

BIBLE STUDY

2023 THEME

KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY
AND SPIRIT FOR POST PANDEMIC LIVING

Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church

January Emphasis

**KINGDOM CITIZENS
CULTIVATING A RENEWED
FOCUS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

Thought: Kingdom Citizens know that they must begin the new year with the right mindset for personal growth and service. We must strengthen old ways and develop new ways to be effective servants of Christ.

WORDS/PHRASES:

**Spiritual Focus, Humility,
Empowerment, Pressing On**

January 1 - Developing a Spiritual Mindset (Philippians 2:1-5)

January 8 - Cultivating a Mindset of Humility (James 4:6-10)

January 15 – Embracing Spiritual Empowerment (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

January 22 – Embracing a New Way of Thinking (Ephesians 4:20-29)

January 29 – Pressing on into the New Year (Philippians 3:12-16)

February Emphasis

**KINGDOM CITIZENS
EMBRACING OUR
BROTHERS AND SISTERS AS
A SIGN OF SPIRITUAL
STRENGTH**

Thought: Kingdom Citizens must know that we should never forget how God worked throughout time to deliver us into a better life. We must learn from the past and be equipped for properly embracing the future.

WORDS/PHRASES:

**Remember, Embrace, Heritage,
Reconcile**

February 5 – Who is My Neighbor? (Luke 10:25-37)

February 12 – Our Duty to Never Forget (Isaiah 46:9-10)

February 19 – Remembering Our Stones (Joshua 4:1-7)

February 26 - Don't Play the Race Card! (Numbers 12:1-9)

March Emphasis

**KINGDOM CITIZENS
PREPARING MIND, BODY
AND SPIRIT BY STUDYING
GOD'S WORD**

Thought: Kingdom Citizens must know that the key to preparing our mind, body and spirit for post-pandemic living begins with an understanding of the purpose and power of the scriptures. We must seriously and diligently study God's Word.

**WORDS/PHRASES: Scripture,
Study, Teach, Live**

March 5 – The Word is Power (II Timothy 3:14-17)

March 12 – Learning From The Past (Romans 15:1-7)

March 19 – The Word Convicts (Hebrews 4:11-13)

March 26 – Living According to the Word (James 1:19-24)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15

**KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
FOR POST PANDEMIC LIVING**

**JANUARY EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS CULTIVATING A RENEWED
FOCUS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must know that they must begin the new year with the right mindset for personal growth and service. They must strengthen old ways and develop new ways to be effective servants of Christ.

Words/Phrases: Spiritual Focus, Humility, Empowerment, Pressing On

LESSON ONE: DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL MINDSET

Questions to Consider:

1. What resolutions have you made for the new year?
2. What do you intend to do to foster spiritual growth in the new year?
3. What new ways do you intend to keep your mind focused on Christ?

TEXT: PHILIPPIANS: 2:1-5

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: Getting Our Minds Right for the New Year

INTRODUCTION: Welcome to 2023 – a new year has begun. God bestowed rich blessings on us in 2022 and allowed us to step boldly into 2023. With each new year comes new opportunities, new challenges and new situations. As we enter the new year, we do so with the right mindset, eager to embrace the “newness” of the day; ready to be spiritually empowered to receive and enjoy the wonderful opportunities that God has bestowed on us. We must start right. Our focus this year revolves around the theme that we, as Kingdom Citizens, must be properly prepared – mind, body and spirit for post pandemic living. We begin with a word from the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippian church.

**1. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST BEGIN THE NEW YEAR WITH THE RIGHT
FOCUS. (VV 1-2)**

Have you ever heard of the expression, “**I got to get my mind right?**” This is often said by a person as a necessity for taking on a new situation. Making new year resolutions is a popular thing, yet many don’t succeed because they approach them with the same old mindset. Kingdom citizens must recognize the need to refocus. Paul says that our encouragement to refocus must come from our spiritual connection, “*Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort in His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit ...*” He emphasizes the spiritual completeness that comes from being like-minded, being “*one in spirit and mind.*” He urges the Philippians to “*make my joy complete*’ by having a love that is undergirded by “*tenderness and compassion*”.

Kingdom citizens must enter the new year in the spirit of encouragement, love and unity. Paul emphasizes that how we think – how we frame our attitudes – is crucial for living a Christian life. The right focus is absolutely necessary. **What are you doing to get your “mind right” for the new year?**

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST DEVELOP A MINDSET FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH. (VV 3-4)

Paul next emphasizes the need to act with a spirit of humbleness and not with a spirit of selfishness. *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interest but each of you to the interests of the others.”* (VV 3-4) A mindset of growth and change begins with valuing others above ourselves. This can be a great problem for self-centered people. **With what measure do you value other brothers and sisters?** Our focus for the new year ought to be on us being less “self-centered” and more **“God centered”**. We must believe in ourselves and in our own abilities to grow by trusting Him.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST HAVE THE “MIND OF CHRIST” IN ALL OUR RELATIONSHIPS. (V 5)

So, the question remains, How do we treat each other with humility and honor so that we are valuing each other as God values us? For Paul (and for us) the answer is clear, *“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”* (V 5) Simply put, it means that our attitudes as Kingdom citizens should resemble the attitude of Christ. We should engage every aspect of our lives in this manner. The result is that our behavior toward God **AND** toward our fellow man will line up with God’s expectations. How a Kingdom citizen thinks – how we frame our minds and attitudes – is crucial for resetting our focus for the new year. Get in your **“right mind”**, the mind God wants you to have, and **be prepared for greater growth in 2023!!**

**KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
FOR POST PANDEMIC LIVING**

**JANUARY EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS CULTIVATING A RENEWED
FOCUS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must know that they must begin the new year with the right mindset for personal growth and service. They must strengthen old ways and develop new ways to be effective servants of Christ.

