

As our faith in God increases, our lives will become more pure; and then we will see more of the knowledge of God's purity and other attributes.

**BIBLE STUDY #1, SET 2  
VIRTUE (PURITY)**

13. Are you living a life that is pure? \_\_\_\_\_

From memory, write out your memory verse below:

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Begin memorizing Philippians 4:8

*"Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is notable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things."*

This next set of studies is taken from 2 Peter 1:5-7. *"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue**, to **virtue**, **knowledge**, to **knowledge**, **self-control**, to **self-control**, **perseverance**, to **perseverance** **godliness**, to **godliness** **brotherly kindness**, to **brotherly kindness**, **love**."*

This passage deals with Christian character, those qualities and attributes that the Lord desires and requires of us as Christians. God wants you to live life to the fullest capacity. That is why He is molding and shaping you each day into being more like Jesus. When you add the character qualities of **virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love** to your life, you are maturing in your relationship with Jesus Christ, becoming more like Him.

For the next 7 lessons, you will be learning about each of these qualities of Christian character. Keep in mind that there is **always** room for growth in your life in each of these areas. There are no plateaus to arrive at where you will have received all that there is to learn. If there were, you could give God a nudge and say, *"Move over, there's two of us now."*

Virtue means "moral goodness", "modesty" and "purity". All of us are stained by sin and its hold over our lives. But God desires to share His purity, His perfection, with us through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>

1. Isaiah 6:3, 1 Samuel 2:2 and Revelation 15:4 reveals a most important attribute of God. What is it?

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<sup>1</sup> Note: all Scriptures in these studies are from the New International Version (NIV) or the New King James Version. (NKJV)

God's Holiness is "*The sum of all moral excellency found in Him. He is absolute purity.*"

2. God is so pure that He cannot do what, according to Habakkuk 1:13?

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3. How does Psalm 12:6 describe the words of the Lord?

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God's Word contains *nothing* that is useless or worthless. John 17:17 tells us that God's Word is TRUTH.

4. According to 1 Peter 1:22, how do we purify ourselves?

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5. As children of God, we want to live a life that is clean and pleasing to the Lord. What do the following verses say about this?

Psalm 51:10 \_\_\_\_\_

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Proverbs 4:14, 15 \_\_\_\_\_

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In Psalm 51:10 (above) "create" means *to bring into existence* something that is new. Only God can fashion the heart with purity.

6. What does God promise to those who are pure in heart?

Matthew 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_

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7. According to 1 Peter 1:15, *every* Christian is called to:

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The word "conduct" in the NKJV means *manner of life*. It is used here in regard to living a life that is holy.

8. How does God describe those who practice impurity?

Ephesians 4: 18,19 \_\_\_\_\_

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9. What are some of the works of the flesh according to Galatians 5:19-21?

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It's great to know that we can be free from the bondage of the works of the flesh through *yielding our lives* to the Holy Spirit. (See **Galatians 5:16**)

10. The Christian should value his body as a sacred place where God dwells. What does 1 Corinthians 6:19 tell us about our body?

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11. What principles do the following verses give for living a life of purity?  
2 Timothy 2:22 \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 13:14 \_\_\_\_\_

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12. As we become clothed with the purity of Christ, what are we to do for *others*?

1 Timothy 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

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living. What are SIX practices that we hope to live as we receive the knowledge of God, according to Col. 1:10-12?

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11. The Bible tells us that as we grow in the knowledge of God, we can grow in *temperance*, which is *self-control*. Self-control is the virtue of one who masters his/her own desires and passions; restraint exercised over one's own impulses, emotions, or desires. Do you have self-control through the knowledge of God? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What did the Holy Spirit teach you this week as you studied this lesson?

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From memory, write out your memory verse below:

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**BIBLE STUDY #2, SET 2  
KNOWLEDGE<sup>1</sup>**

Begin memorizing Psalms 147:5 (NIV)

*"Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit."*

The definition of "knowledge" is *the fact or condition of apprehending truth; knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association.*

For us to grow in our Christian walk, it is vitally necessary that we become knowledgeable in the God who is all-knowledgeable.

The Bible says that God is *omniscient*. That word means that God *knows all things* and *is absolutely perfect in knowledge*.

1. What does Job 37:16 tell us about God's knowledge?

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2. How does God speak to us, according to Isaiah 45: 19?

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3. What does the Bible tell us about God's Word? (See John 17:17)

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We see that God's Word is His Knowledge, and this His Knowledge is TRUTH.

