

Choices

Your life is shaped by the choices you make

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My deepest gratitude is extended to my Lord Jesus. He is my Lord and my inspiration. In choosing Jesus, I have chosen the best for my life.

Note: Unless otherwise identified, scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version.

CHOICES

Dedication

CHOICES is dedicated to every person who chooses the best in life for him or herself.

The best choice being:

To bring glory and honour to the name of the Lord Jesus.

Introduction

Think of your life as a journey. Life, like a journey, has three characteristics. Both have a starting point, both follow a route or way, and both lead to a final destination. Some of us live our lives to the full and we arrive at a good and Godly destination. However, some of us don't make the most of our lives and we arrive at a poor and ungodly destination.

An important question to ask is:
Why does this happen?

The answer to this important question lies in the fact that those who live their lives to the full do so because they have understood and applied the teaching of the Bible to make wise and good choices. As they have understood and applied God's Word, the Bible has shown them the best path to follow.

In Choosing God's direction for their lives, God has blessed these people with:

- His Presence
- His Power
- His Provision and
- His Plan.

There are people who choose a different direction for their lives. Those who fail to make the most of their lives have not understood and applied the teaching of the Bible to their lives. This has resulted in them to making choices that are foolish and bad. Sadly, these choices bring with them the potential to cause pain and suffering in their lives.

As you complete each module of this course, it will be important for you to think carefully about how you are going to answer the following main question, simply stated in this faith fact:

Faith fact:
Your life is shaped by the Choices you make.

So, think of CHOICES as an adventure of discovery about your friendship with Jesus and how, when you invite Him into your life and He lives in you, you can live life to the fullest!

CHOICES

Module 1

JESUS and Me

The choice in this module is between:

Choice A

Jesus is who the Bible says He is

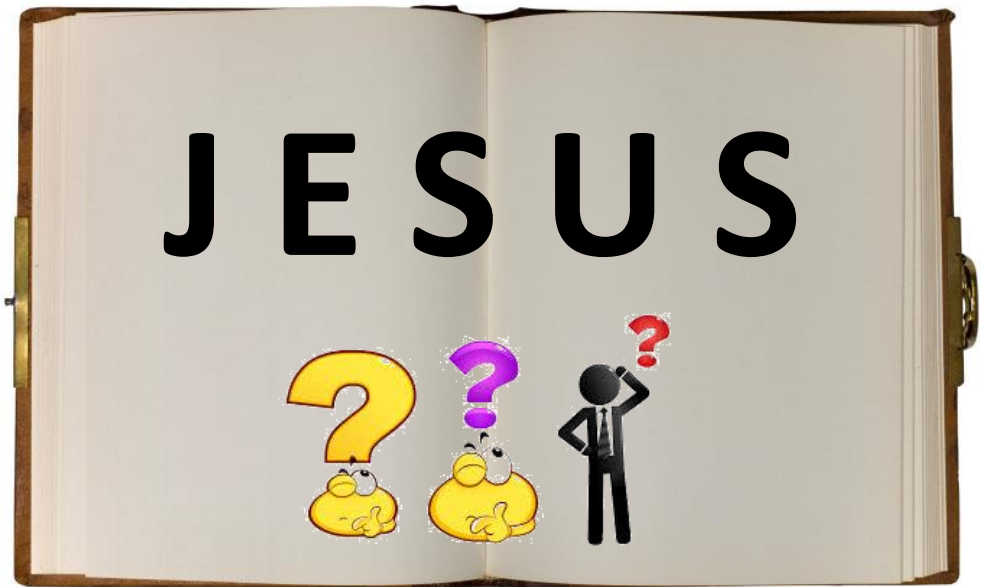
Or

Choice B

Jesus is not who the Bible says He is

Introduction

Ever since Jesus first walked on this earth, people have always been amazed by Him. Some have accepted what He said concerning who He was and what His mission to each one of us was. Others have rejected Jesus. Some have denied that He even existed. In this module of CHOICES, you are asked to make a choice between believing what the Bible reveals concerning who Jesus is, or to reject it.



CHOICES

Let's first study *Choice A.* **Jesus is who the Bible says He is.**

The first four books in the New Testament were written by men who knew Jesus. They wrote books that described the life of Jesus and also included the words of Jesus.

One of the best ways to get to know Jesus is to read what those who actually knew Him wrote about Him. Read the portions of scripture below and list your discoveries.

*The Gospel of Matthew
Matthew 4: 23-25.*

List one thing Matthew teaches you about Jesus.



*The Gospel of Mark
Mark 1: 9-11.*

List one thing Mark teaches you about Jesus.

*The Gospel of Luke
Luke 4: 16-22.*

List one thing Luke teaches you about Jesus.

*The Gospel of John
John 5: 1-9.*

List one thing John teaches you about Jesus.

Define Jesus

We are going to study this topic by discovering the definition (meaning) of the name of Jesus. At the end of your research, you will discover that although time has moved on, Jesus has remained the same person throughout history.

The name of Jesus defines or gives meaning to who He is.

Before we get to the meaning of the name of Jesus, let's first do this simple activity. Parents sometimes give their children a name that has a special meaning. If you know what your name means then write it below. If you do not know, then find out. It's really interesting – you may be surprised!

My name is: _____

It means: _____

Read Matthew 1:18 – 23.

From these verses in Matthew, answer the questions below concerning the definition (meaning) of Jesus' name.

Question 1: What does 'Jesus' mean?

Answer: Jesus is the Greek form of _____, which means

Question 2: What does 'Immanuel' mean?

Answer: _____

CHOICES

Faith fact:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever.

Hebrews 13:8 states that: 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever'.

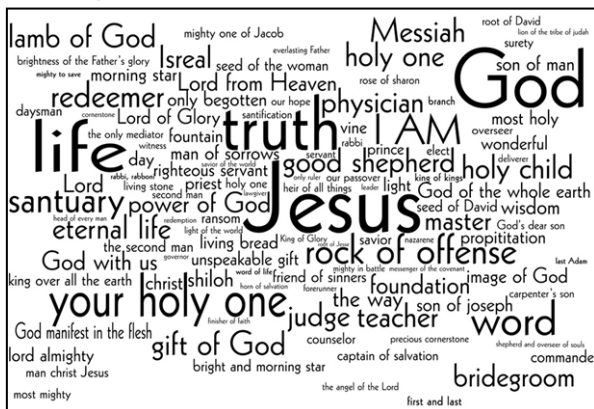
This scripture teaches that Jesus Christ is a person who has not changed, is not changing, and will not change in the future. The 'Jesus' who walked on this earth about 2 000 years ago is this same 'Jesus' who can and will walk into your life today if you ask Him.

Doesn't it seem strange that Jesus Christ can be the same person to all of us? But that is the truth. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever. Jesus Christ is the same person to all mankind.

This means His definition is also the same throughout history. What defined Jesus Christ to His disciples and the other people who saw and spoke to Him, is the same thing which defines Him to you and me today.

Faith Fact: The reason Jesus Christ will never change is because He is God.

Let us now move on with our journey of discovering who Jesus Christ is. This time we want to take what we have learned from His Name, and see how this helps us to understand Jesus Christ.



Understand Jesus

The Bible is a book that contains the historical records of the lives of people who lived during biblical times. Authors of the Bible recorded certain important events so that people who lived after them could read about what happened in those times. People who lived and walked with Jesus recorded the actions and words of Jesus. That is why, if you want to understand Jesus, you must read what people who actually knew Him have written.

Look up the following five references in your Bible and fill in the blank spaces with your answers.

Read *Philippians 2:1–11*.

There is an important description of who Jesus is in verses 5 to 11. Take some time to think about these verses and answer this question:

How do these verses help you to understand Jesus?

Your answer:

Read *John 8:12*.

Jesus says He is the _____ of the world.

As a Christian, what important quality does Jesus bring into your life?

How does this help you in your walk of life?

Your answer:

CHOICES

Read John 8:31-32.

Fill in the blanks with these words and, as you do, get God's truth in you!
(Free – Truth – Know)

You will _____ the _____ and the _____ will set you _____

Read John 10:10.

What has Jesus come to give you and me?



Read John 10:11.

Complete this sentence: Jesus is the _____

What has Jesus come to give us?

If you have completed these five references correctly, your understanding of Jesus is now greater than it was before you read these verses. That's great, but I encourage you to read further into the books of the Old and New Testament. With every verse you read that reveals something about Jesus, you will discover, among other things, that:

- He loves you very much.
- He is your best friend.
- He hopes that you choose to walk with Him, both here on this earth and into eternity.

JESUS = Relationship
~~RELIGION~~

Content of Jesus

The meaning of the phrase 'Content of Jesus' is, simply, 'Everything that is inside of Jesus'. Here we are going to find the answer to the question: 'When you choose to accept Jesus into your life, what does Jesus bring into your life with Him?'

Read Matthew 20:28.

Jesus has come to give His _____ for many, which also includes you and me!



Read John 1:4.

What was in Jesus?

Read John 11:25–26.

Jesus is the _____ and the _____

What is the great result of believing in Jesus?

Do you believe this?

Yes/No

Read John 3:16.

This is a well-known verse of scripture. Most people can recite this verse from memory. Find this scripture in your Bible and then write your name in the blank spaces below.

For God so loved _____, that He gave His one and only Son, that [if] _____ believes in Him _____ shall not perish but have eternal life.

Is this not amazing?

God loved _____ so much that He chose to give His Son Jesus to die in _____'s place so that _____ could have eternal life! Wow!

So far we have been finding out a few important qualities about Jesus. When you make a choice to invite Jesus into your life, this means you will also have the 'Content of Jesus' in your life.

Faith fact:

For those who have Jesus in their lives, the life that is in Him will be the life that is in you.

What is the main thing that a person receives when he/she invites Jesus Christ into his/her life?

Here is an important question to ask yourself now:

Would you like to receive Jesus into your life? _____

If your answer is 'yes' that means you have faith in Jesus Christ, that He can forgive your sin and give you the gift of eternal life. When you ask Jesus to come into your life, He will become your Lord and Saviour. The 'Content of Jesus' will be in you! In our next module, we will study this more and you will have the opportunity to make the choice to receive Jesus into your life.

If your answer is 'no', then keep reading. Perhaps by the end of this course you will change your mind!

Expression of Jesus

The expression of Jesus in your life comes by way of receiving Him into your life. This very important process is called 'Salvation'. In the next module you will learn more about salvation.

Read John 1:12.

What do you become when you receive Him (Jesus) into your life?



Fruit of Jesus

The final result of receiving Jesus into your life is that you receive a very special fruit (gift) from Him. Jesus is the only person who can give you this special fruit. The fruit is called eternal life.

Read *John* 3:16.

What is the fruit of receiving Jesus into your life?

Read *Romans* 6:23.

What is the wage of sin? _____

What is the gift (fruit) of God?

A summary of Choice A

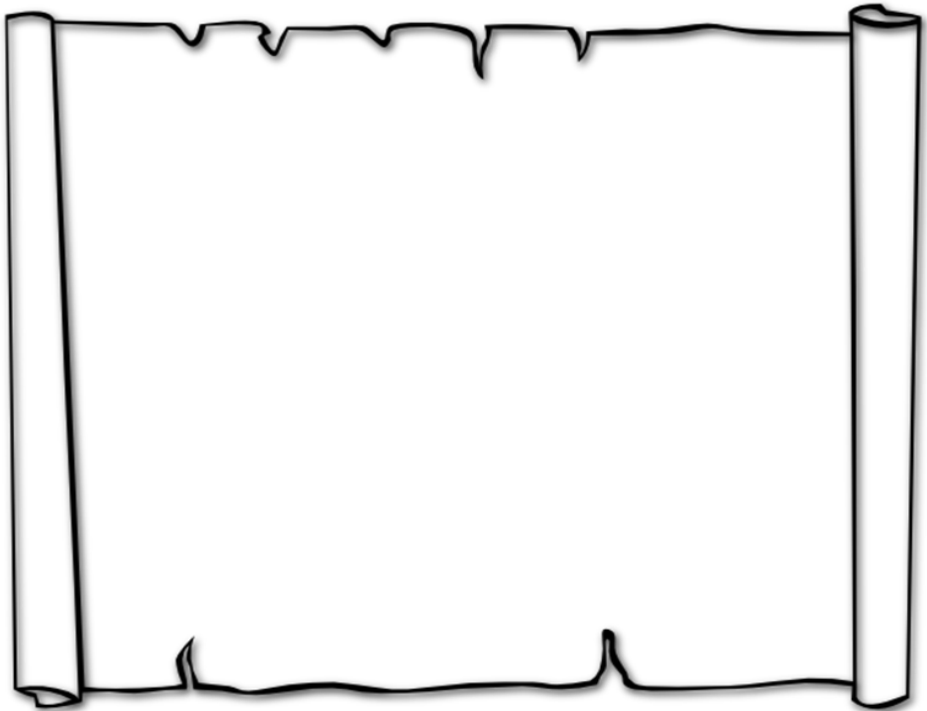
Jesus is who the Bible says He is and I want to get to know Jesus better. I also want to find out how I can receive Him into my life. Add anything else you think relevant to the summary of Choice A.



Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Now let's study *Choice B*.
Jesus is not who The Bible says He is.

Some people choose to believe that Jesus is not who the Bible says He is. These people reject everything that Jesus claimed about Himself as recorded in the Bible. They believe that He did not exist and are not interested in finding out anything more about Jesus' life or mission. If this is what you also believe then your choice would go something like this:



A summary of Choice B

Jesus is not who the Bible says He is and does not provide accurate information in revealing who Jesus is.

If you have anything further to add to the summary of choice B, write it below.

Conclusion

There is a lot of reliable historical evidence that shows Jesus lived in Israel. The Bible tells His story (History!). Each one of us must make up our own mind as to whether we accept or reject the evidence.



Now that you have completed this module, what is your choice?

Choice A
Jesus is who the Bible says He is



Or

Choice B
Jesus is not who the Bible says He is



My choice is: _____

Write out and learn the memory verse for Module One:

JESUS and Me – Hebrews 13: 8

Module 2

Salvation

The choice in this module is between:



Choice A
Receiving the gift of salvation

Or



Choice B
Rejecting the gift of salvation

Introduction

God created you and me in His own image and this in itself makes us very special to God. God created us to enjoy a relationship with Him in heaven for ever and ever.

Sin has broken our relationship with God but, because God will always love us and we will always be special to Him, He did something very important for us. He came to live in our world and He gave His life to save you and me from sin



What He did for us provides a way for each one of us to be friends with God again and live with Him forever.

In this module you will have the opportunity to study and receive the gift of salvation that is in Jesus Christ. You can become God's child and be sure that God and you will be together for eternity!

Let's first study *Choice A*
Receiving the gift of salvation

Define Salvation

The word salvation may be a bit difficult for you to understand as you may not have really come into contact with this word. If this is true for you then the following three statements are included to help you to define salvation.

- Salvation is God's free gift of forgiveness and eternal life, found only in Jesus Christ.
- Salvation cannot be earned or bought from God.
- Salvation is God's solution to man's problem with sin.

Now that you have read the above statements, write out your own definition of salvation.

Understand Salvation

The Four Spiritual Laws is a little booklet that explains salvation in a helpful way. Here is a summary of this booklet. Take some time to read each of the scriptures and then answer the questions that follow.

Spiritual law One – God loves you and offers you a wonderful plan for your life. Read *John 3:16* and *John 10:10*.



Spiritual law Two – Man is separated from God, thus he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.

- Man is sinful. Read *Romans 3:23*. Who has sinned?

-
- Man is separated from God. Read *Romans 6:23*.



- For the wages of sin is _____
- What is the gift of God? _____

Spiritual law Three – Jesus is the only way man can reach God. He died for you and me. Through Him you can know God and experience His love and plan for your life.

- He died and rose from the dead. Read *1 Peter 3:18* and *Acts 1:3*.
 - He is the only way. Read *John 14:6*.



God has bridged this separation between us and Himself by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place.

Fill in the gaps below using the words at the end of the sentence.

Jesus is the _____ to man's _____ with
_____ (sin, problem, solution)

Spiritual law Four – We must each receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, then we can know and experience God’s love and plan for our lives.

- We must receive Christ by inviting Him into our lives. Read Revelation 3:20.



Who is knocking at the door of your heart? _____

Remember that all you need to do to receive the gift of salvation from Jesus, is to open the door of your heart to Him. The Bible tells us that He is knocking at the door of your heart and as soon as you open it to Him, He will come in!

Here is a story to help you to understand God’s amazing gift of salvation. Read this story and then answer the questions that follow. To help this story become ‘your story’ write your name in the blank spaces!!

Once there was a young person named _____. His/her father worked as a judge in the town where his/her whole family lived. _____ attended a school in this town where he/she had many friends. He/she was quite a popular person. _____ and his/her friends used to hang out at the local shopping centre for most of the weekend. The shops were a place where the friends could all watch movies, eat ice cream and just walk around. There was also a dance hall in this shopping complex. The group always had a lot of fun. _____’s parents knew most of _____’s friends and they always asked him/her at the end of the weekend to briefly report back on what he/she had done during the past weekend. Everything was fine until one weekend something very different happened to _____ and his/ her friends.

It happened on a Friday night. Some of _____’s friends heard that drugs were going to be on offer at the dancehall and these drugs were being sold at a give-away price. _____ had heard from his/her friends that the drugs being sold made a person feel ‘really cool’. There was only one problem and _____ knew this: the drugs on offer were illegal drugs. _____ knew that if he/she was caught with these drugs then he/she could be arrested and face imprisonment.

_____ and his/her friends approached the dance-hall. Sure enough the drug-pusher was around. After a quick chat _____ and his/ her friends bought some drugs and each of them quickly swallowed a pill.

_____ kept a few of these pills in his/her pocket to use later on in the evening. Then they all entered the dance-hall and started to chat and dance with their friends.

During the evening the police suddenly burst through the doors of the dance - hall. The police ordered everyone to lie down on the floor and started to search everyone to see if they could find anyone with drugs. _____

was the first one searched and the police quickly found the pills in his/her pocket. He/she was immediately arrested and taken to a cell at the local police station. _____

was allowed to telephone his/her father and explain the trouble that he/she was in. His/her father immediately left home and travelled to the police station. Once he arrived at the police station, the guilty and would have to stand before the judge the next morning in court.

_____ 's father returned home. _____ slept in jail.

The next day _____'s father reported to the court room for his day's work. There were many criminal cases where he would have to make a judgement and impose sentences for those who were guilty. _____

was one of the criminals to be sentenced by his/her father. _____

entered the court room where he/she saw his/her father dressed in his court robes and white wig. _____ 's father looked different and quite frightening.

_____ wondered what would happen to him/her. He/ she thought to him/herself: 'Surely my father will be kind to me and let me walk free without receiving any punishment for what I did! Yes my father is the judge BUT I am my father's son/daughter!'

Before _____ realised what was happening, a policeman took his/her arm and led him/her to stand in front of the judge. The charge was read out. The judge asked _____ to answer the charge. _____ could not deny that he/she had, in fact, been in possession of the pills. The judge proceeded to read out _____'s sentence. It was the stiffest judgement

_____ 's father had ever given to a drug-offender. _____ was totally shocked. The judge ordered that _____ be jailed for twelve months or pay a fine of \$5 000. There was no way _____ could pay that amount of money. Where on earth would _____ ever find that amount of cash? He/she knew that he/she would have to sit in jail for 1 year.

