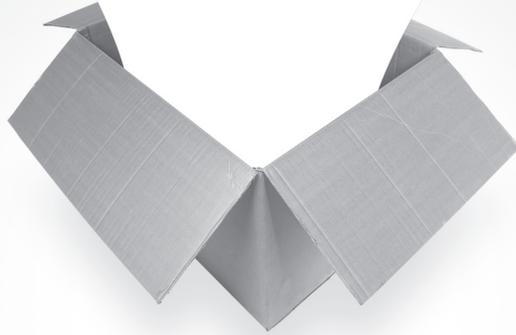


A QUEST FOR  
**MORE**  
SMALL GROUP AND  
DISCUSSION GUIDE



A QUEST FOR  
**MORE**

SMALL GROUP AND  
DISCUSSION GUIDE



Living for something  
bigger than you

**PAUL DAVID TRIPP**



New Growth Press  
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Paul David Tripp, prolific author and international conference speaker, is president of Paul Tripp Ministries, whose mission is to educate and equip today's Christian by combining the in-depth study of God's Word with practical life applications. Tripp, also a pastor with over fifteen years of pastoral ministry, is adjunct professor at Westminster Theological Seminary and adjunct faculty member at the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation in Glenside, Pennsylvania. He is the author of such best-selling titles as *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*, *War of Words*, *Age of Opportunity*, *Lost in the Middle*, *How People Change*, and *Relationships: A Mess Worth Making*. Tripp has been married for thirty-five years and has four grown children.

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It will also take you into Scripture to examine more deeply the principles and examples God has given us in his Word which can guide you to live the life God intends. Change in your life will not happen as effectively by just reading as it will if you interact with, question, and seek to apply what you are reading. This study is intended to help you interact, question, and apply the principles in *A Quest for More*.

The **Bible Study** sections are not just biblical support for *A Quest for More*, but rather they are intended to be a mirror, revealing our hearts and lives. Allow the Bible studies, in accordance with *A Quest for More*, to show you what God may want to change or improve in your life. It has been my experience that God often works in my heart one issue at a time. What about you? What is God preparing for you? What areas of your thinking does God want to correct or reinforce? What behaviors is God weeding out and what behaviors is God cultivating in you? The Holy Spirit, one of God's greatest gifts to you, is willing and able to reveal truth to you if you are willing to listen and examine your heart. Determine not to be just a listener of the Word but also a doer (James 1:22–23). God bless you as you seek him and his kingdom.

My special thanks to Michael Breece who worked so diligently with me to make this study guide what it is.

PAUL DAVID TRIPP

## USING THIS STUDY GUIDE: FOR PERSONAL STUDY ■■■■■

1. Read the chapters in *A Quest for More* that coincide with the chapters of this study.
2. The ***You Are Here*** questions are designed to have you think about key issues and to assess your life and thinking before you read. Thinking through these questions begins your interaction with the content and provides thoughts that will connect what you may already know or be doing with what is being presented in the book.
3. The questions for ***Looking at My Destination*** are designed to help you think through the content of each chapter and to reinforce key principles. You may want to have the Study Guide open in front of you as you read from *A Quest for More* and use the questions to focus your reading. Or you may want to read the entire chapter first and then go back and use the questions to reinforce and help you understand and organize the information in each chapter.
4. The questions for ***Deciding My Course*** are intended for you to apply the general ideas and principles of each chapter to the specific circumstances of your life. Take time and pray as you answer these questions and evaluate yourself. Be honest and transparent with yourself and with God. Keep reminding yourself that God's grace is sufficient for you.
5. Some of the chapters include ***Points of Interest*** that will take you deeper into the content and principles or will provide you an opportunity to reinforce and apply key principles in a different

way than just thinking about them. Although the principles from *A Quest for More* can be understood and applied apart from these questions and activities, the questions and activities in this section are extremely valuable and can reap tremendous insights.

6. The ***Bible Studies*** will connect various biblical passages to similar themes in the book. They are intended to be done in conjunction with the book as you read, but they could be done before or after you read the book. Where each ***Bible Study*** could fit within the scope of the whole study is found within the ***Points of Interest*** as well as the ***Bible Studies*** themselves.
7. At the end of every three chapters, there is a ***Where Have I Been*** section designed for you to review and reinforce key principles. Taking the time to do this section will help the key principles remain in your memory and remind you of what you can be applying to your life.

## USING THIS STUDY GUIDE: FOR SMALL GROUP STUDY ■ ■ ■

1. Although the lessons and chapters can be used and adjusted to meet the needs or purposes of the group, the chapters in *A Quest for More* and the sections in the Study Guide are intended to be read and answered individually, then discussed within a small group setting. The ***Bible Studies*** are intended to be done within the small group together. There is also a suggested order explained below, but this too can be adjusted to the needs and purposes of the group.

2. The *Where Have I Been* section is designed as the primary means of review and discussion for the small group. The questions should cover the key principles, but there is also a place for the group to consider any of the questions in the study sections.
3. The *Bible Studies* are designed to connect God's Word to important themes of the book. The studies are intended and designed to be done in the small group setting together, but can also be done individually, if desired.
4. The *Setting Up Camp* section is designed to apply key principles to the group as a whole.
5. There is a place for the small group to check up on itself and to ensure that each member is keeping up, understanding, and benefiting from the reading. This is an important aspect of small groups and, if possible, should not be ignored.

## RECOMMENDED STUDY GUIDE OUTLINE ■■■■■■■■■■■■

I recommend you follow the 13-Lesson Outline; however, the study can certainly be beneficial no matter how you decide to work through it. Consider your or your small group's needs and purposes and then decide on a plan.

Using the Study Guide in a small group or Sunday school setting is recommended because it allows you to think more deeply about the principles as you discuss them with others. Also, a small group provides encouragement and accountability. If you are not reading *A Quest for More* along with a small group, perhaps you can find at least one other person who will also read the book and complete the guide with you.



At home— Read chapters 4 and 5 in *A Quest for More*. Answer the questions in the Study Guide for chapters 4 and 5.

#### Lesson Four

At group— Group Check-Up/Bible Study Three: *The Kingdom of Light*

At home— Read chapter 6 in *A Quest for More*. Answer the questions in the Study Guide for chapter 6. Be prepared to share your answers and ideas when your small group meets.

#### Lesson Five

At group— Complete *Where Have I Been* for chapters 4–6.

At home— Read chapters 7 and 8 in *A Quest for More*. Answer the questions in the Study Guide for chapters 7 and 8.

#### Lesson Six

At group— Group Check-Up/Bible Study Four: *A Precious Death*

At home— Read chapter 9 in *A Quest for More*. Answer the questions in the Study Guide for chapter 9. Be prepared to share your answers and ideas when your small group meets.

