

✦ FAITH STEPPING STONE 4: SESSION 6 ✦



A Faith Inkubators System Theme Set www.faithink.com Cover art by Dr. He Qi www.heqiarts.com

MY BIBLE
The Good News
TEAM PLANNING GUIDE



FAITH STEPPING STONES



The Good News

MY BIBLE VI

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” –John 1:1

I. OPENING

A. Gathering Music

Shortly before starting time, your Master Musician, MC, and Music Team gather guests in to your presentation space to set the mood of joy and vitality with upbeat, familiar songs relating to the Gospels. Project lyrics so all hands are free for clapping and motions. When all are gathered, play the karaoke “New Testament Rap” by Bryan Sirchio from the PowerPoint presentation. Consider leading the song with guests standing in a circle for a backrub. With the first phrase (“Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, First and Second Corinthians”) use fingernails up and down your neighbor’s back. With the second phrase, use karate chops. With the third phrase, make circular motions on each back. (Wax on, wax off). Repeat each phrase after the leader, alternating backrub techniques. When the song repeats, switch directions and start over again.

B. Welcome, Introductions & Ice Breakers

At the stroke of the hour, stage a countdown (10, 9, 8, 7... slide provided) and introduce the Host. Thank guests for their attention, make key announcements, and welcome special visitors. If you wish to warm the group up further, try this Ice Breaker by Nora Tahtinen:

Musical Questions

ITEMS NEEDED: Music (live or CD), chairs for guests, sticky notes containing questions for each group

Arrange chairs in small group circles with one chair for each person and the seats facing out. Invite guests to stand around the outside of the circle. Instruct them to walk around the circle while music plays and to sit in a chair as soon as the music stops. Have the last guest to sit look under his chair and find the sticky note posted there. He must read it, answer the question, and put the sticky note back. Continue playing as time permits. (Some question ideas are: What is your favorite... book, food, color, movie, place to go? What is the most valuable thing you own? With whom do you most like to spend time?)

C. FINKmania Quiz Bowl

Invite individuals or small groups to team up for a quick preview of the theme using the FINKmania PowerPoint slides or the printed questions on page 8.

D. Theme Introduction

Introduce the theme “The Good News” using the PowerPoint slides. An instrumental version of the theme song is embedded to help you set the mood. You may wish to have readers prepped to read the cartoon as it appears. *Note: The first four slides will advance themselves. Click to begin the prayer time and proceed at your own pace.*

Objective:

To create a theme event that leads guests to understand the messages of the good news of what God has done to free the world in Jesus Christ; and to lead parents and children toward the commitment of reading a Bible verse every night in every home.



*It's a sin to bore a
kid with the Gospel
of Jesus Christ.*

– Jim Rayburn

E. Opening Prayer

Invite all guests to relax, quiet their minds and bodies, and stretch. Listen for or feel your pulse. Think of it as a gift. Now, reach out to a hand near you. Assign a leader (L) to lead the following as a litany:

L: Creator of the Universe, you are holy, awesome, mighty, and wonderful.

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: Creator of the Universe, you lost your perfect world to sin, and made a plan to buy it back by coming to earth as a baby.

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: Your Son, Jesus, lived a perfect life, taught us your loving will, then suffered and died in our place.

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: He was buried, then he rose on Easter. He promises to return to claim us as His own and show us the path to you in heaven.

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: Holy God, Holy Jesus, Holy Spirit, you were, and are, and are to come. You are awesome! You are loving. And you are on our side.

P: Be with us now and teach us the Good News of your marvelous love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

F. Theme Song

Unveil the theme song “In the Beginning” embedded in the PowerPoint slide and found on the “Attentive to this Word” CD. Create dance, hand motions, or a modified American Sign Language to solidify the verse into memory. Practice this song with senior high youth and leadership team members so you can teach the verse with energy and enthusiasm. Key words for signing the chorus include: In, Beginning, Word, God.

II. THEME PRESENTATION

A. Life Line

What is the best news you've ever received? What did that news do to you? For you? Did it change any aspect of your life? Your relationships? Your decisions? What did you do with that news? With whom did you share it? Relate this to the Good News of what God has done for you in Jesus Christ.

B. Skit of the Week

Follow this section by inviting your Theme Team, senior high troupe, or a small group to reinforce the theme with the skit provided. Have fun with costuming, props, lighting, and other theatrics. Create something your guests will enjoy and remember. Consider using puppets or a combination of puppets and people. Be loud and clear. Ask musicians to improvise music or play the instrumental theme song in the background.

