



Making it Mine

A Bible study for kids ready to grow a faith of their own.

Month 7 Week 3

STEP BY STEP

READ:

Matthew 13-19

HEART GRAFFITI:

“FKORIKSNOPW
THELPLTANSIHB
AVQEFORXYMO
EU,DMECLOARE
SYTHRELIORFD,
PLBANSWTCOP
RKOSAPZERYOJ
UANDLIMNOYTT
POHAWRMIYOJU
,PRLEANSBTOF
GILVERYOIUAHR
OPESASNDAKFU
ETURE.”

JER.29:11

Cross out the extra letters in the memory verse.

Have you ever been deep within a cave when the lights were turned off, or in a dark room with no windows? _____

How did the total darkness make you feel? _____

Even when we just saw the path before us, we become afraid to take a step when we can no longer see it. We lose our sense of direction, and we lose our confidence. Both real and imagined dangers stop us in our tracks. We feel like we are all alone.

Sometimes we can feel like that in our relationship with God too. That is when we are most challenged to trust. Faith moves from a reasonable trust in the God who gives us all kinds of good things, to a full out, treacherously foolish trust in a God that is not seen, felt or heard. Can you still trust in the God that you aren't seeing or feeling? Has He become so much a part of you that you trust His presence even in a spiritual blackout?

We can develop **habits**, holy habits, of walking with God now that will help us keep walking with Him even when times of darkness and doubt come. Our holy habits will help us turn toward God in the dark unsure times instead of away from Him and into danger. Think of them as the solid stepping stones that can help us continue our journey. The holy habits are not our goal, but they help us reach our goal.

What are some of the holy habits that you see Christians that you admire practicing? _____



THE HOLY HABITS OF PRAYER AND LISTENING TO GOD

In the parable of the soils (Matthew 13:1-9), Jesus tells the story of a farmer planting seeds on four kinds of soil. On the hardened path, the seed stayed on the surface where it was eaten by birds. On the rocky soil, it shot up quickly but did not have deep enough roots to survive the heat. Among the thorns, the young plant was quickly choked out. In the good soil, a good crop grew.

What do you think makes good soil in our hearts? _____

What do you think Jesus meant by His comment in verse 9? _____

How often do you think Jesus talked with His Father? _____



THE HOLY HABITS OF READING AND STUDYING THE BIBLE

What part of the Bible did Jesus quote in Matthew 15:8-9? _____

What did Jesus expect the Pharisees to have read in Matthew 19:4? _____

What was Jesus quoting in Matthew 19:18-19? _____

How important do you think Jesus thought it was to read and understand the Bible? _____

How important is it to you? _____

THE HOLY HABITS OF GIVING AND HELPING OTHERS

Jesus had a habit of healing and helping people. In Matthew 14:13-21, he fixed dinner for more than 5,000 people! That would take a lot of food. Sometimes kids think that they don't have much to offer since they are not as rich or powerful as adults. But when John told this same story in John 6:1-15, he tells us that it was a boy who was willing to give his small lunch to help others. Our job is to get in the habit of giving what we have to help others and Jesus will make it into something big.

THE HOLY HABITS OF SEEKING AND OBEYING GOD

Jesus gives us some tips on putting first things first:

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or, what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory with his angels and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.” Matthew 16:24-27



