

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR TODAY'S FAMILIES

FAMILIES WITH HOPE



Samuel & Wirdis Peguero

Bible study guide for today's families
Families with Hope

Edition, 2020

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Edition sponsored by the
Department of Family
Ministries of the Greater
New York Conference

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LESSON 1

A happy family

We all want to have a happy family. This was also the desire of Ernest and Martha, a newly married couple of modest economic status and who enjoyed exchanging beautiful ideas of what they expected from the future of their relationship.

Ernest and Martha used to talk about traveling around the world, buying a modern car, and living comfortably in a quiet neighborhood. They wanted to continue their education, have children, and enjoy good financial health.

During their first year together, everything looked great. But things began to change. It seemed that something was missing in their plan that would give meaning and strength to their relationship. They realized that material property was important but there were other things even more important. Things began to improve when someone suggested that they study the Bible to learn about God's plan for their family and they accepted.

Hope filled their hearts when they found what was absent at home and they were lead along a better path.

ANSWER:

1. Who was the author of marriage and family? Genesis 2:18.

2. How did God form the first couple? Genesis 2:21-23.

3. What are the essential principles set forth in Genesis 2:24 to maintain family bliss?

4. How did Jesus reaffirm the importance of marriage? John 2:1-11. .

5. In God's plan, how are children deemed? Psalm 127:3.

6. What is the key for the family to find hope and harmony nowadays? Matthew 11:28.

COMMENT:

According to the verses studied above, for us today, what is the message of hope that God's plan has for the family?

MY REACTION:

I believe that God is the founder of the family and that His plan is the best in order to keep the family together.

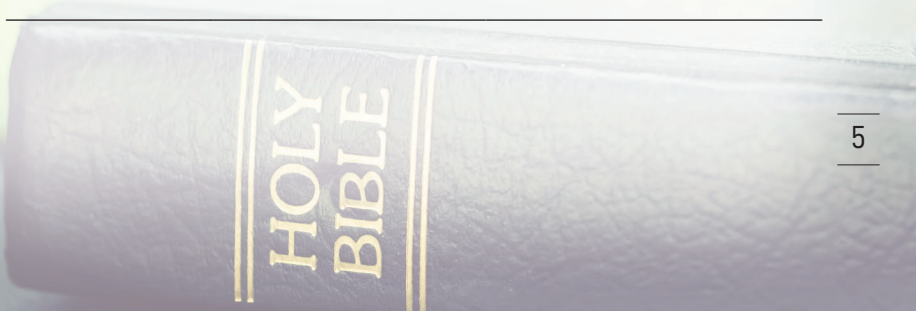
I hope God blesses my home and helps us learn more about Him.

MY PRAYER:

Beloved Father, thank you for the family you have given me. Thank you also for your plans for us. Train us to collaborate with you in response to your invitation to come to you and bring our burdens. Help us have an experience with you. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intentions:





LESSON 2

Much more than love

Long before they met, Ernest and Martha always talked about love. People told them different things: "it is a feeling, it is given, it can be sold, received, built and even lost." More than all this, love is a principle. It is abstract. Though we cannot see or touch it, we can certainly observe it through lovely acts. Therefore, love does not know languages, color, race or condition.

For Ernest and Martha, it was important to discover that this principle is vital for the proper functioning of any stable family. When there is love, everything becomes easier.

ANSWER:

1. What advice does the Holy Bible give us, which would promote a better coexistence in the family? 1 Corinthians 16:14; Romans 12:10.

2. In what practical way can we apply the principle of love in the family? 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Ephesians 4:2.

3. What is the source of love that surpasses all comparison? 1 John 4:7-8

4. What was the ultimate demonstration of God's love? John 3:16; 1 John 4:10.

5. How did Jesus summarize the duty of man? Luke 10:27

6. What is the invitation for all those who wish to love deeply? Deuteronomy 7:9.

COMMENT:

What could happen if the members of the modern family treated each other with the love Jesus teaches in his Word?