C. Bible Time

Spend the next block of presentation time walking through an overview of the New Testament, followed by key themes from Matthew to Acts.

I. NT Overview

Write the number 27 on the board and ask guests what the number represents. By now guests should be able to tell you that they can remember the number of books in the Old Testament by counting the letters in the words OLD (3) and TESTAMENT (9) and putting them together (39). The New Testament numbers can be



remembered by multiplying the number of letters in the words “New” (3) and “Testament” (9). Three times nine is 27. The New Testament is a collection of 27 books written by eyewitnesses to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, plus by St. Paul, who never met Jesus until he appeared to him in a blinding vision on the road to Damascus. The NT is normally divided into five major parts. If you are using the large bookshelf as a prop, refer to it again at this time.

- **A. THE GOSPELS:** Write “God” and “Spell” on newsprint. These are four accounts of the life of Jesus written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It is “God’s Spell” in the Old English word—the Good News of what God did to free the world from sin.
- **B. THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES:** Write “Apostle” on newsprint and ask for a definition. It is from the Greek word meaning “sent forth.” This book, written by Luke, tells about the great deeds and adventures Jesus’ first followers experienced after Jesus returned to God and sent the Holy Spirit to the followers of Jesus.
- **C. THE WRITINGS OF PAUL:** When Saul was out beating up and arresting Christians, he had a vision of Jesus that changed his life forever. His name was changed to Paul and he went across the Middle East and southern Europe to tell non-Jewish people about the amazing grace of God in Christ.
- **D. THE UNIVERSAL LETTERS:** These general (or catholic) letters are full of advice on how to live the Christian life.
- **E. THE REVELATION OF JOHN:** This book contains a vision revealed to St. John, while he was exiled on the island of Patmos. It tells of a great cosmic battle that will wage between the forces of evil and the forces of God before Christ returns, ends the world, and ushers in a new heaven and earth.

Use the second PowerPoint slide to ask “What is a Gospel?” and have guests name the four Gospels.

2. Table of Contents: The Good News

Invite guests to open Bibles to the table of contents and review the New Testament. Now highlight the books from Matthew to John as you pronounce each by name. Consider singing that portion of the New Testament Rap from the first PowerPoint slide. Make a bracket around those books and write “Gospels = Good News” in the margin. Next highlight Acts, making an arrow from it to the book of Luke, explaining that Luke wrote this account of what happened after Jesus returned to God and sent the Holy Spirit.

3. Key Themes & Mini-Interruptions

It is time to read this session’s 15 key verses and invite children to highlight them in their new Bibles. Print copies of the Guest Handouts ahead of time and assign leaders to present each mini-interruption suggested below. Distribute highlighter pens, bookmarks, and copies of the Guest Handout to each family.

- Read each passage, using volunteers. Don’t force anyone to read aloud.
- Highlight each verse and comment briefly, then move on.
- Present the mini-interruption in approximately two minutes.
- Invite children to draw a quick image or logo to represent the verse in the squares found under “Symbols and Bible Notes” on the Guest Handout sheet.

NOTE: Tag-team the next section with different youth, team members, and voices prepped to present the comments and mini-interruptions.

- **A. SALT OF THE EARTH: MATTHEW 5:3-10, 13A, 14, 16** Turn to the book of Matthew and write “The First Gospel: Bridging Old to New” under the title. Hand out bowls or bags of unsalted popcorn. What would make the treat more appealing? Salt! Salt adds flavor to everything it touches. It also preserves

When Jesus put the little child in the midst of His disciples, He did not tell the little child to become like His disciples. He told the disciples to become like the little child.

– Ruth Bell Graham



If Jesus Christ were to come today, people would not even crucify him. They would ask him to dinner, and hear what he had to say, and make fun of it.

– Thomas Carlyle

things. It also aids in healing. Jesus says his followers are to be the salt of the earth. How? Read and highlight the verses, writing “Be+Attitudes” in margin near verses 3-10, and “Salt of the Earth” near verse 14.