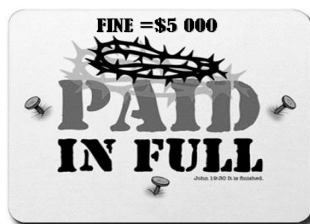
As he/she was taken out of the courtroom, he/she looked at his/her father in disbelief. _____ was so shocked at the sentence his/her father had just given him/her. That same day _____ was taken away and locked in a prison cell to serve his/her sentence.

At the end of the day, _____'s father entered his private office. It had been a busy day and he was really tired. He took off his robes and wig. Then he locked up his office and made his way to his car. The jail where _____ was locked up was on his way home. He drove to the jail, walked into the police station and wrote out a cheque for \$5 000 so that his son/daughter could be released.

When _____ heard about what his/her father had done for him/ her, he/she could hardly believe what he/she heard. Now _____ understood what his/her father had done for him/her. It all made sense to him/her.

Here is how he/she saw what his/her father had done:

- ◇ _____ knew that he/she was guilty of breaking the law.
- ◇ Although _____'s father was his/her father, _____'s father was also required to be his/her judge and apply the law to him/her for his/her wrong doing.
- ◇ _____'s father could not grant him/her ANY FAVOURS.
- ◇ _____ was obviously guilty and he/she had to face the consequences of his/her actions.
- ◇ Justice was complete once _____'s father applied the law to _____.
- ◇ When justice was complete, _____'s father chose to pay the fine to free his son/daughter from jail.
- ◇ _____'s father achieved this by PAYING THE PRICE HIMSELF TO FREE HIS CHILD!!



Application of this story to you and me.

How does this story relate to what happens when you and I think of Jesus and the gift of salvation which He gives to anyone who asks Him for it?

To answer this important question, write your name in the blank spaces provided below and see how this story is for real!!

- _____ is a son or daughter of Jesus.

Nothing and no one can change this special bond between Jesus and you!!

- You and I have been created to have fellowship and a relationship with God, who is our Father. This is how it is supposed to be.
- _____ has broken the law of God.
- You and I are guilty of breaking the law of God.
- When we break the law we are all guilty of sin. Sin separates us from God.
- The result of this separation is that we cannot have a relationship with God.
- _____ needs to be punished for his/her sin.
- The sin that is in each of our lives carries with it punishment.
- Although God loves us very much, the sin that is in our lives is something that separates us from fellowshiping with God. So, in order for fellowship with God to be restored, someone has to pay 'the price to get us out of jail' so that we can become God's children. Someone has to pay the price for the sin that is in our lives so that fellowship and friendship with God can be restored.
- You and I will never be able to pay the penalty for the sin in our lives. The cost of our sin is too great for us to be able to pay for it.

- Jesus Christ has paid the price for the penalty of sin in each of our lives. He paid the price that you and I could never pay. Jesus Christ is 'The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'.

Look up and write out John 1:29.

In summary

_____’s father loved his/her child unconditionally. His great love for his child made him pay the fine/penalty that _____ could not pay. The law had to be upheld. Once he paid the price to free his child from jail, _____ could be released and return home with him.

In the same way:

- God loves us all so much that He paid the price for the penalty of sin in each of our lives. He did this by coming to this earth in the form of Jesus Christ.
- We could never pay this price, but Jesus Christ paid the price on our behalf.
- The result of what Jesus Christ has done for each of us, with regard to paying the price for the sin in our lives, is the following:

You and I are given a chance to receive the free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ, but you have to choose to accept this special gift. The gift is addressed to you and I and it's sent to us from Jesus Christ.



The choice is up to you, to either:

Accept the gift of salvation

Or



Reject the gift of salvation

Content of Salvation

So far we have defined salvation. From this definition we have gained an understanding of salvation. So far so good, but it is not enough for you to only define and understand salvation. In order for salvation to become effective and relevant to you, you need to make salvation a reality in your life. The way you do this, is to simply make the content of salvation the content of your life. All you have to do is ask Jesus to give you this special gift. It is a choice that everyone needs to make. Some have chosen to reject God's gift of salvation while others have chosen to receive it.

The following choice is a very important choice.

Think carefully about it.

You can choose to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour

Or

You can choose to reject Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour

If you choose to receive Jesus Christ into your life then say this prayer:



'Lord Jesus, I need You. I have been controlling my own life and have sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Come into my life and take control. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Amen'



If you have prayed the above prayer then you have become a child of Jesus Christ! PRAISE God!

The day you become a child of Jesus Christ is the date of your second birthday. This is known as your spiritual birth date. Write the date of your second birthday here: _____

Expression of Salvation

The expression of salvation in your life is the fact that you are now a Christian. You are a child of Jesus Christ. Whatever you do in life and wherever you go, you do everything under the banner of Christianity. The life you live is a life you now choose to bring glory to Jesus Christ.

Read Colossians 3: 17 and answer this question: When Jesus is in my life, who do I now live to bring glory to?

Read the following verses in the Bible and check out the amazing miracle that has happened in your life. Fill in the blank spaces with answers from each of the Bible readings:

1 John 4:11-13.

Once you have Jesus (God's son) in your life what do you have?

Revelation 3:20.

What does Jesus do once you open the door of your heart to Him?

Colossians 1:27.

What is the mystery? _____ in you.

Colossians 1:13-14.

What do you have as a result of being in God's kingdom?

John 1:12.

Who do you become when you receive Jesus and believe in His Name?

John 10:10.

What has the thief come to do?

What has Jesus come to do?

As a Christian it is important for you to experience Growth in the 'things of God'. The following suggestions will help you.



Go to God in prayer daily. John 15:7.
What is the result of remaining in Jesus?

Read God's word daily. Acts 17:11.
What did the Bereans use as a standard to examine if what Paul was saying was true or false? _____

How does God's word help you to examine the advice other people give you?

Obey God moment by moment. John 14:21.
Are you loving God if you obey Him in every part of your life?

Witness for Christ by your life and words. Matthew 4:19.
Read John 15:8 and answer this question:

What is the result of following Jesus?

How do you and I, as Christians, bring glory to the Father?

Trust God for every detail of your life. 1 Peter 5:7.

Why should we place our burdens and cares on / with the Lord?

Have God control and empower your daily life and witness.

Galatians 5:16-17.

Who should you live by: the Holy Spirit or the sinful nature? Why?

Read Acts 1:8. What happens when you receive the Holy Spirit into your life?

Complete this sentence using these words (receive, witness).

Once I become a Christian, I _____ power when the Holy Spirit enters me. With this power I am able to _____ for Jesus to my family and friends.



Fruit of Salvation

The fruit of salvation is eternal life. If you are a Christian you have eternal life in you. This means that as you read this sentence:

- You have eternal life! Jesus lives in your heart!
- Jesus has written your name in *The Lamb's Book of Life*!

Read and write out Revelation 21:27.

Praise the Lord!

The way is now open for Jesus and you to get to know each other more and more each day.

Answer these questions:

- What does salvation mean?
-
-

- Why did Jesus Christ have to die on the cross?
-
-

- What did Jesus Christ accomplish by dying on the cross and being raised from the dead on the third day?
-
-

- What does Jesus Christ's death and resurrection from the dead mean for you?

- Why does it make sense to be 'born again'?

- Complete this sentence: The fruit of salvation is

- Look up and write out Revelation 21:27.

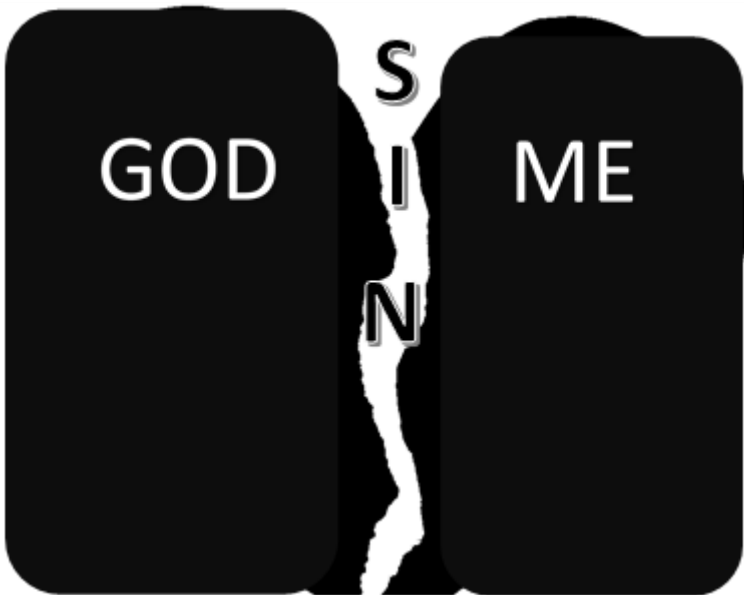
- Besides Jesus, is there anyone on earth who has never sinned?

- What is the name of the one and only person who can forgive the sin that is in our lives?

- What are some of the things you can do to strengthen your faith in Jesus?

Now let's study *Choice B*
Reject the gift of salvation

If you choose not to accept the gift of salvation from Jesus, then you will be making the choice to reject this gift. You will also be rejecting the possibility of a relationship with Jesus, because your sin will continue to form a barrier between you and God.



Conclusion

Salvation is a free gift that only Jesus can give to us. We all have sin in our lives and sin has the power to separate us from Jesus forever. Choosing to receive the gift of salvation brings the forgiveness of sins from Jesus into your life. When He forgives you then you will be with Jesus forever. Choosing to reject the gift of salvation will mean you will always have sin in your life. If you die with sin then you cannot live forever with Jesus.

Now that you have completed this module, what is your choice?



Choice A
Receiving the gift of salvation

Or



Choice B
Rejecting the gift of salvation

My choice is:

Write out and learn your memory verse for Module Two – Salvation –
John 3: 16

Module 3

Foundations

The choice in this model is between:

Choice A

To build upon a wise foundation of obedience – be a wise builder

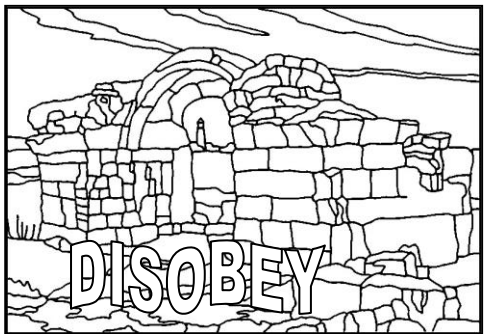
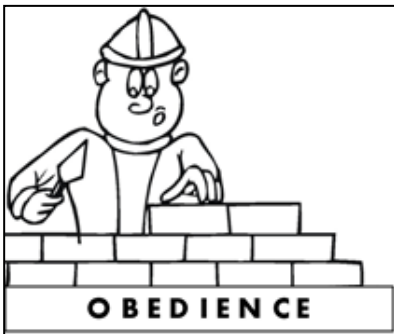
Or

Choice B

To build upon a foolish foundation of disobedience – be a foolish builder

Introduction

Whatever you build in your life, you will build it upon a foundation. If you choose to make wise choices you will build upon a strong foundation and your life will be secure. However, if you choose to make foolish choices you will build upon a weak foundation and your life will be unsafe.



Faith fact:

The type of foundation upon which you choose to build your life matters.

Builders can choose between two options when deciding where to build a house:

Choice A.

Wise builders who choose to build upon the
rock of obedience.

And

Choice B.

Foolish builders who choose to build upon the
sand of disobedience.

Let's read a story that describes what happened to a house built by a foolish builder and a house built by a wise builder. The name of the foolish builder is 'sand builder' and the name of the wise builder, 'rock builder'.

Matthew 7:24-29

The words of Jesus:

24. "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.
25. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.
26. And every one who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand;
27. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell - and great was its fall!"
28. Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching,
29. for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Answer these questions:

What happened to the house built by the rock-builder (wise man) after the storm? (v. 25)

What happened to the house built by the sand-builder (foolish man) after the storm? (v. 27)

Why did one house tumble down and the other remain standing?

If you wanted to build a house, which builder would you choose to build it for you? The rock-builder (wise man) or the sand-builder (foolish man)? Give a reason for your choice.

Faith fact:
In your life you live in the house that you build.
You build upon the foundation of your own choice.

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Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Let's first study Choice A
To build upon a wise foundation of obedience – be a wise builder

Define a Wise Foundation

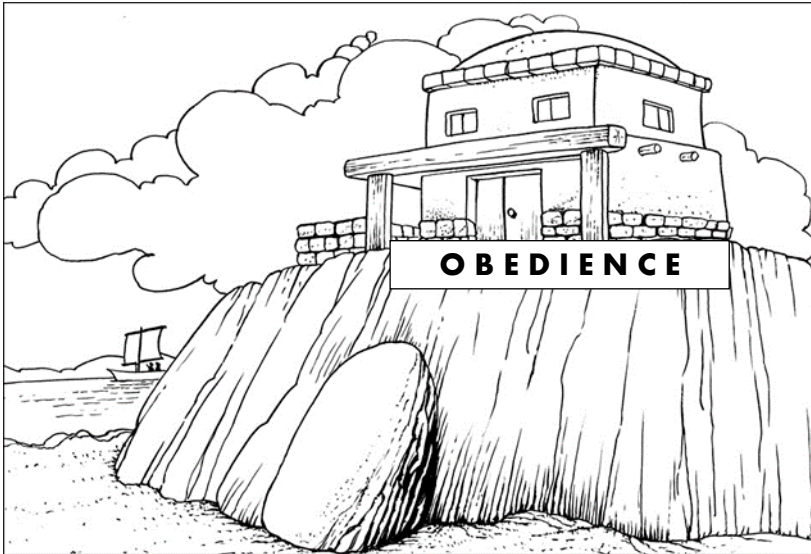
A wise foundation is a foundation that is located upon the rock of obedience.

Do you agree with the above statement?

Look up and write out James 1:5 and answer this question:

How do wise builders know where to dig and build a wise foundation?

Answer: _____



Understand a Wise Foundation

Wise builders understand that it is important to build on a foundation that can be relied upon to endure both the good times and the tough times. They understand that they need help and advice on where to place a wise foundation.

To get this help and advice, builders need to have tools that will help them to identify the truth that must be applied to each situation in their lives. Wise builders use a special process when selecting the place to lay a foundation. The process is no secret and it is taught to us by Jesus.

Read Matthew 7:24-29 again and then complete the activity that follows.

Use the following words to complete the sentences. The words are: hearing, apply, wise, hear, fruit and understand.

Firstly, in order to be _____, you need to _____ the word of God (v. 24).

Secondly, you should _____ the word of God. _____ the word of God will ensure you _____ the word of God.

Thirdly, you should _____ the word of God (v. 24).

Lastly, the result of using this wise foundation is that you will produce wise _____.





In your own words, summarise what is involved in the process of being wise.

CHOICES

Content of a Wise Foundation

The process of hearing and understanding God's word forms the content of a wise foundation.

The content of a wise foundation has four distinct parts all of which need to be in place. There has to be:

1. Hearing - God's word has to be heard 
2. Understanding - God's word has to be understood 
3. Application - God's word must be applied through obedience 
4. Fruit - there will be a result, a wise choice that honours God will be the product. 

Faith fact:

God's word really does empower you to be wise and make wise choices.

Expression of a Wise Foundation

Do you believe that the following statement is true? **Yes** or **No**.

The house built by a wise man on a wise foundation will remain standing through every situation it has to endure.

Do you believe that this is important in life? Give a reason for your answer.

Fruit from a Wise Foundation

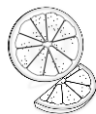
What is this fruit? Is it fruit that a person can see and eat? We are going to answer these two questions.

There are two major groups of fruit that are gathered from building on a wise foundation.

Read Matthew 7:25 and answer this question:

What is the main fruit reaped from building on a wise foundation?

Read Galatians 5: 22 - 23 and note the fruit of the Spirit produced from building on a wise foundation.



List the fruit that you read about in this portion of scripture. For each fruit describe how you can apply this fruit in your daily life. The first fruit is listed with its life application to provide you with an example of what you have been asked to do.


First fruit: Love. 

Life application:

I understand that I can ask the Holy Spirit to fill me with God's love so that when people try to make me angry, I can use God's love to love them and refuse to fight with them.

Second fruit: _____ 

Life Application:

Third fruit: _____ 

Life application:

Fourth fruit: _____ 


Life application:

Fifth fruit: _____ 

Life application:

Sixth fruit: _____ 


Life application:

Seventh fruit: _____ 

Life application:

Eighth fruit: _____ 

Life application:

Ninth fruit: _____ 

Life application: _____

Do you see what is happening here?

Wise builders make wise choices and produce wise fruit by joining together these four links:



Link One: They hear God's word



Link Two: Once they have heard God's word, they understand it



Link Three: When they have understood God's Word, they apply it to their lives, and so



Link Four: Make wise choices which result in wise fruit being reaped.

Give an example of an instance where you read or heard God's wisdom in the Bible and then, once you understood and applied it to your life, you reaped wise fruit.

Faith fact:
Foundations produce fruit!

Now let's study Choice B
**To build upon a foolish foundation of disobedience - be a
foolish builder**



Define a Foolish Foundation

Read Matthew 7: 26-27.

A foolish foundation is one which is located upon the sand of disobedience.

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Explain your answer.

Faith facts:

Foolish builders choose to build upon foolish foundations of disobedience.

There is a process in their lives that results in their choice being a foolish one.

No one has to be foolish.

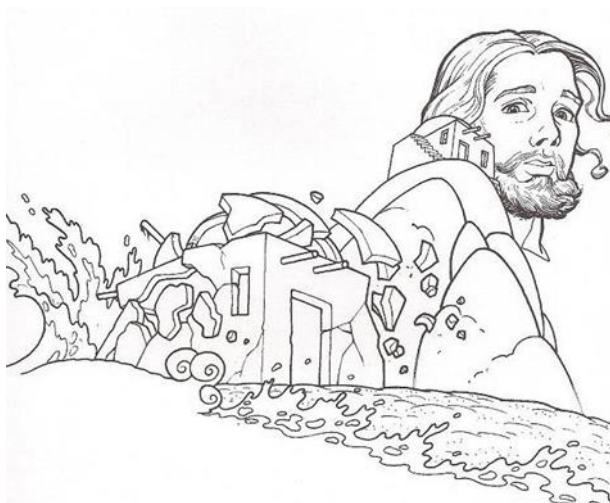
Each one of us chooses to be either wise or foolish.

Why then do foolish builders choose to dig and build upon a foolish foundation of sand?

- Foolish builders believe that the house they build will stand even if it is built on sand. They do not believe that there will be painful consequences to living outside of what God's word teaches is acceptable behaviour.
- Foolish builders believe that building on sand is good enough. They believe that building on a rock foundation is an old-fashioned idea. They believe that times have changed and we are now in the modern era. This makes foolish builders believe that ethics and morals have also changed, so, when it comes to behaviour, they believe there are no absolutes. As long as something feels good, they will do it.
- Foolish builders are not interested in building houses that have rock solid foundations. Building on a sand foundation is a more attractive idea. The work required to shovel sand is far less than the work required to build upon a foundation of rock.
- Living within God's wisdom and light is too restrictive.
- Living the free and easy life is far more attractive, after all, everyone seems to be enjoying it.