#### Lesson Seven

At group— Complete *Where Have I Been* for chapters 7–9.

At home— Read chapters 10 and 11 in *A Quest for More*. Answer the questions in the Study Guide for chapters 10 and 11.

#### Lesson Eight

At group— Group Check-Up/Bible Study Five: *The Nature of a Kingdom Servant*

At home— Read chapter 12 in *A Quest for More*. Answer the questions in the Study Guide for chapter 12. Be prepared to share your answers and ideas when your small group meets.

### Lesson Nine

At group— Complete *Where Have I Been* for chapters 10–12.

At home— Read chapters 13 and 14 in *A Quest for More*. Answer the questions in the Study Guide for chapters 13 and 14.

### Lesson Ten

At group— Group Check-Up/Bible Study Six: *The King's Treasure*

At home— Read chapter 15 in *A Quest for More*. Answer the questions in the Study Guide for chapter 15. Be prepared to share your answers and ideas when your small group meets.

### Lesson Eleven

At group— Complete *Where Have I Been* for chapters 13–15.

At home— Read chapters 16 and 17 in *A Quest for More*. Answer the questions in the Study Guide for chapters 16 and 17.

### Lesson Twelve

At group— Group-Check-Up/Bible Study Seven: *The Great Rescue*

At home— Read chapter 18 in *A Quest for More*. Answer the questions in the Study Guide for chapter 18. Be prepared to share your answers and ideas when your small group meets.

## Lesson Thirteen

At group— Complete *Where Have I Been* for chapters 16–18.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SMALL GROUP MEETING ■

1. Agree on a beginning and ending time, and then begin and end on time.
2. Be prepared. Know which questions you want to ask and have your thoughts prepared.
3. Be flexible. The study is not necessarily the most important thing; if someone in the group has a different need or concern, set the study aside.
4. Keep the group focused. A successful group needs a leader. Bring the group back to the study if it strays into other topics.
5. Allow “wait time.” Give the group time to think about a question you ask. Avoid answering the question yourself. If it seems necessary, ask the question again in a different way.
6. Solicit multiple answers. Even if someone answers a question, ask someone else what he/she thinks. For some questions it is even appropriate to go around to every person and get his/her answer. This can generate good discussion. However, don't force anyone to answer.
7. Be affirming of everyone's answers. If an answer seems incorrect or “unbiblical” ask the person to support his/her idea or ask the rest of the group, “What do you all think?” It is acceptable to leave a question unanswered or unresolved. Move forward and later discussion may resolve or answer the question. If you reject someone's answer or allow someone in the group to reject someone's answer, most people will then be less likely to share their ideas.









### You Are Here

1. Do you tend to see your life more as meaningful or meaningless?
2. When do you experience times of meaningfulness?
3. Do you believe you were created to be part of something big?
4. What might be the greatest thing you have accomplished in life so far?
5. What made it so great?
6. In what ways do you believe you make a difference?
7. If you had it all, what would “all” look like?

### Looking at My Destination

1. Why is a desire for world peace or solving world hunger uniquely human?
2. What does it mean to transcend the boundaries of our average world?
3. Give two reasons why we, as humans, desire transcendence.
4. For what kind of transcendence did God *not* make us? For what kind were we made?

5. What does the author mean by “narrowing the size of our lives to the size of our own existence”?

If we narrow the size of our lives to our own existence, why is it a denial of our humanity?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

WE WERE NEVER  
MEANT TO BE  
SELF-FOCUSED  
LITTLE KINGS RULING  
MINISCULE LITTLE  
KINGDOMS  
WITH A POPULATION  
OF ONE.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

6. How is it possible to live a “Christian life” while settling for “below and less” instead of living for “above and more”?

7. What does God invite us to that is more than a better marriage, a better relationship with our children, or better success at work?

8. What does it mean to be a “glory junkie”? Is this good or bad?





5. Which of the four transcendent glories do you participate in the most? The least?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What could you do to participate more in each of the transcendent glories?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What tends to make you lose sight of the “expansive, glorious, and eternal that is meant to give direction to everything you do”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What big thing are you living for right now?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Think of an area or relationship in your life which you could expand to the size of God’s transcendent glories. Think of specific ways you could connect this area or relationship to God’s glory.







2. What are some of the examples of the minor details of life the author provides?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is the war in which we are all involved?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Satan offered Eve an opportunity at transcendence. What was wrong in this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How does Satan present us all with less in ways that appear to be more?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Explain why pursuing glory that is disconnected from God's glory leads to less and not more.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Using the examples from the section titled *It's Always the Same Old Set of Tricks*, explain how we can settle for less, thinking we are gaining more.

8. What is the basic lie Satan is telling us? Why is it only a lie?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
SATAN KNOWS THAT  
WE ALL HUNGER FOR  
TRANSCENDENCE,  
SO HIS CRAFT IS TO  
PRESENT US WITH  
PRESENT US WITH  
LESS IN A WAY THAT  
APPEARS TO BE MORE.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

9. Why are the little moments of life so significant?

10. What is a “shadow glory”? How are these “shadow glories” like spiritual crack?

11. Explain the struggle in which we consistently find ourselves.

12. How can a legitimate concern become a spiritual danger?

13. According to the author, why has God sent His Redeemer Son to earth?







5. Read Luke 22:24–30 and John 13:12–17. What is Jesus teaching us about living for his kingdom?
6. Read Galatians 2:11–14. Are you able to relate at all with Peter? Have you ever let fear or your reputation take prominence over God's transcendent glories?







10. Why is it important to remember that God's work of grace is not done yet?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What is the purpose of God's grace in our lives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What does it mean to "Christianize" our autonomy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. What does it mean to live with the total restoration of creation in view? Why and how are we as Christians to live in light of this purpose?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. How do we sometimes alter and lessen the greater goal of redemption?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. What can cause us to do that?



5. Take time to think about the past week. Identify times when you were living for yourself. Confess these times to the Lord and remind yourself that God's grace is sufficient and the process is not done yet.
  
6. Examine and ask God to reveal to you whether you are still focused on your own autonomy (a "Christianized" autonomy). How can you begin to become more a part of God's purpose in making *everything* new (not just yourself)?
  
7. Identify some areas of your life where having it good has perhaps prevented you from seeking God's greater purposes.
  
8. At the beginning of the book you were asked what it would look like to "have it all." Do you think the borders of your "all" are too small?