- **B. THE LORD’S PRAYER: MATTHEW 6:9-13** Move to your knees to read and highlight the verse, writing “The Lord’s Prayer” in margins. When Jesus’ followers asked him to teach them to pray, this is the prayer he taught them. It is recited today by millions and is regarded as the perfect prayer. Much of our prayer today is “gimee gimee gimee” prayer. Invite guests to begin praying the prayer and, midway through, stage an actor or puppet interruption. “Dear God, I want nice weather tomorrow, and a raise in my allowance, and a new bike, and a 62-inch plasma TV, and all the Game Boy games, and I want...” Interrupt the interrupter, asking if he doesn’t think his prayer is a little selfish. Notice the request for “daily bread” doesn’t come until well into the praise and honor parts of the prayer. What does that tell us about prayer? About us?

- **C. GO THEREFORE: MATTHEW 28:19-20** These words are the last words that the writer of Matthew records Jesus saying to his followers. These words are called “The Great Commission.” How good of a job are you doing in following Jesus’ last words? We are supposed to be making disciples, followers of Jesus. Do you know anyone at home or at school who doesn’t know Jesus? Read and highlight the verse, writing “Go Therefore: The Great Commission” in margins. Now raise everyone to their feet and chant the Great Commission together Army style while marching together:

“Go therefore and make disciples” (echo)

“Of all nations, baptizing them” (echo)

“In the name of the Father” (echo)

“Son and Holy Spirit. Amen!” (echo)

“Sound off!” (one two) “Sound off!” (three four)

“Cadence count!” (one two three four, one two [beat] three four!)

“Teaching them to obey” (echo)

“Everything that I say” (echo)

“I am with you always” (echo)

“To the end of the age” (echo)

“Sound off!” (one two) “Sound off!” (three four)

“Cadence count!” (one two three four, one two [beat] three four!)

- **D. TAKE UP THEIR CROSS: MARK 8:34-37** Turn to the book of Mark and write “The Second Gospel: First Record” under the title. Scholars tell us that Mark’s story is probably the first written account of Jesus’ life and teachings. It is also the shortest. Invite guests to lash two sticks together with leather strips, or distribute rough nail crosses to all. The cross, in Jesus’ day, was the cruelest, most gruesome form of torture known. As a matter of fact, shortly after Jesus was crucified, the Romans outlawed crucifixion as too cruel. Can you imagine the shock of people when they heard Jesus’ words? What do you think the disciples felt when they heard Jesus telling them to follow him to death? Read and highlight the verse, writing “Take Up Their Cross” in margins. Press the cross into your hand until it makes a mark and starts to hurt. Jesus went through much more than this for you!

- **E. LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME: MARK 10:14** A puppet (or actor) pops up and tells you to get rid of all of the children in the room. “This is important Bible study time. We don’t have room for kids! Get them out! Out! Out! Shoo! You bug me! Get out! Out, I say!” You explain Jesus’ wouldn’t allow such a negative attitude toward children. One day when he was teaching, some people brought children to him for a blessing. The disciples tried to get rid of the children, too. Jesus scolded them and told them the words from the next verse. Read and



highlight the verse, writing “Let the Little Children Come” in margins.

