



CAN I TRUST JESUS?

SEAS^oN / SUMMER 02

JULY 15- AUGUST 5, 2^o18



// OUR PURPOSE

OUR PURPOSE

TO REACH AND TRANSFORM PEOPLE, BY THE POWER
OF THE GOSPEL, IN BIBLICAL COMMUNITY.

G O O D
N E W S
C H U R C H

// HOW TO USE THE STUDY

Great benefits are to be gained in choosing to use The Study. Committing to the lifestyle of Biblical community is the means for the Holy Spirit to bring about transformation. The characteristics of a 3M Christian manifest in one's life.

3M CHRISTIAN

MASTER: Captured by the love of Jesus Christ.

MEMBER: Connected to His body the church.

MISSION: Engaged in His mission.

MESSAGE NOTES

The message on Sunday will equip you with one main point. It will also lead you into an action step during the week. You will benefit the most when choosing to worship each Sunday during the series. There is an area for you to jot down thoughts, insights, and impactful parts of the message.

PERSONAL STUDY

Spend time reading and meditating on God and His Word. This will help you grow as a believer in Jesus as you develop a practice of studying God's Word. The Study for each week will provide passages to read and on which to reflect. It will challenge with questions to explore your own life. You can work through The Study all at once or throughout the week.

SMALL GROUP CUE

Small group discussion. Our gospel transformation accelerates when we talk to others about what we have learned. Questions in the small group cue include a Getting-to-Know-Me section, "Into the Bible" section, and a Message Application section. There is also a question to help you tell the group what God did through your study the previous week. It is beneficial to read and answer these questions before attending small group.

REACH

This section will provide you coaching on how to have gospel conversations. They will happen over a meal, during time in the car, over coffee or spontaneously with co-workers, neighbors or friends. You can be the instrument God uses to bring His good news of hope.

// SMALL GROUP

Good News Church defines small group as a group of ten imperfect people who together gaze at Jesus and encourage one another.

Groups meet in homes throughout the week, study God's Word, pray for one another, and often share a meal. But there is more!

Life's victories are celebrated together as well as support when going through trials. There are hospital visits to Super Bowl parties and everything in-between—all in authentic Biblical community.

If you are ready to experience one anothering, it is just a "next step away."

STEP IN. During this season, commit to participating in a small group. Say yes to:

- Meeting weekly during 8-10 weeks of the small group season.
- Message-based discussion.
- One anothering (small group member care).

STAY IN. Stay involved, complete the Study each week, and experience how God will use His Word and Biblical community in your life. Say yes to:

- The lifestyle the Holy Spirit uses to transform lives.
- The leadership development strategy.
- At least a season in one small group.

STEP UP. As a member experiences transformation in Biblical community, the next step is to become a leader of ten. Say yes to:

- Making room for ten new people to experience what others did to make room for me.
- Receiving training and support.
- Standing on the front line of Good News Church member care and leadership development strategy.



CAN I TRUST JESUS?

A GLIMPSE OF GLORY Week of July 15	12
WITH JESUS ALL IS POSSIBLE Week of July 22	22
THE MOST UNPOPULAR DOCTRINE Week of July 29	32
HOPE FOR MARRIAGE Week of August 5	42
SCRIPTURE MEMORY	49

Scripture quotations from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),
©1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission. Lockman.org

Scripture from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®
©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

CAN I TRUST JESUS?

WHEN THE SABBATH CAME, HE BEGAN TO TEACH IN THE SYNAGOGUE; AND THE MANY LISTENERS WERE ASTONISHED, SAYING, "WHERE DID THIS MAN GET THESE THINGS, AND WHAT IS THIS WISDOM GIVEN TO HIM, AND SUCH MIRACLES AS THESE PERFORMED BY HIS HANDS?"

—MARK 6:2

Believing in Jesus means coming to know and respond to what He can do in our lives. It involves understanding that He is Savior. Savior from what? Savior from our sin problem. It also involves understanding that Jesus is Lord. When we are captured by the love of Jesus, we want to follow Him. At Good News, we summarize this step of discipleship as **MASTER**.

Those who share Christ as Master join in Biblical community. Biblical community involves joining with others to worship Jesus on Sunday. It also involves joining others throughout the week to open God's Word in a small group. At Good News, we summarize this step of discipleship as **MEMBER**.

From the time we first follow Jesus, we cannot help sharing Him with others. When we are a part of His Biblical community, we team up to serve so others can be reached and transformed by the gospel. As we grow, we take on more responsibility and become leaders of ten who can make room for others to be transformed by the power of the gospel. At Good News, we summarize this step of discipleship as **MISSION**.