Words/Phrases: Spiritual Focus, Humility, Empowerment, Pressing On

LESSON TWO: CULTIVATING A MINDSET OF HUMILITY

Questions to Consider:

1. What is your definition of humility?
2. Do you consider yourself to be a humble person?
3. Can you be a strong leader and still be humble?

TEXT: JAMES 4:4-10

**THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST BE CONSUMED BY A
SPIRIT OF HUMILITY.**

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson, we placed emphasis on the importance of developing a spiritual mindset. We learned how important it is to not be self-centered, but to be Christ directed in all things. In this lesson, we learn that humility is a basic and necessary aspect of the Christian life, and we have the perfect model of how to be humble in Jesus Christ. *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5)* A humble spirit is developed from deep within. It promotes unity in the church and a profound interest in and concern for others. God sees when people respond to Him and to each other with humility, and He is gracious. Being humble takes us out of self and into the right relationship with God. Humility should be treated as an essential quality of our spiritual refocus. The book of James gives valuable insight.

**1. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST KNOW THAT CULTIVATING FRIENDSHIP WITH
THE WORLD MAKES THEM ENEMIES OF GOD. (VV 4-6)**

James begins by rebuking worldliness. Those who call themselves Kingdom citizens, but who still choose the world, are an adulterous people. *“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?” (VV 4-5)* God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Those who submit to divine wisdom will receive the necessary grace from God to put into practice the kind of spirit filled life that God desires in us.

“But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” (V 6)

Believers are called to resist their human spirit which tends toward worldliness. Rejoice in the Holy Spirit, avoid pride and submit humbly to God’s authority.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS SHOULD HUMBLY SUBMIT THEMSELVES TO GOD AND RESIST THE DEVIL. (VV 7-9)

Humility is a willingness to become subordinate, to submit and surrender to God. God wants us to be appreciative of His grace, while the devil wants us to depend on ourselves. Satan is the author of all “do-it-yourself” spiritual enterprises. He enjoys inflating the ego and encouraging the believer to do it his or her own way. We should not fall for this. In fact, we are told to resist the devil and live in humble submission to God, ***“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (V 7)*** Avoid three things that turn us away from God: **the world, the flesh, and the devil**. These enemies are left over from our old life of sin. Christ has delivered us from them, but they still attack us. **How can we overcome them?** James gives us three instructions to follow: We must submit to God; draw nearer to God; and humble ourselves before God. ***“Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (VV 8-9)*** He demands that we draw nearer to Him and purify ourselves from the negativity that attacks our spiritual mindedness.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT THOSE WHO DEVELOP A SPIRIT OF HUMBLENESS WILL BE LIFTED UP BY GOD. (V 10)

Recognition of the tremendous need for cleansing allows no room for merriment. James provides some candid advice, ***“Grieve, mourn and wail”*** he instructs them. ***“Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.” (V 9)*** What he is saying is **“Be serious about this!!”** When a believer who has fallen into sin responds to God’s call for repentance, he or she should place laughter and joy aside to reflect on the sin with genuine sorrow **(2 Cor 7:9-10)** He must be sober minded about it! A contrite spirit of confession is essential. The key is humility, ***“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.” (V 10)*** It is He who will lift us up! The lowly one becomes the lifted one. A humble spirit brings honor. The person who humbles himself to the Lord will be exalted in ways that they themselves could never accomplish. This strengthening of one’s **spiritual relationship** with God is necessary to reset our spiritual focus.

**KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
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**JANUARY EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS CULTIVATING A RENEWED
FOCUS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must know that they must begin the new year with the right mindset for personal growth and service. They must strengthen old ways and develop new ways to be effective servants of Christ.

Words/Phrases: Spiritual Focus, Humility, Empowerment, Pressing On

LESSON THREE: EMBRACING SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT

Questions to Consider:

1. How do you mentally prepare yourself for ministry?
2. Have you ever felt like you had lost your spiritual connection with God?
3. Have you ever found yourself in spiritual rebellion against God?

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6

**THE HEART OF THE LESSON: GOD PROVIDES SPIRITUAL EMPOWER FOR
EVERYDAY LIVING.**

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson, we learned that humility is an important component of our renewed spiritual refocus. We also learned that we must not live in compromise with the world but live in total submission to God. This is the heart of our preparation for living in these post pandemic times. For Kingdom citizens, this is necessary, but it is not easy!! The enemy is on constant attack, trying to dissuade us from living godly lives. Satan constantly seeks and uses every opportunity to exploit our weaknesses and establish a stronghold in our lives, always with the goal of turning us away from a spiritual life to a life motivated by worldly desires. He constantly attacks our sincere efforts to refocus our minds. It is both a challenge and a struggle. How are we as Kingdom citizens to deal with this battlefield of the mind? Some answers are found in the book of 2 Corinthians.

