

Christ Speaks to the Churches (Part 1)

Unit 10c

PREVIEW

Doctrines

- 171–73: The Father is God (John 6:27).
- 171–73: The Son is God (Titus 2:13).
- 171–73: The Spirit is God (Acts 5:3–4).
- 171–73: Redeemed people have security (Rev. 21:4).
- 171–73: God, working through the Holy Spirit, makes the believer holy in heart and behavior (sanctification) (2 Cor. 3:18).

Skills and Applications

- Learn Revelation 2:4–5
- Recognize the difference between serving God out of duty and serving Him out of love
- Develop a desire to be faithful through trials
- Learn the importance of standing for the truth of God's Word
- Develop principles for making Christlike choices about entertainment
- Read a timeline
- Use a concordance
- Identify keywords
- Recall facts and details
- Develop an appreciation of art
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON 171 Return to Your Number One Love

Materials

- Charts 16 and 38 ("Masterwork: St. John the Evangelist" and "The Seven Churches in Revelation")
- Timeline and picture of John the Apostle

Music

Choose a hymn. Songs that correlate with the theme of the second half of the unit include "Nothing Between," "Wings as Eagles," "Onward Christian Soldiers," "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "Trust His Word," "Trust and Obey," "Make Me a Stranger," "Be Strong in the Lord," "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," and "Faith Is the Victory."

Memory Verses: Revelation 2:4–5

Principle: If a Christian's love for Christ has grown cold, he needs to repent. Locate and read aloud Revelation 2:4–5 as the students read silently.

- Who is speaking in these verses? **Christ**
- What does it mean for a Christian to leave his first love? **to lose or abandon his love for Christ**
*(Note: The sense of the word *first* in this verse does not relate to time but instead means first in importance, highest in rank, or most central.)*
- What is the result when a person loses his love for Christ?
His service for Christ is decreased in either quality or quantity, or both.

Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 10 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Letters to the Seven Churches

The letters were addressed to specific local churches in Asia Minor. A traveler following the main Roman road would come to these seven cities in the same order that they are addressed in Revelation. In each letter Christ is described in a way that is unique to that particular church. These messages were probably carried by a messenger from Patmos to each city along the route. It's reasonable to assume that each church read the letters to the other churches as well.

Ephesus

Ephesus was an important city, the capital of the Roman province of Asia. It was known for its worship of the pagan goddess Diana, or Artemis. The ruins of the magnificent temple of Artemis Ephesia, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, can still be seen in Ephesus today. Worshipers of Artemis encouraged immoral practices. Although surrounded by wickedness, the church in Ephesus had a rich heritage of Christian training. Paul spent three years there during his third missionary journey, teaching all who wanted to hear God's Word. John had also spent a good portion of his ministry in Ephesus.

Nicolaitans

The Nicolaitans were a sect of false teachers whose doctrine had apparently spread through the area where the seven churches were. They are mentioned in the messages to the churches at Ephesus and Pergamum (Pergamos).

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss the letters to the churches. Remind the students that thus far the study has been chronological through the book of Revelation. Now we will return to Revelation 2 and 3 to find out what Christ told John to write to the seven churches about how they should live in preparation for His Second Coming. Share the background information about the letters to the seven churches (optional).

Explain that the first letter was to the church in Ephesus. Share the background information about Ephesus (optional). Point out the location of Ephesus on Chart 38 ("The Seven Churches in Revelation").

Teach for Understanding

Read Revelation 2:1–7 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What is the main point of this account? Believers should serve Christ from a heart of love.**

Return to Your Number One Love

Jesus told John to write a message to the church in Ephesus. He was to give the message as from the one who holds "the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks" (2:1). Having seen the picture of Christ in Revelation 1, we recognize this description as referring to the Lord Jesus Himself.

Jesus praised the Christians in Ephesus for their many good works, for being patient and persevering, and for refus-

ing to put up with wickedness and false teaching. They had endured much for Christ and had not grown weary or given up serving Him. They seemed to be doing everything right.

However, they did have a problem. It was not in what they were doing, but in the attitude of their hearts. Christ said that He had something specific against them because they left their first (central, most important, highest in rank) love. When the Ephesians had first trusted in Christ, their hearts had been filled with love for Him. But now, even though they were still serving Him outwardly, they didn't love Him the same way. It's possible to be doing a lot of good things for the wrong reasons. The only motive that matters in doing things for Christ is love for Him. Christ is not honored by what we do if it's done unwillingly or out of duty or habit. He is truly glorified when Christians work for Him because they love Him. He does deserve believers' service, but even more than that, He deserves and wants their hearts.

Jesus commanded those in the Ephesian church to remember what life was like before their hearts grew cold toward Him. Losing their love for the Lord Jesus was a sin; they had strayed, and they needed to turn back to the quality of works they had done at first—works done out of love.

Jesus warned them of the consequences if they would not repent. He said that He would come to them quickly to remove their lampstand out of its place.

Do you remember the lampstands in John's vision of Christ? **Revelation 1:20** revealed that the seven lampstands were the seven churches. Jesus was saying that He would remove the Ephesian church from its place if it wouldn't repent.

But there was more to Christ's message to them. He commended them for one more thing. Even though they weren't loving Him as they should, they were hating the things they should hate—the wicked deeds of the Nicolaitans, or false teachers. Because Christ hates evil, it is right for Christians to hate evil also.

"Whoever has an ear," Christ said, "let him hear what the Spirit says." In each message, He drew attention to the Holy Spirit's work in speaking to the hearts of Christians. Christ made a promise to the believer who overcomes. He would give such a person the right "to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" (2:7).

- ▶ **What good things had the Ephesian church been doing? good works, patiently persevering, enduring, exposing and hating false teaching**
- ▶ **What did Jesus have against them? They had left their first love.**
- ▶ **What did Jesus say the Ephesians must do? recognize their lack of love as sin, repent, and return to loving Christ more than any other thing or person**
- **What is the main point of this account? Believers should serve Christ from a heart of love.**
- **What good things might a Christian do today unwillingly or out of duty or habit rather than out of love for Christ? Answers may include reading the Bible, praying, attending**

Back to the First Love
Revelation 2:1–7

Name _____

Use Revelation 2:1–7 to fill in the missing information about the letter to a church, recorded by John.

To: The church in Ephesus
From: Jesus Christ

Dear Church:

I have several things to commend you for. I know that you have done good works and have persevered in the faith. I also know that you will not tolerate evil or wicked people. You have put to the test those who falsely claim to be apostles and have found them to be liars or false. You have endured many hardships for My name and have not fainted or grown weary.

However, I hold one thing against you: you have left or abandoned your first love. You must remember the love you first had for Me, and you must repent and turn back to the way you first served Me.

I am glad that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Listen closely to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. If you return to your first love, I will give you the right to eat from the tree of life that is in paradise.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

256

Lesson 171

church, giving, witnessing, going to work, doing homework, listening during school, being nice to younger students or siblings, and so forth.

- ➊ How can a Christian change his motive for doing these things to one of love for Christ? **Answers may include confessing his lack of love as sin, asking God's help to love as he should, and meditating on Christ and what He has done (Ps. 63:1–8).**
- ➋ When is it right to hate something? **when something is wicked and Christ hates it**

⌚ Timeline

Place **John the Apostle** on the Timeline. Select a student to attach the card for John the Apostle (ca. AD 95) to the large classroom timeline. Direct each student to attach the picture of John to his individual timeline.

Masterwork: St. John the Evangelist

Develop an appreciation of art. Read and discuss the information about *St. John the Evangelist* by Domenic Zampieri, called II Domenichino (located on the Teacher's Toolkit CD under the Masterworks section). Display Chart 16 for reference throughout the unit.

⌚ Worktext page 256

Complete a letter with details from the Bible account.

Remember His Love
Revelation 2:4–5

Name _____

The people of the church in Ephesus started out their spiritual lives on the right track. They loved Christ and were committed to serving Him no matter what the cost. However, somewhere along the way, they allowed other things to take first priority. As part of Christ's rebuke to this church, He encouraged them to remember the way things had been when they first trusted in Him. Christ knew that if they turned their focus back to Him, they would remember the special relationship with Him that they were now forfeiting.

Read the verses and write the wonderful things Christ has done and is doing now for Christians.

Romans 8:8
Christ died for their sins. **Answers will vary.**

Romans 8:34
Christ makes intercession for them.

Philippians 4:13
Christ gives Christians strength to do all things.

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Read the two questions, and mark each correct answer with an X.

Which of the following do you do?

_____ read the Bible daily
_____ attend church regularly
_____ pray daily
_____ memorize Scripture verses
_____ help your parents
_____ obey home and school rules

What are some correct motives for doing these things?

_____ to get the things you want
_____ to be noticed
 X to show the Lord how much you love Him
_____ to be praised in front of your friends
_____ to win a prize at Sunday school
 X to be a blessing
 X to help others

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 171

257

⌚ Worktext page 257

Develop further understanding and application of the memory verses.

LESSON

172

Be Faithful Until Death

Materials

- Chart 38 ("The Seven Churches in Revelation")
- Revelation of the End Times Timeline

(Note: A copy of the Revelation of the End Times Timeline is on the Teacher's Toolkit CD for use with individual students and small groups.)

