

## **Falls Creek after-camp quiet time guide 2026: The Greatest**

Hey, friend! So glad you decided to keep going with the quiet time habit you developed at camp last week. You won't regret it! Over the next three weeks, we're going to go back over the four topics you covered in quiet times during camp, but study them from a slightly different angle. We'll study new material on Monday through Friday and take the weekends off to reflect and regroup.

We hope you'll also stay connected to the people you came to camp with so you all can help each other stay strong and focused. It can be tough to take a new perspective and resolve back into your old routine where you are surrounded by people who didn't experience what you just experienced. Camp friends can help with that! If you didn't come to camp with your own church, we hope you'll also work hard to connect with your own youth group or find one to be a part of. If you need help finding a youth group where you live, ask the leader of the group you came with to help you! They want you to stay strong and feel supported.

Thanks again for spending a week with us! Know that you have not been forgotten just because you went home. We're still praying for you and hope you'll let us know what God is doing in your life! Follow us on Instagram @oklahomabaptistyouth and stay in touch.

### **Day One: Worship**

#### **Heart check:**

- *How would you explain worship to someone who doesn't know what the word means?*
- *Are you worshipping God well? How do you know?*

#### **Study:**

Last week, you learned that worship is giving God what He deserves. You also learned that what God deserves from you is your very self.

So what does that look like in real life? How can you give God your whole self and still function as a normal human being in this world—someone with practical needs, relationships, and responsibilities? Let's find out.

#### **Read Mark 12:30.**

According to Jesus, you worship God and still function as a normal human being in this world by honoring God in what you choose to care about (heart), in what you choose to

trust (soul), in the way you process and respond to what happens to you (mind), and in the decisions you make and actions you take (strength).

Using the short descriptions above for reference, are you best at loving God with your heart, soul, mind, or strength? Explain.

Which do you need to work on most, loving God with your heart, soul, mind, or strength? Explain.

Why do you think it's so easy for us to forget that feelings, beliefs, mental processes, and actions can be acts of worship?

What kinds of things do we worship with our heart, soul, mind, and strength besides God?

Sometimes, our intentions are good—we want to worship God by giving Him our whole selves by loving Him with our heart, soul, mind, and strength—but we miss the mark. Why? Because we aren't sure how to honor Him. We think we know what's right, but we humans are limited in our understanding, and our hearts can trick us into thinking we're doing the right thing when we aren't (Jeremiah 17:9). So what can we do?

**Read 1 John 5:3.**

The apostle John wrote these words. According to this verse, how do we love God?

How can you be sure you know what God's commands are? Where can you find them?

Taking everything you learned today into consideration, what do you need to do to make sure you are giving God what He deserves from you?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

**Day Two****Heart check:**

- *Do you think you can worship God well and treat other people badly at the same time? Explain.*
- *What do you think God expects of you in relationship to other people? Why would He expect this?*

**Study:**

The only way to make sure you are giving God your whole self is to find out what He expects from you and then love Him by obeying His commands. Thankfully, the Bible makes God's expectations very clear. Even when you can't find instructions on how to handle a specific situation, you can find a principle (general rule) to guide your thoughts, actions, and attitude in that situation.

The following verses contain some of God's commands. When you obey those commands, you are giving God what He deserves from you. You are worshipping Him.

**Read Luke 6:27.**

According to this verse, what is one practical way you can worship God? Would this require your heart, soul, mind, strength, or a combination of these? Explain.

**Read Romans 13:7.**

According to this verse, what is one practical way you can worship God? Would this require your heart, soul, mind, strength, or more than one part of you? Explain.

**Read Ephesians 4:32.**

According to this verse, what is one practical way you can worship God? Would this require your heart, soul, mind, strength, or more than one part of you? Explain.

**Read Hebrews 10:24-25.**

According to these verses, what is one practical way you can worship God? Would this require your heart, soul, mind, strength, or more than one part of you? Explain.

**Read Hebrews 13:16.**

According to this verse, what is one practical way you can worship God? Would this require your heart, soul, mind, strength, or more than one part of you? Explain.

Did it feel strange to think that obedience to any of the commands you just read is actually worship? If so, which ones? Why?

What do you think more people need to understand about worship? What do you think would happen if they did?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

**Day Three****Heart check:**

- *Which do you think is more important, private or public worship? Explain.*
- *Are you more impressed by some acts of worship than others? Why?*

**Study:**

Because worshipping God well means giving Him your whole self, it never stops. It happens in public and in private, and God appreciates and uses both for His glory.