4. According to the author, what causes us to live more for our own kingdoms than God's kingdom?
  
5. According to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6, why shouldn't we store up treasures on earth?
  
6. According to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6, why shouldn't we worry about our life?
  
7. What two points of focus characterize "little kingdom living"?
  
8. In what way are we all treasure hunters? Why shouldn't we invest our time and resources in this world's "treasures"?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

WITHOUT KNOWING  
IT, WE CAN REDUCE  
THE PROMISES OF  
SCRIPTURE DOWN TO  
A HOPE THAT GOD'S  
GRACE WILL ENSURE  
THE SUCCESS OF OUR  
LITTLE KINGDOMS.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

10. Explain why or how the physical values of earth somehow become our treasures. (Think back to chapter 3.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. How does living for your own kingdom lead to anxiety?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. How does living for your own kingdom dehumanize our lives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. What is the “need-expansion” dynamic?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. Both God’s kingdom and my personal little kingdom are commitments of the heart. How does this commitment shape the way I respond to everything?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. How does little kingdom living crush our humanity?













3. Explain why so much of the conflict between building our own kingdom and building God's kingdom goes unnoticed.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In what way do the "greatest battles take place in the smallest moments"? Do you agree?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What are the characteristics of our little kingdoms?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How does self-focus lead to self-righteousness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How does self-righteousness lead to self-reliance?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How does self-focus lead to self-rule?





7. Which of the above characteristics do you believe God is currently working most in you to change?
  
8. When tempted to live for your own kingdom, which of the four gracious provisions cited could you be mindful of to help you in the battle: You have the freedom to choose God's kingdom. You are forgiven and will never be condemned. God's Spirit gives you the power to live for his kingdom. You are destined to overcome and win.

Explain how being mindful of these truths will help you to live for God's kingdom?

9. What would your home look and sound like if it were a civilization of God's kingdom?
  
10. What could you do as a family to "civilize" each other into God's kingdom instead of your own?









### You Are Here

1. Do you enjoy being in costume? What are some costumes you have worn in your life?
2. What things do you find fulfilling and satisfying?
3. Is there a difference in your excitement toward God between now and when you first came to Christ?
4. What gets you most excited about being a Christian?

### Looking at My Destination

1. According to the author, when is the kingdom of self most dangerous?
2. In what way is the kingdom of self a “costume kingdom”?
3. From chapter 4 and mentioned again in chapter 6, what drives the kingdom of self?
4. What are some forms of “Christianized” idols?
5. Why do we see fruit of the little kingdoms even inside the big kingdom?

6. What are the three things the author cites as fruit of the kingdom of self seen in the church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How does little kingdom living lead to a lack of excitement or enthusiasm in the gospel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What is the principle of Psalm 115?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What does it look like to have Christ as your treasure?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How do we make the transcendent glories of God a means to an end?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

“AT THE HEART  
OF IDOLATRY IS  
THE ATTEMPT TO  
MANIPULATE ‘GOD’ OR  
THE UNSEEN ‘SPIRITUAL  
WORLD’ IN ORDER  
TO OBTAIN SECURITY  
AND WELL-BEING  
FOR ONESELF.”

—RAMACHANDRA

■ ■ ■ ■ ■





But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

—2 CORINTHIANS 12:9–10

Remember that God loves you, you are forgiven, and you will never be condemned. God’s Spirit gives you the power to live for his kingdom. It is a process designed for God’s glory!













**Most of my time, energy, and resources are focused on:**

Satisfying my desires ..... God's desires/needs of others

**Most of my time, energy and resources are focused on:**

Physical appearance ..... Spiritual growth

**Most of my time, energy, and resources are focused on:**

Protecting my rights and property ..... Considering others better than myself







3. Is it enough to live for God’s kingdom by saying “no” to yourself? Explain. What is the key then to big kingdom living?

4. How does living for Christ lead to transcendence, meaning, and purpose?

5. How does living for yourself actually rob you of your humanity?

6. What does it functionally mean that the created world was designed to have Christ at the center?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

THERE REALLY IS  
 NO PLACE FOR CHRIST  
 IN MANY PEOPLE’S  
 CHRISTIANITY. THEIR  
 FAITH IS NOT  
 ACTUALLY IN *CHRIST*;  
 IT IS IN  
*CHRISTIANITY* AND  
 THEIR OWN ABILITY  
 TO LIVE IT OUT.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

7. Why does the world look at Christ-centered living as foolishness?

8. Why is Christ's crucifixion key to having Christ at the center of our lives?
  
9. What is the danger of reducing Christianity to theology and rules?
  
10. What are some replacements for Christ that Christians may live for that look like big kingdom living? Why are these replacements not necessarily true kingdom living?
  
11. What are the four things Christ needs to be if he is to be the center of your life?
  
12. What does it mean to see Christ as your source? If Christ is your source, how will you measure your potential?



3. Can you identify things in your life where you don't see God as the direct source?
  
4. Identify areas of your life where there is a greater motivation than Christ.
  
5. How can having Christ at the center keep you from living for him out of duty?
  
6. How can having Christ at the center affect the way you make decisions?
  
7. Which items below are goals you have in your life?
  - To be healthy
  - To live comfortably
  - To have smart, healthy, well-behaved children
  - To grow in my knowledge of Christ
  - To become . . .
  - To have children
  - To be/remain married
  - To love for Christ in all I do
  - To have . . .
  
8. Which of the goals above do you struggle to submit to God's will?



of my own needs and wants? On Christ's entitlements and rights instead of my own?

3. The author describes spiritual truths in very physical terms. Draw a picture that would give a visual representation of the concepts from *A Quest for More* to this point?



2. We want to accept that this is the only way to experience meaning, purpose, and the transcendent life God has called us to.



### You Are Here

1. How would you define “living”?
2. Have you ever bought something that didn’t work or give you satisfaction like you expected it to?
3. How often do you desire being the best?

### Looking at My Destination

1. What is “death pretending to be life”?
2. List some things that pretend to be life but are actually death.
3. What does it look like to deny yourself?
4. What does it mean to take up your cross?
5. The author writes, “Living for the big kingdom of Christ will always require suffering and sacrifice.” Why is this so?



2. What are you unwilling to sacrifice for the sake of God's kingdom? Your money, your lifestyle, your reputation, your house, your prestige, your car, your esteem from others, your friendships, your plans for the future?
  
3. Do you live in such a way that your life does not belong to you? In what areas do you continue to fight for self-rule?
  
4. The author writes, "To jealously hold on to my dream of what I want to accomplish, experience, and enjoy is to guarantee that I will never ever experience true life." Explain this idea.
  
5. Do you feel spiritually dead? Which parts of the three-fold death have you possibly been unwilling to accept?
  
6. The author writes, "If I am seeking life outside of the One who is Life, I am effectively committing spiritual suicide. There are more of us out there with these suicidal intentions than not." Do you agree or disagree? What needs to be done so that there are fewer "dying" Christians?