🎵 Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

❤️ Memory Verses: Revelation 2:4–5

Practice the memory verses. Locate Revelation 2:4–5 and select a student to read the verses aloud.

- ➊ What do you think it means to have Christ as your first love? **Answers may include that there is no person, purpose, or possession that you love as much as Him; love for Him controls and motivates everything you do.**

What are some things a person might be tempted to love more than Christ?

► What verb appears twice in verse 5? **repent**

Choose one student to read aloud 2:4 and another to read aloud 2:5. Instruct the other students to join in saying the word *repent* each time it is read.

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Smyrna

The city of Smyrna was about twenty-five miles north of Ephesus. It is believed by some to be the birthplace of the poet Homer and was considered the most beautiful city in the region. Polycarp was martyred there in AD 155. Of the seven churches, this is the only one that received neither correction nor commendation. The Lord knew they needed only comfort.

Crown of Life

The crown, or laurel wreath, was a well-known symbol of victory in Smyrna. It was awarded to those who won the athletic games in the Greek cities. Smyrna also had a walled acropolis, the highest part of the city. (The Acropolis of Athens is famous for the Parthenon.) Ancient writers compared this acropolis to a crown on the “head” of the city itself.

Persecution

At the time John was writing Revelation, the Christians in Asia Minor were undergoing or had recently undergone persecution by the Romans. The persecution took place near the end of the reign of Domitian (AD 81–96) when emperor worship became compulsory. Persecution also came from the unbelieving Jews, such as the group in Smyrna that Christ referred to as “the synagogue of Satan.”

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss the meaning of *martyrdom*.

What does it mean to be a martyr for Christ? **to die for believing in Christ**

Do you know of any places in the world today where people are put to death because they believe in Christ? **Answers will vary.**

Point out that in many countries of the world today, Christians are persecuted for their belief. Persecution varies in intensity.

Teach for Understanding

Read Revelation 2:8–11 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What encouragement did Jesus give this church? He declared who He was and said that He knew them and their works. He commanded them to be faithful to death, promising that those who persevere through trials will receive a crown of life and that those who trust Christ will escape the lake of fire.**

Be Faithful Until Death

Jesus told John to write to the church in Smyrna next.

Share the background information about Smyrna [optional] and point out the location of Smyrna on Chart 38 (“The Seven Churches in Revelation”).

Jesus encouraged this church by declaring who He was. Christ is “the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive.” Who is the only person in the Bible who ever called Himself “the first and the last”? Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, rose again, and lives forevermore, was the only one in the Bible to claim that name (**Rev. 2:8; 22:13**).

Jesus comforted the believers in Smyrna by telling them that He knew about them. He knew about their works, the tribulation they were facing because of their faith, and their poverty. But Jesus added that they were actually rich because of their spiritual riches in Christ. The Christians had a Savior who was the first and the last; He was working out His perfect will even through their trials. All would be right in the end.

The church in Smyrna was being tormented by people who said they were Jews but were really part of Satan’s synagogue. Jesus told the believers to expect more suffering in the future, but He also told them not to be afraid: “Look, the devil will throw some of you into prison, so that you can be tested; and you will undergo tribulation for ten days.” Jesus knew there would be many more difficult things to come, but He encouraged the people of the church in Smyrna with a command and a promise: “Be faithful right up through death, and I will give you a crown of life.”

James 1:12 also speaks of this crown of life. It says that this crown is for those who love the Lord and who have persevered under trials. If the believers in Smyrna would faithfully follow the Lord, even if it meant dying for Him, they would receive a crown of life in heaven.

Jesus concluded His message of encouragement by telling them to listen to the Spirit’s message. “He who overcomes whatever he faces will not be hurt by the second death.”

Revelation 20:13–15 explains what the second death is. “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Those who have overcome sin and death through Jesus Christ do not need to be afraid of the lake of fire.

Why do you think Jesus told this church that He is the first and the last? **possibly as an encouragement from the one who is outside of time**

We get discouraged going through life, and it is encouraging to hear from the one who had perfect victory that the end is in sight and that we’ll be rewarded for persevering.

God promises special blessings to those who remain faithful to Him despite persecution and trials. The church in Smyrna was experiencing difficult and life-changing trials.

Answer the questions.

1. What two kinds of trials were the Christians in Smyrna experiencing? (Rev. 2:9)

• poverty
• slander or persecution/blasphemy

2. What two commands did Jesus give these Christians? (Rev. 2:10)

• do not be afraid
• be faithful

3. What did Jesus promise these Christians if they were faithful? (Rev. 2:10)
a crown of life

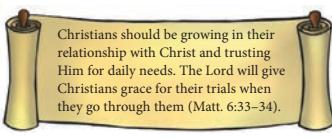


The Bible is full of promises for Christians who are going through severe trials. Match each verse to the correct summary.

- D 4. Christians will not be tempted beyond what they are able to bear; God will make a way of escape for them.
A 5. When Christians are persecuted and required to speak, the Spirit of God will give them the words to say.
E 6. The kingdom of heaven is theirs; their reward in heaven is great.
C 7. To the extent Christians have suffered along with Christ, they will have even more joy when His glory is revealed.
B 8. His grace is sufficient; Christ gives Christians His strength in their weakness.

- A. Matthew 10:17–20
B. 2 Corinthians 12:9–10
C. 1 Peter 4:12–13
D. 1 Corinthians 10:13
E. Matthew 5:10–12

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Christians should be growing in their relationship with Christ and trusting Him for daily needs. The Lord will give Christians grace for their trials when they go through them (Matt. 6:33–34).

Redemption: God's Grand Design

258 Lesson 172

Using a Concordance



A concordance is a helpful study tool using keywords to locate verses in the Bible that contain those words. Some concordances, like the sample below, also include verses about a particular topic.



Read each question below. Write a keyword that you would look for in a concordance to discover the answer. Some questions have more than one possible keyword.

1. Where can I find the story of David and Goliath? David or Goliath
2. Where can I find out which precious stones will be included in the foundation of the New Jerusalem? stones, Jerusalem, or foundation
3. Where can I find a verse that has the word joy in it? joy

Use the concordance entry and your Bible to answer the following questions.

4. Which reference tells you about the marriage supper of the Lamb?
Revelation 19:7

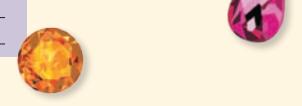
5. Who was the first martyr?
Stephen

6. Which two references in Revelation talk about martyrs?
2:13 and 17:6

7. Which reference for MARK takes you to a verse about pressing forward for the prize?
Philippians 3:14

8. Why are there two different entries for MARK in this concordance?
One entry is for the person (proper noun), Mark, and the other entry is for the common noun.

MARAH, bitter waters healed there. Ex.15:23
MARANATHA, I Cor.16:22
MARK, Gen.4:15, the Lord set a w on Cain Ps.37:7, as on perfect man
MARSH, land where water stagnates
Jer.2:22, thine iniquity is as before me 2:18, who hath in his world Phil.1:13, I thank God every time I pray for the prize 17, as them who walk so
MARTHA, sister of Lazarus, Mt.11:28 goes with Paul and Barnabas, Acts 12:25; 13:5 leaves them at Perga, Acts 13:13; contrasted with her sister Mary, 13:17 agreed by Paul, 2 Tim.4:11
MARTYR, one who bears witness to the honorables, Ps.128; Prov.31:10; Heb.13:4 its obligations. Mt.14:9; Rom.7:2; 1 Cor.6:16; 7:21; 1 Thes.5:23; 1 Tim.6:12 parables concerning, Mt.22:25 before whom we work only. Mt.22:30; Mk.12:23 at Cana, married to Jesus
Paul's opinion of, 1 Cor.7:1; 1 Tim.5:14 of those who do not marry, 1 Cor.7:31 unlawful marriages, Lev.18; Dt.7:3; Josh.23:12; Ex.18:9; 10; Neh.13:22
MARTYRDOM, 1 Cor.11:31; 1 Tim.4:3
MARS' HILL, English of Areopagus, Acts 17:22
MARSH, land where water stagnates, Jn.11:37, 38 repented by Him, Lk.10:38
MARTYR, Stephen the first, Acts 7:22–20. See *for* the first Christian martyr
MARVELL, Mt.18:10; Mk.6:6; Lk.7:9; Jesus m. Mt.18:10, 11; Mk.6:6; Lk.7:9, in not
In 3:27, 28, In d, In not
MARVELOUS, Job 5:9, m things without number Ps.104:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, here is a w thing
Jn.3:30, here is a w thing
1 Pet.2:9, into his w light



Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 172 259

Worktext page 259

Identify keywords and use a concordance.



Do Not Tolerate Evil

Materials

- Chart 38 ("The Seven Churches in Revelation")

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: Revelation 2:4–5

Practice the memory verses. Select a volunteer to locate and read aloud Revelation 2:4–5.

