



3D STUDENT NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 2

February 1, 2021

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— HAPPY — *Valentine's* — DAY —

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Special points of interest:

- * An Essential Guide to Effective Family Prayer
- * Tips for Praying With Your Family
- * 6 Traits of Successful Teens
- * Pictures and more Pictures!

Long before YouTube, memes, or even email, John 3:16 went viral at sporting events.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16

I sometimes wonder if John knew when he penned that iconic verse that he had a collection of words that would transform nations and generations.

The verse is quite simple yet extremely profound. We can never go wrong when discussing *the love of God.*

I would like to share a few verses on love in this limited space. Take time as you focus on loving those around you to love on King Jesus as HE is the one who gave it all for you and me!

The LOVE Chapter - 1 Corinthians 13

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant,⁵ is not rude, is not self-seeking, is

not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs.⁶ Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth.⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.⁸ Love never ends.

Can you come up with a definition for love (that accurately describes what love is) in two or three sentences? It's not an easy task. No matter how we define love, our definition always seems to be lacking. We may have trouble defining it, explaining it, and even finding it, but we know deep down inside that we need it.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul wrote one of the most famous descriptions of love. Notice that he does not give a dictionary definition but instead a description of love displayed. The love Paul describes values:

- Giving over getting
- Commitment over feelings
- The long haul over the short term

The scripture is clear. You can see this love displayed in patience, kindness, humility,

forgiveness, integrity, and ongoing perseverance. This kind of love survives and stands the tests of time and tribulations.

Does this describe the love you're seeking? More importantly, does this describe the love your sharing?

love

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND.
IT DOES NOT ENVY,
IT DOES NOT BOAST, IT IS NOT PROUD.
IT DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS,
IT IS NOT SELF-SEEKING,
IT IS NOT EASILY ANGERED,
IT KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS.
LOVE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL
BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH.
IT ALWAYS PROTECTS,
ALWAYS TRUSTS, ALWAYS HOPES,
ALWAYS PERSEVERES.
LOVE NEVER FAILS

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1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8



How to Help Your Teen Fall in Love with the Bible

When I was eleven, my parents gave me my own study Bible.

I had other Bibles before the study Bible. But to me, *this* Bible symbolized adulthood. It was big and leather-bound and had notes at the bottom of every page. I thought I was a real theologian.

Years later, it's still the Bible I read every day. It's beginning to fall apart, but I don't plan to purchase a new one, because it was with this Bible that I learned to follow Jesus.

Your Teen Needs the Bible

Five Minute Devos for Teens...

One Minute Prayers for Teens...

Resources like these flood the Christian market. They accomplish what they intend—to get a quick dose of Scripture and biblical encouragement in front of a busy teen. But teens need so much more.

In a culture of shifting morality, confusing choices, and peer pressure, teens need solid biblical literacy to help them navigate a broken world with clarity and truth. Biblical ignorance equals a shaky foundation, one which can't weather the storms of cultural pressure, anti-biblical worldviews, and simple questions such as "Why do you believe in God?" and "What is truth?" The Bible holds the answer to those questions. It's the firm foundation that can withstand those storms.

Yet many teens never dig deep into the Word. In my own life, personal Bible study has kept me strong and helped me navigate the questions and confusion that comes with being a teen in a rapidly shifting culture.

Why Do Teens Need Biblical Literacy?

1. *To know who God is—and how to follow Him.*

The Bible is a book about God. But so often, we make the Bible a book about *us*. We handpick verses that seem applicable to our lives and focus on them. As we do so, we miss out on the purpose of the Bible and dilute our understanding of who God is. If we don't know who God is, we won't know how to follow Him.

2. *To grow in spiritual maturity.*
It's possible to have Biblical literacy without spiritual maturity. Anyone can have head knowledge without growing in heart knowledge. But it's not possible to grow in spiritual maturity without growing in Biblical literacy. By knowing who God is, we grow in our understanding of who we, as His followers, are called to be. Biblical literacy and spiritual maturity go hand in hand.

3. *To navigate our cultural moment.*
The Bible enlightens our cultural moment. The words "abortion" and "transgender" may not be found within its pages, but even so, Scripture is relevant to these issues and so many more. The Word of God does not bend and change with the culture; nor is it crammed into the mold of one particular society. Instead, it sheds light beyond the culture by sharing unwavering truths about who God is, who we are, and how to worship and follow Jesus Christ. These unchanging truths enable us to live beyond our cultural moment and answer our cultural

questions by being rooted in the firm foundations of biblical truth.

4. *To learn and understand absolute truth.*

The Bible is a book of absolute truth. It's inerrant and infallible, because it contains the very Words of God. Yet teenagers are growing up in a post-truth world—one that may admit the reality of truth, but elevates feelings and personal preference above absolute truth.

Without truth, we don't know right from wrong. We don't know how to live. But with Jesus, who is, "the way, the truth, and the life" we have a model. For Christian teens to stand strong, we must know and love the truth. In order to know and love the truth, we must know and love the Bible.

5. *To understand the gospel.*

The story of salvation is the thread running through all of Scripture. In the Bible we find the holiness of God and the depth of our sin outlined in humanity's fall. We find the grace and mercy of God in sending Jesus to die for our sins. We anticipate the hope of a new heaven and new earth in the picture of future restoration.