We believe Jesus wants each of us to become a 3M Christian (master, member, mission). When Jesus is MASTER, we are MEMBERS together of His Biblical community, and we are engaged in the MISSION. We live the 3M lifestyle of a disciple.

3 M MASTER
CHRISTIAN MEMBER
MISSION

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

MARK 9:1-13

(New American Standard Bible)

THE TRANSFIGURATION

¹And Jesus was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

²Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; ³and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. ⁴Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified. ⁷Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!" ⁸All at once they looked around and saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone.

⁹As they were coming down from the mountain, He gave them orders not to relate to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man rose from the dead. ¹⁰They seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what rising from the dead meant. ¹¹They asked Him, saying, "Why is it that the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" ¹²And He said to them, "Elijah does first come and restore all things. And yet how is it written of the Son of Man that He will suffer many things and be treated

MARK 9:1-13

(New International Version)

¹And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

THE TRANSFIGURATION

²After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶(He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

⁸Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant. ¹¹And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

¹²Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? ¹³But I tell you,

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

with contempt? ¹³But I say to you that Elijah has indeed come, and they did to him whatever they wished, just as it is written of him."

Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."



A GLIMPSE OF GLORY



2018

THE YEAR OF HOPE

Date: July 15

Message: A Glimpse of Glory

Scripture: Mark 9:1-13

THE POINT

The best is yet to come!

ACTION

Listen to Him!

MEMORY

Revelation 21:5

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

// PERSONAL STUDY

Jesus gives Peter, James, and John the opportunity to be with Him on the mountain of transfiguration. Jesus was moving closer to fulfilling the mission He had been sent by the Father to accomplish. Peter, James, and John were moving closer to the mission Jesus was equipping them to accomplish. Each needed this close encounter with God on the mountaintop.

OPEN GOD'S WORD.

Read the stories of four people God called to unique missions by first revealing Himself in a special way. Write insights from the passages.

Exodus 3:1 - 4:17

1 Kings 19:11-18

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Isaiah 6

MAKING IT PERSONAL //

Reflect on your life. Is there a part of Jesus' mission you feel drawn to engage?

PRAYER //

Jesus, let me see your glory. Let me tell others of your glory. Amen.

// SMALL GROUP CUE

GETTING-TO-KNOW-ME

1. Describe a “mountaintop” experience you have had with God.

ACTION STEP FOLLOW-UP

2. How did the cross have the final word in your life last week?

INTO THE BIBLE // Let’s open God’s Word together.

Read LUKE 9:28-36

3. What additional information about the mountain of transfiguration does Luke provide?
4. Why would Jesus need the experience of the mountain of transfiguration, the encouragement of Moses and Elijah (Luke 9:31), and the affirmation of the Father (Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, Luke 9:35)?
5. What does Peter’s statement in verse 33 reveal about our “best” thinking without Jesus?
6. What is the good news for Peter (and us) in the Father’s words?

APPLICATION // Let's be transformed together.

7. How would your life be different this week if you listened to Jesus?

8. What does the story of the transfiguration teach about your identity in Jesus?

PRAISE // PRAYER REQUESTS

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

You are being trained by Jesus for a mission. When we listen to Jesus, we are His disciples, we make disciples, and we equip others to make disciples. Jesus equips us to be engaged in His mission.

This week, cultivate your ability to listen to Jesus on your mission.

Take time to stop, think, pray, and ask Jesus what insights He has for your mission. Ask Him for insight of how to have gospel conversations where you live, work, and play. Ask Jesus for direction about how to approach your friends with the gospel.

Share your thoughts:

Share what you learned with a friend and ask for insight and prayer support.

// NOTES

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

MARK 9:14:29

(New American Standard Bible)

ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

¹⁴When they came back to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and began running up to greet Him. ¹⁶And He asked them, "What are you discussing with them?" ¹⁷And one of the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; ¹⁸and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out. I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not do it." ¹⁹And He answered them and said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!" ²⁰They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth. ²¹And He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²²It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" ²³And Jesus said to him, "If You can?" All things are possible to him who believes." ²⁴Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief." ²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again." ²⁶After crying out and throwing him into

MARK 9:14:29

(New International Version)

JESUS HEALS A BOY POSSESSED BY AN IMPURE SPIRIT

¹⁴When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

¹⁶"What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

¹⁷A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

¹⁹"You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

²⁰So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered.

²²"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

²³"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

²⁴Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, "He is dead!" ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up. ²⁸When He came into the house, His disciples began questioning Him privately, "Why could we not drive it out?" ²⁹And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer."

you, come out of him and never enter him again."