- What gives Christians the courage to stand against false teaching and to warn those who have been deceived by it? **love for Christ**

- What does it mean to repent? **to turn from sin (in thought, word, and action)**

- How do Christians repent? **They humbly admit their sins (remembering from where they have fallen) and turn to God in faith (doing the most important thing).** True repentance is a work in a person's heart (not just actions) that God initiates

Worktext page 258

Recall facts about the Bible account and interpret Scripture.

(Phil. 2:13). A Christian should believe God's Word about godly living and sin (Ps. 119:128). Trusting God's Word and the Holy Spirit's power, he should confess his sin to God and obey Him (Acts 26:20; 2 Cor. 9:8). Victory over sinful patterns is possible (Rom. 6:6–14; 8:2, 37; 1 Cor. 15:57–58; James 1:12).

Explain that sometimes Christians turn from doing wrong either to gain rewards or avoid punishment. Though good things may result, this is not godly repentance (2 Cor. 7:9–11).

Choose several students to read the memory verses aloud.

Invite volunteers to recite the memory verses.

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Pergamum

The city of Pergamum, also called Pergamos or Pergamon, was known for its worship of many pagan gods. The city included temples of Athena, Asclepius, Dionysus, and Zeus. It also had a university with a library of about 200,000 volumes, second only to the library in Alexandria, Egypt, at that time. Pergamum was the first place where they used parchment that was suitable for writing on both sides; in fact, the word *parchment* is derived from the name of the city.

Thyatira

This city was known for cloth dyed with a bright red or purple dye made from a root found in the region. It was home to a number of different trade guilds and placed a great emphasis on manufacturing. Lydia, a woman Paul met and led to Christ in Philippi, was from this city.

Jezebel

This is probably not this woman's real name, but rather a symbolic name because of her similarity to Jezebel of the Old Testament. This woman claimed to be a prophetess and corrupted God's people with her teaching and idolatrous living just as Jezebel of the Old Testament did.

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss things Christians should not tolerate.

- ➊ We hear the word *tolerate* used quite often. What does it mean? **to put up with; to allow**
- ➋ What kinds of things would it be wrong for Christians to tolerate? **Christians are not to allow sin in their own lives or continual sin in the lives of other Christians.**

(Note: Caution the students that though Christians should be concerned about other Christians, we are not called to be "spiritual police" to point out every sin in other people's lives.)

Teach for Understanding

Read Revelation 2:12–29 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What was promised to those who would be faithful to God? They would receive a white stone and a new name. They would have authority over nations and would rule with Christ. They would be given the morning star—Christ.**

Do Not Tolerate Evil

John was to write to the church in Pergamum about certain things. The person saying these things had the sharp sword with two edges. This is the same sword that John saw coming out of Christ's mouth in **Revelation 1:16**.

Christ knew that the church in Pergamum was located in a very wicked place; he referred to that place as "Satan's seat."

Share the background information about Pergamum and point out its location on Chart 38 ("The Seven Churches in Revelation").

Jesus commended the believers there because even though they were surrounded by those who denied Christ, they had remained true to His name and had not denied their faith in Him. A man named Antipas had been martyred for Christ in Pergamum, but even that had not frightened the church away from standing true to the Lord.

However, Christ had a few things against these believers. Some in the church were holding on to false doctrine. Some held to the doctrine of Balaam, who had encouraged the Israelites to sin against God and His specific laws. Others held to the teachings of the Nicolaitans, whose deeds the Lord hated. If the church refused to repent and continued to tolerate these evil teachings, Christ warned that He would come and fight them with the sharp sword of His mouth.

To those who were willing to hear God's Word and overcome evil through His power, Christ promised a white stone and a new name.

The next message John wrote was to the church in Thyatira.

Share the background information about Thyatira and point out its location on Chart 38 ("The Seven Churches in Revelation").

Christ identified Himself to this church as the Son of God, one who has eyes like a flame of fire and feet like polished metal. He approved of the good works that they had done. Their love, service, faith, and perseverance had not escaped His notice.

But Christ had a few things against them. They tolerated an evil woman that Christ called Jezebel. This woman taught them to take part in the practices of false pagan religions. Christ condemned Jezebel for causing believers to be unfaithful to their spouses. He had given her time to repent of her sin, but she had not repented. He warned those who committed adultery with Jezebel that they, along with her, would go through great suffering if they did not repent. He used very strong words to describe the judgment He would send on her followers and said that He would strike her children with death.

Not everyone in Thyatira held to Jezebel's teachings. To those who didn't, Christ offered this encouragement: "Hold on and be faithful till I come." He said He would soon judge the evil in the church and set things right. In the meantime, the faithful Christians were to be examples of steadfast godliness.

Christ promised that those who overcome will have power over the nations in the end as they rule along with Him. Christ will share with them the authority that He has received from His Father, and He will give them the morning star—Himself (**Rev. 22:16**).

Truth and Falsehood

Revelation 2:12–29

Name _____

The world is full of wrong ideas that can lead you to wrong decisions. Satan would love to deceive you into believing his lies about God, your sin, and your choice between them. Be alert! Ask God for the wisdom to recognize false teaching and the courage to condemn it. Do not allow your mind to be infected by the deception of the world.

Answer the questions.

1. What was the church in Pergamum doing wrong? (Rev. 2:12–14) **Answers will vary.
holding on to false teaching (the teaching of Balaam)**
2. What was the church in Thyatira doing wrong? (Rev. 2:18–20) **tolerating evil teaching and practices of Jezebel**
3. What is the standard for recognizing false teaching? **God's Word**

Can you recognize which are false teachings that Christians should not tolerate? You have probably heard many of these ideas from the world. Mark with an X the seven false teachings.

- 4. It is OK to tell a little lie for a good cause (Eph. 4:25).
- 5. God's plan for your life is perfect (Jer. 29:11; Ps. 138:8).
- 6. To be successful, you need to learn how to love yourself (Luke 9:23).
- 7. Before making a decision, always consider the consequences of it (Job 4:8; Hos. 10:12).
- 8. You deserve the very best in life (Luke 9:24–25).
- 9. Before you blame your problems on other people, take a look at yourself (Matt. 7:3–5).
- 10. Treat other people the way they treat you (Matt. 5:43–48).
- 11. God loves you and wants you to know Him (John 3:16; Phil. 3:10).
- 12. If you don't know what to do, trust your feelings (Prov. 3:5–6).
- 13. Listen to your parents (Eph. 6:1).
- 14. Since we go through life only once, we need to get all we can out of this world (1 John 2:15–17).
- 15. If you want to get to the top, you might have to step on some other people (Matt. 5:5; Ps. 75:6–7).



**Answers will vary.
holding on to false teaching (the teaching of Balaam)**



What would you tell someone who tried to get you to accept one of the false ideas above? Read the verses from God's Word that support your answer. Consider memorizing them.

260 Lesson 173

Redemption: God's Grand Design

LESSON
174

Faithful Follower: John Foxe (Part 1)

Materials

- *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* by John Foxe (optional)

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: Revelation 2:4–5

Practice the memory verses. Locate Revelation 2:4–5 and direct each student to read the verses to a partner.

- **What indication do we have that the martyrs we read about loved the Lord Jesus? They were willing to die for Him.** Select a volunteer to read aloud John 15:13.

Remind the students that love for Christ will give Christians courage to stand for Him. Encourage groups of volunteers to recite the memory verses together.

Faithful Follower: John Foxe

Introduce the Biography

Discuss *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. Display a copy of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* by John Foxe (optional). Choose one or two short accounts of martyrdom from Chapter 14 of the book to read aloud to the students (optional).

- **Why do you think anyone would want to write a book about martyrs? Answers will vary.**

Explain that today's Faithful Follower account focuses on the life of John Foxe, the author of the book.

Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following account based on the life of John Foxe. Listening question: Why did Foxe write his book about martyrs? **to remind Christians of the faithfulness of those who had died; to encourage Christians to imitate the martyrs' courage and hold fast to their faith no matter what**

The Price They Paid (Part 1)

Having attended Magdalen College since he was a boy, John Foxe received his master's degree when he was only twenty. However, many of his colleagues had started accusing him of turning against the school and its religious positions.

"John, we've heard rumors that you've been missing chapel."

"You've been avoiding us and taking walks by yourself."

"Some say that you now support Protestantism!"

They also accused him of rejecting certain teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Worktext page 260

Recall facts about the Bible account and apply Bible knowledge to everyday life.

"Don't you deny the miracle of the bread and wine turning into the body and blood of Christ?" they asked.

Foxe replied, "From my study of the Bible, I can no longer agree with the Church."

Edward VI was ruling England during this time. Although the king had broken away from the pope, the position Foxe took in 1540 was a dangerous one. Because of his biblical beliefs, Foxe was sent away from the college.

Although Foxe was not put on trial for heresy, people would not hire him. He and his wife moved to London, where for many weeks they lived in poverty and hunger. Eventually he was offered a job as a tutor for the grandchildren of the second Duke of Norfolk, who was imprisoned at the time. Foxe provided a good education for his three students, and he also developed a close friendship with them, especially Thomas.

In addition to tutoring, Foxe wrote pamphlets and tracts, and publicly voiced his disagreement with the false teachings of Catholic doctrine.