In summary, foolish builders do not ask for or apply Godly wisdom to their lives. Rather, they use their own wisdom because they think they know a better way of doing things.

Summarise what you have read concerning the definition of foolish foundations built by foolish builders, and write down your own definition of a foolish foundation.



Understand a Foolish Foundation

The way to understand a foolish foundation is to be aware of the place where the foundation is dug. A foolish foundation will always be dug in the sand of disobedience. The foolish man chose to build his house on sand. He believed he knew of a better place to build his house.

Read Matthew 7:24-29 again.

The foolish builder chose to build his house on the sand of disobedience. (See Matthew 7:26).

Although he heard the word of God, he disobeyed it. Instead of choosing to apply God's word to his life, he failed to apply it. This made his choice of foundation a foolish choice. Here is the process as it appears in Matthew 7:26:

- The foolish man heard the word of God (v.26).
- Once he heard the word of God, he chose to not apply it to his life.
- He choice not to apply and obey God's word resulted in a foolish choice.

Explain why you agree or disagree with this explanation of a foolish foundation.

Content of a Foolish Foundation

The content of a foolish foundation is a foundation that is one of disobedience.

What do you believe is the content of a foolish foundation?

The reason the foolish man's foundation was weak was because he disobeyed God's Word. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Give a reason for your answer.



Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Expression of a Foolish Foundation

The expression of a foolish foundation in somebody's life is seen in that God's word is not allowed to direct this person's life. Therefore, God is not glorified. If something happens, be it good or bad, God is not acknowledged in this person's life. Disobeying God's word is a major characteristic of this person's life.

What do you believe is the expression of a foolish foundation?

Fruit of a Foolish Foundation

The fruit of a foolish foundation in somebody's life is fruit that will lead to a weak and ruined life. The reason that it will be weak and ruined is because this life is built upon a foundation that disobeys God's word.

Read what happened to the foolish man's house in Matthew 7:27.

Write your answer here.

The foolish man used his time, talent and treasure in a foolish way. Once he had finished building his house and the storms came, everything he had built was destroyed. After the house had been through just one storm it fell into a heap. The reason his house collapsed was because he disobeyed God's word.

Question: At the end of the process of building upon a foolish foundation, what fruit will I have to show for my work?

My answer: The fruit of building upon a foolish foundation is a broken and ruined house that I will never be able to live in.

Your answer _____

Faith fact:

The main reason why the house collapsed was because the foolish man disobeyed God's word.

Disobedience


Conclusion


You must make a choice as to what foundation you are going to build your life on. Remember that the foundation you choose will produce fruit.

As a way of concluding this section on foundations, let's see how this applies to life. Read Exodus 20:15.

Write this verse here: _____

A wise person will read/hear this verse. 


A wise person will understand this verse. 


A wise person will apply this verse. 


A wise person will bear fruit when applying this verse to his/her life.



What is the fruit of obeying this verse?

A foolish person will also read/hear this verse. 

A foolish person will also understand this verse. 

A foolish person will fail to apply this verse. 

A foolish person will bear fruit by failing to apply this verse to his/her life.



What is the fruit of failing to apply this verse?

Faith fact:
Foundations always produce fruit!

Now that you have completed this module, what is your choice?

Choice A

To build upon a wise foundation of obedience – be a wise builder

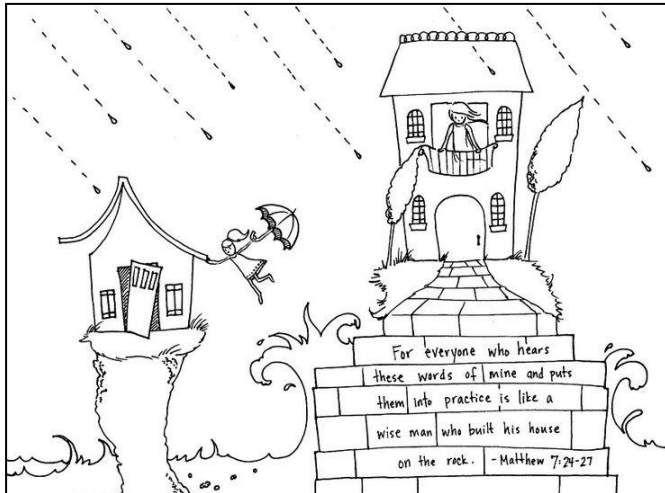
Or

Choice B

To build upon a foolish foundation of disobedience – be a foolish builder

My choice is: _____

Write out and learn your memory verse for Module 3 – Foundations.
Matthew 7: 24



Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Module 4

The Holy Spirit

The choice in this module is between:

Choice A

Allowing the Holy Spirit to empower my choices

Or

Choice B

Allowing evil spirits to direct my choices

Introduction

The God of the Bible is our creator and He created us with a spirit. When we become children of God we receive the Holy Spirit in our spirit. The Holy Spirit shows us how to live in a way that honours and pleases God. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand what God wants us to do in our lives.

People who have not yet become God's children do not really listen to the Holy Spirit. This makes it difficult for them to live their life in a way that honours and pleases God. Evil spirits are given room in their spirits to influence what they choose and how they live their lives.

Choice A:

Allowing the Holy Spirit to empower my choices.

Or

Choice B:

Allowing evil spirits to direct my choices.

Faith facts:

The Holy Spirit empowers Christians to know and live within God's perfect purpose for their lives.

The opposite is also true:

Evil spirits empower non-Christians to rebel against God's perfect will for their lives.

Let's first study *Choice A*
Allowing the Holy Spirit to empower my choices

Once you become a child of Jesus, you receive the Holy Spirit into your life. The Holy Spirit brings with Him His own beautiful personality into your life. When the Holy Spirit enters your spirit you will begin to produce the fruit and gifts which reflect the personality of the Holy Spirit.



Read and write out John 16: 7.

Who did Jesus say He would send to His children once He departed?

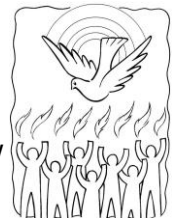
Read Acts 2:33. This verse forms a part of Peter's sermon. Who was Peter talking about when he said: 'He has poured out this that you both see and hear?'

Read John 20:22. Jesus told His disciples to simply receive the Holy Spirit. As a Christian, you too, simply receive the Holy Spirit.

Faith facts:

Once you become a Christian, you automatically receive
and are filled with the Holy Spirit.

As a result of receiving the Holy Spirit, you will also know
God's truth and light.



Define the Holy Spirit

Question 1: Who is the Holy Spirit?

a. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus.

Read John 14:16–18. Write out these two verses here.

Faith facts:

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus.

Once you invite Jesus into your life, you also receive the Holy Spirit.

b. The Holy Spirit is our promise and power.

Read Acts 1:4–8. Write out these verses here.

In these verses we read about Jesus appearing to His disciples in Jerusalem. At this stage in Jesus' life, He had been crucified, he had died on the cross and he had risen again.

Jesus was about to ascend into heaven. His disciples may have been wondering what would happen to them once Jesus left. Would they be deserted by Jesus and be left without any mission? Would they be left without anything to tell others about Jesus? After all, Jesus had used His life to teach them that He was the Son of God, who came to earth to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. What would

happen to the message of Jesus once He ascended into heaven? The disciples of Jesus certainly had some valid questions to ask Jesus.

However, Jesus knew exactly how the message of forgiveness of sins and eternal life in His Name would reach all people. The message would be lived and preached through Christians who themselves had received forgiveness of sins and eternal life, through confessing Jesus Christ as Lord, and receiving the Holy Spirit. This is exactly what happened with His disciples and continues to happen to this day. When people receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour, they also receive the promise of power to become witnesses for Jesus when the Holy Spirit comes into their lives.

As Christians live their lives to bring glory to Jesus Christ, more and more people will have the opportunity to become Christians. This cycle will continue until Jesus returns one day.

Complete this sentence by filling in the gaps with the words in brackets.
(Holy Spirit, promise, power, receive, witnesses)

Christians _____ the _____ from the Father who is the _____. In receiving the Holy Spirit they receive _____ and this power gives them power to become _____ for Jesus.



Faith facts:

The Holy Spirit is God.

The Holy Spirit is God's promise to every Christian.

The Holy Spirit gives a Christian power to be a witness for Jesus.



From what you have read so far, write out your own definition of who the Holy Spirit is. Feel free to read what else the Bible teaches you regarding the Holy Spirit, because the more you read, the greater your understanding of Him will be.

Define the Holy Spirit:

Understand the Holy Spirit

Here we want to understand exactly what the function of the Holy Spirit in the life of a child of Jesus is.

- The Holy Spirit enables you to speak about Jesus when you do not know what to say.

Read Luke 12:8-12. Who will teach you what you need to say?

- The Holy Spirit is 'God's seal' or 'mark' on your life.



Read Ephesians 1:13-14. Once you believe in Jesus and become His child, who places a seal on you to show that you are now a child of Jesus?

Read Romans 14:16-18. When the Holy Spirit is in your life what should the characteristics of your life be?

From all that you have learned up to this point, write what you understand of the Holy Spirit.

Content of the Holy Spirit

So far we understand from our definition and understanding that the Holy Spirit:

- Is God's gift to us once we become Christians.
- Is God's gift of power in our lives to witness for Jesus to our family and friends.
- Is the Spirit that was in Jesus.
- Is the Spirit which we receive when we ask Jesus into our lives.
- Is our promise and power.
- Is God's seal on our lives to confirm that we are children of Jesus.
- Is our teacher when we do not know what to say.

The content of the Holy Spirit is everything that is inside the Holy Spirit. This includes the personality and the Godly functions that the Holy Spirit brings into our lives as we live out our Christian life to family, friends and strangers.

The activity you are about to do now will show you what happens to your spirit when you become a Christian and receive the Holy Spirit into your life.

Fill a glass with water. Pour a small quantity
of cool drink into another glass.

Let's say that the glass represents you;
the water represents your spirit;
and the cool drink represents the Holy Spirit.

Pour the cool drink into the water.

Question: What happened to the water once you poured the cool drink into it?

Explanation: This is what happens when you (the glass) receive the Holy Spirit (the cool drink) into your spirit (the water). Your spirit is filled with the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit is in our lives, He works through our lives.

When the Holy Spirit is in our lives, we become like Him.

Faith facts:

When we ask Jesus into our lives we receive the Holy Spirit.
The content of the Holy Spirit (what makes Him who He is) becomes our content (what makes us who we are).



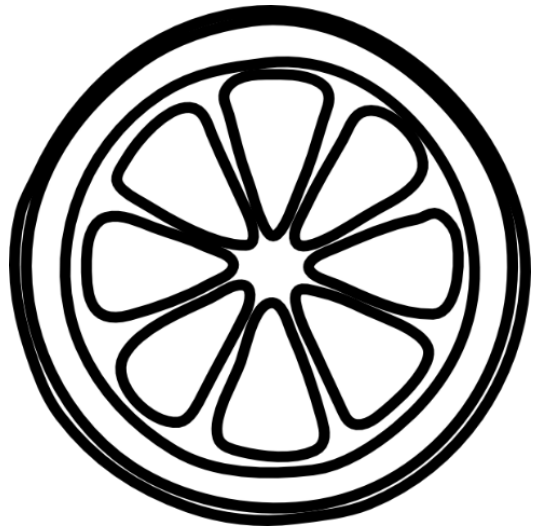
Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Within the Holy Spirit, there are fruits and gifts that are given to us to use, to strengthen our Christian witness and lifestyle.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are found inside the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit lives in us, these will become the fruits of our lives. They will be found in us as we allow the Holy Spirit to produce them in our lives.

Look up Galatians 5:22-23. Complete the following verse:

‘But the fruit of the Spirit is:



Against such there is no law’.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has gifts to give us to use in our Christian life.

Look up 1 Corinthians 12:4 -11. List these gifts.

Do you have any of these gifts? Yes/No

List them here:



If you are not sure what your spiritual gifts are, then ask your parents or pastor to help you find out which ones are in your life. Someone may be able to provide you with a special 'spiritual gifts questionnaire' that helps you work out what spiritual gifts you have. You can also ask God to show you!

Expression of the Holy Spirit

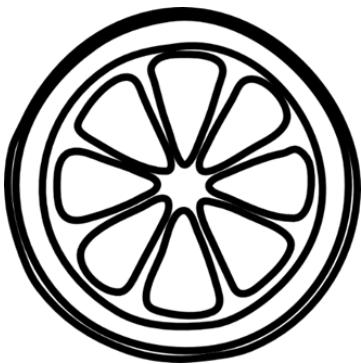
Expressing the Holy Spirit through your life will result in His fruits and gifts being seen in your life. Look back in your notes and list again the fruits and gifts in your life which come as a result of receiving the Holy Spirit into your spirit.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Faith fact:

Once you express these fruits and gifts through your life you are expressing Jesus through your life.



Fruit of the Holy Spirit

The fruit of living my life within the blessing and control of the Holy Spirit is fruit of God's truth.

Faith fact:
The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth.

The Holy Spirit is **truth**.

Read John 14:15 – 18. Write out verse 17.

When the Holy Spirit is in your life, you will know God's truth in your life, and when you apply this truth, you will produce fruit that will glorify God.

Once you are a child of Jesus, can you ever claim that you do not know the truth? Yes/No. Give a reason for your answer.

Question: Can you list other fruit that you believe the Holy Spirit produces in your life once you live within His blessing and control?

Now let's study Choice B
Allowing evil spirits to direct my choices.

Introduction

The best way to introduce this topic is for us to understand that evil spirits are the exact opposite of the Holy Spirit.

Here are a few examples of the contrasting characteristics of the Holy Spirit and evil spirits.

◇ Evil spirits are totally evil.	◇ The Holy Spirit is totally holy.
◇ Evil spirits do not reveal the depth of their ugliness and level of evil because they know that if they do, people will do everything possible to keep away from them.	◇ The Holy Spirit reveals exactly who He is because He knows that He adds beauty and goodness to those He lives in.
◇ Evil spirits are liars who are skilled at deceiving people.	◇ The Holy Spirit is truthful and will shine His light through anyone who receives Him into his or her life.
◇ Evil spirits give people power to live lives that are evil in nature.	◇ The Holy Spirit gives people power to live lives that are holy and blameless.
◇ Evil spirits possess and lead people to hell.	◇ The Holy Spirit fills Christians and leads them to heaven.

These are just a few examples of the opposites between the Holy Spirit and evil spirits. List any other opposites you can think of.

Evil spirits are:	The Holy Spirit is:

Define Evil Spirits

Evil spirits are spirits from hell and their character is evil. Their master is the devil. Evil spirits are like the devil. Evil spirits give people power to do evil.

Compare what you have read in this definition of evil spirits and come up with your own definition.

Evil spirits are _____

Understand Evil Spirits

The reason these spirits are 'evil' is because that is exactly what they are in their existence. They exist to be and do evil. Each one of them is under the control of the devil.

Evil spirits know that they are going to be judged by Jesus Christ, and they also know that one day they are all going to be thrown into an extremely painful place of torment called "*The Lake of burning sulphur and fire*".

Read Revelation 20:7-10. Here you will see that the devil, the beast and false prophet will be thrown into a lake of burning sulphur.

Read Revelation 20:11-15 and read what happens to those whose names are not found in "The Lamb's Book of Life". Where are they thrown?

The devil knows what is going to happen to him. He also knows what will happen to those who have given the control of their lives to him. The people in this category are those people whose names are not written in The Lamb's Book of Life. One day they are all going to face an eternal punishment in a place of eternal pain and torment.

You can understand why the devil and his evil spirits do all they can to keep people from understanding exactly who they are and where they are all headed in the end.

It is also important to understand that you will always come out a loser if you choose to interact with evil spirits. There are some people who believe it is fun and exciting to play games with evil spirits. In their games, they get evil spirits to move objects, to transport them to far away places in the blink of an eye, to put strange/evil spells on their friends and family etc. These people believe that as they do these things, they have control over the evil spirits they have chosen to interact with. But a time will come when these spirits will reveal their true character, and they will set about completing what they were allowed to start in someone's life. Their final aim will be to destroy the lives of those who believed that ONLY a game was being played.

It is very important that you never forget:

Faith fact:

There are painful consequences when you choose to interact or play games with evil spirits.

List some painful consequences arising from people who choose to interact with evil spirits.

Do you know the names of any games that people play when they want to interact with evil spirits? If your answer is 'yes', then list the names of these games here:

If your answer is 'no', that is great! You do not need to know and you do not need to find out or dabble in these evil games.

Faith fact:

People who choose to avoid interacting with evil spirits are people who are wise and sensible.

At this point, you are strongly advised to choose to stay as far away as possible from games or activities which involve evil spirits. You **WILL BE** hurt/harmed.

If you have been 'tricked' into playing any of these evil games, you'd be wise to choose to get out. Your pastor or Sunday school teacher can pray for you, and Jesus Christ can free you from any form of evil bondage.

What is your understanding of evil spirits?

Your answer

Content of Evil Spirits

The content of evil spirits is something that can only be evil. The information gathered from all that we have studied concerning the definition and understanding of evil spirits points to the fact that there is nothing good or positive to be found in evil spirits. Their content is unholy and totally destructive.

Faith fact
The content of evil spirits is evil.

Look up the following verses to gain a deeper understanding of the content of evil spirits.

- John 17: 15
- 2 Thessalonians 3:3
- 1 John 2: 13
- 1 John 5: 18
- Luke 10: 17
- James 4: 7
- 1 Peter 5: 8 - 9

Write a summary of your discovery regarding the content of evil spirits.

Evil spirits are interested in interacting with other evil spirits. They want to increase their evil influence by doing all they can to bring their evil content into other vessels and people who are open to them.

Faith fact:

Evil spirits will only become your content if you allow them into your life.

Evil spirits do not have the power or authority to force their way into your life. They can only come into your life if you invite them. Even if they are in your life and you do not want them anymore, you can call on the Name of Jesus Christ to set you free from these evil spirits or demons, and they will have to leave you. The reason they will leave you is because the Name of Jesus Christ is the greatest and most powerful name on which you and I can call to free us from evil.

Read Matthew 4: 10 - 11. What did the devil do once Jesus told him to leave?

The devil left Jesus because the authority of Jesus is greater than the authority of the devil.

Faith fact:

The power and authority in the Name of Jesus Christ is greater than any other name.

Earlier we used an illustration to show how the content of the Holy Spirit becomes our content. We are going to use a similar illustration using dirty bath water instead of cool drink. This change represents the change in spirit from the Holy Spirit to evil spirits.

Fill a glass with water.
Pour dirty bath water into another
glass. The glass and dirty bath water
represent something else.
Let's imagine that the glass represents you;
the water represents your spirit
and the dirty bath water represents evil spirits

Pour the dirty bath water into the water.

What happened to the plain water once you poured the dirty bath water into it?