²⁶The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

²⁸After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

²⁹He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

An aerial photograph of a beach. The top half of the image shows clear, turquoise water with visible ripples and small waves. The bottom half shows a sandy beach with a light tan color. A white, foamy wave line runs horizontally across the middle, separating the water from the sand. The overall composition is clean and serene.

WITH JESUS, ALL
IS POSSIBLE

2018

THE YEAR OF HOPE

Date: July 22

Message: With Jesus, All is Possible

Scripture: Mark 9:14-29

THE POINT

With Jesus, all is possible.

ACTION

Preach the gospel to yourself this week.

MEMORY

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

// PERSONAL STUDY

Jesus repeatedly told His disciples to trust. By trusting their Heavenly Father as Jesus did, His disciples could do what seemed impossible. God consistently invites people throughout Scripture to maintain this same faith perspective.

OPEN GOD'S WORD.

Examine the passage and list the details surrounding the promise. What are the circumstances? What is the real issue the person is facing? What result can be expected as the person trusts God?

JOB 42:2

MATTHEW 19:26

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

MAKING IT PERSONAL //

(Galatians 3:2-4)

Let me put this question to you: How did your new life begin? Was it by working your heads off to please God? Or was it by responding to God's Message to you? Are you going to continue this craziness? For only crazy people would think they could complete by their own efforts what was begun by God. If you weren't smart enough or strong enough to begin it, how do you suppose you could perfect it? Did you go through this whole painful learning process for nothing? It is not yet a total loss, but it certainly will be if you keep this up! (The Message, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 Eugene H. Peterson by NavPress Publishing)

How does a person get started in the Christian life?

How is a person transformed in the Christian life?

Are there areas of life you have been trying to transform by your own efforts?

What would it look like practically, to trust your heavenly Father to transform you in those areas?

PRAYER //

Jesus, You make all things possible! I will trust You. Amen.

// SMALL GROUP CUE

GETTING-TO-KNOW-ME

1. What is one skill, hobby, or talent you wish you could develop?

ACTION STEP FOLLOW-UP

2. How did listening to Jesus make a difference in your life last week?

INTO THE BIBLE // Let's open God's Word together.

Read GENESIS 18:9-15

3. What seems impossible to Abraham and Sarah in this passage?
4. Is their doubt justified? Why or why not?
5. What is riding on God fulfilling His promise to Abraham and Sarah?
6. What encourages you in this passage?

// REACH

Joining God in His great rescue mission is more about our faith in Him rather than our efforts.

This week we memorized Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

How would your gospel conversations be different if they were done through faith?

During an everyday conversation this week, pray to yourself, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Jesus, help me turn this conversation into a gospel conversation."

// NOTES

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

MARK 9:30-50

(New American Standard Bible)

DEATH AND RESURRECTION FORETOLD

³⁰From there they went out and began to go through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know about it. ³¹For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later."

³²But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.

³³They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, "What were you discussing on the way?"

³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest. ³⁵Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

³⁶Taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, ³⁷"Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me."

DIRE WARNINGS

³⁸John said to Him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to prevent him because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not hinder him, for there is no

MARK 9:30-50

(New International Version)

JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH A SECOND TIME

³⁰They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." ³²But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

³⁶He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Whoever Is Not Against Us Is for Us

³⁸"Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us."

³⁹"Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

one who will perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me. ⁴⁰For he who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.

⁴²"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, ⁴⁴where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁵If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell, ⁴⁶where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁷If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

⁴⁹"For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

Causing to Stumble

⁴²"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ⁴⁴where 'the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁶where 'the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.'

⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where 'the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁹Everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other."



THE MOST
UNPOPULAR DOCTRINE

2018

THE YEAR OF HOPE

Date: July 29

Message: The Most Unpopular Doctrine

Scripture: Mark 9:30-50

THE POINT

The bad news is bad,
but the good news is great!

ACTION

Cheer up!

MEMORY

Colossians 2:13

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh,
He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

// PERSONAL STUDY

This week we heard the bad news and the good news from Jesus. When we believe the bad news is really bad—but the good news is great—we cannot help but cheer up! We cheer up knowing we are far worse than we think and by understanding we are far more loved than we imagined.

OPEN GOD'S WORD.

What does each verse teach about the bad news and the good news?

Verse	The Bad News	The Good News
Isaiah 44:22		
Micah 7:18		
John 3:18		
John 5:24		
Romans 5:18		
Romans 6:23		

MAKE IT PERSONAL //

During prayer time at small group, one of your friends shares, "I have had the worst week. I think God must be really mad at me." How would you use what you learned in the message, personal study, and small group cue to help your friend cheer up?

