the word you will communicate. Go through the motions of activities in a church, such as greeting, preaching, taking an offering, and eating. *activities (singing, preaching, taking an offering) or even physical appearance (for example, a steeple) that we don't consider the true meaning of church. It's important to be the church, not act like a church.*
- **Say:** *Sometimes we get so focused on the church's* Summarize or invite a volunteer to read Did You Know? (p. 14) to explore more about the way the word **church** is used today. **Discuss:** *How would these help*

# BEING AND SEEING (TEACHING PLAN)

FOR UNIT 1, LESSON 1 (pp. 11–15)

*you explain “church” to someone unfamiliar with the word?* Then read Acts 2:42 as a summary statement of the first group of believers. Invite learners to complete the activity under the heading “Being

Devoted to a New Way of Life” (p. 14), that begins “Read Acts 2:42.” Focus on Key Word **fellowship**. Explain that the Greek word *koinonia* is translated “fellowship” in Acts 2:42.

## SEEING GOD AS GREATER ACTS 2:43,47

- **Write the word *awe* on the board or large paper.**

**Ask:** *When have you experienced awe?* Read or invite a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph under this heading (p. 14) that begins “I love.”

- **Read Acts 2:43,47 aloud.** Use the Leader Commentary under this heading (p. 105) to explain the concept of having things in common. Stress that new

converts were less materialistic, recognizing that God is greater than stuff. **Ask:** *In what ways does materialism affect today’s churches? How can we keep our church focused on God rather than stuff?*

- Direct attention to verse 47, which describes the results of the believers’ testimony. **Say:** *When believers unite, the unsaved are drawn to God.*

## SO WHAT? HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO ME?

Today’s lesson has focused on maturity—spiritual maturity. Unlike physical maturity, spiritual maturity doesn’t happen automatically. Spiritual maturity, or growing in our relationship with God, begins with salvation and continues through a new way of life.

- *How has this study encouraged you in your spiritual growth?*

- *Through what experiences have you grown most spiritually? Why?*

- *When have you been in awe of God’s mighty works? How did you respond?*

- *How does being part of a church help you grow spiritually?*

## CLOSE THE SESSION

*Direct learners’ attention to the Live It! challenge on page 15. Summarize the first paragraph. Invite learners to turn to page 2, and briefly review the plan of salvation, “Highway to Heaven.” Encourage those who have not accepted Christ to do so today. Encourage believers to use page 2 as a resource in leading others to Christ. Read the Memory Verse, Acts 2:38, aloud, and refer to the Memory Card on page 99. Before closing in prayer, challenge learners to complete the Live It! activity on page 15 during the week.*

## Being and Seeing

**Lesson Passages:** Acts 2:38-43,47

**The Question:** What is spiritual maturity?

**The Point:** Spiritual maturity is growing in our relationship with God.

*This commentary is designed to help you think about the question, “What is spiritual maturity?” and drive home this one truth: Spiritual maturity is growing in our relationship with God.*

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#### ***Begin with Salvation (Acts 2:38-41)***

The Book of Acts tells the story of the early church. In Acts 2, we see that the Spirit descended on the gathered believers and Peter stood up among a large crowd and began to preach the gospel of Christ (2:1-40).

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Luke recorded the results of Peter’s sermon and the Spirit’s work by writing simply: “So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them” (v. 41). These were people who not only received the gospel message as true but also lived it out in their lives.

The Bible lists four specific acts the new believers devoted themselves to. All four of these specifics are included under the umbrella of “the church.” Thus, we can confidently say that the new converts were baptized

and integrated into the body of Christ. One cannot join God’s church without joining God’s family through faith in His Son. After receiving Christ as Savior, we must join a local church, as these new converts did.

#### ***Being Devoted to a New Way of Life (Acts 2:42)***

First, the new members of the early church were devoted to the apostles’ teaching. The greatest commandment teaches us to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind (Luke 10:27). For us to love God with our whole being, we must sit under godly teachers of His Word, the Bible.

