

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

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Review Leader Instructions

Prepare

- Find 2–4 believers to review your translated passages, and plan where to meet.
- Gather pens and paper, a printed copy of this document (RG), one copy of the source text, and printed copies of the translation.

Start Review Session

- Bring everything you prepared.
- Welcome reviewers. Pray together.
- Tell reviewers the following:
 - “The questions in this review are not meant to test your Bible knowledge. Instead, they are meant to test how clear the translation is. When I ask questions, please answer from what you find in the text we just read.”
 - “You will not be asked or expected to suggest changes or edits for any issues that are found.”
 - “I will tell you the verse reference for each question. If needed, you can refer to that verse while answering the question.”
- Give reviewers copies of the translated passages.

Conduct Review for Each Passage

- Read (aloud) any **Background** for the passage.
- Read (aloud) the passage in the translation. Reviewers should follow along while you read.
- Ask reviewers to retell the passage, using their own words. They may look at the passage as they retell it.
 - As you listen, mark the box by each **Part 1** item if it is understandable from the way reviewers retell the passage.
 - Write notes on RG about what they understand and do not understand.
- Ask reviewers the **Part 2** questions. Tell reviewers the verse that each question is about so that they can look at the right verses as they answer.
 - As you listen, mark by each **Part 2** item if it is understandable from how reviewers answer the question. Reviewers do not need to quote directly.
 - As needed, ask additional questions to clarify. (For example, ask reviewers to show or tell which words in the verses led to their answer.)
 - You may also look at your source text to confirm answers.

You may use the **Comment Section** to take any other notes about what they say.

- Some questions in **Part 2** include the phrase “do you think.” These questions are designed to test if implied information can be understood. The most important thing to note is if these questions are answered incorrectly. Any answer that fits with the text is OK. Participants may also answer these questions based on knowledge of other Biblical passages and based on how they react to this passage.

Finish Review Session

- Pray together.
- Thank reviewers.
- As needed, talk about when to meet to review more passages.

After the Review

- Arrange a time to meet with the translation team.
- At that time, bring all the notes from your Review Session to the translation team.
- Show them what was found by reviewers. The team should decide what to change and how to do that.

Matthew 2:1-12

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Wise men came from the east to Jerusalem looking for the one who was born king of the Jews. [2:1-2]
- ☐ The chief priests and scribes told Herod that the Christ was to be born in Bethlehem according to Scripture. [2:5-6]
- ☐ Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. [2:7-8]
- ☐ Herod ordered the wise men to return, telling them that he also wanted to worship the baby. [2:8]
- ☐ The wise men went to Bethlehem, found the baby, gave him gifts, and worshiped him. [2:11]
- ☐ They did not return to Herod. [2:12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [2:1-2] After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, why did some wise men go to Jerusalem?

They were looking for the one who had been born King of the Jews.

2. [2:2] Why were they looking for the King of the Jews?

They said that they saw his star and were coming to worship him.

3. [2:3] Why do you think that Herod was troubled when he heard the wise men wanted to find the King of the Jews that had just been born?

(Answer may vary.) Herod was probably worried that a new king might take away his own position as king.

4. [2:4] How did Herod find out where the Christ would be born?

He asked the priests and scribes of the Jewish people where Christ would be born.

5. [2:5-6] How did the priests and scribes know where Christ would be born?

The scriptures said that a ruler would come from Bethlehem.

6. [2:9-10] How did the wise men find the one who was born king of the Jews?

They left Jerusalem, and the star guided them to the house where the child was.

7. [2:11] What did the wise men do when they found the child?

They fell down and worshiped him, and they opened their gifts and gave them to him.

8. [2:11] Who do you think the child was that they were worshiping?

From the rest of the passage, it is clear that the child was Jesus.

9. [2:12] Why didn't the wise men return to Herod?

They had been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod.

Matthew 2:1-12 continued

10. [2:2-6] Matthew told about the wise men coming to worship the one born king of the Jews, the prophecy about the ruler being born in Bethlehem, and the star over the house in Bethlehem where the child was. Why do you think Matthew told about these events?

(Answer may vary.) Matthew probably told about these events to show that Jesus was is the one that the Old Testament prophesied to be the King of the Jews.

Comment Section:

Matthew 3:13-17

Background: After Jesus grew up, John the Baptist went into the wilderness and preached that people should stop sinning and be baptized. John also taught that someone more powerful than he would come, and that person would judge people.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. [3:13]
- ☐ John tried to stop Jesus, but Jesus said it was right for John to baptize him. [3:14-15]
- ☐ After John baptized Jesus, God's Spirit came down like a dove and rested on Jesus. [3:16]
- ☐ A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son. I am very pleased with him." [3:17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [3:14] When Jesus came to be baptized, what did John tell Jesus?

John told Jesus that he needed to be baptized by Jesus.

2. [3:15] What did Jesus say was the reason that John should baptize him?

It was right for them to fulfill all righteousness.

3. [3:16] What did the Spirit of God do when Jesus came out of the water?

The Spirit of God came down and rested on Jesus.

4. [3:17] What did the voice from heaven say after Jesus came out of the water?

The voice said, "This is my beloved Son. I am very pleased with him."

5. [3:17] Whose voice do you think was speaking?

By saying the voice came out of heaven, the passage shows that it was the voice of God the Father.

6. [3:17] Who do you think God the Father was speaking about in verse 17?

The passage shows that he was speaking about Jesus.

Comment Section:

Matthew 4:1-11

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. [4:1]
- ☐ Jesus fasted, and he was hungry. [4:2]
- ☐ The devil tempted Jesus three times. [4:3-10]
- ☐ Each time, Jesus quoted scripture to the devil. [4:4-10]
- ☐ After the devil left him, angels came and served Jesus. [4:11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [4:2] How long did Jesus fast?

Jesus fasted for forty days.

2. [4:3] What did the devil first tempt Jesus to do?

The devil tempted Jesus to command the stones to become bread.

3. [4:4] How did Jesus respond?

Jesus quoted what was written about not living on just bread but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.

4. [4:4] What do you think it means to live on God's word?

(Answer may vary.) It may mean to believe God's word and obey it. It may mean that God's words are needed by all, just as food is.

5. [4:5-6] What did the devil next tempt Jesus to do?

The devil tempted Jesus to throw himself down from the highest part of the temple building.

6. [4:7] How did Jesus respond?

Jesus quoted what was written about not testing the Lord God.

7. [4:3, 6] When the devil tempted Jesus the first two times, what part of what he said was the same?

Both times the devil said, "If you are the Son of God."

8. [4:3-4] Do you think that Jesus would have been able to turn the stones into bread? Why do you think that?

(Answer may vary.) Probably Jesus would have been able to do that because he was the Son of God.

9. [4:8-9] The devil said that he would give Jesus the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would do what?

The devil said that he would give the kingdoms to Jesus if Jesus would fall down and worship him.

Matthew 4:1-11 continued

10. [4:10] How did Jesus respond?

Jesus told Satan to go away, and he quoted what was written about worshiping only the Lord God.

11. [4:4, 7, 10] Where do you think the words that Jesus quoted were written?

Here and in other parts of the New Testament, the words “it is written” indicate that they were written in the scriptures—in the part of the Bible now called the Old Testament.

12. [4:4, 7, 10] Who or what did Jesus obey?

Jesus obeyed God and his word.

Comment Section:

Matthew 5:1-12

Background: Jesus went around teaching people to repent because the kingdom of God was near. He also told some men to follow him, and he healed many people. Large crowds of people followed Jesus.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus went up on a mountain and taught his disciples. [5:1-2]
- ☐ Jesus described people who were blessed and then told how they would be blessed. [5:2-12]
- ☐ Jesus told the disciples to rejoice when they were persecuted for believing in him. [5:11-12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [5:1-2] What did Jesus do when he saw the crowds?

Jesus went up on a mountain and taught his disciples.

2. [5:3] Who does the kingdom of heaven belong to?

It belongs to the poor in spirit.

3. [5:4] Who will be comforted?

Those who mourn will be comforted.

4. [5:5] Who will inherit the earth?

The meek will inherit the earth.

5. [5:6] Who will be filled?

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled.

6. [5:6] What do you think those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled with?

(Answer may vary.) The passage probably means they will be filled with righteousness.

7. [5:7] Who will receive mercy?

The merciful will receive mercy.

8. [5:8] Who will see God?

The pure in heart will see God.

9. [5:9] Who will be called sons of God?

The peacemakers will be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:1-12 continued

10. [5:9] Why do you think the peacemakers will be called sons of God?

(Answer may vary.) The passage might mean that by helping people to have peace with one another, they will reflect the character of God, who enables people to have peace with him.

11. [5:10] Who does the kingdom of heaven belong to?

It belongs to those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

12. [5:11-12] Why would the disciples be blessed when others were cruel to them?

They were blessed because their reward would be great in heaven, even though they were being persecuted like the prophets who lived before them.

Comment Section:

Matthew 6:1-15

Background: Jesus continued to teach his disciples on the mountain.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus taught people not to do good works in order to be seen by other people. [6:1-4]
- ☐ Jesus taught people not to pray in order to be seen by other people. [6:5-8]
- ☐ Jesus taught people how to pray. [6:9-13]
- ☐ Jesus taught about forgiveness. [6:14-15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [6:1] What did Jesus warn them against doing?

He warned them not to do their good deeds to be seen by others.

2. [6:1] What did he say the result of doing their good deeds to be seen by others would be?

Their Father in heaven would not reward them.

3. [6:1] Who do you think Jesus meant when he spoke of their Father in heaven?

It is evident that he was talking about God the Father.

4. [6:2] Why did hypocrites sound a trumpet when they gave to the poor?

Because they wanted other people to glorify them.

5. [6:3] When Jesus said not to let their left hand know what their right hand was doing, what do you think he meant?

(Answer may vary.) He may have meant that they should do their good works so secretly that even those closest to them would not know about it. Or maybe it should become so customary or simple to do a good work that they might not even remember doing it.

6. [6:4, 6] What did Jesus say about the Father in verses 4 and 6?

The Father sees who gives and prays in secret, and he will reward these people.

7. [6:8] What did he say the Father knows in verse 8?

He knows what people need before they ask for it.

8. [6:8] What did Jesus tell his disciples to call God when they prayed?

He told them to call him Father.

Matthew 6:1-15 continued

9. [6:9-13] What things did Jesus tell them to pray about?

He said to pray for:

- the Father's name to be honored as holy
- his kingdom to come
- his will to be done
- their daily needs
- forgiveness
- protection from temptation and evil

10. [6:14] What did Jesus say the Father would do if they would forgive other people?

He said the Father would forgive them.

11. [6:15] What would happen if they would not forgive others?

The Father would not forgive them.

Comment Section:

Matthew 13:44-46

Background: Jesus went and sat down beside the sea. A large crowd gathered around him, and he used parables to teach them about the kingdom of God.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. [13:44]
- ☐ Jesus also said that the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for valuable pearls. [13:45-46]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [13:44] How did Jesus describe the kingdom of heaven in verse 44?

It is like a treasure hidden in a field.

2. [13:44] What did the man do when he found the treasure hidden in the field?

The man hid the treasure and sold all his possessions and bought the field.

3. [13:44] Why do you think the man bought the field?

He probably wanted the treasure that was hidden in the field.

4. [13:45] How did Jesus describe the kingdom of heaven in verse 45?

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was a merchant looking for valuable pearls.

5. [13:46] What did the man do when he found a very valuable pearl?

He went and sold everything that he owned and bought it.

6. [13:44-46] Why do you think the two men in the stories sold everything they possessed?

It appears that they sold everything so they could get enough money to buy the land and the pearl.

7. [13:44-46] What do you think was Jesus' reason for saying that the kingdom of Heaven is like these things?

(Answer may vary.) He seems to have meant that the kingdom of Heaven is more important than anything else.

Comment Section:

Matthew 14:13-21

Background: King Herod killed Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist. John's disciples went and told Jesus about it.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus went to a place far away from people, but the crowds followed him, and he had compassion on them. [14:13-14]
- ☐ Jesus told his disciples to feed the people, but they could only find a small amount of food. [14:15-18]
- ☐ Jesus blessed the food and gave it to the disciples, and they gave it to the people. [14:19]
- ☐ There was enough for over 5,000 people. After the people ate, there was a lot of food left over. [14:20-21]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [14:13] Where did Jesus go in a boat?

He went to a place far away from people.

2. [14:14] What did Jesus do when he saw the large crowd of people?

He had compassion on them, and he healed those who were sick.

3. [14:15] Why did the disciples want Jesus to send the crowds away?

Because it was late in the day, the disciples knew the people needed to go to the villages to buy food.

4. [14:16] What did Jesus tell his disciples to do?

He told them to give the people something to eat.

5. [14:17] How did the disciples reply to Jesus?

They said that they had only five loaves of bread and two fish.

6. [14:17] Why do you think the disciples said this to Jesus?

It appears that they were telling Jesus they did not have enough food to give to so many people.

7. [14:19] What did Jesus do with the food?

He looked up to heaven, blessed the food, broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples.

8. [14:20] After the people all ate, how much food was left over?

Twelve baskets full of food were left over.

9. [14:21] How many people ate the food that Jesus provided?

About 5,000 men, plus women and children, ate the food.

Matthew 14:13-21 continued

10. [14:15-21] What do you think was Jesus' reason for feeding the crowd?

(Answer may vary.) He had compassion for the crowd. Perhaps he did this miracle to show them his glory and power. Perhaps he wanted them to think of how God provided for his people.

Comment Section:

Matthew 14:22-36

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus' disciples got into a boat and went out on the sea. [14:22]
- ☐ At night, Jesus walked on the water to his disciples. He told them not to be afraid. [14:25-27]
- ☐ Peter walked toward Jesus on the water, but he began to sink. Jesus saved him. [14:29-31]
- ☐ The wind stopped blowing. [14:32]
- ☐ The disciples worshiped Jesus. [14:33]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [14:23] What did Jesus do on the mountain?

He prayed.

2. [14:24] What happened while the disciples were in the boat?

The wind blew strongly against them, and the boat was tossed around by the waves.

3. [14:25] What unusual thing did Jesus do in verse 25?

Jesus walked to them on the water.

4. [14:26] Why do you think that the disciples thought that the person walking to them on the sea was a ghost?

(Answer may vary.) They probably thought this because people have bodies that cannot walk on the sea.

5. [14:28] What did Peter ask Jesus to do to show that it really was him walking on the water?

Peter asked Jesus to command him to go to him on the water.

6. [14:30] What happened when Peter was walking on the water, and he saw the wind?

Peter became afraid, and he began to sink.

7. [14:30] What did Peter do when he began to sink?

He cried out to the Lord to save him.

8. [14:31-32] How did Jesus save Peter?

Jesus grabbed Peter and they went into the boat.

9. [14:32] What happened when Jesus and Peter went into the boat?

The wind stopped blowing.

10. [14:33] How did the disciples respond?

They worshiped Jesus and acknowledged that Jesus is the Son of God.

Matthew 14:22-36 continued

11. [14:25-32] What events in this passage do you think showed the disciples that Jesus was the Son of God?

Jesus walked on the sea, Jesus enabled Peter to walk on the sea, and Jesus made the wind stop blowing.

12. [14:34-35] When the boat got to land, what did the men in that place do?

They sent messages to the surrounding area, and people brought sick people to Jesus.

13. [14:36] What do you think was the reason that people wanted to touch the edge of Jesus' garment?

They probably believed (had faith) that just touching Jesus' garment would heal them.

14. [14:36] How many of those who touched Jesus' garment were healed?

All people who touched it were healed.