**Read Genesis 4:1-8.**

What did Abel do to worship God? How was Abel's offering different from Cain's?

Abel offered God the best he had before God's law, which requires our best, was ever given. Why do you think Abel did that? What do you think Abel's heart had to do with the way God received Abel's offering?

**Read Hebrews 11:4.**

When Abel offered God the fatty portions from his flock in worship, he did so in private with no thought of being remembered for it. He just wanted to love God well. How did God use Abel's private worship to inspire others? How does Abel "still speak," like this verse claims?

What can you learn from Abel's example?

How does this story encourage you? How does it challenge you?

**Read 2 Samuel 6:12-22.**

King David loved God deeply. When the Ark of the Covenant (a special box holding the Ten Commandments and other items) came to the City of David, the king celebrated big time! He took off his royal clothes, put on a simple linen covering, performed priestly acts of worship, and then danced with everyone else.

David worshipped God very publicly, but his motivation was personal. David was so overwhelmed by God's goodness that he simply didn't care who was watching. He just wanted to honor God appropriately.

How did David's wife Michal react to David's public display of personal worship?

How did Michal's reaction affect David?

Read verse 22. How did King David's public display of personal worship impact his reputation in the kingdom as a whole?

What can you learn from David's example?

How does his story encourage you? How does it challenge you?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

## **Day Four**

### **Heart check:**

- *Is there a right or wrong reason to worship God? Explain.*
- *Why do you worship God? What do you hope to get out of it?*

### **Study:**

Because worship happens both in public and private and often involves other people, we sometimes get positive attention from people for our obedience to God. If we aren't careful, we could fall into the trap of obeying God to please them, not Him. God uses all of our obedience for His purposes, but when we worship God to please people, we lay our appropriate gift of obedience at the wrong altar. We worship people, not God, and commit idolatry. This problem only leads to more problems.

### **Read Acts 4:32- 5:11.**

After a man named Joseph sold a field and gave all the money to the apostles to distribute, Ananias and Sapphira sold some property and only gave part of the money to the apostles for the same purpose. There's nothing wrong with that. No one expected them to give more, but Ananias and Sapphira told the apostles they had given them all the money. Why do you think they said that?

Why did Peter say Ananias and Sapphira had lied to God? What were they pretending to do?

### **Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and Matthew 15:8.**

What had Ananias and Sapphira forgotten about God?

How was their worship different from King David's (see yesterday)?

How was their worship different from Abel's (see yesterday)?

**Read Psalm 51:17.**

How does God respond to sincere worship?

How does God feel about false worship?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

**Day Five**

**Heart check:**

- *What makes a person a good candidate for discipleship? Who decides?*
- *Are you an active disciple? Are you an active disciple maker?*

**Study:**

At camp last week, you learned that Jesus expects you to make disciples. The best way to go about making disciples is to teach people what Jesus said and did (the Gospel included) anytime you have the chance and keep living like it's all true whenever and wherever God gives you the chance. It's great to have a specific plan for discipleship and evangelism in place to keep you motivated and looking for opportunities, but keeping in step with the Holy Spirit inside you is the best way to make sure you don't miss an opportunity to lead

someone to Jesus or teach one of His followers something important. Ultimately, God is in charge of discipleship. There's no need for us to complicate it.

**Read Ephesians 1:3-8.**

The apostle Paul wrote these words in a letter to the Ephesians. According to this passage, how long has God been planning to redeem the world through Jesus?

**Read John 6:44.**

Jesus spoke these words. According to Him, who gets to decide who has the opportunity to be saved and become a disciple of Jesus?

**Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4.**

The apostle Paul wrote these words in a letter to Timothy. According to this passage, whom does God want to be saved and become a disciple of Jesus?

**Read Galatians 3:26-28.**

The apostle Paul wrote these words. According to these passages, does God consider any kind of person to be a better candidate for discipleship than someone else?

**Read Ephesians 2:8-9.**

According to this passage from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, who gives people the ability to be saved and become a disciple of Jesus?

**Read John 17:20.**

Jesus prayed these words before He was arrested and crucified. "Them" refers to the apostles. What did Jesus assume His disciples would do after He went back to Heaven?