- **F. LOVE THE LORD: MARK 12:28-31** **A** Up on your feet! There will be four motions for this next Bible verse. First, grip your heart. Second, grip your shoe. Third, place both of your hands on your head á la “Home Alone.” Fourth, create a muscle-flexing pose. Go through these motions three times saying, “Heart, soul, mind, and strength!” Read and highlight the verse, writing “The Greatest Commandment: Love the Lord” in margins.
- **G. MAGNIFY THE LORD: LUKE 1:47-49** Turn to the book of Luke and write “The Third Gospel: Dr. Luke, Part I” under the title. Unlike Matthew, who wrote to a mostly Jewish audience, Luke wrote his amazing account of Jesus’ life in a way that non-Jewish people would read it and believe. Read verses 1-3. To whom is Luke writing? This is only the first part of the good Doctor’s story. The second part is called “The Acts of the Apostles.” Page ahead and read Acts 1:1. Write “Dr. Luke, Part II” under the title. Read and highlight the verse above. When Mary found out she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit and would bear the Savior of the world, she went to see her elderly cousin, Elizabeth. When they met, she exclaimed these words, which are sometimes called the “Magnificat.” What does magnificent mean? It means “so splendid as to arouse admiration and wonder.” What does it mean to magnify something? It means to make something larger and still keep it clear! Mary’s praise of God made it clear who was great in her estimation. As you speak, a guest enters with a magnifying glass, asking you where she can find a cat. You explain there is no cat in your space. She insists that she was told to come and “magnifi-cat” or something like that. Invite guests to write “Magnificat: Make the Lord Great” in the margins.
- **H. DO NOT BE AFRAID LITTLE FLOCK: LUKE 12:32** Read and highlight the verse, writing “Do Not Be Afraid Little Flock” in margins. Sheep can be frightened easily. Break into groups of four and compose a quick list of things that frighten people your age. Allow one minute for this, then count your lists. Whoever has the longest list is awarded a prize and invited to read it aloud. How can we keep from being afraid? We can trust the Good Shepherd!
- **I. STONES WOULD SHOUT: LUKE 19:38-40** Read and highlight the verses above, writing “Stones Shout” in the margin. Interrupt your reading with two rock-like puppets shouting “hosanna” and explaining the scene around this verse: Jesus was riding into Jerusalem the week of his death. People were putting their coats on the ground so that his donkey would walk on them. Others were cutting down palm branches, waving them and placing them on the ground to pave his way. They thought he was going to be their new king—a king who would kick the occupying Roman army out and set up a kingdom like David had. We call this day Palm Sunday. The religious leaders and rulers were aggravated, and wanted Jesus to make the people stop their shouting and celebrations. This was Jesus’ reply. All of heaven was rejoicing, so much so, that if the people stopped, all of nature would take over! “We call this rock music!”
- **J. IN THE BEGINNING: JOHN 1:1-5, 9-12, 14** Turn to the book of John and write “The Fourth Gospel: The Cosmic Word” under the title. We call the Bible “the Word of God.” Here, Jesus is seen as “the Word of God” in human flesh. Your rock puppets heckle you: “See! The Bible mentions baseball! In the big inning!” Read and highlight the verse, writing “In the Beginning: See Genesis 1:1” in margins. Flip to Genesis 1:1 and write “In the Beginning: See John 1:1” in margins.
- **K. FOR GOD SO LOVED: JOHN 3:16** This verse is called the “Gospel in a nutshell” or “the Little Bible.” Have you ever seen people wave signs at football and baseball games with John 3:16 on it? Now you know what they are saying! This is a wonderful verse to memorize because it tells us why Jesus came to earth. Read and highlight the verse, writing “For God So Loved” in margins.
- **L. INDEED, GOD: JOHN 3:17** Place a volunteer from each group flat on the floor. Invite the rest of the group members to kneel around the volunteer and place their hands on the volunteer’s arms and legs. On the count of three, have them

*Jesus Christ is tough
as nails and he’s
dying to meet you.*

– Bumper Sticker



If you listen to
Jesus carefully, you
worship not by going
through the liturgy
and jumping through
hoops. How do you
worship? 'When did
I see you hungry
and poor and feed
you...'

– Bill Easum



push down and whisper, "Condemn, condemn, condemn!" Now have them slip their hands under the volunteer's arms and legs and slowly lift her from the ground whispering, "Grace, grace, grace!" Jesus didn't come into the world to condemn us! Our sin condemns us enough. Jesus came to lift the weight of sin off from us and set us free. Read and highlight the verse and write "Indeed, God" in margins.

- **M. RIVERS OF LIVING WATER: JOHN 4:13-15, 7:38b** Pull out pitchers of pure, clean ice water and pour everyone a drink. Stage a toast: "Here's to the Water of Life! Jesus!" Read and highlight the verse, writing "Rivers of Living Water" in margins.
- **N. LOVE ONE ANOTHER: JOHN 15:12-13** Would you die for anyone? Is there anyone in the world who would die for you? Parents share a very powerful love for their children. Even on a day when their children treat them bad, they would still take a bullet for the child. Most people don't know the meaning of the word "love" until they experience this kind of selfless giving. Read and highlight the verse, writing "Love One Another" in the margin. Write "Mandate-Command-Maundy Thursday" in margins also. The Thursday of Holy Week is called "Maundy (Command) Thursday" because on this day Jesus gave the new command that we should love one another. *Optional Activity: Prior to this session, locate addresses of your local police department or fire department or of a member of the military from your congregation. Break into groups of three and write a quick thank-you note to those who are putting their lives on the line for you.*
- **O. YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER: ACTS 1:8** Turn to the book of Acts and write "Dr. Luke, Part II" under the title if you haven't already done so. As you speak, a puppet (or actor) appears with a radio, fan, or other electric appliance, lamenting the fact that it doesn't work. You shake it, rattle it, then play with the nob. Finally you ask if you can plug it in and try it. "Plug it in? Plug it in? Why would I do that?" asks the puppet. "You can have all the potential, but if you don't plug in to the power, nothing is going to happen." Read and highlight the verse, writing "Power" in margins. The book of Acts is all about what happened to the disciples and friends of Jesus after he left and sent the Holy Spirit to give them power. They started out as frightened, uneducated fishermen. They ended up changing the world in the power of the Risen Christ. This book is the second half of Luke's account to Theophilus. Write the words "Theo" and "Philos" on newsprint in large letters and in the margin of your Bibles. Do you know any other words that contain these words? Theodore means "gift of God." Philadelphia means "City of Brotherly Love." The name Theophilus means "Lover of God." This letter might have been written to a leader long ago, but it is also written to you! Will you plug into the power?

