

2020
GENERATION OF
LIGHT YOUTH
DEVOTIONAL
WEEK 1

DAY ONE: WALK IN THE LIGHT

PRAY THIS PRAYER: GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I KNOW YOUR VOICE AND THAT YOU WILL SPEAK TO ME AS I READ AND STUDY YOUR WORD TODAY.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

EPHESIANS 5:1-2, THE MESSAGE (MSG):

WATCH WHAT GOD DOES, AND THEN YOU DO IT, LIKE CHILDREN WHO LEARN PROPER BEHAVIOR FROM THEIR PARENTS. MOSTLY WHAT GOD DOES IS LOVE YOU. KEEP COMPANY WITH HIM AND LEARN A LIFE OF LOVE. OBSERVE HOW CHRIST LOVED US. HIS LOVE WAS NOT CAUTIOUS BUT EXTRAVAGANT. HE DIDN'T LOVE IN ORDER TO GET SOMETHING FROM US BUT TO GIVE EVERYTHING OF HIMSELF TO US. LOVE LIKE THAT.

EPHESIANS 6:1-3, NEW LIVING TRANSLATION (NLT):

CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO THE LORD, FOR THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER." THIS IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH A PROMISE: IF YOU HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, "THINGS WILL GO WELL FOR YOU, AND YOU WILL HAVE A LONG LIFE ON THE EARTH."

NOW ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU READ. THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER. JUST WRITE WHAT YOU BELIEVE GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU.

WE READ IN EPHESIANS 5:2 THAT THE LOVE OF GOD IS EXTRAVAGANT. EXTRAVAGANT MEANS VERY, VERY BIG! GOD'S LOVE IS VERY BIG FOR US. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT GOD HAS SHOWN YOU HOW MUCH HE LOVES YOU? _____

WE ARE COMMANDED TO LOVE OTHERS THE SAME WAY THAT GOD LOVES US. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT WE CAN LOVE OTHERS THE SAME WAY GOD LOVES US? _____

GOD PROMISES THAT THINGS WILL GO WELL FOR US AND WE WILL LIVE A LONG LIFE IF WE OBEY AND HONOUR OUR PARENTS. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT YOU CAN HONOUR AND OBEY YOUR PARENTS RIGHT NOW? _____

DAY TWO: JESUS' SECOND COMING

PRAY THIS PRAYER: GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I KNOW YOUR VOICE AND THAT YOU WILL SPEAK TO ME AS I READ AND STUDY YOUR WORD TODAY.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11, THE MESSAGE (MSG):

I DON'T THINK, FRIENDS, THAT I NEED TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF WHEN ALL THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN. YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT THE DAY OF THE MASTER'S COMING CAN'T BE POSTED ON OUR CALENDARS. HE WON'T CALL AHEAD AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ANY MORE THAN A BURGLAR WOULD. ABOUT THE TIME EVERYBODY'S WALKING AROUND COMPLACENTLY, CONGRATULATING EACH OTHER—"WE'VE SURE GOT IT MADE! NOW WE CAN TAKE IT EASY!"—SUDDENLY EVERYTHING WILL FALL APART. IT'S GOING TO COME AS SUDDENLY AND INESCAPABLY AS BIRTH PANGS TO A PREGNANT WOMAN. 4-8 BUT FRIENDS, YOU'RE NOT IN THE DARK, SO HOW COULD YOU BE TAKEN OFF GUARD BY ANY OF THIS? YOU'RE SONS OF LIGHT, DAUGHTERS OF DAY. WE LIVE UNDER WIDE OPEN SKIES AND KNOW WHERE WE STAND. SO LET'S NOT SLEEPWALK THROUGH LIFE LIKE THOSE OTHERS. LET'S KEEP OUR EYES OPEN AND BE SMART. PEOPLE SLEEP AT NIGHT AND GET DRUNK AT NIGHT. BUT NOT US! SINCE WE'RE CREATURES OF DAY, LET'S ACT LIKE IT. WALK OUT INTO THE DAYLIGHT SOBER, DRESSED UP IN FAITH, LOVE, AND THE HOPE OF SALVATION. 9-11 GOD DIDN'T SET US UP FOR AN ANGRY REJECTION BUT FOR SALVATION BY OUR MASTER, JESUS CHRIST. HE DIED FOR US, A DEATH THAT TRIGGERED LIFE. WHETHER WE'RE AWAKE WITH THE LIVING OR ASLEEP WITH THE DEAD, WE'RE ALIVE WITH HIM! SO SPEAK ENCOURAGING WORDS TO ONE ANOTHER. BUILD UP HOPE SO YOU'LL ALL BE TOGETHER IN THIS, NO ONE LEFT OUT, NO ONE LEFT BEHIND. I KNOW YOU'RE ALREADY DOING THIS; JUST KEEP ON DOING IT.

