

Valiant

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.”

—EPHESIANS 6:10

Barb Wilson

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Getting the Most Out of This Study

Format: This study works well for individuals, small groups, or in a large group setting with a teacher. *A teacher guide is available.*

NASB – This version is referenced for all lessons in the study. For example, if a question refers to the third word of a verse, this is the translation that should be used to answer the question.

Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),

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Features: Look for the following features that will help you dig deeper into the study.



Delve Deeper with Discussion: *These questions are designed for use in small group discussions. They encourage reflection and personal application of the study.*

➤ Get Greater Growth

These questions offer study suggestions to help you gain further understanding about specific topics or portions of scripture.



Memory Minute

Throughout each lesson, you'll find these sections which will help you learn and review your memory verses.



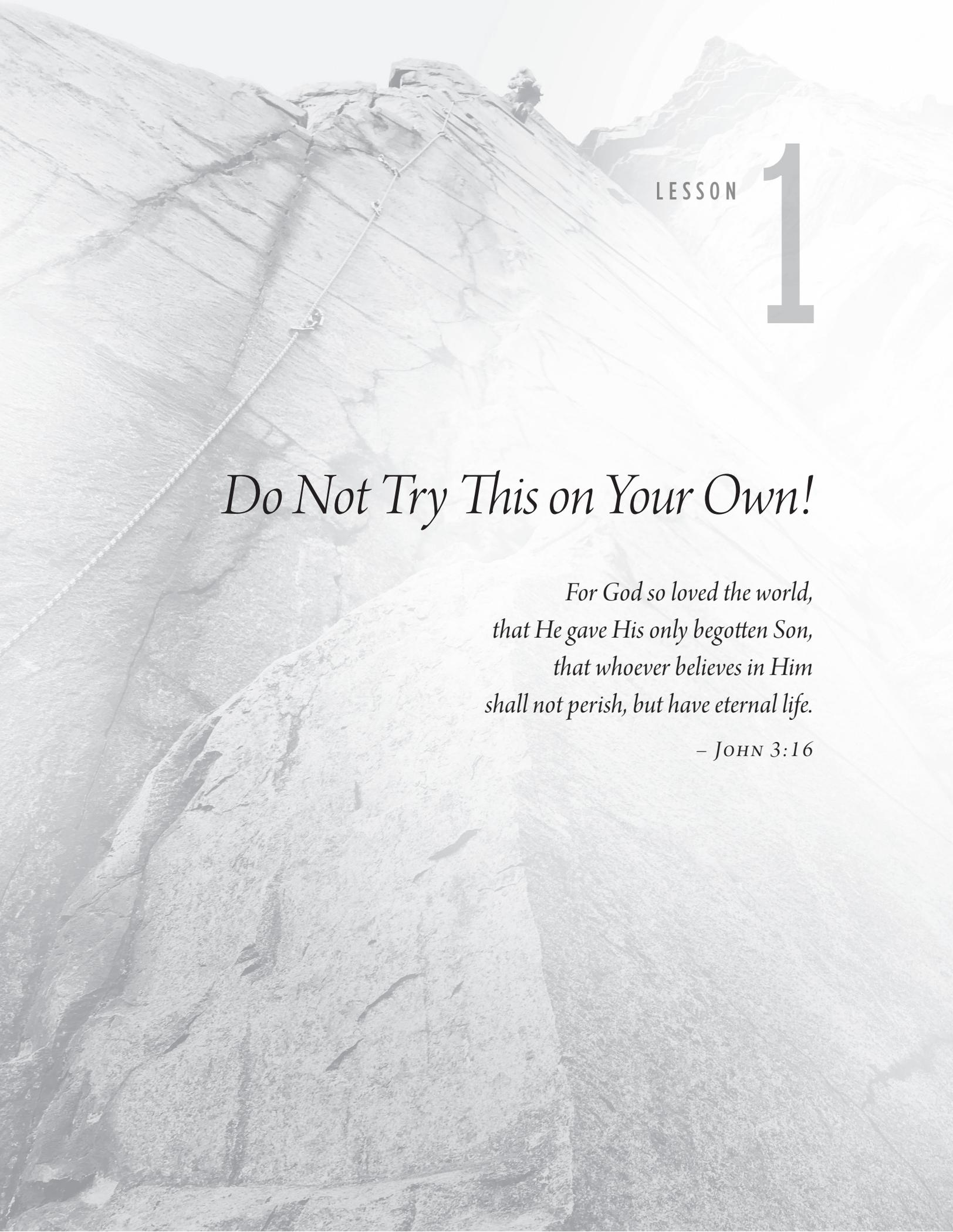
This symbol introduces a Bible verse that relates to the topic of the lesson.



