

The Challengers Quest

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Credits

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The Challengers Quest

Your Quest

Welcome to *The Challengers Quest*. Do you know exactly what a quest is? A quest is a certain kind of mission. It's an all-out search for something really important. *The Challengers Quest* will take you on a search through nine mission "Fields" where you will explore and answer some of the most important questions of life. This Quest is a search for a personal faith and relationship with Jesus Christ...a faith that makes all the difference in your life and a relationship you can share with other people.

The Fields

Six of the nine Fields you will explore in your Quest are places where you live and go every week. They are your own Life, your Family, your Church, your School, your Neighborhood and your Association of Baptist churches. These Fields are important to your Quest because you need and want the kind of relationship with Christ that's real and useful in your everyday life.

The other three Fields your Quest will take you are your State, your Nation and your World. The more you get to know Christ, the more you see that He's a worldwide God. Your Quest for Him will show you that He's real and active in people's lives throughout the world. As you follow Him, He is likely to lead you to people in other towns, states and countries where people need and want to know Him.

How It Works

Here's how *The Challengers Quest* works. There are two sections called "Miles." Each Mile takes you through each of the nine Mission Fields. In each Field there are things you must Know. Then, there are things to **Do**. Finally, there are things you will **Share**. Fortunately, you are not alone on your Quest. Your Challengers leader and other members of your Challengers group will join you as accountability partners. Often you will share responsibilities of your Quest with these partners. At other times you will search and work alone and then share with them about the things you learn and do.

Electives

In each Mile there are three Elective Activities. These are additional projects that you undertake as a part of your Quest. They can be from any Field you and your group choose. Your Challengers leader will help you to map out that part of your Quest. As you complete an elective, fill out one of the report forms included near the end of each Mile.

Bible Studies

In each Field and Elective of your Quest, you will read the story of a specific man in the Bible. Each of these men was on his own life quest for faith and relationship with the true God—although some of them realized it and others really didn't have a clue. Each of the 24 men found what they were searching for—the opportunity to know and experience the Truth. However, while some accepted the challenge to follow Him on their life journey, others decided to go their own way. You will see the difference it made in their lives.

And, in the same way, you will see the difference your Quest makes in your life.

Alan Huesing
National Challengers Director

Instructions for The Challengers Quest

Make your Challengers Notebook.

One of the tools you need on your Quest is your own personal Challengers Notebook. Use a one- or two-inch, three-ring binder to house your notebook. Use the enclosed *Challengers Quest* cover and spine.

The first page in your notebook should be your group's Challengers Commitment Statement. To become a member of Challengers, you sign this statement, making it your own personal commitment to be on mission with God. Other membership requirements are to learn the meaning of the Challengers logo, memorize 1 Corinthians 15:58, and complete the Challengers Vigil, a time alone with God. (Complete information about these and other components of the Challengers organization may be found in *Leading Challengers, Second Edition*.)

There are five tabs enclosed which are to be used as dividers forming five sections in your Challengers Notebook:

1. The names and contact information of the three to five members of your Challengers ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM.
2. Record personal and group prayer requests as well as God's answers and responses in your PRAYER JOURNAL.
3. Track your team BIBLE READING and Journey Bible studies.
4. Keep your Challengers bi-monthly calendar and information about past and upcoming MISSION/MINISTRY PROJECTS.
5. The enclosed pages of The Challengers QUEST. Your leader may want you to keep only one Mile of the QUEST at a time in your notebook.

Complete each Mile of the Quest

There is a checklist at the beginning of each Mile of the Quest. From these checklists you can see that each Mile consists of 12 projects (one from each field plus three electives) and 12 Bible studies. As you complete the project from a field, the report for an elective or one of the Bible study, your Challengers leader will sign and date it. Then you may record it on the checklist. When you complete one of the Bible studies, check it off and write the date on the checklist.

When you complete the first Mile, your church will award you the Quest Mile certificate. When you complete the second Mile, your Challengers leader and your church will award you another certificate and other appropriate awards for completing *The Challengers Quest*.

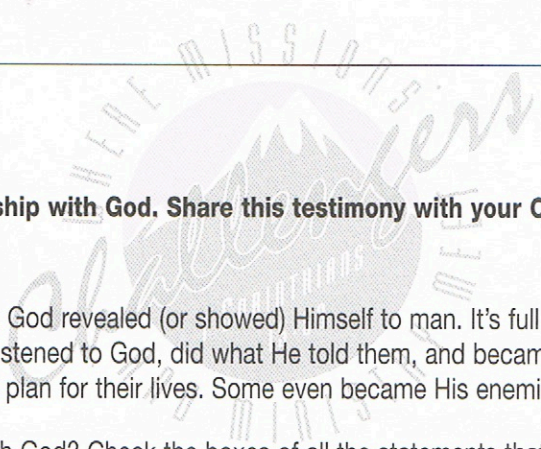
A Begin The Challengers Journey

The Challengers Journey is a six-Mile plan for sharing your faith with people in all nine mission fields. You are ready to begin the Journey as soon as you have a faith and relationship with Jesus Christ that you are ready and willing to share with others. Notice that four of the activities in the Quest directly apply toward requirements and plans set forth in the Journey (See Mile Two, My Association; Mile Two, My state; Mile Two, My Nation; and Mile Two, My World).

Challengers who complete Miles of the Journey are eligible to receive scholarships offered by many Baptist colleges and universities. The North American Mission Board (NAMB) offers the National Award, National Leadership Award, scholarships and other opportunities for service and training to Challengers who complete the Basic and Advanced Miles of the Journey. Consult the Challengers Central Website for complete information about scholarships and other opportunities.



① Mile *one*
one



Write about your relationship with God. Share this testimony with your Challengers leader.

Know It

The Bible is about how God revealed (or showed) Himself to man. It's full of stories about how different people came to know Him. Some listened to God, did what He told them, and became His "friends" or "children." Others ignored Him or rejected His plan for their lives. Some even became His enemies.

How is *your* relationship with God? Check the boxes of all the statements that describe you:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I talk with God a lot. | <input type="checkbox"/> He is my Savior. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't talk with Him very often. | <input type="checkbox"/> I ask God to help me make decisions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am afraid of God. | <input type="checkbox"/> He is my best friend. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> He has changed me into a new person. | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know much about God. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I like to talk with people about God. | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to know Him better. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> God seems very far away. | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't really know God. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> He has changed me a lot. | <input type="checkbox"/> I have invited Him into my life. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I go to God when I need help. | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't think much about God. |

Do It

A *testimony* is the true personal story told by a person who is called a *witness*. It's the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth of what the witness has personally experienced.

Read Paul's testimony in Acts 22:1-21.

This is Paul's story of what his life was like before he met Jesus, how he met Jesus out on the road, and how God changed his life.

If you have received Jesus as your Savior, write your personal testimony, telling when and where you committed your life to Christ, who else was involved, and some of the circumstances surrounding your decision. Also, write about the difference God is making in your life since you committed it to Him.

If you haven't yet invited Christ to be your Savior and Lord, write about your relationship with God at this time. Also write about what kind of relationship you would like to have with Him.

Share It

Now share your written testimony with your Challengers leader. Ask him to share his testimony with you. Discuss with him what knowing God means in your lives.

Record your leader's name and when you shared your testimony with him:

His Name: _____ Date: _____

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____



"No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." John 3:3

The most well-known verse in the Bible is John 3:16 (you know, the verse that the guy that holds up at the football games!) You may have it memorized. If you do, go ahead and say it out loud right now. If you don't, look it up and read it aloud.

Do you know the context and story behind the verse? _____ Who said it? _____

What was the occasion and who was involved? _____

To find the answers to these and the following questions, read John 3:1-21.

Who was Nicodemus? _____

What was his opinion of Jesus? _____

Why did he come to Jesus by himself at night? _____

What did Jesus mean by being "born again?" _____

The Sanhedrin was the ruling body of Israel. They were the political as well as religious leaders of the country. For the Jewish state, these 70 men were the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government and the official state church. It was the Sanhedrin who later condemned Jesus to death.

The Pharisees were a political party of men who were very serious about keeping the Law of Moses. In the Jewish government they were the specialists in religious law. As a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, Nicodemus was a powerful, highly educated and respected leader. He was similar in power and position as one of the Justices of our federal Supreme Court.

Nicodemus became known as the man who came to see Jesus at night (see John 19:39). Perhaps he was afraid to be seen with Jesus in public. Or maybe he just wanted to meet with Jesus alone and at a time when they would have plenty of time to talk. It is clear that Nicodemus was convinced by Jesus' miracles that He was sent by God as a prophet or teacher.

Jesus surprised the judge by telling him that he must be "born again" if he wanted to see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus found out that he didn't know the first thing about getting to heaven.

Who did Jesus claim to be in verses 13-18? _____

When are we judged by God for our sin (v. 18)? _____

For what sin or crime would God condemn a person (v. 18)? _____

What exactly does it mean to "believe in Jesus?" _____

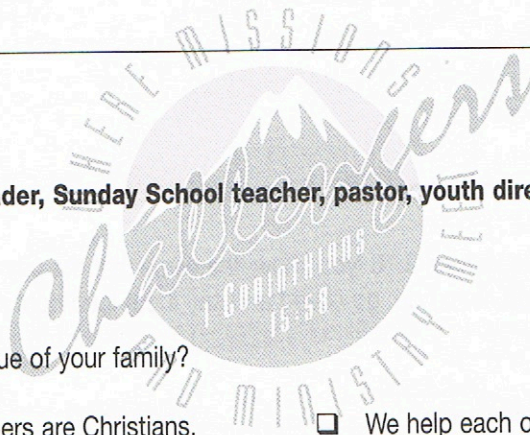
God sent Jesus to save a world of people already condemned to hell. He died on the cross so that whoever looked to Him in faith (like in the story about the bronze snake in Numbers 21:4-9) would be "saved." Jesus made it clear that no one can save himself by being good enough or by knowing enough. That's something the Spirit of God does in and for you when you ask and trust Him for it. Believing in Jesus and believing facts about Him are two different things. Belief in Him is trusting Him for everything and following Him no matter what. That is life-changing belief.

What difference did believing in Jesus make in Nicodemus' life? (Read John 7:37-52 & 19:38-42)

Have you been "born again"? _____ If you have, when was your new birthday? _____

How has He changed your life? _____

My *Family*



Invite your Challengers leader, Sunday School teacher, pastor, youth director, or other youth worker to visit your home.

Know It

Which of the following are true of your family?

- All my family members are Christians.
- Some are Christians.
- I'm the only Christian.
- I don't know if they are Christians.
- We pray together a lot.
- We read the Bible, but not together.
- We help each other grow spiritually.
- We read the Bible together.
- God is like a member of our family.
- We are all growing in our faith.
- None of us have received Christ yet.
- One member is a new Christian.

List the names of family members (and others) who live with you:

Which one of these is most helpful to you in your quest to know and follow God? How?

Which of these can you help most in their quest for spiritual growth? How?

List adults in your church who can help you in your mission to grow spiritually in your family. (Your Challengers leader, Sunday School teacher, youth minister, pastor, youth workers, others.)

Do It

If your family members are not members of your church, ask your visitor to share with them about the mission or purpose of your church, how the church seeks to be a spiritual resource to families in the community, and how you and your family can be involved in the ministry of your church. If they are church members, ask your visitor to share about the purposes and activities of Challengers and other youth opportunities of your church.

Be sure to make any needed preparations at home before your visitor comes. Do all you can to help your visitor get to know members of your family and have a good visit in your home.

Briefly describe the visit:

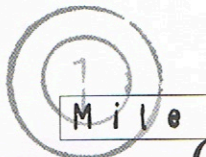
Record your visitor's name and the date of his visit:

Visitor's Name: _____ Date: _____

Share It

After your home visit, talk with your visitor about the things he shared. Be sure to thank him for coming. Then pray with him for the members of your family.

Date completed: _____ Challengers Leader's signature: _____



Can I Be Baptized Now?

"Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:38

Read Acts 8:26-39.

Who was the man Philip met on the road? _____

Where was the man coming from and what had he been doing there? _____

What was he doing when Philip met him? _____

Whose idea was it for Philip to meet him? _____

What did Philip explain to him? _____

The man was the Treasurer of Ethiopia. Somehow he had heard of the God of the Hebrews and had traveled, perhaps on official business, to Jerusalem. While he was there, he went to worship in the Temple. He must have been conspicuous standing in the court of the Gentiles, dressed in official African style and speaking the Ethiopian language—obviously a very rich and important man.

Read Hebrews 10:1-18.

The Ethiopian wanted to be a follower of God—a Christian. He had gone to the Temple where he thought he could find what he was searching for. But no one there could tell him the Messiah had already come and died for the sins of the whole world—including Africans. In spite of his wealth and influence, he was not permitted to go beyond the court of the Gentiles (where the moneychangers and vendors sold their "clean" animals). He watched while the Jews and their priests passed by him to enter into the place and practice of animal sacrifice. They didn't understand that their sacrifices could never "perfect those who draw near to worship." (v.1) They couldn't explain to the Ethiopian that we can only be "made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (v. 10)

He paid a great price to purchase his own copy of the Hebrew Scriptures, handwritten by a scribe, and began the difficult task of studying in the Hebrew language. He read the prophecy of Isaiah as he traveled back home through the desert in his luxury chariot. When he was almost to the end of the book, he still didn't even know what it was talking about. Then he saw the hitchhiker—walking alongside his chariot. The Ethiopian had been reading out loud because that made it easier to understand the Hebrew language. The hitchhiker, a Jew, asked if he understood what he was reading.

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Read Isaiah 53:4-12.

Who is this prophecy about? _____

When and how was it fulfilled? _____

Why was it important to the Ethiopian? _____

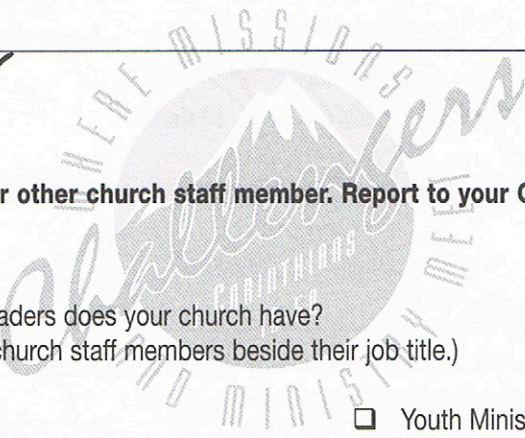
How did Philip use it? _____

The Ethiopian was seeking God. More importantly, *God was seeking him*. God had somehow revealed Himself to the man and made him want to know and follow the Hebrew's God. Then, after the man's study and research had done little to help, God sent Philip out into the desert to deliver the Good News to him.

The Ethiopian didn't need to be convinced that Jesus was the Son of God, that He had died for our sins, or even that He had been resurrected from the dead. He knew that God was real in his own life and he accepted the Good News of salvation immediately. Philip must have explained that baptism is how new believers tell everyone they have accepted Christ and how Christians join the fellowship of the church. The African probably remembered how he was excluded from joining other worshipers in the Temple and asked if he could be baptized immediately. At the very next stream of water they stopped and Philip baptized the man. Then he went on home, ready to share his new faith in his own country.

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My *Church*



Interview your pastor or other church staff member. Report to your Challengers group.

Know It

Which of the following leaders does your church have?
(Write the names of the church staff members beside their job title.)

- Pastor
- Music Minister
- Church Administrator
- Children's Minister
- Youth Minister _____
- Education Minister _____
- Missions Minister _____
- Senior Adults Minister _____

Do It

Select a church staff member and ask for an interview. Schedule an appointment where you can learn answers to the following:

What are his/her responsibilities?

What does he/she enjoy most about their work? Why?

How did he/she choose to enter a church-related vocation?

What skills, understandings, relationships, and experience are needed to do their work?

How and when did he/she come to serve your church?

Find out how you and your Challengers group can help them in their ministry.

Record the staff member's name and the date of your interview:

Leader's Name: _____ Date: _____

Share It

After your interview, report to your Challengers group what you learned by talking with this church leader. Discuss with them how your group can help them in their ministry. Then pray for the minister and for your church.

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____



one

What Must I Do To Be Saved

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." Acts 16:31

Read Acts 16:16-34.

Paul and Silas were missionaries in the Roman colonial city of Philippi, a place where few people were Christians or knew anything about Jesus. People there worshipped strange gods and idols.