NOW ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU READ. THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER. JUST WRITE WHAT YOU BELIEVE GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU.

WE DON'T KNOW WHEN JESUS IS COMING BACK, BUT WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE READY SO WE ARE NOT SURPRISED WHEN HE COMES AGAIN. WHEN WE RECEIVED JESUS, HE GAVE US CLOTHES TO WEAR - CLOTHES THAT WE "PUT ON" WHETHER WE FEEL LIKE IT OR NOT - THE CLOTHES OF FAITH, LOVE AND THE HOPE OF OUR SALVATION.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO PUT ON FAITH? (FAITH IS BELIEVING IN SOMETHING WE CAN'T SEE YET.) _____

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO PUT ON LOVE? _____

WE SHOULD BE EXCITED ABOUT THE HOPE OF OUR SALVATION. WE SHOULD BE EXCITED ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS SAVED US FROM. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT GOD SAVED YOU FROM WHEN YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN? _____

DAY THREE: THE FAITH HALL OF FAME

PRAY THIS PRAYER: GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I KNOW YOUR VOICE AND THAT YOU WILL SPEAK TO ME AS I READ AND STUDY YOUR WORD TODAY.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

HEBREWS 11, NEW LIVING TRANSLATION (NLT):

FAITH SHOWS THE REALITY OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR: IT IS THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS WE CANNOT SEE. 2 THROUGH THEIR FAITH, THE PEOPLE IN DAYS OF OLD EARNED A GOOD REPUTATION. 3 BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WAS FORMED AT GOD'S COMMAND, THAT WHAT WE NOW SEE DID NOT COME FROM ANYTHING THAT CAN BE SEEN. 4 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT ABEL BROUGHT A MORE ACCEPTABLE OFFERING TO GOD THAN CAIN DID. ABEL'S OFFERING GAVE EVIDENCE THAT HE WAS A RIGHTEOUS MAN, AND GOD SHOWED HIS APPROVAL OF HIS GIFTS. ALTHOUGH ABEL IS LONG DEAD, HE STILL SPEAKS TO US BY HIS EXAMPLE OF FAITH. 5 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT ENOCH WAS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN WITHOUT DYING—"HE DISAPPEARED, BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM." FOR BEFORE HE WAS TAKEN UP, HE WAS KNOWN AS A PERSON WHO PLEASSED GOD. 6 AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD WITHOUT FAITH. ANYONE WHO WANTS TO COME TO HIM MUST BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO SINCERELY SEEK HIM. 7 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT NOAH BUILT A LARGE BOAT TO SAVE HIS FAMILY FROM THE FLOOD. HE OBEYED GOD, WHO WARNED HIM ABOUT THINGS THAT HAD NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE. BY HIS FAITH NOAH CONDEMNED THE REST OF THE WORLD, AND HE RECEIVED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES BY FAITH. 8 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT ABRAHAM OBEYED WHEN GOD CALLED HIM TO LEAVE HOME AND GO TO ANOTHER LAND THAT GOD WOULD GIVE HIM AS HIS INHERITANCE. HE WENT WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE HE WAS GOING. 9 AND EVEN WHEN HE REACHED THE LAND GOD PROMISED HIM, HE LIVED THERE BY FAITH—FOR HE WAS LIKE A FOREIGNER, LIVING IN TENTS. AND SO