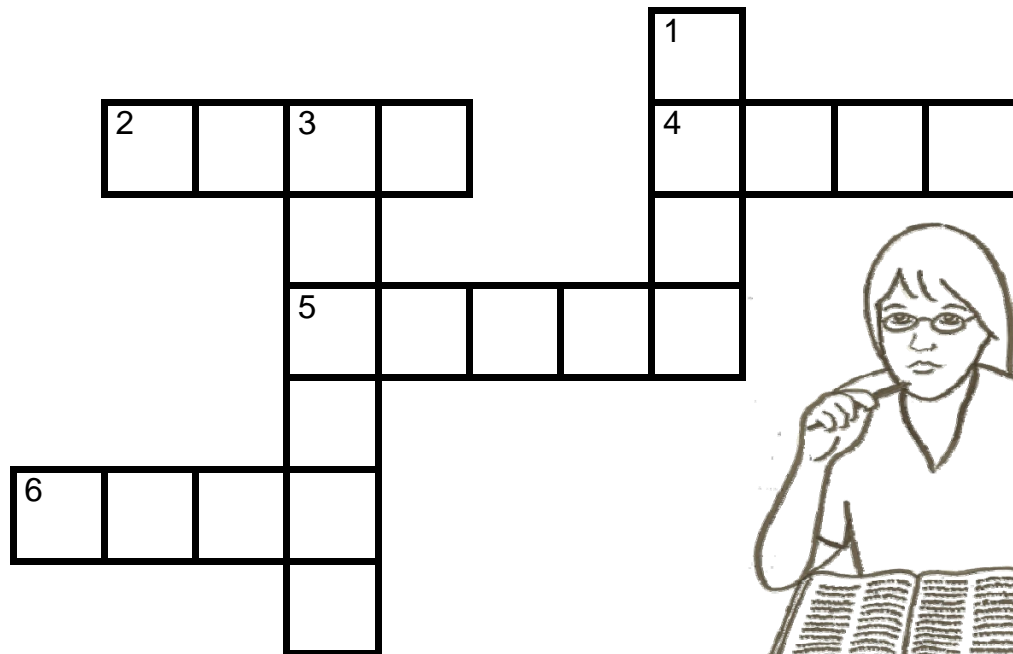
PUZZLE PAGE

HOLY HABITS

Fill in the missing letters from the memory verse below:

**“FOR I K__OW THE __LANS __ HA__E
FOR YOU, __ECLA__ES THE LORD,
PL__NS TO PRO__PER __OU AND NOT
TO __ARM YOU, P__ANS TO __IVE
YO__ A HOP__ AND A FU__URE.”**

Use these letters to complete the crossword below with 6 holy habits:



Which of these do you practice the most? _____

Which would you like to develop more? _____

Who is someone that could help you with these? _____

STEP BY STEP

To help the kids understand the idea and purpose of holy habits like prayer and Bible reading, have them make some stepping stones for their garden at home. You can buy kits to make these, but they are quite expensive, so we did our own. Buy the special molds available at craft stores, or use the drain trays for potted plants. Use the top grade of concrete since it is a little smoother. Have stones or gems to embed to represent each of the spiritual disciplines, and the kids can also print whatever message that they would like on them. If you want more instructions or pictures, visit this website: <http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/steppingstones/a/040201b.htm>

Since the stones you make will take a few days to harden, have some stepping stones laid out ahead of time, preferably in a muddy area, though you may have to use your imagination like we did. As you walk across the stones one by one, talk about the purpose of the stones. They show the way, they keep you out of the mud (or hot lava, as we imagined), they encourage you to keep moving, etc.

This is what holy habits do for us. They help us navigate through a muddy world without getting stuck there ourselves. Prayer and Bible reading show us the way. They encourage us to keep growing and keep moving on our spiritual journey.

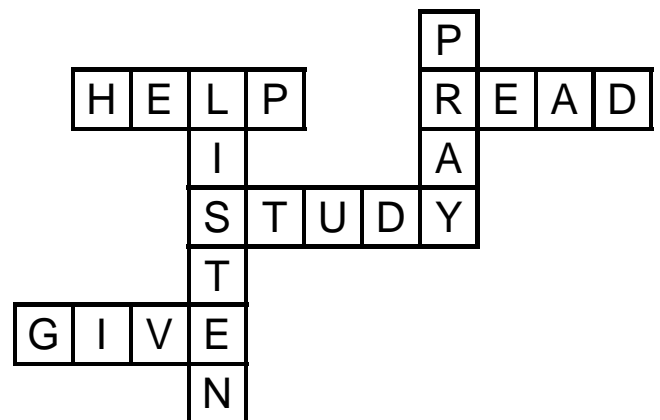
BLINDFOLDED

This is a quick game to illustrate how our senses cannot always be trusted. Blindfold a volunteer, and then stand back and remain totally quiet. Give another student this list of questions to ask:

- Is the teacher still real?**
- Can you see him/her?**
- Can you hear him/her?**
- Can you smell him/her?**
- How do you know they are real?**
- How do you know they still care?**

“Those who believe they believe in God but without passion in the heart, without anguish of the mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, and even at times without despair, believe only in the idea of God and not in God himself.”

Madeline L’Engle



habit means: an action or pattern of behavior that is repeated so often that it becomes typical of somebody, although he or she may be unaware of it

For questions or comments, contact me at: kayannausherman@hotmail.com
For more studies, visit me at: <http://www.thelightedjourney.com>