4. What does God desire of all people, according to 1 Tim. 2:4?

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<sup>1</sup> LESSN2\_2.DOC

5. Once we are saved and have come to the knowledge of the truth, what does God desire of us? 2 Pet. 3:18

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6. What is the FIRST STEP to increasing our knowledge of God? Prov. 1:7

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“Fear” means *to have a loving reverence (respect, admiration) for God that includes submission to His Lordship and to the commandments in His*

If we were to feed our *physical* bodies only once a week, we would become very malnourished. That would weaken us both physically and emotionally. This very same principle applies to our *spiritual* nourishment. If we feed ourselves spiritual food only once a week, we will become spiritually malnourished and unstable. Instead of growing in Christ, we will begin to stagnate. As Christians, it is essential that we feed ourselves DAILY on the Word of God and receive His food (knowledge) for our growth.

7. What does 2 Tim. 2:15 tell us to do?

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When we “*study*” we *apply our minds* to gain knowledge. We work at learning about something. To study the Word of God is different than merely reading it. When we read something, we are trying to understand the printed word. But have you ever been reading something and realized you really weren’t *thinking* about what you were reading? It is important to THINK about what we are reading when we are studying the Word of God.

We need to ask: **What does this say? What does this mean?** And, we need to think about **how we are going to put into practice the things the word of God is saying!**

We need to study God’s Word in CONTEXT to get a balanced understanding of His Knowledge. To study in *context* means *to study a part of the Bible paying attention to the words (or verses) that come before and after the part we are studying* to help us determine what is being said. It is important to study the *whole* teaching of God’s Word, from Genesis through Revelation.

8. What do the following Scriptures tell us about those who reject God’s divine knowledge?

Isa. 47:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Hosea 4:6 \_\_\_\_\_

We must always remember that the wisest and most knowledgeable Christian is limited in his knowledge. God is the *only one* who knows everything. We must never allow our knowledge to fill us with false pride.

9. What does 1 Cor. 8:1-3 tell us about how we should USE knowledge?

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Knowledge without love is worthless. We are to *apply* God’s knowledge to our lives to show our love for Him and others.

**Read Matt. 22:37-40.**

10. Biblical knowledge is not merely *the possession of facts*. Rather, Biblical knowledge and wisdom are practical, having to do with Godly

12. What did the Holy Spirit teach you this week as you studied this lesson?

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From memory, write out your memory verse below:

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**BIBLE STUDY #3, SET 2  
SELF-CONTROL<sup>1</sup>**

Begin memorizing Romans 13:14 (NIV)

*“Clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think how to gratify the desires of the sinful flesh.”*

The gospel encourages us to trust in someone greater than ourselves. That Someone, as we know, is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We will encounter many trials throughout our Christian walk. In order to overcome them, it will take **self-control**.

**Self-control** is *“restraint exercised over ones own impulses, emotions or desires.”*

As Christians, we desire to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord; but we are constantly struggling with sin.

1. Read Romans 7:14-25. In this passage, Paul tells us of his struggle with sin, but also of his victory in Jesus Christ. How does this passage give you hope for your walk with Christ?

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2. What is the key to conquering sinful desires, according to Gal. 5:16?

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Self-control is just one part of Christian character. It is produced by the Holy Spirit, not by the mere moral discipline of trying to live by the law.

3. List the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.

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<sup>1</sup> LESSN2\_3.DOC

Notice that the word "fruit" in verse 22 is singular. Self-control is *just one portion* of the fruit. One of the things that the Spirit promises to do for the child of God is to enable him or her to take control of "self", weaknesses, and areas of temptation.

4. 2 Peter 1:5-9 speaks of the virtues that will produce a well-rounded, fruitful Christian life. According to verse 6, what are we to add to "knowledge"?

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According to many of the false teachers, "knowledge" made "self-control" unnecessary. But Peter tells us that knowledge *leads to* self-control. Review Bible Study #2 to remind you about what you learned about "knowledge".

5. Read the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39:1-12. Joseph showed self-control by doing what? (Vs. 12)

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6. What does Joseph's response to temptation teach you about dealing with temptation in your *own* life?

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7. I Corinthians 6:18 tells us to deal with the temptation of sexual immorality. What does it tell us to do?

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Self-control is not just waiting for something to happen, self-control is an action word. When we are tempted, we need to *actively put self-control into practice*, through the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot "play" with temptation.

8. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5, the story of King David and Bathsheba. Did King David *play* with self-control or actively put it into practice?

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According to verse 1 of 2 Samuel 11, King David was hanging around the palace, rather than leading his men to war. We often find ourselves facing temptation when we *fail* to do what we're supposed to do, and *end up being where we are not supposed to be*.

