

A Bible study for kids ready to  
grow a faith of their own.

## WHAT IS THE GOAL?

Following Jesus can feel like that sometimes. What does a close relationship with Him really look like? Is it just about not doing “bad” things? That is certainly a start, but it doesn’t end there. Our goal is more than being good. Our goal is to be the best friends possible with Jesus. Our goal is to make our every choice and decision His, even when it means something really hard.

Have you ever known someone that you like or respect so much that you would do your best at anything that they asked? Because of your love for them, you are happy to serve them in any way that you can, no matter how difficult it might be. That's how we are to be with God.

**Psalm 37:4 says “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”**

That means that if we love and enjoy God, more than anything else, He will make us desire or want the things that God wants us to.

### What do these verses tell us to reach for?

Matt. 6:33

Matt. 22:37-40



As we grow in our love for God, we go through different stages, just like when we grow physically.

First, we are born again and become a brand new infant follower of Christ. We are at this stage whether we are 10 years old or 50 years old when we make a decision to follow Jesus.

Then we have to grow from there. Just like the disciples, we have to learn what it means to follow Jesus. We have to get to know Him, and to know ourselves. God gave His people rules to follow to show us what He is like and what His desires are. By following His rules we learn how to put ourselves in obedience to Him. We also mess up and learn how much we need His grace. We can't be good enough to get close to God on our own, and trying to do all the right things shows us that.

How did Peter find that out in Matthew 26:69-75? \_\_\_\_\_

What had Jesus predicted in Matthew 26:31-35? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think Peter learned from that? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you think it changed his relationship with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the risen Jesus ask Peter in John 21:15-17? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus ask Peter to **do**? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think Peter obeyed? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus want Peter's obedience to be based on? \_\_\_\_\_



### IT'S NOT FAIR!

Have you ever said those words? Jesus told a parable about some workers who worked only a part of the day and got paid the same as the workers who worked the whole day. Who do you think said "that's not fair" ?

What would you have said? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the landowner say in verses 13-16? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you feel about someone who has done all kinds of bad things, but then decides to accept Christ. Is it fair that God loves them too? \_\_\_\_\_

Is it fair that Jesus died for them? \_\_\_\_\_

Is it fair that Jesus died for you? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the mother  
Of James and John  
Want for her sons?