Explanation: This is what happens if you (the glass) receive evil spirits (dirty bath water) into your spirit (the plain water). Your spirit will take on the characteristics of their spirit. If you drank the dirty bath water it would make you sick. If you allow evil spirits into your life, they will make you spiritually ill.

Faith facts:

As a child of Jesus, you do not have to deal with evil oppression and possession in your life.

You do not have to do what evil spirits/the devil tell you to do.

You have authority over them in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Look up and read Philippians 2:9-11. Now fill in each blank with the correct word.

The Name of _____ is above every other name. Every knee will one day bow and every tongue confess that _____ is _____ to the glory of _____ the _____.

Faith fact:

You only receive the content of evil spirits if you allow them to enter your life.

If this is your choice, how would the content of evil spirits become the content in your spirit?

My answer: Evil spirits will become the content in my spirit only if I invite them into my life. Knowing that they are evil and that they are 'clever' in deceiving people, I make a choice to not invite them into my life.

Your answer:

Expression of Evil Spirits

If you invite evil spirits into your life, knowing full well what they will do through and to your life, there is no doubt that you will express their evil character and nature through your life. You will express fruit that is evil.

In the next section we will discover what is included in this evil fruit. Let's read the words of Jesus in *Matthew 7:15-20*. You will learn from the words of Jesus that evil fruit can only be produced by an evil tree, and that we are known by the fruit that each one of us produces. Once you have read these verses complete the blank spaces in the sentences below.

Jesus teaches that we should beware of

From the outside how do false prophets appear?

You will recognise false prophets by their

Every good tree bears

Every bad tree bears

A good tree cannot bear

A bad tree cannot bear

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the

Therefore by their fruits you will _____ them.

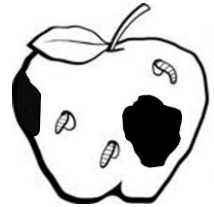


Fruit of Evil Spirits

People who allow evil spirits to enter their personal spirits will produce evil fruit. This fruit is listed in Galatians 5:19 -21:

‘Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God’.

Faith fact:
Evil spirits produce evil fruit.



Do you agree or disagree with the above faith fact?

Read and write out John 8:44.

Evil spirits are just like the devil. They do not stand in the truth. Whenever they speak, they speak a lie. The reason they speak lies is because they speak from their ‘nature’ (character). Therefore, people who live under the control and influence of evil spirits will also lie and deceive. They will not stand for the truth. Their main fruit will be deception and trickery.

Faith fact:
Evil spirits are liars.

Question:

What happens if you choose to allow evil spirits to enter your spirit?

Answer

Write 2 short stories of about 200 words each (excluding the words in the provided introduction).

Your first story should be in support of Choice A: To be filled with the Holy Spirit. In this story include details of how the Holy Spirit helped you to discern what you needed to do when you were faced with a choice of action. What did the Holy Spirit encourage you to do or say?

Your second story should be in support of Choice B: To be filled with evil spirits. In this story, include, if you can, details of how you believe evil spirits tempted you to give in to what you thought you needed to do when you were faced with a choice of action. What did these evil spirits encourage you to do or say?

Use the above questions and details to write an interesting story using the following opening paragraph:

First story:



In support of Choice A
Allowing the Holy Spirit to empower my choice

For boys

Never before in my life had I been faced with such a tricky situation. On one side, my friends were encouraging me to do something that I had never done before. On the other side, a still, small voice within me warned me that I should be careful about what my friends were suggesting. From the side of my 'friends' came voices that were loud and 'fun'.

What my friends suggested did not seem to spell any danger. Drinking half a bottle of vodka seemed like a cool challenge.

Just then I remembered

First story:

???



**In support of Choice A:
Allowing the Holy Spirit to empower my choice**

For girls

Never before in my life had I been faced with such a tricky situation. On one side, my friends were encouraging me to do something that I had never done before. On the other side, a still, small voice within me warned me that I should beware of what my friends were suggesting. From the side of my 'friends' came voices that were loud and 'fun'. They did not seem to spell any danger. On Friday night all my girlfriends were going to a 'no-under-eighteen bar'. We were all under age. They had been there many times before and now they were asking me to go with them. How would I get around my parents? What would I wear? Who would pick me up and drop me at home again?

Just then I remembered.....

[illegible]

Second story:



**In support of Choice B:
Allowing evil spirits to direct my choice**

For boys

Never before in my life had I been faced with such a tricky situation. On one side, my friends were encouraging me to do something that I had never done before. On the other side, a still, small voice within me warned me that I should beware of what my friends were suggesting. From the side of my 'friends' came voices that were loud and 'fun'. They did not seem to spell any danger. Drinking half a bottle of vodka seemed like a cool challenge.

Just then I remembered

[illegible]

Second story:



In support of Choice B: Allowing evil spirits to direct my choice

For girls

Never before in my life had I been faced with such a tricky situation. On one side, my friends were encouraging me to do something that I had never done before. On the other side, a still, small voice within me warned me that I should beware of what my friends were suggesting. From the side of my 'friends' came voices that were loud and 'fun'. They did not seem to spell out any danger. On Friday night all my girlfriends were going to a 'no-under-eighteen bar'. We were all under age. They had been there many times before and now they were asking me to go with them. But how would I get around my parents? What would I wear? Who would pick me up and drop me at home again?

Just then I remembered.....

[illegible]

Conclusion

1. How does being filled with the Holy Spirit equip you to make the correct choice when you need to work out if something is good or evil?

2. Who is the Holy Spirit?

3. Commit John 16:13 to your memory.

4 List the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

5. List the fruits of evil spirits.

6. In a few sentences write out a summary of some of the important truths you have learnt in this module.

Now that you have completed this module what is your choice?

Choice A:

Allowing the Holy Spirit to empower my choices

Or

Choice B:

Allowing evil spirits to direct my choices

My choice is _____

Write out and learn your memory verse for Module 4 – The Holy Spirit.

John 16:13 _____

Module 5

Prayer

The choice in this module is between:



Choice A

I choose to pray to Jesus at all times

Or



Choice B

I choose not to pray to Jesus

Introduction

In this module of CHOICES we will study a spiritual exercise called prayer. Some Christians pray a lot. They pray when they get up in the morning, at the breakfast table and on their way to work or school. At work they pray during tea-time, lunch-time and at any available moment. On their way home they pray. They finish off the day with a prayer before they go to sleep.

Some Christians do not pray all that much. They only pray when they need help from Jesus or when they are in trouble. As soon as they are out of trouble they stop praying until the next problem arises.

Some people do not believe in Jesus at all, so they never pray to Him. Instead of praying to Jesus to ask for His help and wisdom, they rely on their own strength, wisdom and experience to help them get through difficult situations.

As a Christian, prayer is an important part of life, and it's really important that you discover more about this act of worship.



Let's first study *Choice A*
I choose to pray to Jesus at all times

Define Prayer

Prayer is the way that you communicate with Jesus, and He with you.

Notice from this definition that prayer is a two-way process of communication between Jesus and His children.

You speak to Jesus when you pray to Him.



Jesus speaks to you when you pray to Him.



Write out your definition of prayer.

Understand Prayer

In the definition of prayer, we saw that when you pray, you talk to Jesus and Jesus talks to you.

This definition helps us to understand that when we pray to Jesus, we are involved in a two-way process of communication.

We know that in order for two people to get to know each other they both need to communicate with each other.

- Praying to Jesus helps us to get to know Him.
- Praying to Jesus helps us to understand Him.
- Praying to Jesus helps us to trust Him with everything that happens in our life.
- Praying to Jesus expresses the faith that we have in His Name.

Write your understanding of prayer.



Content of Prayer

The two ingredients of prayer (content of prayer) can be summarised in the following two statements –

- The Name used to pray in and through – ‘Father in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ’
- Faith in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Following on from these two statements, prayer is made up of words that are an expression to the Father of your faith in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The words in your prayer describe the faith that you have in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

These words reflect the faith that He has heard your prayer to the Father (see John 15:16).

Faith fact:

Your prayer is a prayer of faith to the Father, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that He will grant you what you have asked for if it is in God’s purpose and will for your life.

Faith is a word that has come up in this module. Let us investigate the subject of faith more closely and see what the Bible teaches.

Faith is key in your prayers to the Father in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Look up and write out Hebrews 11:1–2.

Describe the importance of including faith in your prayers to Jesus.

Complete this sentence by reading Hebrews 11:1-2. **The Bible teaches that in order to obtain a good testimony you need to use**

In what way can you apply this truth to your Christian life and also have a good testimony?

Let us look more closely at what the Bible teaches with regards to the connection that should exist between faith and your prayers.

Faith fact:

Praying a prayer of faith involves a Christian praying to the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are now going to study an important portion of scripture. It is important because in order for the truth of this scripture to become effective in your life, you need to pray.

Here is an example to help illustrate the importance of prayer in your Christian life.

Just imagine that your dad is God. Remember
at this stage you are just imagining! Your dad
is an awesome God.

He loves you so much and He always wants the best for you.
You know all these great things about your dad (who is God).

Your dad really wants to bless you and help you,
but the problem is you never talk to your dad.

You never ask him for his blessing or his help and wisdom.
At times you wonder – ‘Why doesn’t my dad help me and why doesn’t he
ever talk to me?’

‘Why do I sometimes feel that he does not love me?’

The answer to all these questions is simply that you do
not spend time with him in prayer and ask him to bless and help you.

You do not communicate with him.

So how can you expect your dad to help you?

As you pray to Jesus, you will get to know and understand Him more and discern His purpose for your life.

So when you pray to the Father, in Jesus Name, you communicate with Him and you ask Him for His blessing and help.

Faith facts:

Remember to ask the Father, in Jesus Name, for things that bring glory to the Father.

Do not ask the Father, in Jesus Name, for things that you want to bring glory to your own name.

Read James 4:1-6 and write these verses here.
Then answer the questions that follow.



Question 1: What is the source of wars and quarrels?

Question 2: What is the problem with people who ask God for things and do not receive what they ask for?

Using these verses from James, complete this sentence using two of the words provided.

‘When we pray and have the _____ motive, we will not _____ from God’ (wrong, right and receive)

Read John 15:1-17. Use the insights that you have gained from this portion of scripture to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

Remain in _____ and Jesus will remain in _____ (v. 4)

Remain in the _____ (v. 4)

What is the result of remaining in Jesus and Jesus remaining in you? (v. 5)

What happens to someone who does not remain in Jesus? (v. 6)

When you remain in Jesus and His words remain in you, what one thing can you be sure of? (v. 7)

When you remain in the vine and remain in God’s love you will produce _____ fruit in your life. A child of Jesus produces Godly fruit through his/her life by asking Jesus, through the Father, for things that will produce Godly fruit.

In John 15:1-3, you will note that the Father is described as the vine dresser. A vine dresser is a person who works in a vineyard. He is responsible for taking care of the vine. His task is twofold.

Firstly, the vine dresser cuts off branches attached to the main vine which are not producing fruit. (v. 2)

Secondly, the vine dresser prunes the branches that are already producing fruit so that they may produce more fruit.

The Father is described as the vine dresser and that means that He cuts off branches from the vine that are not producing fruit. Those branches which are producing fruit, He prunes (cleans) so that they may produce more fruit.



Faith facts:

As a Christian you form part of the vine.
You are a branch that should produce fruit from
remaining in the vine (Jesus).



What kind of fruit do you believe the branches within the main vine should produce?

The fruits you have just listed are fruits that you should be producing through your Christian life. Your motivation for wanting to bear these fruits should be that you want to bring glory to the Father.

Faith fact:

It is important to note that all we have described thus far is possible when you pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus, and ask for things that are in the will of the Father for your life.

When you pray you can use the 'word-tool' below to help you include the important areas of a balanced prayer.

The 'word- tool' is ACTS.

A - Adoration. Worship God and tell Him how great and special He is to you.

C - Confession. Ask God to forgive you of any sin in your life.

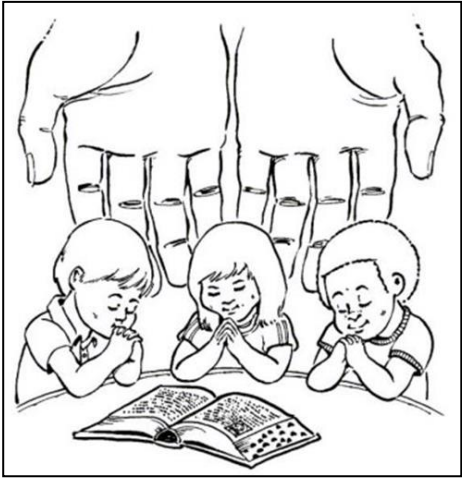
T - Thanksgiving. Thank God for His blessings and the love that He shows you.

S - Supplication (Asking). Ask God for things that are in His purpose for your life and will glorify His Name through your life.

Write out a prayer using the ACTS 'word tool'.

'Dear Father, in Jesus' precious Name –

Amen'.



Expression of Prayer

- When you pray 'at all times' you are expressing your faith and trust in the Father, in the Name of Jesus Christ.
- This means, that whenever you pray about any situation in your life, you are telling Jesus Christ that you need Him to guide you and to give you wisdom on how to handle the situation correctly.
- The expression of prayer through your life will see you expressing a life of faith in Jesus Name.
- All the glory for everything that Jesus does through your life will go to His Name.

Do you agree or disagree with the above statements? Give a reason for your answer.



Fruit of Prayer

The fruit of prayer is the certain knowledge that as you have remained in Him, and have asked the Father in the Name of Jesus Christ, He has heard and answered your prayer. As you have done this, His answer reflects His plan and purpose for your life.

The important fruit of prayer is praying according to God's will for your life. This means that what you ask God to do through your life, will be the very things that God has already planned to come into your life. Let's take a closer look into this important process.

When you abide in Jesus and His word, you will pray according to His perfect purpose and plan for your life. As you pray and abide in Jesus and His word, you will receive important fruit. The fruit is the following:

Faith facts:

When you pray, you will ask for things that Jesus wants to give you.

You will ask for things from Jesus that are in His will for your life.

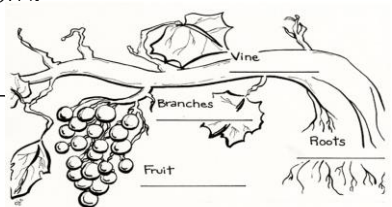
This is how Jesus answers your prayers, by giving you things that are in His will for your life.

Write a summary of how you believe Jesus answers your prayers to Him.

Read John 15: 5-8 and answer these questions:

- Who is the vine? (v. 5)

- Who are the branches? (v. 5)



- What is the result of the branch abiding (praying) in the vine? (v. 5)
-

- One of the ways of abiding in Jesus is through prayer. List some of the other ways you can abide in Jesus.
-
-

Do you agree or disagree with the above statements regarding how God answers your prayer to produce fruit in your life? Give a reason for your answer.

Now let us study Choice B
I choose not to pray to Jesus

If you do not believe in Jesus Christ and you do not believe in what the Bible teaches about Him, then you will not believe in praying to the Father through the Name of Jesus Christ. If this is your belief then you would not pray to Jesus. If you choose to not pray to Jesus then you would be saying to Jesus, 'I do not need to hear from You. I also do not believe that You have anything of importance to say to me. I will handle my life my way. I know better'.

If you choose to respond in this way then there is not much point in expecting Jesus to have any input in your life. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to be a Christian if you did not give Jesus a chance to direct or speak into your life by praying to Him.

Conclusion

Jot down one important truth you have learned with regard to prayer.

Now that you have completed this module, what is your choice?

Choice A

I choose to pray to Jesus at all times

Or

Choice B

I choose not to pray to Jesus

My choice is _____

Memory verse: Write out and learn your memory verse for **Module 5 – Prayer**. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.



Module 6

Love

The choice in this module is between expressing:

Choice A

Godly love (the original version) through your life

Or

Choice B

The devil's lust (a corruption of the original version) through your life



Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Introduction

Most people have their own idea about what love is and how it is expressed. When you hear people speak about love, they speak about this word in very different ways. Here are just a few examples: 'I just love my car'; 'I love the way he sings'; 'I love my family so much'; 'I love ice-cream'; or 'I love my children so much'. There are many different ways in which people talk about love.

Who and what are some of the things you "love"?

In this module you will also be studying what the opposite of Godly love is. The opposite of Godly love is lust. Lust is a corruption of Godly love. Lust is a desire that is sinful. You will discover that the devil has altered Godly love and promoted his own version of love called lust. This module will help you determine the difference between love and lust.

Let's first study Choice A
Expressing Godly love (the original version) through my life

Define Godly Love

‘Godly love is that Christlike quality which the Holy Spirit produces in us, that enables us to seek the highest welfare of others without thought of personal reward or gain’.

Godly love is described as the original version because God was the first one to love and show His love towards people. Look up *1 John 4:19* and write out this verse.

Foundational truth:
‘Vertical love empowering horizontal love’.

Here we want to study the love that is present between God and people (vertical love) and how we can use this love to love each other (horizontal love). As we receive and show love towards God, it is important to note that this vertical love should form our foundation and guide the love that we receive and show towards the people around us. The love that is received from and shown towards the people around us is a horizontal love. Once we receive God’s love and express love towards God, we will be in the best possible position to love the people with whom we come into contact every day.

The Bible defines Godly love in the passage where Jesus states the two greatest commands ever spoken by God to us. Find this definition in *Matthew 22:36-40* and write them below.

Let's use scripture to define Godly love.

Godly love is defined as:

- Love that we receive from God and show towards God.
- The love that we receive from God and show towards Him guides the love we show towards others.
- Godly love in our lives refines the love we show toward God and others.

Read what else the Bible teaches concerning what Godly love is. If you used your concordance to look up the words 'Holy Spirit' in module 4, now look up the word 'love'. Note the references and read each verse, then write out what you discover.

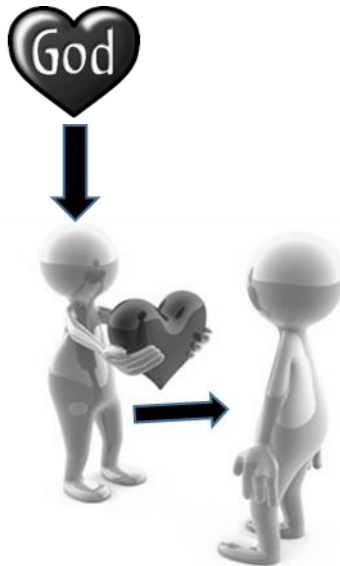
Write your definition of Godly love.



Understand Godly love

We understand from our definition of Godly love that it is important for us to receive God's love in our lives, and to love Him and others as we love ourselves. The love that we have received from God and express back to Him is a vertical love. We should express this vertical love that we receive from God and use it to love the people around us. We also understand that the love that we express towards God refines the love we express towards those around us. Godly love is the greatest love.

What is your understanding of Godly love?



Content of Godly love

The content of Godly love is the love that was inside Jesus Christ.

Write John 13:34.

When Jesus instructed His disciples to love each other in the manner in which He had loved them, He was instructing His disciples to love each other the way He loved them.