In 1553, King Edward died, and the freedom that Protestants had enjoyed under his reign was gone. Queen Mary (often called Bloody Mary) came to the throne. She was determined to bring people in her country back to the Catholic Church. She had several Protestant leaders tried, imprisoned, and executed. She appointed a man named Gardiner as chief judicial officer of the crown. He searched for people he thought were a threat to the Church and the crown and put them on trial.

In the same year, the Duke of Norfolk regained possession of his grandchildren, and Foxe lost his position. Though Thomas went to live with Gardiner, Foxe's enemy, he kept Foxe up to date with events happening in the royal circles.

On one visit to Thomas, John told him, "I do not think it's safe for me to continue to visit here."

"Don't worry, John," Thomas replied. "Gardiner hardly ever comes here. Besides, I'll protect you and even share your danger if need be."

One day, Foxe received a letter from Thomas. "You must leave the country at once. Gardiner knows of your visits here and plans to have you arrested." Thomas arranged for Foxe and his wife to stay with a farmer, who helped them escape by ship that night. A violent storm prevented the couple from going very far, and they were forced to return to the harbor.

Foxe and his wife went back to stay the night with the farmer but discovered they were in danger. "It is not safe for you to stay here," the farmer said. "Soon after you left, Gardiner's officers broke in here with a warrant for your arrest. They pursued you to the harbor, but the ship was out of sight. They left, but they will surely come back to look for you."

So Foxe and his wife returned to the ship and persuaded the captain to let them back on board. Despite the rough seas, they set sail that night and traveled for two days before landing safely in Belgium. They eventually settled in Frankfurt, Germany.

Foxe determined to pray faithfully for the freedom of England. "We must remember those who have died and are still dying for the cause of Christ." He decided to write a book, recording the deaths of hundreds of Christians. "We must not forget the terrible price they paid for their love and devotion to our Lord."

After doing research for six years, Foxe published his seven-hundred-page book in Latin. By the time the English version was published in 1563, it had grown to over eighteen hundred pages and recorded the deaths of martyrs to that date.

Some time after Foxe completed his book, he penned the words of this prayer: "The martyrs' names are in the book of life; nevertheless Thou didst wish thus to make them known to the world. Help us to imitate them and to hold fast what they have won."



- ▶ Why was Foxe sent away from Magdalen College? **He spoke out against the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church.**
- ▶ How did God provide for Foxe's needs after he was sent away? **He gave him a job as a tutor of three children.**
- ▶ Why was it dangerous for John in England after Queen Mary came to the throne? **She supported the Catholic Church and was having Protestants tried, imprisoned, and executed.**
- ▶ How did God protect John Foxe during this time? **God used Thomas (one of his former students) to warn Foxe and his wife that they should leave England.**
- What is most important to a martyr? **his or her relationship with God** Though they love family dearly and enjoy happy, fun times, martyrs realize that the truth about God is important and God is worth dying for.
- Which option in the following pairs should be more important to Christians of any age?
 - peace—riches
 - fun—truth
 - friends—truth
 - life—death
 - the Word of God—success
 - life on earth—eternity
 - my happiness—pleasing God
 - doing what is right—fitting in
 - riches in heaven—comfort here
 - entertainment—serving God
 - friendship with the world—friendship with God
- ▶ Why did Foxe write his book about martyrs? **to remind Christians about the faithfulness of those who had died; to encourage Christians to imitate the martyrs' courage and hold fast to their faith no matter what**

What Does God Say About My Entertainment?

Name _____



People spend a great deal of money and time entertaining themselves. What kinds of things do you do for entertainment? Read a book? Watch a movie? Play a computer game? Hang out with friends? Go shopping? Although the young people in the Bible did not have videos, computer games, or television, God did give them instructions in His Word about how to make wise choices about their free time.

Read each verse. In your own words, write the Bible principle that reflects God's desires about how you choose to entertain yourself.

1. Psalm 101:3 *I will not put any evil or wicked thing in front of my eyes.*

2. Philippians 4:8 *I will allow my mind to think about only good and righteous things.*

3. Proverbs 21:17 *I will not be controlled by things that bring me pleasure.*

When making your choices about what to do in your free time, consider the following questions:

- Will this activity please God?
- Will this activity be a stumbling block to others?
- Will this activity please my parents?
- Will this activity encourage me to be lazy?
- Will this activity build Christian character in me?
- What would be a better choice than this activity?

Considering the questions listed above, carefully answer the following questions.

4. How could I develop Christian character by playing on a soccer team? **Answers will vary.**

5. How could reading a good book encourage me to become lazy?

6. How could playing a violent computer game be a stumbling block?

7. Why will my parents be displeased if I make the choice to watch television instead of doing my homework?

8. Why will God be displeased when I watch a movie or TV show in which the characters take His name in vain?

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 174 **261**

Something to Think About

My Entertainment Name _____



God's Word gives you principles to follow regarding what you allow your eyes to see, what you allow your mind to think about, and how much time and money you spend on entertainment. God wants you to enjoy the blessings He has given to you. He also, however, wants you to be holy. Every Christian has the responsibility of guarding his eyes and mind from sin. Every Christian must also avoid laziness.

Read the verses. Write the correct reference that supports each principle for setting biblical entertainment standards.

1. I must choose my entertainment carefully because some activities could actually control me. 1 Corinthians 6:12	2. I must choose entertainment activities in which I can fully obey God's holy law. Psalm 119:4
3. I should choose entertainment that will not hurt my testimony to others. 1 Corinthians 10:24	4. God requires me to be responsible with the time and opportunities He has given me. 1 Corinthians 4:2

What About Me?

Take time at home to list the top four activities you enjoy doing in your free time for entertainment. Mark whether each activity is pleasing or displeasing to God. Complete the chart.

Answers will vary.

Activity	Pleasing to God?	Displeasing to God?	Explain

Think about your answers. Are you choosing God's way or your own?

Redemption: God's Grand Design

262 Lesson 174

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Worktext pages 261–62

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 175 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

Develop principles for making Christlike choices about entertainment. Read page 261 and discuss what God says about how you choose to entertain yourself. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages. Discuss the questions about the activities.

Make a personal evaluation of entertainment choices. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages on page 262. Discuss the standards. Encourage the students to complete the “What About Me?” section at home and think about their choices of entertainment.

LESSON

175

Unit 10c Activity

Materials

- Chart 26 (“God’s Word—Prophecy”)
- Bible Book Cards: New Testament

Background Information

Revelation (The Unveiling of Christ)

John, the writer, unveils Christ and presents Him in glory and majesty as King and Judge of the earth. The book also tells about the limitless joy and security of those who trust Christ in

contrast to the unimaginable disaster and horror that will come on those who refuse to trust Him.

Identify the New Testament book of Prophecy. Select students to read the book name and theme from Worktext page 282.

Display Chart 26 (“God’s Word—Prophecy”). Discuss the background information about Revelation.

Practice the New Testament books. Explain that knowing the book that comes before and the book that comes after each book in the Bible is helpful. Display the New Testament Bible book cards, explaining that when you cover one of the bottom corners, the students should answer the following questions:

- Which division is this book in?
- Which book comes before?
- Which book comes after?

Divide the students into teams and award points for correct answers.

Christ Speaks to the Churches (Part 2)

Unit 10d

PREVIEW

Doctrines

- 176: The Rapture may occur at any time (Matt. 24:42).
- 176: God is righteous (Ps. 116:5).
- 176, 178: Repentance is turning away from sin (Rom. 2:4).
- 177: Officers of the local church should teach members (Eph. 4:11–16), defend the Word (1 Tim. 1:3–4), and oppose sin (1 Tim. 5:20).

Skills and Applications

- Learn Revelation 3:19–20
- Become more Christlike in thoughts and actions
- Realize that Christ could return at any time
- Recognize the danger of being spiritually dead
- Recognize the need for Christians to repent of lukewarmness
- Be ready—watching and waiting for Christ's return
- Develop dependability
- Recall facts and details
- Interpret Scripture
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

176

Awake from Deadness

Materials

- Chart 38 (“The Seven Churches in Revelation”)

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: Revelation 3:19–20

Principle: If Christians respond to God’s loving discipline and repent of their sin, they will enjoy His fellowship. Locate and read aloud **Revelation 3:19–20** as the students read silently. Then read 3:19 aloud again.

Why do your parents discipline you when you do wrong?

Point out that many Christian parents care about the character of their children. Their character is part of what determines what kind of Christians they will be, and ultimately what kind of life they will live for the Lord. Parents who love their children

want them to be people of character. God disciplines His children because He loves them (**Heb. 12:6**) and wants them to be more like Jesus Christ (**Heb. 12:11**). Because He loves Christians so much, He wants the very best for them.

How does God discipline His children? **by bringing difficult things, or trials, into their lives**

Does every trial mean that the Christian is sinning? **Not necessarily, but asking God to search our hearts to show us any sin is always a good prayer (Ps. 139:23–24).**

What should the Christian’s attitude be when God chastens him? **He should be zealous, or earnest, and repent of his sin.**

Choose two students to read the verses aloud. Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 10 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Sardis

Sardis was once the capital of the kingdom ruled by Croesus,

one of the wealthiest kings who ever lived. After Croesus was defeated by the Persians, Sardis was ruled by the Persians, then the Greeks, and finally the Romans. Sardis's temple to Artemis was one of its most important structures.