Comment Section:

Mark 1:1-13

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The book began by stating that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. [1:1]
- ☐ John the Baptist would prepare the way for the Lord, as prophesied in the book of Isaiah. [1:2-3]
- ☐ John appeared in the wilderness, and he announced a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [1:4]
- ☐ John said that someone with more power would come after him, and that person would baptize with the Holy Spirit. [1:7-8]
- ☐ John baptized Jesus. When Jesus came up out of the water, the Spirit descended on him. A voice came from heaven and said, "You are my beloved Son. I am very pleased with you." [1:9-11]
- ☐ The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. [1:12-13]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:1] How did the Gospel of Mark begin?

The author wrote that this was the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2. [1:2] Isaiah wrote about a messenger. What would the messenger do?

The messenger would prepare someone's way.

3. [1:3] Where would the messenger cry out?

The messenger would cry out in the wilderness.

4. [1:3] What would the messenger tell people to do?

He would tell people to prepare the way of the Lord and to make the Lord's paths straight.

5. [1:4] What did John do in the wilderness?

John baptized people, and he preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

6. [1:5] Who came to John at the Jordan River?

People from the country of Judea and all Jerusalem went out to him.

7. [1:5] What did the people do when they were baptized by John?

The people confessed their sins.

8. [1:6] What did John wear and eat?

John wore a coat made of camel's hair and a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild honey.

Mark 1:1-13 continued

9. [1:7] What did John say about the one who would come after him?

John said that the one who would come after him was more powerful than himself. John said that he was not worthy to stoop down and untie that man's sandals.

10. [1:8] What did John say the one coming after him would do?

John said the one coming after him would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

11. [1:9] When he came to be baptized, from what place did Jesus come?

Jesus came there from Nazareth.

12. [1:10] What happened when Jesus was baptized by John?

Jesus came out of the water, the Spirit descended on him like a dove, and a voice spoke to him from heaven.

13. [1:11] What did the voice from heaven say about Jesus?

"You are my beloved Son. I am very pleased with you."

14. [1:11] Who was speaking?

The voice was God the Father.

15. [1:12] Where did the Spirit lead Jesus?

The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

16. [1:13] What happened in the wilderness?

Satan tempted Jesus for forty days. Jesus was also with the wild animals, and the angels ministered to him.

17. [1:1-13] How do you think the prophecy in verses 2 and 3 was fulfilled in this passage?

The passage indicates that John was the messenger who would tell people to prepare for the Lord's coming. It also indicates that Jesus is the Lord who was to come.

Comment Section:

Mark 2:1-12

Background: After Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days, he called his first disciples. He and his disciples went to Capernaum in Galilee, and Jesus taught people and performed miracles. Then they went to other places in Galilee, and Jesus preached and performed miracles in those places. In Mark 2:1, they came back to Capernaum.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Some men brought a paralyzed man to Jesus. [2:1-4]
- ☐ Jesus told the paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven. [2:5]
- ☐ Some scribes thought Jesus blasphemed when he said that. [2:6-7]
- ☐ Jesus told the man to get up, pick up his mat, and walk. [2:10-11]
- ☐ The man got up, picked up his mat and walked out, and the people praised God. [2:12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [2:1-2] What happened when the people heard that Jesus had returned to Capernaum?

So many people gathered at the house where Jesus was preaching that there was no more room in the house.

2. [2:3] What did the four men do in verse 3?

They carried a paralyzed man, trying to take him to Jesus.

3. [2:4] What did the four men do when they could not get into the house?

They climbed onto the roof of the house, they removed part of the roof, and they lowered the man into the house.

4. [2:5] What did Jesus say when he saw the faith of the four friends of the paralyzed man?

Jesus told the paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven.

5. [2:7] What did the scribes think when Jesus forgave the man's sins?

They thought that Jesus blasphemed God because only God could forgive sins.

6. [2:8-9] What did Jesus ask the scribes once he knew in his spirit what they were thinking?

He asked them if it was easier to say that the man's sins were forgiven or to tell him to take up his mat and walk.

7. [2:8-9] Do you think it was easier to say to the paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven or to tell him to take up his mat and walk?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it would be easier to say that his sins were forgiven, because no one can prove whether a person's sins were actually forgiven. Perhaps it was harder to tell a paralyzed man to take up his mat and walk, because people could immediately see whether the miracle actually happened.

Mark 2:1-12 continued

8. [2:10] What did Jesus call himself in verse 10?

Jesus called himself the Son of Man.

9. [2:10-11] What did Jesus say to the paralyzed man so that the people would know that he had authority on earth to forgive sins?

Jesus told the paralyzed man to take up his mat and go to his house.

10. [2:12] What did the paralyzed man do?

He got up, he took up his mat, and he went out of the house in front of everyone.

11. [2:12] What did the crowd do?

The crowd gave glory to God and said they had never seen anything like this.

12. [2:1-12] What do you think Jesus proved when he healed the man?

(Answer may vary.) By doing something the people thought was harder than saying the man was forgiven, Jesus proved to them that he had authority to forgive sins. Since God is the only one who can forgive sins and Jesus forgave the sins of the paralyzed man, Jesus' actions and words show that he is God.

Comment Section:

Mark 2:23-3:6

Background: The Sabbath was the last day of each week. In the Law of Moses, God commanded the Jews not to work on the Sabbath because it was holy.

In Mark 3:1 Jesus went into a synagogue. A synagogue was a place where Jewish people worshiped God.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus' disciples picked and ate some heads of grain on the Sabbath, and some Pharisees criticized them. [2:23-24]
- ☐ Jesus reminded the Pharisees about when David ate the bread that only the priests were allowed to eat. [2:25-26]
- ☐ Jesus taught them about the Sabbath. [2:27-28]
- ☐ One Sabbath, some people watched Jesus closely to see if he would heal a man that day. They wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking the law. [3:1-2]
- ☐ Jesus healed the man. [3:5]
- ☐ The Pharisees began to plot with Herodians about how they might kill Jesus. [3:6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [2:23] What did the disciples do when they walked through the grainfields on the Sabbath?

The disciples were hungry, so they picked heads of grain to eat.

2. [2:24] What did the Pharisees say to Jesus?

They told Jesus it was unlawful for the disciples to do what they were doing on the Sabbath.

3. [2:25-26] What did Jesus say that David did?

David and his men were hungry, so he went into the house of God. David and his men ate the bread of the presence, which only the priests were allowed to eat.

4. [2:27] What did Jesus tell the Pharisees about the Sabbath?

The Sabbath was made for mankind. Mankind was not made for the Sabbath.

5. [2:28] What authority did Jesus say he has?

Jesus said that he, the Son of Man, is Lord also of the Sabbath.

6. [2:27-28] What do you think Jesus meant in verse 27 when he spoke about the Sabbath and mankind?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Jesus wanted people to know that God created the Sabbath to be a benefit to people, not a burden.

7. [3:1] Who did Jesus see when he entered the synagogue?

Jesus saw a man with a withered hand.

Mark 2:23-3:6 continued

8. [3:2] Why were some people waiting to see what Jesus would do?

They wanted to see if he would heal the man so they could accuse him of breaking the law about the Sabbath.

9. [3:3] What did Jesus say to the man with the withered hand?

Jesus told the man to stand in the middle of everyone.

10. [3:4] What did Jesus say to the people who were watching?

Jesus asked them if it was lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill.

11. [3:4] Why do you think Jesus asked the people the question regarding the Sabbath?

Jesus wanted them to acknowledge that the obvious answer was this: It was lawful to do good and save a life on the Sabbath.

12. [3:5] Why was Jesus angry with the people and grieved about them?

Jesus was angry and grieved because their hearts were hard.

13. [3:5] What do you think it means to have a hard heart?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it means to be stubborn and to refuse to agree with the truth. Perhaps it means to be without compassion.

14. [3:5] What did Jesus tell the man with the withered hand, and then what happened?

Jesus told the man to stretch out his hand. When the man stretched out his hand, it was restored.

15. [3:6] What did the Pharisees do after Jesus healed the man?

The Pharisees plotted with the Herodians how they could kill Jesus.

16. [3:6] Why do you think the Pharisees wanted to kill Jesus?

(Answer may vary.) The passage shows that the Pharisees thought Jesus disobeyed the law about the Sabbath by healing the man. The Pharisees may have also been angry because Jesus challenged their authority in front of the crowd.

Comment Section:

Mark 9:2-13

Background: In Mark chapter 8, Jesus asked his disciples if they knew who he was. Peter said Jesus was the Christ. Jesus told them not to tell anyone about him, and he taught them that he would have to suffer and be killed and that he would rise up after three days. In Mark 9:1, Jesus told his disciples that some of those with him would see the kingdom of God come with power before they died.

In this passage, two famous men from the Old Testament appear, even though they had lived and died long before this time. Elijah was an important prophet, and another prophet had said Elijah would return in the future. Moses was important because God gave the Law through him.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain where he was transfigured in front of them. [9:2]
- ☐ Elijah and Moses spoke with Jesus, and the disciples were terrified. [9:4-6]
- ☐ A voice from a cloud spoke to the disciples. [9:7]
- ☐ Jesus told the disciples not to tell anyone what had happened. [9:9]
- ☐ The disciples asked Jesus about Elijah, and he told them that Elijah had already come. [9:11-13]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [9:2-3] What happened to Jesus when Peter, James, and John went up a high mountain with him?

Jesus was transfigured, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them.

2. [9:4] Who appeared on the mountain with Jesus?

Elijah and Moses appeared with him.

3. [9:5-6] How did the disciples react when they saw Jesus changed, and Moses and Elijah with him?

The disciples were terrified. Peter did not know what to say, but he talked about making three shelters for them.

4. [9:7] What happened when a cloud came over them?

A voice came from the cloud that called Jesus his beloved Son and told them to listen to him.

5. [9:7] Who do you think spoke from the cloud?

It must be God the Father who spoke from the cloud, because the voice called Jesus his Son.

6. [9:8] What happened after the voice spoke to them from the cloud?

Suddenly, the disciples saw no one else but Jesus.

7. [9:9] What did Jesus say to Peter, James, and John as they came down from the mountain?

Jesus told them they must tell no one about what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mark 9:2-13 continued

8. [9:9] When Jesus spoke about the Son of Man, who do you think he was talking about?

The passage indicates that he was talking about himself.

9. [9:10] What did Peter, James, and John discuss among themselves?

They wondered about what rising from the dead could mean.

10. [9:12-13] What did Jesus say about Elijah's coming?

Jesus said that Elijah does come first to restore all things, and he said that Elijah had already come.

Comment Section:

Mark 12:35-40

Background: Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem, and Jesus was teaching the people. During this time many Jewish leaders come to test Jesus by asking him questions. Some of the Jewish leaders were called scribes. These were men who taught the law of Moses to the people.

This passage mentions David, an important king of Israel, who was Jesus' ancestor. Some of David's words were prophecies.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus asked why the scribes called Christ the Son of David. [12:35-37]
- ☐ Jesus quoted words that David had said about the Christ. [12:36]
- ☐ Jesus asked how Christ could be David's son. [12:37]
- ☐ Jesus told the people to beware of the scribes. [12:38-40]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [12:35] What did Jesus ask while he was teaching in the temple courts?

Jesus asked how the scribes could say that the Christ is the son of David.

2. [12:36-37] What did Jesus ask about David and the Christ?

If David called the Christ "Lord," Jesus asked, how could the Christ be David's son?

3. [12:37] How did the crowd respond to Jesus?

The crowd gladly listened to him.

4. [12:38-40] Why did Jesus tell the crowd that they should beware of the scribes?

The scribes liked to be honored for being scribes, but they robbed widows, and they made long prayers just so that other people would think they were righteous. The scribes would be condemned more than others.

5. [12:40] Why do you think these things would make the scribes be more condemned than others?

(Answer may vary.) Maybe they would be condemned more because they did these things while they were leaders.

Comment Section:

Mark 14:12-26

Background: Jesus and his disciples were about to celebrate the Passover meal. Passover was a Jewish holy day when the Jews remembered how God helped them to escape Egypt during the time of Moses. This was Jesus' last meal with his disciples before he was arrested.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The disciples prepared the Passover meal in a large upper room. [14:16]
- ☐ Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray him. [14:18]
- ☐ Jesus blessed the bread and the wine and said that the bread was his body, and the wine was the blood of the covenant. [14:22-25]
- ☐ After the Passover meal, Jesus and the disciples went to the Mount of Olives. [14:26]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [14:12-15] How did the disciples find the place where they would all eat the Passover?

Jesus told them to go into the city and follow a man carrying a pitcher of water. Then they must talk to the master of that man's house, saying Jesus wanted to know where the guest room was where he could eat the Passover with his disciples. The master would show them a room.

2. [14:16] What happened when the disciples obeyed Jesus?

The disciples found everything as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover.

3. [14:17-18] That night, when they were there at the table, what did Jesus say to the twelve disciples?

He said one of the disciples eating with him would betray him.

4. [14:19] What did the disciples say to Jesus?

Each one asked if he was the one who would betray Jesus.

5. [14:20] Who did Jesus say would betray him?

Jesus said that it was one of the twelve, the one who was dipping bread into the bowl with him.

6. [14:21] What did Jesus say about the one who would betray him?

Jesus said that it would have been better for him if he had not been born.

7. [14:22] What did Jesus do as they were eating?

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this. This is my body."

8. [14:23-24] What did he say after he had taken a cup and given thanks?

Jesus said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."

Mark 14:12-26 continued

9. [14:25] What did Jesus say about when he would drink the fruit of the vine again with his disciples?

He would not drink from the fruit of the vine until he would drink it in the kingdom of God.

10. [14:25] What do you think was in the cup that Jesus gave to his disciples?

Jesus called it the fruit of the vine. It was probably either wine or grape juice.

11. [14:26] What did Jesus and the disciples do after they sang a hymn?

They went out to the Mount of Olives.

Comment Section:

Mark 15:1-15

Background: The Jewish leaders arrested Jesus. They said that Jesus blasphemed against God and deserved to die. Verse 1 of this passage refers to a man named Pilate. Pilate was the Roman governor over Judea. He had the authority to judge people and condemn them to death.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The chief priests and the council handed Jesus over to Pilate. [15:1]
- ☐ Pilate asked Jesus about the accusations, but Jesus did not answer. [15:2-5]
- ☐ Pilate asked the crowd if they wanted him to release the King of the Jews to them. [15:9]
- ☐ The crowd told Pilate to release a criminal named Barabbas. [15:7-11]
- ☐ The crowd shouted that Jesus should be crucified. [15:13-14]
- ☐ Pilate released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to be crucified. [15:15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [15:1] What did the chief priests do in the morning?

They met with the elders, the scribes, and the whole council. Then they bound Jesus, and they handed him over to Pilate.

2. [15:2] What did Pilate ask Jesus?

Pilate asked Jesus if he was the King of the Jews.

3. [15:2] How did Jesus answer Pilate?

Jesus said that was what Pilate had said.

4. [15:3] What did the chief priests do while Jesus was standing before Pilate?

The chief priests accused Jesus of many things.

5. [15:5] What was Pilate's response when Jesus did not answer the charges from the Jews?

Pilate was amazed.

6. [15:5] Why do you think this amazed Pilate?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Pilate usually heard prisoners telling their accusers they were innocent or begging to be released.

7. [15:6] What did Pilate do for the Jews every year at the feast?

Pilate released one prisoner that the Jews requested.

8. [15:7] Who was Barabbas?

Barabbas was one of the prisoners who had committed murder during a rebellion.

Mark 15:1-15 continued

9. [15:8-9] What did the crowd ask Pilate to do, and what was his response?

The crowd asked Pilate to release a prisoner. Pilate asked them if he should release the King of the Jews.

10. [15:10] What did Pilate understand about the chief priests' reason for handing Jesus over to him?