The disciples should have had no problem in understanding what Jesus instructed them to do because they had experienced, first-hand, the love of Jesus. Jesus had shown them the content of Godly love by living out Godly love in a practical manner. Jesus showed His love for His disciples (including you and me) by giving His life for us.

Read 1 Corinthians 13, then write down some of the things that make up the content of Godly love.

As children of Jesus Christ, once we allow His love into our lives, our love will become the love of Jesus Christ. His love will be inside us. This means that when we speak to others, there will be Godly love in our voice. When we think about others, there will be Godly love in our thoughts. Wherever we are and whatever we do in life, our love will be characteristic of Godly love.

Expression of Godly Love

If you choose to have a foundation of Godly love in your life and have a desire to use the content of Godly love in the way you love others, you will express Godly love through every part of your life.

Faith fact:

If you choose to express Godly love in your life then love will benefit you

Let's look at a practical example.

Question: Do you struggle to express love to people who are your 'enemies'?

Yes / No. Circle your answer.

If your answer is 'no' then that's great.

If your answer is 'yes' then read on!

Read and write out Matthew 5:44.

In this portion of scripture, Jesus teaches that we should love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Showing Godly love to an enemy, and also praying for him or her, will heal and restore the situation. When you use Godly love in your life, God's love heals and restores relationships.

Faith fact:

Using God's love in your life brings healing and has the power to restore broken relationships.

Think of an example in your life where you could express Godly love to a person in a particular situation. By expressing Godly love, healing and restoration can be brought to a difficult situation that you may be experiencing with that person.

You may think that this is difficult to do now, but the truth of the matter is: the sooner that you start to express Godly love in difficult relationships, the better. The reason for this is because as you get older, you will come into contact with situations where it is more difficult to express this kind of love. The lesson to learn here is:

Get used to expressing Godly love whilst you are young.



Major Fruit of Godly Love

The major fruit of a life expressing Godly love is 'peace'. Here are some examples.

When you express Godly love in your life:

- There will be peace between Jesus and you.
- There will be peace between you and the members of your family.
- There will be peace between you and your friends.
- There will be peace in every area of your life.

Complete this sentence: The major fruit of a life lived within Godly love is _____

Write a summary describing the overall effect of Godly love in your life.



Now let's study Choice B
**Expressing the devil's lust (a corruption of the original version)
through my life**

The devil cannot create anything new. He can only 'corrupt' what God originally created and present a distorted version. This is why we are studying 'love' under two headings.

The devil deceives people. He deceives them into believing that it is better to live within his corrupted version of love (lust) than to live within Godly love.

People who choose to lust may find that it seems to 'work' but things will fall apart. They learn that in the long run, it does not pay to live within the corrupted version of love (lust).

Faith fact:

The devil corrupts God's original love and then tempts and deceives people to accept his corrupted version.

Genesis 3: 1-7 gives a clear example of the strategy the devil uses to deceive and tempt people. Read these verses and then answer the following questions.

- What word is used to describe the serpent? _____
_____ (v. 1)
- In verse 1, notice that when the serpent spoke with the woman, he cleverly turned the original command of God into a question. In verse 2-3 the woman responded to the serpent's corrupted question by fully quoting God's command. Write out what the woman included in her response which reveals God's original command.

- Write out exactly what the devil said when he reasoned with Eve over the original command of God. (v. 4-5)

- Why did the devil twist the original command of God?

- Is it true that the devil used God's original words and presented his own corrupted version with its own so-called 'rewards'? Read *verse 4-5*. Yes/No _____
- In *verses 4 – 5* we see the serpent totally twisting the command of God. What was the main argument that the serpent used to tempt the woman and man to break the command of God? The answer to this question is found in *Genesis 3:5*. Write your answer below.

Faith fact:
Love is the complete opposite of lust.

From these verses in Genesis, it is clear to see that the devil tempts and then deceives people into believing that they will gain so much more if they ignore what God has said and do things using the devil's corrupted version of 'love'.

Let us take this truth and apply it to our discussion on love.

This is exactly what devil does when he deceives people concerning love. He offers them his own corrupted version of 'love' which he turns into 'lust'. He somehow convinces people that if they use his altered version of love they will gain so much more than if they use Godly love. His corrupted version looks like the original version but when you get to know it, and choose to live in it, you find that it destroys your life and the relationships you have with other people. In the end, people who believe in using the devil's corrupted version of love will always be disappointed and hurt.

The main reason the devil is most active in trying to destroy the love relationship between people and Jesus is because he does not want people to discover that Jesus loves every one of us, and that Jesus wants all of us to live our lives within the beautiful experience of Godly love.

Define the Devil's Lust

The English dictionary defines lust as: 'A sensuous appetite regarded as sinful' (The Concise Oxford Dictionary). Let's look at how the Bible defines lust.

The Bible defines the devil's corrupted version of love by describing the 'lust for this world'. If you lust for the things of this world then you are using the devil's corrupted version to show that lust through your lifestyle.

Scriptural text to define the devil's lust.

Read and write out 1 John 2:15-17.

We understand from the above scripture that the devil's lust is defined as something that is the complete opposite to Godly love. If we choose to lust after the things of and from this world, then we are using the devil's lust to lust after people and things.

Write your definition of the devil's lust.

Understand the Devil's Lust

- We understand that the lust of this world comes directly from the devil.
- We understand that God's love has been corrupted by the devil and presented to people as something 'better' than God's love.
- We understand that when we lust after the things of the world more than loving the things of God, then we are living our lives to please the devil.
- We understand that lust and love are complete opposites.
- We understand that the outcome of a life lived within the devil's lust is the complete opposite to the outcome of a life lived within Godly love.

Read 1 John 2: 15-17. How does this portion of scripture help you to understand the devil's lust?

Content of the Devil's Lust

What makes up the content of the devil's lust?

The content of the devil's lust is 'love' that is evil and deceptive in nature and character.

How would you describe the content of the devil's lust?



Expression of the Devil's Lust

The devil's lust is something that has the ability to be expressed through a person's life. How do people express the devil's lust through their lives?

The answer to this question is simple:

When people sin they are expressing lust through their lives.

In Galatians 5: 19-21 the apostle Paul lists a whole range of sinful acts. These sinful acts stem from living one's life within the devil's lust. These are the fruits of living within the devil's lust.

Look up and write out Galatians 5:19-21.

When people do things in their lives that are the 'works of the flesh' they end up taking advantage of each other, and this results in people getting hurt.

Maybe you have heard someone say:

'He used and abused me', or, 'Every day she has a different boyfriend'.

Can you think of any other examples of how people express lust through their lives and, in the process, hurt others?

Faith fact:

If you choose to express the devil's corrupted version of love (lust) in your life then love (lust) will cause you harm.

Fruit of the Devil's Lust

The expression of anything in your life, be it good or bad, always bears fruit or consequences in life. Let us look at the fruit of the expression of lust.

The fruit of lust is quite obvious. The fruit is the complete opposite to the fruit of Godly love. Instead of reaping peaceful fruit from living within Godly love, a person will reap fruit that is painful.

What do you believe is the fruit of expressing the devil's lust?

Read Matthew 7:15-20. In this portion of scripture Jesus teaches us about the fruit gathered from two different trees. Read this passage and then answer these questions.

- Who should you beware of? (v. 15)

- Why should you beware of false prophets? (v. 15)

- Why should you beware of ideas and people who send you messages that end up misleading you?

- Jesus teaches that you will know a tree by its fruit. Does this also mean that you will know whether the love you have been using has been Godly love or lust? Explain your answer. (v. 16-20)

Faith fact:

The devil's lust will work against you and bring about fruit that is painful.

Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Conclusion

In this module you have studied love from two angles. The first angle, Godly love, and the second angle, the devil's lust.

Now that you have completed this module, what is your choice? To show:

Choice A

Godly love (the original version) through my life

Or

Choice B

The devil's lust (a corruption of the original version) through my life.

My choice is:

Write out and learn your memory verses for Module 6 -
Love. Memory verses: Matthew 22:37-38.



Module 7

Truth

The choice in this module is between:

Choice A

Applying Godly truth (absolute truth) to my life

Or

Choice B

Applying worldly truth (relative truth) to my life

Introduction

When it comes to studying truth there are two kinds. You would not think this possible would you? After all, 'Truth is Truth'. How can there be two kinds?

The first kind of truth is from God.

God's truth is revealed through God's word (the Bible). God's truth was also revealed through Jesus when He walked on this earth. Today the Holy Spirit reveals this truth to God's children. This kind of truth never changes because its source, who is God, never changes. It is known as absolute truth.

The second kind of truth is from this world.

This truth is revealed through what people of this world define truth to be. This kind of truth changes from person to person, from country to country and from one age to the next. It is known as relative truth - a tool of the devil, and therefore, meant to cause us harm.

Get a hold of these statements:

◇ Absolute truth is...

...truth that has been given to us by God. This truth has guided people how to live correctly ever since Adam and Eve were created. It will never change because it is directly from God.

◇ Relative truth is...

...truth that has been given to us by other people. This truth has changed as people have changed through the years. It will continue to change because this world is changing along with the people who live in it.

◇ Absolute truth...

...has been given to us by God for the purpose of keeping the societies that we live in functioning and orderly. Living within absolute truth will help each one of us to live a peaceful and fruitful life.

◇ Relative truth...

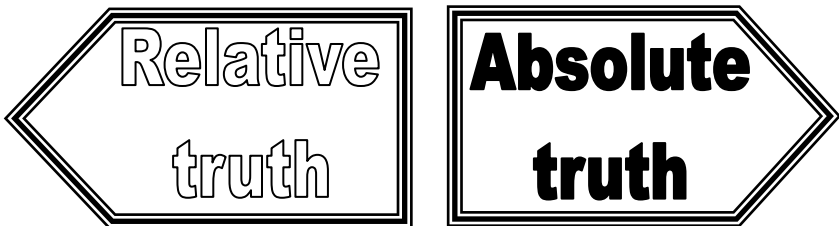
...is truth that has changed and, as it has changed, it has caused people to become confused about what is truth and what is not truth. As people have become confused this has resulted in their lives going through unnecessary pain and loss.

It is important to recognize that there are two types of truth. Relative truth is a type of truth that is completely different to absolute truth. You need to know the important differences which separate them from each other. You also need to make a choice as to which one of the two you will apply to your life.

Faith fact:

The truth you choose to apply to your life will shape your life.

For example, your choice will determine whether you believe virginity to be a gift that should be reserved for your future husband or wife. It will determine what you do with your friends when you all go out. It will determine your character as a person.



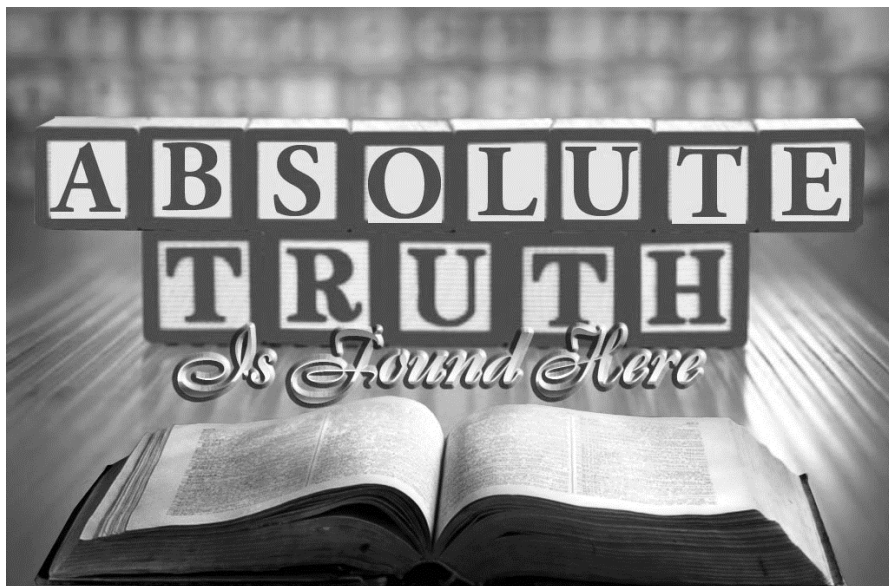
Let's first study Choice A
To apply Godly truth (absolute truth) to my life

Define Absolute Truth

'That which is true for all people, for all times, for all places'.
(McDowell 1994:20)

Absolute truth is Godly truth because only God's truth can be true for all people, for all times and for all places. Godly truth is found in God's word which is the Bible. Absolute truth is truth that never changes.

Your definition of absolute truth:



Understand Absolute Truth

Absolute truth is truth that is:

1. 'Objective,
2. Universal and
3. Constant'. (McDowell 1994:20).

What do these three words mean?

- Objective – It is defined outside ourselves. It is not subjectively determined.
- Universal – It is for all people in all places. It does not change from person to person or from place to place.
- Constant – It is for all times. It does not change from day to day (McDowell 1994:20).

Absolute truth is a truth that will never change, even if we change or the world we live in changes. Absolute truth is from God and God never changes. The truth from God, as revealed to Moses in the Bible, is truth from God to us right now.

Content of Absolute Truth

God's word as recorded in the Bible is the content of absolute truth. This means that if we want to know where to find absolute truth, we just need to pick up and read the Bible. The Holy Spirit will reveal and teach us God's truth as we study God's word.

Look up and write out John 16:13.

Complete the sentence below by circling the words 'He will' OR 'He will not'.

When the Holy Spirit is in your life 'He will' OR 'He will not' guide you into all truth.

Do you believe that God's word is the content of absolute truth?

Expression of Absolute Truth

The expression of absolute truth in your life equals fulfilling God's purpose for your life.

Question: How does the expression of absolute truth equal fulfilling God's purpose for your life?

Write your answer here:

When I choose to express God's truth in my life, I _____

Let us look into this more closely and see how it all works.

In order for God's word (absolute truth) to empower you to make the best choice on how you should behave:

- You need to accept that God's word is absolute truth – it is 'right for all people, for all times, for all places'
- From this you need to allow the authority of God's word to be greater than your personal opinion regarding what you believe you should or should not do.
- Having done the above, you will position yourself to have a Godly view point that is not influenced by your personal opinion. God's word will speak for itself and will have the authority to direct what you should choose.
- This will result in you knowing for certain what the wrong choice is and what the right choice is.

The reason for this is that:

- You have given room for God's word (absolute truth) to speak for itself into the situation where you needed to make a choice.
- Your 'truth view' – now absolute truth – acts as a lens through which you see life and the many choices you are faced with every day.

Faith facts:

Once you make choices using the outline described above, you are allowing God's word to speak for itself into the choice you need to make.

When you choose to use the absolute truth of God's word, you will make the correct choice.

Basic Information Before Leaving Earth

An example to show you how this tool actually worked in Susan's life.

Susan was a young girl living with her parents in Harare and she was a Christian. She believed that God's word, the Bible, was absolute truth. Susan was entering a phase in her life where she seemed to be struggling and arguing with her parents about everything and anything. She had never really argued with her parents in the past, but now it seemed like they argued all the time. This worried Susan so she decided to read God's word to see if it had anything helpful to say. She read Colossians 3:20: 'Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord'. When Susan read this verse, she was so pleased, because she knew that God had given her wisdom on how to correctly handle this tough situation.

From the truth – absolute truth – of this scripture she believed God was instructing her to obey her parents in all things. Susan realised that once she started to obey her parents, then the arguing would cease. She knew that this would not be easy but she believed that with the Holy Spirit's help it could be done.

Susan applied absolute truth to her life. Whenever she felt like arguing with her parents, she quietly said the verse from Colossians.

Susan now 'held her tongue' which meant the arguing ceased. She began to realise that it was much more beneficial for her to refrain from arguing. She was thankful for what God had taught her through the Bible.

Now let us ask Susan a few questions. Respond by agreeing or disagreeing with the answers given by Susan.

First question

Susan, you struggled with your parents. What made you read from the Bible for help when the Bible was written so long ago by people who did not even know your situation, or live in your country?

Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Her answer

I believe that God's word is absolute truth. His word speaks to me just as it spoke to the people who first read it. When I read *Colossians 3:20*, I allowed it to become my authority. By that I mean, even if I wanted to argue with my parents, or I thought that they might be out to spoil my fun, I still needed to obey the truth of that scripture in *Colossians*.

Do you agree or disagree?

Second question

How did God's word actually cause a change in your behaviour?

Her answer

I allowed God's word to be my authority. God's word became my standard of truth for how I chose to behave.

Do you agree or disagree?

Third question

What happened after you had made a choice to be directed by God's word?

Her answer

I knew I had to follow through on the action God's word was directing me to take. This was not easy because I personally did not want to do this, but I did. It is as though God just took me by the hand and led me out of a difficult situation.

Susan's last word: After a few times of allowing God's word to direct me, I could hardly believe it. My parents and I were really getting on so well together. It is really great to see how God's word is helping me out.

With reference to Susan applying absolute truth to her situation, describe what you have learned from Susan's experience.

Answer these questions.

Explain why it is important for you to live your life within absolute truth.

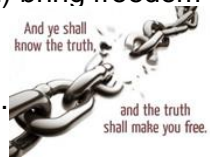
How can God's word be absolute truth? (Right for all people, for all times, for all places.)

Fruit of Absolute Truth

- When you apply absolute truth to your life, the fruit you will reap will be freedom.
- Jesus teaches in *John 8: 32*: ‘... and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free’.
- The fruit of absolute truth is that you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. How awesome is that!!!

Question: How does knowing the truth (absolute truth) bring freedom into your life?

In your answer, include an example from everyday life.



Faith fact:

When you apply absolute truth to your life, you will reap abundant life.

John 10: 10. ‘The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly’.

Applying absolute truth to your life will see you living an abundant life.

Faith fact:

The most important truth in applying absolute truth to your life is that Jesus will know you and you will know Him!

John 10:14 ‘I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me’.

The fruit of absolute truth is that, as a sheep belonging to Jesus (the good shepherd), you will be known by Jesus.

Now let's study Choice B
To apply worldly truth (relative truth) to my life

Define Relative Truth

Relative truth is truth that changes from situation to situation and from person to person.

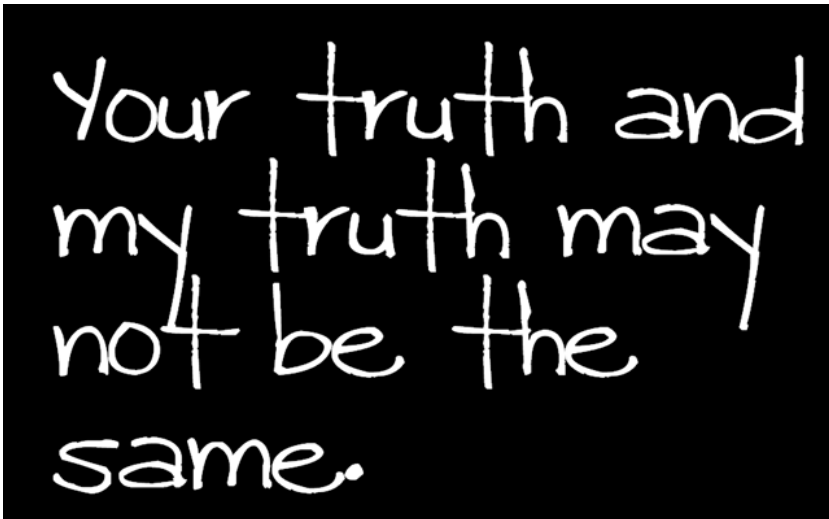
How would you define relative truth?