**Read Matthew 28:18-20.**

Jesus spoke these words after His resurrection, but before He went back to Heaven. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

Taking into consideration everything you've read today, do God's children get to opt out of participating in discipleship? Do we get to decide whom to include or leave out?

Why is it so important to remember these things? What could happen if we don't?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

**Weekend**

Look back over your quiet time notes from last week and answer the following questions:

What idea did you find most encouraging?

What idea did you find most challenging?

Have you responded to God the way you think He wants you to?

What else needs to change, if anything?

**Day Six**

**Heart check:**

- *Whose responsibility is it to make sure you are learning the truth?*

- *Are you sure that what you believe comes from the Bible, or are you trusting other people to tell you the truth?*

**Study:**

Some people think they can wait to participate in discipleship after putting their faith in Jesus for salvation, but that's not an option. We are all learning and teaching something constantly, often without realizing it. If we don't make an intentional effort to give and receive the information God wants us to give and receive, we might teach and learn the wrong things and delay our own spiritual growth and the spiritual growth of people around us. That's not okay.

The best way to begin taking an active role in discipleship after you give your life to Jesus is to make sure you are taking in the truth and practicing it.

**Read 1 John 2:27.**

The apostle John wrote these words to early followers of Jesus. People were teaching them the wrong things, and it was confusing and scaring them. John didn't want them to worry. The "anointing" he mentions in this verse is the Holy Spirit, who comes to live in every person who puts their faith in Jesus for salvation.

According to this verse, what role does the Holy Spirit play in our discipleship?

Why is this encouraging to followers of Jesus who want to make sure they're learning the right things?

**Read 1 John 4:1.**

The apostle wrote these words as well. According to him, what should we do when people claim to represent God?

How could you do that?

**Read Ephesians 5:8-10, 17.**

The apostle Paul wrote these words to the church in Ephesus, but meant for the letter to be circulated. According to these verses, what does it mean to live as children of light (God's children)?

Where can we find out what God's will is and how to please Him?

How does making an intentional effort to find out what God's will is protect us from people who are pretending to represent Him?

What could happen if we rely on people to tell us what pleases God? What could happen if we make our own assumptions?

**Read James 1:22-25.**

These words were written by James, the half-brother of Jesus. "Word" refers to the Bible. According to James, what are we supposed to do once we find out what pleases God?

What does this do for us?

**Read 2 Peter 1:3-11.**

In this passage, the apostle Peter gives some very practical advice to those who have learned a little bit about what pleases God. What does he tell them to do?

Look at verses 9 and 11. How does this intentional approach to spiritual growth benefit a willing disciple?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

## **Day Seven**

### **Heart check:**

- *To what degree are you responsible for the spiritual health and growth of others?*
- *Whose fault is it when someone makes a mistake because they followed someone else's example?*

### **Study:**

The best way to continue taking an active role in discipleship after you give your life to Jesus is to make sure you are teaching people the truth and illustrating it.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 8:1.**

The apostle Paul wrote these words in one of his letters to the church in Corinth. This group of Christians had a few issues, and Paul wasn't afraid to address them. One of the things they were arguing about was what people should and shouldn't consume. Paul encouraged them to quit worrying about what they were or weren't allowed to do and put each other's needs first. If what we do distracts someone or causes division, it's not worth doing even if we are technically allowed to do it.

According to Paul, what happens when we learn things, but don't consider how our actions affect others?

What happens when we put the needs of people before our own rights? Who benefits?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1.**

Later in the same letter, Paul gives these instructions. Look at verse 31. What should the ultimate goal of every child of God be?

How do you think this goal should affect what we choose to say and do and how we choose to say and do it?

Look at verse 32. What do you think Paul meant when he said not to cause people to stumble? How could our words and actions cause others to stumble?

Look at verses 10:33-11:1. Why is Paul confident that following his example will help people make the right choices and avoid causing people to stumble?

Would you be confident telling people to do the same thing for the same reason? Why or why not?

**Read 1 Timothy 4:16.**

Paul wrote these words in a letter to a young man he mentored. What does Paul warn Timothy to do? Why?

How much effort does it take to watch your life and doctrine closely? What might be required?