Pilate understood that it was out of envy that the chief priests delivered Jesus to him.

11. [15:11] What did the chief priests get the crowd to do?

They got the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released instead of Jesus.

12. [15:12] What did Pilate ask the crowd then?

He asked what he should do with the man they called the king of the Jews.

13. [15:13] What did the crowd say should be done with Jesus?

They shouted that he should be crucified.

14. [15:14] What did the crowd do when Pilate asked what evil Jesus had done?

They shouted even more that he should be crucified.

15. [15:15] What did Pilate do?

Pilate released Barabbas to them. He also scourged Jesus, and he handed Jesus over to be crucified.

16. [15:15] What do you think it meant that Pilate scourged Jesus?

(Answer may vary.) It probably meant that Pilate ordered his soldiers to strike Jesus many times with a whip.

Comment Section:

Luke 17:11-19

Background: Leprosy was a terrible skin disease. People who had leprosy had to stay far away from other people so that others would not also get the disease. If a person thought he was cured of leprosy, he had to go show himself to a priest. If the person had been healed (cleansed) of the leprosy, the priest would approve him to go back to his community.

One of the men with leprosy in this passage was from Samaria, a land near to Israel. Samaritans were usually despised by Jews.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Ten men who had leprosy called out to Jesus and asked him to have mercy on them. [17:11-13]
- ☐ Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests, and as they went, they were healed. [17:14]
- ☐ One man came back to Jesus, glorifying God and thanking Jesus. [17:15-16]
- ☐ That man was a Samaritan. [17:16]
- ☐ Jesus told the man, "Go, your faith has made you whole." [17:19]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [17:11-12] What happened as Jesus was entering a village?

Ten men who had leprosy met him.

2. [17:12] Where do you think the men were?

(Answer may vary.) The passage says they stood far away from Jesus. They were probably outside of the village because they had leprosy.

3. [17:13] What did the ten men who had leprosy call Jesus?

They called him Master (as well as by his name, Jesus).

4. [17:13] Why do you think the men asked Jesus to have mercy on them?

They had probably heard that Jesus was a healer, and they wanted him to heal them.

5. [17:14] What did Jesus tell them?

He told them to go and show themselves to the priests.

6. [17:14] What happened to the men as they went?

They were cleansed (which meant they were healed).

7. [17:15] What did one of the men do?

He went back to Jesus and glorified God with a loud voice.

Luke 17:11-19 continued

8. [17:16] What did that man do when he returned to Jesus?

He bowed down with his face to the ground, and he thanked Jesus.

9. [17:17-18] Why do you think Jesus asked where the other nine were?

(Answer may vary.) He seemed to be pointing out that they did not give glory to God. Only the man who came back gave glory to God.

10. [17:16, 18] Why do you think Luke mentioned that the man was a Samaritan, and Jesus called the man a foreigner?

(Answer may vary.) Luke and Jesus were probably showing that it was not a Jew who praised God and thanked Jesus. The people listening to Jesus were likely to be surprised by this.

11. [17:19] What did Jesus say had healed the man?

The man's faith had healed him.

Comment Section:

Luke 18:9-14

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus told a parable to people who believed that they were better than others. [18:9]
- ☐ In Jesus' story, a Pharisee was very proud and boasted to God about himself. [18:11]
- ☐ A tax collector begged God for mercy because he was a sinner. [18:13]
- ☐ Jesus said that the tax collector, not the Pharisee, was justified. [18:14]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [18:9] Who did Jesus tell this parable to?

He told it to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and who despised other people.

2. [18:10] In Jesus' story, who were the two men who went up into the temple to pray?

A Pharisee and a tax collector went up into the temple to pray.

3. [18:11-12] What did the Pharisee say in his prayer?

He thanked God that he was not like people who were various kinds of sinners. Then he told God about how he fasted and tithed.

4. [18:11-12] What do you think this shows about the Pharisee's opinion about his own righteousness compared to other people?

(Answer may vary.) This seems to show that the Pharisee thought that he was more righteous than other people.

5. [18:13] What did the tax collector pray?

He prayed to God to be merciful to him. He called himself a sinner.

6. [18:13] How did the tax collector show that he was ashamed of his sin?

He stood at a distance, he beat his breast, and he would not look up toward heaven.

7. [18:14] Which man went back to his house justified before God?

The tax collector went back to his house justified before God.

8. [18:14] How did Jesus summarize the lesson of this parable?

Jesus said that everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.

Comment Section:

Luke 19:28-48

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus told 2 of the disciples where to get a colt that had never been ridden, and he told them what to say to obtain it. [19:28-34]
- ☐ Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt. [19:35-36]
- ☐ The people were joyful, and they praised Jesus as he rode into town, but some religious leaders wanted them to stop. [19:37-40]
- ☐ Jesus cried because the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed because of the people's unbelief. [19:41-44]
- ☐ Jesus went to the temple and made the people who were selling things there leave. [19:45-46]
- ☐ The religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus, but they couldn't do it because of the people. [19:47-48]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [19:28] Where was Jesus going?

Jesus was going to Jerusalem.

2. [19:30] What did Jesus tell two of his disciples to bring him?

He told them to bring him a colt that had never been ridden. They were told to untie it and bring it to him.

3. [19:31] What did Jesus want them to say to anyone who asked why they were untying the colt?

He wanted them to say that the Lord needed it.

4. [19:33] Who asked why they were untying the colt?

The colt's owners asked.

5. [19:35] What did the disciples do with the colt?

They brought it to Jesus, put their cloaks on it, and set Jesus on it.

6. [19:36] Why do you think people spread their cloaks out on the road?

(Answer may vary.) It was probably a way to honor Jesus.

7. [19:37] Why was the crowd of disciples praising God?

They were praising him for the mighty works they had seen.

8. [19:37] What mighty works do you think they had seen?

They were probably speaking about the miracles they had seen Jesus do.

Luke 19:28-48 continued

9. [19:38] What did the crowd cry out as Jesus descended the Mount of Olives?

They cried out to bless the King who came in the name of the Lord. They also cried out about peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

10. [19:38] Why do you think the people said this?

(Answer may vary.) They seem to have said it because they believed Jesus was that King, or that he was not just an ordinary man.

11. [19:39] What did some of the Pharisees want Jesus to do?

They wanted him to rebuke his disciples.

12. [19:40] What did Jesus say would happen if the people were silent?

He said that the stones would cry out.

13. [19:40] What do you think Jesus meant when he said that the stones would cry out if the people were silent?

(Answer may vary.) He probably meant that it was right for the people to be so joyful, to praise God, and to proclaim that Jesus was the king. It was so important that it had to be done.

14. [19:41-42] What did Jesus do as he drew near to the city?

Jesus wept because he knew what was going to happen.

15. [19:42] What did Jesus wish the people of Jerusalem had known?

He wished that they had known what would bring them peace.

16. [19:42] What else did Jesus say in verse 42?

The things that would bring the people peace were now hidden from their eyes.

17. [19:42] What do you think Jesus meant when he said the things that would bring them peace were now hidden from their eyes?

(Answer may vary.) He may have meant that they were blind to recognizing him as the Messiah (or Prince of Peace) that they had been waiting for. Or maybe he meant that they were blind to understanding that believing in him would bring them peace.

18. [19:43] What would Jerusalem's enemies do to them?

They would build a barricade around Jerusalem, they would surround them from every side, and they would close in on them.

19. [19:43] What problem do you think this would cause for the people of Jerusalem?

(Answer may vary.) It sounds like the people of Jerusalem would not be able to get away from the city and run away from their enemies.

20. [19:44] What did Jesus say the enemies would do to the people and the city?

The enemies would kill them and their children. They would not leave one stone on top of another stone.

21. [19:44] What do you think it means not to leave one stone on top of another stone?

(Answer may vary.) This seems to mean that they would completely break down the walls in the city.

Luke 19:28-48 continued

22. [19:44] Why would all these things happen to the people of Jerusalem?

These things would happen because they did not recognize the time of their visitation.

23. [19:44] What do you think the time of their visitation means?

(Answer may vary.) It seems to mean the time when God the Son (Jesus) came to them.

24. [19:45] What did Jesus do after he said these things?

He went into the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things.

25. [19:46] What did Jesus say the temple was supposed to be?

He said it was supposed to be a house a prayer.

26. [19:46] What had these people made it into, instead?

They had made it into a den of robbers.

27. [19:46] Why do you think he said they had made it into a den of robbers?

He probably meant that the people were cheating those who bought from them.

28. [19:47] How often did Jesus teach in the temple at this time?

He was teaching there every day.

29. [19:47] What did the priests and other leaders want to do to him?

They wanted to destroy him.

30. [19:48] Why could they not do this?

They could not do this because the people were listening closely to all Jesus said.

31. [19:48] Why do you think this stopped the priests and other leaders from destroying Jesus?

(Answer may vary.) It probably stopped them because they were afraid of what the people would think about them or do to them for destroying a popular speaker that some believed was the Messiah.

Comment Section:

Luke 23:26-47

Background: The religious leaders took Jesus to the governor of Judea and accused Jesus of saying that he was a king. They demanded that Jesus be crucified, and the governor handed Jesus over to the soldiers to crucify him.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ They led Jesus away and made another man carry Jesus' cross. [23:26]
- ☐ A crowd followed Jesus, and Jesus spoke to those who were mourning. [23:27-31]
- ☐ The soldiers crucified Jesus and two criminals. [23:32-33]
- ☐ Jesus asked God to forgive the people that were crucifying him because they didn't know what they were doing. [23:34]
- ☐ People mocked Jesus. [23:35-39]
- ☐ One criminal hanging beside Jesus insulted Him. [23:39]
- ☐ The other criminal hanging on the other side asked for Jesus' mercy. Jesus answered him. [23:40-43]
- ☐ Jesus died. [23:44-46]
- ☐ The centurion realized that Jesus was a righteous man. [23:47]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [23:26] What did the soldiers make a man do?

They made him carry Jesus' cross and follow him.

2. [23:27] Who else followed Jesus?

A great crowd of the people followed him, and some women who were mourning and grieving for Jesus followed him.

3. [23:28] Who did Jesus say the women of Jerusalem should weep for instead of him?

They should weep for themselves and for their children.

4. [23:29] What did Jesus tell them that people would say at that time about women who did not have children and women who did not nurse babies?

People would say that those women were blessed.

5. [23:30] What did Jesus say people would tell the mountains to do?

People would tell the mountains to fall on them and cover them.

Luke 23:26-47 continued

6. [23:29-30] Why do you think people would say that barren women were blessed, and why would they tell the mountains to fall on them?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps they would say these things because such terrible things would happen in those times that they would not want to see their children suffer, and they themselves would want to die.

7. [23:32] Who was led away with Jesus to be put to death?

Two criminals were led away with Jesus.

8. [23:33] What did the soldiers do at the place called the Skull?

They crucified Jesus and the two criminals.

9. [23:34] What did Jesus pray for those who were crucifying him?

Jesus asked God his Father to forgive the people, because they did not know what they were doing.

10. [23:34] What did the soldiers do with Jesus' clothes?

They gambled with each other to determine how to divide them up and take them for themselves.

11. [23:35] What did the rulers challenge Jesus to do?

They challenged him to save himself if he really was the Christ of God, the chosen one.

12. [23:36-37] What did the soldiers say when they offered him vinegar?

They told Jesus to save himself if he was the king of the Jews.

13. [23:38] What was written on a sign over Jesus?

It said Jesus was the King of the Jews.

14. [23:39] What did one of the criminals tell Jesus to do, to prove he was the Christ?

He told Jesus to save himself and the two criminals.

15. [23:39] What do you think that criminal believed about Jesus being the Christ?

He did not appear to believe that Jesus was the Christ. He was just insulting Jesus.

16. [23:40] What did the other criminal ask the first criminal?

The second criminal asked the first criminal if he did not fear God, even when he had been condemned the same way.

17. [23:41] Why did the second criminal say that he and the first criminal were there justly?

He said this because they were receiving what they deserved.

18. [23:41] What did the second criminal say about Jesus?

He said that Jesus had done nothing wrong.

19. [23:42] What did the second criminal say to Jesus?

The second criminal asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus arrived in his kingdom.

Luke 23:26-47 continued

20. [23:43] What promise did Jesus make to the second criminal?

Jesus told the second criminal that he would be with Jesus in paradise that day.

21. [23:44-45] What miraculous events happened that day?

Darkness came over the land, and the curtain of the temple was split down the middle.

22. [23:44-45] What time of day did these things happen?

These things happened from around the sixth hour to the ninth hour. (That meant from around noon time until 3 in the afternoon.)

23. [23:46] What did Jesus cry out just before he died?

Jesus cried out that he was committing his spirit into the hands of God his Father.

24. [23:47] What did the centurion say about Jesus?

The centurion said that Jesus was surely a righteous man.

Comment Section:

Luke 24:36-53

Background: Jesus died on the day before the Sabbath. On the day after the Sabbath, God raised him to life. That day, two of Jesus' disciples were walking along a road. Jesus approached them and walked with them. Jesus taught them. When they sat down to eat, Jesus served them some bread. Then they realized who Jesus was, and he suddenly vanished. The two men went back to Jerusalem, found the eleven disciples, and told them what had happened.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ When Jesus appeared to the disciples, they were afraid and thought they were seeing a spirit. [24:36-37]
- ☐ Jesus showed them proof that it was really him. [24:38-43]
- ☐ Jesus opened the minds of the disciples so that they could understand the scriptures. [24:44-45]
- ☐ Jesus came to fulfill the scripture by his death on the cross and by rising on the third day. [24:46-47]
- ☐ Jesus told the disciples that he was sending them what the Father had promised. [24:49]
- ☐ Jesus blessed them as he was carried up into heaven. [24:50-51]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [24:36] What did Jesus say first when he appeared to the disciples in Jerusalem?

He told them that peace would be with them.

2. [24:37] Why were the disciples terrified?

They were afraid because they thought they were seeing a spirit.

3. [24:39-40] How did Jesus prove that he was not just a spirit?

He invited the disciples to touch him, and he showed them his hands and feet.

4. [24:39-43] How do you think Jesus is different from a spirit, as shown in this passage?

(Answer may vary.) Jesus' resurrected body can be touched. It has flesh and bones. In his resurrected body, Jesus is also able to eat.

5. [24:41] How did the disciples respond to Jesus?

They still could not believe it because they were so joyful and amazed.

6. [24:41] What did Jesus ask the disciples?

He asked if they had anything to eat.

7. [24:42-43] What did they give him?

They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it in their presence.

Luke 24:36-53 continued

8. [24:41-43] Why do you think Jesus asked them for something to eat?

(Answer may vary.) He may have wanted to eat something in order to show them that he really was raised from the dead and that he was not just a spirit.

9. [24:44] What did Jesus say he had told his disciples when he was with them before?

He had told them that everything that was written about him in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.

10. [24:45] How were the disciples then able to understand the scriptures?

Jesus opened their minds so that they would understand. (This meant that he enabled them to understand the scriptures.)

11. [24:46] What did Jesus say was written in the scriptures?

The scriptures said the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead on the third day.

12. [24:47] What did Jesus say should be preached in his name to all the nations?

Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached to all the nations.

13. [24:48] What do you think were the things that the disciples were witnesses of?

(Answer may vary.) From the rest of the book, it is evident that they were witnesses of Jesus' life, his teaching, his miracles, his death, his resurrection, and the fact that he fulfilled the scripture.

14. [24:49] How long did Jesus tell the disciples to wait in the city?

He told them to wait there until they were given power from above.

15. [24:50-51] What happened to Jesus as he blessed the disciples near Bethany?

He went up into heaven.

16. [24:52] How did his disciples respond?

They worshiped Jesus, and they returned to Jerusalem with joy.