Second, devotion to fellowship remained important. In this context “fellowship” means close and intimate relationships. Third, the devotion of these believers led to the breaking of bread. Partaking in the Lord’s Supper serves as a great reminder to the incredible suffering Jesus did on our behalf. It reminds us why our salvation is even possible. To partake testifies to one’s connection with a church. Finally, the new converts were devoted to prayers. Being committed to a local church body allows us to pray for others and be prayed for by others. A good church helps improve and encourage our prayer life, which in turn helps strengthen our relationship with Christ.

#### ***Seeing God as Greater (Acts 2:43,47)***

In addition to their worship, these believers became actively involved in the work of the Lord. Their work also included learning how to live and love together. They sold their possessions and made sure everybody had plenty. This was voluntary, contemporary, and discretionary. This was a group of people, joined by their love for God, who voluntarily chose to help one another.

The result of the church’s doing what they did in Acts 2:42-46 is that they impacted the world. When believers unite in fellowship, people outside the church are drawn to God. Then the family grows. Re-discovering the church as described in Acts 2 can help us move toward spiritual maturity, or growing in our relationship with God.



Need more commentary/articles to increase your understanding?

Visit [www.LifeWay.com/YOU](http://www.LifeWay.com/YOU).

# KEY WORDS GLOSSARY

The first page of every lesson provides an overview of the lesson, including the lesson title, lesson passages, and key words from the biblical text. The key words marked with a \* have been explained more fully in this glossary.

**Blameless:** Without defect, beyond reproach or criticism, complete Christian character. (Unit 1, Lesson 3)

**Comforted:** To console or show kindness. The easing or alleviation of a person's feelings of grief or distress. (Unit 3, Lesson 4)

**Corrupt generation:** Corrupt from the beauty of God's design, not corrupt beyond salvation. See Psalm 78:8 and Matthew 12:41. (Unit 1, Lesson 1)

**Covenant:** A promise made between two parties. Some covenants are dependent on the other party upholding certain conditions; some covenants are unconditional. Throughout Scripture, God makes several covenants with individuals (Noah, Gen. 9; Abraham, Gen. 12; 15; 17; 22; Moses, Ex. 19; David, 2 Sam. 7; 23). (Unit 2, Lesson 1)

**Darkness:** Whether used in a physical or symbolic sense, it describes confusion and uncertainty. God enlightens the darkness of His people and brings them out of desperate situations. (Unit 3, Lesson 3)

**Decapolis:** The area around the healed man's home, a group of ten cities on the east side of the Jordan River. (Unit 1, Lesson 5)

**Don't torment me:** Ironically, the spirits in the man asked Jesus not to torment them as they had tormented the possessed man. (Unit 1, Lesson 5)

**Emptied:** Refers either to Christ's freely choosing to leave heaven's glories for a time or to His pouring Himself out completely in selfless ministry to others. He remained God when He became man. (Unit 1, Lesson 3)

**Evil day:** Possibly an end-times reference, but it also may refer to any moment a believer faces spiritual opposition. See Paul's reference to being ready in every situation (Eph. 6:13). (Unit 2, Lesson 4)

**Faithful love:** Covenant love (*chesed* in Hebrew). God remembers and keeps His covenants or promises, in spite of the treachery or unfaithfulness of people. (Unit 1, Lesson 2)

**Fellowship:** More than a church "party"; close and intimate relationships. Reflects an attitude where believers share all things in common. (Unit 1, Lesson 1)

**Fish Gate:** A gate in the northern part of Jerusalem, likely given its name because the fish market was nearby. (Unit 2, Lesson 3)

**Gracious and compassionate:** Qualities of God (see Ex. 34:6), which Jonah feared would lead to God's forgiveness of the Ninevites. Jonah believed they deserved God's fire, not His forgiveness. (Unit 1, Lesson 2)

**Hooks:** Reminiscent of how one would lead an animal, conquered people would at times be taken into exile by having a hook placed in their nose, ensuring cooperation during the journey. (Unit 2, Lesson 3)

**Like a son:** Paul treated Timothy like a son. We know of no family or children of Paul. (Unit 1, Lesson 4)

**Like-minded:** Literally "equal souled." Means "soul mate or partner" in service. See Did You Know? on page 34. (Unit 1, Lesson 4)