How did Paul and Silas get into trouble in Philippi? _____

What did the city officials tell the jailer when they jailed Paul and Silas? _____

What did the jailer do with them? _____

What happened in Philippi at midnight? Why? _____

What had the jailer been doing before the earthquake (v. 27)? _____

Why did he start to kill himself? _____

When the two missionaries were stripped, beaten, and thrown into jail, the jailer became totally responsible for their safekeeping. If they escaped, he would have to suffer their punishment. So, he chained them to stocks in the inner dungeon. When the earthquake tore open the prison, he assumed all the prisoners had escaped and he would face execution. Rather than being humiliated and tortured to a slow death, he grabbed his sword and prepared to commit suicide. When Paul shouted out to him that they were all still there (v. 28), it must have almost sounded too good to be true.

Like so many other people, after coming face-to-face with death, the jailer began to search for the answer to his question, "What must I do to be saved?" He had undoubtedly heard Paul and Silas praying and singing praise songs as they sat chained in pools of their own blood. Like the other prisoners who heard these religious fanatics, the jailer must have been curious and amazed. Now that they had saved his life, he naturally wanted to know how to have the powerful spiritual salvation they sang about.

What was Paul's answer? _____

What does "believe in the Lord Jesus" mean to you? _____

Verse 32 says that Paul and Silas preached or taught the jailer and his family the "word of the Lord." Paul probably preached to them many of the same things he wrote in his letter to the Romans.

Read Romans 6:23. What is it we are saved from? _____

And what is the "gift of God" that we can freely receive from him? _____

According to Romans 10:6-13, who can be saved? _____

How do we receive God's gift of salvation? _____

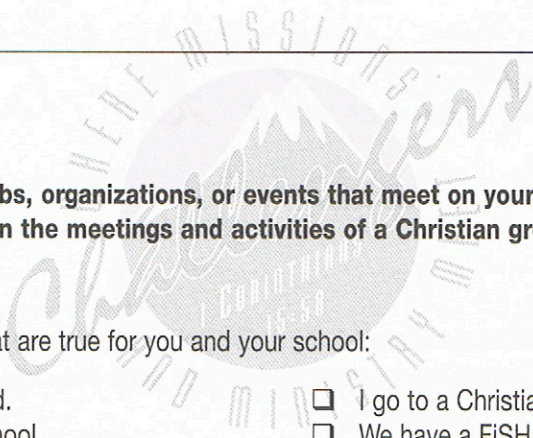
What did the jailer and his family do as soon as they received Jesus (v. 33)? _____

And what did he do for Paul and Silas (v. 33-34)? _____

What difference did salvation make in the jailer's life? _____

Jesus paid the price of salvation (on the cross) for the jailer and his family. Paul and Silas paid the price for delivering the message of that salvation to Philippi and to the jailer's family. But the man and his family would have to pay the price of living the Christian life in a pagan city. Fortunately, he was able to be a part of a new church that Paul planted and nurtured in the city. Members of the church supported each other and Paul through the difficulties of living out and sharing their faith. Read Philippians 1:1-11.

My *School*



Research the Christian clubs, organizations, or events that meet on your school campus. Participate in an event or in the meetings and activities of a Christian group on campus.

Know It

Check all of the following that are true for you and your school:

- I am home-schooled.
- I attend a public school.
- My school has a group for Christian athletes.
- We have no Christian clubs.
- We have prayer in classes.
- I'm a member of a Christian club.
- I go to a Christian school.
- We have a FiSH club on campus.
- Many teachers are Christians.
- We have "See You At The Pole Day."
- We can have religious assemblies.
- My school has less than 500 students.

Who are some of the people that can help you research the Christian clubs, organizations, and events on your school campus?

School counselor: _____ Teacher: _____
Church youth minister: _____ Other: _____

Do It

Learn the following about your school or, if you are home-schooled, the public secondary school nearest your home:

What Christian clubs are on campus? _____

When and where do they meet? _____

What is their main purpose? _____

Do they have any membership requirements? _____

Who is responsible for them? _____

How is your church or members of your church involved in them? _____

What Christian events (such as "See You At The Pole Day") are held at the school? _____

If there are no Christian clubs or events at your school, find out why. Explain: _____

Attend an event or one of the meetings or activities of a Christian group at school.

Briefly describe your experience:

Record the club/event name and the date of your visit:

Leader's Name: _____ Date: _____

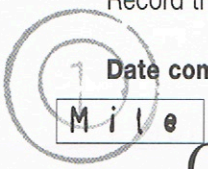
Share It

Share your research and experience with your Challengers group. Discuss with them how they can be involved in Christian clubs and events at their schools.

If there are no clubs or events of this kind at your school, discuss why and what your church could do to help start them. Record your group's ideas:

Record the date you report to your Challengers group: _____

Date completed: _____ Challengers Leader's signature: _____



one

Saul Sees the Light

"This man is my chosen instrument." Acts 9:15

Read Acts 9:1-30.

Why was Saul going to Damascus (vs. 1-2)? _____

What happened to Saul on the road? _____

What happened to him three days later in Damascus? _____

What was the biggest change in Saul? _____

This is the famous story of Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus. It was one of the most dramatic conversions of anyone in the Bible or of anyone in all of history. What is a *conversion*? When someone or something converts, that means he changes radically. Saul changed from a man who hated Christians and who didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah to one who preached in the synagogues and around the world that Jesus was truly the Son of God. To understand why Saul was trying to kill all the Christians, read his testimony as he told it years later in Acts 22:1-21.

Before his conversion, how did Saul feel about God? (v. 3) _____

Why did he hate Christians (followers of the Way) so much? _____

Saul was a very religious but misguided person. He had studied about God and about the Jewish religion all his life, but he had never met or committed his life to Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God. He thought he loved God with all his heart and strength and he thought he was "protecting" God by killing those people that were worshipers of Jesus. He thought Jesus was a fraud and had never been resurrected from the dead.

Who was responsible for Saul's conversion? (Acts 9:3-5 & 17) _____

Why did Jesus appear to Saul and totally change his life? (v. 15) _____

And what did God change Saul's name to? (Acts 13:9) _____

The rest of the book of Acts and the New Testament tells how God worked through Paul's life. He became a missionary to the Gentiles throughout the world as well as to the Jews. He told kings and governors about how Jesus had changed his life on the Damascus road. God used him to write at least 13 books of the Bible. His life is an example of how Jesus can change a man and then use him to help others.

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Although Paul was a *unique* man in the Bible as well as in world and church history, we can learn a lot about our own lives and relationship with God from his experience. Studying about God and religion is not enough for a true conversion. Each of us must experience Jesus personally.

What were two things Saul did to tell others that he had become a believer and follower of Jesus?

Acts 9:18b _____

Acts 9:20 _____

Have you met Jesus, asked Him to forgive you of your sin, and committed your life to Him? _____

If so, when and where was your conversion experience? _____

If you have never had a conversion experience, perhaps now is the time for you to see the Light and open your eyes to Him and accept His plan for your life. Then you can follow Him in baptism and into the incredible life where He leads you.

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My

Neighborhood

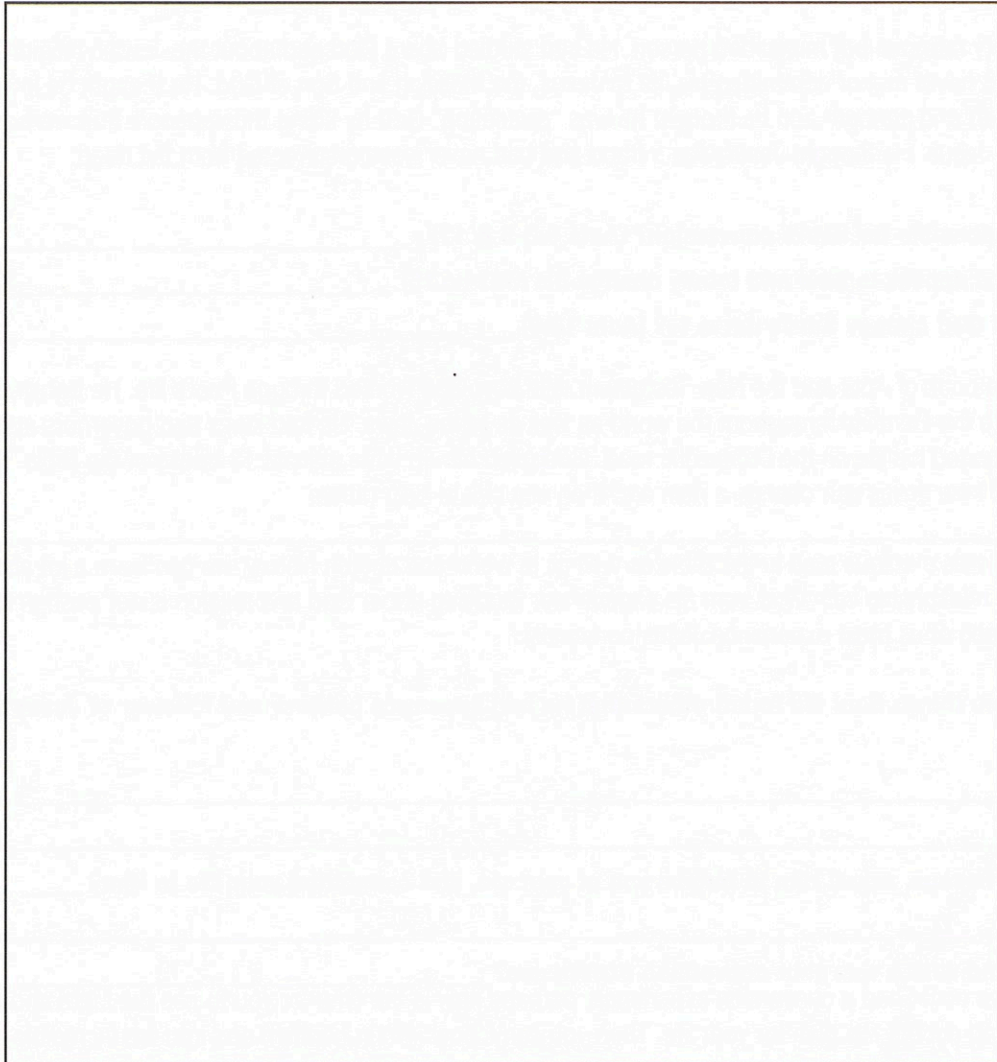
Develop friendships with three of your neighbors. Invite them to attend your church and/or learn about their church.

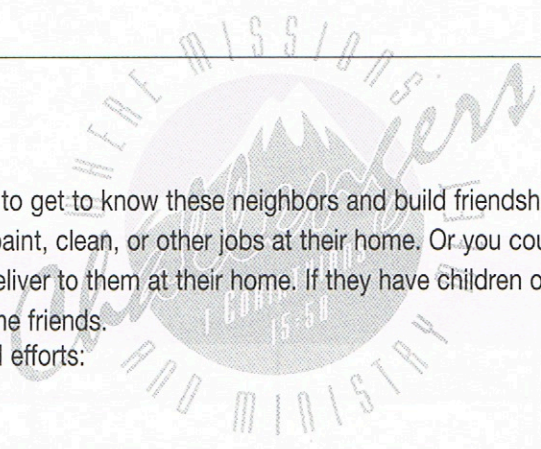
Know It

Check all of the following that are true for you and your neighborhood:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I live in the city. | <input type="checkbox"/> I live out in the country. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I know most of my neighbors. | <input type="checkbox"/> I live in an apartment building. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My neighborhood has lots of kids. | <input type="checkbox"/> I have lived here less than three years. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Most of my neighbors go to church. | <input type="checkbox"/> My neighborhood is safe. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Most of my neighbors are friendly. | <input type="checkbox"/> Most of my neighbors know me. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Many of my neighbors are very old. | <input type="checkbox"/> I rarely visit my neighbors. |

Draw a simple map of your neighborhood. Draw your home in the middle of the map and then draw the homes of your nearest 12 neighbors (family units). Label their homes with their family names:





Watch for opportunities to get to know these neighbors and build friendships. You could offer to help wash their cars, mow their grass, paint, clean, or other jobs at their home. Or you could make cookies, buy flowers, or raise produce that you can deliver to them at their home. If they have children or teenagers, invite them to your home. Make an effort to become friends. Describe your ideas and efforts:

Neighbor #1:

Neighbor #2:

Neighbor #3:

As you get to know these neighbors, invite them to attend a particular activity at your church. If they belong to another church, ask them to tell you about it and how they became members of their church. Record the results of your invitation or your discussion with them about their church:

Neighbor #1:

Neighbor #2:

Neighbor #3:

Share It

Talk with your Challengers leader and other Challengers in your group about how you can build better relationships with your neighbors. Share your ideas with them. Discuss ways you can work together as a group to build friendships in your neighborhoods.

For example, you could have your group over to your house for a football game, a party, movies, etc. Invite neighbors who would enjoy that activity. Or have a free car wash, a food drive, a garage sale, snow shoveling, or free smoke alarm battery test (with replacement batteries) for your neighbors. Repeat the activity in the neighborhoods of other members.

Record your shared plans and actions:

Date completed: _____ Challengers Leader's signature: _____



one

What is Truth?

"Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified." John 19:16

Read Mark 15:1-15, Luke 23:1-25, and John 19:1-16.

Why did the Jews bring Jesus to Pilate? (John 18:31) _____

What amazed Pilate about Jesus? _____

Why did Pilate try to release Jesus? _____

Why did he hand Jesus over to be crucified? _____

Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea. The Jewish leaders brought Jesus to him because they didn't have the authority to put anyone to death without Roman approval. Pilate had no interest in their religion or their internal power struggles. He realized that the chief priests were jealous of Jesus' popularity and that all their charges against him were false. But what intrigued him about the case was that Jesus made no reply in his own defense. When Pilate examined him carefully, he could find no fault in him at all, so he tried several ways to have him released. When Jesus admitted to being the "king of the Jews," whatever that was, Pilate assumed that the Jewish people would want him to release their captured king. He offered, but the people rejected him. When that didn't work, Pilate tried to pass him off to Herod. But Herod returned him. Pilate had a real problem: what to do with Jesus, the king of the Jews.

What else did he find out about Jesus? (John 19:6-7) _____

What did Jesus tell him? (John 19:10-11) _____

What did his wife tell him? (Matthew 27:19) _____

Why was he afraid to set Jesus free? (John 19:12 & Matthew 27:24) _____

Put yourself in the place of Pilate. It was a holiday (the Passover) and he could have been sleeping late, but here he was, trying to settle a dispute between these belligerent, troublesome Jewish leaders and some young rabbi they hated. Before he knew it, a simple judgment before breakfast became a huge ordeal. Before the morning was over, Pilate felt he was the one on trial instead of Jesus.

Who was Jesus? What had he done? Why were the chief priests so angry with him? Pilate knew that the charges were lies, but why didn't Jesus speak up and defend himself? Didn't he understand he was in big trouble? Didn't he realize the governor had the power to have him killed or set free? And what was all this about his being the "king of the Jews"?

Then Pilate's wife came with a warning about Jesus. She said he was innocent and she had been warned in a dream about him. She pleaded with her husband not to have anything to do with him. Pilate questioned him some more. Jesus said that his kingdom was not of this world. He had come to reveal the truth. Everyone on the side of truth would follow him. Truth! What is the truth? When Pilate asked the Jewish priests again what crime he had committed, they answered that he claimed to be the Son of God.

Pilate had to determine who Jesus really was and what to do with him. He tried desperately to find a way to release Jesus or to avoid making a decision. He had to either declare Jesus innocent, the King of the Jews, the Son of God and the all-powerful Truth or else send him to the cross to be unjustly executed as a criminal. The decision was impossible to avoid and he couldn't wash his hands of personal responsibility. To declare Jesus innocent, he would have to defy and offend the entire Jewish power structure, and he knew they could stir up a riot that would cost him his job.

Like Pilate, every person who hears the gospel of Jesus Christ must decide who he is and what they will do with him. Is he the Son of God as he claimed? Did he die on the cross for your sin and will he come again to be the Judge of the whole world? If he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, then you must receive him and commit your whole life to following him. If he's *not* all he claimed to be, then he's a fraud and a liar. Like Pilate, your decision is unavoidable and will determine your eternal future.

My *Association*

Contact the office of your church's Baptist association. Learn about the work the churches in your association do together. Participate in an associational mission project or event.

Know It

Ask your pastor or church secretary how to contact your church's Baptist associational office.

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Call, write or visit your association office to collect the following information:

- The name of the association: _____
- The Director of Missions (DOM) of the association: _____
- Challengers activities provided by the association. (Complete the chart below)
- Ministries and mission projects of the association. (Complete the chart)
- New churches or missions being planted in or by the association. (Include on the chart)
- The leader or contact person for each project or activity on the chart.
- How your Challengers group can be involved in each of the associational opportunities. (Complete the chart)

Do It

Choose and complete one of the following:

- Participate in an associational Challengers event.
- Visit one of the ministry sites of your Baptist association.
- Attend a mission activity of your association.
- Participate in an associational mission project

Describe the event and how you participated:

What did you learn from this experience?