MY REACTION:

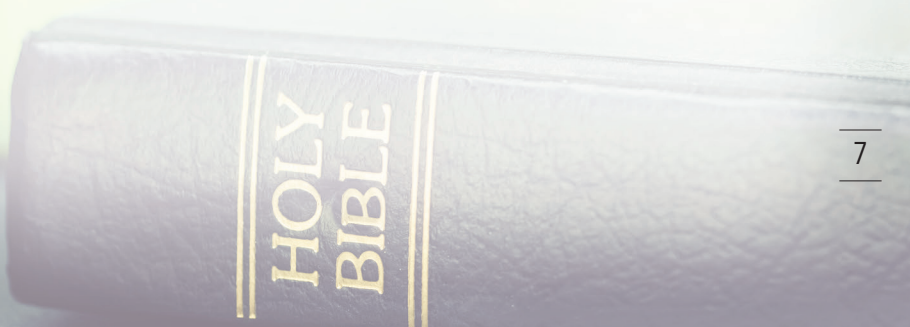
I see in Jesus' sacrifice the greatest proof of love ever revealed. I want God to help me love him with all my heart and love others just as he loves me too.

MY PRAYER:

Dear God, I thank you for the infinite love with which you have loved me. Thank you for giving me Jesus as the ultimate proof of your love. Thank you for the power of that love which helps me to love our fellow men, although sometimes it seems difficult. Help me to love you more and to show you how much I love you. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grade: ABC _____ Instructor _____ Date _____

My family and personal prayer intentions:





LESSON 3

It's a matter of communication

One of the most special privileges that human beings have is without a doubt the ability to communicate. Expressing what we feel, what we want, and also what we do not want brings people together and allows them to develop functional relationships. In this sense, knowing how to express thoughts and feelings, listening to those thoughts and feelings, and managing to understand the message always makes a big difference.

This is how Martha and Ernest experienced progress in dialogue. First, they became best friends. They then had a good courtship and then married. Despite challenges, they were in the process of maturation. This is precisely what happens when we try to approach God.

ANSWER:

1. If we approach God, will he listen to us? Jeremiah 33:3.

2. How can we establish a dialogue with God? Ephesians 6:18

3. Is God willing to answer our prayers? Matthew 21:22; Romans 8:26

4. Is there a model of prayer that Jesus taught? Matthew 6:9-13

5. How can humans become true friends with God? Genesis 5:24

6. If a family faces anxiety or anguish over life's problems, what recommendation and promise does the Bible provide? Philippians 4:6-7

COMMENT:

In our process of getting to know God and share our needs with him, how does his divine wisdom act, especially when we ask for things that might be inconvenient? 1 John 5:14

MY REACTION:

I understand that talking to God through a prayer is a powerful tool that connects me with him. I want my family to benefit from frequent praying at home and wherever we have the opportunity to do it.

MI ORACIÓN:

Querido Dios: Que lindo es saber que a pesar de ser el Creador y Sustentador del Universo no por ello estas lejos de nosotros. Ayúdame a tener en mi vida y en mi casa un estilo de vida, donde la oración nos permita mantenernos conectados contigo.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intentions:





LESSON 4

The *Text Message* of God's love

When Ernest was going on a work trip to another country, Martha was very worried. She could not accompany him and did not know how they would communicate during those two weeks. Communications were very limited in the place where Ernesto was but he was able to constantly send text messages. In her solitude, those messages helped Martha to stay calm. Whenever she was afraid or anxious, she read her husband's messages. This way she remembered that he loved her and would soon return. God also loves this kind of message. He sent us a text with all the knowledge necessary to attain salvation. Let's see.

CONTESTA:

1. Where does that special text message come from which we are referring to today and what is it for? 2 Timothy 3:6-17.

2. What influence does the Word of God have on people's lives? Hebrews 4:12.

3. How can God's message of love help young people? Psalm 119:9.

4. What is the expiration date of the text message that God sent us? Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35.

5. What does the Bible look like and why is it so necessary today? Psalm 119:105.

6. Upon receiving God's loving text message, what should we do with it? James 1:22.

DISCUSS:

When a family reads and practices the teachings of the Word of God, they receive special promises such as those expressed in St. John 8:31-32. Could you identify some areas where the modern family needs to be set free?

MY REACTION:

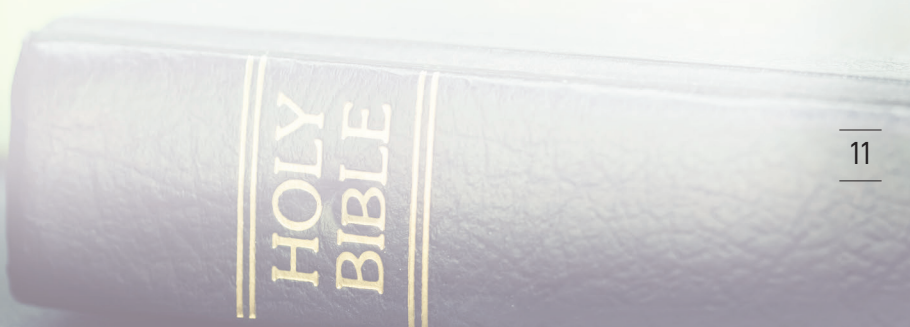
I appreciate this wonderful text message that God has sent me as a gift. I want to read it every day and put it into practice. I want my family to also enjoy every blessing that the wise Word of God brings us.