9. What are the three areas in our lives that need to be--and MUST be--controlled, according to 1 John 2:16?

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and \_\_\_\_\_.

We will continually be attacked by temptation, but the victory is ours in Jesus Christ. (Read James 4:7)

10. Write what Jesus said from Matthew 26:41: \_\_\_\_\_

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When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, God *gives us power to overcome* whatever temptations the Enemy might throw at us. We have no power in ourselves; but when *we yield ourselves* to the Spirit of God, He will give us the power we need to overcome temptation and exercise self-control. This is important: *We ONLY have self-control when we let God have FULL control*. Read 2 Corinthians 3:5!

11. Being *joint heirs* with the living God is the secret of being content, and the source of our strength. What do the following Scriptures tell us about our strength?

Philippians 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:2,3 \_\_\_\_\_

Self-control teaches us NOT to surrender to circumstances or to give in when we're under trial. Self-control teaches us to be patient. Are you learning patience through self-control?

From memory, write out your memory verse below:

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**BIBLE STUDY #4, SET 2**  
**PATIENCE (PERSEVERANCE)<sup>1</sup>**

Begin memorizing James 1:4 (NKJV)

*“But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*

How often do we find ourselves, during times of trials, asking God for “patience--and please hurry!” The word “patience” means “long tempered”. It is the opposite of having what is known as a “short fuse”. Patience is the ability to contain ones self. It indicates perseverance, endurance, steadfastness, and long-suffering. Patience is that calm and unruffled temper with which the good person bears the evils of life, whether they proceed from other people or things.

Men may tempt and provoke God, yet He displays incredible patience towards mankind. Many Bible commentators believe that God waited patiently for mankind to repent of their wickedness for 120 years, while Noah was building the ark.

1. Read Gen. 6:1-22. How many people total were saved from the flood?

See 1 Pet. 3:20 for details \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Gen. 12:2-4, 17:2, 18:10 and 21:2. When God makes a promise, He keeps it! It took 25 years for God’s promise to Abraham to take place. What did Abraham do during this period of time? (Heb. 6:15)

3. According to 2 Pet. 3:8-9, how patient (long-suffering) is the Lord?

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4. According to 1 Cor. 13:4, patience is a virtue of what?

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Patience and love are like joy and peace. The two go hand in hand. When we love, we often restrain our words or actions.

5. Read Col. 1:9-11. As we grow in the knowledge of God, we are strengthened with all power. For what purpose?

Col. 1:11 \_\_\_\_\_

6. As a child of God, you are to clothe yourself with what kind of behavior? (Col. 3:12,13)

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7. The Scriptures tell us to be patient with how many people? 1 Thess. 5:14,15.

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8. For how long are we to be patient with everyone? James 5:7-10.

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9. Look up the following verses and summarize what they tell you about acquiring patience.

Matthew. 21:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 15:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Patience or long-suffering is part of the fruit that the Holy Spirit gives us. We receive the fruit of the Spirit as we walk closely with Jesus, in obedience to Him. God is the author of patience in His servants.

In 2 Corinthians 6:3-10, we read of the many hardships that Paul encountered during his ministry. Yet, he steadfastly showed himself to be a minister of God by his character.

10. What were some of the character traits Paul showed in his life? (vs.6)

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11. What character traits should we show in our lives during times of affliction, according to Rom. 12:12?

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12. What is involved in waiting on the Lord? Summarize what you learn from the following verses.

Psalm 37:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 40:1 \_\_\_\_\_

As we come to grow in faith, purity, knowledge self-control and patience, we move forward toward a genuine reverence for God that will govern our attitude toward every aspect of our lives.

13. According to 2 Pet. 1:6, what is the virtue that follows patience?

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14. Are you growing in godliness? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What did the Holy Spirit teach you this week as you studied this lesson?

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12. What does 1 Tim. 4:8 tell us about godliness? \_\_\_\_\_

“All things” refers to our entire well-being: our physical, spiritual, earthly and eternal well-being.

13. How are we to present ourselves to God, according to Rom. 12:1? \_\_\_\_\_

14. As God’s saints, what does Romans 12:9 say we are to do with evil and good? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What *character trait* are we to add to *godliness* to further our growth in Christian character, according to 2 Peter 1:7? \_\_\_\_\_

From memory, write out your memory verse below:

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**BIBLE STUDY #5, SET 2  
GODLINESS<sup>1</sup>**

Begin memorizing 1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

“But just as he who called you is Holy; so be holy in all you do; for it is written ‘be Holy, because I am Holy’.”