Are you willing to put in the effort?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

## Day Eight

### Heart check:

- *Is the right thing always the fair thing? Explain.*
- *Does God have the right to ask for more than you want to give? Explain.*

### Study:

Last week, you learned that loving Jesus and investing in your relationship with Him means loving people and investing in them whether you feel like it or not. When we put aside our own wants to serve others in obedience to God for His glory, we illustrate the gospel of Jesus, who also put aside His own wants to serve others on the cross in obedience to God for His glory (Luke 22:42; John 17:4). We make it easier for people to believe the gospel is true and fulfill our life's purpose.

### Read John 15:12-13.

These are Jesus's words to His disciples. They are also His words to us. Jesus literally laid down His life for us so we could become His friends. Loving others like Jesus loved us might require a few of us to die for someone else, but most of us won't have to do that. For Jesus followers, laying down our lives usually means putting aside how we want things to go or how we thought they would go to serve others. It could also mean spending our resources—time, money, energy, thoughts, emotion, connections, opportunities, etc.—on someone else. All of this sounds simple enough, but letting go can be hard.

### Read Proverbs 19:21.

According to this verse, who is really calling the shots and deciding what happens in our lives?

### Read Psalm 24:1.

According to this verse, who owns everything in the world? To whom do you belong?

How is the perspective given by these two verses helpful when we are trying to love Jesus by loving people?

Which do you find more difficult, letting go of plans or resources? Why?

Do you find it more difficult to let go of some resources than others? Which one(s)? Why?

**Read Matthew 5:38-42.**

Jesus spoke these words during what we call the Sermon on the Mount. So much of what Jesus taught went against tradition and human instinct. This is definitely one of those passages. Our first instinct when reading it is to say, “That’s not fair,” but that’s the whole point. What’s right isn’t always fair. It was right for Jesus to die on the cross for our sin to show the world who God is because God told Him to and obedience to God is always right, but it certainly wasn’t fair. God never asks more of us than He asked of Jesus.

How might remembering you are the taker in the unfair, but right gospel story help you be the giver when God asks you to do something that doesn’t seem fair to you?

How were you encouraged today? How were you challenged?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you’re thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

**Day Nine**

**Heart check:**

- *Is loving others a sacrifice or investment? Explain.*
- *When is giving also receiving?*

**Study:**

When we love Jesus by loving people the way God tells us to, we aren't just investing in them. We are investing in something much bigger.

**Read Ephesians 4:11-16.**

The apostle Paul wrote these words to the church in Ephesus. "He" in verse 11 is Jesus. According to him, what larger living thing are all followers of Jesus part of?

Does this make it any easier to see how loving each other is loving Jesus? Explain.

What happens when individual members invest in each other? How does this benefit the whole?

Remembering that followers of Jesus know the Way to salvation, why is this outcome so important to the world?

**Read 1 Peter 2:5, 9-10.**

The apostle Peter wrote these words to all followers of Jesus. The word "house" here is being used figuratively to refer to an established family. A "priesthood" is a group of people who have direct access to God, offer spiritual sacrifices, and are only under the control of God Himself.

The people who first read Peter's letter were often mistreated and treated like outcasts for following Jesus. How do you think Peter's words might have encouraged them?

How do they encourage you?

Why is it so important for members of the same family to invest in each other and cooperate?

Why is it important for members of the priesthood to invest in each other and cooperate?

What do we give up when we don't?

**Read Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 8:17, Hebrews 1:1-2.**

We don't know for sure who wrote Hebrews, but Paul wrote Ephesians and Romans.

Look at the passage in Ephesians. To whom does it say that followers of Jesus belong?

Look at the passage from Hebrews. Who is God's heir (the person who will inherit everything that belongs to Him)?

Look at the passage from Romans. Who else will inherit everything that belongs to God along with Jesus?

One day, followers of Jesus will belong to each other. We are each other's inheritance. How, then, does our investment in each other benefit us?

Does this motivate you to love your brothers and sisters in Jesus well? Explain.

Does it motivate you to share the gospel and help add more people to God's family? Explain.

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

## Day Ten

### Heart check:

- *Is sacrifice really sacrifice if you get something out of it?*
- *What are you willing to sacrifice to experience Jesus in an intimate way? What are you not willing to sacrifice?*

### Study:

Yesterday, we learned that investment in others can be investment in ourselves. This might take a little bit of the sting out of it when God asks us to give more than we'd really like to, but there's more to be gained from giving than long term benefits. There are blessings in the right now for people who choose to love Jesus by loving people.