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss watchfulness. Read aloud **Matthew 24:42**.

• What do you think it means to watch or be on the alert?

Watching means living in such a way that a Christian is always conscious of his fellowship with God so as to always be ready for Christ's return.

Explain that today's Bible account tells about a message from Christ to a church that He considered to be asleep, or spiritually dead.

Teach for Understanding

Read **Revelation 3:1–6** or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What does sin do to a person's life? It pollutes it or contaminates it.**

Awake from Deadness

Christ instructed John to write a letter to the church in Sardis.

Share the background information about Sardis and point out its location on Chart 38 ("The Seven Churches in Revelation").

In the letter to the church in Sardis, Jesus presented Himself as "he that hath the seven spirits of God, and the seven stars" (**Rev. 3:1**). As the authority over the leaders of the seven churches, Jesus had the right to rebuke them for the wrong they had done.

The church in Sardis had a good reputation. When people heard the name of Sardis, they thought of a church that was alive. People thought that Sardis was an active church and that its people were growing in the Lord and living for Him. But the Lord knew otherwise. "You have a name that you're alive, but you're dead," He told them. He could see their hearts, and He knew that they were really a spiritually dead church.

Jesus told the people in Sardis that they needed to wake up. They needed to live the watchful lives of believers who are prepared for the Lord to return at any time. They needed to "strengthen the things which remain[ed] but that [were] ready to die" (**Rev. 3:2**). In other words, they should focus on strengthening the small portion of spiritual interest that they still had—the part that had not yet "died." In their present condition, their works were not acceptable to God; their deeds lacked the heart attitude He expected.

Christ's instruction was for them to repent. They had been taught about living for God and knew what was right. But they had failed to follow through with the truth. Their lifelessness was a sin. They needed to repent of the spiritual sleepiness that had kept them from watching for Christ's

coming. Christ warned them that His coming would be like a thief, at an hour they weren't expecting Him.

There were only a few people in Sardis who had not polluted or contaminated their lives with sin. Jesus promised that these faithful ones would one day walk with Him, wearing white clothing, because they were worthy. Jesus said whoever overcame would be clothed in white garments, and He would not blot out that person's name from the Book of Life. Rather, He would confess that person's name before the Father and His angels.

► What was the discrepancy between the church's reputation and what Christ knew about them? **Others saw them as a church that was alive, but Christ called them a dead church.**

• Why is Christ's knowledge about you more important than what others think about you? **Christ cannot be deceived. What He knows about you is what you really are. He will respond to us according to our walk with Him (Prov. 12:2).**

• Many people thought that this church was alive, but they were wrong. What does that tell us about people? **It is easy to be fooled and to fool people.**

• What does it mean to be spiritually alive? **to love God and His Word; to be concerned for your own spiritual condition and that of others**

► What did Christ tell the people in Sardis that they should be doing rather than sleeping? **watching for His coming**

• How is this church like the church of Ephesus? **They left their first love.**

• What does it mean to be watchful for Christ's coming? **to live righteously, in such a way that you will be ready for Him to come at any time**

► What does sin do to a person's life? **It pollutes it or contaminates it.**

► What did Christ tell this church to do that would change them? **to repent**

► What did Christ promise to the faithful overcomers? **They would walk with Him dressed in white; they would not have their names blotted out of the book of life; Christ would confess their names before the Father and His angels.**

• What part of this message makes it sound like the ones who were not living for Christ were unsaved? **They were not overcomers; they would not wear white clothing and walk with Christ; Jesus would not confess their names before the Father and His angels.**

• What do you want your relationship with Christ to be like when He comes?

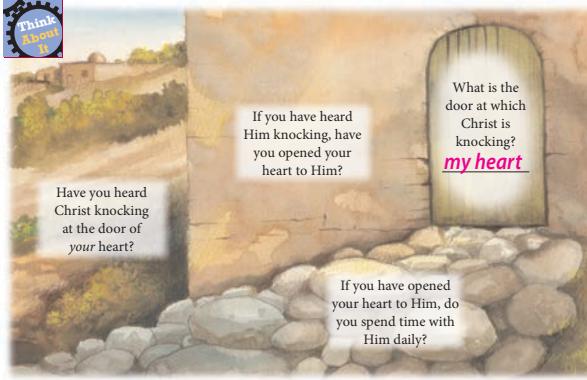
• Is anything keeping you from living that life now? If so, what?

Two by Two

Name _____

Christ's statements in Revelation 3:19–20 are presented in groups of two. Read the verses and answer the questions to discover the five pairs. **Answers will vary.**

- What are two proofs of God's love for you according to 3:19?
if He rebukes or reproves me if He chastens or disciplines me
- What two things are you commanded to do in 3:19?
be zealous or earnest repent
- What two things does Christ say He is doing in 3:20?
standing at the door knocking
- What two responsibilities are given in 3:20?
hear His voice open the door
- What two promises does Christ give in these verses to those who open to Him?
He will come in to them. He will eat with them.



Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 176 263

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Vital Signs

Revelation 3:1–6

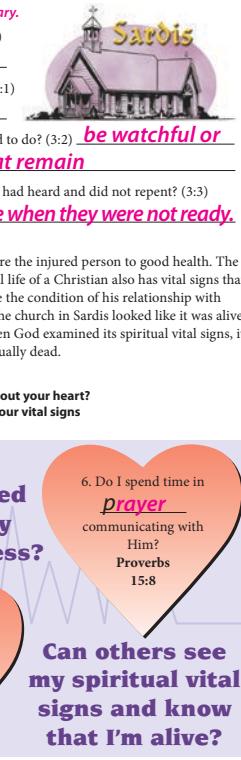
Name _____

Answer the questions about Revelation 3. **Answers may vary.**

- What did other people think of the church in Sardis? (3:1)
It was spiritually alive.
- What was the main problem with the church in Sardis? (3:1)
It was spiritually dead.
- What did Christ tell the people in this church they needed to do? (3:2)
be watchful or wake up, strengthen the things that remain
- What would happen if they were not faithful to what they had heard and did not repent? (3:3)
Christ would come like a thief at a time when they were not ready.

At the site of an emergency, medical officials immediately examine any injured people for their vital signs. A vital sign is a physical indication that the person is living. Vital signs include a person's pulse rate, respiratory rate, and temperature. Checking the vital signs helps the emergency personnel to decide what actions should be taken to restore the injured person to good health. The spiritual life of a Christian also has vital signs that indicate the condition of his relationship with God. The church in Sardis looked like it was alive, but when God examined its spiritual vital signs, it was actually dead.

What about you? What do your spiritual vital signs reveal about your heart?
Read the verses to discover the missing words. Then check your vital signs by asking yourself the questions.



5. Do I regularly **confess** my sin to God?
Psalm 32:5

6. Do I spend time in **prayer** communicating with Him?
Proverbs 15:8

7. Do I **love** to read God's Word and **meditate** on it constantly?
Psalm 119:47, 97

8. Do I love God so much that I **obey** His Word?
John 14:15

Redemption: God's Grand Design

264 Lesson 176

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Worktext page 263

Develop further understanding of the memory verses.

Worktext page 264

Recall details about the Bible account and apply Bible knowledge to everyday life.

LESSON

177

Hold Fast to God's Word

Materials

- Chart 38 ("The Seven Churches in Revelation")
- Pictures of buildings with pillars

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: Revelation 3:19–20

Practice the memory verses. Locate Revelation 3:19–20 and select a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

What does the picture of opening the door to Christ and having supper with Him symbolize? It symbolizes the idea of fellowship; if we are willing to hear His voice and obey

Him when He speaks, we may enjoy constant fellowship with Him, just as we would with a person sitting down to a meal with us.

How do we hear the voice of God? We pay attention to what He says in His Word.

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Philadelphia

The city of Philadelphia in Asia Minor was named after its founder, King Attalus Philadelphus, whose surname meant "brotherly love." Philadelphia lay about twenty-eight miles southeast of Sardis. It was located in an area noted for its destructive earthquakes, and the city itself was destroyed by earthquakes several times in its history.

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss pillars. Display the pictures of buildings with pillars.

What words come to mind when you think of pillars? (Note: Make a list of the words the students mention.) Answers may include the ideas of strength, stability, support, and permanence.

Have you ever heard a person be called a pillar? What does that expression mean? People are called pillars when they

have shown leadership or support for something over a long period of time (e.g., a pillar of the church).

Explain that pillars were used quite often in the Greek and Roman architecture of biblical times. Today's Bible account also describes a certain type of person as a pillar.

Teach for Understanding

Read Revelation 3:7–13 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **How do we know that Christ is pleased with the faithfulness of these Christians? He promised a special reward to those who overcame.**

Hold Fast to God's Word

John's next letter was to the church in Philadelphia.

Share the background information about Philadelphia and point out its location on Chart 38 ("The Seven Churches in Revelation").