This mountain symbol in the margin introduces a quote from a leading Christian author, speaker, or Bible commentary. Don't skip these! Each quote offers additional insight into a topic that is covered on that page.



Bonus Resource: You can watch Barb Wilson's recorded teaching for each of the lessons on YouTube - Run2Truth channel.



LESSON

1

Do Not Try This on Your Own!

*For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

– JOHN 3:16

Lesson 1: *Do Not Try This on Your Own!*

Lord, we acknowledge that without You we can do nothing. We will not be valiant unless we are saved. Thank You for providing forgiveness and salvation through Your sacrifice on the cross.

Strong, determined, brave, steadfast, stalwart. Valiant. Do those words describe you? They are much better adjectives than cowardly, anxious, weak, and defeated, wouldn't you agree? Do you desire to be valiant?

God wants us to be valiant. He actually commands us to be strong... in the Lord and in the strength of His might, that is. (Ephesians 6:10)

We cannot be valiant on our own. Whew... that certainly takes the pressure off, doesn't it? God provides the strength we need through Scripture and the Holy Spirit. However, not everyone receives this power but only those who are believers, true Christians, those who are born again, saved. As we begin Valiant Bible Study it is imperative that we understand the gospel, have assurance of our own salvation, and know how to share it with others.

Before we go any further let's focus on the memory verse for Lesson 1.

 **Memory Minute – Read through John 3:16 three times.**

Put an x in this blank when done. _____

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

Okay, let's get back to the most important thing about you. Are you truly a child of God? Do you belong to Him? Does He know and claim you as one of His sheep?

1. If you were to die today, do you know without a doubt that you would go straight to Heaven to be with Jesus? If your answer is no, keep studying this lesson. Great news ahead!

2. If God were to meet you at the entrance to Heaven and ask you why He should let you into His Heaven, how would you answer?



"The plain truth is, the vast proportion of professing Christians in the world have nothing whatever of Christianity, except the name."

—
J.C. RYLE

3. People give many different but wrong reasons as to why God should let them into His Heaven. They have ideas and hopes as to why and how they just might qualify and deserve being there. List some wrong answers people give regarding how to go to heaven.

4.  **Delve Deeper with Discussion:** *If you are now saved, what did you believe about getting to heaven before you came to Christ?*

5. If someone you knew had a wrong idea of how to get to heaven, how would you explain the Gospel to them? What would you need to include in your explanation? Write your thoughts then we will study the Gospel in the following pages of this lesson.

God created us and He created Heaven. He is sovereign Ruler over all. He gets to decide who is allowed in heaven and who is not. We must know, understand, and believe what He says in His Word regarding salvation and where we will spend eternity.

There is really bad news and there is amazing good news. Let's start with the bad news.

6. What do the following verses say regarding the condition of every human?

a. Romans 3:9-12

b. Romans 3:23



"Our culture is largely
biblically illiterate
and misunderstands
terms like God, sin,
salvation, etc."

—
D. A. CARSON



"Only when we understand God's wrath toward sin can we realize that we need to be saved from it."

—
C. J. MAHANEY

"When Jesus saw the city of Jerusalem, He saw the hearts of people who would reject Him...and He wept. Most of us don't weep over the spiritual needs of others. When we see people as Jesus does, our hearts will break with His. We will grieve over the rejection of the King."

—
NANCY DEMOSS
WOLGEMUTH

c. Isaiah 53:6

d. Isaiah 64:6

7. That is bad news. Every person is a sinner. But ... is that really so bad? Find out in the following verses what the consequence is for being a sinner.

a. Romans 6:23

b. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

c. Matthew 25:46

We are all sinners. All sinners deserve eternal punishment in hell. Only perfect people qualify for Heaven. None of us qualify. We are in a desperate, hopeless situation that we have no power or ability to fix. It is important that we start with realizing and believing our lost, sinful, ungodly condition.

The more we understand our sinfulness, the more we appreciate what God has done for us in His Son Jesus Christ.

– Wayne Mack

Ready for the amazing good news? God knew that we could never be good enough to go to heaven. Yet because of His holiness and righteousness, all sin has to be punished. So with His mercy and love, and for His own glory, God provided a way for people to have their sins punished and be declared ... PERFECT! And perfect people qualify for heaven. The word for being declared perfect is justified.