**1. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY AND ATTACK THE
STRONGHOLDS THAT SATAN TRIES TO ESTABLISH IN OUR LIVES. (VV 3-4)**

Paul lets us know that prevailing on the battlefield of life begins with us understanding that God wants us to function on a spiritual level. *“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.” (V 3)* And since our battle is not with flesh and blood, Paul wants us to know that our weapons are not earthly, physical weapons. This isn't about swords and shields. This is a spiritual battle. **In other words, Paul is telling us to embrace spiritual empowerment!!** *“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (V 4)*

Paul utilizes the word “**strongholds**” which are the spiritual fortresses that Satan tries to build in our lives. These are roadblocks that if not eliminated will demolish our spiritual focus and lead us to comfortably live in sin. Our spiritual weapons are designed for pulling down these strongholds.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT SATAN USES WRONG DOCTRINES AND POOR INTERPRETATIONS OF GOD’S WORD TO HINDER OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH. (V 5)

Paul defines these “**strongholds**” in **verse 5** as “*casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.*” And then he tells us how our weapons can lead to victory by “*bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*” Most of the strongholds that hamper our freedom are based on wrong doctrines. We must read and seriously study God’s word and we must immerse ourselves into understanding how to “*rightly divide the Word of truth.*” Poor interpretation or understanding of God’s Word softens us into falling for every strange and false doctrine. **Every battle we face in life is over the Word and whether or not we can build our lives upon the faithfulness and integrity of God.** Other strongholds that we allow Satan to establish are unbelief, pride and fear. **What other dangerous strongholds would you add to this list?** The important thing to know is that God empowers us to tear down the strongholds Satan tries to establish in our lives. **Who do you turn to in times when you feel the need for scripture clarity?**

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT OUR SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT ALLOWS US TO BREAK EVERY CHAIN THAT SATAN USES TO BIND US. (V 6)

Paul has been describing a spiritual war against false teachers who would weaken spiritual empowerment. The battlefield was the minds of the Corinthians themselves, and victory would be won when the Corinthians obeyed Christ. Using the weapons of God's empowerment, we are fully equipped to destroy impressive-sounding arguments against the knowledge of God. Paul now adds that he was ready to punish disobedience to Christ among them, but only when their obedience is complete. “*And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.*” (V 6) By punishment, Paul does not mean he has any interest or authority relating to physical harm. It means that we suffer consequences when we do not use God’s empowerment to break every chain that Satan uses to bind us!! Not to do so gives consent to us living in rebellion.

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THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must know that they must begin the new year with the right mindset for personal growth and service. They must strengthen old ways and develop new ways to be effective servants of Christ.

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LESSON FOUR: EMBRACING A NEW WAY OF THINKING

Questions to Consider:

1. How receptive are you to receiving new ideas from others?
2. Do you think you can be earthly and spiritual at the same time?
3. Do you seek to find scriptures that address your personal situations?

TEXT: EPHESIANS 4:20-29

**THE HEART OF THE LESSON: THE THOUGHTS OF KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST
BE GUIDED TOWARD A LIFESTYLE THAT IS RECONCILED WITH GOD.**

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson, we learned the importance of embracing spiritual empowerment in all of our daily living. We learned that God has empowered us to be spirit driven. This spiritual empowerment gives clarity to right behavior, and guides us into a right relationship with God and with our fellow Brothers and Sisters. Continuing with the monthly theme of “*cultivating a renewed focus*”, in this lesson we learn how spiritual empowerment enables us to be reconciled to God in everything we do. When our spiritual mentality is sharpened, we are led into a new way of thinking. It provides just what we need for this new year. Paul provides guidance in the 4th chapter of the book of Ephesians.

**1. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST ABANDON THEIR OLD SELVES AND EMBRACE
A NEW IDENTITY CREATED BY GOD IN HOLINESS. (VV 20-24)**

Paul encourages the Ephesians to take on a new identity. This can only be done with the right understanding of the truth of Jesus Christ. He clarifies that even though they have heard some things about Christ, they must seek greater truth. This is a lesson for us today because many people have heard about Christ but do not seek the greater truth about who God is. Many are confused because they have become comfortable with a limited knowledge of Him. Paul makes it clear, “*That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.* (VV 21-22) We must embrace our new identity in Jesus Christ. We must take off our former way of life, “*to*

Paul is painfully aware of his shortcomings, mistakes, areas of growth and his sin. He has not achieved complete conformity to the image of Christ, nor has he obtained perfect knowledge of Christ. **Neither have we!!** Even though we have knowledge of the resurrection, we have not yet grown into the full power of the resurrection.

Paul tells them to ***“be made new in the attitude of your minds”*** (V 23) It means that we must ***“put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”*** (V 24) It is a difficult process, but it is possible through the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. OUR NEW IDENTITIES WILL HELP TRANSFORM OUR OLD NEGATIVE THOUGHTS INTO POSITIVE BEHAVIOR. (VV 25-28)

This new life is not achieved through passivity but activity. Each of these prescriptions requires our intentional effort. First, we should allow the Holy Spirit to show us the ways of our living that need adjustment or change. Second, we should spend time thinking about the way that we think. We should ask ourselves why we are behaving this way. We should find Scriptures that relate to the circumstances we are facing. Renewing our minds is at the center of our transformation, ***“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.”*** (V 25) Do not act out of negative emotions, ***“In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”*** (VV 26-27) We must take off these old ways, cleanse ourselves, and put on new ways. Seek daily a time and place to reflect, rethink, and relearn. Channel negative thoughts into positive behavior. ***“Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.”*** (V 28)

3. OUR NEW IDENTITIES WILL TRANSFORM OUR OLD WAYS OF SPEAKING, LEADING US TO “TALK RIGHT”. (V 29)

Our new empowerment should not only change the way we behave but should also change the way we communicate. ***“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”*** (V 29) We must learn to **“talk right”**. Unwholesome talk is not supportive of moral well-being. Kingdom citizens who have embraced a new way of thinking know that our job is to speak words of encouragement, to build up and not to tear down.

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LESSON FIVE: PRESSING ON INTO THE NEW YEAR

Questions to Consider:

1. What negative thing(s) did you decide to leave behind going into 2023?
2. How do you plan to not become complacent in pursuit of new goals?
3. How committed are you to “press on “ when negative people get in the way?

TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: EMPOWERED WITH A NEW FOCUS, KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST PRESS ON INTO THE NEW YEAR, SPIRITUALLY EMPOWERED FOR POST PANDEMIC LIVING.