Jesus' message to the church in Philadelphia was one of encouragement because they had been pleasing to Him. Jesus presented Himself in the letter as "he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth" (Rev. 3:7). Christ was declaring His sovereign authority over humans. He has the power to judge and to reward according to His perfect justice.

"I know your works," Jesus said to the church in Philadelphia. "I have set before you an open door, and nobody can shut it." The favor or opportunity He was giving to this church is not specified. But we know that Jesus meant these words in a favorable way because He then praised the church by saying that they had a little strength because they had kept His Word and not denied His name.

The believers in Philadelphia had enemies to contend with. Some people there were described by Christ as "the synagogue of Satan." This same description was mentioned earlier in the letter to the church of Smyrna. They called themselves Jews, but they were not believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ said, "I will cause these people to come to respect you, and they will know that I have loved you."

Christ did not rebuke the church in Philadelphia. He commended them for patiently obeying His Word. He made a promise to them in return. "I will keep you from the time of temptation that will come on all the world to try its inhabitants."

Jesus encouraged the Philadelphian believers to hold fast to what they had. They had the Lord Jesus Christ and His gospel. They had a history of faithful obedience and standing for Christ. If they held fast, no one would take their crown.

Jesus promised a special reward to anyone who overcame. That person would become a pillar in the temple of God so that he could always remain there. Christ would write on that person the name of His God, and the name of God's city, the new Jerusalem, which would someday come down from heaven.

Standing Firm

Revelation 3:7–13

Name _____

Mark whether the following statements are true or false. You may want to refer to Revelation 3:7–13 for help.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. Christ praised the church in Philadelphia because they had remained faithful to Him. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 2. Christ rebuked the church in Philadelphia because they had denied His name. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |
| 3. Christ warned that enemies of the church in Philadelphia would one day destroy the church. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |
| 4. God promised to keep the church in Philadelphia from the hour of trial and temptation. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 5. God promised that those in the church who overcame would become pillars in His temple. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 6. God commanded the church in Philadelphia to hold on what they had so no one would rob their church. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |

God allows trials to enter the lives of Christians to strengthen their character and to increase their faith. Even during these times of difficulty, God's Word remains true. God loves His children and offers words of encouragement and motivation to stand firm for Christ.



Solve the puzzle to find out what God asked the church in Philadelphia to do.

% – + 7 – en + – a + e = persevere

Answers will vary.

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Scripture was written to give Christians endurance, encouragement, and hope. Christians should endure difficult times like good soldiers of Jesus Christ. God works everything out for the good of those who love Him and are called for His purposes.

Romans 15:4 2 Timothy 2:3 Romans 8:28

Redemption: God's Grand Design Lesson 177 265

- What pleased Christ about the conduct of the Philadelphian church? **They had kept His Word and had not denied His name.**
- How do we know these Christians were strong to stand against opposition? **They had enemies that Christ had called "the synagogue of Satan."**
- What did Christ promise to do for these believers? **to keep them from the time of temptation**
- What did He tell the believers to do? **hold fast to the Lord and His gospel as well as to their good testimony**
- How do we know from this passage that God promised the overcoming Philadelphian Christians a place in heaven? **He promised that they would remain in the temple of God.**
- How do we know that Christ is pleased with the faithfulness of these Christians? **He promised a special reward to those who overcame.**

Worktext page 265

Recall facts about the Bible account and interpret Scripture.

Hold Fast
Revelation 2:12-29

Name _____

Because there is so much false teaching in the world, Christians must be cautious and discerning about everything they hear and see. God's Word challenges Christians to hold tightly to truth.

Read the verses and write the correct reference for each challenge.

Proverbs 4:13 Revelation 3:11 2 Thessalonians 2:15
 Hebrews 1:8 Hebrews 10:23

1. Don't let anyone steal your crown! Hold on to what you have learned because Christ is coming soon!
Revelation 3:11

2. Stand firm on the teachings of God's Word!
2 Thessalonians 2:15

3. Hold on to good instruction because it guards your life!
Proverbs 4:13

4. Hold on to your profession of faith in Christ! God is faithful and will fulfill His promises!
Hebrews 10:23




Christians are faced with the responsibility of recognizing and rejecting false teaching. How can you do this? Write in the blank the letter of the correct word that tells how you can guard against Satan's deception.

5. B your sin.
 6. A God for wisdom and discernment.
 7. D God's Word.
 8. A/E for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

A. Ask
 B. Confess
 C. Work
 D. Memorize
 E. Pray

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266 Lesson 177

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Worktext page 266

Interpret Scripture and apply Bible knowledge to everyday life.

LESSON

178

Repent of Lukewarmness

Materials

- Three foam cups, each containing a small amount of tea—one hot, one iced, and one at room temperature

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: Revelation 3:19–20

Practice the memory verses. Locate Revelation 3:19–20 and choose several students to take turns reading the verses aloud. Allow volunteers to recite the verses.

What is the theme of this passage? If Christians respond to God's loving discipline and repent of their sin, they will enjoy His fellowship.

Ask a volunteer to restate this passage in his own words. Tell the students of a time when you repented of sin that led to your fellowship with God being restored. Tell the students about a

very refreshing time you had in fellowship with God through reading and obeying His Word.

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Laodicea

The wealthy city of Laodicea was a center for banking and the textile industry. Fine black wool came from the sheep raised in that region of Asia Minor. Laodicea boasted a medical school, where a famous drug called *Phrygian powder* (used to treat eye defects) was produced.

Lukewarmness

In Bible times, custom dictated that beverages were drunk either hot or cold, but never lukewarm. Laodicea experienced the repulsiveness of lukewarm water on a regular basis. The Laodiceans received their water from another city by an aqueduct. By the time it reached them, it was lukewarm.

The relevance of temperature is applied to how a person relates to Jesus Christ. A Christian who loves and serves Jesus Christ with passion is described as hot. On the other end of the scale, a person who is not living for the Lord is cold. The in-between person, the one who neither scorns nor passionately serves Christ, is said to be lukewarm. He is content to go along with the crowd he is with.

Introduce the Bible Account

Direct a demonstration. Display the three cups of tea where the students can see them. Choose one student to come to the front, and have him take a sip from each of the cups. After the "taste test," ask him the following questions.

- Which cup of tea did you like best?
- Which cup of tea did you like least?
- Which cup of tea do you think would be least popular with the rest of the class? **probably the lukewarm tea**

Explain that most people prefer to drink tea either hot or cold, not at room temperature or lukewarm.

Teach for Understanding

Read Revelation 3:14–22 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What did Christ tell Christians in Laodicea to do to be cured? to be zealous and repent of their sin; to find in Him everything they needed for godly living**

Repent of Lukewarmness

Jesus' last message was for the church in Laodicea.

Use background information to discuss Laodicea and point out its location on Chart 38 ("The Seven Churches in Revelation").

Jesus called Himself the Amen, the faithful and true witness, and the origin of the creation of God. *Amen* is a word people say to affirm a truth they have heard. God the Father is true in all His words and actions. Since Christ is also God, He perfectly acknowledges the Father's truth and obeys His

will. He is the Creator of all. On the basis of this knowledge and authority, He spoke to the Laodicean church.

"I know that you are neither cold nor hot," He said. They did not like to disturb others around them either for or against Christ. This mediocre approach to Christ is totally unsatisfactory. Jesus told the Laodiceans that because they were lukewarm, being neither cold nor hot, He was going to vomit them out of His mouth.

What was it about the Laodiceans that made them unusable for Christ? His next words give the answer: "You say you are rich and have lots of material possessions so that you need nothing. But you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked." The Laodiceans were blind to their true condition. They were satisfied with themselves the way they were. They could not see that they had any need in their lives. Outwardly they appeared wealthy and successful. But spiritually, they were miserably poor.

Christ had the remedy for their wretched condition. He told them to buy from Him gold that was tested in fire, so that they would be rich; and white clothes so that the shame of their nakedness would not appear. He told them to anoint their eyes with salve, so that they could see. In Christ alone were the spiritual riches, holiness, and vision that they needed. His word *buy* implied that there would be a cost to these Christians. The next verse says that they would have to give up their sin and repent. They would need to be zealous—serious and fervent about their repentance. Only by repenting could they enjoy God's fellowship and blessing.

Jesus promised that overcomers would be granted the right to sit with Him on His throne, just as He had overcome and now reigned with His Father. Jesus exhorted believers once again to heed the Spirit's words to the churches.

Neither Cold nor Hot

Revelation 3:14–22

Name _____

Answer the questions. You may use your Bible for help.

Answers
will vary.

1. What does it mean to be lukewarm as a Christian?
to be neither cold nor hot; to be self-satisfied; content with a mediocre spiritual life
2. What did the people in the church in Laodicea think about themselves? (Rev. 3:17)
that they were rich and needed nothing
3. What was really true about them? (Rev. 3:17) They were wretched, miserable or pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.
4. Where could they find what they needed? (Rev. 3:18) in Christ
5. What did Christ tell them to do? (Rev. 3:19) be zealous or earnest and repent
Why? (Rev. 3:19) He was chastening them because He loved them.
6. What could they enjoy if they repented? (Rev. 3:20–21) fellowship with Christ; sitting on the throne with Christ



Take time at home to think about the following truths.

