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Lessons are based on Spiritual Growth and Spiritual Life Discipleship Bible Studies at BibleStudyCD.com

All Scripture verses in this lesson are from the King James Version (KJV).

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“...Let God Be Magnified.”
~ Psalm 70:4 (KJV)
Would you choose to help someone who had mistreated you?

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8

God reached out to us while we were His enemies. What an amazing example of sacrificial love!

This study looks at how we can express God’s love in various relationships.

Relating to God

► KNOW God

“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Father, but the Son, and he to whom the Son wills to reveal him.”
John 16:25

“Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:
But let him that glorieth in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.”
Jeremiah 9:23-24

★ Circle three things we should not “glory” in.
★ Underline what the Lord wants us to “glory” in.

Knowing God enables us to see our blessings and our hardships from His perspective. This brings meaning and fulfillment to life.

► LOVE God

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.”
1 John 5:3

★ Circle how we show our love for God.
★ Underline what God’s commandments are not.

God’s commands are not a burden when we realize they were designed for our protection and provision.

► SERVE God

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.
Ye cannot serve God and mammon [money].”
Matthew 6:24

★ Underline two examples of what happens when we try to “serve two masters.”

When you KNOW God, you will LOVE Him.
And when you LOVE Him, you will want to SERVE Him.

If you don’t want to Serve God, maybe it is because you don’t really Love Him.
And if you don’t Love God, maybe it is because you don’t really Know Him.

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Relating to Authorities

▶ Parents

“...A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.”
Proverbs 10:1

- **Underline** what makes a “glad father.”
  We please our parents by obeying them, making wise choices, etc.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;
That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”
Ephesians 6:1-3

- **Circle** why children should obey their parents.
  Obedience to parents and other authorities is always right—unless they ask you to disobey God. (Acts 5:28-29)
- **Underline** two rewards for honoring your parents.
  These blessings make it worth the effort to honor your parents.

▶ Officials

“For he is the minister [servant] of God to thee for good.
But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid: for he beareth not the sword in vain:
for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.”
Romans 13:4

- **Underline** two times that the “minister of God” is mentioned.
  God established all our authorities, which is why He calls them His ministers.
  ♦ When we do what is right, we do not need to be afraid of God’s servants.
  ♦ For example, you only get a speeding ticket if you exceed the speed limit!

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men: For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”
1 Timothy 2:1-2

- **Circle** four things we should do for our authorities.
  Instead of complaining about your authorities, try praying for them.

▶ Employers

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”
Colossians 3:23-24

- **Underline** how we are to do our work.
- **Circle** who we really “serve.”

Working “heartily” means doing your best even if your boss is not watching. Your goal is to please Christ—who sees everything!

“Your best resume is not what you write, but how you live.”
~ Unknown
Relating to Christians

- **Coals** burn hotter and longer when they are piled together.
  When one coal is separated from the other coals, it soon becomes cold.
- In the same way, **Christians** who join together in spiritual fellowship will **stoke** one another’s faith in God, and **inflame** each other’s love for Him!

> “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
> Hebrews 10:24-25

- **Underline** two things we should do for “one another.”
  We often find it easier to criticize, shame, or judge another person who does not measure up to our standards. But God asks us to encourage those who are struggling.
- **Circle** what we should **not** forsake (or neglect).
  It is important to regularly attend a church that teaches God’s Word.

> “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”
> Galatians 6:10

- **Circle** the people for whom we should especially “do good.”
  God wants us to make it a priority to help other Christians.

Relating to Others

> “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”
> Philippians 2:4

- **Circle** whose interests we **should** look out for.

> “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”
> Romans 12:15

- **Underline** what we should do with those who “rejoice.”
- **Circle** what we should do with those who “weep.”

  Rejoicing with those who rejoice can be especially difficult when you were hoping for the same thing yourself.

**What if your friend got a promotion or special recognition and you didn’t?**

*Congratulate* your friend and *thank* God for all the blessings He has given you.

Write what these verses say to do for “one another.”

- **JOHN 15:12** “This is My commandment, that ye ______ one another, as I have loved you.”
- **EPHESIANS 4:32** “And be ye ______ one to another, tenderhearted [compassionate]. _____________ one another even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”
- **COLOSSIANS 3:13** “__________ one another, and ____________ one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”
- **1 THESALONIANS 5:11** “Wherefore comfort yourselves together and ______ one another, even as also ye do.”

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Friends

“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:
Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.”
Proverbs 22:24-25

- Circle two types of people we should not choose for friends.
- Underline what may happen after spending time with angry people.

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise:
but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”
Proverbs 13:20

- Circle what happens when you walk with wise people.
- Underline what happens to a “companion of fools.”

These verses from Proverbs show the importance of choosing friends wisely.

Our friends influence us more than we realize.

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt [destroy] good manners.”
1 Corinthians 15:33

- Circle what we should not be.
  Deceived means to be led away from truth. Scripture frequently warns about the dangers of going our own way—instead of God’s way.
- Underline what is corrupted by “evil communications” (bad company).

Do not be deceived! We become like the company we keep! If our goal is to be more like Christ, then we must spend time with Christians who are growing spiritually.

“You will be the same five years from now as you are today except for two things,
- the books you read, and
- the friends you make.”
~ Charles “Tremendous” Jones

Enemies

“But I [Jesus] say unto you which hear, Love your enemies,
do good to them which hate you,
Bless them that curse you, and
pray for them which despitefully use you.” Luke 6:27-28

- Underline four ways Jesus said to respond to those who mistreat us.
  - These are not natural or easy responses. But if we ask, God will give us the ability.
  - This lesson began with Jesus’ example of loving His enemies enough to die for them.

Corrie ten Boom (a Holocaust survivor) said:
When He tells us to love our enemies,
He gives along with the command, the love itself.”
~ Several years after Corrie’s release from Ravensbruck concentration camp, one of the cruelest Ravensbruck guards asked her to forgive him.
~ With God’s help, Corrie was able to forgive her former prison guard.

APPLICATION

List ways you can show God’s love to someone who did not treat you well.