INTRODUCTION: In our previous lessons, we learned to start the new year by cultivating a spiritual mindset, embracing humility, and receiving spiritual power. We learned that doing so will lead us to embrace a new way of thinking. Living out the servant mindset of Jesus is an ongoing process. It is something that we, as Kingdom citizens should seek to do for the rest of our lives, daily pressing on toward God’s calling for us to have the attitude of Jesus, who lived out faithful obedience to God. Sufficiently positioned and empowered, we must now “press on” into this new year, strongly boosted by a sincere desire to prepare our mind, body and spirit for post-pandemic living. In this lesson, Paul provides guidance in his letter to the Philippian church.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO STRIVE FOR SPIRITUAL PERFECTION EVERY DAY. (V 12)

In the verses leading up to verse 12, Paul speaks of the need to strive for spiritual perfection. He knows that achieving this goal is almost impossible to do, but that we are strengthened by our efforts to do so. He urges the Philippians, to not conclude that he (just like us today) is already there. He is brutally honest about it, “**Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.**” (V 12)

Regardless of how holy we think someone else is, or how holy we think we are, **there is always room to spiritually grow some more.** He acknowledges what is sometimes hard for us to acknowledge, that we have fallen short. It's time to get up and move a little further towards the goal.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST NOT LET THE PAST HOLD THEM DOWN FROM MOVING FORWARD. (VV 13-14)

Again, Paul acknowledges that he isn't there yet, *“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; (V 13),* but he knows that he must keep striving. A lot of things happened in 2022, some good and some bad. Yet, we as Kingdom citizens should not let anything from the past hinder us from pressing on in 2023. Learn from the past but leave it in the past. God's people should never be stagnant. We should always be looking ahead to the magnificent opportunities God has prepared for us. We must *“Press on toward the goal”* for the glorious prize, *“for the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (V 14)* Pressing forward means we must make the effort; it requires action on our part. Forget what lies behind, **stretch forward** toward Christlikeness like a runner striving to pass the runner ahead of him. **“To press” here means to follow or to press hard, to pursue with earnestness, with diligence to obtain, to go after with desire. DO YOU HAVE THE DESIRE TO MOVE FORWARD IN 2023?**

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE FOR THE TASK. (VV 15-16)

Paul is resolved to grow. First, he forgets what lies behind, second he reaches forward to what lies ahead, and third he presses on. This is the attitude we should have *“Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained. (VV 15-16)* **THE PRIZE IS FOR US!! PRESS ON TO RECEIVE IT!!**

KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
FOR POST PANDEMIC LIVING

**FEBRUARY EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS EMBRACING OUR BROTHERS
AND SISTERS AS A SIGN OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH**

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must know that we should never forget how God worked throughout time to deliver us into a better life. We must learn from the past and be equipped for properly embracing the future.

KEY WORDS: Remember, Embrace, Heritage, Reconcile

LESSON SIX: WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How do you embrace the commandments as they relate to your neighbor?
2. How can religious leaders show reconciliation toward the Lost.
3. Who would you list from your heritage as the first kingdom neighbor?

TEXT: LUKE 10: 25-37

HEART OF THE LESSON: MAKING THE CHOICE TO BE A NEIGHBOR

INTRODUCTION: This lesson is a very interesting parable that points us to look at the question: “Who is my neighbor?” It is taken from the Gospel of Luke and is written from the perspective of a Gentile doctor. Luke is the only Gentile author in the New Testament. The purpose of Luke’s gospel is to present an accurate account of the life of Christ and to present Christ as the perfect human and Savior. In other words, Luke presents Jesus as fully human and fully divine. Our text today in content is entitled, “The Parable of the Good Samaritan.” In this parable, we must notice how Jesus deals with the question: “Who is my neighbor?” Perhaps, this lesson will encourage us to consider who we view as our neighbor and how we treat our neighbor. This Black History month should remind us of our heritage of being good neighbors.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW AND REMEMBER WHAT GOD SAYS IN THE BIBLE ABOUT LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR.

The text says, “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind’ and, love your neighbor as yourself.**” (NIV) This is an interesting answer to the question Jesus asks this expert in the law in order to help him recognize his neighbor. Yet, this expert still tries to justify his wrong by asking another question: “**And who is my neighbor?**” Many times, in life, we are confronted with situations that we could give assistance to those in need but what do we do? Do you justify not doing what is right to do?

The verse quoted in (10:27) gives us great insight on why we must help our neighbor as kingdom citizens. First of all, we must love God with all our hearts, soul, strength, and mind. When we as kingdom citizens do that, then we will automatically make the right choices as neighbors. In addition to that, if we love our neighbor as we love ourselves that shows true Christian character.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBERING HOW GOD RECONCILED THEM TO HIMSELF AND WILL REACH OUT TO HELP OTHERS.

The text points out that a priest or leader makes the choice of not making the right choice of helping someone who is his neighbor. The text makes it plain that the man was injured, left for dead and needed help. However, this Leader in the community or kingdom citizen chooses to pass him by. The text says: **“A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.” (NIV)** When we take a close look at this verse and text, we must notice the strategic way Jesus uses this parable to teach yet another lesson about a neighbor. As kingdom citizens, we must realize that positions and titles do not exclude us from helping those in need. In fact, as kingdom citizens, we ought to be looking for opportunities to show ourselves as neighbors. The Priest and the Levite in the text make the choice not to display the character and quality of a kingdom citizen and neighbor to this dying brother. This is the perfect example that we are often presented as kingdom citizens. The question is do we pass by opportunities to show ourselves as neighbors? Do we avoid and miss opportunities to reconcile the lost, dying, and hurting neighbors?

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST AS NEIGHBORS.

