



Trust
in the
LORD
with all
thine heart
Proverbs 3:5

SUNDAY SCHOOL *Superintendent*

Summer Quarter June | July | August 2025

Sunday School Superintendent

SUMMER QUARTER

June, July, August 2025

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Christlike Living

UNIT I: Biblical Thinking

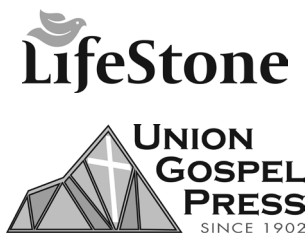
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Editorial

BY GLENN WEAVER

An Example for Us All

Do you remember the first time you attempted a new skill? Perhaps it was painting, and you had lofty ambitions to produce a photo-realistic scene worthy of framing and displaying. Alas, your fingers could not create the picture you envisioned. It is unlikely for most people to attain a level where our paintings will hang in an art studio. We may try to paint like Monet or Michelangelo as we imitate their style, but even our best efforts fall short.

As Christ-followers, we are called to reflect and imitate the exemplary character of our Master, Jesus Christ. We are to be holy because He is holy. This quarter's lessons focus on key aspects of what it means to live in a Christlike manner.

We begin by changing our thinking to align with the Bible's teaching. Romans 12:2 tells us we change our thinking by renewing our mind. There are many good examples in the Bible for us to follow as we live for Christ. Hebrews 11:1-2, 4-13 lists many such heroes of our faith, so this chapter is a great place to begin.

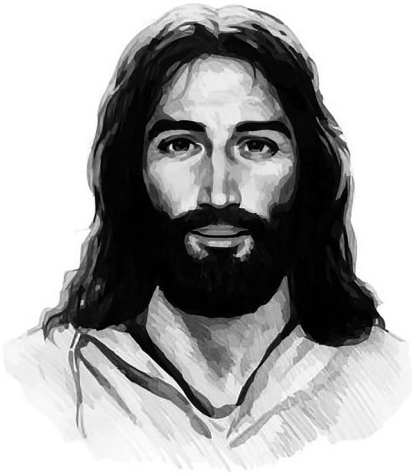
But Scripture describes people who are bad examples too. Paul recounted some of these bad examples as a warning as he instructed the Corinthians in proper Christian living (1 Cor. 9:24—10:13).

Christian living can be difficult. Because of the conflicting messages we have in our culture, we desperately need godly wisdom from the Holy Scriptures to guide us (Prov. 4:10-15, 20-27). It is especially important to guard our hearts, fill our minds with God's truth, and follow the Spirit's leading as we live out the gospel through our actions and words (Gal. 2:15—3:5).

Christian living is not merely an intellectual agreement with and obedience to biblical teachings. Our entire being, including our emotions and reactions, should be affected positively because of our relationship with Christ. Our love for others, the church, and the things of God should be evident to all who know us (cf. 1 John 4:7-21; Phil. 2:1-13; Col. 3:1-17).

No one can have their sins forgiven and secure eternal salvation by performing good deeds. Even our most charitable acts do not make us righteous. We are, however, made righteous in Christ Jesus and have become children of God through His shed blood. If we have received Christ and accepted what He did as truth, then we are children of God (John 1:12). We are to love God first, and then we are to practice righteousness by loving others. God desires His children to reflect His character in their actions.

PLEASE NOTE: Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and willingness to submit to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).



Having right actions begins with a determination to do what God's Word says (Jas. 1:19-27). Anything less is merely intellectual assent to Christlike living without obedience to it. God is not honored by such hypocrisy.

Our strength for godly living does not come from ourselves but from God. Through His Holy Spirit, He gives us strength to do His will. God provides the strength to glorify Him with our lives, so whether we are speaking or serving, we bring Him honor and glory (I Pet. 4:11). We completely depend on Him for all that we hope to accomplish for His kingdom. That is why we must be people of prayer. We are to devote ourselves to prayer (Col. 4:2). God accomplishes much of His work in this world in response to the prayers of His children (I Tim. 2:1-8).

Our good actions are not just for the purpose of pleasing God. Our godly character, empowered by God and refined through obedience to His Word, is a tool that God wants to use to reach unbelievers with the gospel. It is important that our lives agree with the gospel we proclaim so that we may

have an audience prepared to hear about the God to whom we are devoted (Col. 4:1-6).

It is not an easy task to which we are committed, but it is the right path. Just as we placed our faith in Christ for salvation, every day of our lives is one of trusting God and His provision, protection, and guidance. He will guide each step of the way (Prov. 3:1-12). As He guides us we can model good works, demonstrate integrity, and speak in a manner that others will commend instead of condemn. Our good works overflow from a relationship with our Lord and Savior, who compels us to notice the needs of others and take care of widows and orphans as we learn to love with our actions. Because Christ humbled Himself and laid down His life for us, we also ought to be ready and willing to lay down our lives for others (I John 3:16).