D. The Weakest FINK (Terms of the Week)

Use PowerPoint slides or play a game of Charades to guess the following terms, also found on Guest Handout 4: Christ, Gospel, Jesus, Messiah, New Testament.

III. SMALL GROUP TIME

Create small groups of six to eight people. Keep parents and their own children together. Start by inviting guests to share the best and worst things that happened to them this week, one-on-one with another person. Then share your partner's highs and lows with the group. Discuss the Thought Time questions. Assign a different person each week to give a final report and bring a prayer back to the Wrap-up Reflection time. Discuss the Terms of the Week together as a group.

IV. CLOSING

A. Theme Song Review

Gather groups back when you hear the theme song begin. Dim all lights and add candles to set a contemplative mood. Sing the song together with added sign language, motions, and dance. Focus on the key words, and what they now mean in light of what you have experienced in this session.

B. Wrap-up Reflection

Thank guests for their attention once again, then reflect on the Bible verse and theme one final time before prayers and blessings. Let them read the PowerPoint silently as the theme song plays or is sung live. Move from there into prayer.

C. Prayers

Invite each small group to bring at least one prayer to this closing time. Invite other guests with special concerns to pray aloud at this time or write their concerns on slips of paper and hand them to you for public reading. Continue with the soft version of the theme song to maintain the mood. Now praise God for sending his Son to save us. Thank Jesus for dying on the cross in our place. Ask the Spirit for help in believing in Jesus and living like him.

D. Benediction & Blessing

Give a group benediction. Then invite parents and children to step to the altar, font, or front of your space and bless one another with Safe Touch #3, a cross on each forehead and the following words or their own favorite blessing:

“(Name), child of God, may the living Word of God, Jesus, be in your heart today and forever.”

E. Credits

Even if people are departing, milling about, or seeming not to be noticing the credits, let them roll! In a world that is used to film events, this will give a subtle, sub-conscious message that this is not your ordinary class.

From the beginning countdown to these rolling credits, use every tool in your arsenal to get the message across that this is something special!

*Injustice anywhere
is a threat to justice
everywhere.*

– Martin Luther King, Jr.



the FINKmania Quiz Bowl



MY BIBLE VI

THE TEN QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: The Bible is divided into: A. Old and New Testaments, B. The stories about what God did before Jesus, and the stories of what God did once Jesus came to earth, C. BC and AD, D. All of the above

QUESTION 2: The New Testament begins with: A. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, B. The Gospels, C. The Good News of Jesus Christ, D. All of the above

QUESTION 3: The word "Gospel" means: A. God's Spell, B. Good News, C. Both A & B, D. Neither A nor B

QUESTION 4: In Matthew 5, Jesus said, "You are the _____ of the earth.": A. Salt, B. Pepper, C. Sugar, D. Chocolate

QUESTION 5: When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he told them: A. "Now I lay me down to sleep," B. "Come Lord Jesus, be our guest," C. "Be present at our table, Lord," D. "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name"

QUESTION 6: The Great Commission from Matthew 28:19-20, says: A. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," B. "Go make disciples of all nations," C. "Do unto others before they do unto you," D. "Get more!"

QUESTION 7: Jesus said the greatest commandment is: A. "You shall have no other gods before me," B. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength," C. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself," D. "Get more!"

QUESTION 8: Where is the following verse found: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life."? A. Genesis 1:1, B. Psalm 23, C. John 3:16, D. John 16:3

QUESTION 9: Which of these characters does not appear in the Gospels?: A. Jesus, B. Mary, C. Moses, D. Peter

FINKMANIA QUIZBOWL FINAL QUESTION:

Which Gospel writer also wrote the book of Acts?: A. Matthew, B. Mark, C. Luke, D. Sven

Three Ways to Play

High Tech: PowerPoints Projected

Choose individuals, small groups or random teams to serve as contestants. Distribute buzzers, bells or coffee cans to each team to use to signal they know an answer. Project the PowerPoint slides over head as you read them. The team with the most points wins.

