



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

Paris is considered a great city to live in, but it's going to cost you! The average home costs over \$1000 per square foot, as compared to \$150 in the US.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // SALVATION

God's salvation is eternal, and once we are adopted into God's family, nothing can separate us from Him.

As teenagers, chances are you haven't bought a house yet. However, there's no doubt that you understand where you live is pretty important. For instance, living in an expensive suburb versus a rural area where you have to drive thirty minutes to the nearest movie theater makes a big difference in your experiences. Living in the inner city versus living as missionaries in Kenya makes for a totally different lifestyle.

➤ In three words, how would you describe the place you live?

There's a common phrase that points to this fact—Location, location, location. For people looking for a new home, this is one of the most important, if not THE most important factor in determining which house to buy. And the Internet is flooded with lists to help us decide.

We all have our own ideas of what makes the perfect place to live, but no place is perfect. Problems still arise. And, of course, sin is ever present. Thankfully, this will one day change. God has promised His followers a perfect home with Him that will last for eternity. The apostle John gave us a brief glimpse into the eternal life that awaits those who follow Christ.

REVELATION 21:1-5

1 What are you most looking forward to about our eternal home?

2 Why is it significant that God will dwell with His people?



*We cannot overcome sin in our own power—only when we rely on Jesus will we experience victory.
#BSFLHolyVocab*

REVELATION 21:6-8

3 How does the promise of eternity impact your life now?

4 What does it mean for us to conquer?

5 How can you keep the reality of heaven and hell in mind as you relate to others?

REVELATION 22:1-5

6 Which of the descriptions of heaven in these verses do you find most meaningful?

7 In what ways does knowing how the story ends change your everyday life?

8 What does this passage teach us about the heart of God?



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // SALVATION

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In this life, because of our rebellion against God and due to sin's curse, we experience all kinds of frustration, pain, and suffering. However, we have a promise that, one day, we will be set free from this brokenness. We look forward to a day when there will be no sickness, no tears, and no death. Yet, even then, the best part is that we will live eternally no longer separated from God, but in His presence. Because Jesus' sacrifice has destroyed death, for those who are God's children, this will be our eternal reality.

> CHRIST

Eternal life doesn't begin when we die and go to heaven. It begins the moment we come to faith in Christ. For those who have trusted in Jesus, the old, carnal self has died and, by virtue of our being born again, we are new spiritual creatures.

9 How should the fact that you have eternal life—right now—impact the way you live?

10 What will you do this week to demonstrate your thanks to God for eternal life?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

> COMMUNITY

As children of God, we are citizens of heaven. One of the ways we show this is through valuing the church and demonstrating faithfulness to God and to our church family.

11 When you look at your life, where do your biggest loyalties lie? To your school, the team you play on, the band, your favorite college or pro sports team, something else?



12 How is God calling you to be a more fully devoted citizen of heaven in the ways you ...

RELATE TO HIM?

RELATE TO YOUR CHURCH FAMILY?

> CULTURE

People are either citizens of heaven, or they're of the world and their father is the devil (John 8:44)—there's no in-between. Our mission is to share the gospel, so our neighbors would be rescued from darkness and brought into the light. This week, invite others to heaven.

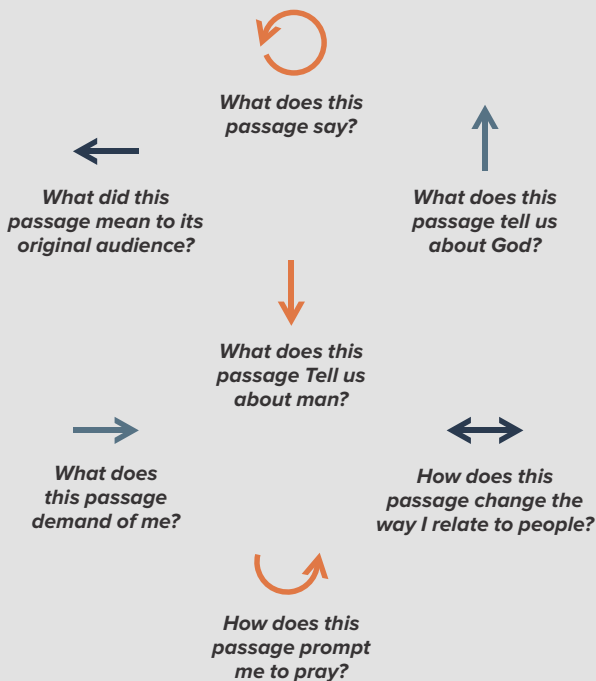
13 Who do you know who has not placed his or her faith in Christ and has no hope of eternal life?