MY PRAYER:

Thank you good God for your Holy Word. Your teachings are rich and true food for the soul. Give us more and more reasons to read it thoroughly and live according to its teachings. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intention:





LESSON 5

A serious problem at home

Martha and Ernest's home was not perfect. Sometimes they had problems, just like every other family. These problems were not part of their plan but they had to face them. Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be part of a relationship where there are never offenses or misunderstandings? To have parents who are perfect or children who are never wrong? A family life without any conflicts is a long-awaited ideal. Yet that has always been God's desire for his children.

In fact, at first, things were not as we know them today, but an intruder called sin entered and damaged everything. The poison of this terrible evil has spread everywhere in our world. God had to make important decisions about it. But is there a way out? Let's see what Martha and Ernest could learn and how this helped them better understand their reality.

ANSWER:

1. If everything was perfect, how did sin originate? Ezekiel 28:15, 17; Isaiah 14:13-14 .

2. What happened in heaven after Lucifer's rebellion? Revelations 12:7, 9.

3. How was our world affected by that deadly poison called sin? Genesis 3:1-6.

4. What is the end result of sin? Romans 6:23

5. Am I a sinner? Could my relatives also be sinners? Romans 3:23; 5:12

6. If human beings cannot solve the problem of sin by themselves, then where would they find a remedy? Jeremiah 13:23; John 3:16

DISCUSS:

Consider the ravages that sin has caused to the world and especially to families. Talk about God's great provision to solve this problem.

MY REACTION:

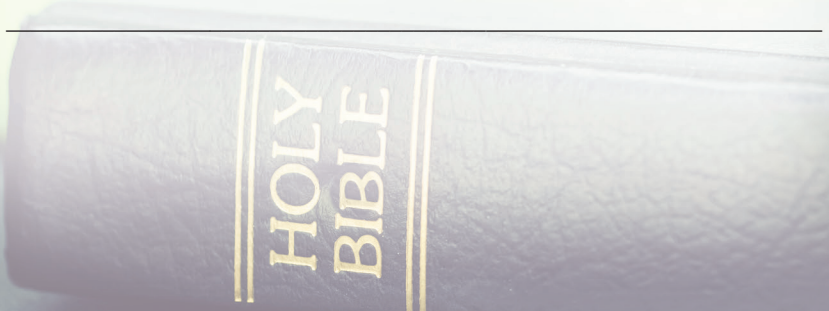
Upon understanding from the Bible the seriousness of sin, my inability to solve it, and the great hope that God offers me, today I have decided to hold on to Jesus and accept him as my only and sufficient Savior.

MY PRAYER:

Dear God, what would my family and I do without you? Thank you because you saw me lost and hopeless and gave me Jesus. Thanks to you, my family and I can talk about salvation and eternal life, which will be happy and free from conflict. Receive my heart and take it forever in you. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intention:





LESSON 6

Regret and forgiveness

They loved each other, indeed, it was true. But it was also true that Martha and Ernest sometimes offended each other. When one of them made a mistake, both of them and sometimes others were affected. At times they tried to ignore their faults. Little by little their hearts were charged with guilt and remorse. It was at that point when their friends who provided them with this study guided them to the previous lesson and subsequently to this one.

Their hearts were impressed by the love of God. They recognized their faults and could then move forward. Knowing the impact of sin in our own lives and sadly seeing the things that separate us from God are important elements in the process of spiritual growth.

ANSWER:

1. What certainty does the Bible offer despite our mistakes to achieve God's favor? Luke 5:32

2. What is the reaction experienced by those who have had an encounter with God? Acts 9:6; 2:37.

3. How does God answer man in the face of man's great need for forgiveness? Acts 2:38; 16:31.

4. Is trying to hide our faults worth it? Hebrews 4:13; Proverbs 28:13.

5. What happens when we repent and confess our sins before God? 1 John 1:9; Isaiah 55:7.

6. How does a person forgiven by God feel? Psalm 32:1-2.

DISCUSS:

It is difficult for man to understand and apply the concept of forgiveness as described in the Bible. How does what Jesus has done benefit us and how does this affect our relationship with others? Isaiah 43:25

MY REACTION:

By the grace of God, I recognize that I am a sinner. I hope Jesus' forgiveness erases my past sins and by his power I long to be strengthened to live according to his holy will.