17. [24:53] Where did the disciples then spend their time, and what did they do?

They were continually in the temple, blessing God.

Comment Section:

John 1:1-4

Background: John was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. He was with Jesus during his earthly ministry. He was an eyewitness to these events, and he wrote an account of what he saw Jesus do and what he heard Jesus say. This section was John's introduction to his Gospel.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ In the beginning of everything, the Word existed. [1:1]
- ☐ The Word was with God, and the Word was God. [1:2-3]
- ☐ All things were made through the Word. [1:3]
- ☐ In the Word was life. [1:4]
- ☐ The life was the light of men. [1:4]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:1-4] Who is this passage about?

It is about the one who is called "the Word."

2. [1:1] What did John say about the Word in relation to God?

The Word was with God. The Word was God.

3. [1:2] When was the Word with God, according to verse 2?

He was with God in the beginning.

4. [1:3] How did God make all things?

God made all things through him (that is, the Word).

5. [1:3] What things were made in some other way?

Nothing was made in another way. All things that were made were made through him (the Word).

6. [1:4] What does this say about the Word and life?

Life was in the Word. Verse 4 also says that the life was the light of men.

7. [1:4] What do you think it means to be the light of men?

(Answer may vary.) It probably means to be someone or something that gives people knowledge and understanding.

Comment Section:

John 1:14-18

Background: Many men had the name “John.” The man who wrote this book was named John. Starting in John 1:6, this writer wrote about another man named John. That man was a preacher who baptized people, so he was also called “John the Baptist.”

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The Word became flesh (which meant Jesus became a human being), and he lived among people. [1:14]
- ☐ The Word, as the only Son from the Father, has glory. [1:14]
- ☐ John the Baptist testified about the Word. [1:15]
- ☐ Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. [1:17]
- ☐ No one has seen God, but the one who is at the Father's side has made God known. [1:18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:14] What did the Word become and do?

The Word became flesh, and he lived among people.

2. [1:14] What do you think it means that the Word became flesh?

This indicates that the Word (Jesus, God the Son) became a human being.

3. [1:14] What did John say that he and the other eyewitnesses saw?

They saw the glory of the Word, the one and only Son.

4. [1:14] In verse 14, who do you think came from the Father?

This passage shows that the one who came from the Father is the only Son of God.

5. [1:15] According to John the Baptist, why was the Word greater than he was?

The Word was greater than John the Baptist because the Word was before him.

6. [1:17] What did God give through Moses?

God gave the law through Moses.

7. [1:14-17] John first wrote of "Jesus Christ" by name in verse 17. How do you think Jesus Christ relates to the information in verses 14-16?

(Answer may vary.) From these verses, Jesus Christ can be identified as the Word who became flesh, the one and only who came from the Father, the one that John the Baptist testified about, and the one from whom grace and truth came.

8. [1:18] Who made God the Father known to people?

The only Son of God, who is with the Father, made God the Father known.

John 1:14-18 continued

9. [1:14-18] Why do you think John called Jesus the Word in this passage?

(Answer may vary.) A person speaks words to express their thoughts. Perhaps John called Jesus "the Word" because God the Father fully expressed the truth of who he is, and the truth of how he cares for people, through Jesus the Son. Jesus made God the Father known to people in a way that no one else could.

10. **Now read verses 1 to 18 again.** In this passage, do you think that the writer (John) is saying that Jesus is God? Do you think John is saying that Jesus is God's Son? What in this passage makes you think John is saying one or both of these things?

Answers may vary, but might include:

- In verse 1, John says the Word was God. In the rest of the passage, John seems to indicate that the Word is Jesus.
- In verse 12, the Word gives everyone who believes in him the right to be children of God. That seems like something that only God could do.
- In verse 14, it speaks of the one coming from the Father and having glory. It also says he has grace and truth. These are all qualities of God, not of humans.
- In verse 18, there is someone called the only God who is also at the Father's side. It is clear that the Father means God. The one by God the Father's side—the one who is also called the only God—must be Jesus the Son.
- It also seems like "by the Father's side" in verse 14 would mean someone is in heaven with God.

Comment Section:

John 2:1-12

Background: In John chapter 1, John the Baptist announced that Jesus is the Son of God. Andrew, one of John's disciples, then told his brother Simon that Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus told a man named Philip to follow him, and Philip told Nathaniel that Jesus is the one that Moses and the prophets had written about. When Jesus spoke to Nathaniel, Nathaniel realized that Jesus is the Son of God, the King of Israel.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus, his mother, and his disciples were at a wedding. [2:1-2]
- ☐ Jesus' mother told him that there was no more wine. [2:3]
- ☐ Jesus turned the water into wine. [2:9]
- ☐ The head waiter said it was the best wine they had at the wedding. [2:10]
- ☐ This was Jesus' first miraculous sign, and the disciples believed in him. [2:11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [2:1] Where did the wedding take place?

It took place in Cana of Galilee.

2. [2:1-2] Who was invited to this wedding?

Jesus, his mother, and his disciples were invited guests at the wedding.

3. [2:3-4] What did Jesus say to his mother when she told him that there was no more wine?

He asked her why she was trying to involve him, and he told her his time had not come yet.

4. [2:5] What did Jesus' mother say to the servants?

She told them to do whatever Jesus told them to do.

5. [2:6-8] What did Jesus do?

He told the servants to fill the water pots with water and to take some of it to the head waiter.

6. [2:9-10] What did the head waiter do?

He tasted it, and then he called the bridegroom and commented on how good the wine was. It was better than what had been served at first.

7. [2:9] What happened to the water?

It became wine.

8. [2:11] In verse 11, why do you think John said what Jesus did was a sign?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps the miracle that Jesus did showed something about himself to people.

John 2:1-12 continued

9. [2:11] What do you think it meant that Jesus revealed his glory?

(Answer may vary.) It probably meant that Jesus showed that he is glorious. Perhaps it meant that he showed that he is God, because it is evident from this and other scripture that God is the one who is glorious. Perhaps it also meant that God gave him power to do miracles.

10. [2:11] What do you think it meant that the disciples believed in him?

(Answer may vary.) They probably believed that God had sent Jesus and had given him power. They probably believed that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah.

Comment Section:

John 14:16-17

Background: In the first part of John 14, Jesus told his disciples that he would be leaving them and going to the Father.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus said he would pray to the Father, and the Father would give them another Comforter, the Spirit of truth. [14:16-17]
- ☐ The world could not receive the Spirit, but the Spirit lived in the disciples and would be with them forever. [14:17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [14:16] What did Jesus say he would pray for?

He would pray for the Father to give them another Comforter.

2. [14:16] Who did Jesus say would be with them forever?

The Comforter would be with them forever.

3. [14:17] What other name did Jesus call the Comforter?

Jesus called him the Spirit of truth.

4. [14:17] From what Jesus said in verse 17, why did the disciples know the Spirit of truth?

They knew him because he lived with them and would be in them.

Comment Section:

John 15:1-8

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus told his disciples that he was the vine, his Father was the gardener, and they were the branches. [15:1, 5]
- ☐ The Father cuts off every branch that does not bear fruit, and he prunes the other branches so they will be more fruitful. [15:2]
- ☐ Just as branches cannot bear fruit unless they remain in the vine, the disciples could not bear fruit unless they remained in Jesus. [15:4-5]
- ☐ If disciples remained in Jesus and his words remained in them, they could ask what they wished and it would be done. [15:7]
- ☐ The Father was glorified when Jesus' disciples bore much fruit and so proved that they were Jesus' disciples. [15:8]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [15:1] What did Jesus say about the vine and the gardener?

Jesus said that he is the true vine, and his Father is the gardener.

2. [15:2] What did Jesus say that the Father does?

He removes every branch in Jesus that does not bear fruit, and he prunes the branches that produce fruit so that they will bear more fruit.

3. [15:3] In verse 3, what did Jesus tell the disciples they were?

They were already clean because of the message that Jesus spoke to them.

4. [15:4] Why did Jesus tell the disciples to remain in him?

Just like a branch cannot bear fruit unless it remains in the vine, so the disciples could not bear fruit unless they remained in Jesus.

5. [15:4, 5, 7] What do you think it means to remain in Jesus?

(Answer may vary.) It probably means to stay joined to Jesus spiritually by continuing to believe in him, to love him, and to obey him.

6. [15:2-4] What do you think it means for a person to bear fruit?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it means that a person matures spiritually and does the things that please God.

7. [15:5] What did Jesus tell the disciples they could do without him?

Without Jesus, the disciples could not do anything.

8. [15:6] What were those who do not remain in Jesus compared to?

They were compared to a branch that no longer remained attached to the vine.

John 15:1-8 continued

9. [15:6] What happened to those that did not remain in Jesus?

They were thrown away and dried up like branches that were gathered up and thrown into the fire and burned.

10. [15:7] What did Jesus say about the prayers of those who remained in him?

If Jesus' words remained in them, they could ask what they wanted, and it would be done for them.

11. [15:7] What do you think it means for Jesus Christ's words to remain in a person?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it means that the person remembers, believes, and obeys what Jesus said.

12. [15:8] According to what Jesus said in verse 8, how was the Father glorified?

The Father was glorified when they bore much fruit and thus proved they were truly Jesus' disciples.

Comment Section:

Acts 1:1-11

Background: Luke wrote an account of Jesus' life and sent it to Theophilus. That account is called "The Gospel of Luke" or simply "Luke." Luke also wrote this book, called "Acts," to Theophilus.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Luke's first account was about all that Jesus did and taught. [1:1]
- ☐ After Jesus suffered, he presented himself alive to his apostles and taught them about the kingdom of God. [1:3]
- ☐ Jesus told his apostles to wait in Jerusalem for what God had promised. [1:4]
- ☐ Jesus said that they would receive power and be his witnesses, once the Holy Spirit had come upon them. [1:5-8]
- ☐ Jesus was raised up and a cloud hid him, and two men in white clothing suddenly appeared. They said Jesus would return. [1:9-11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:1] From what you see in verse 1, who do you think this book was written to?

This passage indicates that it was written to Theophilus, because that is the person Luke is addressing in verse 1.

2. [1:1-2] What did the author tell Theophilus his first book was about?

The first book was about all that Jesus did and taught while he was on earth.

3. [1:2] What did Jesus do just before he was taken up?

He gave his apostles commands through the Holy Spirit.

4. [1:3] How long did Jesus appear to the apostles, from what you see in verse 3?

He appeared to them for forty days.

5. [1:3] What did Jesus speak of during the forty days he was with his apostles?

He spoke about the kingdom of God.

6. [1:4] What did Jesus command the apostles to do in verse 4?

He commanded them to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the promise from the Father.

7. [1:5] What did Jesus tell the apostles about baptism in verse 5?

He said that John baptized with water, but they would soon be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

8. [1:6-7] What question did the apostles ask Jesus about the kingdom, and what was Jesus' answer?

The apostles asked if it was time for Jesus to restore the kingdom to Israel, but Jesus said it was not for them to know what time the Father had chosen for this to happen.

Acts 1:1-11 continued

9. [1:8] In verse 8, what did Jesus tell the apostles would happen to them when the Holy Spirit came upon them?

They would receive power.

10. [1:8] Where did Jesus tell the apostles they would be His witnesses?

Jesus told them they would be his witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

11. [1:9] In verse 9, what did the apostles see happen to Jesus?

He was lifted up (into heaven) and hidden in a cloud.

12. [1:10-11] Why do you think the disciples kept looking up into heaven after Jesus was lifted up?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps they were sad that Jesus had gone away. Perhaps they were unsure what to do next.

13. [1:10-11] What did the two men in white tell the apostles?

Jesus would return in the same way he was taken up into heaven.

Comment Section:

Acts 2:1-13

Background: The events of this passage happened during the day of Pentecost. The day of Pentecost was part of a Jewish celebration that happened 50 days after each Passover, and many Jews came to Jerusalem for it.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The disciples were all together on the day of Pentecost. [2:1]
- ☐ There was a sound like the rushing wind in the house, and they saw what looked like tongues of fire resting on them. [2:2-3]
- ☐ The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. [2:4]
- ☐ Jews from all over the world were in Jerusalem at that time, and they were amazed that each of them could hear people speaking in their languages. [2:5-12]
- ☐ Some people mocked the disciples and said they had drunk too much wine. [2:13]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [2:1] Where were the disciples on the day of Pentecost?

They were all in one place together in Jerusalem.

2. [2:2-3] What did the disciples hear and see?

They heard the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and they saw what looked like tongues of fire resting on each of them.

3. [2:4] What happened to the disciples?

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages.

4. [2:5] Who was in Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost?

Godly Jews from every nation were in Jerusalem.

5. [2:6] What did the Jews from other nations hear?

The Jews from other nations heard in their own languages what the disciples were saying.

6. [2:7, 8, 12] What did the Jews from other nations ask?

They asked how these men from Galilee could speak in languages of different nations, and what this could mean.

7. [2:11] What did the Jews from other nations hear the disciples speaking about?

They heard the disciples speaking about God's mighty works.

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Acts 2:1-13 continued

8. [2:12] Why do you think the people were amazed and confused?

The disciples who did not know their languages were somehow communicating with them in their languages. The people knew this was not natural.

9. [2:13] What did the mockers say about the disciples?

They said that the disciples had drunk too much wine.

Comment Section:

Acts 3:11-16

Background: In Acts 3:1-10, Peter and John went to the temple and saw a man who was lame and who was asking for money. Peter healed the man in Jesus' name, and immediately the man stood and started walking around.

Three men mentioned in this passage—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—were famous ancestors of the Jewish people. As the gospel writers showed, Pilate was the governor of Judea at the time of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ People ran to Peter, John, and the healed man, and they marveled at what had happened. [3:11]
- ☐ Peter told the people of Israel that their God had sent Jesus, but they had rejected Jesus and had him killed. [3:11-15]
- ☐ Peter told them that God had raised Jesus from the dead. [3:15]
- ☐ Peter told them that the lame man was healed by faith in Jesus' name. [3:16]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [3:11] What happened when Peter, John, and the man who was healed entered Solomon's Portico at the temple?

They were surrounded by people who were amazed at the healing of the lame man.

2. [3:12] Based on what Peter said in verse 12, what do you think the people believed about the miracle?

They apparently thought that Peter and John healed the man by their own power.

3. [3:13] What did Peter say that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had done?

Peter said that God had glorified his servant Jesus.

4. [3:13] What had the people of Israel done to Jesus?

They had handed him over to be killed, and they had rejected him in front of Pilate.

5. [3:13-14] How was Jesus rejected in front of Pilate?

Pilate was going to set Jesus free, but the people chose a murderer to be released instead.

6. [3:14-15] What did Peter call Jesus?

He called Jesus the Holy and Righteous One and the source of life.

7. [3:15] What had God done to Jesus?

God had raised Jesus from the dead.

8. [3:16] What did Peter say made the lame man strong?

Faith in Jesus' name made the man strong.

Acts 3:11-16 continued

9. [3:16] What did Peter say had given the man perfect health?

The faith that comes through Jesus gave the man perfect health.

Comment Section:

Acts 4:23-31

Background: In Acts 4:1-22, the Jewish religious leaders were annoyed that Peter and John were teaching that Jesus had been raised from the dead. So, they had a council meeting, and they put Peter and John on trial. The leaders could find no excuse to punish them, so they just commanded them not to teach in Jesus' name and let them go.

In this passage, the believers mention David. About one thousand years before Jesus came to earth, David was an important king of Israel. He wrote much of the book of Psalms in the Old Testament, and some of his words were prophecies.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ After Peter and John were released, they told the other believers what the chief priests and elders said to them. [4:23]
- ☐ The believers prayed. They quoted a scripture that said that people would oppose the Lord and his Christ. They acknowledged that what happened to Jesus was just what God had planned. [4:24-28]
- ☐ They prayed for the power to speak God's word boldly. [4:29-30]
- ☐ Then the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. [4:31]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [4:23] What did Peter and John do after they were released?