**Most of our time, energy, and resources are focused on:**

Satisfying our desires ..... God's desires/needs of others  
.....

**Most of our time, energy, and resources are focused on:**

Physical appearance ..... Spiritual growth  
.....

**Most of our time, energy, and resources are focused on:**

Protecting ..... Considering others  
our rights and property ..... better than ourselves  
.....

2. Try this as the leader. Bring a plate of cookies or some other desirable food. Place it in the center of the group, covered with shrink wrap. Discuss the shrink wrap idea in connection to the plate of food: It is not fulfilling its purpose which is for others to partake of it. It may seem protected, but it will still get moldy or stale if it stays under wraps. Left to itself, it can not make others happy, bring joy, or experience what it was designed for.
3. Try to comprehend the scope and extent of your life. Read Ephesians 1:4, Matthew 25:34, Revelation 22:3–5, Hebrews 11:39–40, Ephesians 2:21–22, and Ephesians 3:20–21.
4. A warning label will often explain an item's intended purpose, the possible ways of using it incorrectly, and the possible dangers if it is used incorrectly. If there were a warning label for your life, write what it would say based on chapters 7–9.
5. Allow time for people to share what they are learning. Ask if they have done any of the extension activities and if they would share what has come from that.



- 2. In this chapter, we want to apply those meanings to our own lives and examine what attitudes, understandings, and actions should shape our lives based on Deuteronomy 10:12–22.



**You Are Here**

List some ideas, terms, or symbols that you think of when you think of a kingdom.

**Looking at My Destination**

- 1. In this chapter the author provides a definition of big kingdom living. Write that definition here.
  
- 2. Using as few words as possible, according to Deuteronomy 10:12–22, what does God ask of you?
  
- 3. What does it mean to fear the Lord?



THE FEAR AND LOVE  
 THAT RULES  
 YOUR HEART WILL  
 SHAPE YOUR LIFE.





5. Which of the truths God wants us to remember from Deuteronomy 10 do you have a tendency to forget most often?

What could you do to make that truth a greater part of your life?



satisfactions and dissatisfactions lie and use those satisfactions and dissatisfactions as indicators for where our hearts are.

2. We want to rethink our definition of ungodliness and apply that understanding to our lives.
3. We want our satisfactions to lie in Christ alone and not the things of this world.
4. We should be dissatisfied and groan over the state of this world.



### You Are Here

1. What are some areas or things you feel satisfied with?
2. What are some areas or things you are dissatisfied with?
3. Is there a place for dissatisfaction in the life of a believer?
4. What does it mean to be ungodly?

### Looking at My Destination

1. According to the author, what does it mean to be ungodly?  
(Consider the end of the chapter as well.)
2. What is the problem the author defines with the life of Kat?
3. According to the author, what is the language of those living for big kingdom desires? Why?



- 3. What aspects, if any, of your well-being are dependent on temporary or physical fulfillment?

How can you shift your dependency from these things to God alone?

- 4. Rate each of the items below with 1 being low and 10 being high.

**How is your desire for spiritual growth?**

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10  
 .....

**How is your zeal to grow closer to the Lord?**

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10  
 .....

**How well do you strive to grow in character and faith?**

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10  
 .....

**How is your sorrow toward the sin and suffering in the world?**

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10  
 .....

**How is the depth of your personal relationships?**

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10  
 .....

Pray and ask God to reveal to you in which of these areas he wants to work in you?







2. We want to see that not having all the answers can be exciting and beautiful and is God's design for us. We don't want to fear life's spontaneity but to embrace it.
3. We want to be reminded that big kingdom living is not meant to be lived in isolation or for my own desires but is to be lived in community and in harmony with God and with others.
4. We want to examine if our lives are being played in harmony with God and with others.



### You Are Here

1. If your life were a song, what musical style would it be?
2. Do you prefer spontaneity or regularity? Creativity or simplicity? Form or freedom?

### Looking at My Destination

1. How does God want us to play the instrument of our lives?
2. The kingdom, like jazz, is balanced between form and freedom. What do we need to know to follow the form of God's kingdom?
3. Who decides the form and structure of our lives?



2. Are you in harmony with God? If not, where are you following your own form and structure instead of his?
  
3. What can you take with you from this chapter so that you can embrace the unsettling spontaneity of life?



Not knowing where we are going or what the exact results of our decisions might be can be unsettling. However, such a life is God's call to us if we desire to allow him to lead by his Spirit. Paul wrote in Romans 8:14–15:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Living by the Spirit of God should not be fearful because we know we are his children—loved and precious in his sight. There is no decision we could make that would ever change that.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—ROMANS 8:38–39

Praise be to God for "the glorious freedom of the children of God!" (Romans 8:21).







success. Our sin is the result of us wanting our own way, and our unwillingness to seek forgiveness is because we do not want to admit this.

- 2. We want to know that living in the big kingdom requires a willingness to confess, and we want to be more willing and able to ask for forgiveness in our daily lives.
- 3. We don't ever want to give up on this battle because Christ fights for us and calls us to it.



You Are Here

- 1. Do you have greater difficulty asking for forgiveness or granting forgiveness?
- 2. Are you ever tempted to justify your sin?
- 3. If you invited people to two events, one to protest something and the other to confess something, which gathering do you think would draw the bigger crowd?

Looking at My Destination

- 1. What leads us to gossip, vengeance, envy, impatience, anger, annoyance, irritation, bitterness?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
 WHEN YOU LIVE  
 FOR YOU, YOU  
 FORGET GOD AND  
 HIS KINGDOM  
 AND TRAVEL OUTSIDE  
 THE BOUNDARIES  
 OF HIS WILL.  
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- 2. According to the author, what makes it so difficult to confess these sins?















- 3. We want to rejoice in the freedom that can come from sacrificing our desires for his.
- 4. We want to recommit to holding everything in this life with an open hand, willing for God to use and remove those things he wants to.



**You Are Here**

- 1. What in your life has required a great amount of commitment, discipline, and sacrifice?
- 2. How many sacrifices do you think you make each day?
- 3. Do you consider yourself a disciple of Christ?

**Looking at My Destination**

- 1. What is the example Christ set for us to live in his big kingdom of life and glory?

- 2. According to Jesus’ teaching in Luke 14, what is required to be his disciple?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

BEHIND EVERY  
PERSONAL SACRIFICE  
IS A QUEST FOR SOME  
KIND OF TREASURE.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

- 3. Why does Jesus require this?





forgiveness from. Pray together and encourage each one to follow through on these issues.