CHOICES

Understand Relative Truth

Relative truth is truth that will always change. It goes through stages of changing as it is passed from one person to another. Relative truth exists because people who do not believe that God's word is absolute have had to come up with their own version of truth.

In what way do you understand relative truth?



Content of Relative Truth

The content of relative truth is made up of shifting ideas/truths that people dream up in every phase of history. This makes it a truth that changes to suit each local situation. Relative truth is made up of truth that, in many ways, cannot be relied on.

Write down what you believe is the content of relative truth.

Expression of Relative Truth

A life that is lived within the boundary of relative truth will be a life that is tossed 'to and fro' by every idea that comes into that person's life. There will not only be one standard of truth but there will be many standards. Some will believe 'that as long as it makes me feel good then I will do it'. Those who express relative truth through their lives are always on the lookout for what is new and exciting. If one hears about someone in school who never gets into trouble even though he/she is doing things that are wrong and naughty, they want to find out what the secret of not getting caught is.

Write down your thoughts in response to the above paragraph.

Remember our discussion with regard to what happens to someone if they choose to express absolute truth through their life? The exact opposite occurs in someone's life if they choose to express relative truth in their life.

Question: How does the expression of relative truth in your life affect your behaviour?

When you believe that relative truth is the standard by which you should live your life, you position yourself to make choices that will result in pain and loss. The reason for this is that although relative truth has succeeded in tricking you into believing that 'playing with fire is fun and really cool', you find that you still get burnt when you come into contact with fire.

Write down your thoughts in response to the above paragraph.

We now look into this more closely and see how choices made within relative truth result in pain or loss:

- If you believe that all truth is relative, then you also believe there is no such thing as absolute truth.
- You will not believe that God's Word recorded in the Bible is the one and only source of truth.
- You will believe the many other authorities of relative truth that surround you.
- When it comes to making choices regarding what you should or should not do in your life, you will simply embrace the authority that is in agreement with what you want to do.
- What you want to do is often a selfish choice that, in most cases, carries painful consequences.

Remember the story about Susan using a standard of absolute truth to direct her choice? Now we are going to change the story and see what happens to her when she applies the standard of relative truth to direct her choice.

Susan is a young girl living with her parents in Harare. Susan is a 'Christian' when it suits her. Susan believes that there are many standards of truth. She uses relative truth whenever she needs to make a choice. Susan was entering a phase of her life where she seemed to be struggling and arguing with her parents about everything and anything. She had never really argued with her parents in the past, but now it seemed like they argued all the time. This did not really worry Susan because she had read somewhere in a magazine that it was alright to disobey and argue with your parents. To Susan this piece of truth was convenient because it kept her from feeling guilty or bad every time she had an argument.

Susan continued to apply relative truth to her life. Whenever her parents said something she did not like or agree with, she just continued to argue with them. This made Susan a very difficult child for her parents to communicate with and life just got worse for everyone.

Now let us ask Susan a few questions. Please comment on whether you agree or disagree with Susan's responses.

First Question:

Susan, you struggled with your parents. What made you decide to take advice from a magazine?

Her answer: I only read books or articles that I agree with. What I have to say is just as important as what my parents have to say. The piece of information I read in that magazine was in agreement with what I needed at the time. Times are changing and there are new ways of dealing with relationships. If I like what I read then I will give it a go.

Do you agree or disagree?

Second Question:

How did the piece of information you read in that magazine actually cause a change in your behaviour?

Her Answer:

It did not really cause a change in my behaviour. I just carried on with my approach, because the magazine confirmed that I was right to do so.

Do you agree or disagree?

Third Question:

What happened after you made a choice to be directed by that piece of information you read?

Her Answer: Eventually things got so bad with my parents that we did not actually speak to each other at all. Can you believe they still can't see my side? My parents need to 'chill' and give me more space to operate in.

Do you agree or disagree?

Describe what you have learned from the experience Susan went through in the above story.

Would you choose to live your life within relative truth? If 'yes', why?

How can what you read in recent magazines not be the truth, after all, relative truth is truth that is modern and up-to-date'?

Fruit of Relative Truth

Unfortunately for people who live within the realm of relative truth, the results of their actions do not change just because they have chosen to live their life within relative truth. One thing is certain: 'You will reap what you sow no matter who you are or what you choose to believe or not believe in'. The Bible teaches this very clearly in Galatians 6:7. Look up this scripture and write it here.

There will always be fruit gathered from a life that is lived within relative truth. The story of Susan is an example of the fruit of relative truth.

The relationship between Susan and her parents became progressively worse. The advice in the magazine she read and applied to her life failed to bring about a positive solution.

Here is another example to show the fruit of relative truth.

Your friends tell you, 'Drinking alcohol is really cool'. They tell you that if you only drink a little it won't affect your behaviour and that if you drink alcohol you will have a lot more fun.

If you believe what your friends say about alcohol and its lack of effect on your behaviour then you are applying relative truth to your life.

This is where relative truth becomes dangerous truth. Your friends are making up their own truth regarding the lack of effect of alcohol on behaviour. They are saying it will not affect your behaviour.

Whether you believe what your friends tell you about alcohol and its lack of effect on your behaviour or not, the truth of the matter is:

*Alcohol **WILL** affect your behaviour.*

Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

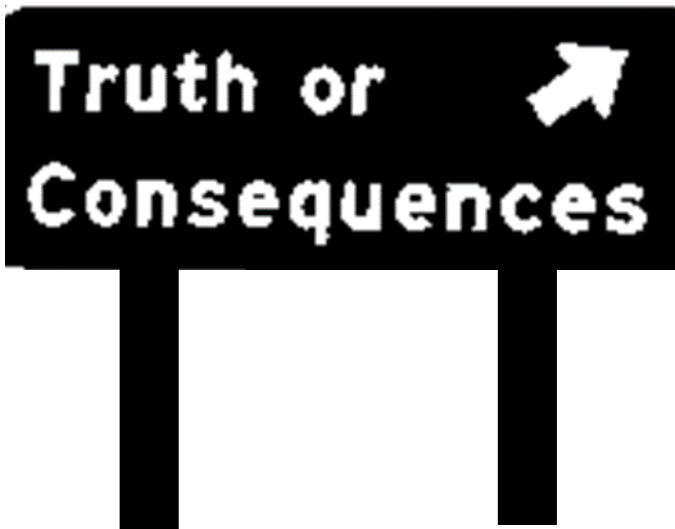
Choosing not to believe that alcohol will affect your behaviour will not change the fact that alcohol does in fact affect behaviour.

Faith facts:

Your life is shaped by the choices you make.

If you make choices within the area of relative truth, you will make poor choices, and these choices will bring painful consequences into your life.

God's absolute truth is designed to protect you from harm and hurt.



Conclusion

God's truth is absolute truth and when you make choices using the truth found within God's truth, you will make choices that build up and strengthen your life.

The world's truth is relative truth. If you make choices derived from the world, you will make choices that break down and weaken your life.

Now that you have completed this module what is your choice?

Choice A

To apply Godly truth (absolute truth) to my life

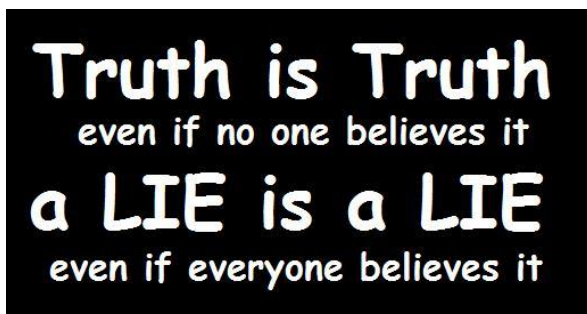
Or

Choice B

To apply worldly truth (relative truth) to my life.

My choice is: _____

Write out and learn your memory verse for Module 7 –
Truth Memory verse – John 8:32



Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Module 8

Purity

The choice in this module is between:

Choice A
Living a pure life

Or

Choice B
Living an impure life



Introduction

Purity and impurity are two conditions that affect and infect the quality of life of every single person. A person can either choose to be pure and live a life that adds to pure living, or choose to be impure and live a life that leads to impure living.

Faith facts:

A person who chooses to obey God's word and be directed by the Holy Spirit, will position him or herself to live a pure life.

A person who chooses to disobey God's word and be directed by evil spirits, will position him or herself to live an impure life.

God created you to live and enjoy a full and exciting life. Purity of heart will provide you with the correct foundation on which to experience real excitement and fulfilment.

However, the devil uses impurity to take away life and the excitement of living within God's blessing. An impure heart provides a foundation on which to experience pain that comes as a result of living within things that are impure.

List things that are pure and bring purity into your life.

List things that are impure and bring impurity into your life.

Read and write out Matthew 5:8.

What is the result of obeying God's word in the above scripture?

Your answer: I will _____ God.

Why is it important that you should see God?

Do you believe that as a child of Jesus you should desire to be pure in heart? Yes/No. Circle your answer and give a reason.

Faith facts:

The Bible teaches that we should be pure of heart.

The reason the Bible fully supports purity of heart is because God wants you to see Him.

The opposite of purity is impurity. Impurity prevents a person from seeing God in his or her life. Look up and write out Ephesians 4:19.

Impurity is something that the devil loves. The devil has only one aim and that is to bring impure things into your heart. The devil desires to bring impure things into your heart because he knows that if he can succeed in bringing impurity into your heart then it will be very difficult, if not impossible, for you to see God.

Answer the following question: Why is the devil so interested in bringing impure things into your life?

Let's first study Choice A
Living a pure life

Purity Principle

‘When something little becomes something big.’

Here is a story to illustrate the above principle.

Farai was your average boy. He had friends, he went to school, he played sport and he generally enjoyed his life. Farai knew right from wrong when it came to behaviour. One day Farai was walking home and on his way he stopped by the local store.

This particular day it was rather hot, so Farai decided to buy something to drink. He chose his favourite drink. It usually cost \$5 but today the price had increased to \$5.50. Farai thought to himself: ‘What shall I do?’ He thought of shoplifting but he quickly stopped that thought.

Instead, Farai decided to buy a cheaper cool drink. He selected a cheaper drink and paid for it. On his way home he sipped the cool drink and thought to himself: ‘This actually does not taste all that bad. Maybe I should buy this cheaper drink more often’.

Questions for you to answer.

Do you agree with the action Farai took when he bought a cheaper drink and chose not to steal? Explain your answer.

What would you have done if you were in the same situation?

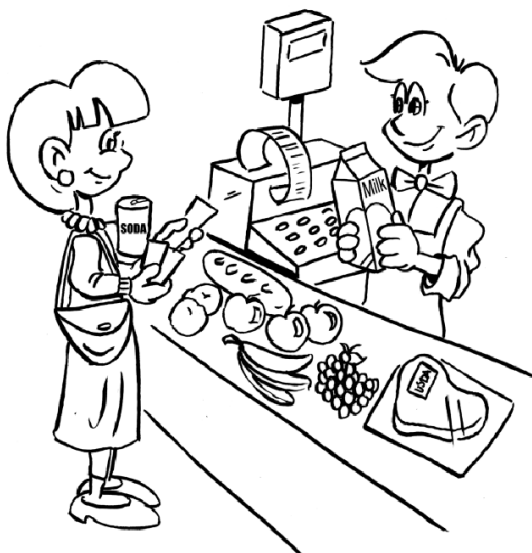
How did purity in Farai’s life help him to choose the correct thing to do?

Regarding applying purity to your life, what important lesson does this story teach you?

In what other area of life can purity affect your life and produce pure fruit?

Looking deeper into this story.

Farai did not steal anything from the shop. His small decision to choose not to steal ended up having a big effect on his life. You see, Farai needed to find a holiday job to earn extra money. When he approached the shop owner and asked him for a holiday job, the shop owner gladly gave Farai the job he asked for. The shop owner saw no problem in hiring Farai for the duration of the holiday.



Application

Do you understand how something small became something big in Farai's life? Yes/No.

Explain your answer

Farai chose not to steal. This made Farai a boy that the shop owner could trust. Farai reaped an important 'fruit' in his life. The 'fruit' was called trust.

Choosing not to steal - being pure – in a small situation at the beginning grew into a life free of stealing, and paved the way for being pure in bigger situations later on in his life. Farai's choice to be pure opened the way for him to do well and succeed later on in life.

At what point did something small become something big in Farai's life?

Faith facts:

A small amount of purity in your life will
grow into a larger amount of purity.

Purity will strengthen you in all areas of your life.

The sources of purity include:

The Bible

The Holy Spirit

Christian literature



Can you think of any other sources of purity? List them here.

Check out messages from the media and see if you can find a message that is pure. What is the catch phrase of the advert? Write it here.

Analyse this catch phrase under the following questions:

- What is the advert saying? _____

- What is the advert promising? _____

- Is this message true or false?

The following is a tool for you to use to analyse messages of the media with regard to purity and impurity. Your PLAN should include guidelines on what you will allow and not allow into your life. Your PLAN should reflect your commitment to living a pure life.

P - Pure
L - Living
A - Arrangement
N - Necessary



Write out the strategy for your PLAN.

Further assignment.

Find the meaning of the word ‘purity’ in your dictionary. Write the meaning below. In what areas of your life can you choose to be pure?

‘Purity is not an old-fashioned idea’. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Yes/No. Explain your answer

Purity is possible – only if you really want it to be. Do you agree or disagree with this statement. Explain your answer.

Purity begins in your heart. 'Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.' (Matthew 5:8) How can you keep your heart pure?

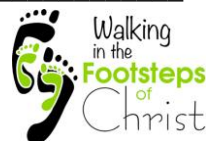
Purity brings short- and long-term benefits. In each of these categories list some examples of these benefits.

Short-term _____

Long-term _____

When you become a Christian, Jesus brings purity into your life. Do you agree/disagree with this statement?

How do I become pure?



My Answer:

I become pure when I choose to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. I do this by reading and applying God's word to my life. The Holy Spirit fills me and empowers me to be pure as I listen to and obey the instructions He gives me. I also need to make a choice to be pure.

Your Answer:

Explain why you agree or disagree with the following statement:
'When it comes to purity it is also important to use your common sense'.

Your eyes are the windows to your soul. Pure eyes will result in a pure soul/spirit. It is important to look at pictures that are clean and pure.
Read Psalm 119:37 and answer this question.

Why is it important to make a point of looking only at pictures that are clean and pure?

Look up 1 Corinthians 6:18-20. Fill in the blanks in the sentence below by using words from these verses.

_____ sexual immorality. Your _____ is the temple of the Holy Spirit. You are _____ your own. You glorify _____ in your _____ and in your _____ which are _____.

Do you agree with this scriptural truth?



Throughout your life you will come into contact with messages from the media that will encourage you to experiment with sexual activity. It is important that you have strong convictions that will guide you when you respond to these messages. With special reference to sexual purity or virginity what are your convictions?

Memory verse – Matthew 5:8: ‘Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.’

Describe one important thing you have learned regarding purity.



Now let's study Choice B
Living an impure life

Let us look closer into how impurity affects our lives.

Impurity Principle

‘When something little becomes something big.’

Here is a story to illustrate the above principle. In this story Farai’s outcome is different when compared to what happened when he chose to be pure.

Farai was your average boy. He had friends, he went to school, he played sport and he generally enjoyed his life. Farai knew right from wrong when it came to behaviour. Up to this point Farai had not been in any real trouble.

This particular day it was rather hot so Farai decided to buy something to drink. He chose his favourite drink. It usually cost \$5 but today the price had increased to \$5.50. ‘What shall I do?’ he thought.

He had two options: he could put it back and buy a cheaper drink, or do something he had never done before in his life: take it without paying at all.

Farai decided to steal the drink. While no one was watching, he slipped the drink into his pocket and just walked out of the shop. No one noticed what he had done. ‘That was easy,’ he thought. ‘I think I will do it again next time and then I can use my pocket money to buy something else.’

Farai continued shoplifting from the same shop. He began to steal more and more. Farai thought he was getting really clever at this until one day he slipped up. One day someone saw Farai putting drinks and sweets in his pockets, and reported him to the shop owner. Farai did not realize that someone had seen him shoplifting and he tried to leave the shop with the stolen goods in his pockets. As Farai got to the shop doors, the shop owner pulled him aside and asked him to empty his pockets. Farai had to take out the goods he had tried to steal and place them on the table. He did not have a till slip to prove he had bought these items. The shop owner called Farai’s parents. When his parents arrived at the shop the owner demanded them to pay for what Farai had tried to steal.

Farai apologised to the shop owner and returned home. When the school holidays came, Farai asked the shop owner for a holiday job. The shop owner was reluctant to give Farai a job. Although Farai had been forgiven by the shop owner for stealing from his shop, he refused to hire Farai. He did not trust Farai.

Questions for you to answer.

- Do you agree with the action Farai took when he stole the cool drink?

- What would you have done in the same situation?

- How did impurity in Farai's life cause him to make the incorrect choice?

- What important lesson does this story teach you with respect to impurity?

- In what other area of life can impurity affect your life and produce impure fruit?

Looking deeper into the story.

Farai stole from the shop. His small decision to choose to steal ended up having a big effect on his life. Farai needed to find a holiday job to earn some extra money. When he approached the shop owner and asked him for a job, the shop owner refused. Trust had been destroyed and the shop owner was suspicious of Farai's request to work in his shop.



Application

Do you understand how something small became something big in Farai's life? Yes/No. Explain your answer

Farai did not think that one little act of stealing a cool drink would result in him stealing more and more things from the shop. He did not ever think that he would be caught, but he was. When he looked back, he knew that his choice to steal had weakened the bond of trust between the shop owner and him. He wondered how he would be able to rebuild the trust he had damaged.

He found that other people also found it difficult to trust him. This made Farai sad and he felt impure. He could not get a job at any of the other shops either.

At what point did something small become something big in Farai's life?

Extra question – In what other area of your life can impurity affect you and produce impure fruit?

Faith facts:
Impurity Principle:
A small amount of impurity in your life
will grow into a larger amount of impurity.
Impurity will weaken all areas of your life.



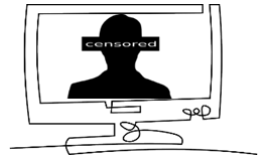
Sources of impurity Include:

Worldly magazines, books, videos, music and evil spirits. Can you think of other sources of impurity? List them here.

Check out the media and see if you can find a message that is impure. What is the catch phrase of the advert? Write it here.

Analyse this phrase under the following questions:

What is the advert saying?



What is the advert promising me?

Is this message true or false?

Further assignment.

Find the meaning of the word impurity in your dictionary. Write the meaning below.

In what areas of your life can you be impure?

Someone may say: 'It seems like everything and everyone else surrounding me is impure. I do not know which way to turn. Should I be pure or should I be impure? I do not know what to do'. Give this person some good advice on what he/she should do.

Impurity brings with it short and long term problems. List some examples.

Short-term

Long-term

Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. 'When it comes to impurity it is also important to use your common sense'.