### Read Philippians 2:1-2.

The apostle Paul wrote these words to the church in Philippi. He founded this church on his second missionary journey and was very close to its members. They had helped fund his ministry and were big encouragers to him. He was just as invested in them, and his letter to them was the most personal of his letters to churches.

What does Paul tell his friends to use as motivation to treat each other well and preserve their unity?

Would this motivate you?

How does Paul say he will be impacted if they do what he asks?

Knowing what you know about Paul's history with this church, why do you think their cooperation with his request would affect him this way?

Who all had the potential to be blessed if the people who read Paul's letter decided to do what he asked?

What does this relational example tell us about the short term benefits of loving Jesus by loving people?

**Read John 14:21, 23.**

These are the words of Jesus recorded by the apostle John. We know that Jesus commanded us to love each other (John 13:34-35). These verse tell us what will happen when we actively obey Jesus. We know that anyone who puts their faith in Jesus for salvation has the Holy Spirit (who is God) living inside them (Ephesians 1:13), so this passage isn't saying that your obedience to Jesus's commands saves you from sin. Instead, it's describing the relational dynamic we get to enjoy when we are actively cooperating with the Holy Spirit to obey Jesus. There's a kind of intimacy with God that is only possible when we do what Jesus tells us to do. Then and only then, we experience God working in and through us and get to know Him in a much more personal way.

Have you experienced God working in and through you as you obeyed? If so, what was it like?

Was it worth the sometimes high cost of loving people like Jesus tells us to? Explain.

**Read Philippians 3:7-10.**

This is more of Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. Look at verse 8. Paul mentions knowing Jesus the way Jesus promised to be known by people who obey Him. How much does Paul care about the things he used to value now that he has experienced Jesus this way?

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus was telling the truth and keeps His promise to be known when we obey? Explain.

Is that enough motivation for you to obey when Jesus tells you to love people?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

## **Weekend**

Look back over your quiet time notes from last week and answer the following questions:

What idea did you find most encouraging?

What idea did you find most challenging?

Have you responded to God the way you think He wants you to?

What else needs to change, if anything?

## **Day Eleven**

### **Heart check:**

- *Would you have chosen Jesus if you'd known what it would cost you during this lifetime? Explain.*
- *Is it okay for your brothers and sisters in Jesus to ask you to make sacrifices for others? Explain.*

### **Study:**

Jesus didn't come to make this life easier for us. He came to give us eternal life during and beyond this life (John 3:16). Jesus describe eternal life this way: "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3). We've learned that obeying God even when it's hard comes with enjoying eternal life. Jesus never hid this fact.

### **Read Matthew 8:18-20.**

Many people were fascinated by Jesus during His time on earth, but being fascinated by Jesus isn't the same as knowing Him personally. Jesus knew what people were thinking even when He was here on earth (Matthew 9:4). Why do you think Jesus warns this man about the cost of following Him instead of just saying, "Come on"?

What might Jesus have known about the man that we don't?

Would you have chosen Jesus if you'd known the cost of following Him up front? Explain.

**Read Matthew 19:27-30.**

This conversation between Peter and Jesus is super relatable. Jesus has just finished explaining that it's hard for a rich person to get to Heaven (v. 24). This is true because it's hard for rich people to surrender control of what they have to make Him their boss by faith. Peter responds to this statement like many of us would. He compares himself to rich people. When he realizes he's done well, he brings it up to see what he might get for the sacrifice. In return, Jesus promises a lot. Most of it will happen in the distant future, but we know eternal life (knowing God personally) begins when someone puts their faith in Jesus for salvation. It's immediate.

Much later, after Peter has been filled with the Holy Spirit as a result of His faith in Jesus, we see Peter embracing the eternal life he's been given with all he has. He may not have understood the cost fully when he and his brother Andrew left their families and livelihood behind to follow Jesus, but he obviously thought the sacrifice was worth it after having experienced eternal life because he never stopped following Jesus even after Jesus went back to Heaven. Instead, he became a leader of the early church.

How might remembering what Peter chose even after he understood the cost encourage you when loving people like God tells you to get tough?

**Read Philemon 1:8-17.**

This is part of a letter Paul wrote to a man named Philemon. Philemon was a slave owner. The Bible doesn't condone slavery at all, but it does address slavery as a fact of the day. We don't know the terms of this particular arrangement. Some people offered themselves as slaves back then for various reasons. Because Onesimus was a slave, we hope it was his choice to enter into that arrangement, but his circumstances would still have to have been awful for him to do that, which is a terrible shame. Regardless of the situation, however, Onesimus stole from Philemon and ran away. Then he met Paul, and Paul led him to faith in Jesus. In this letter, Paul asks Philemon to forgive Onesimus and set him free. Paul then tells Philemon to charge anything that is owed to Paul.

