

Introduction

In John 3:16, the Bible says that God loves us. It says that He loves us so much that He allowed His Son to die so that we could be forgiven and live with Him forever. We are going to do a word study on the word love in that verse. I will do this first word study along with you. You will need a concordance to do a word study. A website you can use to do this online is blueletterbible.org.

The concordance tells us that the Strong's number is G25 and that the word in Greek is ἀγαπάω which is transliterated (how we would say the word) as agapaō. The concordance defines agapaō as loving in a way that puts what the other person first. Now we can fill in our word study chart.

Strong's

G25

Definition from concordance

love their interests first

Define in your own words

How do you say the word?

agapao

Word in original language

ἀγαπάω

Where do you think John 3:16 should be on the timeline?

Think about how you love your mom or dad, or how you love your best friend. But the way God loves us is in a way that puts what He knows we need first. Because He loves us like that, sometimes he has to teach us in a way that might not be fun for us, but He knows that in the end, if we choose to learn the lesson He was teaching we will be closer to Him and hopefully let go of some of the ick that remains from our life before Jesus.

This book will teach you about how God refines us and why He refines us. It will teach us how to grow closer to God by letting go of ick in our lives.



Dear Lord,

Thank you for forgiving me. I ask that the Holy Spirit helps me become friends with You. I ask that I will let the ick go. Help me to learn and grow.

Amen

The Source of Trouble

How do we know if we are in trouble with God? Once we accept Him as our savior and become friends with Jesus we are forgiven. But the old person is still attached and sometimes God needs to help us remove parts of it. This lesson will help you identify if there is something you need to let God get rid of in your life.

What is sin? Look up James 4:17 and write it here _____

Now do a word study on the word sin in James 4:17

Strong's

Definition from concordance

Define in your own words

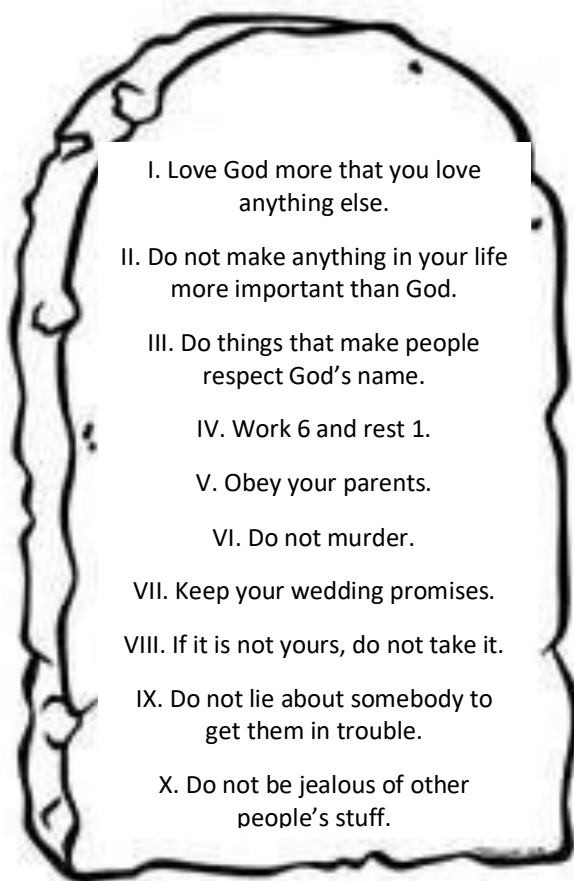
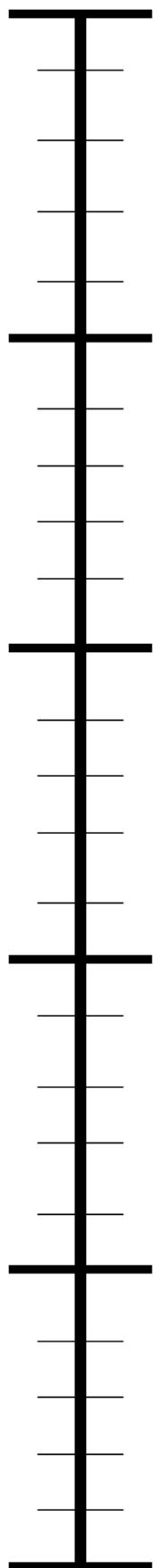
How do you say the word?