'Purity is for people who do not want to have fun'. Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?

The devil is impure and he brings impurity with him wherever he goes. Give a brief explanation as to whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

'Your eyes are the windows to your heart'. What will happen to your heart if you allow impure things into your heart through your eyes?

Commit to your memory James 4:7 'Therefore, submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you'.

Sexual impurity is something that is supported by the world's media. When it comes to sex, they will encourage you to use a condom and to be faithful to one partner. What is your response to this message from the media?

Is it true that condoms are what 'smart guys' are wearing? Explain the reason for your answer.

In the context of God's children and sex, what do 'smart guys and girls' do?

Use the following two words to complete the statement below. The two words to choose from are: faithful and abstain.

God's children are smart when they choose to _____ from sex before marriage.

When they get married later they will choose to remain _____ to their life-long spouse.

Describe one important thing you have learned regarding impurity.



Conclusion

In this module you have studied purity and impurity. In this study you have made some new discoveries. Herewith a summary of each:

Choice A Living a pure life

The Holy Spirit will help you to be pure. He will also show you how to be pure. God's word will provide all the tools and wisdom you will need to live a pure life by keeping your heart pure. As a result of being pure in heart, you will see God in your life.

Or

Choice B Living an impure life

Unwholesome friends, the world's media and evil spirits will present ways for you to be impure. They will do everything possible to keep you from reading God's word. They will also do everything possible to convince you that purity of heart is not possible and neither is it necessary in this modern day and age. As a result of allowing impurity into your heart, you will fail to see God in your life.



Now that you have completed this module, what is your choice?

Choice A
To live a pure life

Or

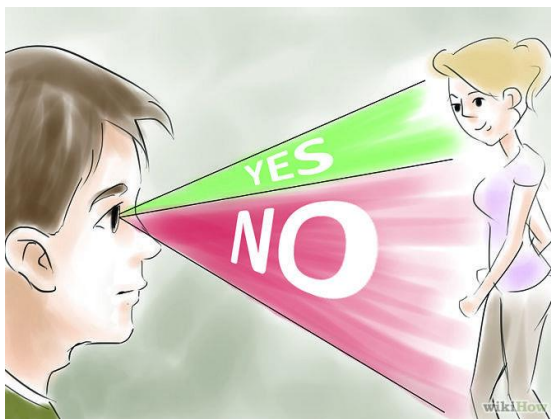
Choice B
To live an impure life

My choice is _____

Write out and learn your memory verse for Module 8 – Purity.

Matthew 5: 8. _____

James 4:7. _____



Module 9

Temptation

The choice in this module is between:

Choice A

Resisting temptation using God's tools

Or

Choice B

Giving in to the devil's temptation

Introduction

In this section we will have a really good look into 'deception' and 'temptation'. It is important that we have a clear understanding of how the devil works through 'deception' and 'temptation' so that we know exactly how he tries to cause us to disobey God.

Every time the devil tries to get us to disobey God, he tries to 'deceive' and 'tempt' us. Right at the beginning of time we see the devil using this approach to deceive and tempt Adam and Eve. The devil, disguised as a serpent, used this approach in a situation where he managed to get Adam and Eve to disobey God. The serpent accomplished this by first deceiving Adam and Eve through twisting the actual command of God. Once the serpent had deceived them he offered them a temptation.

Read Genesis 3: 1-24 and then complete the activities that follow.

Why did God allow the serpent to tempt Adam and Eve?

To answer this question, fill in the blanks of the sentence below with one key word. Here is a clue to help you work out what the word is. The key word is a word that rhymes with 'whose'.

Faith facts:

God allowed Adam and Eve to be tempted by the serpent because He wanted them to _____ to obey God's word. In the same way,

God does not force you and me to obey Him.

We must _____ to obey God's word.

What word does the Bible use to describe the serpent? (v. 1)

What was the serpent trying to achieve by saying, 'Did God really say....?'

Read verse 2 and fill in the blank space in this sentence. 'When Eve responded to the serpent's question in verse 1, she quoted God's W_____d.'

Complete the word in this sentence. The devil de_____ Eve by changing what God had commanded when He said that: 'no one should eat fruit from, or touch, the tree that was in the middle of the garden'. (v 4 - 5)

In deceiving Adam and Eve, the serpent managed to convince them that God's commands were not absolute truth. Because their eyes were not fixed on God's commands, Adam and Eve positioned themselves to give in to the temptation that the serpent put in front of them. Adam and Eve's eyes were now fixed on the fruit that was the object of the temptation. The serpent planted the idea in their minds that they would gain much by eating the fruit. (v. 6)

The serpent deceived them into believing that they should follow his advice and go against what God had commanded. Adam and Eve chose to believe what the serpent told them. They believed that their lives would be richer. In fact, the devil told them that they would be like God. Adam and Eve thought that the serpent was offering them a better deal than that God was offering.

What was the result once Adam and Eve gave into the deception and temptation of the serpent? In your answer, use one- to three-word phrases. E.g. they became confused, they felt ashamed...etc. (v. 7- 24).

Think of a time when you were faced with a temptation and you chose to give in to it.

What was the result of giving in to this temptation?

What lesson did you learn once you gave in to the deception and temptation?

Think of a time when you were faced with a temptation and you chose not to go along with it, but instead obeyed God's commands.

Explain how you believe the devil tried to deceive you and what happened when you resisted the temptation.

What was the result of resisting this temptation?



How did it feel to know that you were able to discern that the devil was trying to deceive you?

Looking back, what lesson did you learn when you knew that the devil was trying to deceive you and yet you chose to resist him?

Look up 1 Corinthians 10:13 and answer this question: Whenever you are tempted, what can you be sure of?

Faith facts:

It is important to remember that we all face some form of temptation in our lives.

It is a part of everyday living.

What counts is how you choose to respond to the temptation.

You can either respond by fixing your eyes on God and His commands or giving in to the devil.

Can you believe that even Jesus had to deal with some very strong and real temptations? Here's what happened.

Before Jesus entered public ministry he went into the desert to fast and pray for forty days.

Read Matthew 4:1-11 and answer these questions.

Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Who tempted Jesus?

What was the tempter trying to achieve by getting Jesus to give in to each of the temptations?

How did Jesus handle these temptations?

What important lessons do you learn from Jesus regarding the correct handling of temptation?

Faith fact:

The devil failed to get Jesus to give in to the temptation because the devil failed to deceive Jesus.

This is an important lesson to learn. The way in which Jesus handled the devil's deception and temptation resulted in Jesus' avoiding the pain that results from giving into temptation. You and I should follow Jesus' example.

The four parts involved when someone faces temptation:

1. The object of temptation.
2. The tempter who always uses his 'two part weapon' – (deception and temptation).
3. You.
4. Jesus Christ (His Word and His Spirit).

There are five levels on which you communicate with God and people. The word PEPSI will help you to remember these 5 ways of responding to God, the devil and the people with whom you come into contact.

P - Physical
E – Emotional
P – Psychological
S – Spiritual
I – Intellectual

Faith fact:

The devil can reach you and use any of these areas of your life to deceive and draw you away from God.

The devil knows that you can be easily deceived in any of these 5 areas of your life. Once you are deceived on any of these 5 levels the possibility of giving in to the temptation is high.

The tempter (the devil) does all he can to deceive you so that what he is offering is very attractive to you. The devil tries to make you desire a physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual or intellectual thing so much that you give in to temptation.

Faith facts:

Christians who use God's tools when handling a temptation will allow God's word and the Holy Spirit to guide them in all of these areas of their lives.

This will keep them from being easily deceived and giving in to temptation.

People who do not use God's tools when handling temptation will not allow God's word and the Holy Spirit to guide them in these 5 areas of their lives.

This will cause them to be deceived and give into temptation.

From what you have read so far, think of an example where you believe someone could be deceived and tempted by the devil through one of the five areas we have discussed. Your example should include the area that the devil deceived, what the devil used to deceive the person in this particular area, and what the result of the temptation was. Here is an example to help you think of your own.

Tapiwa loves eating food and has allowed himself to be deceived into thinking that he needs to eat a whole lot of extra food if he is to be truly satisfied. Sometimes Tapiwa's brothers and sisters do not have enough

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food because he takes too much for himself. Tapiwa's belief makes him overeat. Sometimes he wastes food and has to throw it away because he cannot finish what is on his plate. Tapiwa is deceived and tempted on two levels. These are:

- Intellectually. The way he thinks about food. He thinks he needs to serve a huge portion of food onto his plate.
- Physically. His eyes are too big for his stomach. Although he thinks he needs a lot of food, he is physically unable to eat what he puts on his plate.

Now write your example below. In your example be sure to include:

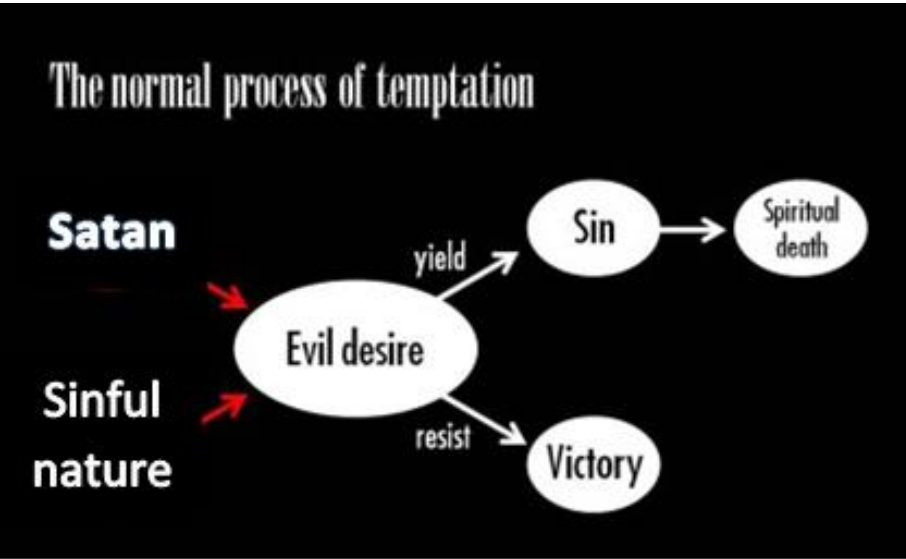
- Which of the five levels is involved in the temptation,
- The object of the temptation, and
- The result of the temptation.

Concluding thought

The devil usually tries to convince you that when you follow his advice (deception) and give into his temptation, you will come out richer and better. He always hides the consequences of what happens to a person once he/she gives into the deception or temptation.



Do you agree to disagree with this thought? Yes/No. Expand on your answer.



Let's first study *Choice A*
Handling temptation using God's tools

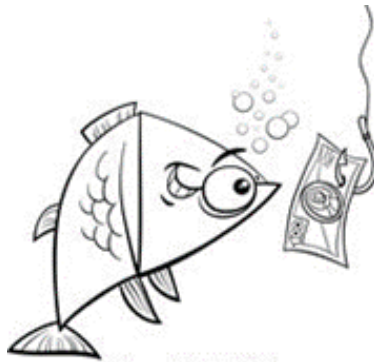
Define Temptation

The COLLINS English Dictionary defines temptation as: 'The attempt to persuade or entice someone to do something morally wrong or unwise'.

Question: What does this definition of temptation tell me about the purpose of temptation?

My Answer: This definition of temptation tells me clearly that temptation is placed before me so that I will end up doing things that are morally wrong or unwise.

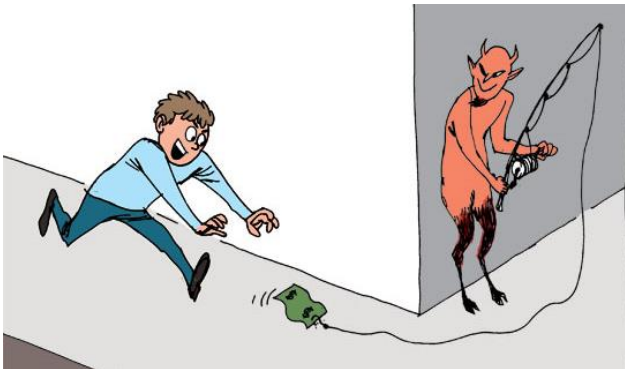
Your answer



Understand Temptation

- I understand that the purpose of all temptation is to get me to make unwise decisions when faced with difficult choices.
- I understand that God wants good and beneficial things for my life. He wants me to fill my life with things that will bring true life and light. When temptations come along they are sent to take true life and light out of my life. This makes the purpose of temptation one of destruction and deception.
- I understand that temptations are sent by the devil because he wants to deceive me and take my eyes off the things of God. Once my eyes are not fixed on the things of God, the devil will try to extinguish God's light in my life. If my eyes are diverted from the things of God they will be focused on the devil's things.

What do you understand about temptation?



Content of handling temptation using God's tools

We know that the purpose of temptation is to persuade us to do things that are unwise and wrong. We have seen how deception and temptation work hand-in-hand to try to take a person's eyes off God. Now we need to identify some Godly tools that we need to enable us to handle temptation correctly.

These tools include:



- God's Word

Use God's word to resist the temptation AND tempter. See James 4:8.

What happens to the devil when you resist him?

- Discernment

Discernment enables you to discern (see) what is from God and what is from the devil. When you ask the Holy Spirit to help you discern what is from God and what is from the devil, you can be sure the Holy Spirit will empower you to know the difference.

It is very easy to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit from that of the tempter/devil.

- Whenever the Holy Spirit speaks, He speaks the truth.
- Whenever the devil speaks, he lies!

Read about how Jesus describes the words from the devil in John 8:44.

Circle your answers to these questions.

Is there any truth in the devil? Yes/No

Is the devil the father of lies? Yes/No

Is the devil a liar? Yes/No

Read James 1:13. Is it God tempting you when you face temptation?

Read Matthew 4:1-3. When you are tempted, who is it that brings the temptation?

It is important to know the time-table of temptation. James 1:14-15 provides a good description of this. Once you are aware of this agenda you will be able to select your tools wisely when handling temptation.

Faith fact:

You will know the devil's plan and you will not be secretly ambushed by the devil.

Read James 1:14. When you are tempted what is it that draws you away?

Read James 1:15. When desire is conceived, what is born?

Read James 1:15. When sin is fully grown, what does it bring forth?

Faith facts:

Know when you are being tempted.
Know who is tempting you.
Know and use God's tools.

When handling temptation and deception correctly, is it important to also use your common sense? Circle your answer: Yes/No.

Why do you think this is so?

An example of common sense in action - 'Know your limits'.

If you know, and common sense tells you, that it is wrong and not a good idea to eat too many sweets but you always seem to be eating too many, then you must choose to listen to common sense. Common sense will tell you that eating too many sweets is not good for your teeth or your over-all health.



Expression of using God's tools in handling temptation

Once you use Godly tools when handling deception and temptation, you will get better at resisting temptation. By using the tools that God gives you to handle deception and temptation, you will find that you do not have to believe in the deception of the devil when he tells you: 'Come on, just give in. Besides, you are never going to be able to live without it and you like it so much. What is stopping you?'

Faith fact:

When the devil talks to you like this, you can be sure he is lying and trying to deceive you.

When you use Godly tools to handle deception and temptation, you will call on God's Name and be able to resist the deception and temptation. You will have greater control over these temptations.

Give one reason why you agree or disagree with the above paragraph.

Fruit of using God's tools in handling temptation

This fruit is productive and helpful.

- God will provide you with a way to resist the temptation.
 - You will recognize God's way of escaping the temptation and deception.
 - You will avoid the pain and loss that always results from giving in to temptation.
 - You will live the life Jesus desires you to live.
 - Your faith will become stronger as you use God's tools to resist temptation.
 - You will not waste your life unnecessarily.
 - Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. When you are tempted, is the strength of the temptation too strong for you to handle? Yes/No.
 - Whenever you are tempted, who provides a way out for you?
-

What is the result of a lot of practice of something you are trying to do well?

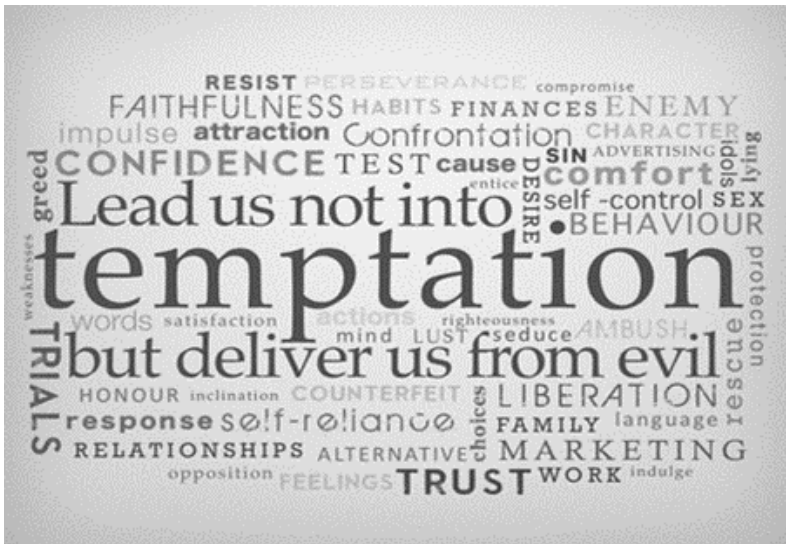
Remember this principle:

When you put a lot of hard work and practice into something you
get better and better!

This also applies when you choose to use Godly tools when handling
deception and temptation.

You will get better and better at it as you submit to and unite with God
to resist the devil!

Let's study Choice B
Giving into the devil's temptation



People who give in to temptation choose not to keep their eyes fixed on God and his commands, and open themselves to be deceived by the devil.

People who give in to temptation reap painful consequence. Below is a story to help illustrate this point.

Peter was told that it's better to tell lies than to tell the truth. He was also told that people get into trouble when they tell the truth. One day Peter was seen by someone in the classroom opening a pencil case belonging to John. He was seen taking out a pencil from John's pencil case which he put into his own pencil case. Later Peter was asked by his teacher if he took a pencil from John's pencil case. He denied taking the pencil. His teacher searched Peter's pencil case and found John's missing pencil. It was clear that Peter had lied when he said he had not taken the pencil. As a result of this incident the rest of the children in Peter's class became suspicious of Peter and they found it difficult to trust Peter.

Now that you have read the story above, write a paragraph describing what you believe would happen to a person if they allowed themselves to be deceived and then give in to a temptation. In your story include what you believe would be the fruit of going along with the deception and temptation. A clue to the fruit that comes with giving into deception and temptation is: '___ ___ u ___ t is broken'.



Conclusion

In life you will face situations where the devil will try to deceive and tempt you. It's important to remember that as you face deception and temptation, you are going to have to make a choice. You can choose to fix your eyes on God and use the tools that He has provided you with, or to focus on the devil's deception and temptation. Your choice of tools will determine if you will be a victor or loser. Using Godly tools will equip you to come through the temptation. You will build trust in relationships with others in your life. Giving in to the devil's temptation will cause you harm.