- Ask the group if there are any other issues they need to confess, including things that they may love more than Jesus.
  - Ask the group if there is anything they feel God is asking them to let go of.
  - Pray the Lord's Prayer together. (See Matthew 6:9–13.)
2. Evaluate the love you have as a group for Christ. Identify areas that you could improve upon. When you meet together, are you just following standards and human expectations, or are you meeting together with God? What is the difference between the two?
  3. How does your time together as a group fulfill Christ's call to give up everything and be his disciple?
  4. Allow time for people to share what they are learning. Ask if they have done any of the **Points of Interest** and if they would share what has come from that.



These past three chapters covered forgiveness, loneliness, and sacrifice—we were reminded of our great neediness. But praise God!

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

—HEBREWS 4:15–16





- 3. We want to confess where we get angry that is caused by selfish desires.



**You Are Here**

- 1. When is the last time you were angry? Why?
- 2. Have you ever felt justified in your anger? Why do you feel it was justified?
- 3. What does anger look and sound like?

**Looking at My Destination**

- 1. Explain the difference between biblical propositions and biblical principles.

- 2. How is the Bible the study of two opposing angers?

- 3. Where did God’s anger finally collide with man’s anger?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
 CHRIST DIED SO THAT  
 YOU WOULD NOT  
 BE A CAPTIVE TO  
 THE SELF-ABSORBED  
 ANGER OF YOUR  
 CLAUSTROPHOBIC  
 LITTLE KINGDOMS.  
 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

- 5. How can anger be proper in God’s kingdom?

















### You Are Here

1. Have you enjoyed reading this book?
2. What questions do you still have that you could pursue the answers for? How will you find the answers to these questions?
3. In what ways has your thinking, your relationship to God, and your lifestyle changed from the truths in *A Quest for More* or from this study guide?

### Looking at My Destination

1. How does Zack's life take on the size of God's big kingdom?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does Zack keep the big kingdom in mind even when living "for himself"?

### DECIDING MY COURSE

1. Take the time to answer the final questions in *A Quest for More*.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Which of those questions do you feel God is working on in your life the most?







■■■■ We are to relate to God and others as a part of God’s creation.

GENESIS 1:24; 2:7

1. Semantically, there is no difference between men and animals. Both are described as *chay nephesh*—“living creatures”.

GENESIS 9:4–10

1. God loves and has a purpose for all of his creation. What suggests that all of God’s creation is special to him?

COLOSSIANS 1:15–16

1. As a part of God’s creation, how should we view our relationship to God?

■■■■ There are important differences that make us as humans unique living creatures as revealed to us in the Genesis account. What differences can you identify in the following passages?

GENESIS 1:26–28

1. What does it mean to be made in the image of God? Is this unique to men?
2. What else sets us apart from the rest of creation?

GENESIS 2:4–5, 15, 19–20

1. For what unique purpose do we see God intended for man in these verses?

GENESIS 2:18–24

1. Why do you think God created Eve from Adam instead

of from the ground like the rest of the living creatures?

2. What is uniquely human about the fact that Eve was created to be a suitable helper and that the two were to become united?
3. In view of God's relational purpose for Adam and Eve, what might we conclude about God's relational purpose for all people since Adam and Eve were told to be fruitful and to increase in number? (See Genesis 1:28.)

#### GENESIS 2:16–17; 3:8–11

1. What can we see in these passages that is unique about God's relationship to man?
2. In light of these purposes for man, do you think we have it better today than life in the garden or worse? What might the world look like today if we consistently followed God's purposes for us?
3. How do you think God defines "being human"?

Answer the following question together now as a group before you each read chapters 1–2 in *A Quest for More* for next week:

*If you had it "all", what would "all" look like?*



## FIRST PETER 1:6–7; 5:1–4

1. How do we know from these passages that there is also a glory for us yet to come? (See also Colossians 3:4.)

## ROMANS 8:17–21

1. Who groans and waits in “eager expectation”?
2. Why does creation groan and for what is it waiting in eager expectation?

## SECOND CORINTHIANS 4:17

## FIRST THESSALONIANS 2:12

1. How should our future glory affect how we live now?

If time allows, answer the following question together now as a group before you each read chapter 3 in *A Quest for More* for next week:

*What is often seen as the good life? Is the “good life” different for Christians than it is for non-Christians?*



## COLOSSIANS 2:13–15

1. What word(s) does Paul use to describe the powers and authorities? To describe Christ? To describe us? To describe our sins?

## COLOSSIANS 2:16–23

1. In light of these truths (vv. 13–15), where should our focus *not* be?

## COLOSSIANS 3:1–4

1. Where *should* our focus be?

## COLOSSIANS 3:5–4:6

1. What behaviors and attitudes should *not* characterize life in the kingdom of light?
2. What behaviors and attitudes *should* characterize life in the kingdom of light?
3. In this kingdom of light, what rules our hearts? What does this look like?
4. What does community look like in the kingdom of light? (Consider Colossians 3:11, 16.)
5. What does our stewardship look like? (Consider Colossians 3:22–4:2.)
6. How does God's truth affect life in this kingdom? (Consider Colossians 2:2–3; 3:2, 9, 10, 16.)

- 7. What other well-known verses talk about “Whatever you do . . .”?
  
- 8. Can you locate verses in Colossians that remind us that the center and focus of the kingdom is Christ?
  
- 9. What verses or ideas from Colossians is the Spirit encouraging you with? Challenging you with?

If time allows, answer the following question together now as a group before you each read chapter 6 in *A Quest for More* for next week:

*What gets you most excited about being a Christian?*



*not so much a fatal situation as it is a rescue from a shrink-wrapped life.*

1. What is the situation from which the writer has been rescued? (Consider vv. 3, 7, 8, 16.)
2. In this psalm, calling on the name of the Lord seems to be more than just crying out to him for help. Consider verses 2, 4, 13, and 17, and explain what the writer has in mind when he says that he called on the name of the Lord and *will call* on the name of the Lord.
3. What are the chains the writer refers to in verse 16? How can he be freed from his chains and yet call himself a servant of the Lord?
4. Where might have been the writer's focus before he decided to call on the name of the Lord? (Consider vv. 10–11.)
5. If this psalm—as I believe it is—is about a man who shrunk his life to the size of his life, his hope was in men and worldly concerns that left him troubled, in sorrow, and in great need. When he believes (v. 10) and turns back to the Lord, he confesses his affliction and his mistakes (vv. 10–11) and places his trust and hope back on the Lord (*called upon the name of the Lord*). In God's great mercy and compassion, God pulls him out of his kingdom of self (*frees him from his chains*) and restores him to God's glorious kingdom to which he willingly and wisely reclaims his place as servant. In light of this

interpretation, what then is the meaning of verse 15?