DID ISAAC AND JACOB, WHO INHERITED THE SAME PROMISE. 10 ABRAHAM WAS CONFIDENTLY LOOKING FORWARD TO A CITY WITH ETERNAL FOUNDATIONS, A CITY DESIGNED AND BUILT BY GOD. 11 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT EVEN SARAH WAS ABLE TO HAVE A CHILD, THOUGH SHE WAS BARREN AND WAS TOO OLD. SHE BELIEVED THAT GOD WOULD KEEP HIS PROMISE. 12 AND SO A WHOLE NATION CAME FROM THIS ONE MAN WHO WAS AS GOOD AS DEAD—A NATION WITH SO MANY PEOPLE THAT, LIKE THE STARS IN THE SKY AND THE SAND ON THE SEASHORE, THERE IS NO WAY TO COUNT THEM. 13 ALL THESE PEOPLE DIED STILL BELIEVING WHAT GOD HAD PROMISED THEM. THEY DID NOT RECEIVE WHAT WAS PROMISED, BUT THEY SAW IT ALL FROM A DISTANCE AND WELCOMED IT. THEY AGREED THAT THEY WERE FOREIGNERS AND NOMADS HERE ON EARTH. 14 OBVIOUSLY PEOPLE WHO SAY SUCH THINGS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A COUNTRY THEY CAN CALL THEIR OWN. 15 IF THEY HAD LONGED FOR THE COUNTRY THEY CAME FROM, THEY COULD HAVE GONE BACK. 16 BUT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR A BETTER PLACE, A HEAVENLY HOMETOWN. THAT IS WHY GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM. 17 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT ABRAHAM OFFERED ISAAC AS A SACRIFICE WHEN GOD WAS TESTING HIM. ABRAHAM, WHO HAD RECEIVED GOD'S PROMISES, WAS READY TO SACRIFICE HIS ONLY SON, ISAAC, 18 EVEN THOUGH GOD HAD TOLD HIM, "ISAAC IS THE SON THROUGH WHOM YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE COUNTED." 19 ABRAHAM REASONED THAT IF ISAAC DIED, GOD WAS ABLE TO BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE AGAIN. AND IN A SENSE, ABRAHAM DID RECEIVE HIS SON BACK FROM THE DEAD. 20 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT ISAAC PROMISED BLESSINGS FOR THE FUTURE TO HIS SONS, JACOB AND ESAU. 21 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT JACOB, WHEN HE WAS OLD AND DYING, BLESSED EACH OF JOSEPH'S SONS AND BOWED IN WORSHIP AS HE LEANED ON HIS STAFF. 22 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT JOSEPH, WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO DIE, SAID CONFIDENTLY THAT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WOULD LEAVE EGYPT. HE EVEN COMMANDED THEM TO TAKE HIS BONES WITH THEM WHEN THEY LEFT. 23 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT MOSES' PARENTS HID HIM FOR THREE MONTHS WHEN HE WAS BORN. THEY SAW THAT GOD HAD GIVEN THEM AN UNUSUAL CHILD, AND THEY WERE NOT AFRAID TO DISOBEY THE KING'S COMMAND. 24 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT MOSES, WHEN HE GREW UP, REFUSED TO BE CALLED THE SON OF PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER. 25 HE CHOSE TO SHARE THE OPPRESSION OF GOD'S PEOPLE INSTEAD OF ENJOYING THE FLEETING PLEASURES OF SIN. 26 HE THOUGHT IT WAS BETTER TO SUFFER FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST THAN TO OWN THE TREASURES OF EGYPT, FOR HE WAS LOOKING AHEAD TO HIS GREAT REWARD. 27 IT WAS BY