Word in original language

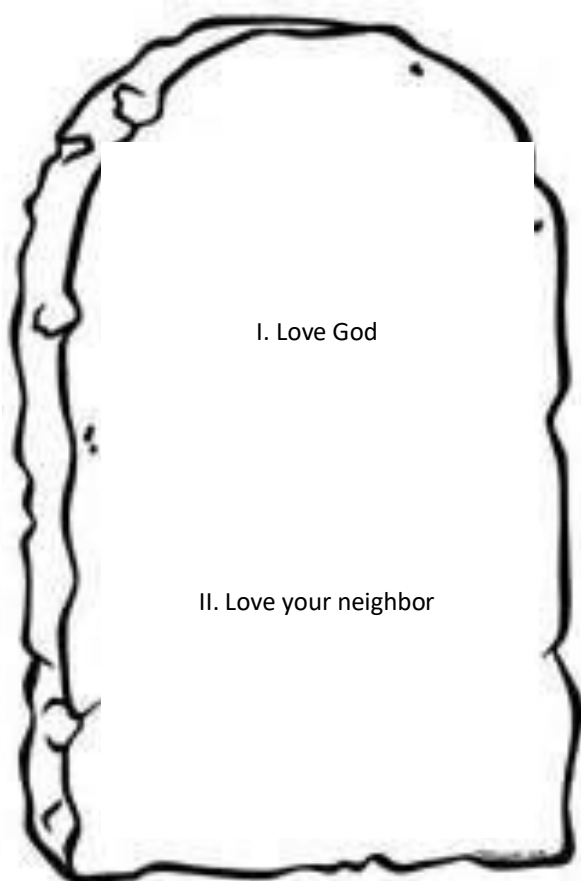
A really long time ago, God gave Moses a list of 10 things He expected the Israelites to obey. You can read about the 10 commandments in Exodus 20:1-17.

Can you put Moses and the 10 commandments on the timeline?

We have paraphrased the commandments below. Can you match the 10 commandments that God gave Moses to the correct commandments that Jesus gave in Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-34 and Luke 10:27?



- I. Love God more that you love anything else.
- II. Do not make anything in your life more important than God.
- III. Do things that make people respect God's name.
- IV. Work 6 and rest 1.
- V. Obey your parents.
- VI. Do not murder.
- VII. Keep your wedding promises.
- VIII. If it is not yours, do not take it.
- IX. Do not lie about somebody to get them in trouble.
- X. Do not be jealous of other people's stuff.



- I. Love God
- II. Love your neighbor

As you move through the week, try to make these part of your everyday time with God.

- Read your Bible
- Ask God to reveal things He wants you to see in the Bible
- Seek God first in everything.
- Pray for growth



Dear Lord,

Thank you for giving us rules to live by so we could know what you like and do not like. Help me to live as you would have me live. Thank you for helping me grow closer to you.

Amen

Failure: Training in Disguise

As followers of the One True God, we have an enemy. It is very important that we know who this enemy is and what that enemy might do to trip us up in our walk. Spend some time thinking about these questions. Can you find anything in the Bible that might help you answer these questions? Who exactly is the enemy? Where is the enemy located? What sort of weaponry does the enemy have? What kind of weaponry do we have?

Do a word study on the word truth in John 8:32

Strong's

Definition from concordance

Define in your own words

How do you say the word?

Word in original language

Now let's look at those questions together.

Who exactly is the enemy? Who is the bad guy? Whose goal is it to tempt us, trick us and lead us away from God. Our enemy would love to keep us from ever knowing God? Read 1 Peter 5:8. Who is our enemy? _____

Where is the enemy located? Is the enemy in heaven? On the earth? In hell?

Read Job 1:6 and Ephesians 6:12.

Is the enemy in heaven? _____

Does the enemy have access to heaven? _____

Now read Job 1:7 and 1 Peter 5:8.

Is the enemy on earth? _____

Does the enemy have access to earth? _____

Read Revelation 12:9.