God sometimes uses difficult circumstances to cause Christians to repent. Because God is good, He loves you and wants to fellowship with you. Often it is only when trouble comes into your life that He can really get your attention. How might God be chastening you right now? What do you think He wants you to realize about Him? What do you think He wants you to do in response to His chastening?

How would you describe yourself spiritually?



lukewarm?



Is there a sin in your life that is keeping you from being a zealous, active, and obedient Christian? If you find yourself becoming cold or lukewarm in your faith, consider your life in light of Luke 9:23–25.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 178 267

• This account indicates that getting right with God (repenting) would cost the Laodiceans something. Is there anything you are not willing to give up to have the joy of the Lord in your life?

• What does the Bible call something that is more important to us than God? **an idol**

• Are you willing to repent of loving that person, purpose, or possession that is so important to you?

Writing Connection (optional)

Direct a letter-writing activity. Remind the students that in most of the letters they have studied in Revelation 2–3, Christ commended the people for something they had done well. Encourage each student to think of someone who has done something that he appreciated during the last week or month. Perhaps someone in his family, a classmate, a friend, or a neighbor has done something to help him or to make his life more pleasant. Instruct the students to each write an encouraging letter to that person, thanking him for the good job that he did and telling him how much the student appreciated it. (Note: You may want to proofread the letters for content and accuracy before allowing the students to send their letters.)

Worktext page 267

Recall details about the Bible account and apply Bible knowledge to everyday life.

- What was the problem in the Laodicean church? **They were lukewarm; they were self-satisfied and blind to their spiritual needs.**
- In a physical sense, would you like to be wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and without sufficient clothing?
- If somebody was spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and uncovered, would you want him to guide your life?
- Does your life verify that you are spiritually healthy, strong, stable, helpful, and capable of seeing trouble and avoiding it?
- What did Christ tell the Christians in Laodicea to do to be cured? **to be zealous and repent of their sin; to find all that they needed for godly living in Him**
- What would they enjoy if they obeyed the Lord and repented? **fellowship with Christ and His blessing**
- What does it mean to have fellowship with Christ? **to enjoy listening to and talking with Him, and living in obedience to Him**

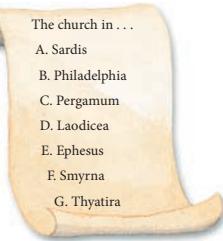
The Seven Churches: Review

Revelation 2–3

Name _____

Match each fact to the correct church. You may use your Bible for help.

- G** 1. Christ rebuked this church because it was tolerating the teachings of the evil woman Jezebel (Rev. 2:18–20).
- F** 2. Christ encouraged this church to endure suffering and persecution and to be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:8–10).
- A** 3. Christ rebuked this church for being spiritually dead even though others thought it was alive (Rev. 3:1–2).
- D** 4. Christ told this church that it was poor, blind, miserable, and wretched (Rev. 3:14–17).
- E** 5. Christ challenged this church to return to its first love (Rev. 2:1–4).
- B** 6. Christ told this church He had set before it an open door of opportunity to glorify God (Rev. 3:7–8).
- C** 7. Christ praised this church for its faithfulness to Him but rebuked it for holding on to the false teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans (Rev. 2:14–16).



Answer the questions.

Answers will vary.

8. List two things the letters to the seven churches all had in common.

All the letters were from Christ.

All of them included encouragement for the believers.

9. How was the letter to the church in Philadelphia different from all the other letters?

Christ only praised and encouraged the Philadelphians. He did not rebuke them.

10. For what reason do you think Christ sent the letters to the churches?

to encourage them to continue being faithful; to show them that He cared about them; to rebuke them and bring them to repentance



Think about it
Think about the spiritual condition of your heart. With which of the seven churches do you most closely identify?

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

268 Lesson 178

Worktext page 268

Review details about the seven churches in Revelation.

LESSON 179 Faithful Follower: John Foxe (Part 2)

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: Revelation 3:19–20

Practice the memory verses. Display the references for the verses memorized in this unit: **Revelation 1:3; Revelation 15:3–4; Revelation 2:4–5; and Revelation 3:19–20**. Give the students five minutes to open their Bibles and review the verses silently; then invite volunteers to recite what verses they can.

Faithful Follower: John Foxe

Introduce the Biography

Review the first part of the story from Lesson 174.

- What famous book did John Foxe write? **Foxe's Book of Martyrs**

- Why did he write it? **to remind Christians of the faithfulness of believers who had been killed and to encourage them to hold fast to their faith**
- Why did Foxe flee from England? **The English government under Queen Mary had issued a warrant for his arrest because he was a Protestant leader.**
- What city did Foxe flee to? **Frankfurt, Germany**

Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following account based on the life of John Foxe. Listening question: Why was John Foxe respected and admired by people all across the country? **He was faithful.**

The Price They Paid (Part 2)

Queen Mary of England, known as Bloody Mary, died after reigning for only five years. Her sister Elizabeth became the new queen. Bishops urged Elizabeth to submit to the leadership of the pope, but Elizabeth refused. "I and my house will serve the Lord," she said. "We will covenant with God, not with the bishop of Rome."

As word spread across the country, Christians who had been exiled from England joyfully returned home. John Foxe was finishing his *Book of Martyrs* in Germany and delayed his return until the book was published. Foxe returned to England in 1559, nearly a year after Elizabeth became queen.

One of Foxe's greatest joys in returning home was seeing his friend and former pupil, Thomas, now the Duke of Norfolk.

"It is so good to see you again, friend Foxe. We have waited many months for your return."

"I have longed to be home and see you again, Thomas. But now I bring my finished work with me, and I praise God for that."

"Many of your friends are asking when there will be an English version of your book," said Thomas. "Thousands in England cannot read Latin well enough to appreciate the testimony of the martyrs."

"An English version is my goal," Foxe replied, "but first I must find better-paying work, or my family will starve."

Thomas invited Foxe and his family to live at his house in London for as long as they wished. "I would be ungrateful if I ever forgot the lessons I learned from you when you were my tutor. Should you stay with me for a lifetime, my debt to you would not be paid."

Foxe and his family lived in Thomas's house for ten years as Foxe continued to preach and write. In 1563, the English version of the *Book of Martyrs* was published, containing over eighteen hundred pages. It became popular immediately; five editions of the book were published during Queen Elizabeth's lifetime. People in all parts of the kingdom became aware of the godly heritage the martyrs had passed down to them.

In the summer of 1563, a plague broke out in London, killing thousands of people and forcing many to flee. Several of Foxe's friends urged him to leave as well, but he refused. "God needs men to stay and pray for the sick and

comfort the dying. I am not afraid of death, for that will only take me home to my Father."

Foxe prayed faithfully that the Lord would heal the city, and he also wrote letters to those outside London for financial aid.

"I speak not for myself, but for those who cannot help themselves. I ask that you, in Christian duty and kindness, will give the brethren your helping hand by sending them money to meet their needs."

Not long after that, funds started to come in; and within a few weeks the plague disappeared.

In May of 1568, Mary Queen of Scots fled from dangers in her own country and took refuge in the northern part of England. Soon Thomas became involved in her political schemes to overthrow the good Queen Elizabeth. He even planned to marry Queen Mary. One day Foxe spoke to Thomas about this.

"I have heard rumors that you intend to marry the Scottish Queen Mary. Please tell me these rumors are false."

"I pity her," Thomas answered. "She is so unhappy. And you know I need a wife."

"But you cannot marry someone who plans to overthrow our Queen Elizabeth. We must keep Mary from taking the English throne. I warn you, Thomas, do not become involved in her plans. The day you marry her will bring you no good, but evil."

Despite Foxe's warning, Thomas still planned to marry the Queen of Scots. But he was arrested and sentenced to death for helping in a plot to overthrow Queen Elizabeth.

Foxe remained a faithful friend to Thomas; he visited him in prison and promised to attend him at the scaffold.

"God is quick to forgive, Thomas. Search the Scripture and pray; He will give you the comfort you need," Foxe advised.

Because of Foxe's encouragement, Thomas was able to face death calmly and at peace with God. He urged those present to give their allegiance to God, not to the Church of Rome.

Even in his death, Thomas did not forget Foxe. In his will, he arranged for Foxe to be paid a sum of money each year so he could continue his writing.

Because of his faithful service, Foxe was respected and admired by people all across the country. Queen Elizabeth called him "our good father Foxe," and even strangers came to him for help.

John Foxe died on April 18, 1587, and was buried two days later. His *Book of Martyrs* was printed and reprinted, and people even today continue to read it.

John Foxe was dedicated to helping others. He witnessed boldly for the cause of Christ and left a shining example of devotion to God.

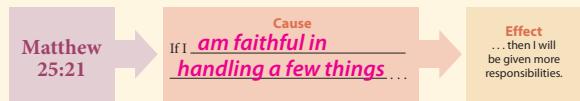
What Does God Say About Being Dependable?