*Before you begin this study, do a quick check-up on the group regarding their reading.*

If time allows, answer the following question together now as a group before you each read chapter 9 in *A Quest for More* for next week:

*What is often seen as the good life? Is the “good life” different for Christians than it is for non-Christians?*



living is living with the purpose, character, call, grace, and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ as the central motivation and hope for everything you think, desire, do, and say.”

#### PHILIPPIANS 2:1–18

1. What purposes does Paul mention that should place Christ as our focus and motivate our lives?
2. What is the character Paul describes that will place Christ as the focus of our lives?
3. In chapter 10 of *A Quest for More*, the author says a focus on Christ will be characterized by fear of the Lord, by acting on his commands and by loving him above all else. Where in Philippians 2:1–18 do you see these principles?
4. In this passage, where do you see Paul calling us to be dissatisfied with the status quo? Where do you see that Paul finds his satisfaction/joy in Christ? (Consider vv. 1–2, 17–18.)
5. In this passage, where do you see the harmony between God’s structure and our freedom? God’s part and our part?
6. Where do you see that Paul is encouraging us to

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ROBERTSON  
TRANSLATES “BEING  
OF ONE ACCORD” (KJV)  
AS “HARMONIOUS  
IN SOUL, SOULS THAT  
BEAT TOGETHER, IN  
TUNE WITH CHRIST AND  
WITH EACH OTHER.”

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

not write our own musical form or to play our own “notes of autonomy”?

- 7. Paul is calling for unity, not uniformity, in thought. He desires the saints to have a common disposition to work together and serve one another, which is ultimately the humble servant heart “attitude” of Christ. Are you in harmony with the Lord? With one another? Where does your focus need refocusing?
  
- 8. We are to have the same attitude as Christ who took on the nature of a servant. As found in this passage in Philippians, what is the nature of a servant in God’s kingdom?

If time allows, answer the following question together now as a group before you each read chapter 12 in *A Quest for More* for next week:

*If your life were a song, what musical style would it be?*



MATTHEW 13:45–46

1. What represents the kingdom in this parable? (The comparison to the kingdom in this short parable is not the treasure.)
2. Who then does the merchant represent? What does the pearl represent?
3. How would you describe the merchant’s action?
4. How do these two parables fit together?
5. If the pearl represents us, how does that make you feel? How does that affect your relationship with the “merchant”?
6. Do you respond to and view God’s kingdom like the man in verse 44?
7. Can you find other Scripture passages that relate to the ideas in these parables?

If time allows, answer the following question together now as a group before you each read chapter fifteen in *A Quest for More* for next week:

*Do you consider yourself a disciple of Christ?*



*but must now face his brother Esau whom he also had deceived and stolen from many years ago (Genesis 27:41). Jacob is the epitome of little kingdom living. Though he has amassed a large amount of wealth, he has ultimately reduced the size of his life to just the size of his small life.*

1. Why do you think God sends angels to Jacob?
2. What effect does it have on Jacob?
3. What is Jacob's emotional state? Why is he so afraid? (See Genesis 27:41.)
4. What does Jacob acknowledge and ask in his prayer?
5. Does praying change Jacob from needing to be in control?
6. Why do you think Jacob then sends his family and the rest of his possessions ahead of him?
7. What is Jacob's biggest flaw in all of this?
8. Who do you think starts the wrestling match?
9. Why does God wrestle with Jacob? Is it necessary?
10. Who wins the match?

This, in my opinion, is one of the most fascinating stories recorded for us in the Bible. God comes down and actually wrestles with Jacob! Imagine the scene in heaven.

God speaks: Jacob, trust me. I said I would be with you and I meant it. Stop trying to take control! Jacob, don't worry about your brother; I'll take care of it. Jacob, there's no need to be so afraid. Jacob, don't you send your family. Jacob, I mean it. Jacob, son of Isaac, don't make me come down there!

But this is the beauty of this event—God does come down. He leaves his throne so that he can pull Jacob out of his petty, self-absorbed world. God doesn't need to wrestle with Jacob, and God could have won the battle whenever he wanted; but he didn't. He wanted Jacob's submission and that is finally what he got.

#### HOSEA 12:3–4

1. What further description is given about this wrestling match?

*When God injures Jacob, it is in the form of dislocating his leg. Jacob is no longer wrestling; he is clinging. Jacob was no longer looking to his own strength but to God's. Who wins? Jacob. But Jacob only wins because he submits, and in his submission he gains God's blessing.*

2. What is your reaction to this wrestling match?
3. Have you been aware of ways in which God will try to get your attention?
4. God sent Jacob angels, he spoke to him, and then he finally came down personally to “do business” with Jacob. How is God currently making himself known to you?
5. What circumstances has God brought your way to cause you to place your trust and hope in him?

A QUICK WORD ABOUT THESE NOTES ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The notes are provided to give some idea of answers or possible answers to questions. There are very few answers given to the questions found in **Looking at My Destination** because most of these answers can be found in *A Quest for More*. Answers that require a personal kind of reflection are also not provided. Most of the notes are given in reference to questions that are not present in *A Quest for More* and are not of an individual nature. Notes are provided for every **Bible Study** but not for every chapter. Notes on the Bible Studies are usually very complete and answer most questions.















**may we look to for security?** Some answers may include a spouse, family, money, control, etc.

**Question 3: Looking at verses 3–4, what troubles does David face?** He is being cursed and assaulted and falsely accused.

**Question 4: As king, what other means could David had placed his hope and his honor in?** David could have placed his hope in an army, his wealth, his position.

**Question 6: Why should we not place our hope in others or in riches?** They are temporary. They are not as strong and loving as God. They are not our rewards. **What three aspects of God’s person does David remind himself of?** God is strong, loving, and just.

## NOTES ON BIBLE STUDY ONE

*The key idea of this study is to see that we were created for more than just survival and our own self.*

**PAGE 130, GENESIS 9:4–10, QUESTION 1: What suggests that all of God’s creation is special to him?** Although God gives animals to man as food, he also holds expectations of the animals. The best way to understand the statement “I will demand an accounting from every animal” is that even animals will be held accountable if they kill a human. (See also Exodus 21:28.) God also establishes his covenant with man *and* the living creatures that were with Noah.

**PAGE 130, COLOSSIANS 1:15–16, QUESTION 1: As a part of God’s creation, how should we view our relationship to God?** We are his creation. We were created *for him* and he rules over us.