Jesus closes this powerful lesson of teaching about “Who is your neighbor?” by pointing out the one Gentile who by history and even heritage that probably would not have been chosen by most to be the one who makes the right choice in being a neighbor. However, the text points out that a Samaritan makes the right choice. This Samaritan looks beyond all cost, position, pride, persons, and everything and chooses to be a neighbor. **Read VV 33-37.**

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THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must know that we should never forget how God worked throughout time to deliver us into a better life. We must learn from the past and be equipped for properly embracing the future.

KEY WORDS: Remember, Embracing, Heritage, Reconcile

LESSON SEVEN: OUR DUTY TO NEVER FORGET

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What are some of the significant things God has done for your family and you?
2. Is there an example of a time when God showed you your future?
3. Do you remember a time when God let your plans fail so that His prevailed?

TEXT: ISAIAH 46: 9-10

HEART OF THE LESSON: REMEMBERING THE FOREFATHERS

INTRODUCTION: Kingdom citizens have a “duty to never forget” the sacrifices of all those who have paved the way for our future. Even though, we still have some challenges ahead, we must thank God for the social, economic, and spiritual leaders of the past and future. Our lesson this week is taken from the prophetic book of Isaiah. It is the first of the writings of the prophets in the Bible, and Isaiah, the author, is generally considered the greatest prophet. Isaiah’s purpose in writing this book was to call the nation of Judah back to God and to tell of God’s salvation through the Messiah. Isaiah was the prophet who God used to prophesy the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. Isaiah called the people to turn from their lives of sin and warned them of God’s judgment and punishment. He was the kind of messenger who we must never forget and is needed in our corrupt society today. Isaiah causes us to be mindful of remembering God and our forefathers.

**1. KINGDOM CITIZENS REMEMBER THE PAST AND PRESS FORWARD TO THE
FUTURE WITH GOD’S LEADERSHIP.**

When we consider this historical month of celebration, there are many dynamic leaders we can focus on. Many of them are in history books, and some are not even known of.

However, the most influential forefathers we should remember and take notice of are those Blacks listed in the pages of the Bible. Some have suggested that Isaiah, Moses, David, and Solomon were Black men. Whatever the case maybe, the fact that Isaiah starts our lesson and chapter off talking about captivity should remind us of our forefathers. Our forefathers and this text point out the troubles, struggles, circumstances and false gods that were then and even now in this post-pandemic era. However, the good news of the text and what we must remember is that God has done, is doing, and will do some significant things throughout all generations. The text says: **“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.” (NIV)** This is a powerful fact and proclamation God makes through Isaiah to us today!

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST REALIZE THAT GOD KNOWS THE END EVEN BEFORE THE BEGINNING.

God in His Sovereign power and infinite wisdom knew everything before it even came into existence. From the beginning of time, God knew everything; we can look back in Genesis and see how God made something out of nothing. We can even consider how even before we were born God knew us. Jeremiah 1:5 says: **“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” (NIV)** Kingdom citizens have a God to rely on who has made perfect plans for the believer’s life, and yet gives the created person a choice. Choices are great; however, with choices come consequences. Therefore, as kingdom citizens, we ought to seek the assignment or appointment from God for our lives as we operate as God’s vessels. We have the awesome blessing of being chosen by God and the advantage of knowing that He knows the beginning and the end of everything. The text says: **“I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.” (NIV)** This is a powerful statement by God that not only does He know, but He will make things known to us. He has also made the proclamation that He has done this through the ages.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GOD’S PLANS WILL ALWAYS PREVAIL OVER OUR PLANS.

God rules and super-rules over the entire universe and does whatever He purposes to do. The text says: **“I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.” (NIV)** God has a plan and a purpose for all things and all people. Kingdom citizens must learn to line up with God’s purpose and plan if they want to succeed. God has already made it perfectly clear that He is God, and He has the authority to do as He pleases.

KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
FOR POST PANDEMIC LIVING

**FEBRUARY EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS EMBRACING OUR BROTHERS
AND SISTERS AS A SIGN OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH**

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must know that we should never forget how God worked throughout time to deliver us into a better life. We must learn from the past and be equipped for properly embracing the future.

KEY WORDS: Remember, Embracing, Heritage, Reconcile

LESSON EIGHT: REMEMBERING OUR STONES

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Why do you think God allows us to make choices?
2. How can God use you to build a memorial?
3. What is a memorial that your family embraces?

TEXT: JOSHUA 4: 1-7

HEART OF THE LESSON: MEMORIALS FROM PAST TO FUTURE

INTRODUCTION: This is another powerful lesson as we celebrate this Black History Month. This week's lesson is taken from the book of Joshua. It gives great advice on leadership and challenges us to follow the leader. It bears the name of the one who followed Moses in leadership. Joshua writes this book with the purpose in mind to give the history of Israel's conquest of the Promised Land. Joshua knew that without faithful, ethical, and effective leaders, people would wander. For forty years, Israel had journeyed circuitous routes through the wilderness but not because they were following their leader. The people refused to obey God and the leader God sent, so they wandered. Finally, this new generation was ready to cross the Jordan and possess the land. After getting a report from the scouts, Caleb and Joshua were ready to take a minority and move forward with the assignment. Joshua was chosen to be Moses's successor. Just as Joshua stepped up in his day, we need leaders to step up and carry the torch of our heritage and remember the past while building its stones and establishing memorials that extend from past to future.

**1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GOD CHOOSES LEADERS TO
ESTABLISH LASTING MEMORIALS.**

In our text, God instructs Joshua to make selections from each tribe that they would select stones for a purpose that would be later revealed.