We don't know what Philemon decided, but some people think Philemon did what Paul asked and that Onesimus became a minister.

What was right about what Paul asked? Was it fair in that day and time? Explain.

What kinds of things have brothers and sisters in Jesus asked you to give up or contribute to love others in the name of Jesus?

How did you respond?

How do such requests typically make you feel? Why?

How do you decide whether what they ask is right or not?

### **Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

## **Day Twelve**

### **Heart check:**

- *Do you look for ways to help your brothers and sisters on their journey to Christ-likeness, or do you leave that to other people?*
- *When you think about your responsibility to your brothers and sisters in Jesus, do your thoughts go to encouragement or correction first?*

**Study:**

Because followers of Jesus are members of the same Body (Romans 12:5), we belong to each other and are responsible for each other. When members are not cooperating, stirring up trouble, or have become dead weight, our shared responsibility for each other can feel like a burden, but when everyone is doing their part, our shared responsibility feels like comfort and safety. We can move toward Christ-likeness together without getting sidetracked.

God wants us to help each other, so the Bible is full of instructions on how to help. Some help is fun to give and receive and some isn't, but we are responsible to offer and receive all of it for the good of the whole.

**Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15.**

The apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church in Thessalonica. He and his friends, Silas and Timothy, were only in Thessalonica for a short time before the authorities ran them out, so Paul's letters to this church contain some of what he would have taught them if he'd had more time with them.

How does Paul encourage the Thessalonians to help each other in this passage? Make a list.

Which kind(s) of help in this list do you most enjoy giving? Why?

Which do you most enjoy receiving? Why?

Which can be difficult? Why?

Go back through the list one by one and imagine what would happen if no one in the Body followed that particular instruction. Next to each, write down why that instruction is important.

**Read Ephesians 5:18-21.**

Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus. How does Paul encourage the Ephesians to help each other in this passage? Make a list.

Which kind(s) of help in this list do you most enjoy giving? Why?

Which do you most enjoy receiving? Why?

Which can be difficult? Why?

Go back through the list one by one and imagine what would happen if no one in the Body followed that instruction. Next to each, write down why that instruction is important.

There are more passages like the ones we just read, but you get the idea. When we talk about helping our brothers and sisters in Jesus, some of us are quick to jump to the topic of correction, but encouragement is just as important. When we work to offer the kind of help we all like to receive, the kind of help none of us enjoy as much isn't as difficult for us to receive.

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

## **Day Thirteen**

**Heart check:**

- *Is it okay to say nothing when you see a brother or sister struggling with sin? Explain.*
- *Is there a right and wrong way to correct them? Explain.*

**Study:**

Some of the help God wants us to give our brothers and sisters in Jesus as we journey toward Christ-likeness is fun to give because they enjoy receiving it. Some of it isn't because they don't enjoy receiving it, but that doesn't mean we get to skip it. When we obey God in relationship to other people, it's always for their good, whether they realize it or not. If it affects the way they interact with us, that's between them and God just like our interaction with them is between us and God. We can't worry about it. All we can do is obey and trust God to use that obedience.

**Read Galatians 6:1 and Ephesians 4:15, 32.**

Paul wrote these words to the churches in Galatia and Ephesians. Like any other group of human beings, these churches weren't perfect. Their members struggled with temptation and committed acts of sin sometimes. They weren't set against God. They were just works in progress like the rest of us (Philippians 1:6). Paul understood that God would complete the work He began in these people as surely as He would complete the work in Paul. Taking all of this into consideration, Paul encouraged early Christians to act when their brothers and sisters made mistakes, but was careful to set the right tone.

What does Paul tell these churches to do when their members make mistakes?

What approach did he tell them to take when doing these things?

Why is forgiveness so important when God asks you to help restore a brother or sister who has sinned? What happens when forgiveness doesn't take place?

**Read Matthew 7:1-5.**

Jesus spoke these words during His Sermon on the Mount. According to this passage, what should we always do before we correct a brother or sister in Jesus?

How might doing this help us adopt the right attitude and approach when correcting people?