These things have the ability to transform the way we live. A teen who understands and lives the message of the gospel is one who will walk in the power of a life transformed by Christ.



WHY DOES SHARING THE GOSPEL SEEM SO HARD?

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” —[Mark 16:15](#)

As Christians, one of our duties is to spread God’s word and shine the light of Jesus Christ. Not just to our friends and family, but everyone! Sometimes I wonder what would happen if I gathered every Christian into a big room and said, *“Raise your hand if you make it a priority to try to share the gospel with at least one of the people you come across each day.”*

How many hands do you think would go up? I bet a good 98% of us would leave our hands down (including me!). With that in mind, let’s take a look at some of the reasons we don’t share and what to remember when trying to overcome them. And then tomorrow, we’ll dig deeper into some practical ideas for sharing the gospel.

Three reasons we find gospel conversations hard
I think there’s a range of reasons, including:

- We don’t know how to ... or we feel awkward bringing it up
 - We’re afraid to cause controversy and be persecuted for our beliefs
 - We don’t feel biblically knowledgeable ... or we feel too young
- Let’s take a look at each one individually.

We don’t know how to ... or we feel awkward bringing it up

In our culture, it’s normal for us to avoid drawing unnecessary attention to ourselves. That’s why we feel so awkward and uncomfortable when bringing up our faith with strangers. But the reality is, “uncomfortable” is exactly how we should expect to feel! You will have to sacrifice your comfort to share God’s word.

Many of us don’t mind sharing the gospel with our friends, and that’s great. We should be sharing it with our friends, but we also have to reach out to all people, communities and nations too. A study from 2013 showed that only 33% of the world are Christians. That means at least 67% of the world’s salvation is on the line. If that 67% of the world died today, they’d be suffering in hell for all eternity. Let that sink in.

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” —[John 14:6](#)

If you found the cure for cancer would you only share it with your friends?

We’re afraid to cause controversy and be persecuted for our beliefs

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...” —[2 Timothy 3:12](#)

If you aren’t being persecuted—or at least feeling some pressure—it’s worth thinking about why. Are you avoiding some of the ‘hard stuff’ of following Jesus? This ties into what I mentioned about being uncomfortable and awkward. When sharing the gospel, there will be times when people will make you feel uncomfortable to the point of persecution.

“Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.” —[1 John 3:13](#)

There are so many people who hate Christians because our beliefs aren’t cool or liberal. This is exactly why the Bible also tells us not to love the world ([John 2:15-17](#)). Because if we love the world, how can we stand against it and share the good news?

When you’re discussing faith with a non-believer and they start persecuting for what you believe, stand your ground because you care about his/her salvation. Remember to respect their beliefs while still standing by and sharing yours. Keep your temper in check. It’s hard to not get angry when someone is condemning your beliefs, but becoming angry and lashing out at them will have the opposite effect and defeat the purpose of sharing your faith. Stay calm, share your faith with grace, and they will most likely have more respect for you.

Though it is difficult to be persecuted, remember Jesus sacrificed his life for our salvation, so we can at least power through and sacrifice our feelings for him.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” —[Matthew 5:10](#)

We don’t feel biblically knowledgeable ... or we feel too young

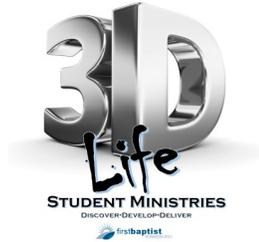
“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” —[1 Timothy 4:12](#)

Jesus was found sharing God’s word at the young age of 12.

“After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.” —[Luke 2:46-47](#)

Of course, Jesus was all knowing! You’re not expected to share the gospel with the same amount of knowledge he had, but that doesn’t mean you can’t share at all. Some people feel like they want to wait until they’re older or have enough biblical knowledge before they start sharing. But what is the ripe age? And how much knowledge is enough? If you don’t take a stand and start now, it’s possible you will never do it. Utilize whatever knowledge you have to teach them and help them grow. You don’t even have to know much more than them to lead them.

Think of it like this. If I’m leading a group of people through a maze, I only want to be a couple steps ahead of them so they can follow me. If I’m 50 feet ahead of them, they’ll get lost in the maze. If your knowledge is ahead, but still close enough to theirs, it will help you connect with them and grow with them. Remember that there will always be someone who can learn from you. And with that said, there will always be someone you can learn from too. Even the greatest leaders need someone to follow, so find the leaders in your own life. And don’t be afraid to admit you don’t know all the answers. If someone asks you a question you are unsure about, tell them you will have a look for the answer and get back to them. It’s the perfect opportunity to set up another time to chat further.



Sunday Morning Bible Study—9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship—10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship—5:00 PM

Wednesday Night Worship—5:30 PM

Wednesday Night Hang Time—6:30 PM to 8:00 PM



February 2021

Madison Driver—1

Lexi Mitchell—8

Kyd Cole—17

Tristan Pinnell—22

FEBRUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 	2	3 	4	5	6
7  	8 	9	10 	11	12	13  Valentine Banquet
14 Valentine's Day 	15 Presidents' Day	16	17  	18	19	20
21 	22 	23	24 	25	26	27
28 						