Name _____



Are you responsible? Trustworthy? Dependable? These three character traits all describe someone who is *reliable* and *can be trusted to complete his work and make the right decision, no matter what the situation*. A dependable person proves himself to be trustworthy. A trustworthy person proves himself capable of handling more responsibilities that will bring more opportunities to serve God. Ultimately, a dependable person will experience God's blessings for his obedience.

Read the verses and fill in the blanks for the causes and effects found in each verse.



Beginning at the center, draw a line as you find your way out of the maze. Then write the words over which you cross in order on the blanks below to discover the blessings of Christlike character that pleases God.

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 179 269

- How did God provide for the Foxe family's need of a place to live? **Foxe's former pupil, Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, allowed them to stay in his home.**
- What happened to Thomas? **He married Mary Queen of Scots against Foxe's advice and was sentenced to death for plotting to overthrow Queen Elizabeth.**
- How did God allow Foxe to help his friend Thomas later on? **When Thomas was sentenced to death, Foxe visited him in prison, encouraged him to repent of his sin, and attended him at his death.**
- How did God use Foxe to help London during the plague? **He comforted the sick and dying, prayed for God's healing on the city, and sent letters requesting financial aid.**
- What has become of Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*? **It is still read even today.**
- What is probably the main encouragement people receive from reading Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*? **to continue to tell others the gospel of Christ even when it costs something**
- What is your main source of encouragement to continue telling others the gospel of Christ until He comes? **Possible answers may be the Bible, parents, family members, friends, church members, or church-related messages and activities.**

- What event allowed Foxe to return to England? **Bloody Mary died, and Queen Elizabeth, a Protestant, took over the throne.**

Something to Think About

Review Name _____

 God's Word has a lot to say about the kind of person you are becoming. You have been taught this year many ways that you can become more like Christ. Are you being responsible to make right choices about what you have learned? What changes have you made in your life because of your desire to be like Christ?

Read the verses and write God's reminder about the responsibility you have to Him. *Answers will vary.*

Romans 14:12 *I will give an account of myself to God.*

James 4:17 *If I know what I should do but don't do it, I am sinning.*

What About Me?

Take time at home to think about the "Walking with God" topics you have studied this year. Answer the following questions.

1. Write two statements about how you have learned to be more like Christ this year.
Answers will vary.
2. Write one change you have made in your actions this year to become more like Christ.
Answers will vary.
3. Describe one area in your life where you still need to make changes to be more like Christ.
Answers will vary.

Think about your level of responsibility in the following areas. Rate yourself on a scale from 1 to 4.

Evaluation Questions	Need to Trust Christ	Walking in Obedience
1. Am I careful to complete the details of my assignments?	1 2 3 4	
2. Do I complete my assignments on time?	1 2 3 4	
3. Am I diligent and hardworking?	1 2 3 4	
4. Can I be trusted to make the right decision no matter what?	1 2 3 4	
5. Do I tell the truth about everything?	1 2 3 4	
6. Do I usually make the choice to not be lazy?	1 2 3 4	
7. Do I treat my body like the temple of the Holy Spirit?	1 2 3 4	
8. Am I modest in what I choose to wear?	1 2 3 4	
9. Do I forgive others who have wronged me?	1 2 3 4	
10. Am I bold to tell others about what Christ has done for me?	1 2 3 4	

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270 Lesson 179

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Unit 10c–10d Review

Name _____

Circle the letters of the correct answers.

1. Christ told the Ephesian church to return to their first love. What does it mean to return to their first love? [Lesson 171]
 - a. They should make Christ the most important love of their lives again.
 - b. Spouses should love their spouses the way they used to.
 - c. Christians should serve God more by giving more money.
 - d. Pastors should return to preaching Bible messages instead of telling stories.
2. Because the Ephesian Christians left their first love, what did Christ tell them to do? [Lesson 171]
 - a. repent
 - b. try harder
 - c. forsake idolatry and choose a sin that was not so bad
 - d. pray more
3. Christ introduced Himself to the church at Smyrna as "the first and the last." He said that He would give them the crown of life if they did what? [Lesson 172]
 - a. remained faithful to Him until death
 - b. fasted and prayed
 - c. faithfully gave money to the Christians facing persecution
 - d. did not argue
4. Which set of phrases represents the message of Revelation 3:19–20 (the unit memory verses)? [Lessons 176–79]
 - a. faithfulness, sacrifice, persecution, power over the Beast
 - b. preach the Word, pray without ceasing, tell others
 - c. God's love, God's discipline, Christians' repentance, fellowship with Christ
 - d. praise, blessing, will not leave you, Book of Life
5. Why did Christ say to the church of Laodicea that He would vomit them out of His mouth? [Lesson 178]
 - a. They did not pray for the persecuted churches.
 - b. They were neither hot nor cold toward Christ.
 - c. They did not repent for having riches.
 - d. They knew how to witness to others, but they did not.

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Half-Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 171–80

Worktext pages 269–70

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 180 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

Develop dependability. Read page 269 and discuss what God says about being dependable. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages and discuss the effects of being dependable. Discuss other characteristics of Christlike character.

Make a personal evaluation. Read page 270 and discuss the responsibility Christians have toward God. Encourage the students to take time at home to evaluate their actions to see whether they have become more like Christ this year.

LESSON 180 Unit 10d Activity

Direct a testimony time. Remind the students that the reason the martyrs were killed was that people knew their *testimonies*—people knew they were believers in Christ. Christians should be ready to tell others their testimonies, their stories of how Christ saved them, whenever they have the opportunity. Give students the opportunity to write out their testimonies for you to read (optional). Choose some testimonies to be read to the class, or direct the students to tell their testimonies to other students. Ask the questions below.

(Note: Because all students in a class may not be saved, be careful to not make this activity required. It would be harmful for a student to make up a testimony to please others.)

- **What led you to put your trust in Christ for salvation?**
- **How do you know Christ has saved you? Possible answers include giving a Scripture promise.**
- **What has changed in your life since you were saved?**

Unit 10 Review

At the Appointed Time

Name _____

Use the words to complete the sentences.

Eternity	Marriage Supper	Rapture
Great White Throne	Millennium	Tribulation

1. The **Marriage Supper** of the Lamb will be the time of rejoicing when the Lamb and His bride are united forever.

2. The **Great White Throne** Judgment will be the place where unbelievers are judged for their sin and sent to the lake of fire.

3. **Eternity** is time without end, when believers will worship Christ as their Savior and King.

4. The **Millennium** will be a thousand-year period of peace when Christ will reign over the earth.

5. The **Tribulation** will be a seven-year period of great trouble and judgment on the earth.

6. The **Rapture** will be the time of Christ's return for Christians, preceded by a shout and the trump of God.

Write the letter of the correct word(s) next to each description.

C 7. all believers

A 8. a messenger of God

F 9. a prediction, usually from God

H 10. used to represent or picture something else

D 11. promised to faithful Christians

B 12. place where Satan will be locked during the Millennium

G 13. symbolize the seven churches that shine as lights in the world of sin

E 14. symbolizes judgment when seen coming from Christ

- A. angel
- B. bottomless pit
- C. bride of Christ
- D. crown of life
- E. double-edged sword
- F. prophecy
- G. candlesticks
- H. symbol

Mark with an X the correct answers.

15. What things might a person do to prepare to meet God in the end times?

X trust Christ alone for salvation

store up supplies for the troubles of the Tribulation

X witness to others

X grow in the love and knowledge of God through prayer and Bible reading

keep a record of all his good deeds

Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 161–180

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Unit 10 Review (continued)

Name _____

Write **T** if the sentence is true and **F** if the sentence is false.

T 16. Unbelievers receive the judgment of God because they have sinned against God and rejected Christ.

T 17. During the Millennium, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit.

T 18. There will not be a temple in the New Jerusalem since God will live there.

F 19. There will never be an opportunity for people to come to Christ after the Rapture.

T 20. The letters written by Christ to the seven churches were to encourage them to do right.

T 21. Jesus will be the source of light in the New Jerusalem.

F 22. The Millennium will last for all eternity.

T 23. There will not be any death or sorrow in the New Jerusalem.

T 24. God is the only person who knows the future.

Write the letter of the correct phrase to complete each sentence.

E 25. One day, every knee will bow to _____.

C 26. The vision that God gave John was of _____ rather than of Christ as a man on earth.

A 27. God has promised that the souls of believers _____ from Satan.

F 28. Christ, the Lamb of God, is the _____ to open the seven-sealed scroll.

H 29. Christ and His army will fight the armies of the world at _____.

D 30. In heaven, every creature will _____ the Lamb.

G 31. Although some of Zechariah's prophecies were fulfilled during Christ's earthly ministry, most will be fulfilled at _____.

B 32. After the Battle of Armageddon, _____ will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Answer the questions. *Accept any reasonable answer.*

33. Why does God sometimes send difficulties into the lives of Christians? **Possible answers: so that they might become more Christlike, be a testimony to others, and repent of sin and return to Him**

34. What test can a believer use to see if something is truth or false teaching? **God's Word is truth. Compare everything to the Bible.**

Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 161–180

Unit 10 Review

Materials

- Copy of "Unit 10 Review" [E]

Guide a review of Unit 10. Review the people and events in preparation for the Unit 10 Test (optional). See the Teacher's Toolkit CD for answers.