Mid Tech: PowerPoints on TV

If you don't have a projector but do have a television, display the PowerPoint slides on your screen by hooking up your computer to the tube with a \$100 converter like the Avermedia unit at www.avermedia.com

Low Tech: Team versus Team

Gather teams up front and read questions one by one. Have each team choose a "human buzzer" to make a sound. When they know an answer, tap their buzzer's head for the sound. Award two points for correct answers and subtract one for incorrect answers. In the end, groups may wager all or part of their points on the final question.

FINKmania & Weakest FINK Songs by

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FINKmania ANSWER KEY

Quiz Answers: 1-D, 2-D, 3-C, 4-A,
5-D, 6-B, 7-B, 8-C, 9-C, 10-C



FAITH
IN KUBATORS

Living WATER

FSS IV: Theme VI Skit by Rich Melheim

CHARACTERS: Seller, 4 people in line

SETTING: Water stand marked "Living Water"

PROPS: Pitcher of water, cups, cash

(Music for "Living Water" plays)

SELLER: Living water! Step right up! Get your living water here. Living water!

PERSON 1: Uh, how much?

SELLER: How much what?

PERSON 1: How much does it cost?

SELLER: How much you got?

PERSON 1: A buck.

SELLER: That's all you've got?

PERSON 1: Yeah. A buck.

SELLER: Then that's what it costs. (Filling a glass and taking the money) Next! Living water! Step right up! Get your living water here.

PERSON 2: (Handing a dollar) I'll take one.

SELLER: One what?

PERSON 2: One living water.

SELLER: That'll be ten bucks.

PERSON 2: What? It only cost him \$1.

SELLER: How much you got?

PERSON 2: Why does that matter?

SELLER: How much do you have?

PERSON 2: (Looking in wallet) Ten bucks.

SELLER: Then that's what it costs. (Filling a glass and taking the money) Next.

PERSON 3: Uh, one please.

SELLER: (Pouring the glass) Thirteen hundred dollars, please.

PERSON 3: What? You crazy?

SELLER: Nope. Thirteen hundred or move over. Next!

PERSON 3: Look. I'm thirsty.

SELLER: How much you got?

PERSON 3: Why does that matter?

SELLER: How much?

PERSON 3: (Looking in wallet) Thirteen... how did you know I had thirteen hundred

in my wallet?

SELLER: You just sold your used car for \$1295 and the guy gave you an extra five.

PERSON 3: Yeah but... (amazed) How did you know that?

SELLER: I have my ways. (Filling a glass and taking the money) Next.

PERSON 4: Uh, one please. But I'm not giving you all I've got.

SELLER: (Pouring the glass) Yeah, you are. If you want living water, it'll take everything you've got.

PERSON 4: No way!

SELLER: Yahweh. Everything you've got or no deal. Next!

PERSON 4: What? You crazy?

SELLER: Yup. Crazy like a fox. Next!

PERSON 4: Look. I'm thirsty.

SELLER: I know. And I've got living water.

PERSON 4: I'll just go to the next stand and get some living water if you don't sell it to me for a buck.

SELLER: Go ahead. But they have regular water. I've got living water.

PERSON 4: Huh? Is there bacteria in it or something?

SELLER: (Pouring the glass) You're a real comedian, aren't you!

PERSON 4: I'm going to the next guy. All the water is the same, you know.

SELLER: Mine's not.

PERSON 4: What makes you think your water is so special?

SELLER: It's living water. And it's worth everything you've got.

PERSON 4: I'm going. See ya... (turning, then turning back) I'm really going to the next guy.

SELLER: Okay. See ya. Next please!

PERSON 4: I'm walking and I'm walking and I'm walking... A-Way.

SELLER: Okay. Next.

PERSON 4: (Coming back) Okay. Look,

I've already had their water, and... well... it just leaves me thirsty again.

SELLER: (Pouring the glass) And again and again and again.

PERSON 4: And I want the living water.

SELLER: Hand over the wallet.

PERSON 4: But I'm not giving you everything I've got. How about 5%? After taxes.

SELLER: Nope. All or nothing. Next!

PERSON 4: Look. I'm really thirsty. What if I give you 10%.