Would you like to be further involved in this effort of your association? How and when?

Grid area for response to the first question.

Who else needs to know about this opportunity?

Grid area for response to the second question.

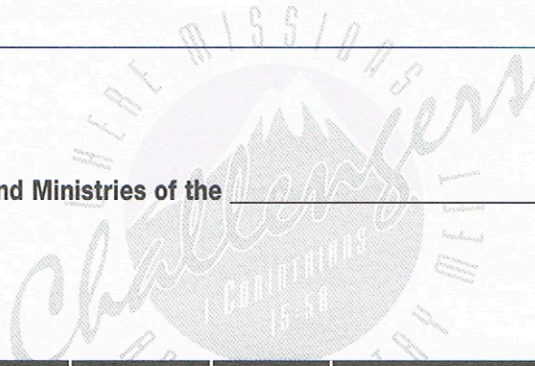
Share It

Share with your Challengers group or another group in your church the information you have gathered about your Baptist association and the specific project, site, or event you attended. Encourage them to become active in associational missions.

Record the group you shared with and the date of your report:

Group: _____ **Date:** _____

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____



Activity, Project, Ministry, or Church Start	Location	Date	Contact Person	Phone	How many Challengers can be involved

(Photocopy additional pages as needed)



Sold Out to Jesus

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Luke 10:17

Read Mark 10:17-30.

Describe the young man in the story: _____

What did he call Jesus? _____

Describe Jesus' attitude toward the man: _____

What was Jesus' answer to the man's question? _____

Which of the 10 commandments was the man breaking? _____

Jesus knew all about the young man and He liked him. (See Mark 10:21a.) He liked the young man's attitude and sincerity. Jesus knew he had always been the guy who kept the rules at home and school. He was known as a "good, young man." In Jewish society, people assumed the reason why he was rich was because God was pleased with his lifestyle. Now, in an honest desire to be "all that he could be," he was looking for the missing piece—for what he could do to be good enough to earn eternal life. That's why Jesus told him (verse 18) that no one is good enough to be called "good" but God. The Law isn't a plan to show us how to be good enough for heaven. It's a checklist to show us that we aren't good enough.

The man was breaking the first and most important of the 10 commandments found in Exodus 20:1-

17. Write out that law (v. 3): _____

Why did Jesus tell the man to sell everything? _____

Does everybody have to sell everything to become a Christian? _____

Does everybody have to follow Jesus to be a Christian? _____

What did Peter and Jesus' other disciples leave to follow Him? (Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 9:9; Mark 10:28)

What did Jesus say about following Him? (Luke 9:57-62) _____

Being a Christian is following Jesus. It's committing everything and every day to Him. It's entering into and living a partnership or "marriage" with Him. It's following wherever He leads you personally. For this man, the first step of the journey was giving away all his "stuff." For Peter and others it was leaving their jobs. For Paul it was leaving his religion. What is the first/next step for you? Ask Him. He will tell you—as clearly as He told this rich young man. Then you must decide whether to follow Him—or to walk away sadly.

What must you do to inherit eternal life? There is nothing you can do to make you good enough to earn eternal life. Jesus did all that was necessary on the cross to buy salvation for you and for everyone else. You don't earn an inheritance. You are given an inheritance because of a relationship. You become a child (heir) of God by being born again (John 3), by receiving and believing in Jesus (John 1:12) as your Savior and Lord (leader or boss). A Christian's life always gives evidence that he has left behind his old ways/stuff/gods to follow Jesus.

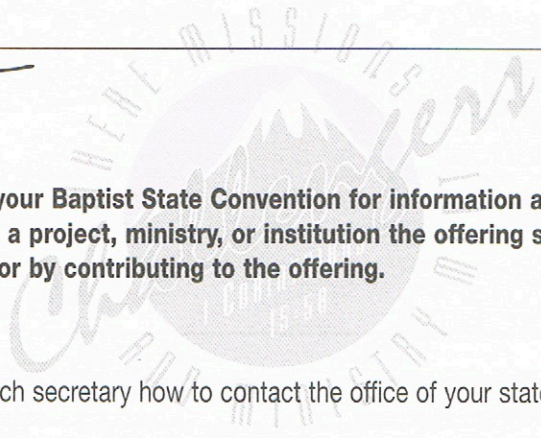
Is there some "other god" in your life that He is telling you to "sell"? _____

Are you a follower of Jesus? _____

Have you left something (person/stuff/habit) to follow Him? _____

My

State



Contact the office of your Baptist State Convention for information about the state missions offering and what it supports. Visit a project, ministry, or institution the offering supports. Participate by helping in this state mission project or by contributing to the offering.

Know It

Ask your pastor or church secretary how to contact the office of your state Baptist convention.

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____

Contact your state office to collect the following information:

- The name of the state mission offering: _____
- The goal for this year (dollar amount): _____
- When the offering is collected: _____
- Fifteen projects, ministries, or institutions the offering supports. (Complete the chart below)

Do It

Select one of the efforts supported by your state mission offering to visit and participate in.

Record the name of the project, ministry, or institution: _____

How can you participate in this mission effort?

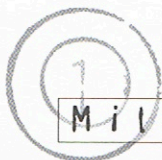
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supply labor | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collect supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Collect offering money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicize at your church | <input type="checkbox"/> Write letters of encouragement |

Who does this mission effort intend to benefit? _____

Record the date of your visit: _____

Describe the mission effort:

Describe your involvement in it:



one

Mission Projects, Ministries, and Institutions Supported by the _____ State Mission Offering

Project, Ministry, or Institution	Location	Contact Person	Phone	How Challengers can be involved
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

Last Chance

"Today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43

Read Luke 23:32-43.

What is happening in this chapter? _____

Why were the two men with Jesus being executed? _____

What did Matthew write about these men? (Matthew 27:44) _____

What did Mark write? (Mark 15:27) _____

And what did John write? (John 19:31-33) _____

It's interesting that all four gospel writers mentioned something about these two men. Matthew, Mark, and John recorded what they saw happening to the two men in order to describe Jesus' situation. Only Luke wrote about their actual conversation with Jesus and with each other. From Luke's writing we learn not only about the two men's past and their present, but also about their future.

Compare the two men's past lives. _____

What was true for both of them in their present situation? _____

Now contrast their eternal futures. _____

What did Jesus promise the second man? (v. 43) _____

Why? _____

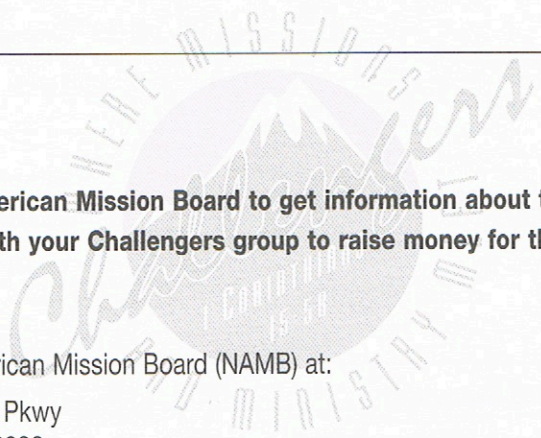
Not many people have physically heard Jesus publicly say that He would meet them in Paradise. In fact, this man may be the only one in history. We are sure, on the authority of God's own spoken and written Word, that this man was forgiven for all he had ever done and is now in Heaven with God.

We can learn a lot about salvation by comparing these two men. First, a person doesn't have to be a "good" person to be saved. Both of these men were convicted criminals on death row. Second, what you believe about Jesus and how you respond to Him is the difference between an eternity in heaven or hell. One man believed Jesus was the sinless Son of God and the other said He was a fraud. Third, God is never too busy to hear our plea for salvation and it is never too late to be forgiven. The time and place the man asked Jesus for help was not exactly the most convenient time for Jesus. He was having problems of his own. If Jesus had the time and willingness to talk with this guy while He was hanging naked and bleeding on a cross, gasping for breath and barely conscious, dying with all the sin and guilt of mankind stapled to His body, He will take the time now to receive and listen to any of us. Fourth, the "formula" for being saved is simply to admit your guilt (v. 41); acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ, the sinless Son of God (v. 42); and ask Him to include you in His family (v. 42). The man was not required to go through a priest or join a church or complete a study course or do community service or be baptized or confirmed—he went directly to Jesus.

In contrast, look carefully at what the other man said to Jesus (v. 39). Facing death, the man tried to bargain with God saying, "If you really are God, get me out of this mess." God sees man's bargaining for temporary help in our daily crises as an insult. On the other hand, when we come to Him, admitting what we are and confessing who He is, and commit ourselves and our future to His Will, He will accept us unconditionally.

Have you personally come to Jesus to ask for a place in His Kingdom? _____

If you have, how has He responded to you? _____



Contact the North American Mission Board to get information about the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Complete a project with your Challengers group to raise money for this offering.

Know It

Contact the North American Mission Board (NAMB) at:

4200 North Point Pkwy
Alpharetta, GA 30022
www.namb.net

Request information and promotion materials for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO).

Find out:

- The goal for this year (dollar amount): _____
- How the offering is used: _____

- How your Challengers group can get materials to promote the offering in your church: _____

List the kinds of promotional materials you were able to get: _____

Who is responsible for promoting the AAEO in your church? _____

Do It

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26

Participate in a project at your church with your Challengers group that will raise money for the AAEO. The best kind of project is one that will inform people in your church what the offering is for and where it goes. Give people the opportunity to give money to support North American Missions.

Describe your project and your participation in it:

How much money did you raise for the AAEO? _____

Share It

How did your project inform people about North American Missions?

Record the date of your project: _____

Date completed: _____ Challengers Leader's signature: _____



M i l e

one

The First Adam

"And they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden." Genesis 3:8

Read Genesis 1:26-31, 2:1-25, 3:1-24.

What two special trees were in the Garden? (Genesis 2:9) _____

What one "law" did God give Adam? _____

What changed when Adam and Eve disobeyed God? _____

Genesis 2:25 and 3:10 _____

Genesis 2:17 and 3:3-4, 22b _____

Genesis 3:5, 7, 22a _____

Genesis 3:8 _____

When Adam and Eve sinned, what did God do about it? _____

Genesis 3:8-9, 11, 13 _____

Genesis 3:14-19, 23-24 _____

Genesis 3:21 _____

Did the devil make them do it? Were they overcome by curiosity? Was the fruit itself so tempting? Why did Adam and Eve do the one thing God specifically told them not to do? Why did they choose to believe the serpent rather than God? Why didn't they trust His advice and warning?

Just like everyone who has ever sinned since the first day of creation, Adam and Eve were rebelling against God and His control of their lives. They didn't trust Him and His Word. They thought He was keeping something good from them and *they* were determined to have it. They wanted to make their own decisions and do what they wanted to do—and worry about any consequences later.

When they ate the forbidden fruit, did they die? God said they would die. The devil said they wouldn't. Well, did they? Look around. Are they still alive? We have no idea how long they had lived in Eden before they disobeyed. It may have been a week or five thousand years or more. They would be there still if they hadn't tried to be like God. The fact is, they died both spiritually (separation from God) and physically (their bodies began to age and die the moment they sinned).

And they weren't the only ones to die. Death became inherited in the DNA of the bodies and spirits of their children. Sin became a part of the nature of all their descendants—including you and me (Romans 5:12). We are all born in sin (Psalms 51:5). We don't become sinners when we commit our first sin—we commit sins because we're sinners.

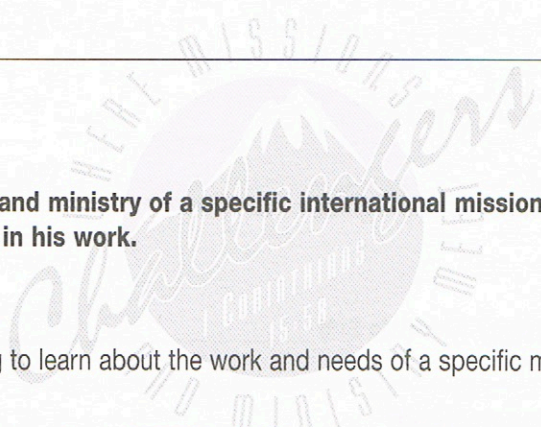
Satan told Eve a half-truth; her eyes *were* opened and she became like God in that she now knew right from wrong. And we now know right from wrong. God's law is written onto our conscience. When we break that law, we feel the same guilt, shame and fear of God that Adam and Eve felt when they heard Him coming in the garden.

Who was God talking about in Genesis 3:15? _____

Where did God get the clothes that covered Adam's guilt and shame? _____

Why did God keep Adam and Eve from the Tree of Life? _____

In spite of their sin, God was not finished with Adam and Eve. He didn't want them to have to live forever in their sin and separation from Him. God loved them—and us—so much that He determined to send Jesus, the seed of the woman, to take our sin and die in our place. Like the animal He sacrificed in the Garden, Jesus' righteousness covers our sin and guilt—if we receive God's gift of forgiveness.



Learn about the work and ministry of a specific international missionary. Pray for him and then find out how you can help him in his work.

Know It

Use one of the following to learn about the work and needs of a specific missionary of the International Mission Board (IMB):

- Go! Challengers Edition (Call 1-888-239-3990 for a subscription)
- Commission magazine
- www.studentz.com/challengers
- www.imb.org

The missionary's name: _____

The country/region where he serves: _____

The people group he works with: _____

The work he does: _____

His address: _____

His e-mail: _____

Do It

Send the missionary a letter or e-mail message telling him you want to be involved in his ministry by praying for him and by helping in any other way possible. Ask what specific needs you can pray about and how you and your Challengers group can help. Be sure to tell him where you live and something about your church. What was the missionary's response to your letter?

List your prayer requests for this missionary, his family, his work, and the people he serves:

Share It

Share with your Challengers and another group in your church about the needs of the missionary, his family, and the people on his mission field. Make suggestions of how to help. Describe their response:

What did you and your church do about these needs?

Record the group(s) you shared with: _____ Date: _____

Date completed: _____ Challengers Leader's signature: _____



"Warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment." Luke 16:28

Read Luke 16:19-31.

How did Jesus describe heaven? _____

And how did he describe hell? _____

What two requests did the rich man make from hell? (vv 24,27,28) _____

Why were both requests denied? _____

This story is generally called a *parable*, a fictitious story that explains spiritual realities. But some scholars suggest it may be literally true because the only story in which Jesus names a character (Lazarus). Whether the story is literal or not, Jesus describes a striking picture of life after death. He teaches that conscious life and memory continue after death in one of two very different places. Hell is described as a place of fire and torment. Lazarus was escorted (by angels) to a place of comfort and eternal unity with the father of his faith (Abraham). The gap between the two places is impassable and permanent. And Jesus implies there is no return to a former human existence—even for a good reason.

Why did the rich man end up in hell? _____

Why did Lazarus go to the place of comfort and security (heaven)? _____

Who does Abraham represent in the story? _____

What did Abraham mean by "they have Moses and the Prophets?" (v 29,31) _____

Reading this story outside the context of the whole Bible and Jesus' other stories and teachings, you could get some seriously wrong ideas. It could appear that all rich people are bad and on their way to hell. However, Abraham was a very rich man in his lifetime, much richer than the "rich man."

What about Lazarus? Did he go to heaven simply because he was a miserable, poor guy and God is always for the underdog? Actually, while God does care a lot about poor and "downtrodden" people, the Bible never says, "if you've got it tough down here, then it will be pie in the sky by and by."

Jesus told this story to Jewish people who understood the Jewish symbols. Abraham was the great Father figure, the equivalent of our Heavenly Father. By saying Lazarus was near the heart of Abraham, Jesus implied that going to heaven is being escorted or carried into the uninterrupted presence of God.

"Moses and the Prophets" means the Bible. Moses' writings, Genesis through Deuteronomy, and "The Prophets", the rest of the Old Testament, was their entire Bible. According to Abraham, if they wouldn't read and believe the Bible, they wouldn't hear or believe a dead man returned from the grave.