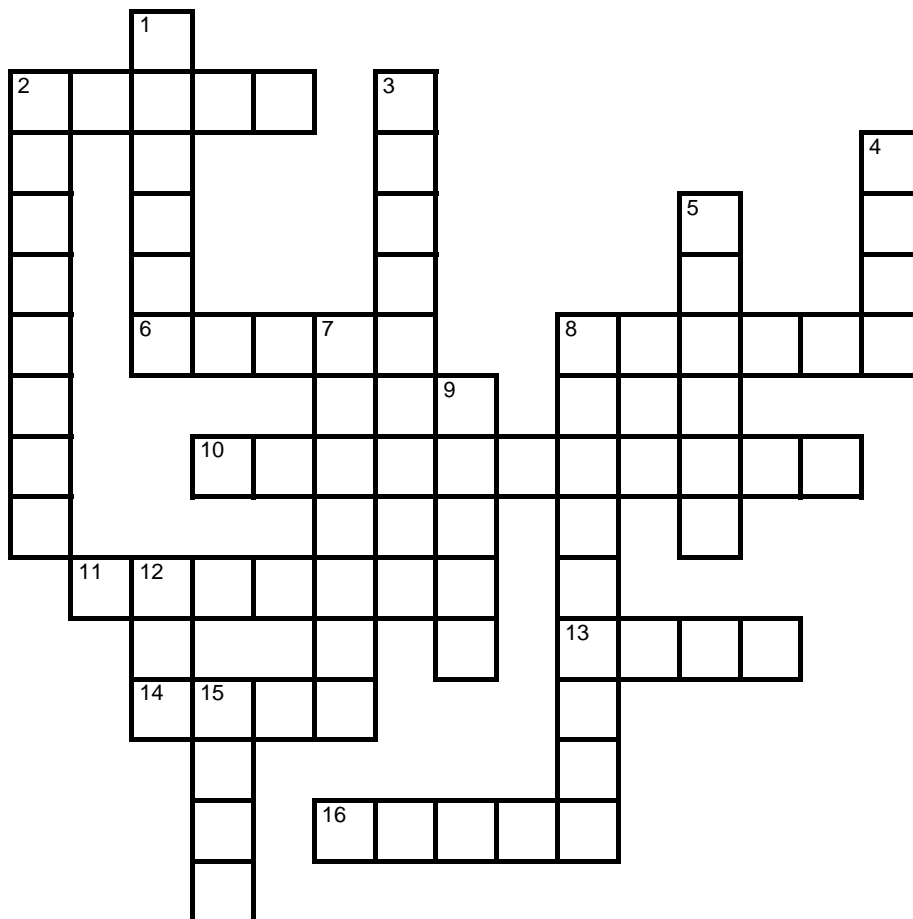
What did Jesus say? \_\_\_\_\_





# PUZZLE PAGE

Matthew 20-28



## Across

- 2 what the son of man came to do 20:28 (5)
- 6 what the blind men wanted 20:32-33 (5)
- 8 what Jesus called the Pharisees 23:33 (6)
- 10 22:37 is the greatest one (11)
- 11 where Jesus promised to meet His disciples 28:10 (7)
- 13 what Jesus rode into Jerusalem 21:5 (4)
- 14 what David called the Christ 22:42-44 (4)
- 16 the one who betrayed Jesus 26:14-16 (5)

## Down

- 1 astonished at the teaching of Jesus 22:33 (6)
- 2 what the disciples were doing while Jesus prayed 26:39-40 (8)
- 3 what the last will be 20:16 (5)
- 4 don't be alarmed when you hear of these 24:6 (4)
- 5 you will receive what you ask for in this 21:22 (6)
- 7 those who exalt themselves will be \_\_\_\_\_ 23:12 (7)
- 8 did not know Scripture, or the power of God 22:23-29 (9)
- 9 the Pharisees strain out a gnat but swallow one of these 23:24 (5)
- 12 which disciples would fall away 26:31 (3)
- 15 what people were to be taught to do 28:20 (4)

**“Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?...”**

**Draw a picture of one of the “least of these”**

**...I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for the least of these, you did not do for me.” Matthew 25:44-45**

## TIPS for parents and teachers

We practice our relationship with God in our relationship with others. As we obey and honor our parents, we learn to obey and honor God. As we learn to be truthful with others we are also learning to be truthful with ourselves and with God. As we let go of what our own idea of fair is, we can learn to share God's "unfair" grace with others. As Jesus points out in Matt. 25:44-45, what we do for others we do for Him – good or bad. Find a class project to help the least of these. Talk about who these people might be. How does that help us on our journey of faith and clarify the goal we are reaching for?

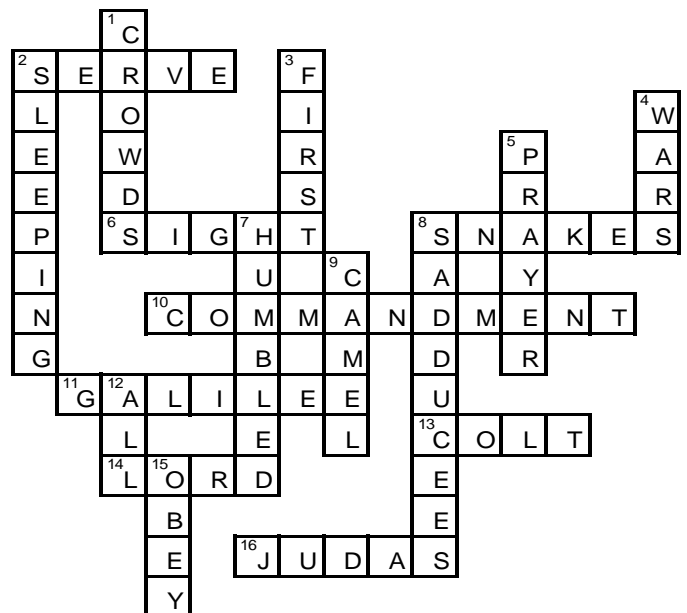
Use the picture on page 2 to help your students (and yourself!) think about where they are on their own spiritual journey. The bottom is lost in sin and death. Many of your students may be on the slope leading to the cross; learning about Jesus, but not yet ready to commit to following Him. Then there are those on the journey to perfection in Christ, becoming one with Him, the pinnacle of our relationship with God. Salvation is the beginning of the journey, not the end. You may be surprised how much better kids understand a close relationship with God than many of us adults do!

### SUGGESTED READING:

Satisfy Your Soul by Dr. Bruce Demarest shares a smattering of classical insight as we seek our own inner transformation.

The Interior Castle by Teresa of Avila gives an interesting description of stages of spiritual maturity.

A Hunger for God by John Piper helped me understand the reason for the disciplines that we practice.



For questions or comments, contact me at: [kayannausherman@hotmail.com](mailto:kayannausherman@hotmail.com)  
For more studies, visit me at: <http://www.thelightedjourney.com>