SELLER: Right off the top?

PERSON 4: Right off the top.

SELLER: Ahhhh... nope! All or nothing.

PERSON 4: Fifteen, and that's my final offer.

SELLER: Nope. All or nothing. Next!

PERSON 4: Look. I can't afford to give you everything.

SELLER: For living water? That's what it costs and that's what it's worth.

PERSON 4: (Reaching into pocket, pulling out a stash of cash) Okay! Okay!

SELLER: Ah, there's more in the hidden compartment.

PERSON 4: (muttering, reaching extra cash) Okay! Okay! But it better be good!

SELLER: And the shoe.

PERSON 4: (muttering, reaching into shoe) Okay! Okay! Take it! Take it all! (Pulling off watch) You want my gold tooth, too?

SELLER: Ahhhhhh... nope. Here's the water.

PERSON 4: (Grabbing at water) At last!

SELLER: Wait a minute!

PERSON 4: Look! I've given you everything. Give me the water!

SELLER: I don't want your money.

PERSON 4: I don't have anything else!

SELLER: You can have all your money back. Your money can't buy living water.

PERSON 4: Ahhhh! Then how can I get it?

SELLER: It's free. I don't want your money.

PERSON 4: Ahhhh! Then why did you put me through all of this?

SELLER: I just wanted to see if you were willing to give it all to get the living water. Here. It's yours. Free of charge.

PERSON 4: (Drinking an entire glass) Ahhhh! Now that's living water!

SELLER: Yup. Pretty good, eh?

PERSON 4: You said it. I'm going to tell all my friends.

SELLER: You do that. You do that. Next! (Music for "Living Water" fades in)

FAITH STEPPING STONES
MY BIBLE VI

The Good News



A Faith Incubators System Theme Set www.faithink.com Cover art by Dr. He Qi www.heqiarts.com

“In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God.”

– John 1:1



The Good News

Highs & Lows

Share *Highs & Lows* from the past week one-on-one with a partner from your Small Group. After a few minutes, return and share your partner's highs and lows with your group. Hold hands in a circle or lock arms in a huddle and share your wish for your partner.

My partner's high:

*In the beginning
was the Word, and
the Word was with
God, and the Word
was God.*

My partner's low:

A wish for my partner:

– John 1:1

Thought Time *Share your thoughts on the following questions:*

1. What is one thing you learned today that you want to remember?

2. What is one thing you already knew that you believe is worth repeating?

3. What is one thing you'd like to know more about?

Symbols & Bible Notes: *Draw or sketch a picture, symbol, or logo to help remember each of the following verses. Use them for home devotions each night this week as explained in the Nightly Assignment on the following page.*

- **Salt of the Earth**
★ Matthew 5:3-10, 13a, 14, 16
- **The Lord's Prayer**
★ Matthew 6:9-13
- **Go Therefore**
★ Matthew 28:19-20

- **Take Up Their Cross**
★ Mark 8:34-37
- **Let the Little Children Come**
★ Mark 10:14
- **Love the Lord**
★ Mark 12:28-31a

- **Magnify the Lord**
★ Luke 1:47-49
- **Do Not Be Afraid Little Flock**
★ Luke 12:32
- **Stones Would Shout**
★ Luke 19:38-40

- **In the Beginning**
★ John 1:1-5, 9-12, 14
- **For God So Loved**
★ John 3:16
- **Indeed, God**
★ John 3:17

- **Rivers of Living Water**
★ John 4:13-15, 7:38b
- **Love One Another**
★ John 15:12-13
- **You Will Receive Power**
★ Acts 1:8

Discuss the following terms and write a group definition here and in your glossary.

Christ

Gospel

Jesus

Messiah

New Testament

Nightly Assignment

Take ten minutes each night this week to review the 15 key verses you just covered. Start by copying three of your original logos (previous page) next to the appropriate verse in the margin of your Bible. Use the following brief order:

1. Share *Highs & Lows* for the day
2. Read and re-highlight the three verses
3. Talk about what your logo represents and how it helps you remember the verse
4. Pray for your family's highs and lows
5. Bless one another with the sign of the cross and the following blessing: "(Name), child of God, may the living Word of God, Jesus, be in your heart today and forever."



"It would be a heck of a lot easier to follow Rabbi Jesus if he didn't actually ask me to go anywhere."

– Rich Melheim

There are eight Faith Stepping Stones from cradle to graduation awaiting you at www.faithink.com