8. The word "gospel" means good news. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the best news you will ever hear. Study the following verses and rejoice in the good news that your sins have been fully paid, your punishment taken by Christ, and you are in perfect standing with God if you have trusted Christ as your Savior and Lord.

a. John 3:16

b. 1 Peter 3:18

c. 2 Corinthians 5:21

d. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

e. 1 John 5:11-12

f. Romans 5:8-9

g. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

9. God poured out His wrath against your sin and my sin on His Son, Jesus, as He was crucified on the cross. Jesus took your punishment so that you will never have to experience the wrath of God in eternal hell. You can be saved from the penalty and power of sin. Is there anything you need to do? What is your part in salvation?

a. Acts 2:38

b. Acts 16:31

c. Acts 20:21

d. Romans 10:9-10

e. John 1:12-13

f. John 5:24

10. While we must believe in who Jesus is and what He did, our salvation is all of grace from God from start to finish. We cannot take any credit. What do these verses teach?

a. Ephesians 2:8-9

b. Titus 3:5

c. 2 Timothy 1:9

d. 1 Peter 1:3

e. Colossians 1:13-14



*Jesus said, "I am
the way, and the
truth, and the life;
no one comes to the
Father but through
Me."*

—

JOHN 14:6

*It is a trustworthy
statement,
deserving full
acceptance,
that Christ Jesus
came into the world
to save sinners...*

—

1 TIMOTHY 1:15



"By grace we are saved,
by grace we stand,
and by grace we are
going to make it home."

—
WAYNE MACK



*Salvation is found
in no one else
for there is no other
name under heaven
given to men
by which we must
be saved.*

—
ACTS 4:12

➤ Get Greater Growth

11. Revel in the truths of these verses.

a. Philippians 3:9-11

b. Galatians 2:16



Memory Minute – Fill in the blanks, then read the verse aloud two times.

Put an x in this blank when done. _____

John 3:16 For God so _____ the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever _____ in Him shall not _____, but have
_____ life. John 3:16

12. There are many nationalities, races, and ethnic groups but all people who ever lived or will live are in one of two groups. Find out the two groups:

a. John 3:36

b. John 3:18

c. 1 John 5:12

13. Only perfect (justified) people go to Heaven. Jesus paid our sin debt and His perfection (righteousness) has been credited to each person who trusts in His work on the cross, repents of sin, and asks Him for forgiveness. How can we know for sure that this is true? Research the following verses.

a. Romans 5:1

b. Romans 10:13

c. 1 John 5:13

d. Acts 10:43

14. Let's retrace our steps. We have studied verses that state we are all sinners, that sin must be punished, that Christ took our punishment, and that we must believe in Christ and what He did. We read verses that assure us over and over that forgiveness and eternal life have been provided at the cross. How would you explain the command in 2 Corinthians 13:5?

15. Anyone who has truly trusted Christ is a new creation and will begin to show evidence of new life. God's #1 goal and plan for each believer is change, that we become more and more like Jesus in character, conduct, attitude, thinking, desires, and wisdom. What evidences and changes should we see according to the truths in 1 John?

- a. 1 John 1:3
- b. 1 John 1:4
- c. 1 John 1:9
- d. 1 John 3:6
- e. 1 John 2:3-5
- f. 1 John 2:6
- g. 1 John 2:9-11
- h. 1 John 2:13-14
- i. 1 John 2:15-17
- j. 1 John 2:19
- k. 1 John 2:29
- l. 1 John 3:13
- m. 1 John 3:24
- n. 1 John 3:23a
- o. 1 John 4:1-4
- p. 1 John 4:16
- q. 1 John 4:17-18
- r. 1 John 4:20
- s. 1 John 5:14-15
- t. 1 John 5:21



"Biblical faith that results in salvation must include knowledge of the facts about Christ, belief that these facts are true, and trust in these truths for your personal salvation."

—
CHRISTIAN LIFE
AND GROWTH

"We need to have a continual attitude of repentance in our ongoing relationship with God. We are still tempted and we still sin. However, God's children will have a desire to humbly confess and turn from sin."

—
NANCY DEMOSS
WOLGEMUTH



"The believer may fall
into sin but he will not
walk in it."

—

DONALD BURDICK



*Therefore, if anyone
is in Christ, he is
a new creature;
the old things
passed away;
behold, new things
have come.*

—

2 CORINTHIANS
5:17

An individual who continues habitually in sin and never repents, never tries to change, never overcomes, or never grows has no assurance, according to God's Word, that he has ever come to know God.

– Christian Life and Growth by Faith Resources

In this uncertain age, there are numerous things that will remain uncertain and unstable and unknown. But for children of the King, there is one thing that you can know for certain: that you have eternal life.