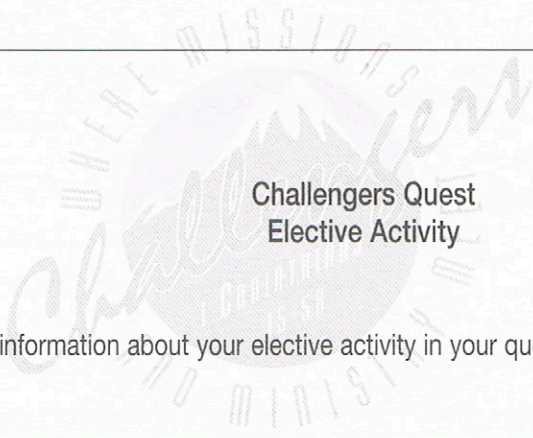
Why did the rich man assume his brothers would also go to hell? _____

What was Jesus' point? _____

This is Jesus' wake-up-before-it's-too-late call. The Jews were shocked to hear that a wealthy son of Abraham (v 25) didn't make heaven. They thought personal wealth indicated God was pleased and that all "sons of Abraham" went to heaven. (That's like thinking all church members go to heaven.) Besides, didn't he let Lazarus stay at his gatehouse, eat his leftovers, and even play with his dogs?

Jesus was showing God's view of our sin and how He feels about our neglect and lack of concern for Him and for others (Read Ezekiel 16:49). The fact is we are *all* headed toward an eternity in hell, separated from the Father if we don't repent of sin, ask for forgiveness, and receive God's gift of salvation.

Have you thought much about heaven and hell and eternity? If Jesus talked about it, we'd better think about it! And we had better warn our "brothers" to repent, too, while there's still time.



**Challengers Quest
Elective Activity**

Complete the following information about your elective activity in your quest.

Describe your activity: _____

What was the purpose of your project? What did you hope to accomplish? _____

To whom was your project directed? Who did it benefit? Who did it "target"? _____

Who were your partners in this activity? How did they help you? _____

What tools or skills did you use? _____

In what way(s) was prayer important in your mission? _____

What was the result of your activity? _____

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How did the people in your "target" group respond? _____

What did you learn through this activity? _____

What will you do differently (if anything) in future mission endeavors? _____

What "follow-up" do you need to do now? _____

Your signature: _____ **Date completed:** _____

Challengers Leader Signature: _____ **Which Mile:** _____



M i l e

one

Little Big Man

"Today salvation has come to this house." Luke 19:9

Read Luke 19:1-10.

What was Zacchaeus' job? _____

Why (two reasons) did he climb a tree? _____

What did the people of Jericho think of him? _____

What did Jesus do with Him? _____

Zacchaeus was a hated man. No one likes to pay taxes, especially if the tax money doesn't even go to help out your own country. In Jesus' day the Romans occupied Israel and forced the people to pay heavy taxes to support the Roman Empire. The Roman government usually hired Jewish people in each city to collect taxes from their own countrymen. Naturally, everybody considered these taxmen to be traitors. What's worse is that many of the taxmen collected more than what was required and then they kept all the extra cash. They became rich at the expense of their neighbors and enjoyed special protection from the Roman government. And all their ill-gotten gains were tax-free!

Zacchaeus was the IRS man in Jericho. In fact, he was the *chief* tax collector. And he was rich—*filthy* rich. It's easy to see why people hated him. And they did whatever they could to punish him. They avoided and excluded him. They wouldn't even let him elbow his way to the front of the crowd to get a good look at Jesus. For some reason Zacchaeus wanted so much to get a glimpse of the rabbi that he ran ahead of the parade and climbed up a tree.

When Jesus stopped under the tree and told Zacchaeus to come down, the people probably expected him to chew the guy out for betraying his own countrymen. Instead, Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' house for the day. That was absolutely unbelievable! A Jew with any self-respect would treat Zacchaeus like a heathen Gentile. They would *never* go to his house as a guest.

Why did Jesus go home with Zacchaeus? _____

How do we know Jesus considered him to be a "lost" man? _____

How do we know Zacchaeus became "saved" that day? _____

Why did Zacchaeus suddenly become so generous? _____

Luke's record doesn't tell us what Jesus said to Zacchaeus or what they did at his house that day. But it's clear that Jesus knew that the short, hated tax collector was lost. He said he had come to earth "to seek and to save that which was lost" and Jesus was on this tax collector's case. Regardless of what Zacchaeus had done in the past or what other people thought of him, Jesus cared about him. He cared enough to bring salvation to him and his family. He cared enough to die on the cross for his sin.

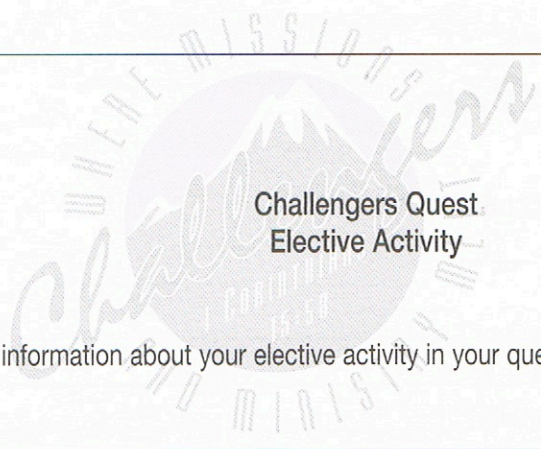
The immediate change in Zacchaeus' values and personality was incredible. Being saved from sin isn't just being forgiven; it's being *changed*. It's knowing Jesus in such a personal way that he changes the way you look at life. Before he met Jesus, money was most important to Zacchaeus. He loved money and used people. After he allowed Jesus into his life, those were turned around the right way.

Read Revelation 3:14-20.

What does Jesus know about us? (v. 15) _____

How do we let Jesus come into our lives? (v. 20) _____

By opening the door and inviting Jesus into our lives, we can have the "gold" of a useful life, "white robes" of righteousness, and the "salve" of forgiveness and godly wisdom (v. 18).



**Challengers Quest
Elective Activity**

Complete the following information about your elective activity in your quest.

Describe your activity: _____

What was the purpose of your project? What did you hope to accomplish? _____

To whom was your project directed? Who did it benefit? Who did it "target"? _____

Who were your partners in this activity? How did they help you? _____

What tools or skills did you use? _____

In what way(s) was prayer important in your mission? _____

What was the result of your activity? _____

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How did the people in your "target" group respond? _____

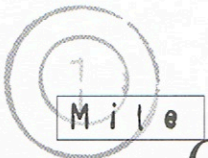
What did you learn through this activity? _____

What will you do differently (if anything) in future mission endeavors? _____

What "follow-up" do you need to do now? _____

Your signature: _____ **Date completed:** _____

Challengers Leader Signature: _____ **Which Mile:** _____



one

"And Levi got up, left everything and followed him." Luke 5:28

Read Mark 2:14-17 and Luke 5:27-32 and Matthew 9:9-13.

Where was Levi when Jesus called him to be his disciple? (Lk. 5:27) _____

Who did Jewish people equate with tax collectors (publicans)? Mt. 11:19 _____

Mt. 18:17 _____ Mt. 21:31 _____

How did Levi respond to Jesus' invitation? _____

Levi was not living up to his name. "Levi" was the name of one of the 12 sons of Jacob and the name of the priestly tribe of Israel dedicated for service in the temple. The Levites were commissioned to serve God and lead the Jewish people to worship and glorify Him. This man named Levi was doing the opposite. Like Zacchaeus, he was a tax collector, a hated traitor to his country and his religion. Instead of leading his people to worship, he was milking them of their money and helping the Romans to maintain power and control.

What did Jesus have in mind for Levi? When Jesus confronted Zacchaeus, he invited himself to Zacchaeus' house for dinner and into his life forever (Luke 19:5). After spending just one day with Jesus, Zacchaeus was thoroughly changed. Although he continued to be a tax collector, he became an honest one. But Jesus had other plans for Levi. Jesus was in the process of selecting and gathering the 12 men who would become his disciples and the apostles and leaders of the church. Jesus' invitation to Levi was simply, "Follow Me." Incredibly, Levi responded by getting up, leaving everything and following Jesus.

Where did Levi get the money to pay for his party? (Lk. 5:29) _____

Some huge changes took place in Levi's life. Name four of them:

What was his new name? (Mt. 10:3) _____

What was his new occupation? (Mt. 10:1-8) _____

What was his financial condition? (Mt. 10:9-10; 19:27) _____

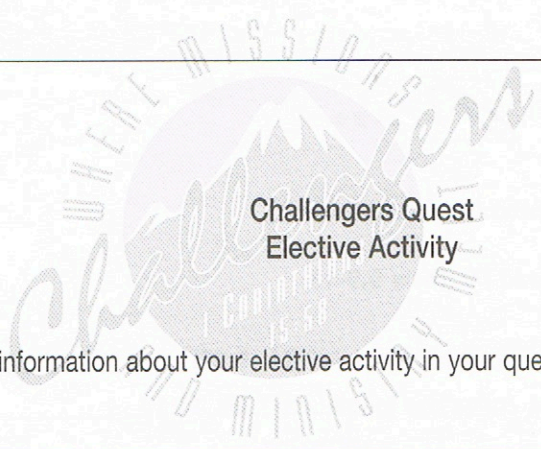
What did he do for his country and people? (Mt. 1-28) _____

The first big change recorded in Levi's life was when he threw a big party for Jesus. Instead of gathering money and keeping it for himself, he began to freely pour out cash like an offering. And instead of using opportunities to gain friends and influence for himself, he bought opportunities for his former friends and colleagues to meet Jesus.

Then, there was the name change. Maybe Jesus suggested the change from Levi to Matthew. The new name means "the gift of God" and indicated that his new life was a free gift. Matthew didn't have to earn forgiveness for his sin and he didn't have to earn the right to a place on Jesus' team. It was the gift of God. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Probably the greatest gift God gave Matthew was one he passed on to the world. God inspired him to write the first book of the New Testament. The book of Matthew, a biography of Jesus, was written specifically for Jewish people to help them understand that Jesus was their Messiah and the king of the kingdom of heaven. And now it has been translated and read in almost every language on earth!

When Jesus goes looking for men to be his followers, he doesn't choose them according to how "good" they are or how much talent they have to offer. He chooses men according to his own plan and uses them according to his own ability. If he is calling you, don't hesitate. Follow him, receive the gifts he offers you and he will lead you to do and become all he has planned for you.



**Challengers Quest
Elective Activity**

Complete the following information about your elective activity in your quest.

Describe your activity: _____

What was the purpose of your project? What did you hope to accomplish? _____

To whom was your project directed? Who did it benefit? Who did it "target"? _____

Who were your partners in this activity? How did they help you? _____

What tools or skills did you use? _____

In what way(s) was prayer important in your mission? _____

What was the result of your activity? _____

page

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How did the people in your "target" group respond? _____

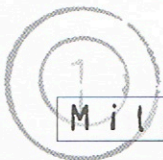
What did you learn through this activity? _____

What will you do differently (if anything) in future mission endeavors? _____

What "follow-up" do you need to do now? _____

Your signature: _____ **Date completed:** _____

Challengers Leader Signature: _____ **Which Mile:** _____



M i l e

one

20/20 Eyesight

"One thing I do know; I was blind but now I see!" John 9:25

Read John 9:1-41.

Why was the man born blind? _____

How did Jesus heal him? _____

What did the man have to do to be healed? _____

What problem did the Pharisees have with his healing? _____

What did the man who had been blind call Jesus at first? (v. 17) _____

How did the man's parents help him when he was in trouble? _____

Where did the man say Jesus had come from? (v. 33) _____

The Pharisees really knew how to take the joy out of the best day of a guy's life. Imagine how that day was for this blind beggar by the side of the road. First, a group of men stopped to discuss why he was blind. Then, one of the men smeared mud—made of spit—on his eyes and face. How disgusting! Then he had to find his way by himself down to the pool to wash it all off.

When he did, for the first time in his life, he could see. By the time he made it back to his regular spot by the side of the road, Jesus was not around. (Or if he was, the man couldn't recognize him.) He had a tough time convincing his neighbors and other bystanders that he was the blind beggar they had supported for years with their gifts.

According to the law of Moses, anyone who had been sick or unclean had to present himself to the priests to be declared "okay" before he could join the rest of society again. So, the no-longer-blind man went to see the officials in charge—the Pharisees. That's when his problems really started. The Pharisees didn't seem to care at all that the man had been healed. Their concern was that Jesus not gain any more credit or notoriety. They were desperate to prove that Jesus was a fraud.

How many times did the man tell his story? The Pharisees interrogated him and insulted him. They claimed his healing was illegal because it was performed on the Sabbath. Even his parents would not support him for fear of being implicated in the "crime." Finally, they excommunicated him from his religion and society.

Whose idea was it for the man to be healed? _____

Why did Jesus heal him? (v. 3) _____

After the man was kicked out of the synagogue, how did he find Jesus? (v. 35) _____

What did the man call Jesus when he revealed himself as the Son of God? (v. 38) _____

If the Pharisees had accepted the man's healing, how would the story have been different? _____

It really didn't matter what the Pharisees or anyone else said about the man. The fact remained that he had been blind, and Jesus made him well. Jesus clearly had a plan for this man's life, a plan that began even before the man was born. The man's blindness was an opportunity for God to show His power and mercy through His Son. His healing became the opportunity for the man to know Jesus personally. When everyone else—even his parents—abandoned him, Jesus stood by him and was the source of his new life. But the man had to cooperate and participate in God's plan. He had to obey and go wash in the pool, he had to believe Jesus was really the Son of God, and he had to make Jesus the Lord of his life.

2 Mile Twa

Memorize the Roman Road of verses about salvation. Use the verses to make an original gospel tract.

Know It

The following seven verses from the book of Romans explain the “way” to be saved. They are sometimes called the “Roman Road.” Discuss them with your Challengers leader or another Christian. Memorize them from your favorite version of the Bible (They are printed below from the New International Version.) Definitions of some of the important words in the verses are below:

- “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” Romans 1:16
- “As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one.’” Romans 3:10
- “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23
- “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23
- “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:9-10
- “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13

Definitions

gospel – the Good News; God’s message to man; His plan to save man from death and hell

righteous – right and good in God’s eyes and by His standards

sin – disobeying God; not doing or being what He wants; doing or being what He doesn’t want

glory of God – the very best of God’s desires, plans, and abilities

confess – admit; declare; say what you really mean

justified - made right; made clean; become righteous; forgiven

wages – payment; consequences; punishment

D. L.

A *gospel tract* is a written message that tells and explains the plan of salvation. Tracts briefly tell how to be saved from sin by receiving Christ. They usually use Scripture verses to show and explain at least these four basic truths:

- We need to be saved from sin;
- Jesus died to pay for our sin;
- We must personally ask and receive forgiveness as a gift; and
- We must make Jesus the Lord or “boss” of our lives.

Ask your Challengers leader, pastor, Sunday School teacher or someone else at your church to help you to gather at least four different gospel tracts. Compare the tracts to see how they present the gospel and how they help and encourage people to be saved.

Using at least four of the Roman Road verses, **design and make a gospel tract** that clearly presents the gospel to some group or type of people. As you develop how your tract will present its message, consider to what people the tract will be useful in communicating the message. How will the tract catch their attention and interest? How will it explain the four basic truths? What other information will it present? How can your tract encourage a person to decide now to receive Christ into his life?

Answer the following about your tract:

My tract is designed for:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Guys like me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishermen | <input type="checkbox"/> Students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mailmen | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports fans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital workers | <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie-goers | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

My tract will catch their attention by using:

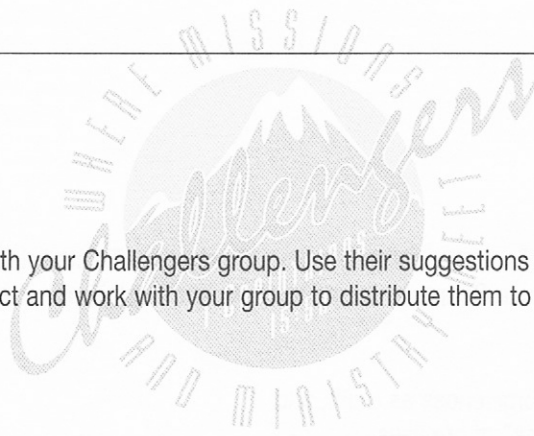
- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A story | <input type="checkbox"/> A joke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Questions | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

My tract uses:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 1:16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 3:10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 3:23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5:8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 10:9-10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 10:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | |

Share It

Now share your tract with your Challengers group. Use their suggestions for making improvement to it. If possible, make copies of your tract and work with your group to distribute them to people they are designed to reach.



Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____

What About Judas?

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" Hebrews 2:3

Read Matthew 26:1-75 & 27:1-10.

