

Faithful in All Things

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WHEN HAVE  
YOU WANTED  
TO TRY  
SOMETHING  
NEW BUT  
WERE AFRAID?

## The POINT >

Faithfully trust God as you minister to others.

### > REVELATION 3:7-13

<sup>7</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

<sup>8</sup>“I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup> Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to

try those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. <sup>12</sup> The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. <sup>13</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

The first swim goggles were invented to help divers find pearls, and they were made of turtle shells.<sup>1</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

Growing in Christlikeness is accomplished as we act intentionally to pursue Christ and as God works in our lives.

Several years ago, my family brought a 9-year-old girl out of a vulnerable situation and into our home. Within a month of her moving in, we went on our yearly vacation, which involved a lot of time at the pool. However, there was a problem. Our daughter had never been swimming, and she was terrified!

It took me at least an hour to get her into the water, and another three days before she would even attempt to swim. Despite my describing the fun she would have and promising that I would make sure she was okay, she simply wasn't willing to take a chance. She had experienced so many broken promises before that she wasn't willing to trust me.

By the end of the week, however, I finally convinced her to take the risk and give swimming a try. More importantly, I convinced her to trust me. Today, she loves to swim, and all summer long, we can't get her out of the pool.

Chances are, you've been hurt by broken promises. Maybe you've even come to the same conclusion as our daughter—that people aren't trustworthy. The truth is that people will let us down. However, Jesus never will. He is faithful to fulfill His promises, and if we will trust Him, Jesus will make sure that we are okay.

## REVELATION 3:7-8

**1** When have you been glad Jesus opened a door for you?

**2** What are some obstacles that may hinder us from trusting God?



*We are living in uncertain times, but the promises of God are true, and if we remain faithful, Jesus will see us through. #BSFLtheChurch*



## REVELATION 3:9-10

- 3** What are some things we can do to obey Jesus' command to endure?
- 4** How do you remain faithful to God during difficult times?
- 5** What helps you trust in God's protection?

## REVELATION 3:11-13

- 6** List some ways your church is like the church at Philadelphia.
- 7** What are some tools that God gives us to help us remain faithful?
- 8** Where do you have an opportunity right now to faithfully trust in God?



# LIVE IT OUT

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

*Growing in Christlikeness is accomplished as we act intentionally to pursue Christ and as God works in our lives.*

Jesus commended the church in Philadelphia for being faithful—they experienced difficult things, but still lived out their commitment to follow Christ. When we faithfully pursue Jesus, refusing to compromise, God will bless us in real ways, including shaping us more fully into the image of Jesus.

## > CHRIST

Trust is belief that leads to action. This means that if we truly trust Jesus, we will live in ways that demonstrate that trust. Answer the following questions honestly:

**9** Do you confidently trust Jesus?

**10** How does your life prove that you trust Him?

**11** What is Jesus calling you to do that you haven't yet followed?

**Commit to demonstrating trust in Jesus by living out this calling. Pray that He would give you the boldness and strength to trust Him completely.**

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

### PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD

## > COMMUNITY

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As Jesus' followers, we are to be completely trustworthy.

**12** Who is someone that you trust fully?

**13** How has being able to trust this person made a difference in your life?



Let this person know the difference he or she has made in your life and how much you appreciate it. Send your person a card or text or even call him or her on the phone.

## > CULTURE

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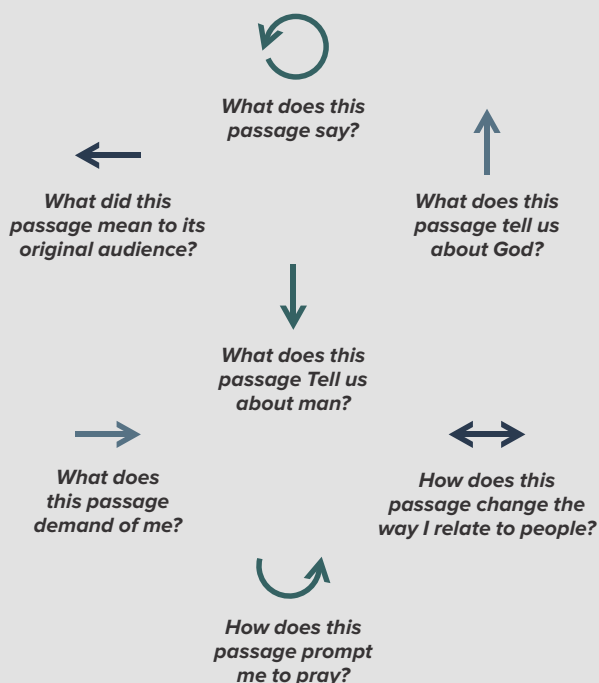
In our culture, people are generally critical or skeptical. Most people have been burned many times and aren't inclined to trust others.