FAITH THAT MOSES LEFT THE LAND OF EGYPT, NOT FEARING THE KING'S ANGER. HE KEPT RIGHT ON GOING BECAUSE HE KEPT HIS EYES ON THE ONE WHO IS INVISIBLE. 28 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT MOSES COMMANDED THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO KEEP THE PASSOVER AND TO SPRINKLE BLOOD ON THE DOORPOSTS SO THAT THE ANGEL OF DEATH WOULD NOT KILL THEIR FIRSTBORN SONS. 29 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE RED SEA AS THOUGH THEY WERE ON DRY GROUND. BUT WHEN THE EGYPTIANS TRIED TO FOLLOW, THEY WERE ALL DROWNED. 30 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL MARCHED AROUND JERICHO FOR SEVEN DAYS, AND THE WALLS CAME CRASHING DOWN. 31 IT WAS BY FAITH THAT RAHAB THE PROSTITUTE WAS NOT DESTROYED WITH THE PEOPLE IN HER CITY WHO REFUSED TO OBEY GOD. FOR SHE HAD GIVEN A FRIENDLY WELCOME TO THE SPIES. 32 HOW MUCH MORE DO I NEED TO SAY? IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO RECOUNT THE STORIES OF THE FAITH OF GIDEON, BARAK, SAMSON, JEPHTHAH, DAVID, SAMUEL, AND ALL THE PROPHETS. 33 BY FAITH THESE PEOPLE OVERTHREW KINGDOMS, RULED WITH JUSTICE, AND RECEIVED WHAT GOD HAD PROMISED THEM. THEY SHUT THE MOUTHS OF LIONS, 34 QUENCHED THE FLAMES OF FIRE, AND ESCAPED DEATH BY THE EDGE OF THE SWORD. THEIR WEAKNESS WAS TURNED TO STRENGTH. THEY BECAME STRONG IN BATTLE AND PUT WHOLE ARMIES TO FLIGHT. 35 WOMEN RECEIVED THEIR LOVED ONES BACK AGAIN FROM DEATH. BUT OTHERS WERE TORTURED, REFUSING TO TURN FROM GOD IN ORDER TO BE SET FREE. THEY PLACED THEIR HOPE IN A BETTER LIFE AFTER THE RESURRECTION. 36 SOME WERE JEERED AT, AND THEIR BACKS WERE CUT OPEN WITH WHIPS. OTHERS WERE CHAINED IN PRISONS. 37 SOME DIED BY STONING, SOME WERE SAWED IN HALF, AND OTHERS WERE KILLED WITH THE SWORD. SOME WENT ABOUT WEARING SKINS OF SHEEP AND GOATS, DESTITUTE AND OPPRESSED AND MISTREATED. 38 THEY WERE TOO GOOD FOR THIS WORLD, WANDERING OVER DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS, HIDING IN CAVES AND HOLES IN THE GROUND. 39 ALL THESE PEOPLE EARNED A GOOD REPUTATION BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH, YET NONE OF THEM RECEIVED ALL THAT GOD HAD PROMISED. 40 FOR GOD HAD SOMETHING BETTER IN MIND FOR US, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT REACH PERFECTION WITHOUT US.

NOW ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU READ. THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER. JUST WRITE WHAT YOU BELIEVE GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU.

WE READ ABOUT MANY PEOPLE IN "THE FAITH HALL OF FAME." WHO WAS YOUR FAVOURITE FAITH PERSON YOU READ ABOUT, AND WHY? _____

VERSE 6 SAYS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD WITHOUT FAITH. WHEN WE BELIEVE IN WHAT GOD SAYS AND WE DO WHAT GOD SAYS, WE ARE HAVING FAITH. CAN YOU SHARE AN EXAMPLE OF A TIME WHEN GOD REWARDED YOUR FAITH? _____

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU ARE HAVING FAITH FOR RIGHT NOW - YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE THEM AND WILL SEE IT WITH YOUR EYES SOON? _____

DAY FOUR: DO THE WORD

PRAY THIS PRAYER: GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I KNOW YOUR VOICE AND THAT YOU WILL SPEAK TO ME AS I READ AND STUDY YOUR WORD TODAY.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

JAMES 1:2-6 & 2-25, NEW LIVING TRANSLATION (NLT):

2 DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHEN TROUBLES OF ANY KIND COME YOUR WAY, CONSIDER IT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREAT JOY. 3 FOR YOU KNOW THAT WHEN YOUR FAITH IS TESTED, YOUR ENDURANCE HAS A CHANCE TO GROW. 4 SO LET IT GROW, FOR WHEN YOUR ENDURANCE IS FULLY DEVELOPED, YOU WILL BE PERFECT AND COMPLETE, NEEDING NOTHING. 5 IF YOU NEED WISDOM, ASK OUR GENEROUS GOD, AND HE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU. HE WILL NOT REBUKE YOU FOR ASKING. 6 BUT WHEN YOU ASK HIM, BE SURE THAT YOUR FAITH IS IN GOD ALONE. DO NOT WAVER, FOR A PERSON WITH DIVIDED LOYALTY IS AS UNSETTLED AS A WAVE OF THE SEA THAT IS BLOWN AND TOSSED BY THE WIND.