The text says: **“Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.” (NIV)** These verses imply that God is giving strategic instructions for leaders to select leaders and resources for the effort of preparing for the future. It is important for kingdom citizens to know that God is always preparing us for the next move in life. In the life of these chosen leaders and what seemed insignificant as stones from a river and the placement, Joshua knew God had a plan. We must realize that no matter how small, or insignificant a thing seems, if God chooses us for it and gives us directives, we must never despise any of the process. The Bible says, **“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand.” (Zechariah 4:10 NIV)** We are blessed as kingdom citizens and leaders to be chosen by God and to be used by God in and for our heritage.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GOD USES LEADERS, FOLLOWERS, AND RESOURCES TO BUILD MEMORIALS.

The text says: **“And said to them, “Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites.” (NIV)** When we take a close and historical look at verses 4 & 5 of this text, we should see several things happening. One, we should see people being reconciled. Second, we should see orders to come before the presence of God. Third, we should see each leader taking responsibility. The first lesson is important to kingdom citizens because we must reconcile our differences just as these tribes must have done if we are going to sustain our heritage. The second lesson is important to kingdom citizens because if we are true kingdom citizens, we must seek God. The third lesson is important to kingdom citizens because every person has to take responsibility and have accountability in the Body of Christ! **Are you carrying your load?**

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS EMBRACE AND SUPPORT THEIR FAMILY MEMORIALS.

The text says: **“to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” (NIV)** God was and is so awesome that even in our historical text, He showed Himself as a memorial. We must always remember God as our memorial; even the resources and people in our families are memorials that will transcend from past to future.

KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
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AND SISTERS AS A SIGN OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH**

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KEY WORDS: Remember, Embracing, Heritage, Reconcile

LESSON NINE: DON'T PLAY THE RACE CARD!

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Please discuss times when certain people teamed up against others.
2. Please give an example of when you had to be humble as the leader.
3. Please share a time when you experienced speaking against the leader.

TEXT: NUMBERS 12:1-9

**HEART OF THE LESSON: DEALING WITH OPPOSITION IN THE FAMILY OF
GOD**

INTRODUCTION: The book of Numbers is a very interesting writing with much historical background. Moses is the author of this book. Moses writes this book to tell the story of how Israel prepared to enter the Promised Land, how they sinned and were punished, and how they prepared to try again. In telling the story of Israel's desert wanderings, Numbers offers much that is theologically significant. During the first year after Israel's deliverance from Egypt, she entered into covenant with the Lord at Sinai to be the people of his kingdom, among whom he pitched his royal tent (the tabernacle)- this is the story of Exodus. As the account of Numbers begins, the Lord organizes Israel into a military camp. Leaving Sinai, she marches forth as his conquering army, with the Lord at her head, to establish his kingdom in the Promised Land in the midst of the nations. Our text this week mentions the term "Cushite" wife who was Moses's wife, who was a descendant of Cush who was the first son of Ham, who some believe was a Black man. We don't know this for certain, but we do know that there is some controversy about the nationality and opposition to the leader Moses.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST REALIZE THAT MOST TIMES WHEN CONFLICT ARISES, THE REAL ISSUE IS NOT ON THE SURFACE.

Most times there are hidden agendas of deep-rooted issues that people don't want to deal with. Even when someone attempts to dig into what's really going on, the conversation takes a shift. Our text opens with Miriam and Aaron coming together to team up on the leader Moses. The text says: **“Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite.” (NIV)** The text first implies that they joined together against the leader because of the nationality and race of his wife. However, that may have been part of the issue, but the next verse points out yet another issue. Just as this issue arises in the text, our society deals with issues of nationality and race all the time. Sometimes even as kingdom citizens, our issue is with race, but we disguise our prejudices with something other than what it really is in the heart. Our text digs deeper and hits what probably is the real and deeper issue. The text says: **“Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn't he also spoken through us?” And the Lord heard this. (NIV)** This verse points out that there were some envy, jealousy, and respect issues going on with the other things. Therefore, as kingdom citizens, we must remember to keep our relationship tight with God and respect the relationship, race, and position God gives others. **How do you deal with your issues?**

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST KNOW HOW AND WHEN TO BE HUMBLE.

The text says: **“Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.” (NIV)** Sometimes as leaders, it's difficult to be humble, and perhaps that is because people are many times looking to the leader for advice. However, we must always remember that God is ultimately the one who is using the leader to accomplish what He chooses to do. It is a great compliment by God about Moses for him to be called more humble than anyone else. Being humble as a leader towards a follower or another kingdom citizen is needed especially with the issues of race and violence in this post-pandemic era.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT IT'S WRONG TO SPEAK AGAINST THE LEADER.

In life we deal with different types of leaders, and sometimes, we struggle with people coming to us and complaining about leadership. We must be careful how we entertain conversations about leaders, especially when it comes to godly leaders. The Bible says: **“Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm.” (NIV)** In the case of our lesson, God says some powerful statements about His servant Moses. This statement can apply to many people because all who are kingdom citizens, servants of God, called and anointed by God are protected by God. Also, God gives a warning to be cautious about what we say about people. The text says: **“Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” (NIV)**
Watch Your Mouth!

KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
FOR POST PANDEMIC LIVING

MARCH EMPHASIS: KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING IN BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT BY STUDYING GOD'S WORD

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must know that the key to preparing our mind, body and spirit for post Pandemic living begins with an understanding of the purpose and power of the scriptures. We must seriously and diligently study God's Word.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Study, Scripture, Teach, Live

LESSON TEN: THE WORD IS POWER

Questions to Consider:

1. What are power sources in our society?
2. Identify some instances when people have misused power.
3. Where in scripture have we seen the Word of God in power?

TEXT: 2 TIMOTHY 3: 14-17

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE ANY LIFE.