Peter and John went back to the other believers and told them what the chief priests and elders said to them.

2. [4:24] What did the gathering of believers do when Peter and John told them what had happened?

They prayed, lifting their voices to God.

3. [4:24] What did the believers say the Lord had made?

They said that he had made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

4. [4:25] Who did the believers quote in verse 25 as they prayed?

They quoted the Lord's servant David, who was their ancestor.

5. [4:25] What did David say about the Gentile nations?

The Gentile nations raged, and they plotted in vain against the Lord God and the Messiah.

6. [4:26] What did David say about the kings of the earth and the rulers?

They gathered together against the Lord and against his Christ (which means his Anointed One).

7. [4:27] In verse 27, who did the believers speak about as they prayed?

They spoke about Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel.

Acts 4:23-31 continued

8. [4:27] What did the believers say those people had done?

Those people had gathered against God's holy servant Jesus, whom God had anointed.

9. [4:28] Who had decided and planned what would happen to Jesus?

God had decided in advance what would happen.

10. [4:29-30] What did the believers ask the Lord to do?

They asked him to enable them to speak his word with boldness, and they asked him to heal people and to give signs and wonders through Jesus' name.

11. [4:31] What happened after the believers were done praying?

After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

12. [4:31] What did the believers do once they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

They spoke the word of God boldly.

Comment Section:

Acts 16:11-15

Background: Paul had a vision of a man in Macedonia saying that Paul should come to Macedonia and help them, so Paul and his companions planned to go there. Luke, the author of this book, was one of Paul's companions.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul and his companions went to Philippi in Macedonia. [16:11-12]
- ☐ They went to the river and spoke with the women there. [16:13]
- ☐ Lydia listened, and she and her household were baptized. [16:14-15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [16:11] What places did Paul and his companions sail to?

They sailed to Samothrace and Neapolis and then to Philippi.

2. [16:12] What does the passage say about the city of Philippi?

Philippi was a Roman colony, and it was the most important city in the district of Macedonia.

3. [16:13] What did Paul and his companions do?

They sat down and spoke with the women who had gathered by the river.

4. [16:13] What do you think the women had gathered to do?

(Answer may vary.) The text indicates that they had probably gathered to pray.

5. [16:14] Who did Paul meet at the river?

He met Lydia, a merchant and a worshiper of God.

6. [16:14-15] What did Lydia and the members of her household do?

After they responded to the gospel, they were baptized.

7. [16:15] What did Lydia persuade Paul and his companions to do?

She persuaded them to stay at her house.

Comment Section:

Romans 3:9-26

Background: In this section, Paul referred to “Jews and Greeks.” Often in the New Testament, the word “Greeks” is used to refer to Gentiles, that is, to people who were not Jews.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Both Jews and Greeks were under sin. [3:9]
- ☐ Scriptures say that no one is righteous, and they tell how terribly sinful people are. [3:10-18]
- ☐ No one will be justified by the law. Instead, the law reveals sin. [3:20]
- ☐ There is a righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. [3:21-26]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [3:9] Who did Paul say is under sin?

Both Jews and Greeks are under sin.

2. [3:9] How many people do you think this means are under sin?

Because anyone who is not a Jew was called a Greek in this passage, this means that all people are under sin.

3. [3:9] What do you think it means to be under sin?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it means to be controlled by sin and to be a sinner.

4. [3:10-11] What did Paul say was written concerning who is righteous?

Paul said it was written that no one is righteous. No one understands and no one seeks God.

5. [3:13] How are people's throats and mouths described?

People's throats are like open graves. Their tongues do not tell the truth. It is like snake poison is on their lips.

6. [3:15] What are people's feet quick to do?

Their feet are quick to shed blood.

7. [3:15] What do you think this means?

(Answer may vary.) This seems to mean that people are quick to hurt and kill other people.

8. [3:19] Who did the law speak to?

It spoke to those who were under the law.

9. [3:19] Why do you think mouths will be shut?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps because the law (the scriptures that Paul just quoted) says that no one is righteous, no one will be able to say, "I am righteous."

Romans 3:9-26 continued

10. [3:20] Who can be justified by the works of the law?

No flesh (no people) can be justified by the works of the law.

11. [3:20] What came through the law?

The knowledge of sin came through the law.

12. [3:21] What did the Law and the Prophets testify to?

They testified to the righteousness of God.

13. [3:22] How does the righteousness of God come to people?

It comes through faith in Christ Jesus to all who believe. There is no difference for this between Jews and Gentiles.

14. [3:23] What did Paul say about all people in verse 23?

All people have sinned and do not fulfill God's standard.

15. [3:24] Since all people have sinned, how can anyone be justified? That is, how can anyone be regarded as righteous?

People can be freely justified by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

16. [3:24] What do you think it means for a person to be freely justified by God's grace?

This and other passages indicate that it means that a person can be regarded by God as righteous even though he had not earned that righteousness. "By God's grace" means that God gave it freely.

17. [3:24] What do you think it means for Christ to redeem people?

This means that Christ paid the price to set people free from their bondage to sin.

18. [3:25] What did God do so that people could be redeemed?

God provided Christ Jesus to be an atoning sacrifice through faith in his blood.

19. [3:25] What do you think it means that Christ was an atoning sacrifice?

This and other passages show that it means that Christ died as a sin offering to meet God's demand for justice for people's sins.

20. [3:25-26] Why had God disregarded previous sins?

God did this because he is patient.

21. [3:26] Who does God justify?

He justifies anyone who has faith in Jesus.

Comment Section:

Romans 5:6-15

Background: In this section Paul mentioned Adam and Moses. The Old Testament book of Genesis told about them. Adam was the first person that God created. Adam was the first man to sin against God. Moses lived many years after Adam. He was a prophet, and God gave the law through Moses.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ God showed his love for people in that while they were still sinners, Christ died for them. [5:8]
- ☐ People are reconciled to God by the death of his Son, and they are saved by his life. [5:10]
- ☐ Sin came into the world through Adam, and sin led to death for all. [5:12]
- ☐ Because of Adam's sin many people died, but God's grace and Christ's gift overflowed even more to many people. [5:15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [5:6] Who did Christ die for?

He died for ungodly people.

2. [5:8] How did God prove his love for people?

Christ died for them even while they were still sinners.

3. [5:9] How are people made righteous?

People are made righteous by Christ's blood and his death on the cross.

4. [5:9] What will Christ save believers from?

He will save them from God's wrath.

5. [5:10] While people were God's enemies, what did he do for them?

God reconciled them to himself through his Son's death.

6. [5:10] What will happen to people who have been reconciled to God by Christ's death?

They will be saved by Christ's life.

7. [5:11] How have people changed who have been reconciled to God?

They rejoiced in God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

8. [5:12] How did sin enter into the world?

Sin entered the world through one man.

9. [5:12] What do you think it means that sin entered the world through one man?

(Answer may vary.) This seems to mean that the first man, Adam, was the first person in the world to sin.

Romans 5:6-15 continued

10. [5:12] Why did all people die?

All people died because they sinned.

11. [5:13] What was there no accounting for when there was no law?

There was no accounting for sin.

12. [5:14] From the time of Adam to Moses, who did death reign over?

It reigned over everyone.

13. [5:14] Why do you think death reigned even over people who did not sin in the same way that Adam did?

The text indicates that those people also sinned, even though they did not disobey the same command as Adam did.

14. [5:15] How was God's gift different from Adam's sin?

Adam's sin caused many to die, but the gift of Jesus Christ overflowed much more to many.

15. [5:15] How did that gift come?

It came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ.

Comment Section:

Romans 6:8-14

Background: Earlier in this chapter, Paul explained that people who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. They were united with Christ in a death like his.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Those who have died with Christ will live together with him. [6:8]
- ☐ Christ died to sin and lives to God. [6:10]
- ☐ Christians should consider themselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. [6:11]
- ☐ Christians must not let sin rule in their bodies. [6:12]
- ☐ Christians are not under law but under grace. [6:14]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [6:8] If people have died with Christ, what else will they do?

They will also live together with Christ.

2. [6:9] What did Paul say about Christ in verse 9?

Christ has been raised from the dead, so he cannot die again.

3. [6:10] How many times did Christ die to sin?

Christ died to sin just once.

4. [6:10] What do you think this means?

This indicates that the work is done. Jesus will never have to die to sin again.

5. [6:10] Who does Christ live to?

He lives to God.

6. [6:11] How should a believer think of himself with respect to sin?

A believer should think of himself as dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

7. [6:12] So, if a person is dead to sin, how should he live?

He should not let sin rule in his body so that he does not obey its strong desires.

8. [6:13] What do you think it means that a believer should not offer himself to sin but rather should offer himself to God?

(Answer may vary.) It probably means that a believer should present every part of himself to God as a tool for righteousness.

Romans 6:8-14 continued

9. [6:14] Why do you think that believers should not let sin rule over them?

(Answer may vary.) The text indicates that believers should not let sin rule over them because believers are not under law, but under grace.

Comment Section:

Romans 9:30-33

Background: In this section Paul quoted two passages from the prophet Isaiah.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, attained it by faith. [9:30]
- ☐ Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness by works and not by faith, did not attain it. [9:31-32]
- ☐ Israel stumbled over a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. [9:33]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [9:30] How did the Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, attain it?

The Gentiles attained it by faith.

2. [9:31] What did the people of Israel pursue?

They pursued the law in order to become righteous.

3. [9:32] Why did the law not make them righteous?

The law did not make them righteous because they pursued it by works and not by faith.

4. [9:32] Over what did the Israelites stumble?

The Israelites stumbled over the stumbling stone.

5. [9:33] When Paul writes about the stone of stumbling and the rock of offense, what do you think he means?

(Answer may vary.) From this verse, it seems clear that Jesus Christ is called the stone of stumbling, because those who believe in Jesus will not be ashamed. (See also Romans 10:9-11.) The rock of offense has a similar meaning. So this would mean that Jesus Christ was seen as an obstacle and an offense to the Israelites who wanted righteousness by works and not by faith.

6. [9:33] What happens to those who believe in the one called the stone of stumbling?

Those who believe in the one called the stone of stumbling will not be ashamed.

Comment Section:

Romans 10:9-15

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ If a person confesses that Jesus is Lord and believes God raised him from the dead, he will be saved. [10:9-13]
- ☐ In order for people to call on the name of the Lord, they first need to hear about the Lord. [10:14-15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [10:9] How did Paul say a person is saved?

A person is saved if he confesses with his mouth that Jesus is Lord and believes in his heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.

2. [10:9-10] How does a person become righteous?

A person becomes righteous by believing in Christ.

3. [10:11] What does the scripture say about the one who believes in Jesus Christ?

Everyone who believes in him will not be ashamed.

4. [10:12] Is there a distinction made between Jew and Greek? Why or why not?

No, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because Jesus is the Lord of all, and he is generous to all who call on him.

5. [10:13] According to verse 13, what must a person do to be saved?

A person must call upon the name of the Lord.

6. [10:13] What do you think it means to call on the name of the Lord?

(Answer may vary.) Here, it seems to mean acknowledging Jesus as the Lord, or perhaps asking the Lord for forgiveness and salvation.

7. [10:14] In verse 14, what does the first question say needs to happen for people to be able to call on the name of the Lord?

They first need to believe in the Lord.

8. [10:14] In verse 14, what does the second question say needs to happen for people to believe in the Lord?

They first need to hear about the Lord.

9. [10:14] In verse 14, what does the third question say needs to happen for people to hear about the Lord?

A preacher needs to go to them and preach about the Lord.

10. [10:15] What needs to happen in order for preachers to preach to them?

They need to be sent.

Romans 10:9-15 continued

11. [10:15] Paul quoted a sentence from the Old Testament. What did this sentence say?

It said that the feet of those who preach good news are beautiful.

12. [10:15] Why do you think someone might say the Old Testament words in verse 15?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps they would say that because they were very happy that someone came to tell them the good news. Or maybe this describes the way God views his messengers.

Comment Section:

Galatians 1:6-10

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul was amazed the Galatians were quickly believing a false gospel. [1:6-7]
- ☐ Some men were causing trouble and wanted to change the gospel of Christ. [1:7]
- ☐ Paul warned that anyone who proclaimed a gospel other than the one the Galatians had received would be cursed. [1:8-9]
- ☐ Paul said he was only seeking to please God. [1:10]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:6] Why was Paul amazed?

Paul was amazed because the Galatians quickly started to believe a different gospel.

2. [1:7] How many true gospels are there?

There is only one true gospel, the gospel of Christ.

3. [1:8] What did Paul say would happen to anyone proclaiming a different gospel than the gospel of Christ?

They would be cursed.

4. [1:9] Why do you think Paul repeated the curse on those who proclaimed a different Gospel?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Paul wanted to make sure the Galatians carefully considered this as a warning that needed to be taken seriously.

5. [1:10] Of whom must servants of God seek approval?

Servants of Christ must seek the approval of God.

Comment Section:

Galatians 2:6-10

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Those who seemed to be important added nothing to Paul's message to the Gentiles. [2:6-8]
- ☐ James, Cephas, and John went to the circumcised; they encouraged Paul and Barnabas to go to the Gentiles and remember the poor. [2:9-10]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [2:6] What did the leaders of the church in Jerusalem add to Paul's message?

They contributed nothing to Paul's message.

2. [2:7-8] To whom was Paul primarily sent to proclaim the gospel?

Paul was primarily sent to uncircumcised people, who were called Gentiles, to proclaim the gospel.

3. [2:9] How did the leaders in Jerusalem show their approval of Paul's ministry?

They gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and Paul to show their approval.

4. [2:9] What do you think they might have done to give the right hand of fellowship to someone?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it meant to clasp the right hand, or to put someone by their right-hand side, as a symbol of a person offering to be friends with someone. Perhaps it just meant to welcome them.

5. [2:10] What was the request James, Cephas, and John made to Paul and Barnabas?

Their request was for Paul and his companions to help the poor.

Comment Section:

Galatians 3:15-25

Background: In the Old Testament, God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham, one of the most famous ancestors of the Jewish people.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The law did not nullify the promise that God made many years before. [3:15, 17-18]
- ☐ The promises spoken were to Abraham and his descendant, who was Christ. [3:16]
- ☐ Because of transgressions, the law was added until the time when Christ would come. [3:19]
- ☐ Paul clarified that the law was never in conflict with God's promises to Abraham. [3:21]
- ☐ The law showed everyone to be imprisoned under sin until the promise of faith in Jesus Christ. [3:22]
- ☐ The law was like a guardian, but since Christ came, the guardian was no longer needed. [3:24-25]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [3:15] What was important about a man-made contract?

No one could set it aside or add to it once it was established by law.

2. [3:16] Who was the descendant that Paul spoke about in the promise to Abraham?

The descendant in the promise to Abraham was Christ.

3. [3:17] What did Paul say the law did not do?

The law did not void the promise made to Abraham.

4. [3:18] Did the inheritance come by law or by promise?

The inheritance came by a promise.

5. [3:19] Why was the law added?

The law was added because of transgressions until Abraham's descendant came.

6. [3:20] What did Paul say about God in verse 20?

Paul said that God is one.

7. [3:21] What reason did Paul give for saying that the law was not against the promise?

The law could not give life, so righteousness could not come from the law.

8. [3:22] Under what did the scripture say everything was imprisoned?

Scripture said everything was imprisoned under sin.

Galatians 3:15-25 continued

9. [3:21-22] What do you think it meant that the law imprisoned people under sin?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it meant that the law made people aware that they were sinners because they could not perfectly obey the law. Just like a person could not get out of prison, a person could not stop themselves from sinning.