How did Judas get into Jesus' group? (Mk. 3:13-19, Lk. 6:12-16) _____

According to John 12:1-6, what was Judas' job in the group? _____

How early did Jesus know that Judas would betray him? (John 6:68-71) _____

Did Jesus know how and when he would die? _____

Whose idea was it for Judas to betray Jesus? _____

Judas Iscariot was selected by Jesus to be one of His close friends and disciples. Judas was given the opportunity to be an apostle with the power (and assignment) to heal the sick, cast out demons, and preach the gospel. He was also given the position of treasurer for Jesus' group. Of course, Jesus knew all about Judas from the beginning. He knew that Judas would betray Him just like He knew that Peter would deny Him that same night. He warned both of them that Satan was ready to destroy them. In the same way, Jesus knows about each of us. Regardless whether we are going to accept Him or reject Him, He still invites each of us to follow Him. He challenges us to know Him and to become His.

Why did Judas betray Jesus? Was it for the money? Was he completely controlled by Satan and powerless to stop himself? Did God make him do it to fulfill a prophecy? Did Judas believe that Jesus could not be destroyed by the Jewish leaders?

We could ask many more questions about Judas and his motivation. Some think that Judas wanted to force a showdown between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. Maybe he could push Jesus to finally show that He was the Messiah and king. After all, wasn't Jesus indestructible? Wasn't He going to set up His kingdom? We can't know what Judas was thinking, but he certainly didn't ask Jesus for advice and direction.

What did Judas do when he realized what a huge mistake he had made? _____

What did Peter do when he realized he had denied Christ? _____

Why did the angel single out Peter in his message in Mark 16:6-7? _____

What was the opinion of the early church about Judas? (Acts 1:15-25) _____

How did they (the church) feel about Peter? _____

If anyone had asked the other disciples if Judas was a believer before he betrayed Jesus, I wonder what they would have answered. He appeared to be a faithful apostle. He went everywhere with them, listened to Jesus' teachings, and even ministered in Jesus' name. Although years later John wrote that Judas had been stealing from their checking account (John 12:1-6), the apostles, including John, were shocked to hear from Jesus at their last supper that one of them would betray Him later that night.

Judas was not forever lost because he betrayed Jesus. He betrayed Jesus because he was a sinner. Peter also sinned. You and I are sinners, too. But Judas went out and hanged himself instead of confessing his sin and asking Jesus for forgiveness. He was sorry for his sin, but he didn't take it to Jesus to have it washed away. What would have happened if Judas had come to the foot of the cross and poured out his heart to Jesus? Would Jesus have included Judas as He asked His Father to forgive those responsible for His death? Or was Jesus' heart not big enough to accept and forgive his betrayer? Would Judas somehow be the one and only exception of all time to Jesus' promise that "whoever comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6:37b)? No, forgiveness and salvation was available—even to Judas.

My Family

With at least one member of your family, read through the gospel of John, reading and discussing one chapter each day (for three weeks). Maintain a family prayer journal throughout this time.

Know It

Which of the following are true about your Bible?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New and Old Testaments | <input type="checkbox"/> New Testament only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> King James Version | <input type="checkbox"/> New International Version |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Standard Version | <input type="checkbox"/> Today's English Version |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living Bible paraphrase | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ version |

What about the Bibles of family members (and others) who live with you:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New and Old Testaments | <input type="checkbox"/> New Testament only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> King James Version | <input type="checkbox"/> New International Version |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Standard Version | <input type="checkbox"/> Today's English Version |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living Bible paraphrase | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ version |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ version | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ version |

The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels. They tell about Jesus' life. The book of John tells why Jesus came to earth and how he made it possible for all people to be saved. It tells how to become a member of God's family.

How many chapters are in the book of John? _____

A *prayer journal* is a record of what you pray about and how God responds to or answers your prayers.

You can see an example of a typical prayer journal on page 41.

Have you ever used a prayer journal before to track your prayer life? _____

What members of your family would be willing to join you each day for three weeks to read a chapter of John and pray using a prayer journal? _____

When is the best time each day for you to read your Bible and pray? _____

Do It

Make copies of page 41 to make your own prayer journal. With one or more members of your family, read a chapter of John each day for three weeks. It's best to meet at the same time each day. Also, pray together using your prayer journal to record your requests. Each day look back over your journal and talk about (and record) how God has responded to your prayers.

List names of the family members who join you to read and pray:

What were the dates you read together? _____

What time of day did you read and pray together? _____

What was the most important thing you learned about Jesus by reading the book of John?

What specific kinds of things did you usually pray about?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family members | <input type="checkbox"/> Your needs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Health concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual needs | <input type="checkbox"/> God's plan for your life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal needs | <input type="checkbox"/> What you read in John |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial concerns | <input type="checkbox"/> Your church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Challengers | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School or work | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

What was the greatest prayer that God answered?

What is one prayer that you have not seen God respond to yet?

Will you continue to read and pray daily with your family? _____

Share It

Share with your Challengers leader (and other members of your group if you are working through the Quest together) about how each of you does the following with your families:

- When and with whom have you been read the Bible and praying for the past three weeks?
- What you and your family learned, particularly about Jesus, from your reading?
- What are some of the ways God has responded to your prayers?
- How has your family benefited from reading and praying together?
- What are your plans for reading the Bible and/or praying with your family in the future?

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____

Prayer Journal

Date	Prayer Concern	Date	Prayer Answer

"So he turned and went off in a rage." 2 Kings 5:12

Read 2 Kings 5.

What was Naaman's problem? _____

What did Elisha tell him to do about it? _____

Why was Naaman angry? _____

What changed his mind? _____

Naaman came very close to missing out on the greatest opportunity of his life. Leprosy was killing him a little at a time. It started out as a white spot on his skin. Then it spread, slowly but surely killing his skin and flesh. There was no doctor or medicine that could stop or even slow it down. It made no difference to the disease that Naaman was successful, popular, rich, or valiant. He was dying.

The trip to the prophet in Israel was his last resort. It was ironic that Naaman would go to his enemy to look for a cure. His armies had raided and plundered Israel time after time and now he was going to ask them for help.

With a royal letter of introduction in his hand, Naaman visited the king of Israel. But the king was terrified. He thought the request was a trick. How could he be expected to cure anyone of leprosy? Then a message came from the legendary prophet, Elisha. The message was simply, "Come and see."

So Naaman went. But he was a very proud man. Irritated at having to travel from one place to another in such a backward, flea-bitten country, he was furious when the prophet didn't even properly receive him. Elisha simply sent his servant out to deliver the prescription in the front yard. Naaman was insulted. There was no way he was going to dip seven times in the muddy little Jordan River.

If it hadn't been for his servants, Naaman would have surely died—either from his leprosy or from his reckless, furious driving on the way home. The servants reasoned with him until Naaman finally settled down and thought carefully about his situation. He would have been willing to pay any price or meet any requirement to be cured. So why couldn't he simply humble himself and do what the prophet said? Naaman stopped the chariot. After a long minute he turned the horses around and went back to the river. There he was cured and his life was restored.

How does Naaman's leprosy represent sin? _____

What is the cure for sin (See Romans 6:23)? _____

How do you get or apply the cure (Romans 10:9-10)? _____

Why do people often reject God's cure? _____

Being saved from sin is too easy for some people. They must simply humble themselves, admit that they are sinners and ask for forgiveness. But, sometimes people can't believe that salvation can be so simple. They try understand everything about God or to clean up their act first so they will be good enough on their own. But God doesn't require us to earn our salvation or to be smart enough to figure it all out. It's a gift from God. Other people have a hard time realizing they need salvation. Everyone, regardless of how respected, wealthy, smart or popular they may be, suffers from the deadly leprosy of sin. We all need to be saved.

When we repent from living life our own way and commit (give) ourselves to God, He heals us, changes us and lets us start over. Our lives become new. **(Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.)** Notice how Naaman's attitude changed toward Elisha, Israel, and Israel's God. After he was restored, he returned to sincerely thank the prophet. Then he wanted two loads of dirt to take home as a souvenir from his visit to Israel. As a new believer, he was already thinking about the changes he would have to make when he returned to his home, his job, and his employer.

My *Church*

Select a member of your church who needs some kind of help at home (with yard work, cleaning, a home project, etc). Help him/her out at least twice and take the opportunity to become better acquainted. Ask him/her to tell you about how he/she became a Christian and a member of your church.

Know It

How well do you know the people in your church? One important thing about being a church member is the bond that you have with other church members. The Bible calls the church the Body of Christ, and every Christian is a part of that special body. Just as each part of the body needs the rest of the body, so each member of the church needs the rest of the church.

One of the ways a church functions together as a body is through ministry. Ministry is what we do to meet the needs of other people. When church members help each other, they follow Jesus' example and commands. They also are able to know each other and become better prepared to minister to people outside the church. Many older people depend on the ministry of people in your church. Sometimes older members are no longer able to do strenuous physical work. Others have difficulty doing even easy jobs that are difficult because of bad eyesight or other problems. And others are lonely and need the ministry of a friend who will take time to visit.

Check five ways that you can best minister to older people:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yardwork | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Automotive repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Washing dishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Driving | <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing letters | <input type="checkbox"/> Sending e-mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuuming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for pets | <input type="checkbox"/> Washing windows | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning gutters | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning chimneys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planting flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Ask your Challengers leader to help you select an older member of your church that you can minister to. Pray that you can minister to them effectively and get to know them better by serving them. Let your Challengers leader help you to answer these questions:

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Who will you minister to? _____

What kinds of ministry does this person need? _____

How will you minister to this person? _____



Do It

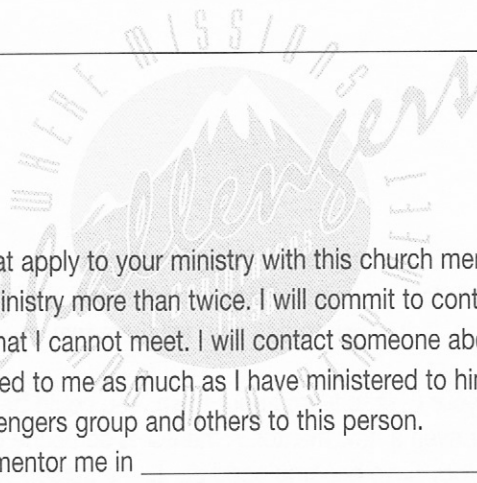
If needed, let your Challengers leader or a friend of the person help you to arrange a time to visit and help out the person you have selected. Be sure to do a good job of any work that you do for this person. Be careful not to make any promises that you cannot keep. If they ask to pay you, tell them that your help is your gift to them and a chance for you to make a new friend.

As you are helping this person, do your best to learn about them. You could be making a new friend, a new source of encouragement or support, or even a new mentor. A mentor is someone who makes a commitment to teach a younger person the things that they have become good at. Is the person you are ministering to an expert at something? What is their career or favorite hobby? You may have the opportunity to learn some amazing things if you make yourself available to them.

Find out the answers to these questions from your new friend:

When did you join our church? _____

How did you become a Christian?



Share LT

Check the following items that apply to your ministry with this church member:

- This person needs my ministry more than twice. I will commit to continue to help him/her.
- This person has needs that I cannot meet. I will contact someone about helping him/her.
- This person has ministered to me as much as I have ministered to him/her.
- I will introduce our Challengers group and others to this person.
- I will ask this person to mentor me in _____.

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____

"You thought you could buy the gift of God with money." Acts 8:20

Read Acts 8:5-24.

Where did Philip go to preach about Christ? _____

Why did the Samaritans believe Philip's message? _____

What was Simon known for? _____

Why did the Samaritans pay attention to Simon? _____

Why did Simon believe Philip's message? _____

The Samaritans were half-breed Jews. Centuries before the time of Jesus and his disciples, the Samaritan's ancestors had been left in the land when the rest of their countrymen were taken away as captives to Babylon and Assyria. Many of the Samaritans had intermarried with other races by the time the Jewish captives returned to rebuild their country under the leadership of Ezra, Nehemiah and Zerubbabel. The Jews always looked down on the Samaritans because they were not racially or religiously "pure." Most Jews shunned Samaritans and would walk long distances to avoid going through Samaria on their way from Galilee to Judea.

Jesus, on the other hand, often used Samaritans as examples in his parables and miracles of healing. And he didn't mind traveling through Samaria. In fact, once he spent several days preaching in the city of Sychar after he shared "living water" with a woman at Jacob's well.

Now, a few years later, Philip, the deacon, was preaching and healing people in a city in Samaria. The people were very impressed by the miracles he performed. These Samaritans seemed to be extremely impressionable people who were easily taken in by anything supernatural or magic. In this case, their curiosity made them vulnerable to the gospel of Jesus Christ and they believed Philip's message.

Why did the apostles send Peter and John to Samaria? _____

What did Peter and John pray for the new Christians? _____

What did Simon ask for? _____

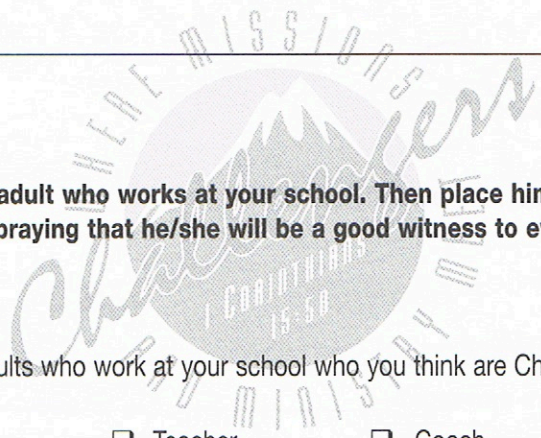
What did he offer Peter? _____

What was Peter's response to his offer? _____

So, what about Simon, the sorcerer? Had he really accepted Christ? Or was he a fraud? Simon obviously enjoyed being popular and important in the eyes of his neighbors. He had claimed to be "somebody great" and the people respected him and called him the "divine power" (v. 10). Now he had to share his position with Philip and the other apostles. Simon simply wanted to continue being a famous and influential man in the community and he was willing to pay for the privilege (and responsibility).

Simon's problem was that his motivation for becoming a believer was all wrong. He was focused on what he could get out of being a Christian rather than on what God wanted from him. He was eager to have (and use) God's power to impress others rather than letting God's power use him for God's glory. Peter set him straight and warned him to repent of his evil thoughts and actions before it was too late.

Was Simon all that different from some churchgoers today? If a person claims to be a Christian or joins a church because it makes him a respectable member of the community, he is guilty of the same deception as Simon. If a person gives money to church or kingdom causes motivated by the possibility of gaining influence, respect or advantage, he is as guilty as Simon. If a person becomes a Christian in order to elevate himself in the eyes of others, he is still lost and in need of repentance.



Interview a Christian adult who works at your school. Then place him/her on your Challengers prayer journal and continue praying that he/she will be a good witness to everyone at school.

Know It

Check the following adults who work at your school who you think are Christians:

- Principal
- Security personnel
- Nurse
- Teacher
- Custodian
- Secretary
- Coach
- Librarian
- Cafeteria worker
- Counselor
- Teaching assistant
- _____

Number (1 to 14) the best to the worst ways to know that a person is a Christian:

- ___ They're always happy.
- ___ They're kind to everybody.
- ___ They tell you they're a Christian.
- ___ They talk about God.
- ___ They tell you how they became a Christian.
- ___ They're a really cool guy.
- ___ They work hard and do their job well.
- ___ They go to church.
- ___ Someone tells you they think they are.
- ___ They always has a Bible on their desk.
- ___ They pray with you about things.
- ___ Their car has a Christian bumper sticker.
- ___ They teach Sunday School.
- ___ They sometimes wear a cross.

Name a Christian adult who works at your school: _____

How do you know he/she is a Christian?

Do It

Interview the person you listed above.

First, ask him/her to share with you the story of how he/she became a Christian:

How does he/she continue to grow spiritually?

What difference does his/her relationship with Christ make in his/her everyday life?

What are two ways he/she has learned to share his/her faith with others at school?

After learning the answers to these questions, be sure to thank them for sharing with you and for contributing to your life and your academic as well as spiritual education. Pray with them that more students and adults at your school will come to know Christ personally.

Record here any other comments about your interview:

Record the name of the person you interviewed, his/her job, and the date of your interview:

Name: _____ Job: _____ Date: _____

Share It

Share about your interview in a prayer time with your Challengers group. Add this person's name to your Challengers Prayer Journal and continue praying with your group that they will be a good witness and example to everyone at your school.

Record the date you report to your Challengers group: _____

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____

"Truly this Man was the Son of God!" Mark 15:39

Have you ever thought of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection from the point of view of the Roman soldiers who were responsible for guarding and executing him? Once Pilate passed judgment and gave the Jewish leaders permission to crucify Jesus, it became the responsibility of the centurion in command to carry out the death sentence. Read the story as he and his soldiers saw and participated in it.

Read Mark 15:15-39.