**Nineveh:** Where Jonah resisted going; greatest of the capitals of the ancient Assyrian Empire, located in what is now Iraq. Its occupants were known for cruelty. See Did You Know? on page 20. (Unit 1, Lesson 2)

**Ophel:** A generic term used to describe the hill within Jerusalem on which the temple was built. Specifically, this term identifies the northeasterly ridge that Manasseh and previous kings fortified. (Unit 2, Lesson 3)

**Overflow:** In 2 Corinthians 2:15, Paul makes a similar comparison by appealing to the sense of smell, referring to the believer as “the fragrance of Christ.” In both passages the Christian is a duplication of Christ’s work and character. (Unit 2, Lesson 2)

**Overwhelmed:** “Burdened beyond measure” (NKJV); “under great pressure” (NIV); “utterly weighed down” (AMP). (Unit 2, Lesson 2)

**Plant:** A quick-growing plant, perhaps a castor-oil plant or a climbing gourd. (Unit 1, Lesson 2)

**Repent:** To change your mind and heart, to turn from the sin of trying to save yourself, and to turn to Jesus as the only means of salvation. (Unit 1, Lesson 1)

**Rulers . . . spiritual forces:** A reference to demonic beings who act under the direction of Satan. Christians must remember that we do not battle with people; we battle against the spiritual forces who have blinded and deceived them. (Unit 2, Lesson 4)

**Saved:** Refers to salvation; the gift of the Holy Spirit and the promise of new life. See Diggin’ Deeper on page 13. (Unit 1, Lesson 1)

**Schemes:** Large-scale systematic plans or arrangements for attaining some particular object or putting a particular idea into effect. “Wiles” (KJV); “the schemes and the strategies and the deceits” (AMP). (Unit 2, Lesson 4)

**Shackles and chains:** The man’s supernatural strength is indicated by the fact that he had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. (Unit 1, Lesson 5)

**Soon:** Can mean “at once, immediately, soon thereafter,” but here it obviously is tempered by uncertainty of future events. (Unit 1, Lesson 4)

**They:** Jesus and the apostles. (Unit 1, Lesson 5)

**Unclean Spirit:** Demonic spirit. Refers to the activities of demons in harassing, oppressing, and even possessing people. See Diggin’ Deeper on page 39. (Unit 1, Lesson 5)

**Us . . . we:** Paul typically traveled with several companions. In this letter he refers to Timothy (1:1) and Titus (8:17). (Unit 2, Lesson 2)

**Work out:** Practice. Believers cannot work to gain or retain salvation; they are to give evidence of their salvation in daily living. (Unit 1, Lesson 3)

**Worm:** A special fruit grub, prepared and sent by God to attack the plant. (Unit 1, Lesson 2)

**You:** Those gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost, possibly more than 200,000 Jews. (Unit 1, Lesson 1)

## COMING NEXT QUARTER



### UNIT 1 SERVE

#### Ain't He Alright!

- Lesson 1 Good God  
Psalm 25:4-5,7-10,12-13
- Lesson 2 All-Knowing  
Psalm 139:7-12,23-24
- Lesson 3 Ever-Present  
Psalm 73:12-18,23-26
- Lesson 4 Most High  
Luke 1:26-35
- Lesson 5 All-Powerful  
Psalm 68:1-6,19-20,34-35



### UNIT 2 CONNECT

#### Unto the Least of These

- Lesson 1 Passion for Compassion  
Matthew 25:35-40
- Lesson 2 Passion Reaction  
Luke 7:11-17
- Lesson 3 Every Means Necessary  
Mark 1:39-45
- Lesson 4 \*The Stewardship of Compassion  
Luke 10:29-37



### UNIT 3 GROW

#### Calling All Saints!

- Lesson 1 Did YOU Get the Call?  
Ephesians 1:17-19; 4:1-6
- Lesson 2 Call to Action  
Ephesians 4:25-32
- Lesson 3 Accept the Challenge  
Ephesians 5:6-14
- Lesson 4 Call Monitoring  
Ephesians 5:15-21

\*This lesson has a GO! emphasis.

\*\* LifeWay reserves the right to make changes should the need arise.

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