PRAYER //

Jesus, the bad news is true about me, and it's bad. The good news is true about me, and it is great! Thank you, Jesus, for this indescribable gift.

// SMALL GROUP CUE

GETTING-TO-KNOW-ME

1. In addition to Jesus, what is one piece of good news you heard this week?

ACTION STEP FOLLOW-UP

2. How did the action step (preach the gospel to yourself) make a difference in your life last week?

INTO THE BIBLE // Let's open God's Word together.

Read MATTHEW 18:21-35

3. Given Jesus' teaching in Mark 9:30-50, why do you think Peter is motivated to ask Jesus about forgiveness in Matthew 18:21?
4. What would have surprised Peter about Jesus' answer in Matthew 18:22?
5. How does the parable of the unmerciful servant extend Jesus' teaching about the bad news and the good news of the gospel?
6. Do you think forgiven people forgive? Explain.

APPLICATION // Let's be transformed together.

7. Which is more difficult for you to believe—the bad news of the gospel or the good news of the gospel?

8. How would your relationships with friends, family, and others be different if you lived out the Action Step (cheer up)?

PRAISE // PRAYER REQUESTS

// REACH

What is the bad news of the gospel?

What is the good news of the gospel?

Why is it important people understand the bad news of the gospel?

A helpful phrase to transition gospel conversations from the bad news to the good news is, "Now do you see why it is impossible for anyone to be right with God based on what they do?"

What other phrases could be helpful in transitioning from the bad to good news of the gospel?

Share these with a Christian friend to sharpen your gospel conversation skills and to equip your friend to effectively share personal faith in Jesus.

// NOTES



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

MARK 10:1-12

(New American Standard Bible)

JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT DIVORCE

¹Getting up, He went from there to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan; crowds gathered around Him again, and, according to His custom, He once more began to teach them.

²Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. ³And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?"

⁴They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. ⁷for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

¹⁰In the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again.

¹¹And He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery."

MARK 10:1-12

(New International Version)

DIVORCE

¹Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them.

²Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

³"What did Moses command you?" he replied.

⁴They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

⁵"It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. ⁶"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' ⁷For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹²And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."



HOPE FOR
MARRIAGE

2018

THE YEAR OF HOPE

Date: August 5

Message: Hope for Marriage

Scripture: Mark 10:1-12

THE POINT

Marriage Matters!

ACTION

Stand up for marriage.

MEMORY

Mark 10:9

What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.

// PERSONAL STUDY

In Mark 10, Jesus is confronted by a group of religious leaders intent on trapping Him in a common controversy—marriage and divorce. Rather than succumbing to their trap, Jesus presents a compelling case for the importance of marriage for men and women.

OPEN GOD'S WORD.

Read EPHESIANS 5:21-33

What are the responsibilities of the wife?

What are the responsibilities of the husband?

What would have surprised the Ephesians about Paul's teaching in this passage?

What surprises you most about Paul's teaching in this passage?

What is God's design for marriage (verse 31-32)?

MAKING IT PERSONAL //

Read and reflect on 1 John 4:19.

What are the implications of this passage for single people?

What are the implications of this passage for married people?

PRAYER //

Jesus, you love marriage and make marriage and singleness possible. Whichever you choose for me, I will be satisfied by You first.

// SMALL GROUP CUE

GETTING-TO-KNOW-ME

1. Share about the last wedding you attended.

ACTION STEP FOLLOW-UP

2. How did remembering the gospel help you cheer up last week?

INTO THE BIBLE // Let's open God's Word together.

Read 1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-9

3. What question did the church at Corinth ask Paul in their letter to him (verse 1)?
4. How does Paul affirm both singleness and marriage in this passage?
5. Which is harder for you to believe—marriage requires a special gift from Jesus or singleness requires a special gift from Jesus?
6. How is the sexual ethic taught in this passage different from the culture of Paul's day and our own day?

APPLICATION // Let's be transformed together.

7. Why is it important to stand up for marriage?

8. What are some ways you can stand up for marriage?

PRAISE // PRAYER REQUESTS

// REACH

Sharing with friends where we live, work, and play involves learning to turn everyday conversations into gospel conversations. The topic of marriage is a great way to turn an everyday conversation into a gospel conversation.