10. [3:23] How were people released from the imprisonment of the law?

People were released from the imprisonment of the law by faith in Christ Jesus.

11. [3:24-25] What changed for believers since faith came?

Those who believed in Jesus no longer needed a guardian (that is, the law).

Comment Section:

Galatians 4:1-7

Background: Paul continues his argument from 3:23-29. You may need to read it again to help you understand this passage.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ When an heir was a child, he was controlled by guardians and managers. [4:1-2]
- ☐ Before Jesus came, people were like children and controlled by basic principles of the world. [4:3-4]
- ☐ God sent his Son to redeem those under the law. [4:5]
- ☐ God sent the Spirit of his Son into the hearts of the Galatian believers. [4:6]
- ☐ The Galatian believer was no longer a slave, but instead a son and also an heir through God. [4:7]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [4:1-2] How did the heir of an estate live while he was a child?

The heir lived under guardians and managers until the time set by his father.

2. [4:3] What did Paul say enslaved them when they were children?

They were enslaved to the basic elementary standards of the world.

3. [4:4] What did God do at the right time in history?

God, at the right time, sent forth his Son to redeem those under the law.

4. [4:5] How did God bring children who were under the law into his family?

God adopted them as sons.

5. [4:5] What do you think it meant to receive adoption as sons?

(Answer may vary.) Probably it meant that when people believed in Jesus, they belonged to God, and God treated them as if they were his children born into his family.

6. [4:6] What does God send forth into the hearts of his children?

God sends forth the Spirit of his Son into the hearts of his children.

7. [4:6] In verse 6, who is it that calls out to the Father (Abba)?

The Spirit in us enables us to call the Father.

8. [4:7] Paul said if a person was no longer a slave but a son, then what else was he?

He was an heir through God.

Comment Section:

Galatians 5:7-15

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul said whoever was troubling the Galatians would be punished. [5:7-10, 12]
- ☐ Paul said he was being persecuted because he no longer taught people that they should be circumcised. [5:11]
- ☐ The Galatians were told not to use freedom as an opportunity for the sinful nature, but rather they should love and serve one another. [5:13]
- ☐ The entire law was fulfilled in the command for believers to love their neighbor as themselves. [5:14]
- ☐ Paul warned that if they harmed one another, they might destroy their community. [5:15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [5:7] What did Paul ask the believers, after saying they were running so well?

Paul asked who prevented them from obeying the truth.

2. [5:9] What did Paul say about yeast?

Paul said that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough.

3. [5:9] What do you think Paul meant when he spoke about yeast?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Paul meant that a few people speaking false words could affect a believer's mind and heart, just as yeast affects a lump of dough.

4. [5:10] What did Paul say about the one who was troubling the Galatians?

Paul said that one would suffer the judgment.

5. [5:11] What would be the result if Paul was still proclaiming circumcision?

It would remove the offensiveness of the cross.

6. [5:13] What instruction did Paul give believers about their freedom in Christ?

Believers should not use their freedom in Christ as an opportunity for the flesh (that is, to sin).

7. [5:13] How should believers use their freedom in Christ?

Believers should use their freedom in Christ to serve one another in love.

8. [5:14] The whole law was fulfilled in what one commandment?

The whole law was fulfilled in the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself.

9. [5:15] What warning did Paul give the Galatians?

Paul said that if the believers would bite and devour each other, they might consume each other.

Galatians 5:7-15 continued

10. [5:15] What do you think Paul meant by saying the believers might consume each other?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps if the believers harmed and fought with one another, then they could ruin the church.

Comment Section:

Galatians 6:1-10

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul encouraged the Galatians to carry each other's burdens and correct those doing wrong. [6:1-2]
- ☐ Paul told the Galatians they should not consider themselves to be overly important, but they should examine their own works carefully. [6:3-5]
- ☐ Paul said they should share good things with the one who taught them the gospel. [6:6]
- ☐ Paul talked about people reaping what they sow. [6:7-8]
- ☐ Christians should not become weary of doing good to all people, especially to other Christians. [6:9-10]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [6:1] What should those who were spiritual do if someone was caught doing something sinful?

Those who were spiritual should restore that person in a spirit of gentleness.

2. [6:1] What danger must those who were spiritual watch out for?

Those who were spiritual must watch out so that they would not also be tempted.

3. [6:2] How did believers fulfill the law of Christ?

Believers fulfilled the law of Christ by carrying one another's burdens.

4. [6:3] What is a way a person deceives himself?

A person deceives himself if he thinks of himself as being something when he is nothing.

5. [6:4] What was the result of a person examining his own work?

His reason to boast would be in himself alone and not in someone else.

6. [6:6] What should one who was taught the word do for his teacher?

One who was taught the word should share all good things with his teacher.

7. [6:7] Why did Paul tell the believers not to be deceived?

God cannot be humiliated. Whatever a man plants is what he reaps.

8. [6:8] What does a person harvest who plants to please his own flesh?

A person who plants to please his own flesh harvests destruction.

9. [6:8] What does a person harvest who plants to please the Spirit?

A person who plants to please the Spirit harvests eternal life from the Spirit.

Galatians 6:1-10 continued

10. [6:7-8] What do you think Paul meant when he wrote about planting and harvesting in verses 7 and 8?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Paul was talking about a person's actions and the consequences. Perhaps just like a person received a crop based on what kind of seed he planted, so too a person received a consequence based on his actions.

11. [6:9] If a believer does not give up and continues to do good, what will he receive?

A believer who continues to do good will reap a harvest.

12. [6:10] To whom should believers especially do good?

Believers should especially do good to other believers, or other Christians.

Comment Section:

Ephesians 1:3-14

Background: Throughout this letter to the Ephesians, Paul talked about “us” and “you.” Although what Paul said in this letter applies to God’s plan for all Christians, Paul speaks about it as what already happened for himself and for the Ephesian Christians.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul praised God for the good things God had done for those he had chosen in Christ. [1:3-6]
- ☐ Believers have been redeemed and forgiven through Christ’s blood. [1:7-8]
- ☐ God has blessed his people by revealing his plan to unite all things through the work of Christ. [1:9-10]
- ☐ Paul praised God because God has made his adopted children his heirs. [1:11-12]
- ☐ In Christ believers have been sealed by the Holy Spirit to guarantee their salvation. [1:13-14]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:3] How did God the Father bless Paul and the Ephesians?

He blessed them with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

2. [1:4] When did God the Father choose them in Christ?

He chose them in Christ before the creation of the world.

3. [1:4] For what purpose did God the Father choose them?

He chose them so that they could be holy and blameless in his sight.

4. [1:5-6] Why did God predestine them in advance for adoption?

He predestined them in advance because he was pleased to do it. This leads to praise of God’s glorious grace.

5. [1:7] What did they receive through the blood of Christ?

They received redemption, the forgiveness of sins, through the blood of Christ.

6. [1:8] How did Christ multiply his grace to them?

He multiplied his grace with wisdom and understanding.

7. [1:9] What did God make known to all of them in Jesus Christ?

God made known the mystery of his will according to what pleased him, which was shown in Christ.

8. [1:9] What do you think Paul meant when he wrote about the mystery of God's will?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps this referred to something unknown or difficult to understand but that God explained through Christ to his people.

Ephesians 1:3-14 continued

9. [1:10] What did Paul say would happen at the fulness of time?

God would bring together everything in heaven and on the earth under Christ.

10. [1:11] What did Paul say they were given in Christ?

They were given an inheritance.

11. [1:12] Why did God appoint them as heirs?

God appointed them as heirs so they would praise God in a way that would bring him glory.

12. [1:13] What seal did the Ephesians receive when they heard the word of truth?

They received the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

13. [1:14] What is the Holy Spirit given to believers to guarantee?

Being given the Holy Spirit is a guarantee that believers will inherit all that God promised.

Comment Section:

Colossians 1:1-12

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul greeted all the Christians in Colossae and said he thanked God for them. [1:1-3]
- ☐ Paul heard about their faith and love, which they had because Epaphras taught them the gospel. [1:4-8]
- ☐ Paul prayed that God would fill the Colossians with knowledge of his will, so that they would live in a way that pleased God. [1:9-10]
- ☐ Paul prayed that God would strengthen them, so they would be able to endure and have patience. [1:11]
- ☐ Paul prayed that they would be thankful to God because he made them able to share in his inheritance. [1:12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:1-2] What do verses 1 and 2 tell us about who wrote this letter and those he wrote it to?

The letter was from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, and Timothy, a brother in Christ. It was sent to the believers in Colossae.

2. [1:1-3] Who do you think was the main author of the letter? How do you know?

(Answer may vary.) From the whole letter (especially the end of it), it is evident that Paul was the main author. Paul's name was also listed first, which is one of the ways the letter shows that he was the main author.

3. [1:1] Why do you think Paul mentioned Timothy?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Paul wrote Timothy's name here because the Colossians knew him, and he was with Paul at that time. Or perhaps Timothy also wrote down the words of the letter as Paul spoke them to him.

4. [1:4] What did Paul and Timothy hear about the Colossian believers?

They heard of the Colossians' faith in Jesus Christ and their love for his people.

5. [1:5] Why did the Colossian believers have faith and love?

They had faith and love because they had hope in the reward they would receive in heaven.

6. [1:6] What was the gospel doing?

The gospel was bearing fruit and growing throughout the world.

7. [1:6] What do you think it meant for the gospel to bear fruit?

It probably meant that more and more people heard and believed the gospel.

8. [1:7] How did the Colossians learn the gospel?

Epaphras preached the gospel to them.

Colossians 1:1-12 continued

9. [1:9-12] What was Paul's prayer for the church?

Paul prayed that they would:

- be filled with the knowledge of his (God's) will
- have all wisdom and spiritual understanding
- live in a way to please God
- bear fruit in every good work
- grow in the knowledge of God
- be strengthened with God's might
- have great endurance and patience
- joyfully give thanks to God

10. [1:12] For what reason did Paul want the Colossians to give thanks to God?

Paul wanted them to give thanks to God because he had given them the inheritance of God's holy people.

Comment Section:

Colossians 1:13-23

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul said that God rescued the Colossians from evil and brought them to his Son's kingdom. [1:13-14]
- ☐ The Son is the image of the invisible God. All things were created in him and for him, and he existed before all things. [1:15-17]
- ☐ The Son is the leader of the church, the first to be resurrected, and God's fullness lives in him. [1:18-19]
- ☐ God made peace with all things through the death of his Son. [1:20]
- ☐ Because of the Son's death, believers who continue in the faith are presented as holy and blameless. [1:21-23]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:13] What did God rescue Paul, Timothy, and the Colossian believers from?

He rescued them from the power of sin and evil.

2. [1:14] What does Paul say believers have because of the Son?

They have redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

3. [1:15] The Son is whose image?

The Son is the image of the invisible God.

4. [1:15-17] What is the Son's relationship with his creation?

The Son is the firstborn of all creation. He is before all things. All things were created in him, through him, and for him.

5. [1:18] What is the Son's relationship with the church?

He is the head of the body, which is the church.

6. [1:18] What do you think it means to be the head of the body, which is the church?

(Answer may vary.) It probably means that Jesus, God the Son, is the leader of the church.

7. [1:18] What else does verse 18 say about the Son?

It says that he is the firstborn from among the dead, and that he will have first place in everything.

8. [1:18] What do you think it means to be the firstborn from among the dead?

(Answer may vary.) This probably means that, as with everything else in this passage, Jesus has led the way in his resurrection.

9. [1:19-20] What pleased God?

God was pleased to have his fullness live in the Son and to make peace with all things through the Son's death.

Colossians 1:13-23 continued

10. [1:21] What relationship did the Colossians have with God before they believed the gospel?

Before believing the gospel, the Colossians were strangers from God and were his enemies.

11. [1:23] What must the Colossians continue to do?

The Colossians must continue in the faith. They must be established and firm in it. They must not move away from the hope of the gospel they heard.

Comment Section:

Colossians 2:6-15

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul told the Colossians to continue to live in Christ. [2:6]
- ☐ Paul told the Colossians not to let anyone deceive them. [2:8]
- ☐ All the fullness of God lives in Christ, and the Colossians have been fulfilled in Christ. [2:9-10]
- ☐ In Christ they were also spiritually circumcised, and they were buried with Christ in baptism. [2:11-12]
- ☐ They were raised up by believing in God's power, which made them alive with Christ. [2:12-13]
- ☐ God forgave all their sins and took away their debt through the cross. [2:13-14]
- ☐ Christ triumphed over the rulers and authorities by the cross. [2:15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [2:6] What did Paul tell the Colossians to do?

Paul told them to walk in Christ Jesus the Lord.

2. [2:7] What did Paul explain in verse 7 about what it meant to walk in Christ?

When they walked in Christ, they would:

- be rooted in him
- be built up in him
- be established in faith
- be very thankful

3. [2:8] What did Paul warn the Colossians about?

Paul warned them not to be captured through philosophy or empty deceit.

4. [2:8] Where did the philosophy and deceit Paul warned against come from?

They came from men's traditions and from the elemental spirits of the world.

5. [2:9] Who does the fullness of God live in?

The fullness of God lives in Christ.

6. [2:10-12] How were the Colossians changed by being in him?

They were:

- filled in Christ
- circumcised in Christ
- buried with Christ
- raised up with Christ from the dead

Colossians 2:6-15 continued

7. [2:10] How was Christ described in verse 10?

He was called the head of every ruler and authority.

8. [2:10] What do you think it meant to be filled in Christ?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it meant to have everything one needed for salvation because of Christ.

9. [2:11] What do you think a circumcision not done by hands was?

(Answer may vary.) It seems to mean a spiritual circumcision.

10. [2:12] How were the Colossians buried with Christ?

They were buried with Christ through baptism.

11. [2:12] How were the Colossians raised with Christ?

They were raised with Christ through faith in the power of God, who also raised Jesus from the dead.

12. [2:13] How did God help them when they were dead in their sin?

He made them alive with Christ and forgave all of their sins.

13. [2:14] What did God do to the written record of debt that was hostile to people?

He blotted it out. He took it away by nailing it to the cross.

14. [2:15] What did Christ do to the rulers and authorities?

He disarmed them and made a public spectacle of them by triumphing over them by the cross.

15. [2:15] Who do you think are the rulers and authorities that Christ triumphed over?

(Answer may vary.) In this passage, the rulers and authorities were probably the evil and malicious spirits who opposed everything and everyone that was of God.

Comment Section:

Colossians 3:1-17

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul told the believers to seek the things above rather than the things on earth, because their lives are now with Christ, who is in heaven with God. [3:1-4]
- ☐ Paul told them to put sinful practices to death because they had put on the new man. [3:5-10]
- ☐ Paul told them to love one another and to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. [3:11-17]
- ☐ Paul gave instructions to wives, husbands, children, fathers, slaves, and masters. [3:18-4:1]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [3:1] What did Paul say that those raised with Christ should seek?

Paul said that they should seek the things above.

2. [3:2] What do you think Paul meant when he said to think about the things above?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Paul meant that Christians should think about things that are important to God or heaven.

3. [3:3] In verse 3, what did Paul say has happened?

He said the believers have died, and their life is hidden with Christ in God.

4. [3:4] What will happen to Christians when Christ appears?

Christians will appear with Christ in glory.

5. [3:5] What things did Paul instruct believers to put to death?

Paul said believers should put to death sexual immorality, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, and greed.

6. [3:5] What do you think Paul meant when he said to put to death certain behaviors and attitudes?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he meant to stop doing those things and to stop having those attitudes.

7. [3:6] What did Paul say about the wrath of God?

He said that God's wrath is coming.