How did the soldiers participate in Jesus' punishment?

v. 15b _____

v. 17 _____

v. 18 _____

v. 19 _____

v. 25 _____

Why did they have to make Simon carry Jesus' cross? _____

What did they do with Jesus' personal belongings? (v. 24) _____

The Romans were the authority in Israel and almost the entire western world. Roman control of the local people was maintained largely by the highly trained and disciplined legions of Roman soldiers stationed throughout the empire. In Jerusalem Pilate was the appointed Roman governor and his authority was supported by a garrison of soldiers. The centurion in this story was the commander of 100 of these professional soldiers.

Roman law was particularly hard on people who caused trouble and unrest in the empire. The main task of the centurions and their soldiers was to maintain order in their assigned region. One of their main tools was fear. They were experts at torture and humiliation. They had license to use whatever force or cruelty necessary to carry out Roman laws and judgments. When they punished one man, they always used the occasion as a public warning to anyone else who might be thinking about causing trouble.

When the soldiers heard that Jesus was called the "King of the Jews," it became their job to thoroughly and publicly punish him for daring to claim to be in the place of Caesar.

Crucifixion was a terrible Roman method of torture and execution. The Roman centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution had seen hundreds of men use their last ounce of strength to struggle and fight against being nailed to a cross. It was reflex for condemned criminals to curse, kick and bite the soldiers who held them down and drove the nails into their flesh.

But Jesus was different. The centurion and the soldiers who marched him up the hill had never seen anyone like him. He didn't respond in a human or natural way when they mocked him. He let them lead him like a lamb to the slaughterhouse. At the top of Golgotha, he lay down on the cross and willingly offered his hands and feet. No one took his life from him; he laid it down of his free will. (John 10:17-18)

What did the centurion see, hear and feel as Jesus hung on the cross?

Mk. 15:33 _____

Mt. 27:54 _____

Lk. 23:34 _____

Lk. 23:42-43 _____

Jn. 19:26-27 _____

Jn. 19:34 _____

This centurion, without the benefit of seeing Jesus' resurrection, his miracles or even hearing his teachings, could see by the way Jesus died that he was the Son of God. Jesus revealed himself to the man and gave him all he needed to follow the example of the thief on the cross who accepted him as Savior.

Neighborhood

Continue visiting the three neighbors you became acquainted with in Mile 1 of your Quest. For three weeks pray daily for each of them. Ask God to use you as a blessing in their lives and to work in your life because of them. Keep in touch with them so you can see how God is responding to your prayer. Share about your neighbors with your Challengers group during prayer time.

Know It

Continue visiting the three neighbors you became acquainted with in Mile 1 of your Quest. Discover needs they have that can be met by your church or Challengers group.

What do you think are the best ways to learn the needs of your neighbors?

- Ask them
- Visit in their homes
- Observe them, their homes, cars, yard, etc.
- Babysit for them
- _____
- Ask your parents
- Ask them how you can pray for them
- Get to know their kids
- Invite them to your home or church
- _____

List three needs for each of your three neighbors:

Neighbor	Needs
1.	a.
	b.
	c.

Neighbor	Needs
2.	a.
	b.
	c.

Neighbor	Needs
3.	a.
	b.
	c.

Do It

Use your Prayer Journal (see page 41) to list prayer requests for your neighbors. For at least the next three weeks pray daily for each of them. Ask God to work His Will in their lives. Ask Him to use you to meet their needs. Also, ask Him to work in your life because of them. Keep in touch with them so you can see how God is responding to your prayer.

Record the date you entered your prayer concerns for your neighbors: _____
What are some of the things you have seen God do to meet their needs?

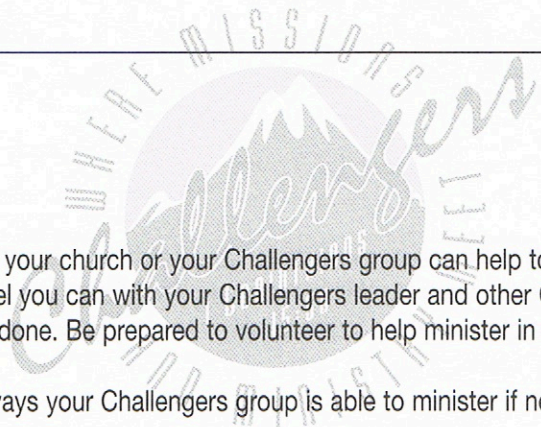
Have you ever heard of "putting feet" to your prayers? That means that you personally get involved in God's plan for answering your prayers. Often God uses us to be at least a part of the answer to our prayers for others. Many times God has already done His part, and He's waiting for us to do our part.

How can you be involved in meeting the needs you have identified for each of your neighbors?

Neighbor #1:

Neighbor #2:

Neighbor #3:



Share It

What are ways that your church or your Challengers group can help to meet needs of your neighbors? Share the needs you feel you can with your Challengers leader and other Challengers in your group and discuss with them what can be done. Be prepared to volunteer to help minister in other members' neighborhoods as well.

What are some of the ways your Challengers group is able to minister if needed:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yard work | <input type="checkbox"/> Babysitting | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Providing meals | <input type="checkbox"/> Car maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy lifting | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House sitting | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Record your plans and actions:

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____

"So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." Acts 10:48

Read Acts 10:1-48.

What was unusual about Cornelius and his family being saved? (v. 28) _____

How did Cornelius show he was serious about seeking God? _____

Why were Cornelius' good works not enough to save him? (Ephesians 2:8-9) _____

How did Cornelius know to send for Peter? _____

How did God show Peter it was okay to go to Cornelius' house? _____

This is the story of the first Gentiles to become Christians. Cornelius was a God-fearer who was seeking to obey and please God the best he knew how. But no matter how many good works he did, gifts he gave to the poor, or hours he spent in worship and prayer, Cornelius needed to receive the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. God took pity on him and provided a way for him to learn and receive the gospel.

Before Peter could tell Cornelius and his family the story of Jesus and the way of salvation, God had to break down the wall between Jews and Gentiles. Peter remembered Jesus' instructions when he first sent the 12 apostles out to spread the gospel. Jesus had said, "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. (Matthew 10:5-6)" But now it was time for the Gentiles to learn the way of salvation.

Up until this time Gentiles who wanted to become believers in Christ first became converts to Judaism and then they received Christ and were baptized. (See Acts 6:5) Peter had to learn the lesson Paul wrote about later to the Christians in Rome, "For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' (Romans 10:12-13)"

What did Peter tell them about Jesus? v. 38 _____

v. 39 _____ **v. 40** _____

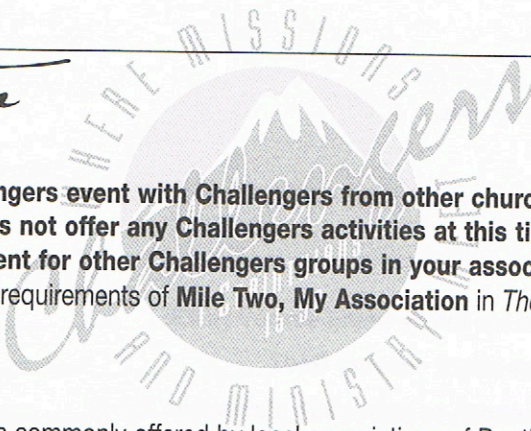
What happened to everyone who received Peter's message when he told them, "Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (v. 43)? _____

The phenomenon of the Spirit of God coming upon believers and causing them to speak in foreign languages had occurred twice before in the New Testament. The first was when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-12). Jesus had promised them that after he went away, the Comforter would come to live in them (John 14:16-17). He had told them to stay in Jerusalem until the promised Holy Spirit came and "baptized" them. (Acts 1:4-5) The Holy Spirit gave Peter the ability to preach the gospel of Jesus to Jews from all over the world who had come to Jerusalem to worship.

The second time was in Samaria. After Philip preached to the Samaritans, the half-Jews, many of them believed in Christ and were baptized. Later, Peter and John came and these Samaritan Christians also received the Holy Spirit who caused them to speak in other languages.

And now, the third time, as God used Peter to open the door of salvation to the third and final group of people, the Gentiles, the Holy Spirit came upon these people also as a sign that they, too, were children of God. This fulfilled Jesus' promise to Peter (Matthew 16:19) about the keys to the kingdom.

What about Christians today? Do we also receive the Spirit of God when we accept Christ as Savior and Lord? What do 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:13-14 and Eph. 4:30 say? _____



Participate in a Challengers event with Challengers from other churches in your association. If your association does not offer any Challengers activities at this time, work with your church group to plan and host an event for other Challengers groups in your association.

(This activity satisfies all requirements of **Mile Two, My Association** in *The Challengers Journey*.)

Know It

Some Challengers events commonly offered by local associations of Baptist churches include the following:

- Campouts
- Track Meets
- Mission Marketplaces
- Rallies
- Training Courses
- Mission Labs
- Camps
- Sports Tournaments
- Bible Quiz Bowls
- Mission Projects

Refer to the chart you completed on page X that lists all the activities and projects of your association. You may need to call the Association office to make sure your list is complete and up-to-date. List below the Associational Challengers Director and Challengers events that are sponsored in or by your Association:

Associational Challengers Director: _____

Phone: _____

Challengers Event	Date	Location

Do It

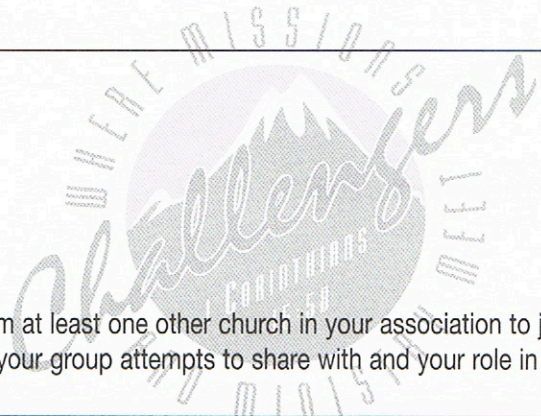
Choose one of the associational Challengers events above to participate in. If your association does not offer any Challengers events, work with your own group to plan and host an event you can invite Challengers or teenage guys from at least one other church in your association to attend.

Describe the event and how you will participate:

What responsibilities do you have to help prepare for this event?

What do you hope to gain or accomplish from this event?

Share It



Help invite the guys from at least one other church in your association to join you in this event. List the names of the other church(es) your group attempts to share with and your role in the effort:

Church Name	Your Role and Efforts

Describe the benefit you experience from working together with others in your association:

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____

(This activity satisfies all requirements of **Mile Two, My Association** in *The Challengers Journey*.)

King of the Hill

"The high priest said . . . 'Tell us if you are the Christ.'" Matthew 26:63

During the three years of Jesus' public ministry, the Jewish high priest was a man named Caiaphas. As high priest he was to represent the people to God. One of his jobs each year was to take a perfect lamb, kill it, take the blood into the holiest place in the Temple, sprinkle it on the "mercy seat" of the ark of the covenant, and ask God to forgive and bless the people of Israel. Caiaphas was not only the leading religious leader of the country, but also the head of the Sanhedrin, the ruling Council and Supreme Court of the Jews.

Read Luke 3:2-18.

When Caiaphas was high priest, who was the prophet that preached at the Jordan River? _____

What was the prophet's warning to the Jewish people? (vv. 7-9) _____

When people asked him if he were the Christ (v. 15), he told them about someone who would come later and be much greater. Who was he talking about? (John 1:29-30) _____

Caiaphas and the other powerful Jewish leaders did not trust John, the baptizer and (miracle) son of a very respected priest. And they were threatened by the growing popularity and teachings of Jesus, a young rabbi they said was just a carpenter's son from Nazareth.

Jesus had many discussions and debates with these Jewish leaders. They were often lawyers and scholars sent by Caiaphas and others to question and keep an eye on Jesus. They were shocked by his claims and frustrated by his brilliant answers and baffling miracles. They soon decided he must be eliminated.

Read John 5:16-47.

Name two reasons the Jewish leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus:

(v. 16) _____ and (v. 18) _____

What did Jesus say about these leaders?

(vv. 37-38) _____

(v. 42) _____

What did he say about himself?

(v. 24) _____ (v. 25) _____

(v. 27) _____ (v. 46) _____

Read Matthew 26:3-5.

Why was Caiaphas afraid to arrest and kill Jesus? (v. 5) _____

Read John 11:45-53.

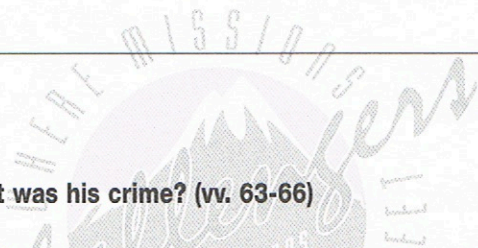
After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin decided they *had* to stop Jesus.

Why? (v.48a) _____

What were they afraid they would lose? (v. 48b) _____

Finally, they bribed Judas to betray Jesus. After arresting Jesus in the garden, they put him on trial.

Read Matthew 26:57-68.



They found him guilty. What was his crime? (vv. 63-66)

So Jesus was crucified. Caiaphas had won. He was back on top. He had saved the nation and kept his position as the most powerful man in Jewish life. He was still God's number one man on earth – the "king of the hill." He had upheld the Law of Moses and gotten rid of the blasphemer who claimed to be God.

But Caiaphas knew he still had to be careful. He knew that Jesus was very dangerous. Somehow the man who claimed to be the Son of God worked some kind of black magic miracles and his followers had helped him spread all kinds of wild tales that deceived many people.

Read Matthew 27:62-66.

What precaution did Caiaphas take? _____

But it wasn't enough. Even Roman authority and power wasn't enough to keep Jesus in the grave.

Read Matthew 28:1-15.

What did Caiaphas know about Jesus even before Jesus' disciples knew it? (v. 11) _____

Caiaphas may have sincerely thought Jesus was a liar and a fraud. He may have sincerely thought his own job as high priest was to be the Defender of the Faith as well as the agent and spokesman for God. If so, he was sincerely wrong. The Scriptures described the Christ. John the Baptist had clearly proclaimed that Jesus was the One. When Caiaphas asked Jesus if he was the Christ, Jesus answered clearly. His miracles were proof. If the high priest had never personally observed Jesus' miracles and if he could not trust eyewitness reports, he now had a first-hand report of Jesus' resurrection from his own hired guards!

Now Caiaphas had to make the most crucial decision of his life. Would he go to Scripture to figure out who Jesus was (recalling Jesus' statement in John 5:39-40)? Would he go to the tomb to see for himself? Would he join Jesus' disciples as some of the other members of the Sanhedrin did (Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, Saul of Tarsus)? Would he go into the Holy Place in the Temple, reserved for priests only, and ask God what was going on?

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Read Matthew 27:50-51.

The curtain or "veil" in the Temple was the thick partition separating the Holy Place from the "Holy of Holies." Only the high priest could go beyond this curtain—and only one time each year—to offer the sacrifice to God. Passover, the special day of the year when the priest sprinkled the blood, was only a few days before Resurrection Sunday. If Caiaphas had gone to the Temple to talk to God, he would have seen the torn curtain.

When and how was the curtain torn? (v. 51) _____

If Caiaphas sincerely wanted to understand who Jesus was, he had a personalized message from God that explained everything. Jesus was the high priest for all the world (Hebrews 10:19-22). Once and for all he entered into God's presence and shed his own blood for our sins. The torn curtain showed that now all people have open access to God and can personally enter into His presence and ask for forgiveness.

But Caiaphas refused to recognize Jesus as King and the one and only High Priest. Caiaphas spent the rest of his career trying to "cover up" Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 28:12-15) and attempting to stop his disciples from preaching the Good News (Acts 4:1-22). He chose to hold on to his religion and position of power and "refused to come to Jesus to have life" (John 5:40).

Call or write to your Baptist State Convention office to learn what state Challengers activities and events are offered. Select and participate in at least one state Challengers activity.
 (This activity satisfies all requirements of **Mile Two, My State** in *The Challengers Journey*.)