MY PRAYER:

Dear God, your love for me and my family is so great that I am hardly beginning to understand it. Although I don't understand why you noticed me and why you have loved me so much I accept it by faith and give myself to you. Give me your forgiveness and give me your life. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intention:





LESSON 7

Family safety

Walking one day in New York City, Ernest observed numerous cars of different makes and models rolling down the streets. Both him and his wife admired how seriously their drivers took traffic laws. On the other side of the park children played and enjoyed a nice and warm day. Later that day, they walked by a prison building that they knew was full of prisoners. Then, they asked:

–What would happen if the people in our town had no rules, if no one was judged for a crime no matter what they did? Would you like to live in such a place? –Martha asked.

Both concluded that although sometimes we don't like rules, they protect us, and by observing them we value their benefits. The same happens with the law of God, which we will see today.

ANSWER:

1. What are the principles that make up God's moral law? Exodus 20:3-17.

2. How does the Bible describe the Holy law of God? Romans 7:12.

3. According to the Bible, which of the Ten Commandments is the least important? James 2:10-11.

4. Did the death of Christ abolish the principles of his law? Matthew 5:17-18; Psalm 111:7-8 .

5. How do laws help us understand the problem of sin? 1 John 3:4; Galatians 3:24 .

6. What did Jesus say about his friends, in relation to his commandments? John 14:15; 15:10.

DISCUSS:

Review the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20 and try to identify how the practice of these principles can bring blessing to your family and how much you might suffer by ignoring them.

MY REACTION:

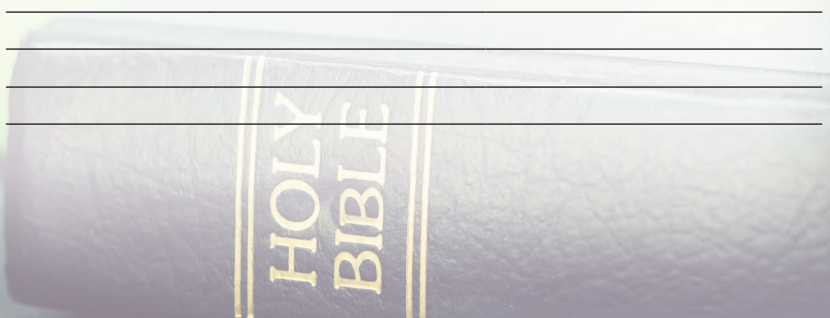
I understand that the ten commandments of God's law have been given for the blessing of man and for the happiness of families. I want God to let me to put them into practice.

MY PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father: Thank you for favoring us with your wisdom by giving us your commandments of love. Give me the inner strength that I need so that my life delights in doing your will every day. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intention:





LESSON 8

No time for the special date?

In Ernest and Martha's family, time was becoming increasingly complex. Their family had already gotten bigger with the arrival of two beautiful children, just as they had dreamed. They had their car and lived in a quiet neighborhood. To honor their commitments, they worked hard and had almost no time to share with their family and nor as a couple. This was very stressful for them. In today's study, we will discover like they did that there is a special day that has been designed for pleasure and delight, which can be harnessed weekly by each family. Let's see what it is about.

ANSWER:

1. Which special day is that, who designed it and when? Genesis 2:1-2.

2. Who was the reason for this gift? Mark 2:27.

3. What does God expect from his children on this special day? Exodus 20:8-11.

4. How does God consider this gift? Ezekiel 20:12.

5. At the end of his creation, during his earthly ministry and after his death, on what day did Jesus rest? Genesis 2:2-3; Luke 4:16; 23:54-56.

6. Who are we meeting on that day and how long will it last? Isaiah 66:22-23.

DISCUSS:

How can your family benefit from this day, which is also a divine gift?

MY REACTION:

Today I accept and receive the gift of Saturday as a resting day given by God to man. I want to make a weekly date with God and my family to enjoy this day as he has designed it.

MY PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for understanding our needs. Thank you for providing a day for our rest, enjoyment and delight. I put myself in your hands so that by your grace my family and I can enjoy your wonderful provision. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intention:





LESSON 9

The long-awaited day

What Ernest and Martha's children liked the most was vacation time. They longed for those days with much anticipation. As expected, they very much enjoyed vacation and didn't want that precious time to end. Can you remember what your most precious vacation was? Without a doubt, that is not even comparable to the most desired journey that awaits the great family of God. We are sure you will love being part of it. Let's see.