**Read 1 Timothy 1:15.**

Paul wrote these words to Timothy, the young minister he mentored. How did Paul maintain the right perspective while he helped his brothers and sisters in Jesus and shared the gospel with the lost?

What happens when we forget who we were before we met Jesus?

Taking all of this into consideration, what should you do if you find yourself excited to go correct someone? What is probably true?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

**Day Fourteen**

**Heart check:**

- *Why is it so hard to take correction from other human beings?*
- *Is the bad behavior of someone else an excuse for your own?*

**Study:**

For the follower of Jesus, learning how to take correction well is just as important as learning how to give it well. When we fail to do either one, we put the unity of God's family at risk, and nothing is worth that.

**Read Hebrews 12:10-11.**

When our brothers and sisters correct us because God told them to and what they say is biblically sound, we should receive their correction as if it is coming from God Himself even

if they don't do the best job of handling it. If necessary, we can deal with their mistakes separately, but a person's failure to adopt the right attitude or take the right approach doesn't undo any truth they may deliver.

According to this passage, is discipline ever pleasant? Why is it helpful to remember this when receiving correction? What mistake(s) could it prevent?

What are the benefits of discipline?

Which lasts longer, the discomfort of discipline or the benefits?

Is discipline/correction worth the discomfort in your opinion? Explain.

**Read Proverbs 27:5-6.**

Remembering what you just learned, how is open rebuke better than hidden love?

Would you rather be wounded by a friend who is truly trying to help you or flattered by an enemy? Explain.

We tend to go to people who will agree with us when we think we've made a mistake. What's wrong with doing this?

**Read 1 John 1:9 and Matthew 5:23-24.**

According to these verses, what two things should you do when you realize you've sinned in a way that affects one of your brothers and sisters in Jesus?

Do these verses offer you any out if they did something to you also?

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

## **Day Fifteen**

### **Heart check:**

- *When others are tricked into believing things that aren't true, what do you do? Why?*
- *Are you able to tell the difference between biblical teaching and false teaching? Explain.*

### **Study:**

Giving and receiving help from others both require effort and intentionality, but God tells us to engage. Our faith in Jesus gives us the ultimate victory over this world and anything that may come against us (1 John 5:4). But things are going to come against us and Jesus promised that our life here on earth will be full of troubles (John 16:33). We need each other.

God has already won the war through Jesus (Genesis 3:15), but there are spiritual battles still to be fought. We can't sit them out. We have to have each other's backs even when it doesn't look like our battle to fight.

### **Read Jude 1:3-4, 8, 16-25.**

These words were written by Jude, a half-brother of Jesus. He was concerned because false teachers had started to spring up in the early churches. They claimed that Jesus's apostles were not telling the truth, and this was confusing new followers of Jesus and people who were thinking about following Jesus.

According to Jude, how can you tell whether leaders who claim to know the truth actually do or not?

Look at verse 24. According to Jude, who has the power to rescue us from false teaching?

Look at verses 22-23. According to Jude, what role do we play in each other's rescue from false teaching?

Look at verses 20-21. According to Jude, how can we protect ourselves while we help rescue others?

Why do you think Jude's tone is so urgent in this letter?

**Read Ephesians 6:10-18.**

Paul wrote these words to the church at Ephesus. If anyone knew something about the battles we have to fight as followers of Jesus, it was Paul. People attacked him viciously and often for his faith. Even so, Paul didn't hold people responsible for what he suffered.

According to Paul, who are followers of Jesus really doing battle with? Why is it so easy to forget this?

What does Paul recommend we do to prepare for battle?

Look at each item on this list. How would each help us detect and resist false teaching?

How might preparing to defend ourselves help us defend others?

Is your armor complete? Explain.

**Respond:**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

How do you think He wants you to respond to Him?

Spend a few minutes talking to Him. Tell Him what you're thinking and feeling. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears and hesitations so you can respond to Him the way He deserves.

Tell someone what you learned today, what you think God said to you, and what you plan to do about it.

## **Weekend**

Look back over your quiet time notes from last week and answer the following questions:

What idea did you find most encouraging?

What idea did you find most challenging?

Have you responded to God the way you think He wants you to?

What else needs to change, if anything?

We hope you've enjoyed this quiet time guide. We have more resources to help you get to know God better and grow in your faith. Visit [oklahomabaptists.org/youth](https://oklahomabaptists.org/youth).