

# Theme Thoughts

In this day of micro-technology, we should have no difficulty in grasping the concept that small things can be significant. We may feel that we are just one among millions on this earth, but in God's eyes we are important; and that is the point we wish to convey throughout this quarter.

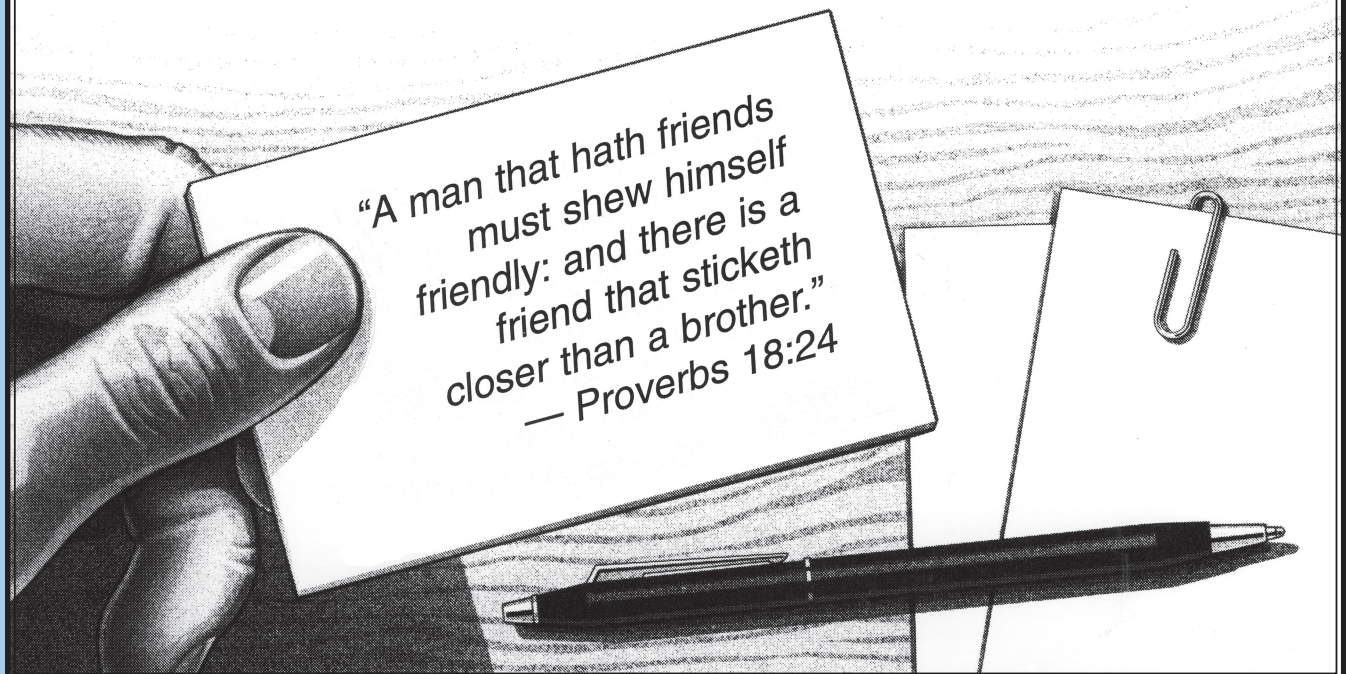
God has a plan for each of us! As we begin our Christian walk, and then continue to grow in His grace, we will want to find out what that plan is, and do our best to follow it. To discover God's plan for us, we need to communicate with Him. With that thought in mind, this quarter opens with two lessons focusing on prayer. The lessons following those deal with recognizing the call of God and fitting ourselves to be usable in His service.

We look at the importance of witnessing to others, and the vital necessity of holding on through hard places. The quarter moves on to a series of lessons on choosing and keeping friends who will not hinder our spiritual growth. The concluding thrust is the importance of staying on the alert, ready at any moment for the Lord's coming.

# Levels of Friendship

Three of the lessons during this quarter deal with the topic of friendship: how we choose our friends, how we keep them, and our relationship with Jesus as a friend. The chart below may be helpful as you study these lessons. It shows four levels of friendship and the characteristics of each.

LEVELS	CHARACTERISTICS
Acquaintances	Have occasional contact; know of them superficially; attend same church, school, or place of employment.
Casual Friends	Share common interests or activities; participate in the same Sunday school class, choir, or work project; have an impression about their beliefs, values, and goals.
Close Friends	Enjoy fellowship; jointly involved in projects; share common life goals; know extent of each other's commitment; influenced by their opinions and actions.
Intimate Friends	Feel union of spirits; share innermost feelings; can help correct each other's faults; can help develop each other's character; have confidence that they have our best interests at heart; feel free to seek advice from them.