Key thoughts regarding temptation:

- Be careful and wise regarding how you choose to handle temptation.
- The devil uses deception and temptation to take your eyes off Jesus and to focus them on the things of this world.
- Jesus will not allow you to face a temptation that is too strong for you and Him to handle together!
- When you let Jesus help you, Jesus will provide a way out for you!
- You are never alone. JESUS HAS PROMISED TO BE WITH YOU.

Now that you have completed this module, what is your choice?



Choice A

To resist temptation using God's tools

Or

Choice B

To give in to the devil's temptation

My choice is _____

Write out and learn your memory verse for module 9 –
Temptation. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Module 10

Building your life-house

The choice in this module is between

Choice A

Building a life-house from building materials provided by God

Or

Choice B

Building a life-house from building materials provided by the world



Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Introduction

As you have completed each module in CHOICES, you have been asked to choose one of the options presented in that module. In each module one option has been to accept an important biblical truth and the other has been to reject this biblical truth.

In this module we are going to show you how the sum total of your decisions in the previous modules can impact on your life.

It is hoped that the material in this book will have guided you to choose option A in each module:

- to accept Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life
- to accept Jesus' free gift of forgiveness of sins and eternal life
- to read and obey God's word, found in the Bible
- to allow the Holy Spirit to fill your life and enable you to produce good fruit
- to enter into a relationship with Jesus and to develop this relationship by communicating with Him through prayer
- to love in a godly manner
- to recognise the absolute truth of God's word and truth
- to live a pure life and
- to avoid temptation using the tools that God has provided you to be able to do so.

Although the intention of CHOICES has been to lead you to choose God's way for your life, the choices you decide to make are yours alone. You may have chosen Option B. Books, people, magazines, television and films to which you are exposed can try to influence you and persuade you to make certain decisions, but the fact remains: you alone choose to make decisions about what you should

- do or not do
- say or not say
- think or not think
- believe or not believe.



It follows that if you alone have the power to make choices regarding these things, then you alone are responsible for the choices and decisions you make.

Faith fact:

You alone have the power and ability to make the choices that will shape your life.

You need to make these decisions and choices carefully because
YOUR LIFE IS SHAPED BY THE CHOICES YOU MAKE!

This is a frightening thought. You do not know what the future holds and so it can be difficult to make decisions or choices, especially because, in addition to not knowing what your future holds, you might be very unsure of the consequences that will follow your choice or decision.

In this module you will be shown what the result of choosing or rejecting God's ultimate plan for your life is. In effect, you will be asked to confirm your earlier choices and put them together by answering one more important question:

Are you going to use and combine all that you have learnt through studying the material in CHOICES to help you to make wise and good choices in the future?

Are you going to apply the choices that you have made to your life?



Define a “life-house”

In order to show you how the choices you make can affect your life and have very real consequences, we are going to use an illustration. In this module it is useful to think of your life as a house. Let’s call this house your “life-house”. A house is a building with a special purpose. People build houses to provide them with shelter and security. Houses should be strong and reliable, and able to withstand extreme weather conditions.

Think of some of the weather conditions that a house might have to be built to withstand.

You would want the house that you lived in to be strong and reliable, and to be capable of protecting you and shielding you from adverse conditions. Strong, trustworthy houses must be built of sturdy, dependable building materials – materials that would not give way under the pressure of daily life and leave you exposed. The same is true of your life-house.

The bricks and other building materials from which your life-house is built are the beliefs that you hold and the choices and decisions regarding how you live your life.

You are the builder of your own life-house. This life-house is a part of your character or personality – part of what makes you unique and who you are.

If you make wise, good choices, your life-house will be strong and will be capable of sustaining the storms of life. You will be a person of strong, good character.

No one can avoid the storms of life – the hardships and difficulties that we have to face, but if the “house” of your life is built from reliable, solid building materials, then you will be able to “weather” these storms of life.

If you make poor choices and unwise decisions, you will be building a life-house of weak, inferior quality building materials. A life-house built of unstable, frail building materials will be incapable of weathering the storms of life. Your life-house will not give you the protection and support that you need to be able to weather the storms of life – you will be exposed to hurt and damage.

Faith fact: Your life is shaped by the choices that you make.

The nine modules that you have completed thus far have provided you with nine building blocks or bricks for you to use in building your life-house.

Each Choice A option serves as a firm and stable platform on which the next building block can rest. These building blocks are the best possible quality available to you.

The Choice B building blocks or bricks are not strong or stable. They are weak and untrustworthy. They will not result in a strong life-house.

In module 3 we read the story of the wise builder and the foolish builder in **Matt 7**. Read this story again, but this time, read it in **Luke 6 v.46-49**, then answer the following questions.

What was the main difference between the builder who built his house on the rock, and the foolish builder who built his house on the sand? (Clue: Both builders heard the words of Jesus.)

Read James 1 v.23 – 25 then answer the questions that follow.
Is it enough to merely “hear the word of God”?



What should you do when you have heard God’s word?

What will be the result?

As you have worked through CHOICES you have already been asked to choose some of the building blocks or materials for your life-house. Just as a physical house is built for a purpose, and for use, so is your life-house. Like the wise builder in Luke 6 and the scripture in James tells us, we now have to apply God’s word to every situation and circumstance that we face in life. If you have chosen to accept Jesus into your life and to obey His word, every decision and choice you make in your life should be in line with this basic choice.

You can think of the basic choices that you have made in the first 9 modules of CHOICES as providing the basic structure of your life-house – the “bigger picture” which shapes and gives meaning to the rest of your life. The structure or shape of your life-house is affected by the building materials you choose to use to build it with.

The building process and maintenance of your life-house is an on-going process through your life, but the building blocks of the first 9 modules of CHOICES will provide you with a strong basic structure which will ensure that future choices and decisions that you make in your life will further strengthen your life.

In summary:

- A life-house is an illustration of the part of my personality or character which is shaped by what I believe.
- I alone have the power and ability to choose the building materials from which I build my life-house.
- I can choose to build my life-house from godly, biblical building materials, or from building materials which are worldly and ungodly.
- If I choose to build my life-house from godly building materials I will have chosen the best quality, strong and reliable building materials available. The result will be a life-house that is dependable and durable. I will then be in a position to make choices and decisions for my life that will be wise and good.
- If I choose to build my life-house from worldly, ungodly building materials, I will have chosen poor quality, inferior building materials. The result will be an unstable, unreliable life-house. I will then not be in a good position to make decisions and choices that will be beneficial to my life.



Understand a life-house

Every person's life is shaped by the choices that he/she makes in life. The structure of a person's life-house is shaped by the building materials that he/she chooses to use.

An architect is a person who is specially trained to design or plan buildings that will be strong, reliable, and best suited for the use for which that building is intended.

Do you know what your function in this world and life is? Yes/No

Do you know or have a clear idea of exactly what you want to do and achieve in your life?

Write down some of your ambitions or plans here.

None of us knows with absolute certainty what our life and future will hold. Even though we might have detailed plans for our own lives, we can never be sure that those plans will be realised in reality – our futures are too full of unknown events and we cannot predict how these events will affect us.

Read Psalm 139 v.13-16.

Who knew you before you were even born?

Which verse shows that God knows your future and has a clear purpose for your life? Write it out here.

Read Jeremiah 29 v.11-13.

What kind of plans does God have for you?

Isn't this amazing?

Who do you think is the best architect for your life-house?

Faith fact:

God's plan for your life is perfectly designed that you may live a full and abundant life, protected by His rules and directions.

The first nine modules of CHOICES have provided you with the building materials which form the basic structure of your life-house. The work on your life-house is not complete, however. Every choice and decision you make in your life continues the building process – your life is shaped by the choices you make! You can think of the choices and decisions you make in your life as the decoration or furnishing of your life-house. As you continue the building of your life-house by making daily decisions and choices, you should keep referring to the master architect – God.

Your choices and decisions should be in line with the basic decisions which you have chosen to shape your life.

Faith fact:

God knew me before I was born and knows every day of my future.

God is the best architect for my life-house.



Content of a life-house

The content of your life-house is formed by the decisions and choices that you make.

Every decision that you make in life, whether good or bad, forms part of the “furniture” of your life-house or the possessions which you keep in your house.

Your life-house contains furniture and possessions such as the friends that you choose, the books and magazines you choose to read or films that you choose to watch, the thoughts that you think, what you do with your time, and even your personal goals and ambitions.

If you have chosen to build your life-house of godly materials, then you already have God’s word and the Holy Spirit to help you to make choices that will furnish your life-house well. You can use God’s word to test your decisions and choices against with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Making choices that are in line with God’s word will bring glory to the Name of Jesus. In making a choice or decision it is often useful to ask yourself: “What would Jesus do?” Some people even have the letters WWJD on a bracelet to remind themselves to ask this question of themselves in their everyday choices.

You have some other tools that can help you to make wise and good choices for your life. These include your conscience, your personal norms and values, the opinion and guidance of your parents, common sense and your friends. All of these can help you to filter your choices and decisions if they too are influenced by biblical principles and truths.

Let us return to our illustration of a life-house.

Houses have doors and windows. Doors and windows allow people and things in and out of the house. In our illustration of a “life-house”, we can think of the doors and windows of your life-house as being your conscience, your personal norms and values, the opinion and guidance of your parents, common sense and your friends. The doors and windows of your life-house should be impacted and shaped by the building materials

that you have used to build the basic structure of your life-house. If you are a Christian, then your personal values and norms should reflect your Christian beliefs and principles.

Let's see how this works in practice through an example.

Tawanda has recently moved from Bulawayo to Harare. He is a new boy in his school class and would like to make some new friends. At break-time, he sits with a large group of boys and girls from his new class and listens to their conversation, which is as follows:

Rudo: Hey! Look at this magazine I bought.

Tino: My parents would never let me buy that magazine – it contains pictures and articles that are aimed at adults. I am not going to look at it. Kuda: Who cares what parents think? If they buy and read those magazines, why shouldn't we?

Marova: My parents don't even buy those magazines for themselves; they say that they contain material and opinions that are unhealthy.

Rudo: You are just boring, Marova! You never want to have any fun.

Farai: Talking about fun, what are you all doing this weekend? My parents are going away. Why don't you come to my house and we can have a party? I know where my parents keep their alcohol and we can try it all out.

Kuda: Hey, Rudo, my dad is taking my mum out for dinner. I could use her car while she is out and pick you up. We could go to Farai's house together.

Tawanda wants to make new friends. Marova is obviously not the most popular girl in the class and he would like to be "cool". He would like to go to the party at Farai's house. It sounds like fun and, as many of the kids in the class seem to be going, it would be a good opportunity to get to make friends.

We are going to show you two possible reactions that Tawanda could have to this conversation, how he could make choices based on the information in the conversation and the basic structure of his life-house, and how the choices he makes could thereafter shape his life.

Scenario A

Tawanda is a Christian whose life-house is built from biblical building materials. Although he really wants to make new friends, his conscience tells him that what both Farai and Kuda are suggesting is wrong. Tawanda also knows that his parents would not approve of his going to the party at Farai's house. Tawanda believes that his parents make rules for his good and not just because they want to make his life boring. His common sense tells him that drinking alcohol is not sensible. It seems that Marova and Tino, although not popular with the other kids, have values that are sensible and similar to those which he holds as a Christian. He decides to invite Marova and Tino to his house to have dinner with his family.

Tawanda's choice results in his making good friends with both Marova and Tino. In terms of our illustration, Tino and Marova become part of the furniture of Tawanda's life-house. He is always happy to invite them to his house, and he knows that they will stand by him when the other kids in his class try to persuade him to join them in doing "fun" things that he knows are wrong. Tawanda has made a good choice in his new friends and strengthened his life-house in the process.

Scenario B

Tawanda is not a Christian and his life-house is not built of godly, biblical building materials. He can tell that Tino and Marova are not the most popular kids in the class and that if he makes friends with them the "cool" kids will not want to be friends with him either. The other kids seem to have a lot of fun doing grown-up things and Tino and Marova seem boring by comparison. Tawanda knows that his parents would not approve of his going to Farai's party, and so, if he wants to go to the party he will have to lie to his parents about where he is going and what he will be doing. Tawanda's conscience is telling him that going to the party is not really the right decision. His common sense also tells him that he could end up in trouble by going to Farai's party, but he wants to make lots of friends and to have fun, and so he decides that he will go to the party at Farai's house. The "cool" kids are thrilled and Kuda offers Tawanda a lift.

At the party, Kuda drinks too much alcohol. At midnight, he remembers that his mother and father will be home soon and that he needs to get the car back before his parents realise that he has taken it without

permission. Kuda's ability to drive is severely impaired by the amount of alcohol that he has drunk and he wants to show off to Tawanda and Rudo. He drives around a corner too fast and crashes the car into a wall. Tawanda is seriously injured and rushed off to hospital.

Tawanda's choice in this scenario results in actions that have a negative, harmful effect on his life. The "furniture" he has added to his life-house is actually harmful to him. Not only has his decision to go to Farai's party resulted in his physical harm, but his parents now know that he lied to them and no longer trust him. The friends that he has made do not help him to make choices that are healthy, wise choices.

These stories are examples of how the choices that a person makes in his or her life can affect their lives.

It is good to examine the content of our life-houses regularly. A good way to test the quality of the content of your life-house is to ask yourself if you would mind if someone else could see all the "possessions" and "furniture" in your life-house. Are you proud of every friend, thought, action and goal, or do you want to hide certain things in dark corners where no one can see them? If the contents of your life-house are good, you will not mind if your life-house has big windows that let in the light and allow everything in it to be seen by others. If the contents of your life-house are things that you are ashamed of or want to hide from others, you would be happier if your life-house had tiny windows and thick curtains so that no-one could see in. It would be a dark place.

Thankfully, God knows that we never stop sinning, and are bound to allow furniture and possessions into our houses that are not desirable or in line with His word. He is always ready to help us to get rid of these things if we ask for His help and forgiveness.

Faith fact:

Life-houses built using godly building materials and furnished with wise choices are houses with big windows and full of light. The furniture and possessions in life-houses built of godly materials will be good and wholesome – not to be ashamed of.

Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Expression of a life-house

Being a Christian, building your life-house of godly building materials and making choices that are healthy, and which build-up both yourself and those around you is the way that you express your Christian beliefs in your daily life.

A person whose life-house is built of godly materials will be concerned with the welfare of others, unselfish rather than selfish.

Rejecting Christ and building a life-house from ungodly building materials will mean that the choices and decisions that you make are not always good and will frequently result in harming those around you, and may even be harmful to you though you do not realise it! A person whose life-house is not built from godly materials will often be motivated to make decisions which are for his or her own benefit rather than the good of others – selfish rather than unselfish.

A life-house that is built of godly building materials will have big windows. These big windows mean that God's light is allowed to shine into our lives, but also that other people are able to see that our lives are full of good, healthy decisions and choices that bring glory to God.

Faith fact:

Big doors and windows allow God's light in and allow His light to shine out too.



Fruit of a life-house

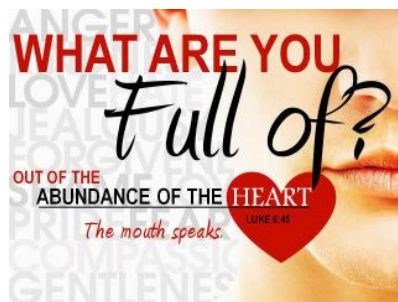
Whether your life-house is built of godly or ungodly building materials and contains godly or ungodly “furniture” will be evident by the fruit that your life-house produces. Read Matthew 12 v.33-35.

What do you understand these verses to mean?

Galatians 5 contains a clear list of examples of the fruit produced by lives that are built on God’s truth and principles, and lives that are not.

List the examples of the fruit that you can expect from a life-house built from godly building materials. (v. 22-23)

List the examples given of the fruit that you can expect to be produced by life-houses that are built from ungodly building materials. (v.19-21)



Your Life is shaped by the Choices you make

Conclusion

CHOICES has been written for two main reasons.

Firstly, this book has been written in the hope that those who have successfully completed the study will have embraced Godly tools that can now be used to make wise, healthy choices for their lives. Such people will be sure to produce good fruit, to the glory of God and which will also result in the strengthening of their own lives.

Secondly, CHOICES has been written to help you understand that God has a purpose for your life. In order for you to be able to achieve this special, unique purpose, God has given you talents. You need to make use of your God-given talents.

Read Luke 19: 11-27 and complete the exercise outlined below.

Write a summary of what this parable teaches with regard to the way in which each of the servants put his master's money (talents) to work.

Now that you have completed this module, what is your choice?

Choice A

Building a life-house from building materials provided by God

Or

Choice B

Building a life-house from building materials provided by the world

Memory verses.

1 Timothy 4: 11-12. Command and teach these things. Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, life, love, faith and purity.

Proverbs 3: 5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

Bonus Segment

Relationships

Throughout your life you will form friendships and relationships with others. It is hoped that you will find the information in this segment helpful and useful as you do your best to build healthy and strong friendships and relationships.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines a relationship as ‘An emotional association between people’.

Relationships form between people. This means no one lives on their own, cut off from other people. No matter who you are, you will relate to other people and live and work with others.

It is important to ask: ‘What sort of relationships do I want to form with others?’

To help answer this question, it may be helpful for you to think of relationships with others as bridges between you and other people. The bridge you build between yourself and someone else can either be a good or bad bridge.

Here are some suggestions as to how you can build healthy bridges between yourself and other people.

- People who form healthy relationships are guided by a healthy love that is founded in the truth of Jesus in *Matthew 22:36–40*. This scripture reads: “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind”. This is the great and first commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.” Godly love is the foundation on which to build a healthy bridge of relationship.

Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement.
'Once you express godly love you will have long and great relationships with other people'.

- People who build healthy relationships are guided by a biblical understanding of what godly love is. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 offers a good description of biblical love. Look up these verses in the Bible and write them here.
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These verses describe the kind of love that you should express in your relationships. How do you believe this kind of love will strengthen your relationships?

- * People involved in building healthy relationships set godly boundaries within those relationships. These boundaries guide people as to what is acceptable and unacceptable in a relationship. You should use God's word to help you establish boundaries. You can also ask your parents to help you establish boundaries. List the boundaries you would like to keep to within your relationship with other people. Is there a biblical text you can use to support your setting this boundary?
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- People who build healthy relationships speak words of encouragement and appreciation towards others in that relationship. Why is it important to watch what you say to your friends?
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- People who build healthy relationships allow their hearts to get involved. When someone's heart is involved, a connection of trust and honesty is established. This connection will help the relationship to remain together through any difficulties the relationship may experience.
 - People who build healthy relationships understand the difference between love, infatuation and lust. This is especially true when it comes to boy/girl relationships. Why is it important to understand the difference between love, infatuation and lust?
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- People who build healthy relationships will learn from the mistakes of others and do their best to avoid making the same mistakes. Do you believe you should learn from the mistakes of others, or do you believe that you should learn from your own mistakes?
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- People who build healthy relationships have spent time nurturing those relationships. Great relationships grow out of great friendships. Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement.
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Conclusion

What important things should you do if you want to build healthy bridges of relationship between yourself and others? In your answer you can use the above information along with your own ideas and experience.

Faith fact:

Using the guidance of God's word, outlined in this module, you will be enabled to form strong, healthy relationships that will be fun and truly rewarding.

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