Know It

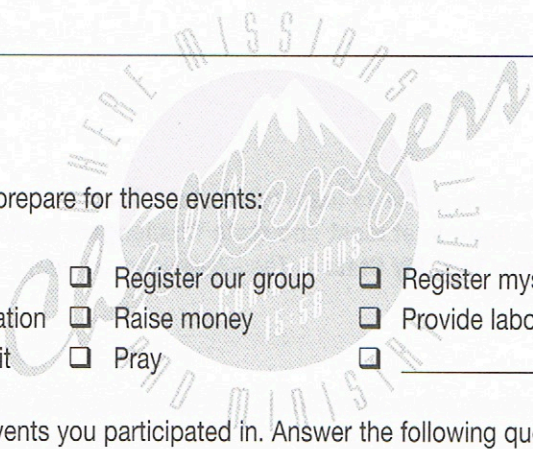
Challengers is not a group found only in your church or association—it's an organization that extends throughout your state, across North America, and into countries around the world. As a Challenger in your state, you have all sorts of special opportunities available for ministry and mission work. Contact your state office (see page 106 in *Leading Challengers, Second Edition*) to find out what events are offered this year in your state. Fill in the details about each event on the chart below:

Event	Date	Location	Cost
State Challengers Congress <small>(may contain many of the following)</small>			
State Challengers Rally			
State Challengers Track Meet			
State Challengers Campout			
State Challengers Summer Camp			
State Mission Training Boot Camp			
Challengers Leadership Training			
State Mission Speak Out Contest			
State Convention Pages			
State Challengers Basketball Tournament			
State Challengers Bible Quiz Bowl			
State Challengers Mission Marketplace			
State Challengers Arts & Crafts Contest			
State Challengers Mission Lab			
State Challengers Mission Project			

Do It

Select at least one of the Challengers events offered in your state and join in.
 List the state Challengers activities you participate in:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Check off the ways you prepare for these events:

- Invite friends
- Register our group
- Register myself
- Prepare a speech (for Speak Out)
- Fill out an application
- Raise money
- Provide labor for set up
- Invite other church groups
- Prepare an exhibit
- Pray
- _____
- _____

Review one of the events you participated in. Answer the following questions:

Which event did you attend? _____

What preparation did you make before this event? _____

Would you prepare differently before attending the event next year? If so, how? _____

What did you do at the event? _____

What did you enjoy most at this event? _____

What did you learn? _____

What effect did the event have on your life? _____

How did the event benefit your Challengers group and your church? _____

How could the event be improved? _____

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Write a brief letter to you state Challengers director thanking him for his effort in organizing and providing the event. Also make constructive suggestions for its improvement.

State Challengers Director: _____

Date of your letter: _____

Share It

Share with a group of teenage guys in your church (Sunday School class, youth group, etc.) or in another church about your experience at a state Challengers event. Tell them how you benefited from participating and encourage them to join in the event next year as well as in other Challengers activities.

Record the group you shared with: _____ Date: _____

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____

(This activity satisfies all requirements of **Mile Two, My State** in *The Challengers Journey*.)



Lend Me Your Ear

"And he touched the man's ear and healed him." John 22:51

Read John 18:1-14.

Hey, did you read my story? Well, actually the story's really about Jesus... but I'm in it. In fact, I'm in all four of the books about Jesus. Check out Matthew 26:47-54, Mark 14:43-47, and Luke 22:47-51.

No, I'm *not* Judas. No way! I'm Malchus. Yeah, that's right, the guy that got his ear cut off. Hey, it's not funny... It hurt! And, besides, I came really close to getting my skull cracked open that night. That Peter guy... he's crazy! He'll do anything. He just came charging at the whole crowd of us. I didn't see him coming... it was dark... and everybody else jumped out of the way. I was left standing there and he had this old sword he was swinging around with both hands like a baseball bat... except we didn't have baseball back then. Anyway, I ducked just in time... or he would have sliced right into my head...

Well, if I'm going to tell you the whole story, I may as well start from the beginning. Okay, first of all, that spring I was working for the high priest... actually I was what you would probably call a slave. Not exactly a slave, but... well, anyway, I worked in the palace kitchen. That's the palace of the high priest... his name was Caiaphas. Ever heard of him? My cousin was working there, too. Anyway, that night we were busy because we had to clean up after the Passover feast... That's a big holiday every year where all the Jews eat this special meal. It's got to be done just right because it represents all this stuff about our history.

Okay. Anyway, I was washing dishes in the back and it was cold. We had some fires going out in the courtyard and lots of people were just hanging around. I knew something was up but had no idea what. All of a sudden a sergeant from the Temple Guard came across the courtyard. He was rounding up some kind of work detail. I figured it was to carry in firewood. Then I heard him say he was paying a shekel to each volunteer. Hey... I was done in the kitchen! Whatever wasn't done could wait. I needed the cash.

Our group had about ten soldiers and maybe twenty of us. Each of us had either a torch or a lantern or some kind of weapon. And you-know-who was leading up front. We went out from the city and down to the brook. As we got almost to the Garden, we stopped. That's when they told us where we were going. I'd already figured out we weren't getting firewood. I couldn't believe it when they said we were going to capture Jesus. From what I'd heard about him, I didn't think there was any way we could catch him. He had slipped away and disappeared in the crowd more than once before when Caiaphas sent guards after him. Besides, I had heard he could do magic stuff like turn fish and bread into wine and things like that.

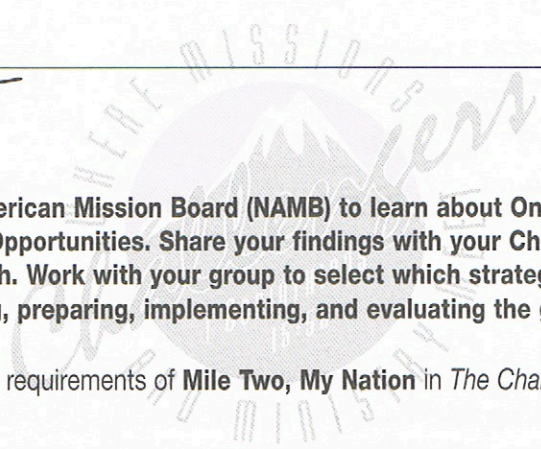
Well, when we went in the garden, we came right to them. There were about a dozen... all men. It was almost as if they were waiting for us. They weren't hiding or anything. And they didn't try to run or get away. Jesus stepped up to us in the torch lights and asked with this big authoritative voice what we wanted. When the sergeant said we were looking for Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus said that was him. It kind of scared everybody. We all jumped back a little... kind of like as if we thought he was going to do some magic or something.

Jesus asked again what we wanted. The sergeant said we were looking for Jesus of Nazareth and he said, "That's me. Come and get me." Then Judas stepped up and did something to Jesus. It kind of looked like he kissed him or something.

Well, I was trying to see what was going on... and that's when good old Peter just went a little crazy. The next thing I knew, I was on the ground, blood gushing out my ear, or where my ear should have been, and Peter was standing over me about to cut my head off.

Then Jesus, with his calm, authoritative voice told Peter to put it away... the sword, I mean. Peter backed off, looking real confused and shaking a little. Then Jesus felt around on the ground while everybody watched. He found my ear... brushed it off... and then touched it to my head. And it was okay. It was incredible. Nobody knew what to do for a second. Then Jesus said to let his friends go, the sergeant tied his hands – as if that would have done any good if he wanted to get away – and we left.

Now read John 18:15-27 and, using your imagination, finish the story about Malchus. Tell about how he accepts Christ as his Savior with the help of John, the "other disciple" in verse 15.



Contact the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to learn about On Mission Youth Strategies and Student Mobilization Opportunities. Share your findings with your Challengers group and the youth minister of your church. Work with your group to select which strategy or opportunity to undertake. Participate in planning, preparing, implementing, and evaluating the group project.

(This activity satisfies all requirements of **Mile Two, My Nation** in *The Challengers Journey*.)

Know It

Have you ever watched someone who was really good at chess? The key to success in chess is to have a clear plan about what goals you are trying to accomplish, and then to act on that plan. A plan for success with several steps leading to victory can be called a "strategy."

An "On Mission Youth Strategy" is a plan to take the gospel to a specific mission field in your life, using the 12 mission skills. Following an On Mission Strategy takes commitment, discipline, and teamwork. And, of course, to follow a strategy of sharing Christ with others requires that He be real and active in your own life. When you work with others to share Christ, you grow in your relationship with Him by experiencing and observing His work in the lives of your partners and other people on your mission field.

Contact the North American Mission Board (NAMB) at:

4200 North Point Pkwy
 Alpharetta, GA 30022
www.namb.net

Check the Website or request information about the On Mission Youth Strategies and other Youth Mission Mobilization opportunities. Learn about the following Strategies, the mission field each targets and the length of commitment they each require:

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Strategy Name	Mission Field	Commitment Time
The Campus Missionary Strategy	My School	One school year
The Good Neighbor Strategy		
My Home Mission		
Operation Visitor		
Starting Tomorrow's Church Today		

Learn about these mission mobilization opportunities for your youth group:

Opportunity	Description
World Changers	
FiSH!	
Sojourners	
Kindness Explosion	

Choose one of the strategies or other opportunities to learn more about. Request detailed information from NAMB to share with your Challengers leader and youth minister.

Which strategy or opportunity did you select? _____

Do It

When you have finished your research, talk with your youth minister, your Challengers leader and others in your group about the strategies and other national mission opportunities. Discuss which strategy best fits your group, and when the right time would be to implement it. The group that commits to the strategy may be your Challengers group, a group of Challengers and Acteens, your Sunday School class, or the entire youth group.

Once you have completed your mission plan, answer the following questions:

Which strategy or opportunity did you commit to undertake? _____

When did you begin to implement the strategy? _____

How many students and leaders were involved in implementing this plan? _____

Describe what you did in this strategy to reach people for Christ:

What was the result in the lives of the people you were seeking to reach with the gospel?

What effect did this experience have on you? What did you learn? How was your life changed?

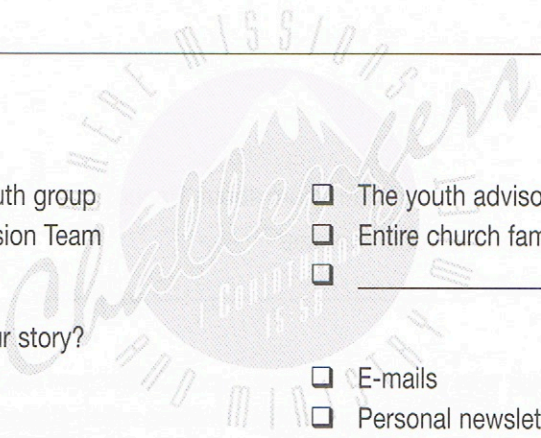
What effect did the experience have on your church youth group?

Share It

Share your experience with people in your church in a way that will encourage others to become more involved in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Pray about how and with whom you should share your experience.

With whom is God leading you to share?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your Challengers group | <input type="checkbox"/> Your family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your Sunday School class | <input type="checkbox"/> Another Sunday School class |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Your pastor |



- Your church youth group
- Church On Mission Team
- Other churches
- The youth advisory committee
- Entire church family
- _____

How are you sharing your story?

- Personal letters
- Phone calls
- Church newsletter article
- Testimony
- Personal website
- _____
- E-mails
- Personal newsletter
- Group report
- NAMB website
- Baptist State newspaper article
- _____

When you share your experience, be sure to include these things:

- The purpose of the strategy, project, or ministry
- The people who were ministered to
- Ways you observed God working in people's lives
- How God is working in your life
- How others can be involved in this or other mission efforts

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____

(This activity satisfies all requirements of **Mile Two, My Nation** in *The Challengers Journey*.)

"Come, follow me... and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

Read John 1:35-42 and Luke 5:1-11.

How did Simon Peter first meet Jesus? (John 1:40-42) _____

When and where did Peter become a follower of Jesus? (Luke 5:11) _____

Why did Jesus get into Peter's boat? _____

How many fish did Jesus catch? _____

What was Peter's response to the big catch of fish? _____

Andrew, Peter's brother, was the one who first introduced Peter to Jesus. Andrew heard John the Baptist announce that Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. After spending the day with Jesus, Andrew was convinced that he really was the Messiah and Savior. When Peter first met Jesus, it was clear that he knew Peter and had plans for the big fisherman. But Jesus didn't invite Peter to be his follower that day.

We don't know how long it was between the day Peter first met Jesus and the day they went fishing in Luke 5. They may have spent lots of time together. Maybe Peter and Andrew had taken the carpenter's son out in their boat several times and tried to teach him to fish. Maybe Peter had heard Jesus teach about the kingdom of God more than once. If so, this time was different. Jesus didn't just talk. He revealed himself personally to Peter in a way that he could understand. When Jesus directed Peter to the biggest catch of his life (so far), Peter finally realized who Jesus was—and, in the presence of the Son of God, he realized that he was a sinful man.

Jesus was not satisfied for Peter to just recognize who Jesus was. It wasn't enough for Peter to admit that he was a sinner and to let Jesus forgive him and give him a new life. Jesus had plans for Peter and he demanded that he become his life-long follower. Jesus would teach Peter to join him in his mission to "catch" and save other men.

Read Luke 22:54-62.

What did Jesus warn Peter about before he was arrested?

(Luke 22:31-34) _____

(vv. 45-46) _____

After three years of following Jesus, Peter really blew it on the night Jesus was betrayed. Even after Jesus warned him that a real test was coming, he failed to prepare. He spent the time sleeping instead of praying. When the test came, he went back to his old ways of cursing and swearing and told everyone he didn't even know Jesus.

When the rooster crowed and Peter realized he had failed the test, he went out and wept bitterly. Later, not sure if the resurrected Jesus would still count him as one of his disciples, Peter went fishing.

Read John 21:1-19.

What four things were similar about this fishing trip and the trip in Luke 5?

(v. 3b) _____

(v. 6a) _____

(v. 6b) _____

(v. 19b) _____

Jesus taught us through Peter's experience that He is the one who is able and responsible for keeping our lives once we commit them to Him. (2 Timothy 1:12)

What did Jesus promise in John 10:27-28? _____

Write or call the International Mission Board to get information about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Participate with your Challengers group to complete a project at your church that will raise money for this offering and inform people how it is used to carry the gospel to people throughout the world.

(This activity satisfies all requirements of **Mile Two, My World** in *The Challengers Journey*.)

Know It

Have you ever taken a flight overseas? If you have, you probably know that international travel is very expensive. In fact, the plane ticket over is only one of many different expenses you have. Think about it: meals, places to stay each night, tour guides or translators, special appliances or supplies you can't get in that country, and so on. The costs really add up fast—it's why many people never get to leave the United States! And that's just for a visit. What if you were moving overseas for several years? Imagine the expenses for language study, new furniture and clothes, and even a home. Now we're talking big bucks!

The International Mission Board (IMB) is the way Southern Baptist churches cooperate together to send missionaries to minister all over the world. By sharing the cost among all the churches that contribute, we can afford to send thousands of missionaries all over the world.

Contact the International Mission Board (IMB) at:

P.O. Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230
www.imb.org

Ask for information about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO). You may find information at their website: www.imb.org. Learn answers to the following questions:

What is this year's theme and goal for the LMCO? _____

What materials are available from the IMB to promote the LMCO in your church?

How can you get them? _____

Now, find out who at your church is responsible for leading your church to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and Jesus' last instruction to the Church (Acts 1:8)?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor | <input type="checkbox"/> Church staff | <input type="checkbox"/> On Mission Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Council | <input type="checkbox"/> WMU |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

The Rock

"Come, follow me... and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

Read John 1:35-42 and Luke 5:1-11.

How did Simon Peter first meet Jesus? (John 1:40-42) _____

When and where did Peter become a follower of Jesus? (Luke 5:11) _____

Why did Jesus get into Peter's boat? _____

How many fish did Jesus catch? _____

What was Peter's response to the big catch of fish? _____

Andrew, Peter's brother, was the one who first introduced Peter to Jesus. Andrew heard John the Baptist announce that Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. After spending the day with Jesus, Andrew was convinced that he really was the Messiah and Savior. When Peter first met Jesus, it was clear that he knew Peter and had plans for the big fisherman. But Jesus didn't invite Peter to be his follower that day.

We don't know how long it was between the day Peter first met Jesus and the day they went fishing in Luke 5. They may have spent lots of time together. Maybe Peter and Andrew had taken the carpenter's son out in their boat several times and tried to teach him to fish. Maybe Peter had heard Jesus teach about the kingdom of God more than once. If so, this time was different. Jesus didn't just talk. He revealed himself personally to Peter in a way that he could understand. When Jesus directed Peter to the biggest catch of his life (so far), Peter finally realized who Jesus was—and, in the presence of the Son of God, he realized that he was a sinful man.

Jesus was not satisfied for Peter to just recognize who Jesus was. It wasn't enough for Peter to admit that he was a sinner and to let Jesus forgive him and give him a new life. Jesus had plans for Peter and he demanded that he become his life-long follower. Jesus would teach Peter to join him in his mission to "catch" and save other men.

Read Luke 22:54-62.

What did Jesus warn Peter about before he was arrested?