2 BUT DON'T JUST LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD. YOU MUST DO WHAT IT SAYS. OTHERWISE, YOU ARE ONLY FOOLING YOURSELVES. 23 FOR IF YOU LISTEN TO THE WORD AND DON'T OBEY, IT IS LIKE GLANCING AT YOUR FACE IN A MIRROR. 24 YOU SEE YOURSELF, WALK AWAY, AND FORGET WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE. 25 BUT IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY INTO THE PERFECT LAW THAT SETS YOU FREE, AND IF YOU DO WHAT IT SAYS AND DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU HEARD, THEN GOD WILL BLESS YOU FOR DOING IT.

NOW ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU READ. THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER. JUST WRITE WHAT YOU BELIEVE GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU.

GOD DOESN'T BRING PROBLEMS INTO OUR LIVES, BUT GOD HELPS US GROW INTO STRONG, MATURE CHRISTIANS WHILE WE ARE GOING THROUGH HARD TIMES. WHEN OUR FAITH IS TESTED, WE CAN STILL BE EXCITED, BECAUSE WE CAN LOOK AT IT AS A CHANCE TO GROW AND LEARN IMPORTANT LESSONS FROM GOD. WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT GOD IS TEACHING YOU RIGHT NOW? _____

HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO? WE ALL HAVE! THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT GOD GENEROUSLY GIVES US WISDOM WHENEVER WE ASK. WHAT DO YOU NEED WISDOM FOR IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW? _____

WE CAN'T JUST LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD. WE NEED TO BE DOING THE WORD OF GOD. WHAT IS ONE WAY THAT YOU CAN BE A "DO-ER" OF GOD'S WORD THIS WEEK? _____

DAY FIVE: LOVE, LOVE AND LOVE SOME MORE

PRAY THIS PRAYER: GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I KNOW YOUR VOICE AND THAT YOU WILL SPEAK TO ME AS I READ AND STUDY YOUR WORD TODAY.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

1 JOHN 4:7-21 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION (NLT):

7 DEAR FRIENDS, LET US CONTINUE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER, FOR LOVE COMES FROM GOD. ANYONE WHO LOVES IS A CHILD OF GOD AND KNOWS GOD. 8 BUT ANYONE WHO DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD, FOR GOD IS LOVE. 9 GOD SHOWED HOW MUCH HE LOVED US BY SENDING HIS ONE AND ONLY SON INTO THE WORLD SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH HIM. 10 THIS IS REAL LOVE—NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON AS A SACRIFICE TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS. 11 DEAR FRIENDS, SINCE GOD LOVED US THAT MUCH, WE SURELY OUGHT TO LOVE EACH OTHER. 12 NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD. BUT IF WE LOVE EACH OTHER, GOD LIVES IN US, AND HIS LOVE IS BROUGHT TO FULL EXPRESSION IN US. 13 AND GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS SPIRIT AS PROOF THAT WE LIVE IN HIM AND HE IN US. 14 FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE SEEN WITH OUR OWN EYES AND NOW TESTIFY THAT THE FATHER SENT HIS SON TO BE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. 15 ALL WHO DECLARE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD HAVE GOD LIVING IN THEM, AND THEY LIVE IN GOD. 16 WE KNOW HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US, AND WE HAVE PUT OUR TRUST IN HIS LOVE. GOD IS LOVE, AND ALL WHO LIVE IN LOVE LIVE IN GOD, AND GOD LIVES IN THEM. 17 AND AS WE LIVE IN GOD, OUR LOVE GROWS MORE PERFECT. SO WE WILL NOT BE AFRAID ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT, BUT WE CAN FACE HIM WITH CONFIDENCE BECAUSE WE LIVE LIKE JESUS HERE IN THIS WORLD. 18 SUCH LOVE HAS NO FEAR, BECAUSE PERFECT LOVE EXPELS ALL FEAR. IF WE ARE AFRAID, IT IS FOR FEAR OF PUNISHMENT, AND THIS SHOWS THAT WE HAVE NOT FULLY EXPERIENCED HIS PERFECT LOVE. 19 WE LOVE EACH OTHER BECAUSE HE LOVED US FIRST. 20 IF SOMEONE SAYS, "I LOVE GOD," BUT HATES A FELLOW BELIEVER, THAT PERSON IS A LIAR: FOR IF WE DON'T LOVE PEOPLE WE CAN SEE, HOW CAN WE LOVE GOD, WHOM WE CANNOT SEE? 21 AND HE HAS GIVEN US THIS COMMAND: THOSE WHO LOVE GOD MUST ALSO LOVE THEIR FELLOW BELIEVERS.