The word *godliness* in the Scriptures means a deep devotion and respect toward God. Another name for “godliness” is “holiness.” Something that is holy is *set apart* from all that is sinful or impure or morally imperfect.

A short and simple definition of holiness is “separated to God.” Christians should all desire to be like Christ. One of the many personality traits of God is His holiness. If we choose to be like Him, we will want to be holy, too.

1. What do the following scriptures tell us about God?

Psalm 99:9 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

*Light* represents what is good, true and holy; while *darkness* represents what is evil and false.

2. In Psalm 89:30-37 we read that the Lord made an *everlasting* and *unconditional* covenant with David. In verse 35, how does the Lord swear to this covenant?

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God swears by His *holiness* because holiness is a full expression of Himself.

This *attribute* (inborn characteristic) is shown as belonging to each of the three persons of the trinity in the following verses. What

<sup>1</sup> LESSN2\_5.DOC

3. What do the following verses say about. . .

God the Father? Isaiah 41:14 \_\_\_\_\_

God the Son? Acts 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_

God the Holy Spirit? Eph. 4:30 \_\_\_\_\_

4. According to Isaiah 5:16, God will show Himself holy by what?

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5. How does God feel about sin? Psalm 45:7 \_\_\_\_\_

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Before a sinner can approach God and have fellowship with Him, God's holiness demands that our sin be "atoned" for. (*Atone* means to make payment for sins.) We are able to approach a holy God because Jesus' blood, spilt on the cross, paid for our sins, removing them from us. By removing our sins, the Lord Jesus provided repentant sinners with the freedom to approach God.

6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20,21. Then answer the following questions.

Who was sinless? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was made to be sin for us? \_\_\_\_\_

What do we become in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What are God's people referred to in Romans 8:27 and Ephesians 1:15,18?

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"Saint" means "holy one". The name, Saint, reflects our standing in Christ. In Jesus, we are set apart (and holy) to God.

8. 1 Tim. 6:11 tells us to pursue what? \_\_\_\_\_

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The most frequent use of the word *holy* in the New Testament is in relation to God, the *HOLY* Spirit. Only by the power of God's Holy Spirit, can we be transformed. Only through God's power can we live a holy life.

9. What part do our minds play in living a holy life? (Romans 8:5)

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10. Read Colossians 3:1-8 and list the *practical steps* we need to take to live holy lives.

Vs. 1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 8 \_\_\_\_\_

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11. We are not supposed to be conformed (act in accordance with the world's rules) to this world; but, we are to be transformed (changed!) to be more like Christ. What does God want to do to our *minds* that will help us do this? (Romans 12:2)

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To be transformed, is to have our moral character changed for the better. It is not a single event, but rather, a process. The more we draw near to God, the more He draws near to us. When we draw closer to Jesus, we will naturally become more like Him!

come to us naturally.

12. What *character trait* are we to add to *brotherly kindness* to further our growth in Christian character, according to 2 Peter 1:7?

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From memory, write out your memory verse below:

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## BIBLE STUDY #6, SET 2 BROTHERLY KINDNESS<sup>1</sup>

Begin memorizing Romans 12:10 (NKJV)

*“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”*

Brotherly kindness is translated as “brotherly love” or “love for the brethren” in the Bible. In the original Greek, the word used is *philadelphos*, which means “to love one’s fellow countrymen.” In our country, we call the city of Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, because the very same Greek word was used to name that city! In the Christian community, *brotherly love* sums up the support Christians are supposed to give to each other.

1. What do we read about God’s kindness in Nehemiah 9:17?

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2. How long will God’s kindness last, according to Isaiah 54:8?

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God’s *kindness* had no beginning and it has no end; it is eternal.

3. According to Ephesians 2:6-7, how does God show His kindness to us?

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4. Read Titus 3:4-7 and tell what God’s kindness has done for mankind.

(Verse 5) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: in this particular study, the words *kindness* and *goodness* in the verses we are looking up, mean *the same thing*

5. What do the following verses teach us about brotherly love?

1 Thessalonians 4:9 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 John 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_

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6. God's word is our spiritual food. Read 1 Peter 2:2-3 and write what the Bible teaches us about spiritual food in the space below.

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7. What are some ways of being kind to others, according to the following verses?

Ephesians 4:32 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 15:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 25:35-40 (verse 35) \_\_\_\_\_

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(verse 36) \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Read Acts 14:14-18 and write the different ways that we witness the Lord's kindness. (Notice what verse 17 says.)