– Susan Heck

16.  **Delve Deeper with Discussion:** After studying assurance of salvation from the book of 1 John, are you more aware of the evidence of salvation in your own life? Can you think of other specific changes that mark a true believer? What should you do if there is no evidence of salvation in your life?

➤ Get Greater Growth

17. Study Mark 4:1-20, the Parable of the Soils. The seed represents the teaching of the Gospel and the soil represents different people who hear the Gospel. Fill out the chart.

List the 4 soils	Response/Result	Interpretation
a. 4:4	4:4	4:15
b. 4:5	4:6	4:17
c. 4:7	4:7	4:19
d. 4:8	4:8	4:20

18. In the Parable of the Soils, people hear the gospel and have different responses and reactions. Some seem to believe and become Christians, but after a time, they fall away. Only those who remain and produce evident fruit are truly born-again. We have studied the gospel and how to know for certain that you have become a believer. What do the following verses teach regarding remaining a believer?

a. John 10:27-30

b. Hebrews 10:10, 14, 23

c. Romans 11:29

d. 1 Peter 1:3-5

e. Jude 24

f. Ephesians 1:13

g. John 6:37, 44

19.  **Delve Deeper with Discussion:** *God chose and called you. Jesus took your punishment and paid for your sin. What should be your response to the gospel and all that Christ has done for you? Has your understanding of the Gospel and your love for Christ grown by doing this lesson?*

 **Memory Minute – Fill in the blanks, then read the verse aloud twice.**

Put an x in this blank when done. _____

John 3:16 For God so _____ the _____, that He _____

His only begotten _____, that whoever _____ in Him shall not

_____, but have _____ . John 3:16



"I am not
what I want to be.
I am not
what I hope to be.
But by the grace of God,
I am not what I was."

—
JOHN NEWTON

"Our security is not in
our ability to hold on to
Christ's hand but in His
ability to hold us in His."

—
DAVID JEREMIAH

20. One of our responses to God's free gift of salvation will be that we want to share the Good News with others. We have studied a lot of verses and truth about the Gospel. Let's practice sharing it.



*For I am not
ashamed
of the gospel,
for it is the power
of God for salvation
to everyone
who believes.*

—
ROMANS 1:16

Class Notes

(To be filled in during teaching time)

A =

B =

C =

Bridge Illustration =

John Piper's four treasures for sharing the gospel:

Prayer for salvation:

Heavenly Father, I agree with you that I am a sinner in need of salvation. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son, and that He suffered and died on the cross in my place, taking the punishment I deserved for my sins. I believe that He rose again and invites me to live forever with Him as part of Your family. Because of what Jesus has done, I ask You to forgive me of my sin, save me from the penalty of eternal death, and allow me to receive eternal life. I entrust my life to You and ask Jesus to come into my life as Savior and Lord. Help me to live in a way that pleases and honors You.

21. Read over the prayer for salvation and notice what is included. Compare it with what you wrote for #5. What have you learned regarding what needs to be included in sharing the Gospel?

22.  **Delve Deeper with Discussion:** Review this lesson and write down what impacted or stood out to you the most.



*But sanctify Christ
as Lord in your
hearts, always
being ready to
make a defense to
everyone who asks
you to give an
account for the
hope that is in you,
but with gentleness
and reverence.*

—

1 PETER 3:15



"Thank God that because Jesus bore God's wrath for sin, you will never be separated from God's love, you are reconciled to God, you have been given the Holy Spirit, and you are promised eternal life."

—
C. J. MAHANEY

Valiant Values for Lesson 1

- † To be strong in the Lord, you must be a believer
- † It is crucial that we know, understand, believe, accept, and share the gospel
- † If you say you are a believer, there must be evidence of new life in your character and desires
- † It is not possible for a believer to lose his/her salvation
- † Some may appear to make a decision to trust in Jesus, but later fall away
- † Our response to God's grace should include love, trust, obedience, contentment, and worship

Responsibility Reminders

- _____ Finish this lesson
- _____ Read 3 quotes a day from page 19
- _____ Memorize John 3:16
- _____ Prayerfully choose your Valiant goals

Valiant Ventures for Lesson 1

A venture is a project or activity which is new, exciting, and may be difficult.

- Practice sharing the Gospel
- Give out a Gospel Tract
- Read the quotes on the next page
- Pray for opportunities and openings to share the Gospel
- List 2 people you are praying for to come to Christ
- Examine your own life for evidences of new birth
- Quote the memory verse: John 3:16
- Suggested Reading: *Living the Cross Centered Life, Comforts from the Cross* by Fitzpatrick, *The Gospel Primer* by Milton Vincent