God's guidance and protection are essential, for we have an enemy actively seeking an occasion to do us harm. By relying upon God and standing firmly in faith, we can resist Satan's attempts (I Pet. 5:5-10).

Once again we look to Jesus as our example as we struggle against sin and the attacks of the enemy. After fasting for forty days, Jesus resisted the enemy by correctly using God's Word (Matt. 4:1-11). We are to use God's Word and follow His example.

After Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He told them that they should wash one another's feet. He was leaving them an example for them to follow. John 13:15 states, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

Jesus promised that He would go and prepare a place for us and then return for us. We will live with Him for eternity. Until He returns, let's ready ourselves by following His example (I Thess. 5:1-11).

Learn from Good Examples

Lesson Text: Hebrews 11:1-2, 4-13

GOLDEN TEXT—“Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

OPENING MOMENTS

Suggested Songs (Adults)

“Faith of Our Fathers”
(Faber)

“I Will Serve Thee”
(Gaither)

Suggested Songs (Children)

“As for Me and My House”
(Werdebaugh)

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”
(Baring-Gould)

Icebreaker

What qualities do you expect to find in someone you wish to emulate?

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Faith explained
(Heb. 11:1-2)
2. Faith illustrated
(Heb. 11:4-13)

KEY ISSUES

Hebrews 11:1 is clear. Faith is the foundation of Christian hope. Faith is the confidence of “things hoped for.” Faith provides “evidence of things not seen.”

Biblical faith is putting wholehearted trust in Almighty God. It is not a mere emotional encounter. Biblical faith is based on the revelation God has given in His Word.

Faith provides the basis for pleasing God. By faith the believers of the Old Testament received God’s approval.

Faith pleases God. Throughout God’s Word we can read how God honors faith. Abel’s faith is linked to his “more excellent sacrifice” (Heb. 11:4). Why was it more excellent? It was the best and the first from his flock. Obedience to God and faith in Him are the hallmarks of a life that pleases God. The faith Abel exhibited was an inspiration that spoke to the people. His faith “yet speaketh” as a constant witness to us.

Enoch was taken into heavenly glory without experiencing the pains of death because he, by faith, walked with God (cf. Gen. 5:21-24). His walking with God demonstrated his faith in God.

We must believe that God exists and that He gives blessings to those who seek Him. Faith acknowledges God’s existence and is the first step of depending upon and trusting in Him.

By faith Noah accepted God’s revelation of a coming flood (cf. Gen. 6:3-22). He showed faith in God by building the ark as God had instructed. This was a remarkable act on Noah’s part, for the world

had never experienced a flood before. We do not have any record of Noah receiving direct revelation from God prior to this time, so his obedience to God's message is especially commendable. He did everything God commanded him to do. His obedience brought safety to his family and at the same time revealed the world's unbelief, which brought its own destruction. Noah undoubtedly endured ridicule for his efforts at building the ark when there had never been a need for one in the past.

The obedience of faith is also seen in Abraham. He left his own country and began a journey to an unknown destination because God directed him to do so (Heb. 11:8). He entered and dwelled in the Land of Promise, but he and his family were nomads in the land, living in tents and moving from location to location as God directed.

Abraham looked for the dwelling place that God Himself would provide. All who follow in the faith of Abraham look for that city "whose builder and maker is God" (vs. 10). This, of course, is a reference to the heavenly and eternal Jerusalem (cf. Rev. 21:2, 9-27). His faith in God's provision of a city to call home is commendable (cf. Heb. 11:9-10, 13). He had faith that God would be true to His promises.

Abraham's faith is also illustrated in his wife Sarah. Sarah miraculously conceived the son of promise when she was beyond child-bearing age. Physically, Abraham and Sarah were unable to produce children. God's power overcame that inability, and Isaac was born according to God's promise (Gen. 17:19).

Faith provides hope for the future (Heb. 11:13). By faith the promises of God are accepted as if already fulfilled. It is impossible to please God without faith.

BRINGING IT HOME

As the Author and Perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2), Jesus had much to say about faith. He instructed His disciples to stop doubting and have faith in God. He said to the woman who reached out to touch the hem of His garment that her faith had made her whole. He also told blind Bartimaeus that his faith had made him well. He commended the great faith of the centurion who told Jesus to "speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed" (Matt. 8:8). All of these people had faith in a great God.

Hebrews 11 presents a list of people of faith. It should be the goal of every believer to live a life of faith worthy of being added to that list. This becomes possible as one exercises loving obedience to the Heavenly Father. Walking in obedience takes faith, but even a little faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains (Matt. 17:20).

PRESENTING THE GOSPEL IN EVANGELISM

The presentation of the gospel is a time of conversation and instruction. It is important not to condemn the person or get sidetracked from the message of Christ. This is not the time to discuss the church, world religions, denominationalism, or Bible translations. Your goal is to present Christ.

—Ray L. Parker