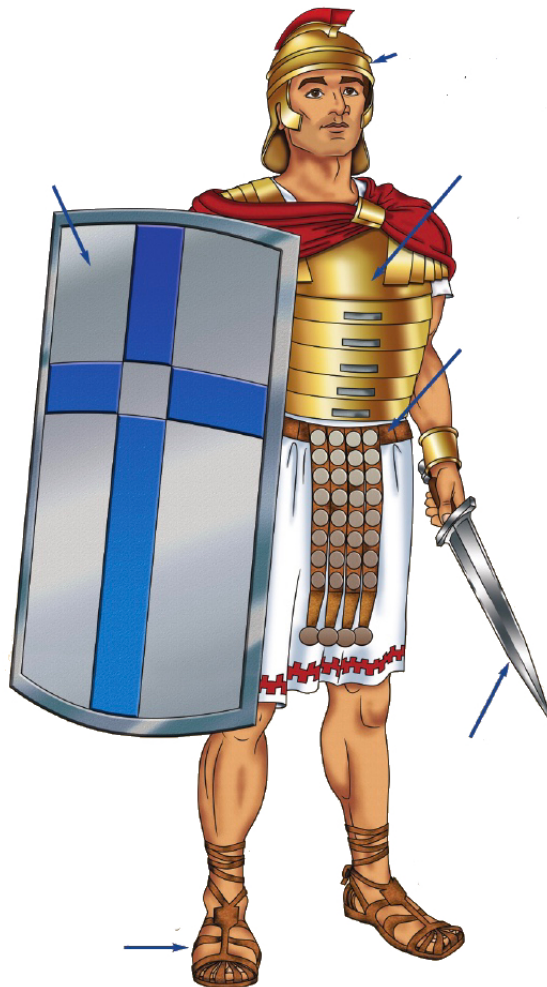
Where does this verse say the enemy is? _____

Read Revelation 20:2-3 and Revelation 20:10.

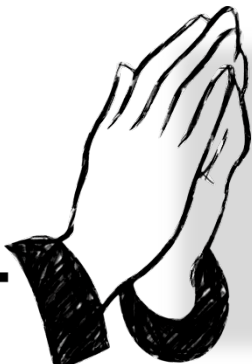
Do you think the enemy is in hell right now? _____

What weaponry does the enemy have? The enemy's biggest weapons are deception and distraction. If we are convinced that what the Bible tells us is not truth, then the enemy wins. If we are convinced that everyone goes to heaven and that Jesus is not the ONLY way, the enemy wins. Have you ever sat down to read your Bible and your mind starts to wander to other things? How about when you are getting ready to pray and cannot focus on the Lord?

So, what weaponry do we have to fight the enemy? God gives us armor that we can use to fight the enemy. Read Ephesians 6:13-17 and then label the pieces of armor in the illustration below.



We have looked at Job, Ephesians, and Revelation place them on your timeline.



Dear Lord,

Thank you for the armor that You have provided to fight the enemy. Thank you for the Bible that gives us all the information we need to live for You. Please help me to wear and use my armor as you intend.

Amen

Choose God!

Why should one choose God? Today, we are going to explore scripture to find our word for the word study. Read the following verses and then do a word study on the word that is the same in all of them.

Deuteronomy 32:39

Isaiah 19:22

Isaiah 57:17-18

Psalms 147:3

Isaiah 30:26

Isaiah 53:5

Genesis 20:17

Strong's

Definition from concordance

Define in your own words

How do you save the word?

Word in original language

Read the account of the Israelites after they have crossed the Red Sea and have now found themselves without water in Exodus 15:22-26. Throughout scripture, we find the word LORD. Have you ever wondered why all the letters are capital? When Lord is written as LORD, it is a special substitute for the true name of God. In Hebrew it is translated "Jehovah" or "Yahweh." In the section of scripture, you just read, God gives Himself one of many names. He calls Himself "Jehovah Rapha," which means "The LORD your healer." Jehovah is the name of God that reveals Himself as "I AM."

God makes many promises throughout scripture. Some are set in stone and will happen no matter what, some have a condition. God promised Abram he would be the father of many nations. But other times He told the Israelites if they did what He requested then He would give them the promise. 2 Chronicles 15 has a good example of if/then.