(Luke 22:31-34) _____

(vv. 45-46) _____

After three years of following Jesus, Peter really blew it on the night Jesus was betrayed. Even after Jesus warned him that a real test was coming, he failed to prepare. He spent the time sleeping instead of praying. When the test came, he went back to his old ways of cursing and swearing and told everyone he didn't even know Jesus.

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(v. 19b) _____

Jesus taught us through Peter's experience that He is the one who is able and responsible for keeping our lives once we commit them to Him. (2 Timothy 1:12)

What did Jesus promise in John 10:27-28? _____

How does your church support international missionaries?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Through the LMCO | <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt an IMB missionary family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide missionary furlough housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Through MK LiveLink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International mission partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in IMB projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Produce missionary personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic prayer for IMB missions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt an unreached people group | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

What is your church's goal for the LMCO this year? _____

Do It

Participate in a project with your Challengers group to help your church:

- become more aware of the LMCO and how it helps to support international missionaries
- raise money for the LMCO.

Follow this checklist:

- Gather promotional materials from the IMB.
- Create a plan for informing the church about how the LMCO supports international missions.
- Plan an event to raise or collect money for the offering.
- Carry out your plans.

What kind of promotional materials did you get from the IMB?

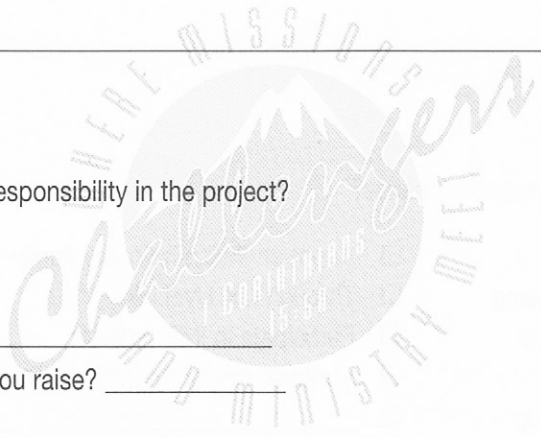
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Posters | <input type="checkbox"/> Videotape | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin inserts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Novelty items | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Study | <input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pamphlets | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

How did you inform the church about international missions and the LMCO?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission speaker in a worship service | <input type="checkbox"/> Church newsletter articles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Missionary moments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Banquet | <input type="checkbox"/> Posters and displays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letters | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skits or drama | <input type="checkbox"/> Videotape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | |

How did you raise money for the LMCO?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offering | <input type="checkbox"/> Work projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Sale or auction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event ticket | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | |



What was your role or responsibility in the project?

When was your event? _____

How much money did you raise? _____

Share It

Send a report of your activities to Challengers Central at one of the following:

Date completed: _____ **Challengers Leader's signature:** _____

Heavyweight Wrestler

"You will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel." Genesis 35:10

Read Genesis 27 and 28.

Why did Jacob lie to his old blind father? _____

Why did Esau want to kill Jacob? _____

Where did Jacob go to escape his brother? _____

On the way what did Jacob see in a dream? _____

What five promises did God make to Jacob? 28:13b _____

28:14a _____ **28:14b** _____

28:15a _____ **28:15b** _____

Jacob made a vow and a bargain with God. What four things did he want from God? (28:20-22)

What three things did he promise to do if God delivered? _____

Jacob's grandfather, Abraham, was one of the leading men of God in history. He followed and obeyed God all his life and God had blessed him in every way. God made a covenant with him and his children forever. Abraham was the Friend of God and a great man of faith. He was an all-time Bible hero.

Jacob's father, Isaac, was the miracle son of Abraham, born when his mother was 90 years old. He became a legend when God provided a ram for a substitute sacrifice (Genesis 22) and a beautiful wife from the family hometown (Genesis 24). Isaac inherited the promises God made to Abraham.

Then there was Jacob. He was a liar and a cheat. There was no evidence in his life that he spent time worshiping or talking with God. He was running from his brother who wanted to kill him. Although he was not in the habit of listening to God, finally God got his attention through a dream. In that dream He revealed Himself and His plan to Jacob. He identified Himself as the God of Abraham and Isaac and offered to renew the covenant He had made with them. But Jacob was too preoccupied with his own problems and fears to understand and receive the promises of God. Jacob bargained with God promising to give Him a tenth of his earnings if He would protect him and provide him with food and clothes.

Twenty years later, Jacob returned to the land God promised him. God had blessed him in all the material ways he had requested and more, but he still had no personal relationship with God or with any man. He was rich but lived in spiritual poverty. His father-in-law hated him, his new family worshiped and depended on stolen idols, and his brother was bearing down on him with a force of 400 men.

Read Genesis 32:22-32; 33:1-20 and 35:1-15.

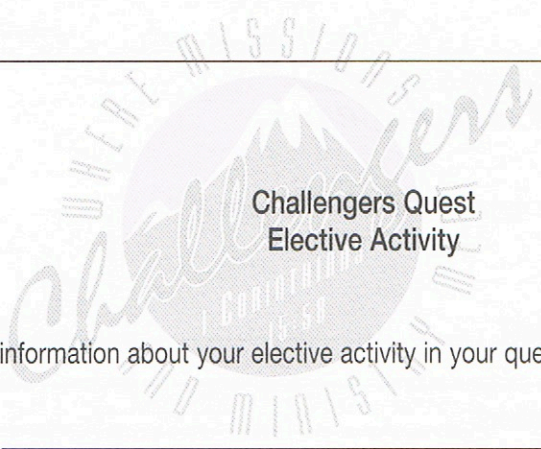
When Jacob wrestled with the angel, he would not let go until he was changed and blessed by God.

What was his new name? _____ **How was he physically different?** _____

What was Jacob's new attitude toward Esau? _____

What evidence was there that Jacob had become a true follower of God when he returned to Bethel?

It's never enough to believe in the God of your fathers. (Even demons believe He is real.) He must become your God and you become His as you wrestle to get a grip on *your* own personal faith in Him.



**Challengers Quest
Elective Activity**

Complete the following information about your elective activity in your quest.

Describe your activity: _____

What was the purpose of your project? What did you hope to accomplish? _____

To whom was your project directed? Who did it benefit? Who did it "target"? _____

Who were your partners in this activity? How did they help you? _____

What tools or skills did you use? _____

In what way(s) was prayer important in your mission? _____

What was the result of your activity? _____

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How did the people in your "target" group respond? _____

What did you learn through this activity? _____

What will you do differently (if anything) in future mission endeavors? _____

What "follow-up" do you need to do now? _____

Your signature: _____ **Date completed:** _____

Challengers Leader Signature: _____ **Which Mile:** _____

Lost and Found

"So he got up and went to his father." Luke 15:20

Read Luke 15:11-24.

What did the younger son ask for? _____

Why do you think his father gave it to him? _____

How did the son "invest" all his money? _____

Why did he decide to go back home? (v. 17) _____

This story is one of Jesus' most famous parables. He told it to explain what it is to be spiritually "lost" and separated from God. He also used it to show us how God feels about lost people. In the story the younger son represents all people who are lost. The father represents God.

In verses 18 and 21 the son admitted that he had sinned against heaven and his father. In which of the following ways had he sinned?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> By asking for his inheritance | <input type="checkbox"/> By leaving home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By dishonoring his father | <input type="checkbox"/> By leaving his father and brother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By abandoning his father's work | <input type="checkbox"/> By going to a faraway country |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By wasting his money | <input type="checkbox"/> By living wildly and extravagantly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By planning poorly | <input type="checkbox"/> By feeding pigs |

Can you imagine asking your father for your inheritance before he dies? That seems terribly rude if not downright sinful. But leaving home, going to live in a faraway country or going into a different line of work rather than continuing the family farm seems more like a matter of preference instead of *sin*. Probably all of us would agree that wasting your father's money in wild and extravagant living is sinful.

Much of what we consider sinful is often cultural. For example, the Jewish people Jesus told this story thought that having anything to do with pigs was sinful. We would disagree. We would be more likely to say the young man sinned by not planning more carefully.

But what is Jesus' view of sin and lostness? Jesus used this story to show us that being lost is being out on our own, away from God and His plan for our lives. Just like the younger son, when we take what God has given us and use it to try to satisfy our own appetites and desires, we become bankrupt and alone. Living life according to our own plans is rebellion against Him. And rebellion against God and His Will for your life is sin.

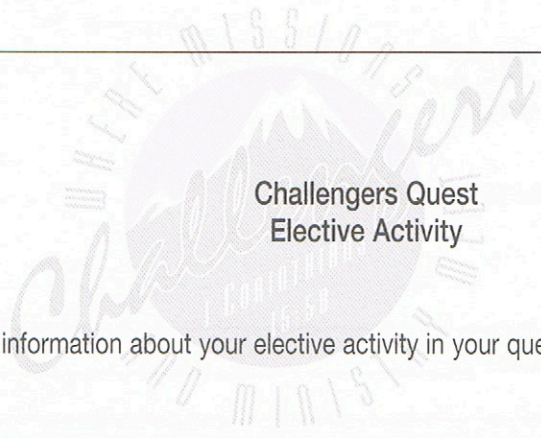
God created people in His own image. We are created with the ability to make choices about how we live. That choice is a gift we inherit as God's special creation. When we choose to receive Christ and give (or commit) ourselves to him, we have the right to be called the children and heirs of God (John 1:12 and Romans 8:17). Unlike a human inheritance, God is eager for us to take and use the gifts He gives us. But His plan is for us to use them in His power and under His direction as we join Him in His work in His "fields." If you choose to go your own way and live life pleasing yourself or others, you are spiritually lost and will soon become spiritually bankrupt. But the good news is that if you come to your senses before it's too late, humble yourself before God and admit your sin, God will welcome you home.

Why didn't the father go and get his son? _____

What did the father *feel* for his son when he returned? (v. 20) _____

What did the father *do* for his son when he returned? _____

Who will the Father (God) receive and forgive? (Romans 10:13) _____



**Challengers Quest
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What was the result of your activity? _____

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How did the people in your "target" group respond? _____

What did you learn through this activity? _____

What will you do differently (if anything) in future mission endeavors? _____

What "follow-up" do you need to do now? _____

Your signature: _____ **Date completed:** _____

Challengers Leader Signature: _____ **Which Mile:** _____

Felix, Festus and Agrippa

"When I find it convenient, I will send for you." Acts 24:25

The Jews were trying desperately to kill Paul. He was planting new churches in cities everywhere and more and more "people were" putting their faith in Jesus. These Jewish leaders claimed that Paul's new religion, commonly called the Way, was a cult that had to be stopped. They were angry because many Jews were believing that Jesus was alive and Gentiles were entering the Temple and becoming converts to Judaism.

Paul was arrested and taken into custody by the Romans for his own protection. As a Roman citizen, he had the right to a trial. In these chapters Paul is tried by two Roman governors and a king. At each trial Paul tells everyone in the courtroom how to have new life in Christ.

Read Acts 23:11-35; 24:1-27.

How did Governor Felix seem to feel about the Way? (24:22-23) _____

When Paul talked with Felix and Drusilla about faith in Christ and the judgment, how did Felix respond?

Felix was familiar with and interested in the Way. Paul was able and willing to explain almost anything about faith in God, new life in Christ and life after death. (He had already written six books of the Bible including the book of Romans.) But Felix wasted their time together hoping for a bribe. Two years passed and Felix retired without taking time to talk seriously with Paul about accepting Christ.

Read Acts 25:1-27 and 26:1-32.

Why did Governor Festus invite King Agrippa to hear Paul? (25:26) _____

What did Paul tell Agrippa? (26:1-23) _____

How did Festus respond to Paul's story? _____

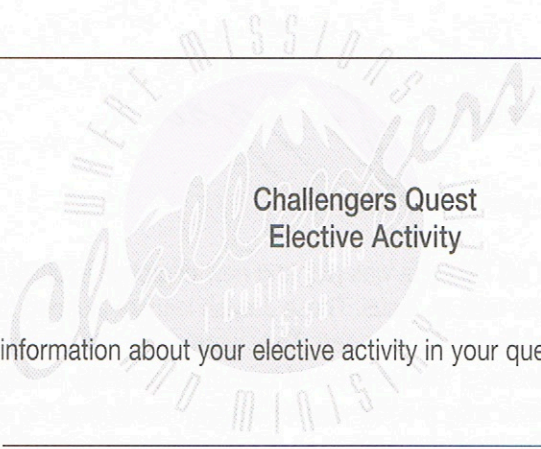
How did Agrippa respond to Paul's invitation? _____

What was Paul's prayer for Festus, Agrippa and Bernice? _____

When Paul became a Christian on the road to Damascus, God told him he would preach to kings and governors of the Gentiles. When the time came and Paul preached to them several times, none of them responded by committing their lives to Christ. Perhaps they felt they had too much to lose by accepting Christianity. One was deeply convicted and told Paul that he would hear him another more convenient time. Another said that Paul was insane from too much study and deep thinking. Another said that he could not be convinced to become a Christian so quickly.

Each of these powerful rulers had a chance to hear the gospel from one of the most eloquent preachers of all time. Paul told them his own testimony, the story of how he became a Christian. He reasoned with them and urged them to accept his message. He prayed for them that they would realize what the most important issues of life were. He prayed that they would come to know Christ in the same way that he knew and trusted Him.

How ironic that the most powerful people in the courtroom were totally dependent on a crucified man to justify and defend them; and the man in chains was the only man in the courtroom who was truly free.



**Challengers Quest
Elective Activity**

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What was the purpose of your project? What did you hope to accomplish? _____

To whom was your project directed? Who did it benefit? Who did it "target"? _____

Who were your partners in this activity? How did they help you? _____

What tools or skills did you use? _____

In what way(s) was prayer important in your mission? _____

What was the result of your activity? _____

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How did the people in your "target" group respond? _____

What did you learn through this activity? _____

What will you do differently (if anything) in future mission endeavors? _____

What "follow-up" do you need to do now? _____

Your signature: _____ **Date completed:** _____

Challengers Leader Signature: _____ **Which Mile:** _____

"They shouted back, 'No, not him! Give us Barabbas!'" John 18:40

Read Mark 15:1-15 and Luke 23:13-25.

What crime did Pilate and Herod find Jesus guilty of? (Lk. 23:14-15) _____

What was Pilate's custom at the Jewish Passover feast? (Mk. 15:6) _____

Why did the crowd ask for Barabbas to be released? (Mk 15:11) _____

Why was Barabbas in prison? _____

Why was Jesus a prisoner? (Mk. 15:10) _____

While Jesus was being arrested in the garden and tried by the Jewish Council, by Herod, and again by Pilate, Barabbas languished in prison. While Jesus' friends betrayed him, scattered to escape capture and denied they even knew him, Barabbas lay chained to other prisoners condemned to die.

Neither Pilate nor Herod found Jesus guilty of any crime. Barabbas was guilty of murder and of leading a rebellion against Roman rule. He had already been tried and now it was just a matter of time before he would be executed. He had no hope of appeal and there was no way to escape. His sleep was interrupted by nightmares of the torture he would face in the morning. He would die by crucifixion, the cruelest death imaginable. He and two others were scheduled for execution in the morning.

When the morning came, the guards came too, and Barabbas knew his time had come to die. They took him and the two condemned thieves out of their cells and out into the courtyard. Barabbas watched while soldiers stripped the two thieves and put heavy crosses on their backs and forced them down the road, out the city gates and up the hill. And now, was it his turn?

Imagine how Barabbas felt when they told him he was free. Another man was going to die in his place! The other man was Jesus.

Read Romans 5:8.

How and when did God demonstrate His love for us? _____

Read John 3:16-18.

Why did Jesus come into the world? _____

Why are people condemned by God? _____

Did Barabbas go up to Calvary and see Jesus die in his place? Did he know or even care who Jesus was? Did he see the sign that said "King of the Jews" or talk to any of Jesus' followers? Did he see the sky turn black and feel the earthquake? Did he realize, like the centurion, that this was the Son of God—dying for him?

Was Barabbas around three days later when Jesus rose from the grave? Did he hear Peter's sermon at Pentecost? Did he ever realize that, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)"? Did he ever thank Jesus for his great gift of love? Did he receive Jesus as his Lord and commit his life to him? Was he baptized into fellowship with other believers?

Although Barabbas' substitution and release is told about in all four gospels, he's not mentioned again in Scripture. We are left to assume that he went on his way, either never aware—or perhaps he didn't care—that his freedom was bought by Jesus' death. If that's how it was for Barabbas, then he is only the first of millions of people who never knew, or never cared, that Jesus died for them.

What about you? Are you still condemned by your sin, or have you trusted Christ and asked Him to forgive you and make you a member of God's family? Christ died for you just like he did for Barabbas. When was the last time you thanked Him for His gift of love to you?