INTRODUCTION: Let's consider a brief summary of the Book of 2 Timothy: Paul encourages Timothy to remain passionate for Christ and to remain firm in sound doctrine (2 Timothy 1:1-2, 13-14). Paul reminds Timothy to avoid ungodly beliefs and practices and to flee from anything immoral (2 Timothy 2:14-26). In the end times, there will be both intense persecution and apostasy from the Christian faith (2 Timothy 3:1-17). Paul closes with an intense plea for believers to stand firm in the faith and to finish the race strong (2 Timothy 4:1-8). **Gotquestions.com** Paul's impassionate plea for Timothy to stay true to the Word and his faith are important for us as well. It is still the Word of God that changes lives. **In what ways has the Word of God changed your life? In what ways have you encouraged others to stay true to scripture and to their faith?**

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, THEY MUST CONTINUE IN THE WORD. (V 14)

It has been said many times, "It is easy to start something; the challenge is finishing." Sadly, many today have chosen to no longer walk with Christ, and others have simply walked away.

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”” **John 8:31-32 NIV**

In the text that follows, Paul admonishes Timothy to “continue” in the Word. **But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it . . . (V 14 NIV)** Paul is at the end of his earthly journey, and he wants to make sure Timothy continues in the faith. One of the most encouraging sights is seeing an older saint still preserving in the faith.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT FAITH COMES BY HEARING GOD’S WORD. (V 15)

Paul reminds Timothy of his spiritual heritage. **“And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (V 15 NIV)** In essence, he says, “You have been taught the Word of God all your life.” **How important is it that children are taught the Bible early in life?** This Word will make you **‘wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.’** **How difficult is it to help children understand the basic stories of the Bible when they have had little or no exposure to the Bible?** A person has no hope in time or eternity without the Word of God.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT ALL SCRIPTURE COMES FROM GOD. (VV 16-17)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (VV 16-17 NIV) The Church must embrace ALL Scripture. We cannot pick and choose. Then we must let Scripture do what Scripture does. According to Paul, it has four primary functions in our lives: **‘teach, rebuke, correct and train in righteousness.’** Do we shy away from teaching some Bible truths because we are afraid some may be offended?

How do we ‘train in righteousness’?

- **by teaching and instructing children early in life - in the home and in the church.**
- **by providing serving opportunities for young people.**
- **by modeling what righteous living looks like**

If the local church and the global church do not embrace the truth that ALL Scripture is God breathed, the Church will not have any power; the church will be fat but not healthy and the church will die from within. We must teach the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

**KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
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LESSON ELEVEN: LEARNING FROM THE PAST

Questions to Consider:

1. What are the signs that a person has been taught something?
2. What is the difference between teaching and learning?
3. Who was your first or most important Bible teacher?

TEXT: ROMANS 15:1-7

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: THE TEACHING MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH HELPS BELIEVERS GROW IN THEIR FAITH.

INTRODUCTION: Since teaching is a key element in acquiring information and developing knowledge, it is not surprising that the Bible has much to say about teaching. Teaching is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift . . . is teaching, then teach" (Romans 12:6-7). In this context, teaching refers to the God-given ability to explain God's Word; the teacher has the supernatural ability to clearly instruct and communicate knowledge, specifically the doctrines of the faith and truths of the Bible (1 Cor. 12:27-29). Teaching is a requirement for pastors: "Now the overseer is to be . . . able to teach" (1 Tim. 3:2). The Bible instructs the pastor to teach sound doctrine based on the written Word of God: "**Command and teach these things**" (1 Tim. 4:11). Those who are taught by the pastor are then to continue the process of disseminating information: "**AND the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others**" (2 Tim. 2:2). Note here that the gospel is "entrusted" to us, and that teachers of the gospel must be "qualified"—part of the qualification is that we be "reliable." Gotquestions.com. **Are you reliable?**

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THE PAST.

(V15: 4A)

The writer here refers to the Old Testament. Paul shares with the believers at Rome, that **“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us,” V.15:4A (NIV)** God has big plans for us in time and in eternity. As part of His plan, He expects that the Church of the New Testament will learn from the Hebrews of the Old Testament. We sometimes wonder why certain passages are in the Old Testament; they are there as examples to us. As we dig into this thought about the Old Testament, consider Joseph. **What can we learn from the life of Joseph? What can we learn from the life of Ruth? Or Moses or David?**

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT THE WORD OF GOD GIVES US HOPE.

(V. 15:4B)

According to the ‘B’ portion of this verse **‘. . . so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (V.15:4B)** God is always purposeful in the things we understand and the ones we do not. Often when we think of someone who persevered through great adversity and pain, Job comes to mind. **What are some of the endurance verses from the book of Job?** And when we think about encouragement, **who are some of the people from Scripture that come to mind? Share ways we might get encouragement from these people?**

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT THE WORD OF GOD CAN UNIFY THE BODY OF CHRIST. (15: 5-6)

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15:5-6 NIV These verses remind us of God’s work in us and our responsibility to help others. What a beautiful benediction. **Why is it so hard to endure with family and friends who have struggled with an issue or problem for a LONG time?** What does the scripture teach about unity and a lack of unity from the old Testament. **Consider Cain and Abel; Ruth and Naomi, Joshua and Caleb vs the other ten spies.** What can we accomplish today by learning from the past and unity in our congregation?

KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT
FOR POST PANDEMIC LIVING

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KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Study, Scripture, Teach, Live

LESSON TWELVE: THE WORD CONVICTS

Questions to Consider:

1. What is the difference between conviction and conversion?
2. What is one thing or sin the word of God convicted you of that you changed?
3. Other than convicting, what are other ministries the Word has in our lives?