**PAGE 130, GENESIS 1:26–28, QUESTION 1: What does it mean to be made in the image of God? Is this unique to men?** To be made in God's image does not mean we look like God but rather that we have aspects of his nature: We have emotions, intellect, will, memory, and personality. The greatest difference between man and animal is that man possesses the above attributes in greater measure and that we can possess and use these attributes for reasons *beyond just survival*. **What else sets us apart from the rest of creation?** We are to rule over creation.

**PAGE 130, GENESIS 2:4–5, 15, 19–20; QUESTION 1: For what unique purpose do we see God intended for man in these verses?** Man is to work the ground, take care of it, and name the animals.

**PAGE 130, GENESIS 2:18–24; QUESTION 1: Why do you think God created Eve from Adam instead of from the ground like the rest of the living creatures?** It is possible that God wanted to create a more special relationship between men and women.

**PAGE 131, QUESTION 2: What is uniquely human about the fact that Eve was created to be a suitable helper and that the two were to become united?** God was showing that the creation of Adam and Eve and their purpose in the garden was more than just survival. They were to have a social relationship; they were to depend upon each other in a way to help each other. **QUESTION 3: In view of God's relational purpose for Adam and Eve, what might we conclude about God's relational purpose for all people since Adam and Eve were told to be fruitful and to increase in number?** Again, man's life is not just about survival. We are to be in community with others for a greater purpose; we are to care for God's creation and not only ourselves.

**PAGE 131, GENESIS 2:16–17; 3:8–11; QUESTION 1: What can we see in these passages that is unique about God's relationship to man?** God

speaks with them and instructs them; God reveals himself to them and interacts with them; God communicates with man! **QUESTION 2: In light of these purposes for man, do you think we have it better today than life in the garden or worse? What might the world look like today if we consistently followed God's purposes for us?** As seen from God's design for Adam and Eve, we were created to care for creation, to be in community with others, and to receive our guidance and truth from God. There is probably the temptation to think we have it better today because of technology, but we also have lost God's purposes for us. Technology does not reveal truth to us, we cannot socially relate with technology, and we can tend to use technology to only care for ourselves. We have lost harmony with each other, God's creation, and with God himself. **QUESTION 3: How do you think God defines "being human"?** Based on God's design for Adam and Eve, being human is having stewardship over creation, having community with others in a way that is helping others, and having a relationship with God. Anything less is to lose our humanity.

## NOTES ON BIBLE STUDY TWO

*The key idea of this study is that we share in God's glory, but there is also a glory still in store for us. All of creation eagerly waits for us to receive it and, in light of this future glory, we should live our lives worthy of God.*

**PAGE 132, QUESTION 1: According to this prayer, how do we both participate in and share in God's glory?** We participate and share in God's glory by being unified and doing the work Christ calls us to do; by receiving and sharing God's wisdom; by being transformed into his likeness so that we reflect his glory; by believing in the truth and being sanctified by the Spirit. **QUESTION 2: How do we know that Christ had a greater glory waiting for him?** We read Christ's words in John 17:5: "Glorify me with the glory I had

with you before the world began.” He was made lower than the angels but is now crowned with glory and honor.

**PAGE 133, 1 PETER 1:6–7; 5:1–4; QUESTION 1: How do we know from these passages that there is also a glory for us yet to come?** 1 Peter 1:6–7: “. . . may result in praise, glory and honor . . .” 1 Peter 5:1–4: “one who also will share in the glory to be revealed”; “You will receive the crown of glory”; Colossians 3:4: “You also will appear with him in glory.”

**PAGE 133, ROMANS 8:17–21; QUESTION 2: Why does creation groan and for what is it waiting in eager expectation?** Creation wants to be liberated from its bondage to decay; creation has been subjected to frustration; creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

**PAGE 133, 2 CORINTHIANS 4:17; 1 THESSALONIANS 2:12; QUESTION 1: How should our future glory affect how we live now?** We should not “lose heart” but rejoice in what we will receive; we are to live lives that are worthy of God.

## NOTES ON BIBLE STUDY THREE

*The key idea of this study is to see that Christ is the center and focus of the kingdom of light and to find some practical ways we are to live in his kingdom.*

**PAGE 135, COLOSSIANS 2:13–15; QUESTION 1: What word(s) does Paul use to describe the powers and authorities?** disarmed, a public spectacle **To describe Christ?** triumphant **To describe us?** alive **To describe our sins?** forgiven

**PAGE 135, COLOSSIANS 2:16–23; QUESTION 1: In light of these truths, where should our focus *not* be?** False humility, on shadows of things to come, the basic principles and rules of the world, self-imposed worship, human regulations and traditions, human wisdom

**PAGE 135, COLOSSIANS 3:1–4; QUESTION 1: Where *should* our focus be?** Our focus should be on Christ and on things above, not earthly things.

**PAGE 135, COLOSSIANS 3:5–4:6; QUESTION 3: In this kingdom of light, what rules our hearts?** The peace of Christ **What does this look like?** Some possible answers are: There will be a lack of worry, a lack of conflict, and love. **QUESTION 4: What does community look like in the kingdom of light?** We are all one; we bear with each other, forgiving each other; we teach and admonish one another. **QUESTION 5: What does our stewardship look like?** We do everything as working for the Lord; it is Christ we are serving. **QUESTION 6: How does God’s truth affect life in this kingdom?** We are given the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; we are not to lie to each other; we are being renewed in knowledge; Christ’s word dwells in us.

**PAGE 136, QUESTION 7: What other well-known verse talks about “Whatever you do . . .”?** 1 Corinthians 10:13 **QUESTION 8: Can you locate verses in Colossians that remind us that the center and focus of the kingdom is Christ?** Colossians 1:15–18; 2:17; 3:4, 11, 17, 24

## NOTES ON BIBLE STUDY FOUR

*The key idea of this study is to see God's mercy in rescuing us from ourselves and to see that God delights in the "death" of our selves.*

**PAGE 138, QUESTION 1: What is the situation from which the writer has been rescued?** Although verse 3 talks about the "cords of death" and the "anguish of the grave," it seems as if the situation was not physical death because the writer also describes himself as "overcome by trouble and sorrow." In verse 7, it seems it was his soul that was not "at rest" and he rejoices that his soul was delivered from death, his eyes from tears, and his feet from stumbling. A life or body can be delivered from death, but not our soul, and it seems unlikely to describe physical death as feet that stumble. In verse 16, the writer describes his trouble as being chains from which he was freed. All this seems to point to an affliction other than physical death from which he was rescued. **QUESTION 2: Explain what the writer has in mind when he says that he called on the name of the Lord and will call on the name of the Lord.** Although verse 4 seems to have the idea of calling on God for help, this idea does not fit verses 13 and 17 where calling on the name of the Lord is a response of thanksgiving and a way for the psalmist to repay the Lord. The idea of calling on the name of the Lord seems to carry less the idea of needing help and more the idea of placing your hope, your trust, and your life in God's hands. It is more than calling for help; it is calling upon as an act of worship and surrender. **QUESTION 3: What are the chains the writer refers to in verse 16? How can he be freed from his chains and yet call himself a servant of the Lord?** The chains were whatever was troubling him and keeping his soul from being at rest and from living. He is freed from his chains because he is no longer in bondage to the lies of men and whatever was causing his affliction, but he is a servant because he has given himself back to God. **QUESTION 4: Where might have been the writer's focus before he decides to call on the name of the Lord?** Consider verses 10 and

11. It seems possible his focus was on the world; he bought into the lies of men. His focus was on “living the good life” of the world which he discovers is a lie. **QUESTION 5: What then is the meaning of verse 15?** The writer is not talking about a physical death but a spiritual death to self. This kind of death to self is precious in God’s sight.