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9. What is the purpose of God's kindness or goodness according to Romans 2:4?

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10. Read Romans 11:22. Think about the kindness and sternness of God. How does God act toward the obedient? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does God act toward the *disobedient*? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. What does Hebrews 13:1 tell us?

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Brotherly kindness is a mutual love that children of the same father share. In the New Testament, it always means love of fellow believers because we all have the same Heavenly Father.

As our love for each other grows and matures, we will come even closer to God, because we will be more like Him. As we grow to be more like Him, we will come to love each other unconditionally, just like He loves us!

Unconditional love means we will love another person *no matter how they act toward us*. Conditional love means we only love the other person when they behave the way we want them to.

Aren't we glad that God loves us *no matter how we act*? He is always there, always loving us--even when we don't love Him back!

**To think about: what kind of love do you have for your family: parents, children, spouse? Conditional or unconditional? What kind of love do you have for your friends? Conditional or unconditional? What kind of love do you have for God? Conditional or unconditional?**

God wants those who use His name, who say they are "Christians" to *learn* to love unconditionally. This kind of love does not

On our own, we cannot love as God would like us to. It is impossible. No one can love that way until they come to Christ. Until the Holy Spirit has control of our lives, we are powerless to love as God loves.

**Read Romans 5:5.**

16. What does the Bible tell us about those who love the things of the world? (1 John 2:15)

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17. Do you love the world, or love the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

From memory, write out your memory verse below:

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Christianity best reflects Christ when Christians grow in love. Then we can *live out the love* that is the ONE, Unquestionable mark of being a follower of Jesus. Remember: the world might hate us; but our love proves Christ's love is real!

God will always love you. May He bless you as you continue to walk with Him.

**BIBLE STUDY #7, SET 2  
LOVE (AGAPE)<sup>1</sup>**

Begin memorizing 1 John 4:16 (NKJV)

*"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."*

Love is a word that is used quite often in the English language. "I love my wife", "I love my dog", "I love Mexican food." In no way do we love all three equally, but as loosely as the word is used, one would start to wonder.

There are **three different** words in the Greek language that are used for "love". "Eros" focuses on sexual desires (lust); "Phileo" focuses on brotherly friendship; and "Agape" is used to express deep long-suffering and constant love toward an unworthy object. Agape is God's wonderful and unconditional love toward us--His children.

"God is love." This is not a *definition*, but rather it is a FACT. All that God does is an expression of His love. Love is not just *one* of God's attributes; but it is His *very nature*.

1. What do the following Scriptures tell us about God's love?

Ephesians 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah 31:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Jonah 4:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Hosea 14:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 12:6 \_\_\_\_\_

2. We read in the Old Testament that the Israelites were a disobedient people. Yet, God delivered them from the bondage of Egypt. Why?

Deuteronomy 4:37 \_\_\_\_\_

We see that God's deep affection and love is given as a reason for God's choice of Israel. The only reason God loves *anyone* is found in His own sovereign will. Read 2 Timothy 1:9.

3. What do we learn about God's love from the following verses?

John 3:35 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:27 & 2 Thess. 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_

John 3:16 & Titus 3:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_

God's love is personal and intimate. He doesn't love general populations, He loves individuals.

4. What can separate us from the love of God? \_\_\_\_\_

5. According to James 1:17, does the love of God ever change? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Read John 3:16; John 15:13; 1 John 3:16; and 1 John 4:10. What is the greatest love of all?

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7. According to Romans 5:8, how does God demonstrate His love for us?

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What did we have in us that attracted God's love? Nothing! He died for us *while we were still sinners*. Jesus' sacrifice was not made for *friends*--but for *enemies*!

8. Why do we love God? (1 John 4:19) \_\_\_\_\_

Christ did not die in order to *make God love us*. He died because God *already DID* love us.

9. How are we to love God, according to Matt. 22:37?

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Our love is to be TOTAL, involving our whole being. Loving God is the key that opens the door to our ability to love one another.

10. What will those who love God, receive?

James 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_

James 2: 5 \_\_\_\_\_

11. How can we tell if someone is a disciple of Christ? (John 13:35)

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12. Read John 14:15 and 1 John 2:3-5. Through what do we show our love toward God?

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13. Write out 1 Cor. 13:4-8 in the space below. \_\_\_\_\_

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Prophecies will fail, tongues will cease, knowledge will pass away, but love NEVER fails. Love transforms our desires, our ideas, our values, our relationships and our very selves.

14. According to 1 John 4:18, how do we overcome fear?

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15. How is our love *increased* toward one another, according to 1 Thess. 3:12?

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