TEXT: HEBREWS 4:12-13

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: THE WORD OF GOD IS POTENT

Introduction: **Genesis 1:1, 3** say, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth . . . And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." **Hebrews 11:3a** says "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command." The Bible teaches us from Genesis to Revelation that the Word of God is powerful. The centurion in **Matthew 8** replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just **say the word**, and my servant will be healed." The Word of God gives power to the speaker and to the hearer. We have a responsibility to hear the Word, Live the Word and share the Word. Because God's Word is powerful, it has the ability to transform lives, heal sick bodies and minds, restore homes and save marriages. **In what ways have you seen the Word of God make a difference in your life, your family, your church or your community?**

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, (V 12 a-b) The original Greek word translated here as "living" means "to have life" or "alive." The Word of God is alive because God is a living God (Hebrews 3:12). Jesus said, "**The very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life**" (John 6:63, NLT). In the parable of the sower, Jesus compared God's Word to seed (Matthew 13:1-23). Seed, like the Word, is a living organism that, when spread and planted in fertile soil, produces abundant life. The term "active" in Hebrews 4:12 means "effective, powerful, producing or capable of producing an intended result."

The Word of God is *vibrant, dynamic, energizing, and productive*. It is not stagnant or idle in the lives of genuine believers. The apostle Paul explained that the Word of God is “at work in you who believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT THE WORD OF GOD WORKS ON THE INSIDE; IT GOES DEEP.

. . . it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (V 12 c-d)

The vital power of God’s message exists in its ability to pierce and penetrate the innermost depths of the human soul. It can cut through any obstacle to access and inspect our unspoken thoughts and hidden secrets (Matthew 10:26; Luke 8:17; 12:2; Mark 4:22). It can cross-examine and judge the attitudes of our hearts. Astonishing, life-generating things happen when God’s Word goes forth. It is fully capable of accomplishing its purpose: “The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my Word. I send it out; it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it” (Isaiah 55:11, NLT). On the Day of Pentecost, when Peter preached the message of salvation in Jesus Christ, three thousand people were saved (Acts 2:41).
Gotquestions.com.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT GOD IS OMNIPOTENT.

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. . . (V 13)

- Our deeds are not hidden; God sees everything we do.
- Our thoughts are not hidden; God knows everything we think.
- Our motives are not hidden; God sees the intent of our hearts.
- The darkness cannot conceal it; Everything is uncovered and bare.

For all we do, think and say, we must give an account to God.

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LESSON THIRTEEN: LIVING ACCORDING TO THE WORD

Questions to Consider:

1. If a friend asked you, how can I know if I am living according to God's Word? How would you respond?
2. What are obvious characteristics of a person living in alignment with God?
3. What are signs that a person might not be living in alignment with God?

TEXT: JAMES 1:19-24

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: -WHAT DOES LIVING ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD LOOK LIKE?

INTRODUCTION: In the church, many live lives that do not demonstrate they are living according to the Word of God. Many say they know Christ, have confessed him, been baptized, but are unable to pass the litmus test; where is the fruit? As a follower of Christ, we must bear fruit. **Jesus said, "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit."** How does a plumber bear good fruit? How does a teacher bear good fruit? How does a politician bear good fruit? The world outside the church is looking to see what Jesus looks like where you live; it's looking to see what Jesus looks like when you referee a basketball game, and it's looking to see what Jesus looks like when you interact with the nurse in the doctor's office.

**1. KINGDOM CITIZENS UNDERSTAND THEIR NEED TO FOLLOW THE WORD.
VV. 19-20**

At times, any believer in Christ can fall short, but if he/she has a heart for God, then each will return to the Word of God. The admonition from James is this: **"My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. (VV 19-20)** A teacher may say to a class, "Take notes on the lesson I am teaching today." Invariably a student will raise her hand and ask, "Will this be on the test?" I want to yell loudly to every child of God, YES! These are the notes James is giving us.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.” Why should we be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to become angry?

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS UNDERSTAND THE DAILY TASK OF TAKING OFF AND PUTTING ON. (V 21)

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. (V 21)

As the people of God, we are a work in progress. Peter said, “Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” To truly live a god-fearing life, we must be willing to ‘**get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent.**’ If we are to really live out the truths of our faith, then we must confess and forsake the sinful habits or practices . . . **THAT ARE SO PREVALENT.** Then **humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.**

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS UNDERSTAND THAT THEY MUST BE DOERS OF THE WORD, NOT JUST HEARERS.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. (VV 22-24)

- Does your life demonstrate that you are a doer of the Word or just a hearer?
- On any given day, how many times do you look in the mirror to see what you look like? The mirror does not lie.
- On any given day, how many times do you look into the Bible to see what you look like? The Bible does not lie.

What activities do you need to change to become a better doer of the Word?

QUARTER 1: JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH

KINGDOM CITIZENS CULTIVATING A RENEWED FOCUS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- JANUARY 1** DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL MINDSET
- JANUARY 8** CULTIVATING A MINDSET OF HUMILITY
- JANUARY 15** EMBRACING SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT
- JANUARY 22** EMBRACING A NEW WAY OF THINKING
- JANUARY 29** PRESSING ON INTO THE NEW YEAR

KINGDOM CITIZENS EMBRACING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AS A SIGN OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

- FEBRUARY 5** WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?
- FEBRUARY 12** OUR DUTY TO NEVER FORGET
- FEBRUARY 19** REMEMBERING OUR STONES
- FEBRUARY 26** DON'T PLAY THE RACE CARD

KINGDOM CITIZENS PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT BY STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- MARCH 5** THE WORD IS POWER
- MARCH 12** LEARNING FROM THE PAST
- MARCH 19** THE WORD CONVICTS
- MARCH 26** LIVING ACCORDING TO THE WORD