## NOTES ON BIBLE STUDY FIVE

*The key idea of this study is that each of us is called to be a servant just as Christ was. We want to see that being a Christian servant means being united with Christ and with others in harmony together, placing others above yourself, serving in God’s power without complaining or arguing.*

**PAGE 141, QUESTION 1: In Philippians 2:1–18, what purposes does Paul mention that should place Christ as our focus and motivate our lives?** Unity, to have the same attitude as Christ, to act according to God’s good purposes, so that we might be blameless and pure, that we might shine like stars in the universe. **QUESTION 2: What is the character Paul describes that will place Christ as the focus of our lives?** Humility, being one in spirit and purpose, looking to the interest of others, doing everything without complaining or arguing. **QUESTION 3: A focus on Christ will be characterized by fear of the Lord, by acting on his commands, and by loving him above all else. Where in Philippians 2:1–18 do you see these principles?** Verse 12: “Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling” **QUESTION 4: In this passage, where do you see Paul calling us to be dissatisfied with the status quo?** Paul encourages them to work out their salvation, to hold out the word of life, to shine in a crooked and depraved generation. **Where do you see that Paul finds his satisfaction/joy in Christ?** Paul is glad to give up his life for Christ; he looks to the future when he will boast on the day of Christ. **QUESTION 5:**

**In this passage where do you see the harmony between God’s structure and our freedom? God’s part and our part?** God has given Christ as an example of how our attitude should be—considering others better than ourselves—this is a structure for us to live by. We have freedom in being one in spirit and purpose. Our part is to be humble and loving toward others, to not complain and to hold out the word of life; it is God’s part to make us shine and to work in us to act according to his will. **Where do you see that Paul is encouraging us to not write our own musical form or to play our own “notes of autonomy”?** By encouraging us to be one in purpose, to be like-minded, to have an attitude of humility.

**PAGE 142, QUESTION 8: As found in this passage in Philippians, what is the nature of a servant in God’s kingdom?** It is to consider others better than yourself, to willingly serve others and work alongside others for the same purposes, to not complain or argue, to hold out the word of life, to look to God to work in you to accomplish his will.

## NOTES ON BIBLE STUDY SIX

*The key purpose of this study is to respond to God’s incalculable love for us by surrendering all we have to gain Him.*

**PAGE 143, QUESTION 1: What is Jesus comparing the kingdom to?** A treasure hidden in a field. **QUESTION 2: In what way is the treasure, the kingdom of heaven, hidden?** It is a spiritual kingdom that cannot be seen; it is hidden because Satan can blind the minds of unbelievers. Even Jesus taught in parables as a means of keeping the truths of the kingdom hidden but also as a way of revealing what was once hidden. **QUESTION 3: Who does the man represent?** Someone who discovers the value of God’s kingdom. **Is his action wise?** In the parable, his actions are wise because he

receives more than he gives away—he makes a profit. **QUESTION 4: What is Jesus’ point in this short parable?** God’s kingdom is worth giving up everything you have in order to possess it. (You may want to point out that Jesus’ parables were not necessarily meant to be dissected in every detail. They are told to convey a main idea and important truth about the kingdom of God.)

**PAGE 144, QUESTION 1: What represents the kingdom in this parable?** A merchant. **QUESTION 2: Who then does the merchant represent?** Jesus Christ, who gave his life in order to win us. **What does the pearl represent?** Us, mankind (This may create some questions or disagreement; study it for yourself and be willing to allow for disagreement.) **QUESTION 3: How would you describe the merchant’s action?** Some answers may include wise, risky, intentional, etc. **QUESTION 4: How do these two parables fit together?** We are of great value to God, and God should be of great value to us.

## NOTES ON BIBLE STUDY SEVEN

*The key idea of this study is that God loves us so much that he will do whatever it takes to get us to submit to him so that we might enjoy the blessings of his kingdom.*

**PAGE 146, QUESTION 1: Why do you think God sends angels to Jacob?** Possibly to reassure Jacob, remind Jacob that he is with him, encourage Jacob. **QUESTION 2: What effect does it have on Jacob?** Seemingly not much; Jacob still seems worried about meeting with Esau. Note: Jacob’s problem is he does not completely surrender his own little kingdom; in fact he calls that place where the angels meet with him “Mahanaim” which means “two camps,” possibly reflecting Jacob’s perspective that he share control with God. **QUESTION 3: What is Jacob’s emotional state?** Fearful.

**Why is he so afraid?** Esau had threatened to kill Jacob and held a grudge against him. **QUESTION 4: What does Jacob acknowledge and ask in his prayer?** Jacob acknowledges that it is God who has blessed him. Jacob asks God to save him from Esau. Note: Do you sense a tone of manipulation in this prayer? **QUESTION 5: Does praying change Jacob from needing to be in control?** No, he still attempts to save his family by his own wisdom. **QUESTION 6: Why do you think Jacob then sends his family and the rest of his possessions ahead of him?** Possibly to protect them or possibly to protect himself. **QUESTION 7: What is Jacob's biggest flaw in all of this?** Jacob keeps control instead of relinquishing control to God. **QUESTION 8: Who do you think starts the wrestling match?** We can't really know, but it is interesting to think about. I think it was probably God. **QUESTION 9: Why does God wrestle with Jacob?** God's intention is to get Jacob to submit. **Is it necessary?** It probably is—God knows just what we need and his discipline is perfect. (See Heb 12:5–11.) **QUESTION 10: Who wins the match?** God wins because Jacob finally submits to him, but it is also Jacob who wins because his submission wins God's blessing.

**PAGE 147, QUESTION 1: What further description is given about this wrestling match?** Jacob wept and begged for God's favor.





The transcendent glory  
that every human being quests for,  
whether he knows it or not, is not a thing;  
it is a person, and his name is *God*.