Below are two case studies of everyday conversations about marriage. **How would you turn each into a gospel conversation?**

CASE STUDY 1

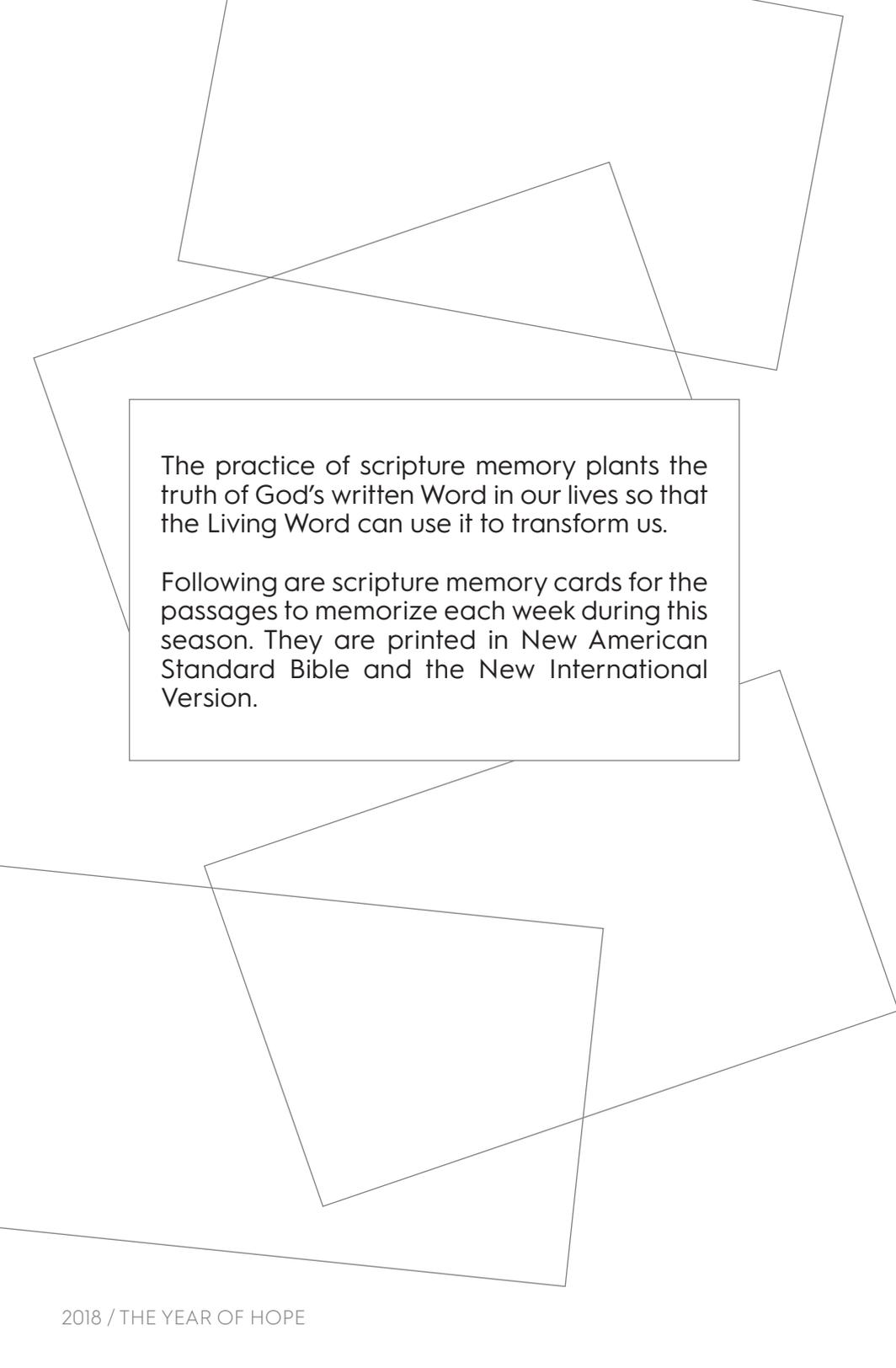
A friend stops by your office. You start talking about the weekend. He shares about an expensive dinner he had with his wife. He makes the comment, "I really had to; I was in the dog house."

CASE STUDY 2

A neighbor walks over to chat. She shows off a new engagement ring. "I'm engaged!" she shrieks.



SCRIPTURE MEMORY



The practice of scripture memory plants the truth of God's written Word in our lives so that the Living Word can use it to transform us.

Following are scripture memory cards for the passages to memorize each week during this season. They are printed in New American Standard Bible and the New International Version.

REVELATION 21:5

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

REVELATION 21:5

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

COLOSSIANS 2:13

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

COLOSSIANS 2:13

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE

MARK 10:9

What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

MARK 10:9

Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."



GOOD
NEWS
CHURCH

2018

THE YEAR OF HOPE

GOODNEWSLOVES.COM