NOW ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU READ. THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER. JUST WRITE WHAT YOU BELIEVE GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU.

GOD LOVED US FIRST. THAT MEANS THAT GOD CHOSE TO LOVE US EVEN IF WE MAY NOT CHOOSE TO LOVE HIM BACK. THAT IS REAL LOVE! IN YOUR OWN WORDS, HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE LOVE OF GOD TO SOMEONE ELSE? _____

PEOPLE CAN'T SEE GOD, BUT GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE TO PEOPLE THROUGH US. WHEN OTHERS LOOK AT US, THEY SHOULD SEE GOD! WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AT YOUR LIFE, DO THEY SEE GOD? WHY OR WHY NOT?

WE ARE COMMANDED TO LOVE OUR FELLOW BELIEVERS. TAKE A FEW SECONDS TO PRAY RIGHT NOW AND ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU SOMEONE WHO GOD WANTS YOU TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO. WHO IS THE FIRST PERSON THAT CAME TO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU PRAYED? _____

- NOW TAKE A FEW MORE SECONDS TO PRAY FOR THAT PERSON.
- NOW ASK GOD HOW HE MIGHT WANT TO USE YOU TO BE A BLESSING OR ENCOURAGEMENT TO THAT PERSON. TAKE A FEW SECONDS TO BE QUIET AND LISTEN TO WHAT GOD SAYS.
- WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO WHATEVER GOD HAS LED YOU TO DO TO BE A BLESSING TO SOMEONE ELSE. THANK YOU FOR LOVING OTHERS LIKE GOD LOVES US!

DAY SIX: GROWING UP

PRAY THIS PRAYER: GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I KNOW YOUR VOICE AND THAT YOU WILL SPEAK TO ME AS I READ AND STUDY YOUR WORD TODAY.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

1 PETER 2:2, THE PASSION TRANSLATION (TPT):

2 IN THE SAME WAY THAT NURSING INFANTS CRY FOR MILK, YOU MUST INTENSELY CRAVE THE PURE SPIRITUAL MILK OF GOD'S WORD. FOR THIS "MILK" WILL CAUSE YOU TO GROW INTO MATURITY, FULLY NOURISHED AND STRONG FOR LIFE—

1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-3, CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION (CEV):

MY FRIENDS, YOU ARE ACTING LIKE THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD. THAT'S WHY I COULD NOT SPEAK TO YOU AS SPIRITUAL PEOPLE. YOU ARE LIKE BABIES AS FAR AS YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST IS CONCERNED. 2 SO I HAD TO TREAT YOU LIKE BABIES AND FEED YOU MILK. YOU COULD NOT TAKE SOLID FOOD, AND YOU STILL CANNOT, 3 BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT YET SPIRITUAL. YOU ARE JEALOUS AND ARGUE WITH EACH OTHER. THIS PROVES THAT YOU ARE NOT SPIRITUAL AND THAT YOU ARE ACTING LIKE THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD.

NOW ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU READ. THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER. JUST WRITE WHAT YOU BELIEVE GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD TO EAT? WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU ALWAYS CRAVE EATING?

WE NEED TO CRAVE GOD'S WORD LIKE WE CRAVE OUR FAVORITE FOOD. WE NEED SPIRITUAL FOOD EVERYDAY TO STAY SPIRITUALLY HEALTHY IN THE SAME WAY WE NEED PHYSICAL FOOD EVERYDAY TO STAY PHYSICALLY HEALTHY. DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE? WHAT IS IT? IF YOU DON'T HAVE A FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE YET, PICK THE VERSE YOU LIKED THE MOST FROM TODAY'S LESSON AND WRITE IT DOWN HERE: _____

WE CAN'T BE A BABY FOREVER. WE EVENTUALLY NEED TO GROW UP. WE START DRINKING MILK, THEN WE START EATING SOLID FOOD. AS CHRISTIANS WE ALSO NEED TO GROW UP. WE START AS BABY CHRISTIANS, DRINKING SPIRITUAL MILK, BUT THEN WE NEED TO GROW TO START EATING MORE SPIRITUAL "MEAT." TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY AND ASK GOD ABOUT SOME WAYS YOU NEED TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE SO YOU CAN GROW UP AS A CHRISTIAN. BE QUIET FOR A FEW MINUTES AND LISTEN TO WHAT GOD SAYS. WHAT DID GOD TELL YOU? _____