8. [3:8] What did Paul tell Christians to get rid of?

Paul told them to get rid of wrath, anger, evil intentions, slander, and obscene speech.

9. [3:9-10] Why should Christians not lie to each other?

Christians should not lie because they have taken off the old man and they have put on the new man.

10. [3:9-10] What do you think Paul meant when he said they had taken off the old man and put on the new man?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Paul meant that they had stopped living according to their old worldly ways and had started living how God intended Christians to live.

Colossians 3:1-17 continued

11. [3:10] What was happening to each Christian's new man?

It was being made new in knowledge according to the image of God.

12. [3:11] What do you think Paul meant by saying there was no Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Paul meant that God treats all Christians the same way. He does not treat one group differently from another.

13. [3:12] How did Paul describe the Colossian Christians in verse 12?

He described them as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.

14. [3:12] What instruction did Paul give Christians in verse 12?

Paul told them to put on a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

15. [3:13] What instructions did Paul give Christians in verse 13?

Paul instructed Christians to bear with one another, to be gracious, and to forgive each other in the same way that Christ forgave them.

16. [3:13] What do you think Paul meant by telling them to bear with one another?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he meant that Christians should be patient with one another, gracious, and forgiving.

17. [3:14] What did Paul tell them to have above everything else?

He told them to have love, which binds everything together perfectly.

18. [3:15] What do you think Paul meant when he told them to let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he meant that because Christ had given them peace with God, that peace should govern their attitudes toward one another.

19. [3:16] What did Paul said to do as they let Christ's word dwell richly in them?

He told them to teach and instruct each other wisely. He told them to sing to God with thankful hearts.

20. [3:17] How did Paul want Christians to live?

Paul wanted Christians to do everything, whether in their words or in their deeds, in the name of the Lord Jesus. Paul also wanted Christians to give thanks to God the Father through Jesus Christ.

Comment Section:

Colossians 4:2-6

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul told the Christians to continue to pray. [4:2]
- ☐ Paul asked them to pray that God would open a way for him and his co-workers to tell others about the mystery of Christ. [4:3-4]
- ☐ Paul told them to be wise toward outsiders and to let their words be gracious. [4:6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [4:2] What instruction did Paul give Christians in verse 2?

Paul told Christians to continue in prayer and thanksgiving.

2. [4:3-4] What did Paul ask the Colossians to pray for?

Paul asked them to pray that he and those he worked with would have an open door to go and speak about Christ. He asked them to pray that he would speak in a way that would make the mystery of Christ clear.

3. [4:5] How should Christians behave toward non-Christians?

Christians should be wise and use the time well.

4. [4:6] What did Paul say about how the Colossians should talk to people?

Paul said that people should speak with grace. He said their speech should be seasoned with salt.

5. [4:6] What do you think it means for words to be seasoned with salt?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it means that the words should be pleasant to hear, just as food with salt tasted good. Perhaps it means that the words should be wholesome (beneficial), just as food that was preserved with salt is wholesome.

Comment Section:

Hebrews 3:1-6

Background: The identity of the author of Hebrews is unknown. In this part of the Reviewers' Guide, the author will be referred to as "the author." This passage mentions Moses, who was famous for his faithfulness to God. In the Old Testament, God gave the Law through Moses.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Believers shared in a heavenly calling. [3:1]
- ☐ Jesus was faithful to God like Moses was, but Jesus is greater than Moses. [3:2-3]
- ☐ Moses was a servant of God's house, but Jesus is in charge over God's house. [3:4-6]
- ☐ Christians are God's house, if they continue to have courage and hope. [3:6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [3:1] What did the holy brothers share in verse 1?

The holy brothers shared a heavenly calling.

2. [3:1] Who do you think the author is addressing as brothers in verse 1?

(Answer may vary.) The author seems to be speaking to the believers he wrote to.

3. [3:1] What did the author of the book of Hebrews call Jesus?

The author called Jesus the apostle and high priest.

4. [3:2] What two people does verse 2 say were faithful to God?

Jesus and Moses were faithful to God.

5. [3:3] Why was Jesus considered worthy of greater glory than Moses?

Jesus was considered worthy of greater glory because Jesus is the one who built the house.

6. [3:4] Who built everything?

God built everything.

7. [3:5] What was Moses' role in God's house?

Moses was a faithful servant in God's house.

8. [3:5] About what did Moses bear witness?

Moses bore witness about the things that would be spoken of in the future.

9. [3:6] What do you think was Jesus' role in God's house?

(Answer may vary.) Scripture says that Jesus the Son is over God's house.

Hebrews 3:1-6 continued

10. [3:6] What did the author say about Christians and God's house?

Christians are considered to be God's house, if they continue to have courage and hope.

Comment Section:

Hebrews 4:12-16

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The word of God is like a two-edged sword. It can discern a person's thoughts and intentions. [4:12]
- ☐ God is able to see all things. [4:13]
- ☐ Jesus is a high priest who can sympathize with humans because he too was tempted, yet he did not sin. [4:14-15]
- ☐ Believers can approach the throne of God with confidence to receive mercy and grace. [4:16]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [4:12] To what did the author compare God's living and active word?

The author compared it to a sword that has two edges.

2. [4:12] What do you think the author meant by God's word?

By God's word, the author meant God's message as it is written in the Bible.

3. [4:12] What are some of the qualities shared between God's word and a sword?

Both are sharp. Both can be used powerfully to divide, cut, and separate things that are closely connected.

4. [4:12] What does the end of verse 12 say the word of God is able to do?

It can discern or judge a person's thoughts and intentions.

5. [4:13] What is hidden from God?

Nothing is hidden from God. God sees and knows everything clearly.

6. [4:14] In verse 14, how did the author describe Jesus?

The author described Jesus as a great high priest.

7. [4:14] Where did the author say Jesus has gone?

Jesus has passed through the heavens.

8. [4:14] Since Jesus is a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, what does verse 14 say that believers should do?

Believers should firmly hold to their confession (to what they believe).

9. [4:14] What do you think it means for someone to firmly hold to what they believe?

(Answer may vary.) This probably means that Christians should continue believing the true teachings about Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:12-16 continued

10. [4:15] How was Jesus similar to all believers? How was he different?

He was similar to all believers when he lived on earth in a human body, because he was tempted in the same way that all believers are tempted. He was different from believers because he never sinned.

11. [4:16] What did the author invite believers to do in verse 16?

The author encouraged believers to go with confidence to the throne of grace, so they would find mercy and grace in their time of need.

12. [4:16] What do you think it means to go to the throne of grace?

(Answer may vary.) Here the word “throne” seems to mean God himself. This verse then means that a person can pray confidently to God, who is gracious.

13. [4:16] What does verse 16 tell people about God?

He is gracious and merciful, and he helps believers when they need him.

Comment Section:

Hebrews 5:11-14

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Paul described the Christians as being immature in their understanding of God's message. [5:11-13]
- ☐ Only the mature Christians understood the difference between good and evil. [5:14]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [5:11] Why was it hard to explain things about Jesus to the people?

It was hard to explain things about Jesus because the people had not been hearing and understanding.

2. [5:12] Though at that time they should have been teachers, what did the author say about what the people still needed?

The people still needed to be taught the elementary principles of God's messages.

3. [5:12-13] To what did the author compare his readers?

The author compared them to little children who only took milk and did not eat solid food.

4. [5:14] For what people was the solid food?

The solid food was for people who were mature in understanding God's messages.

5. [5:14] What could mature Christians distinguish?

Mature Christians could distinguish good from evil.

6. [5:11-13] Why do you think the author was unhappy with the believers?

(Answer may vary.) The author was apparently unhappy because the believers had not advanced in their understanding of God's messages. Perhaps the believers had become lazy or no longer wanted to study God's messages. The author wanted them to teach others God's messages, but they still needed instruction themselves.

Comment Section:

Hebrews 6:13-20

Background: In the Old Testament, God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham, one of the most famous ancestors of the Jewish people. Long ago, Abraham gave a tenth of all he owned to God's priest, Melchizedek, after he blessed Abraham.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ God promised to bless Abraham and give him many descendants. [6:13-15]
- ☐ People swore by someone greater than themselves to confirm their oaths. [6:16]
- ☐ God showed his promise was certain by swearing by himself, because there was no one greater to swear by, and God cannot lie. [6:15, 17-18]
- ☐ Christians should be encouraged and continue to have hope because God's promise is secure. [6:18-19]
- ☐ Jesus became a high priest for us after the order of Melchizedek. [6:20]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [6:13] When God made a promise, why did God swear by himself?

God swore by himself because there was no one greater by whom he could swear.

2. [6:14] What did God promise to Abraham?

God promised to bless Abraham and give him many descendants.

3. [6:15] What did Abraham have to do in order to obtain what God promised him?

Abraham had to wait patiently to obtain what God promised him.

4. [6:16] When people made an oath, who did they swear by?

People swore by someone greater than themselves.

5. [6:17] How did God decide to show his unchangeable quality to his heirs?

God guaranteed his unchangeable quality with an oath.

6. [6:18] What did the author say is impossible for God to do?

It is impossible for God to lie.

7. [6:19-20] What was described as the believer's secure and reliable anchor for the soul?

The believer's anchor was described as a hope that entered into the inner place, where Jesus went behind the curtain.

Hebrews 6:13-20 continued

8. [6:19] What do you think it means to call something an anchor for the soul?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it is a way of talking about something that helps a person feel secure and peaceful when difficult times come. This is comparable to an anchor that holds a boat in place in the water so that the wind and waves do not cause it to drift away.

9. [6:19-20] Where did Jesus enter as the forerunner for the believers?

Jesus entered into the inner place behind the curtain as the forerunner for the believers.

10. [6:20] What did Jesus become?

He became a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

11. [6:17-18] Why do you think it was important for the Christians to hear the guarantee of God's oath?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it was important because people were used to dealing with other people who might not keep their promises. God cannot lie. His oath is reliable.

Comment Section:

1 Peter 1:1-12

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Peter identified himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ. [1:1]
- ☐ Peter wrote to Christians who were scattered to other regions. [1:1]
- ☐ Peter praised God for all the blessings reserved in heaven for Christians. [1:3]
- ☐ Peter wrote that God's power protected Christians even in the middle of suffering and trials. [1:5-6]
- ☐ The prophets had spoken earlier about Christ's suffering and glory. [1:10-11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:1] Who wrote this letter, and to whom was it written?

Peter wrote this to the chosen ones who were living as foreigners throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

2. [1:1-2] How were those people chosen?

They were chosen according to the foreknowledge of God, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit.

3. [1:3] What did Peter say that God gave them?

God gave them a new birth to a living hope.

4. [1:3] How did God give them new birth into a living hope?

God gave it to them in his great mercy and through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

5. [1:4] What did Peter say about the inheritance God gave them?

This inheritance would not perish or fade away, and it was reserved in heaven.

6. [1:5] What was God's power protecting them for?

It was protecting them for the salvation that would be revealed in the last time.

7. [1:6-7] What was the purpose of their trials?

It was so that their faith would be proved genuine and would result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

8. [1:8] Although Peter's audience had not seen Jesus and they still did not see him, what did they do?

They loved him, and believed in him, and rejoiced with unspeakable joy that was full of glory.

9. [1:9] What was the result of their faith?

The result of their faith was the salvation of their souls.

1 Peter 1:1-12 continued

10. [1:11] What did the Spirit of Christ tell the prophets about in advance?

He told them about the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

11. [1:12] Who were the prophets serving by their prophecies?

Peter said they were serving the believers who heard the gospel.

Comment Section:

1 Peter 1:13-25

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Peter told them to be sober and holy. [1:13-16]
- ☐ They were redeemed with Christ's blood. [1:18-19]
- ☐ They were born again by the word of God. [1:23]
- ☐ God's word remains forever. [1:23-25]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:13] What did Peter command the believers to do?

He commanded them to gird up the loins of their minds, to be sober, and to have complete confidence in the grace that would be brought to them.

2. [1:13] What do you think Peter meant when he told the believers to gird up the loins of their minds?

(Answer may vary.) He probably meant that they should get their minds ready to think well.

3. [1:14] What instruction did Peter give the Christians in verse 14?

Peter told them not to follow the desires they used to follow.

4. [1:15-16] What instruction did Peter give them in verses 15 and 16?

Peter told them to be holy in all of their behavior.

5. [1:17] Who is the one who judges impartially?

God the Father is the one who judges impartially.

6. [1:18] What did the Christians inherit from their ancestors?

They inherited a futile or empty way of life.

7. [1:18-19] What was the price paid for Christians to be redeemed?

The redemption price was the precious blood of Christ.

8. [1:20] What did Peter say had happened long ago?

Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world.

9. [1:20] What did Peter say had happened recently?

Christ had been revealed to the people Peter was writing to.

10. [1:21] What did God do for Jesus?

God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory.

1 Peter 1:13-25 continued

11. [1:22] How did the Christians make their souls pure, according to verse 22?

They made their hearts pure by obeying the truth.

12. [1:22] Now that they had made their souls pure, what did Peter want them to do?

He wanted them to love one another earnestly from a pure heart.

13. [1:23] From what kind of seed were they born again?

They were born again from imperishable seed.

14. [1:23] How do you think the imperishable seed is related to the word of God?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps the seed represents the word of God. Perhaps people received the seed through the word of God.

15. [1:24-25] How is the word of the Lord different from flesh?

Flesh is like a flower that dries up, but the word of the Lord remains forever.

Comment Section:

1 Peter 2:1-12

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Peter instructed the Christians to put aside the behaviors that belonged to their lives before they were saved. [2:1]
- ☐ Peter told them to come to the living stone. [2:4]
- ☐ Peter told the Christians they were like stones that were being used to build a spiritual house. [2:5]
- ☐ Peter quoted scriptures about a cornerstone. [2:6-8]
- ☐ Peter warned the Christians that their own fleshly desires fight against their souls. [2:11]
- ☐ Peter encouraged them to live in an honorable way, so that others might give glory to God when he appears. [2:12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [2:1] What did Peter tell the Christians to put aside?

Peter told them to put aside evil, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander.

2. [2:2] What did Peter tell them to do so that they would grow in salvation?

He told them to greatly desire pure spiritual milk.

3. [2:2-3] What do you think Peter meant by pure spiritual milk?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he meant the teaching about the Lord or the word of God. Or perhaps he meant attitudes that contrasted with the attitudes listed in verse 1.

4. [2:4] Who had people rejected?

They had rejected the one who is a living stone.

5. [2:4] Who do you think this living stone is?

Because Jesus is the one that was rejected, this living stone is Jesus Christ.

6. [2:5] What did Peter say about the Christians in verse 5?

Peter said they were like living stones. They were being built to be a spiritual house, and to be a holy priesthood.

7. [2:6] Who do you think laid a cornerstone in Zion?

It is evident from the passage that God laid it.

8. [2:6] Who do you think this chosen and valuable cornerstone represents?

It is evident from the passage that it represents Jesus Christ.

9. [2:6] Who will not be ashamed?

Whoever believes in Jesus Christ (the chosen and valuable cornerstone) will never be ashamed.

1 Peter 2:1-12 continued

10. [2:7] What was the builders' attitude toward the stone?

They rejected it.

11. [2:7-8] How did those who did not believe stumble?

They stumbled by disobeying the word.

12. [2:9] Why were the believers a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God's possession?

They were these things so that they might announce the wonderful actions of God.

13. [2:10] What did Peter remind Christians about in verse 10?

At one time they were not the people of God, but now they were the people of God and had received God's mercy.

14. [2:11] Why do you think Peter referred to these Christians as foreigners and exiles?

(Answer may vary.) He may have referred to them this way because they were driven out from their homeland.

15. [2:11] What did Peter say about fleshly desires?