14 Pray and seek opportunities to tell others how they can have eternal life in heaven with Christ.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One JOHN 3:1-3

Nicodemus was a religious leader in Israel, and he was a man with a great deal of authority. He'd no doubt heard of Jesus, was perhaps familiar with some of His teachings, and he was curious to learn Jesus' perspective on a few religious matters. However, because of his position, Nicodemus couldn't openly approach Jesus, or he'd be criticized by the other leaders. When he did approach Jesus, Nicodemus acknowledged that the signs and miracles Jesus performed could only have been done by the power of God. Jesus' response—"Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Jesus didn't even address the question Nicodemus had asked. Instead, He addressed the deeper question He knew was in Nicodemus' heart. To be a part of God's kingdom, it wasn't enough to keep all the law's religious requirements. Instead, one has to experience the transformation that comes only from being reborn from above.

➤ **How would you describe your experience of being "born again"?**

➤ **What does it mean to "see the kingdom of God"?**

Day Two

JOHN 3:4



Many times throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus teach a spiritual lesson, and people totally misunderstand. They're caught up in the natural world and have trouble grasping the greater realities Jesus is talking about. For instance, when Jesus said He's the Bread of life, the Jews were disgusted—*Why would we eat His body and blood* (John 6:53-60)? When Jesus and His disciples heard that Lazarus was sick, Jesus told those around Him that Lazarus was asleep, and He'd wake up His friend. But they had no clue what Jesus was talking about. In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus told him that to see the kingdom, we must be born again. But like so many others, Nicodemus misunderstood. However, he was humble enough to admit to Jesus that he didn't have the slightest clue how this could happen.

- **What has God said in the Bible that you have trouble understanding?**
- **Who will you ask for help in understanding what God is saying?**

Day Three

JOHN 3:5-8

To be alive in this material world, we must be born from the wombs of our mothers. And because we are born of flesh that is subject to the curse of sin, we live according to the flesh. However, to be made alive spiritually, it requires a different kind of birth—we must be born of the Spirit. Just like Nicodemus, we may find it difficult to understand the new birth. After all, as Jesus said, the Spirit is much like the wind—we are able to see its effects, but we can't simply control it. However, we can know that, just as life in this world begins at birth (let's be clear, life clearly begins at conception, but according to Jesus' analogy, life in the world begins at birth), spiritual life begins the moment we're born of the Spirit. And the effects are that we, in essence, receive the spiritual DNA of our Father, we bear a great resemblance to Him, we take on His mannerisms, and we learn to appreciate His values.

- **What characterizes the behaviors of a new baby? A spiritual newborn?**
- **How do you bear a resemblance to your heavenly Father as evidence of your being born again?**

Day Four

JOHN 3:9-15

After Jesus explained what it meant to be born of the Spirit, Nicodemus still didn't understand, so he asked again. Jesus' response—*You're a teacher in Israel, and of all people, you should know this!* But the truth is, though Nicodemus had the Old Testament Scriptures and had heard Jesus teach, he simply didn't grasp the spiritual realities necessary for a relationship with God. Then Jesus gave Nicodemus one more earthly picture of a spiritual reality. Nicodemus was undoubtedly familiar that, as recorded in the Old Testament (Num. 21:5-9), when God's people complained and sinned against God, He sent snakes into their camp and many were bitten and died. The people begged Moses to help, and God told Moses to fashion a snake from bronze and mount it on a pole. As the Israelites looked at the snake, they were healed. Just as Moses had lifted the snake, Jesus told Nicodemus He'd be lifted up on the cross, and those who would look upon Him in faith would be healed.

- **Why do you think Nicodemus had so much trouble understanding the things Jesus said?**
- **Why do you think Jesus explained it to him several different ways?**

Day Five

JOHN 3:16



Jesus taught Nicodemus a profound truth that's meant a lot to people throughout the generations—that God loved us enough to send His Son to die for our sins. And for those who trust in Christ, we will never experience spiritual death, but live eternally in God's kingdom. It may have taken some time for this to sink in, but chances are that at some point, Nicodemus finally grasped the things Jesus taught and put his faith in Jesus. In John 19:39, we read that, after Jesus was crucified, Nicodemus helped Joseph of Arimathea place Jesus' body in the tomb. Nicodemus, who was an influential and wealthy man, used his resources to anoint the body of Jesus. Jesus' message to Nicodemus had a powerful impact on his life, and our response should be the same—to give all we have in honor to our Savior.

- **What happened in Nicodemus' heart that would move him to offer such a gift in honor of Jesus?**
- **How can you demonstrate the same heart?**