**14** This week, share the reasons you see Jesus as trustworthy with a non-believing friend. Include a specific story about how He has been faithful to you, and invite your friend to put their trust in Christ.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One **MATTHEW 10:16a**

The Bible speaks over and over of God's people as sheep. Sheep are seen as vulnerable because they have no system of defense, such as claws or fangs. Further, they are dependent upon a shepherd's leading them, and without someone to follow, sheep will go astray. When Jesus sent His disciples out as sheep among wolves, this was an indicator that they would continually encounter people who would seek to do them harm. They would be despised, rejected, and persecuted. Further, they would be tempted to stray from Jesus and His teachings. However, this knowledge helped protect them against unrealistic expectations.

➤ **When have you had unrealistic expectations about following Jesus?**

➤ **Why was it important that Jesus shared this with His disciples?**

## Day Two

# MATTHEW 10:16b

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Serpents are often seen as a representation of cunning or shrewdness. For followers of Jesus, it is important that we know how to balance speaking boldly with avoiding unnecessary danger. It is wise to emulate the best qualities of serpents, specifically, that they are crafty and are good at staying clear of danger. At the same time, we must be like doves, careful not to be deceptive, but maintaining our innocence and purity at all costs. In order to fulfill Jesus' mission for His followers, we must be both shrewd and innocent.

➤ **What are wise ways Christians can be shrewd?**

➤ **Why is innocence so important for followers of Jesus?**

## Day Three

# MATTHEW 10:17-18

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Many times, when people come to faith in Jesus, they believe He will immediately and magically make their lives better, solving all their difficulties and blessing them with health and wealth. However, this wasn't the message Jesus communicated to His followers. Instead, He told them they'd be unjustly arrested, beaten, and locked up. Even worse, it was their fellow Jews—the people of God—who would do this to them. However, when the disciples testified to their innocence, they would have the opportunity to share about Jesus with people in all positions of authority. They would certainly endure the worst kinds of difficulties, but these very hardships would provide them the opportunity to demonstrate the difference Jesus made in their lives.

➤ **What did you expect when you came to faith in Jesus?**

➤ **How does hardship allow us the opportunity to testify about the power of Jesus?**



## Day Four

# MATTHEW 10:19-20

Christians are called to share our testimonies and clearly proclaim the gospel to those who don't know God. However, this can be intimidating for many reasons, and we're often hesitant to tell others about Jesus. Maybe it's because we don't know how to start a conversation. It may be that we fear rejection. Or perhaps we're worried that we'll face questions for which we don't have answers. Whatever the case, Jesus told His followers that they didn't need to worry—the Holy Spirit would be with them, and if they'd devoted themselves to Jesus and His Word, the Spirit would guide in giving their testimony. Today, this same Spirit works in us, and when we devote ourselves to following Jesus and sharing the gospel, He will speak through us, drawing people to Himself.

➤ **What do you find difficult about sharing the gospel?**

➤ **How does the Spirit lead you in speaking with your friends about spiritual things?**

## Day Five

# MATTHEW 10:21-22



To follow Jesus doesn't always lead to a happy and healthy earthly life. Instead, sometimes following Christ will lead to great loss in our lives. To be a Christian means to live as Jesus lived, and Jesus' words and actions led to His being rejected, arrested, beaten, and crucified. And we should expect the world's rejection, as well. After all, if the world hated Him, it will hate us, too. However, if we endure, living faithfully in pursuing Jesus all the days of our lives, we can know that we will be saved from the destruction that's coming upon the world and worldly people. Even though the Christian life can be difficult, following Jesus is always worth it.

➤ **Why did the world reject Jesus?**

➤ **How does the world hate Christians today?**