ANSWER:

1. What was Jesus' greatest promise to his followers? John 14:1-3.

2. How and when will his expected return take place? Revelations 1:7; Matthew 24:36.

3. What is the purpose of Jesus coming? Matthew 16:27.

4. Where will Jesus take us and how long will we be on vacation? John 14:3; Revelations 20:4.

5. What will be the final abode of the redeemed? Revelations 21:1-3.

6. What will happen then with tears, pain and death? Revelations 21:4.

DISCUSS:

Pensando en donde vivimos o en los lugares a donde solemos ir de vacaciones, ¿qué diferencias podemos establecer entre los actuales y lo que Jesús nos ofrece? Ver 1 Corintios 2:9.

MY REACTION:

I am impressed by the extraordinary plans God is making for me and my family. I believe in the promise of the second coming of Christ. I want to be ready for that great day! I hope my family is prepared too. Today I'm giving my heart to Jesus and I yearn to prepare for his glorious appearance

MY PRAYER:

Dear God, I don't know how to describe your great love or the best way to express my reaction to the many plans you have written for me and my family. All I know is that we want to live by your side from this moment on and forever. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intention:





LESSON 10

No more goodbyes!

They never imagined that this experience could be so sad. Martha and Ernest loved their children and wanted to stay with them forever. Surprisingly, an accident changed the story of their family; they lost the youngest of their children. Although several months went by, words could not express the pain they still felt.

In the midst of these circumstances, when the instructor of this course arrived at their house to share the study of today's lesson, a ray of hope reached their hearts. They found valuable teachings on this topic in the Bible and their way of seeing life took an extraordinary turn.

ANSWER:

1. According to the Bible, who is the only one who is immortal? 1 Timothy 6:16.

2. How does death come to us? Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12.

3. What happens when a person dies? Genesis 2:7; Ecclesiastes 12:7.

4. What kind of information does the deceased have? Ecclesiastes 9: 5-6; Psalm 146: 4.

5. Nowadays it is common to hear that the dead come out. If they are no longer with the living, who does things on their behalf? Revelations 13:13-14; Isaiah 8:19-20.

6. What great promise does God make to those who accept Jesus and decide to live for him? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 11:25.

DISCUSS:

This seems too good to be true: The opportunity of life after death! Yet the condition set forth by the Bible must be met for this to happen. Given the fact that Jesus died and also rose from the dead, what does this mean to the human family who have suffered so much but who live for him and believe in his promises?

MY REACTION:

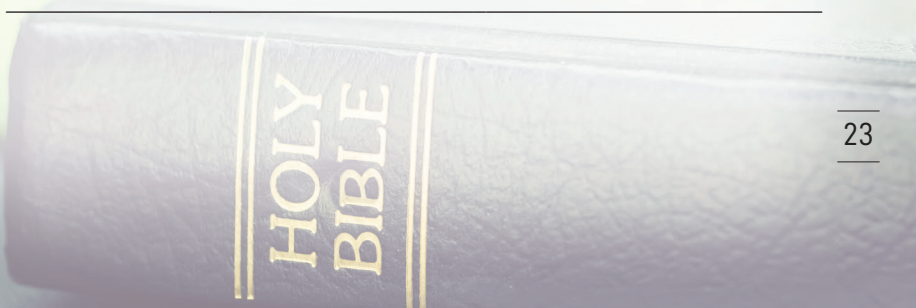
Today I'm clinging to the creator of life, knowing that at his return there will be a great party that will never end. On that day with totally transformed bodies, with no more death or pain, we will live forever with the Lord. Trusting his promises I give myself completely to Jesus.

MY PRAYER:

Dear God, I know that one day you also suffered when death took Jesus from you. I also know that in our tears you also make yourself present to give us comfort and strength. Moreover, thanks for the holy hope that one day, not too distant, the dead will be raised in Christ never to die again. Let that day come soon! In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intention:





LESSON 11

A new beginning

Ernest and Martha's eldest son had turned seven. After the loss of their youngest son, they prayed to the Lord for another baby and God granted it to them. Seeing the little face of his new brother, the eldest son had many questions and was excited about his "new baby brother," as he called him. His "new baby brother" started his life and as such, he had a new beginning as an older brother.