Fleshly desires fight against the soul of the Christian.

16. [2:11] What do you think Peter meant by fleshly desires?

Because they fight against Christians' souls, this indicates that he was referring to sinful things that people want to do.

17. [2:12] What did Peter say about Christians' conduct in verse 12?

Peter said that their conduct should be honorable.

18. [2:12] What was Peter's reason for telling Christians to behave honorably among the Gentiles?

He told them to do this so that those who might speak of them as having done evil would see their good behavior and give glory to God.

Comment Section:

1 Peter 2:13-25

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Peter told the Christians to submit to their human leaders. [2:13-14]
- ☐ Peter told slaves to submit to their masters. [2:18]
- ☐ Peter told about how Jesus suffered and was an example to follow. [2:21-23]
- ☐ Jesus did this so that people would die to sin and live for righteousness. [2:24]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [2:13] Why should believers obey every human authority?

Christians should obey every human authority, both kings and governors, for the Lord's sake.

2. [2:14] According to Peter, why were human kings and governors sent?

They were sent to punish people who did evil and to praise those who did good.

3. [2:15] What did Peter say was God's will in verse 15?

Peter said that it was God's will that by doing good, Christians would silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

4. [2:15] How do you think doing good could silence the ignorant talk of foolish people?

(Answer may vary.) People who did not believe in God might say that Christians did bad things. They might say that Christians did not obey the king and governor. But if Christians did good, then those people will have no reason to say that Christians did evil.

5. [2:16] What do you think Peter meant when he told Christians not to use their freedom to cover up for wickedness?

(Answer may vary.) He probably meant that they should not think that being free gave them an excuse to do wicked things.

6. [2:17] What instructions did Peter give Christians in verse 17?

Peter told Christians to honor all people, to love other Christians, to fear God, and to honor the king.

7. [2:18] Peter told servants to submit to their masters. What kinds of masters did he tell the servants to submit to?

Peter said servants should submit to both good and gentle masters and to harsh masters.

8. [2:19] According to Peter, what was praiseworthy?

Peter said that it was praiseworthy if a person endured the sorrow of suffering unjustly.

9. [2:20] What do you think Peter meant when he asked how much credit was there if you sin and were afflicted?

He seems to have meant that a person received no credit for enduring affliction if that affliction was because of his sin. He was only receiving the punishment that he deserved.

1 Peter 2:13-25 continued

10. [2:21-22] Why were the Christians called to suffer for doing good?

Christians were called to suffer because Christ suffered for them and left an example for them to follow.

11. [2:23] How did Jesus respond when he was insulted and when he suffered?

When Jesus was insulted, he did not give an insult in return. When he suffered, he did not threaten back. He gave himself over to the one who judges justly.

12. [2:24] What did Peter tell Christians about sin?

Peter told Christians that Jesus took their sin on his body, so they could die to sin and live to righteousness.

13. [2:24] What do you think Peter meant when he said that “by his bruises you have been healed”?

(Answer may vary.) The phrase “his bruises” seems to represent how Jesus suffered when he died for people’s sin. Perhaps “you have been healed” refers to Christians’ relationships with God being healed. Perhaps it refers to Christians’ hearts being healed so they could choose not to sin. Perhaps Peter also meant physical healing.

14. [2:25] What did Peter say about Christians and sheep?

Peter compared Christians to sheep who at one time were lost and straying but who have returned to the shepherd and overseer.

15. [2:25] Who do you think this shepherd and overseer of Christians’ souls is?

The shepherd and overseer is Jesus Christ.

Comment Section:

1 John 4:1-6

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ John warned the believers about many false prophets who are in the world. [4:1]
- ☐ If someone does not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, they are not from God. [4:2-3]
- ☐ Those who confess Jesus are from God and have overcome the false prophets. [4:2-4]
- ☐ The spirit who is in believers is greater than the spirit who is in the world. [4:4]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [4:1-2] Why did John warn the believers not to believe every spirit?

He did this because many false prophets are in the world.

2. [4:1-2] How can the spirits be tested to see whether they are from God?

Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ came in the flesh is of God. Every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

3. [4:3] What is the spirit of the antichrist?

The spirit of the antichrist is every spirit that does not confess that Jesus has come in the flesh.

4. [4:4] Why are God's children able to overcome those who oppose Christ?

God's children are able to overcome because the one who is in God's children is greater than the one who is in the world.

5. [4:4] Who do you think John was referring to when he wrote about "the one who is in you"?

The passage shows that he was referring to God. He may have been referring specifically to the Holy Spirit.

6. [4:4] Who do you think John was referring to when he wrote about the one who is in the world?

(Answer may vary.) He was probably referring to the spirit of the antichrist.

7. [4:5] What do you think John meant when he said in verse 5 that they are from the world and speak from the world?

(Answer may vary.) He seems to be referring to those who do not confess Jesus. He probably meant that they were not from God, and they did not have God's Spirit because they did not believe in Jesus.

8. [4:6] How can believers tell the spirit of truth from the spirit of error?

Believers can tell them apart by whether they listen to what God's people say.

Comment Section:

1 John 4:7-21

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Believers love one another. This shows that they know God because God is love. [4:7-8]
- ☐ God revealed his love for them by sending his only Son into the world. [4:9-10]
- ☐ Believers abide in God's love by loving each other. [4:11-14, 16-17]
- ☐ True believers confess that Jesus is the Son of God. [4:15]
- ☐ We love others because God first loved us. [4:19]
- ☐ A person cannot both love God and hate other Christians. [4:20-21]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [4:7] Why should believers love one another, according to verse 7?

Believers should love one another because love comes from God.

2. [4:7] What did John say about everyone who loves others?

John said they are born of God, and they know God.

3. [4:8] What did John say about a person who does not love others?

The person who does not love others does not know God, because God is love.

4. [4:9] How did God reveal his love for Christians?

God revealed his love for Christians by sending his only Son into the world.

5. [4:10] Whose love showed what real love was, and how was that love shown?

God's love showed what real love was. He showed his love to people by sending his Son to be the sacrifice that atones for their sin.

6. [4:11] Since God loved Christians enough to send his only Son, what should they do in response?

They should love each other.

7. [4:12] Though no one had ever seen God, what could assure people that they truly know God?

If they love one another, he lives in them and his love is perfected in them. That assures them that they know him.

8. [4:13] How can a believer know that he remains in God and God remains in him?

A believer can know this because God gave him his Spirit to live in him.

9. [4:14] Why did the Father send his Son into the world?

The Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

1 John 4:7-21 continued

10. [4:15] What happens to anyone who confesses that Jesus is the Son of God?

God remains in that person, and that person remains in God.

11. [4:16] According to verse 16, who remains in God?

The one who remains in love remains in God.

12. [4:16] What do you think it means to remain in love?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it means to keep trusting that God loves them. Perhaps it means to love God and others because God loves them.

13. [4:17] On the day of judgment, what will be the attitude of those among whom love is made perfect?

They will have confidence on the day of judgment.

14. [4:18] Why is there no fear in love?

Perfect love gets rid of fear because fear has to do with punishment.

15. [4:18] How do you think perfect love gets rid of fear?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps if a person knows that God loves him perfectly, he will not be afraid that God will punish him.

16. [4:19] How are Christians able to love?

They love because God first loved them.

17. [4:20] What did John write about someone who does not love his brother?

Someone who does not love his brother cannot love God.

18. [4:21] What did God command those who love him to do?

Whoever loves God is to love their brother.

Comment Section:

1 John 5:1-12

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ People who are born of God show that they love God by keeping his commandments. [5:3]
- ☐ Those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God have victory over the world. [5:4]
- ☐ The Spirit, the water, and the blood all bear witness to Jesus Christ. [5:6-8]
- ☐ God testified that he gave Christians eternal life, and that life is in his Son. [5:10-11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [5:1] What did John say is true of those who believe that Jesus is the Christ?

They are born of God.

2. [5:2] How do they know that they love God's children?

Those who love God's children also love God and obey his commandments.

3. [5:3] How do God's children love God?

They keep God's commandments.

4. [5:3-4] Why are God's commandments not a burden to those who are born of God?

They are not a burden because those who are born of God overcome the world.

5. [5:4] What do you think it means to overcome the world?

(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it means to overcome sinful desires and to obey God instead.

6. [5:4-5] What is the victory that enables people to overcome the world?

Faith that Jesus is the Son of God is the victory that enables people to overcome the world.

7. [5:6] By what two things did Jesus Christ come?

Jesus came by water and by blood.

8. [5:6] How is the Spirit described in verse 6?

The Spirit is the truth. (He is also the one that testifies.)

9. [5:7-8] What did the Spirit, the water, and the blood do?

They testified and they agreed with each other.

10. [5:7-8] What do you think the Spirit, the water, and the blood testified?

The passage indicates that they testified that Jesus Christ has come.

1 John 5:1-12 continued

11. [5:9] What had God testified about?

He testified about his Son.

12. [5:10] If a person does not believe the testimony of God concerning his Son, what does he believe about God?

Anyone who does not believe the testimony of God concerning his Son believes God is a liar.

13. [5:10-11] What was God's testimony concerning his Son?

God's testimony was that he gave us eternal life, and that life is in his Son.

14. [5:12] Which people have life?

People who have the Son have life.

Comment Section:

Revelation 1:4-8

Background: Revelation 1:8 has the words "Alpha" and "Omega." They are the names of the first letter and the last letter of the Greek alphabet.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ This passage shows that John was the author of the book. [1:4]
- ☐ John described Jesus as the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. [1:5]
- ☐ Every eye will see Jesus when he returns. [1:7]
- ☐ The Lord God described himself as the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. [1:8]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [1:4] Who wrote this book, and to whom did he write it?

John wrote this book, and he wrote it to the seven churches in Asia.

2. [1:4] What do you think it means to be the one who is and was and is to come?

It appears that it means to be eternal. God has always existed in the past, he exists now, and he will always exist.

3. [1:5] What three titles did John call Jesus Christ?

John called him the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

4. [1:6] What has Jesus made the believers, according to verse 6?

Jesus has made the believers a kingdom and priests to God the Father.

5. [1:7] Who will see Jesus when he comes?

Everyone, including those who pierced him, will see him.

6. [1:8] How is the Lord God described in verse 8?

He is described as the first and the last (the Alpha and the Omega), the one who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

7. [1:8] What do you think this description of God means?

(Answer may vary.) This description indicates that he is the one who began all things and who ends all things, or the one who has always lived and will always live.

Comment Section:

Revelation 2:8-11

Background: John was in prison near the province called Asia. In 1:10-11 John heard a voice that told him to write what he saw and send it to the seven churches in Asia. In 1:17, the voice (the speaker) said that he was the first and the last, and that he was dead, but he now lives forever.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The speaker told John to write to the angel of the church in Smyrna. [2:8]
- ☐ The speaker said that he knew about their suffering and poverty. [2:9]
- ☐ The speaker told them not to be afraid, but to be faithful. [2:10]
- ☐ The speaker said he would give them the crown of life. [2:10]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [2:8] To which angel are the words in this passage written?

They are written to the angel of the church in Smyrna.

2. [2:8-11] Whose words are in verses 9 to 11?

Verse 8 says they are the words of the one who was dead and became alive again.

3. [2:8] Who do you think the one who was dead and became alive again is?

The passage indicates that he is Jesus Christ.

4. [2:9] What was happening to the church in Smyrna?

They were suffering and in poverty, and others were speaking badly about them.

5. [2:10] What would happen to some of the people?

The devil would throw some of them in prison.

6. [2:10] What did the speaker say he would give to those who were faithful until death?

He said he would give them the crown of life.

7. [2:11] What did he say about those who conquered?

He said that those who conquered would not be hurt by the second death.

Comment Section:

Revelation 11:1-6

Background: In chapter 9, the sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and there were many soldiers on horseback. Fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of the horses' mouths and killed one third of the people. But those who lived still did not repent.

In chapter 10, John was told to eat a little scroll. It tasted sweet, but it turned sour in his stomach. Then he was told to prophesy about many nations.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ John was told to measure the temple. [11:1]
- ☐ John was told that two witnesses would have authority to prophesy. [11:3]
- ☐ The two witnesses would have power to do terrible things. [11:5-6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [11:1] What was John told to measure?

John was told to measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worshiped in it.

2. [11:1] What do you think it meant to measure the worshipers?

(Answer may vary.) To measure the worshipers may have meant to count the number of worshipers.

3. [11:2] How long will the Gentiles trample the holy city?

The Gentiles will trample the holy city for 42 months.

4. [11:3] How long will the two witnesses prophesy?

The two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days.

5. [11:3-4] How were the two witnesses described?

The two witnesses were described as the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

6. [11:5] How must anyone who would choose to harm the two witnesses die?

Fire would come out of the witnesses' mouths and devour their enemies.

7. [11:6] What did the two witnesses have the power to do?

They had power to close up the sky, to turn waters to blood, and to strike the earth with plagues.

Comment Section:

Revelation 12:1-9

Background: Chapter 11 said that the beast would come from the bottomless pit and overpower and kill the two witnesses. They will die, be raised to life, and go to heaven. Then there will be an earthquake and many people will die.

Next, the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and voices in heaven said that Christ will reign forever. Then God's temple in heaven was opened and there was lightning, thunder, an earthquake, and a hailstorm.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ John saw a vision of a woman clothed with the sun, and on her head was a crown of twelve stars, and she was pregnant. [12:1-2]
- ☐ Then John saw a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns. [12:3]
- ☐ The woman gave birth to a male child, and the dragon wanted to devour him, but God took the child up into heaven. [12:5]
- ☐ There was a war in heaven, and Michael threw the dragon and his angels down to earth. [12:7 & 9]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [12:1, 3] What appeared in heaven?

Two great signs appeared in heaven.

2. [12:1] How was the woman described?

She was wearing the sun, the moon was under her feet, and she was wearing a crown of twelve stars.

3. [12:2] Why was the woman crying out?

She was pregnant and was having birth pains.

4. [12:3] How was the dragon described?

He was huge, red, had seven heads and ten horns, and there were seven crowns on his heads.

5. [12:4] What did the dragon do?

He swung his tail and knocked a third of the stars out of the heavens. He stood in front of the woman waiting for her to give birth so he could destroy her child.

6. [12:5] What happened when she gave birth to her son?

Her son was taken to God and to his throne.

7. [12:6] What did the woman do then?

She ran away into the wilderness to a place God had set aside for her to be taken care of.

Revelation 12:1-9 continued

8. [12:7-9] What happened in heaven?

A war took place in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. The dragon could not win, and he and his angels were thrown down to earth.

9. [12:9] What was the dragon called?

He was called the Devil or Satan.

Comment Section:

Revelation 22:12-16

Background: The chapter before this one talked about the new city of Jerusalem at the end of time. Late in this passage Jesus speaks of David. King David lived about 1000 years before Jesus did. He was Israel's most important king, and God had promised him that one of his descendants would be king forever.

Read the passage.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The Lord said that he is coming to reward each person according to what he did. [22:12]
- ☐ Those who washed their robes would have the right to go into the city. [22:14]
- ☐ The sinners would be outside of the city. [22:15]
- ☐ Jesus says he is the root and descendant of King David. [22:16]

Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [22:12] What did the Lord say he was bringing with him when he comes?

The Lord said he was bringing his reward with him.

2. [22:13] What did the Lord say about himself?

He said he is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

3. [22:14] What rights will those who washed their robes have?

They will have the right to eat fruit from the tree of life and the right to go through the gates into the city.

4. [22:15] Who will not be allowed to go into the city?

Those who are dogs or those who practice sorcery, sexual immorality, murder, idolatry, and falsehood.

5. [22:16] How did Jesus say he is related to King David?

Jesus said that he is the root and descendant of King David.

Comment Section:

