

Bible workbook

Year 10

Term 1

Attribute of God: God is...	Page	Number of weeks	Number of pages
Love	2	5	15
Provider	16	5	19

Total: 34

Acknowledgment:

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God is Love



1. A first look at parents

So familiar are our own human parents to us that trying to understand them can be a real problem. We are something like the fish trying to see the water or the roomful of people who could not smell the odor. We are too close, too familiar, to get them into proper focus. Hold this page right up against your face and you will no longer be able to read the words. Focus requires a certain distance. To gain the proper “distance” from parents, you will start by viewing the parents of three animal types. You will examine some animal parents and contrast them with human parents. Then you will study the strengths and weaknesses of three sets of Biblical parents. At the end of this section, you will go beyond your human parents to gain a deeper understanding of the heavenly Father as your divine parent.

Objectives

1. Explain what parenthood involves for animals and human beings.
2. Identify certain Biblical texts that can help you to understand parents.
3. Discuss your relationship to your heavenly Father.

Vocabulary

adolescence - Period of life between about age twelve to adulthood.

concubine - A woman who, in ancient times, lived in a socially recognized relationship with a man who was not her full husband.

culture - The customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group.

favoritism - Having favorites, liking some more than others.

foreshadowed - To indicate something that is to come.

instinct - Natural or inherent aptitude or behavior.

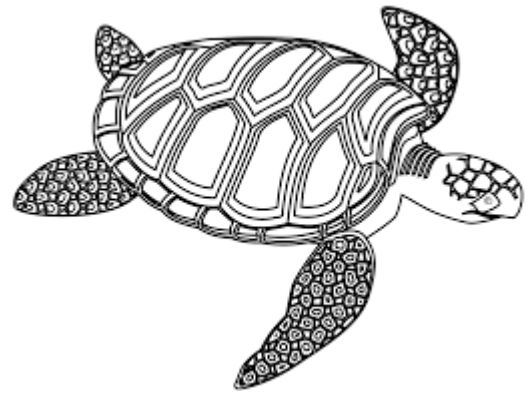
polygamy - Marriage in which a spouse may have more than one mate at the same time.

2. Animal parents

The word parent cannot be limited to human parents. All living things including plants and animals have parents. The acorn is the offspring of a parent oak, and it may grow to be an adult tree that produces acorns for the next generation. This aspect of parenthood is worth thinking about, but many other aspects must be considered when you think about animal parents and even more when you look at your own human parents. As you approach the following study of three animal parents, try to compare them, in your mind, with human parents. Look for the similarities and the differences.

Sea turtles

Sea turtles live and mate in the sea, but they lay eggs that must incubate on land. Every two or three years, the sea turtle travels long distances, sometimes more than a thousand miles, to nest. As difficult as the task is for her, the female sea turtle must come up onto the shore to nest and to lay her eggs. At night, when the beach is dark and still, she drags herself high onto the soft, warm sand well beyond the high-tide water. During the nesting season, she prepares a separate nest each time she lays eggs. First, she digs a shallow pit in which to rest, and then, with her hind flippers, she scoops out the nest hole. Into the nest hole she lays about one hundred soft, white, leathery eggs that look like ping-pong balls. She lays a large number of eggs so that some of them will survive.



The female turtle is on land for only about an hour while laying her eggs, but this period is an extremely dangerous time in her life. She does not see well on land, and her heavy shell makes her slow and awkward. Still, nothing at all can take her mind off of what she is doing. Dogs, noises, and even people will not stop her. She will simply ignore them. Naturally, predators, such as the jaguar and puma, find the nesting female an easy meal.

Unlike birds, turtles and other reptiles do not watch over their eggs. During the sixty days that the eggs incubate on land, packs of wild dogs, skunks, raccoons, and ocelots usually dig them up and eat them. Only a few turtles are hatched out of every one hundred eggs laid.

When they do hatch, their parents are not there to protect them. These tiny infant turtles have to find their own way to the water, and they must protect themselves and feed themselves as best they can.

Birds. For most birds, parenthood is much more demanding than it is for the turtles. First of all, both parents, not just the female, work to build the nest. Some bird nests are marvelous structures which would cause one to wonder how such work could be done without a pair of skillful hands. Both the male and female birds work for about a week gathering straw, twigs, feathers, and pieces of string until a suitable "house" has been constructed where the female can lay her eggs. Once the eggs are laid, they must be kept warm by the body of the parent. Among many birds both mother and father take turns incubating the eggs by sitting on them. After about two weeks the eggs hatch.

Baby songbirds cannot readily open their eyes, run about, and feed themselves; but by instinct they can open their mouths for food. The two parent birds are busy all day, hunting for insects to feed the family. Every few minutes one of the parents comes back with a beak full of food for the children. The parent birds must catch thousands of insects every day to keep up with their babies' appetites and with their own. For the first few nights the mother bird sleeps with her children. When they are big enough to keep each other warm, she roosts somewhere else where she can rest better.

Even after they leave the nest, young songbirds must be fed by the parents for another ten days or so before they learn to feed themselves. Other survival skills come more quickly; for birds are born almost knowing how to fly, to drink, to bath, to preen their feathers, and even to build nests. Birds work hard for their children, but soon their task is done, and the young birds are on their own. For larger animals such as lions, parenthood often lasts much longer.

Activities

Write true or false.

- 1.1 _____ Over familiarity often results in loss of awareness and lack of appreciation.
- 1.2 _____ Familiarity is a substitute for understanding.
- 1.3 _____ Sea turtles lay their eggs on the floor of the sea.
- 1.4 _____ Sea turtles lay less than five eggs each nesting season.
- 1.5 _____ Dogs or other intruders can easily distract a nesting sea turtle.
- 1.6 _____ Sea turtles do not watch over their eggs.

Write the correct letter and answer on each line.

1.7 Songbirds work about a _____ to build their nests.

- a. day b. week c. month

1.8 After young songbirds leave the nest, they must still be fed by their parents for about__ .

- a. a day b. seven days c. ten days

Answer this question.

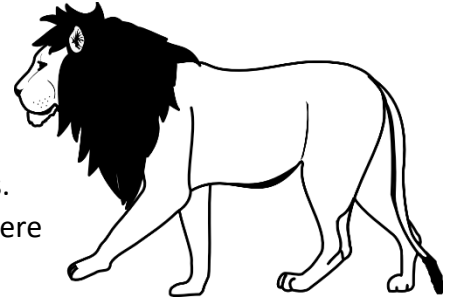
1.9 Why can the word parent not be limited to human parents?

Do this activity.

1.10 Describe in your own words the basic parental activities of birds.

Lions

African lions do not dig sand nests like turtles, nor do they construct beautiful nests in trees like birds, but the female lion does seek a safe hiding place where she can give birth to her cubs. She may make her nest in a thick clump of thorn bushes where there is no scent of enemies.



Three days after the cubs are born, the mother will leave the nest to hunt for food and water. When she returns to the nest, the lion mother licks each cub vigorously; and then she lies down beside them. The cubs cuddle close to their mother and feed from the milk that nature has provided.

For several weeks the cubs do nothing but sleep and eat. The mother leaves them for hours at a time to hunt for meat. Sometimes, while the mother is gone, a cub will push his way through the thorn bushes to explore the outside world. Unfortunately, the outside world is full of enemies; and a cheetah may find a young lion cub a tasty meal.

When the cubs are old enough, the lioness moves out of the bushes. She makes a low moaning sound and the cubs follow her. She is taking them to her family group, the pride.

When the large male of the pride hears them coming, he looks up and growls softly. One of the cubs may wander over to him. He lets the cub settle down between his forepaws. The cub rubs up against his chin and he licks the little one gently.

Although the females continue to nurse the cubs, they must now begin to learn to eat meat. That is, the cubs must learn to be aggressive. Learning aggression is necessary to the lion's survival. When a kill is made, usually by a pair of females, the male lion eats first. If a cub tries to eat while the male is eating, a giant paw will send the cub away head over heels! When the male is full, the females may eat; but even they, when they are eating, will sweep aside the cubs with heavy blows. As soon as the lionesses have crouched at their favorite eating spots, the cubs edge in. They all growl and snap at each other as they stuff themselves. The cubs, in this way, are each learning to behave like lions.

In about three months, the cubs are ready to join in the hunt. While hunting, their lessons in aggression will be put to the test. At first, they stay in the rear and watch every move of the hunter. Later, in their play, they stalk and pounce on flickering shadows. The cubs have a natural instinct to hunt, and they learn rapidly. One day, two cubs are permitted to go out with one lioness. They may find a young zebra by himself in the tall grass. The lioness stops, with her tail switching back and forth. The cubs are instantly on the alert. They move forward in the dry grass close to the lioness, without making a sound. Without warning the lioness roars and steps back. The cubs spring forward eagerly while the adult female sits down quietly to watch the action. That zebra may escape, but eventually the cub's skill grows to match the challenge. Before they are skillful enough to live on their own, however, they will be two years old. In the meantime, while they are learning, they usually share part of their mother's kill.

1.11 For each true statement place an “X” on the line.

- a. _____ Lions build complex nests for their children.
- b. _____ The lioness never leaves the nest until her cubs are full grown.
- c. _____ The family group of lions is called the pride.
- d. _____ Lion cubs must learn to be aggressive.
- e. _____ When a kill is made, the male lion eats first.
- f. _____ The lion, lioness, and cubs share in eating the meat at the same time.
- g. _____ Lion cubs learn rapidly to hunt and kill other animals for food.

3. Human parents

All three animal parents share one activity with human parents—they reproduce. Two of the three animals share duty with human parents —they feed their offspring. Remember, you learned that turtles must feed themselves from the first day they hatch. The lion spends the most effort in the training of her children. You will now study these three functions of parents: childbearing, providing food and shelter for their children, and teaching their children.

Childbearing

When a human mother is about to give birth, many preparations must be made. A “nest” must be prepared. We usually call the baby’s new room a nursery. Both father and mother may be involved in gathering the necessary items and arranging them in a suitable location. In our part of the world, large sums of money must be earned to pay for this “nest.” The father, and often the mother, work at various occupations to earn this money.

In addition to themselves, the parents call in certain assistants. A doctor or a midwife may be employed to help with the birth, and the first few days may be spent in a very special “nest,” a hospital. Human parents are extremely careful to insure the survival of each one of their children.

Human babies are helpless at birth. The baby turtles were able to be on their own immediately, but human beings are more like the baby songbirds who have only the strength to open their mouths for food.

Parents of newborn children find themselves with a schedule of chores that goes on around the clock because the newborn can do nothing for himself. He or she must be fed, changed, cleaned, and cuddled. During the first few weeks after birth, the parents are frequently up in the middle of the night attending to the needs of their new child.

Providing food and shelter. Compared to animals, human beings have a long childhood. Human parents will spend over sixteen years feeding and protecting their young. Human

parents and their children must live together for a very long time as the children slowly mature. Both parents and children may find this long period difficult, but God has a plan in all of this. As He gave special attention to the creation of Adam, forming him in His own image, He has arranged that growing human beings be given much more attention than animals. To ensure this arrangement, He has greatly lengthened the period of childhood for human beings. Although we are as helpless as the newborn songbirds at birth, our long education during the slow growth to adulthood provides us with abilities far beyond those of the lions, for example.

Throughout the childhood and youth of their offspring, the human parents are responsible for the feeding and protection of their children. Human infants are almost never left alone. When both parents must be away from the home, they either take the baby with them or they have an older child, a relative, or a babysitter care for the younger one. As the child grows older, he or she may be placed under the care of the other adults for certain periods, such as in school; but adult supervision is still maintained. As the child approaches adolescence, the parents will gradually relax some of their protective supervision and gradually prepare the youth for the independence of adulthood.

Even young people in their late teens retain the benefit of their parents' protection most of the time, and they are usually still completely dependent on their parents for food.

If the young person chooses to continue his education after high school, he may continue to partially depend upon his parents for food, shelter, and personal needs. Human parents dedicate much more time to the feeding and protection of their young than does any other creature on earth.

1.12 Name three functions of human parents.

a.

b.

c.

1.13 Tell how newborn human babies are like baby songbirds.

1.14 Explain how God has insured that children get more attention in their childhood than animals.

Teaching

Human beings must learn many complex skills. Because humans have few natural instincts, learning is often difficult. However, in exchange for instincts, God has given us a capacity to think and learn far beyond the abilities of the animal kingdom.

Traditionally, parents have been the teachers of their children. In spite of the invention of schools, parents remain the most important teachers. School teachers find that they can teach very little to students who have not first learned the lessons taught by their parents.

Two forms of parental teaching are teaching for survival and teaching spiritual awareness. Teaching for survival is a function of both humans and many parent members of the animal kingdom. Depending upon the culture to which you belong, you must learn to clothe yourself, to speak, to tell time, and to use proper eating utensils. All of these skills must be learned, and most of them must be taught by the parents.

Young people often imagine that the skills that will most help them to earn their livings as adults are mechanical or technical skills. However, other abilities learned at home are just as important. Here are eleven:

1. The ability to follow directions.
2. The ability to accept criticism.
3. Dependability.
4. Cooperativeness.
5. Initiative.
6. Honesty.
7. The willingness to learn.
8. Enthusiasm.
9. Appreciativeness.
10. Friendliness.
11. Loyalty.

These abilities are not instincts; they must be learned. Schools, churches, and other groups can help you learn these abilities, but most of your learning in these areas will take place at home with your parents doing the teaching. No other person or organization can really take the place of your parents. Parents will apply both gentleness and sternness, just as the lions did, to teach their children these important abilities.

Other skills that are not directly related to your physical survival may also be taught by your parents. The teaching of spiritual awareness is unique to human beings. Spiritual awareness has to do with our being created in the image of God. All over the world, human beings seek a knowledge of God, which is really more important than a knowledge of how to earn a living.

All over the world you can find parents trying to pass along to their children what they have learned about God and His meaning in their lives. Many parents teach their children morals, values, and doctrines. They instruct their children in the Scriptures. Most of all, they teach by example.

A child with dedicated Christian parents is especially blessed. Parents who are dedicated to Jesus Christ can lead their children into the “kingdom of God.” Luke 17:21 says that the kingdom of God is within those who trust in Jesus.

Write true or false.

1.15 _____ Humans have many natural instincts, which make learning easy.

1.16 _____ God has given humans a capacity to think and to learn far beyond the abilities of the animal kingdom.

1.17 _____ The government is your most important teacher.

1.18 _____ Animals can teach spiritual awareness to their young.

1.19 _____ Cooperativeness, honesty, and friendliness should be taught first at home by the parents.

Answer these questions.

1.20 What are the two forms of human parental teaching?

a.

b.

1.21 What does Luke 17:21 say about the kingdom of God?

1.22 What are two important ways in which parents teach spiritual awareness to their children?

a.

b.

Complete this activity.

1.23 Write a paragraph comparing a human father to the father songbird.

4. Some Biblical parents

Spiritual awareness is a form of development that should continue throughout your entire lifetime. Learning spiritual truths is the highest form of learning known to man. Your parents will be students and teachers at the same time. As you are learning from their example, they are learning also, studying the Scriptures and seeking to follow Biblical examples. What examples of parenthood might be discovered in the Bible?

Abraham and Sarah

Read Genesis 18:9–16; 21: 1–8; 22:1–14

These passages tell us of the relationship with their son, Isaac. Many unusual events took place in the lives of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac. What can you learn about your own parents from such unusual examples? You can learn three powerful lessons from the story of Abraham and Sarah.

1. Although Sarah was old, she still had something to learn about the power of God. She laughed when the angel predicted the birth of Isaac. Remember, that everyone, including parents, is a student in spiritual matters.
2. God kept his promises to Abraham and Sarah. Abram trusted God, and God didn't disappoint them. In Genesis 15, we see more time passing by with no realization of what Abram was promised. Abram got older. He doubted he would have any descendants at all. The Lord affirmed Abram would have more descendants than stars in the sky. Abram couldn't see the possibility, but he believed anyway. But even in his belief, he questioned how this could happen. God made a covenant with Abram and prophesied about his future descendants. Furthermore, this covenant showed that God alone was fully responsible for making the promise come true.

3. Abraham and Sarah Took God at His Word. Like Abram, we must take God at His Word, even when we don't understand. We are never going to understand everything that God knows. But He is good, and we can trust Him. What seems impossible to our minds is very possible to God.

Hannah, mother of Samuel

1 Samuel 1

Hannah's faith is one of the most inspiring in the Bible. One of the most notable things Hannah does is offer her son Samuel to the service of God by dedicating him to the temple. While it may sound strange today, to offer your child to work in a temple from a young age, what we can learn from Hannah is having a persistent faith and a heart willing to surrender everything to God and seek His will for her child.

Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus

Read Luke 2:41–52

Imagine your spouse one day telling you she's pregnant with a child that's not your own, and then to make matters worse tells you God impregnated her. Any normal husband would want to leave his fiancé, but not Joseph. He trusted in his wife and importantly in God when things made the least sense and faithfully raised a young Jesus as if He were his own. We know that Joseph was a carpenter and would have taught Jesus the skills in carpentry. We know that Mary and Joseph provided the education of the day for Jesus, being the learning of the Scriptures from the rabbis in the Temple.

Eunice, mother of Timothy

Read 2 Timothy 1:5

Eunice does not have a Bible narrative of her own, but we do know that Timothy was a young leader whom Paul trusted and believed in so much. Paul also commended his mother and grandmother in 2 Timothy 1:5 saying, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well."

Eunice had a contagious faith that was transferred to her son. Parents who have such faith will have an effect on their children as the children grow in trusting God.

Test

Complete these statements.

1.01 Loss of awareness and lack of appreciation for your family is often the result of _____ .

1.02 God has provided a way for human children to receive more _____ than animals during their childhood.

1.03 Childhood learning is more difficult for humans than for animals because we have so few natural _____ .

1.04 Animals cannot teach _____ to their young.

1.05 Cooperativeness, honesty, and friendliness should first be taught by the _____ .

1.06 Two forms of human parental teaching are teaching for

a. _____ and teaching b. _____ .

1.07 Luke said that the kingdom of God is _____ us.

1.08 Parents can teach spiritual truths to their children by instruction in the

a. _____ and by being an

b. _____ of dedication.

Answer these questions.

1.09 What are three functions of human parents?

a.

b.

c.

1.010 What are the basic parental activities of sea turtles?

1.011 What do the parent lions teach their cubs when they eat?

1.012 Choose an example of parents in the Bible, and explain why they were good parents.

For discussion

Non-Biblical forms of marriage and parenting

1. Polygamy

Polygamy is the term used to describe a marriage between at least three people. Polygamy contrasts with monogamy, which is a marriage between only two people. While monogamy is the standard approach to marriage in Europe and the Americas, polygamy is common in much of Africa and the Middle East, and is also seen in parts of Southeast Asia. Ultimately, however, only about 2% of the global population lives in polygamous households.

Religious views on polygamy

Buddhism

Buddhists regard marriage as a secular affair rather than a sacrament. As such, each Buddhist country has its own stance on polygamy. For example, Thailand legally recognized polygamy in 1955, whereas Myanmar outlawed polygyny in 2015.

Christianity

Although there were examples in the Bible of polygamy, (King Solomon for example), but this was not according to God's instructions. The Bible clearly states that marriage is between one man and one woman.

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Matthew 19:4-6 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Mormons

In the United States, the Utah-based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Mormons practiced polygamy, which it called "plural marriage", from 1847 to 1890. The U.S. government made polygamy illegal in 1862, largely in response to the LDS Church.

Hinduism

Hindu law allows polygamy within certain parameters, though the application varies from one Hindu country to another. For example, traditional Hindu law allowed polygamy if the first wife could not bear a son.

Islam

Islam is the only major religion whose sacred texts arguably endorse polygamy. Verse 3 of Surah 4 An-Nisa (Women) declares that a man may marry up to four women under specific (and debated) circumstances. In observance of this text, many Muslim countries allow a man to have up to four wives.

Muslim acceptance of polygyny is illustrated by the fact that polygamy is most common in the Middle East and North/Central Africa, the regions of the world that are home to the highest concentrations of Muslims, and illegal in most other regions

Judaism

Many prominent Jewish leaders, including Abraham, David, and Jacob, are described in the Torah as having polygamous/plural marriages. However, like Christians (whose Old Testament mirrors the Torah), modern Jews have disavowed the practice.

Legality and recognition of polygamy around the world

The legal status of polygamy varies from country to country, with each nation either outlawing, accepting, or encouraging polygamy.

Polygamy is illegal and criminalized in every country in North and South America, including all 50 U.S. states. With the exception of the Solomon Islands, polygamous marriages are not recognized in Europe and Oceania. In India, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore, the governments recognize polygamous marriages, but only for Muslims. In Australia, polygamous marriage is outlawed, but polygamous relationships are common within some indigenous Australian communities. In Indonesia, polygamy is legal in some areas, such as in Bali, Papua, and West Papua. Balinese Hinduism allows for polygamy, which has been practiced for centuries by the Balinese and Papuans. Protests to outlaw polygamy and polygamous marriages occurred in 2008 in Indonesia but did not result in legislative changes. In some African countries, polygamy is illegal under civil law but still allowed through customary law, in which acts that have traditionally been accepted by a particular culture are considered legally permissible.

Discussion:

What are the implications for children raised in a polygamous relationship?

2. Adoption of children by same-sex couples

This is when two men, or two women are in a relationship and are permitted by law to adopt children. This is legal in 53 countries (2023) including Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, U.S.A and Canada and most of Europe.

Discussion:

What are the implications for children raised in this kind of family?

God is Provider



Part 1: He has provided us with His Word

Who wrote the Bible?

The Bible we have today is usually one very thick book of more than 1000 pages. But different parts of the Bible were written by different people over a very long period of time — probably as much as 1500-2000 years. It was only later that the many different parts were collected together into a single book.

The famous stories about the early Jewish people — Moses and the Ten Commandments, Joseph with his special coat, and David and Goliath — all happened some 3500 years ago and were written down at about that time.

Oral tradition

The first stories in the Bible go back to pre-history, long before writing was invented. They were passed on in the same way as children's playground songs are passed on today — by being constantly repeated. Passing stories on in this way is often called oral (or spoken) tradition.

Round the camp-fires in the evenings, at worship, at work or at war, people sang the songs and told the stories that they had learned as children. Because these stories were about God, they were treated with great respect. Every word was important, and had to be repeated correctly.

Scholars are not sure when the books of the Old Testament were first written down; the period of Joseph and his brothers. Their writing covered several centuries. By the third century BC the Jews recognised a number of their books as 'holy', and directly inspired by God. They were formally agreed at the Synod of Jamnia (in the Holy Land) in AD 90, and are the book we know as the Old Testament — though we have them in a different order.

What about the New Testament?

Jesus of Nazareth was born hundreds of years after the writings mentioned earlier, just two thousand years ago. But stories about Jesus were at first passed on by word of mouth too.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote the four Gospels based on eye-witness accounts of Jesus' life. So the stories about Jesus' birth at Bethlehem, his life and miracles, which we know from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, were all written down before about AD 100.

How the Bible was written down

1. Clay tablets

Clay was shaped into thin, flat rectangular blocks. Words were pressed into the clay with a wedge-shaped stylus, and the clay was then baked in the sun. Archaeologists have found whole 'libraries' of these clay tablets.

2. Stone

The first permanent writing surface was stone. In the Bible, the first reference to writing is the Ten Commandments, which were written on stone. The first pen was a chisel.

3. Leather

The skins of sheep, goats, calves and antelopes were dried to make a smooth material called parchment. (The Hebrew word means 'scrape'). Then the skins were stretched and beaten flat ready for writing on. Pens were made from reeds, with one edge cut to a sloping edge then split.

4. Papyrus

Before the pyramids were built, the ancient Egyptians had learned to make papyrus paper from the inner stalk of the papyrus reeds growing on the banks of the Nile River. While wet, the thin stems were laid down and beaten until they blended together in a flat paper called papyrus. Egyptian pens were flat reeds and ink was derived from plants and insects.



Scrolls

There were no books in Old or New Testament times. Writings on parchment or papyrus were rolled up into scrolls.

Languages of the Bible

1. Hebrew

The Old Testament tells the story of God's people, the Israelites. Their language was Hebrew. Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew.

2. Aramaic

Aramaic was spoken by the Persians, who were the major power in the Middle East for 200 years from about 550 BC. Aramaic became the language used by traders in that region. Parts of the Old Testament – the books of Daniel, Ezra and Jeremiah – were written in Aramaic. By New Testament times, Aramaic was the every-day language of the Jews, and Jesus would have spoken it. However, Hebrew remained the language for prayer and worship. Educated people still understood Hebrew, but when the Hebrew Bible was read aloud in synagogue services, a translator often gave the meaning in Aramaic.

3. Greek

In 331 BC the Greek general Alexander the Great conquered Persia. He now ruled the known ancient world, and 'common' Greek became the language that most people understood. When the followers of Jesus wrote the New Testament, they wanted the whole known world to hear the Good News, so they wrote in Greek, translating the

Aramaic spoken by Jesus into the Greek language. In just a few places they retained original Aramaic words. For example, 'abba' is an Aramaic word meaning dad. When Jesus spoke to Jairus' daughter, he said, 'Talitha, koum' — these were his actual Aramaic words. The Gospel writers gave us a Greek translation, which in English is, 'Get up, my child' (Mark 5:41).

There are 24 letters in the Greek alphabet, which was the first alphabet to include letters for vowels. Sentences — and books — were written from left to right. In Revelation, God says: 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' — the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet — 'who is, and who was, and who is to come' (Revelation 1:8).

The earliest evidence

Possibly the earliest part of the New Testament so far discovered is a papyrus fragment, only 6 cm by 9 cm (2 by 3 inches), containing a few lines from John's Gospel. It is written in Greek, dates from about AD130, and is known as the 'John Rylands fragment'.

Scrolls from the Dead Sea

In 1947 a Bedouin shepherd-boy tending his flock in the barren hills west of the Dead Sea noticed a hole in nearby cliffs. He tossed a stone inside, and heard the sound of breaking crockery. Intrigued, he went to explore and found a number of earthenware jars.

Exploring further, he discovered that inside the jars were rolls of leather parchment covered in ancient Hebrew writing. At first no one was interested in his find; but when some archaeologists saw the scrolls, there was real excitement. Eventually about 400 scrolls were found in caves near a place called Qumran. They turned out to be the library of a Jewish religious sect called the Essenes, and include parts of every book in the Hebrew Old Testament except Esther.

The ascetic Essene community lived nearby around the time of Christ, and built a settlement which has been excavated to reveal a watchtower, refectory, scriptorium (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were probably copied) as well as ritual baths, pottery and a cemetery.

Carbon 14 dating has shown that the Dead Sea Scrolls were written between 200 BC and AD 70. The Isaiah Scroll is almost complete, and is 1000 years older than our next oldest surviving copy of Isaiah; yet the two texts are almost identical. This shows how accurate the copyists were — and how seriously they took their job.

Finally, books!

Scrolls were cumbersome to carry, and it was time consuming to find a short Bible passage on a long scroll. In the second Century Christians collected together the books of the New Testament. They were probably the first people to do away with the scroll. They collected several sheets of papyrus or parchment, places them together, folding

them in half, sewing along the fold, and then adding more folded sheets. This was sometimes given a harder cover.

Facts about the Bible

The Bible has 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

It is composed of the writings of more than 30 different authors.

It was written during a time span of approximately 1500 years.

It tells the truth about God and His world.

The Old Testament

The Jews grouped the books of the Old Testament in three sections:

1. The Law

The first five books of the Old Testament, (called the Torah)

2. The Prophets

The writings of the Prophets, such as Ezekiel and Isaiah, and also books of History such as 1 and 2 Kings

3. The Writings

Books such as Proverbs and Job, with their wise sayings, and also later books of history such as Chronicles and Ezra.

Christians usually divide up the Old Testament into four groups of books:

1. The Law

Genesis to Deuteronomy

2. History

Joshua to Esther

3. Wisdom

Job to Song of Solomon

4. Prophets

Isaiah to Malachi

The New Testament

Like the Old Testament, the New Testament is made up of a number of different, shorter books – a total of 27. It can be divided as follows:

1. History

The first five books which include the four Gospels and the book of Acts

2. Letters

Both letters from the Apostle Paul, such as Romans, Galatians and Philemon, and other letters, such as the letter to the Hebrews and the letters of Peter and James.

3. The Revelation of John

A Book of letters to the seven churches in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) including John's vision concerning the last days.

The World of the New Testament

Throughout the New Testament times, the Romans had overall control of the country of Palestine (now called Israel). They ruled through their own governors and through the Herod family.

The Gospels

The first four books of the New Testament are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These four books are called the Gospels because they contain the life and teachings of Jesus. They contain good news about Jesus.

Matthew was a publican. As a publican he collected Roman taxes, which was an unpopular job. Matthew became a believer in Jesus and traveled with Him during most of His public ministry. Matthew wrote the first book of the New Testament.

Mark wrote the second Gospel. He was a friend of Peter. Peter also wrote books of the New Testament. Mark was also a friend of Paul. Paul was a great preacher in that time. Mark's Gospel is the shortest book of the four Gospels.

Luke wrote the third Gospel. Luke was a physician, or a doctor. The special emphasis of his book was that Jesus was completely human as well as completely divine.

John wrote the fourth book of the New Testament. He was Jesus' closest friend on earth. John emphasized the fact that Jesus was the Son of God.

All four Gospels record facts about Jesus but not the same facts. Only Matthew and Luke tell of the birth and childhood of Jesus. One-third of the book of Matthew is about the last week of Jesus' life. One-half of the book of John is about the last week of Jesus' life. Thus, all of the books are about Jesus; yet, each has a different emphasis.

Complete the following activities.

1.9 Name the four Gospels in the order they appear in the New Testament.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

1.10 The closest friend of Jesus emphasized that He was the _____ of God.

1.11 To find out about the birth and childhood of Jesus, read the books of

- a. _____ and
- b. _____.

Write the letter for the correct answer on each line.

1.12 The New Testament has _____ books; the first four are called the Gospels.

- a. thirty-nine
- b. twenty-seven
- c. sixty-six

1.13 Mark was a friend of _____.

- a. Paul and Pilate
- b. Peter and Paul
- c. Peter and Pharaoh

1.14 Another name for physician is _____.

- a. tax collector
- b. teacher
- c. doctor

Answer the following questions.

1.15 What does the word gospel mean?

1.16 Why are the first four books called the Gospels?

1.17 What was a publican?

1.18 Which Gospel writer had been a publican?

1.19 Which one of the four Gospel writers was a physician?

1.20 What was the special emphasis of the book by the physician?

1.21 Who was Jesus' closest friend? _____

Answer true or false.

1.22 _____ All four Gospels record the same facts about Jesus.

1.23 _____ All of the Gospels are about Jesus, yet each has a different emphasis.

The book of Psalms

Read Psalm 62.

God is the object of the Psalms. As David writes in Psalm 62:1–2, “Truly my soul waits upon God: from him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.”

All of the 150 Psalms of the Bible are ultimately about God. The Psalms express in poetic form the drama of human relationships with God, especially as lived by the people of Israel. We learn much about God and ourselves in the Psalms.

The Psalms are chiefly about God and our relationship with Him. They tell of all kinds of events concerning the people of Israel and God. The Psalms are about God and the relationship he has with His people. They are prayers and songs from individuals and groups of people to God.

Vocabulary

anatomy - The structure or inner part.

anonymous - The author's name is unknown.

ascend - To move gradually upward.

attributed - Assigned or considered as belonging to another.

exaltation - An act of exalting, or elevating in praise.

extols - Praises highly or glorifies.

formation - An act (or acts) of giving form or shape to something.

laments - Having sorrow for or mourning.

precepts - Rules, laws, directions.

predominates - Exerts controlling power or influence.

Psalter - The Book of Psalms in the Old Testament.

seer - Someone who receives messages from God through visions or dreams.

Septuagint - The Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament accomplished in Alexandria, Egypt about 250 BC

symbolizes - Represents, expresses, or identifies by a symbol.

topical - Of, relating to, or arranged by topics.

What are the Psalms?

The words “Psalms” and “Psalter” (as the Book of Psalms is sometimes called) come to us from the Greek translation of the Bible known as the Septuagint. The Greek word most used in that translation for the writings we have in the Book of Psalms was *psalmoi*, referring to “songs sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments.” Therefore, the very name “Psalms” helps us to begin to answer the question: What are the Psalms? They are religious songs, written by various ancient Jewish authors. Most of the Psalms were originally intended to be accompanied by stringed instruments that are plucked, such as the harp, lyre, psaltery, or zither.

The Hebrew word used for these writings of the Bible was *tehillim*, meaning “praises.” This word also helps us understand that many of the Psalms are songs of praise to God. The Psalms are also prayers. In fact, one of the first collections of the Psalms in the Bible was titled “The prayers of David, the son of Jesse” (Psalm 72:20).

The Psalms were given to us by God as prayers inspired by Him. The Psalms are not only prayers, they help us learn how to pray. They express in all forms of human language and emotion the prayers of God’s people. Finally, the Psalms are also Hebrew poetry. The Psalms were written in the distinctive fashion of Hebrew poetry. Almost one-third of the Old Testament was written in the form of Hebrew poetry, so there are many other passages outside the Book of Psalms that use Hebrew poetry.

It should be noted that Psalms are found in other parts of the Old Testament, too, not only in the Book of Psalms. A few of the many examples of other Psalms in the Old Testament are:

1. The Song of the Sea (Exodus 15:1–18) celebrates God’s deliverance of the Israelites from the Egyptians at the Red Sea.
2. The Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32:1–43) contrasts God’s faithfulness with Israel’s unfaithfulness.
3. The Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1–10) is a psalm of thanksgiving to God.
4. David’s Song of Deliverance (2 Samuel 22:2–51) is a psalm of thanksgiving. It is also preserved as Psalm 18 in the Book of Psalms.
5. King Hezekiah’s Song (Isaiah 38:9–20) is a thanksgiving psalm used when presenting a thank offering in the Temple.
6. Jonah’s Prayer from the belly of the fish (Jonah 2:2–9) is actually a psalm of thanksgiving!
7. The Prayer of Habakkuk (Habakkuk 3:2–19) is a hymn praising God for divine victory on behalf of the people Israel.

Complete the following statements.

- 1.1 The Book of Psalms is the a. _____ book in the Bible, and it contains b. _____ Psalms.
- 1.2 The Psalms are primarily _____ .
- 1.3 The Psalms help teach us how to _____ .
- 1.4 The church has always seen _____ throughout the Psalms.
- 1.5 The Greek word *psalmoi* referred to “_____ the accompaniment of stringed instruments.”
- 1.6 The Hebrew word used for these writings of the Bible was *tehillim*, meaning _____ .

1.7 Describe three characteristics of the Psalms that help answer the question:
“What are the Psalms?”

a.

b.

c.

1.8 There are Psalms in the Bible that are outside the Book of Psalms. Choose one of these Psalms—either one of the seven noted in this section or another of your choosing—and tell the way(s) this psalm describes the relationship between the psalmist(s) of God.

My choice of the Psalm outside the Book of Psalms:

Describe the relationship between the psalmist(s) and God:

History of the Psalms

The earliest Psalm is attributed to Moses (Psalm 90) and has been dated by some scholars at 1440 BC, when Moses led Israel out of Egypt. David wrote most of the Psalms in the Psalter. At least seventy-three of the Psalms are attributed to David. David reigned over Israel from about 1010 BC to 970 BC. Therefore, we can date many of the Psalms around those dates. Some of the Psalms were attributed to David’s son, Solomon (Psalms 72 and 127).

Others were written during Solomon’s reign as king over Israel from 970 BC to 930 BC (Psalms 88 and 89). Of the several Psalms written by anonymous authors, some are dated later in Israel’s history.

Many scholars believe that the longest of the Psalms—Psalm 119—was written at the time of the Babylonian captivity in 586 BC. Psalm 137 was also written during this period of exile (586–538 BC). Psalms 107 and 126 were written as praises sung when the Jews returned from exile to the Holy Land about 538 BC. Psalm 147:13 praises God, “For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee.” This praise could refer to the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem by Nehemiah about 444 BC. From knowledge about the men who wrote many of the Psalms and the times in which they lived, we can date the Psalms from at least the period of 1440 BC to 444 BC. Therefore, we can see that the Psalms were written over a period of at least one thousand years!

Even though the Psalms had human writers, the true author of the Psalms was God. God inspired the Psalms just as much as He did any other part of the Scriptures. God used the writers of the Psalms to help human beings sing His own praises. God used the personality and character of men such as David and added to them the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This allowed the psalmists and others to sing accurate and eternal truths about God.

Real people, real problems, and real situations are mentioned in the Psalms. This is part of the reason the Psalms can become our own prayers. We can relate to the people, problems, and situations that the psalmists faced. For example, when David fled from his son, Absalom, he prayed (Psalm 63:1), "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsts for thee, my flesh longs for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is."

When David recognized his sin, he cried out to God (Psalm 51:2), "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." The richness of the Psalms is found in their reality of human experience. They speak of great problems and of great faith in God.

Answer true or false.

- 1.11 _____ The earliest Psalm is attributed to Solomon.
1.12 _____ David wrote most of the Psalms in the Psalter.
1.13 _____ All of the Old Testament Psalms are found in the Book of Psalms.
1.14 _____ Psalm 147 may be one of the most recent Psalms, written in the time of Nehemiah.
1.15 _____ The richness of the Psalms is found in their reality of human experience.
1.16 _____ The Psalms were written over a period of less than five hundred years.
1.17 _____ Psalm 2 describes the Messiah.

Match these items.

- 1.18 _____ God
1.19 _____ David
1.20 _____ Psalm 119
1.21 _____ Psalm 107 after the exile
1.22 _____ Psalm 90
1.23 _____ Psalm 51 captivity
1.24 _____ Psalm 150

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. oldest Psalmb. a doxology Psalmc. written by David after he sinnedd. Psalm written during the timee. true author of the Psalmsf. written during the Babyloniang. wrote seventy-three Psalmsh. the longest Psalm |
|---|

Formation of the Psalter

We have seen that the 150 Psalms of the Psalter were written over a period of a thousand years. During this time, and extending beyond it for almost 200 years, various collections of the Psalms were assembled. In other words, the Psalter went through a long process of formation to get to the current organization of the Psalms that we have today. We can say that the Psalter underwent a few stages (or steps) of formation over a long period of time. This process of formation did not happen by accident. God's guiding hand and inspiration was upon the writers of the Psalms, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Choose one of the Psalms and explain why you think this Psalm was chosen for a specific need or situation.

Psalm chosen:

Situation/Need:

Explanation:

God is Provider

Part 2: God provides gifts for His children

1. Gifts that are expressions of our personality

These are called “motivational gifts” and are described in Romans Chapter 12. Read Romans 12:4-8

These are gifts that are natural strengths in a person, and when that person becomes a Christian, the gifts can be used in the following ways for God:

Prophecy

A person with the motivational gift of prophecy applies the Word of God to a situation. He or she has a strong sense of right and wrong and speaks out against compromise and evil.

Serving

A person with the motivational gift of serving is driven to demonstrate love by meeting practical needs. The server is available to see a project through to the end and enjoys doing physical work.

Teaching

A person with the motivational gift of teaching is passionate about discovering and standing for truth. A teacher is particularly concerned with the accuracy of information, especially church doctrine, and is often gifted with research abilities.

Exhorting (Encouraging)

A person with the motivational gift of exhortation wants to see believers grow to spiritual maturity. An exhorter is an encourager at heart and is often involved in the ministries of counseling, teaching, and discipleship.

Giving

A person with the motivational gift of giving wants to use financial resources wisely in order to give to meet the needs of others. A giver is usually good at finding the best buy, noticing overlooked needs, and maintaining a budget.

Organizing (Administration)

A person with the motivational gift of organizing is able to accomplish tasks and solve problems through analysis and delegation. An organizer often discerns the talents and abilities of others and knows how those individuals can best serve within a ministry or on a particular project.

Mercy

A person with the motivational gift of mercy is sensitive to the emotional and spiritual needs of others. A mercy-giver is drawn to people in need and seeks to demonstrate compassion, understanding, and love to them.

(Go to page 32 for a questionnaire on finding out your motivational gifts.)

2. Spiritual gifts imparted by the Holy Spirit after conversion (Also called 'gifts of the Spirit')

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are unique skills and abilities given by the Holy Spirit to faithful followers of Christ to serve God for the common benefit of his people, the church.

A listing of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 mentions wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

The Word of Knowledge—This gift of the Holy Spirit is having knowledge about something that you have no ability or means of knowing based on your human intelligence.

The Word of Wisdom—This gift of the Holy Spirit works with the word of knowledge. It gives you the ability and understanding of how to apply the word of knowledge.

The Gift of Prophecy—This gift of the Holy Spirit is one that the scripture says, “to especially desire.” This gift is a direct Word from the Lord that is to be given to someone else to edify and build them up.

The Gift of Faith—This gift of the Holy Spirit grows as we walk with the Lord. You are saved by faith. The gift of faith is knowing full well that you cannot accomplish something on your own, but that Lord has empowered you to move into new levels to do miracles and wonders in His name.

The Gifts of Healings—There are actually different kinds of healings that the Spirit will do. Notice that the scripture says “gifts,” plural. These gifts equip you in various ways to access healing for yourself or be an anointed vessel that will heal others.

The Working of Miracles—This gift of the Holy Spirit is depicted throughout the Bible, from Moses parting the Red Sea to Jesus feeding 5000 people. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, He is still in the business of working miracles. Similar to the word of knowledge, this spiritual gift is manifested not by human efforts, but by the Holy Spirit. The work is unexplainable by nature. It edifies and delivers others.

The Discerning of Spirits—This gift of the Holy Spirit equips the discerner to see evil spirits that are operating in someone’s life. The Holy Spirit pulls back the curtains,

exposing the evil spirits so that the person can experience a breakthrough from their bondage.

Different Kinds of Tongues—This gift of the Holy Spirit is simply a supernatural ability to deliver a message in a tongue that you do not naturally know. This can be spoken forth in an assembly where God anoints another believer, with the gift of interpretation, to interpret the word spoken in the native tongue of the congregation (1 Corinthians 14:2, 13-14).

The Interpretation of Tongues—This gift of the Holy Spirit is to interpret the tongue that was spoken. (1 Corinthians 14:27-28).

Here are nine principles that relate to God's design for spiritual gifts:

1. Every Christian who wants to, can have one or more Spiritual gifts:

To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all (1 Cor. 12:7).

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the varied grace of God. (1 Pet. 4:10).

3. Spiritual gifts may be given at the moment of being born again, but they may lie undiscovered and dormant for a long period of time.

4. Spiritual gifts can be abused and neglected. The Corinthian church illustrates the fact that believers can be highly gifted but spiritually immature.

5. Spiritual gifts are not the same as the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit is given to all believers when they receive Christ (John 14:16). The gifts of the Spirit, on the other hand, are distributed as God decides to each person (1 Cor. 12:11).

6. Spiritual gifts are not the same as the fruit of the Spirit. Spiritual fruit is produced from within; spiritual gifts are imparted from without. Fruit relates to Christlike character; gifts relate to Christian service. The fruit of the Spirit, especially love, should be the context for the operation of the gifts of the Spirit. Paul made it clear in 1 Corinthians 13 that spiritual gifts without spiritual fruit are worthless. Fruit is eternal, but gifts are temporal (1 Cor. 13:8); the former is a true measure of spirituality, but the latter is not.

7. Spiritual gifts are not the same as natural talents. Unlike the natural abilities which everyone has from birth, spiritual gifts belong exclusively to believers in Christ. In some cases, the gifts of the Spirit coincide with natural endowments, but they also have a supernatural quality. Both are given by God (Jas. 1:17), and should be developed and used according to their purpose for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31).

8. Gifts are God's spiritual equipment for effective service and encouragement of the body of Christ. They are not given to make one person more "spiritual" or better than another. Gifts were given so that in everything God will be glorified through Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 4:11).

9. Spiritual gifts were the key to the rapid multiplication of the church in the New Testament (cf. Rom. 1:11, Eph. 4:12, 2 Tim. 2:2).

The gift of tongues

There is a difference between the gift of "different types of tongues" mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12, and the gift of tongues that was poured out on the believers on the day of Pentecost in Acts Chapter 2.

The gift of tongues in 1 Corinthians 12 is when a believer who has the gift of tongues delivers a message in tongues for the church congregation, and this needs to be interpreted.

There is also a personal gift of tongues available to all believers as a personal prayer language.

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fell on people as it had never happened before (John 14:16-17; Joel 2:28); and the gift of tongues gave the capability to the 120 and more disciples present at the upper room, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, Hebrew or Gentile (Acts 1:8, 15). The tongues were intelligible known languages of the time. The people standing around, heard the disciples speaking in languages that they recognized. We are told that this gift was not only for the disciples at the time, but was to be for Christians from that time onward, (Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:17.)

'In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

The personal gift of tongues, a prayer language, (not necessarily an actual language but a heavenly language), is to be used by the believer for personal prayer. This language is given when someone prays to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said:

Acts 1:4-5 "You will be baptised in the Holy Spirit"

Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you"

When a Christian receives the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, he (or she) receives the power and ability to speak in tongues (Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4) any time he or she wishes (1 Cor 14:14-15). It is a new way for us to speak and to communicate with God (1 Cor 14:2) that goes beyond our natural intellect (1 Cor 14:14). For this reason, many people also call this a “prayer language”.

The Bible tells us in several places that we should make use of this ability as often as possible (1 Cor 14:14-15, Eph 6:18, Jude 1:20). It also tells us of many ways that it benefits the person that is doing it. It is meant for communication between you and the Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:2 – For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

Examples of baptism/infilling with the Holy Spirit:

- Acts 10:44-46; 11:15-18 -- Cornelius’ household
- Acts 19:1-7 -- Ephesians believers (more than 20 years after Pentecost)

In the listed above, we see that baptism in the Holy Spirit occurred after conversion. In these examples it explicitly states that the receivers spoke in tongues. In Paul’s case, it doesn’t say that he spoke in tongues, but we know that he did as he wrote about it in 1 Cor 14:18.

Summary

- We ALL receive the Holy Spirit when we accept Jesus as Lord (Eph 1:13-14)
- There is a specific experience called baptism in the Holy Spirit that occurs after conversion and is available to everyone (Acts 1:4-5)
- We do not need the baptism in the Holy Spirit to be a Christian, but we do need it if we desire to move in the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and if we desire to be powerful witnesses to others. (Acts 1:8)
- When a Christian is baptized in the Holy Spirit, they receive the gift of speaking in tongues and are able to speak to God in spiritual languages. (Acts 1:4-5; Acts 10:45-46; Acts 19:6-7; 1 Cor 14:2)

Questionnaire for finding out your motivational gifts

Write a number next to each of the following sentences. Give yourself a number to show how much the statement is / or is not - like YOU.

3 – greatly

2 – quite a bit

1 – a little

0 – not at all

1. I am enthusiastic about explaining the meaning of the Bible to others.
2. I don't mind going without something myself if I know it can help someone else.
3. I enjoy doing class presentations.
4. I like to encourage those who are having a bad day.
5. I like to share my things with others.
6. I like to organize group members in class.
7. I feel sad when others are sad.
8. I like stories that have hidden meaning,
9. I like to have friends around and make them feel welcome.
10. I like to learn facts.
11. I encourage my friends to do their best.
12. I like to give gifts to others.
13. I like to be a group leader.
14. I like to visit those who are sick.
15. I would like to give class devotion.
16. I like to work under someone who gives me instructions on what to do.
17. I enjoy finding out the meaning of words.
18. I like to help people with their problems.
19. I like to give my money or things to those in need.
20. I like to make plans and carry them out.
21. I feel sorry for those who are having a hard time.
22. I sometimes know what God is saying to me.
23. I like to help Mum or Dad do preparations when visitors are coming.
24. I like reading the Bible.
25. I like to help others know more about God.
26. I like to make gifts for others.
27. I like things to be well organized.
28. If I do good work I don't mind if people don't know about it.
29. When I explain the meaning of the Bible to people they understand what I'm saying really well.
30. I like to help people who have a lot of work to do.
31. I like to look up Bible verses.
32. I can often understand what is troubling someone.
33. If I had \$20 a month I would use it to sponsor a child in a needy country.
34. In a game I am good at explaining the rules to others and I like teaching them how to play the game.
35. When a young child is crying I like to calm them down and find out what's wrong.

Now fill out the chart:

Write your scores for each question next to the numbers in the boxes.

1	8	15	22	29
2	9	16	23	30
3	10	17	24	31
4	11	18	25	32
5	12	19	26	33
6	13	20	27	34
7	14	21	28	35

Now add up the numbers in the rows horizontally. Write the total of each row at the right-hand end of the row.

Each row stands for a gift. Find out which gifts are your strongest. (See next page)

Key to table:

Row A (top row): Prophecy / insight

Row B: Serving

Row C: Teaching

Row D: Encouraging others

Row E: Giving

Row F: Leadership

Row G (bottom row): Caring for the needy (mercy)