While his parents tried to answer his questions, they reflected on the new beginning they had found in Jesus Christ and were glad for the many blessings they had received after dipping into the waters of baptism. They start thinking on some of their friends who, use to live without God, and sometimes say: "Oh, if I could only erase my story and start over". They wanted to share what they had learned, that our God has a plan that gives a new opportunity to those who wish to have a better future. We'll talk about that today.

ANSWER:

1. What is the meaning of the statement Jesus made to Nicodemus? John 3:3-5.

2. What example did Jesus give us regarding the way to be baptized? Matthew 3:16-17.

3. What is the meaning of baptism? Romans 6:4.

4. How are those who accept the gospel of Christ received in the family of God? Mark 16:15-16.

5. When the Word of God has been introduced, what message does the Lord give to the heart? Acts 22:16.

6. By accepting the Word of God in his heart, what important question did the Ethiopian ask Philip? Acts 8:36.

DISCUSS:

Many people see baptism as a reward for someone who has acted well in life. If this was the case, who would need it then? What could be said of those who have tasted the bitter water of sin in its various forms? Could they also live the experience of being reborn in Christ? Matthew 11: 28-30

MY REACTION:

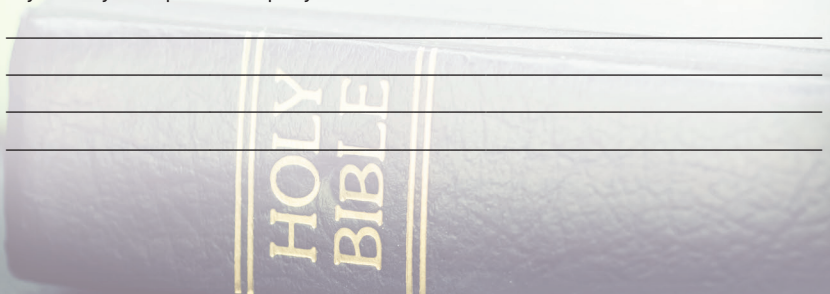
I accept Jesus' offer to experience a new beginning in my life. I believe that Jesus gave his life to save me from sin and its consequences. I decide to be baptized as Jesus was.

MY PRAYER:

Dear God, today I come to you with a heart overflowing with gratitude for the immense love you have shown me in Jesus. Your exchange, Lord, I do not understand. You ask me for my dirty, polluted, and sick heart to make me a new creation in Christ. I do not want to wait any longer. Take me Lord, I want to be your servant from this very moment. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intention:





LESSON 12

New life style

One afternoon, sitting on the couch at home, Ernest and Martha told their children about the experiences they had to go through when they decided to move out of their country and move to New York City. Ernest enthusiastically told them that although the idea was not easy, he thought that one day the project would be beneficial to his potential family. When they finally arrived at the proposed place, they realized that this implied much more than simply moving.

They were adopting a new lifestyle. There, they found new friends who became their new family. They enjoyed new food, the language was different, and sometime, even the time changes, according to the location on the map. Adapting was a process but they understood that the decision had been for the best and they were happy about it.

Something similar happened when they began their walk with Christ thus allowing that experience to bring joy and transformation to their family. Finally, they had found what they had long been looking for! We'll talk about this today.

ANSWER:

1. What work does God do with those who give themselves to him with faith? 2 Corinthians 5:17.

2. Once the Christian career has begun, what does Jesus say to his believers? John 15:4-5; Matthew 24:13.

3. What principle does the Apostle Paul recommend when dressing? 1 Timothy 2:9.

4. Why do we recommend taking care of our body? 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 10:31.

5. If I am already in Christ, will I no longer have any difficulties until he comes? John 16:33; James 1:2-3.

6. What promise does God make to the victor? Revelations 2:10 (last part); 3:3:5.

DISCUSS:

How can you help the new believer learn and understand the reality of God's presence on his daily journey to the Heavenly Canaan? How does that blessing extend to the whole family? Matthew 28:20; Acts 16:31.

MY REACTION:

By understanding God's plan for my life and how much my family can benefit from it I resolve without delay to put my life in harmony with the eternal principles of the gospel of Christ. I am sure that the Lord will sustain me; therefore, from now on, "Me and my house will serve Jehovah."

MY PRAYER:

Dear God, by concluding this series of studies I praise you for having put me in touch with your Holy word. Thank you for what you have allowed me to learn, especially for the free salvation I have found in Jesus Christ. I want to keep walking with you for the rest of my life and along with my family I want to be saved on the final day. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grade: ABC_____ Instructor_____ Date_____

My family and personal prayer intention:

HOLY
BIBLE