DAY SEVEN: WITH HIM FOREVER

PRAY THIS PRAYER: GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I KNOW YOUR VOICE AND THAT YOU WILL SPEAK TO ME AS I READ AND STUDY YOUR WORD TODAY.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

REVELATION 21:1-22:5, CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION (CEV):

21 I SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH. THE FIRST HEAVEN AND THE FIRST EARTH HAD DISAPPEARED, AND SO HAD THE SEA. 2 THEN I SAW NEW JERUSALEM, THAT HOLY CITY, COMING DOWN FROM GOD IN HEAVEN. IT WAS LIKE A BRIDE DRESSED IN HER WEDDING GOWN AND READY TO MEET HER HUSBAND. 3 I HEARD A LOUD VOICE SHOUT FROM THE THRONE: GOD'S HOME IS NOW WITH HIS PEOPLE. HE WILL LIVE WITH THEM, AND THEY WILL BE HIS OWN. YES, GOD WILL MAKE HIS HOME AMONG HIS PEOPLE. 4 HE WILL WIPE ALL TEARS FROM THEIR EYES, AND THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH, SUFFERING, CRYING, OR PAIN. THESE THINGS OF THE PAST ARE GONE FOREVER. 5 THEN THE ONE SITTING ON THE THRONE SAID: I AM MAKING EVERYTHING NEW. WRITE DOWN WHAT I HAVE SAID. MY WORDS ARE TRUE AND CAN BE TRUSTED. 6 EVERYTHING IS FINISHED! I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END. I WILL FREELY GIVE WATER FROM THE LIFE-GIVING FOUNTAIN TO EVERYONE WHO IS THIRSTY. 7 ALL WHO WIN THE VICTORY WILL BE GIVEN THESE BLESSINGS. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY WILL BE MY PEOPLE. 8 BUT I WILL TELL YOU WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO COWARDS AND TO EVERYONE WHO IS UNFAITHFUL OR DIRTY-MINDED OR WHO MURDERS OR IS SEXUALLY IMMORAL OR USES WITCHCRAFT OR WORSHIPS IDOLS OR TELLS LIES. THEY WILL BE THROWN INTO THAT LAKE OF FIRE AND BURNING SULFUR. THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH. 9 I SAW ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS WHO HAD THE BOWLS FILLED WITH THE SEVEN LAST TERRIBLE TROUBLES. THE ANGEL CAME TO ME AND SAID, "COME ON! I WILL SHOW YOU THE ONE WHO WILL BE THE BRIDE AND WIFE OF THE LAMB." 10 THEN WITH THE HELP OF THE SPIRIT, HE TOOK ME TO THE TOP OF A VERY HIGH MOUNTAIN. THERE HE SHOWED ME THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM COMING DOWN FROM GOD IN HEAVEN. 11 THE GLORY OF GOD MADE THE CITY BRIGHT. IT WAS DAZZLING AND CRYSTAL CLEAR LIKE A PRECIOUS JASPER STONE. 12 THE CITY HAD A HIGH AND THICK WALL WITH TWELVE GATES, AND EACH ONE OF THEM WAS GUARDED