Fill out your timeline on your own this week.

God loves us! He loves us in such a way that He does what is best for us. Job may not have felt that God loved him every minute, but God's love for him stayed constant throughout. David wrote many Psalms talking about how God was there for him even when times were hard. Jeremiah talks a lot about how God is punishing the people for their disobedience.

It is up to you to choose God or not. There are horrible consequences if one does not choose God, but we each have that choice. Which will you choose?



Dear Lord,

Thank you for loving me. Thank you for providing for everything I need.
Thank you for healing me. Help me to choose You each day.

Amen

Personal Transformation

Last week we talked about one of the names of God, Jehovah-Rapha (God our Healer). This week we will introduce another name of God, Jehovah-Jireh (God who Provides). This name is only in the Bible once in Genesis 22:14. If you are having trouble finding it check the KJV (King James Version) and its coordinating Concordance. Even though it is only used once in the bible, there are many instances where God has revealed how He will provide for those whom He loves. Do a word search on “provide” and list three verses that demonstrate God providing.

Do a word study on the word manna in Exodus 16:31. This verse also gives a description of manna, can you draw what you think manna looked like? Then put the period of time the Israelites at manna on your timeline.

Strong's

Definition from concordance

Define in your own words

How do you save the word?

Word in original language

God provides everything we need. Philippians 4:19 says He will. So, why does it seem like sometimes God does not give us what we want? Now stop, think about what it is that you want. Is it something God would want for you? Is it really something that you need?

When we are born, we are born into sin, we do not have a choice. Sin was passed down from Adam. But God gave us an out, His Son Jesus. You can learn more about this in the “Informed and Faithful” study, specifically the Kinsman Redeemer model. The sin we are born with causes us to be drawn to sin and the world. Read John 16:33, James 4:4 and 1 John 2:16. What do you think God thinks of this world?

Now read Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, and 1 John 1:9. Do you think God wants us to stay as we were before being born again through the blood of Jesus Christ? _____

Sometimes choosing the right things is hard. God didn't say being a Christian would be easy. If you read the book of Acts, you will see that early Christians knew they would have it hard just for making that choice, but would you want to make the "easy" choice knowing what that means for you eternally?

As we become closer to God, He helps us see what needs to change in our lives. The world falls away and becomes less important. The trials we go through in our walk with God are like the struggles the caterpillar goes through in its cocoon. We come out a new creature, looking nothing like we were before our transformation.



Dear Lord,

Thank you for sending your Son to die for me so that I might be saved from the consequences of my sin. Thank you for helping me grown and become a new person. Please help me to stay faithful and strong as I go through each day.

Amen

God is in Control

This week, I ask that you do a study on the word “follow” in Luke 9:23.

Strong's

Definition from concordance

Define in your own words

How do you say the word?

Word in original language

Each day we wake up and go about our day. What is the first thing that you do each day?

What is it that God says we should do each day? _____

Read Luke 9:23 and really think about what the word cross means. To truly understand scripture, one must know what it meant when it was written. So, what did the cross mean to Jesus? At the point He said this He knew that He was going to sacrifice His life on the cross in the not too distant future, but what else did it mean for Him? In order for Him to be our redeemer He had to take the punishment for everyone, for everything that every person had ever done or would ever do. Jesus said in Matthew that being angry at your brother, calling him a good-for-nothing or a fool is the same as murder. He also says that just looking at someone lustfully was the same as committing the sin of adultery. In this world that we live today, we are constantly bombarded with images that are intended to cause lust. Have you ever felt angry with someone and called them names? Following Jesus is not the easy path. Let's look again at His words in Luke, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me. None of us are perfect, but with the Spirit dwelling in us, we are given the chance to actually do what Jesus commanded. If we allow God to be in control, He will help us become more like Jesus. Each day when we wake, we must again commit to living God's way instead of your way, taking up the burden of Christianity and do as Jesus did.

For this lesson, place Jesus on your timeline. You could even go further and determine where in the three years of His ministry the verse is.



Dear Lord,

Thank you for loving me just as I am. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to live in me and share Your power so that I might make it through each day. Help me to live your way every day of my life.

Amen