BY AN ANGEL. ON EACH OF THE GATES WAS WRITTEN THE NAME OF ONE OF THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL. 13 THREE OF THESE GATES WERE ON THE EAST, THREE WERE ON THE NORTH, THREE MORE WERE ON THE SOUTH, AND THE OTHER THREE WERE ON THE WEST. 14 THE CITY WAS BUILT ON TWELVE FOUNDATION STONES. ON EACH OF THE STONES WAS WRITTEN THE NAME OF ONE OF THE LAMB'S TWELVE APOSTLES. 15 THE ANGEL WHO SPOKE TO ME HAD A GOLD MEASURING STICK TO MEASURE THE CITY AND ITS GATES AND ITS WALLS. 16 THE CITY WAS SHAPED LIKE A CUBE, BECAUSE IT WAS JUST AS HIGH AS IT WAS WIDE. WHEN THE ANGEL MEASURED THE CITY, IT WAS ABOUT FIFTEEN HUNDRED MILES HIGH AND FIFTEEN HUNDRED MILES WIDE. 17 THEN THE ANGEL MEASURED THE WALL, AND BY OUR MEASUREMENTS IT WAS ABOUT TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN FEET HIGH. 18 THE WALL WAS BUILT OF JASPER, AND THE CITY WAS MADE OF PURE GOLD, CLEAR AS CRYSTAL. 19 EACH OF THE TWELVE FOUNDATIONS WAS A PRECIOUS STONE. THE FIRST WAS JASPER, THE SECOND WAS SAPPHIRE, THE THIRD WAS AGATE, THE FOURTH WAS EMERALD, 20 THE FIFTH WAS ONYX, THE SIXTH WAS CARNELIAN, THE SEVENTH WAS CHRYSOLITE, THE EIGHTH WAS BERYL, THE NINTH WAS TOPAZ, THE TENTH WAS CHRYSOPRASE, THE ELEVENTH WAS JACINTH, AND THE TWELFTH WAS AMETHYST. 21 EACH OF THE TWELVE GATES WAS A SOLID PEARL. THE STREETS OF THE CITY WERE MADE OF PURE GOLD, CLEAR AS CRYSTAL. 22 I DID NOT SEE A TEMPLE THERE. THE LORD GOD ALL-POWERFUL AND THE LAMB WERE ITS TEMPLE. 23 AND THE CITY DID NOT NEED THE SUN OR THE MOON. THE GLORY OF GOD WAS SHINING ON IT, AND THE LAMB WAS ITS LIGHT. 24 NATIONS WILL WALK BY THE LIGHT OF THAT CITY, AND KINGS WILL BRING THEIR RICHES THERE. 25 ITS GATES ARE ALWAYS OPEN DURING THE DAY, AND NIGHT NEVER COMES. 26 THE GLORIOUS TREASURES OF NATIONS WILL BE BROUGHT INTO THE CITY. 27 BUT NOTHING UNWORTHY WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER. NO ONE WHO IS DIRTY-MINDED OR WHO TELLS LIES WILL BE THERE. ONLY THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE WILL BE IN THE CITY. 22 THE ANGEL SHOWED ME A RIVER THAT WAS CRYSTAL CLEAR, AND ITS WATERS GAVE LIFE. THE RIVER CAME FROM THE THRONE WHERE GOD AND THE LAMB WERE SEATED. 2 THEN IT FLOWED DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY'S MAIN STREET. ON EACH SIDE OF THE RIVER ARE TREES THAT GROW A DIFFERENT KIND OF FRUIT EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR. THE FRUIT GIVES LIFE, AND THE LEAVES ARE USED AS MEDICINE TO HEAL THE NATIONS. 3 GOD'S CURSE WILL NO LONGER BE ON THE PEOPLE OF THAT CITY. HE AND THE LAMB WILL BE SEATED THERE ON THEIR THRONES, AND ITS PEOPLE WILL WORSHIP GOD 4 AND WILL SEE HIM FACE TO FACE. GOD'S NAME WILL BE WRITTEN ON THE FOREHEADS OF THE PEOPLE. 5 NEVER AGAIN WILL NIGHT APPEAR, AND NO ONE WHO LIVES THERE WILL EVER NEED A LAMP OR THE SUN. THE LORD GOD WILL BE THEIR LIGHT, AND THEY WILL RULE FOREVER.

NOW ANSWERS SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU READ. THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER. JUST WRITE WHAT YOU BELIEVE GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU.

YOU JUST READ ABOUT WHAT HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU LEARNED ABOUT HEAVEN THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE? _____

ARE YOU EXCITED TO ONE DAY SPEND FOREVER IN HEAVEN WITH JESUS? WHY OR WHY NOT? _____

WHAT IS ONE QUESTION YOU WOULD WANT TO ASK GOD IN PERSON WHEN YOU GET TO HEAVEN? _____

CAN YOU THINK OF ONE PERSON WHO YOU ARE NOT SURE IF THEY WILL GO TO HEAVEN? WRITE DOWN THE NAME OF THE FIRST PERSON WHO CAME TO YOUR MIND HERE: _____

GOD BROUGHT THAT PERSON TO YOUR THOUGHTS FOR A REASON. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BE PRAYING FOR THAT PERSON TO COME TO KNOW CHRIST. ASK GOD TO HELP YOU AND TO SHOW YOU WAYS TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THAT PERSON. THEN TAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO WHAT GOD SAYS, AND DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE GOD IS TELLING YOU TO DO.