# Teach Me to Pray

**TEXT:** Matthew 6:5-15; 1 John 5:14,15

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES:** 1 Chronicles 16:11; Matthew 26:41; Ephesians 6:18

**KEY VERSE:** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. — Matthew 6:9-13

**RESOURCE MATERIAL:** Tract No. 57 — Prevailing Prayer

The Gospels tell us of a number of occasions when Jesus prayed. Our communion with God is no less important. Christ gave His disciples what is now known as the Lord's Prayer, thus teaching them that their discipleship depended on their communication with God the Father. As we study Christ's example and instruction of how to pray contained in the Lord's Prayer, we will seek to identify those attitudes required for true communication with God. Such communication is no less essential today if we would live for Jesus.

1. In your own words, define *prayer*.

2. When two friends communicate well, what is the result? Make a spiritual application.

3. Christ began the Lord's Prayer with the words, "Our Father which art in heaven." What do these words imply regarding our relationship with Him?

4. In reference to the phrase, "Hallowed be thy name," define the word *hallow*. What attitude is evidenced by the use of this phrase, and why should this attitude be evidenced in our prayers?

5. Verse 10 includes the words, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." If these words are said sincerely, they reflect a spirit of submission. What are some of the specific areas which would then be submitted to the will of God?

6. The phrase, "Give us this day our daily bread," indicates a feeling of dependence upon God. Name some other things for which we depend upon God.

7. What two thoughts are brought out by the phrase, "Forgive us our debts [trespasses], as we forgive our debtors [those who trespass against us]"?

8. Explain in your own words what is meant by the phrase, "And lead us not into temptation."

9. What attitude toward God is reflected in the concluding words of the prayer?

# How Do I Pray?

**TEXT:** Luke 18:1-8; 1 Kings 18:41-46

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** James 5:16

**KEY VERSE:** And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

— Jeremiah 29:13

**RESOURCE MATERIAL:** Tract No. 36 — Prayer: Communication With God

Prayer is much more than a ritual to be performed at a certain hour of the day, for Jesus said that men ought always to pray and not to faint. Prayer is a vital part of the Christian's defense. The Bible bears ample evidence that the power of Satan and evil in general are arrayed against those who pray to God in faith. We are living in the time just before Jesus' coming back to earth. Only our holding on in prayer will help us to be ready for His return.

1. Manasseh is considered one of the most wicked kings in biblical history. He built altars to Baal, worshiped the host of heaven, built altars for them in the house of the Lord, caused his son to pass through the fire, and dealt in witchcraft (2 Kings 21:1-9). Yet when affliction came his way, he humbled himself and prayed to God. What was the result of Manasseh's action? See 2 Chronicles 33:10-16.

2. Of all the prayers that can be prayed, surely the prayer for salvation from sin is the most important. Describe the miraculous results that follow a sinner's sincere prayer of repentance. See 2 Corinthians 5:17.

3. While it is extremely important to repent and pray for forgiveness, list some other things that might be obtained through prayer. Then write about someone you know personally who had an answer to a prayer for one of the items on your list.

4. Name some Bible characters who had definite answers to their prayers and tell what the answers were.

5. In our text, Jesus gave us two important conditions to successful prayer. What are those conditions?

6. During Elijah's ministry, why did the rain stop falling? See 1 Kings 17:1 and James 5:17.

7. Having already received God's promise of rain, and even after telling Ahab, "there is a sound of abundance of rain," why did Elijah go to the top of Mount Carmel? Relate what happened there, and describe Elijah's reaction.

8. Perseverance in prayer is important, but what other matter must be kept in mind and heart in order to be successful? See James 4:15.

9. If God didn't answer prayer in this age in which we live, what would be our hope of eternal life?

# God's Call to Service

**TEXT:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Isaiah 6:1-8

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES:** Matthew 4:18-22; Acts 9:3-6

**KEY VERSE:** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. — Isaiah 6:8

**RESOURCE MATERIAL:** Tract No. 19 — A Witness of the Power of God

When Samuel answered God's call with those beautiful words, "Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth," Samuel was commissioned to a life of service for God. Though still a youth, he had an ear to hear and a heart to do the bidding of the Lord. How wonderful if all would answer the call of God as readily as Samuel did, and with the same consecration and zeal in their response!

1. What is one thing to which God calls every man? See 1 Timothy 2:4. Why is answering this call important in order to serve the Lord?

2. Why was Samuel ministering unto the Lord before Eli? 1 Samuel 1:11,24-28

3. According to Scripture, Eli had neglected to do what the Lord required of him (1 Samuel 2:27-35). How did his neglect tie in with God's instructions for Samuel?

4. Read 1 Samuel 3:15 and describe how Samuel responded to this opportunity for service.

5. Why do you think God calls us to His service?

6. What are some of the things God calls people to do? How do these calls come to us?

7. Is there a progression in the calls the Lord gives us? How do we qualify for “bigger” jobs?

8. How can we be sure that it is God who is calling us, not just our own ideas or inclinations that are influencing our decision regarding what the Lord wants us to do? See John 7:17 and 1 Corinthians 14:32.

9. After God calls us to something, does He ever change His mind? See Romans 11:29.



# Ready for the Master's Use

**TEXT:** John 3:3,16; 17:15-17; Acts 1:5-8

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 6:13-17

**KEY VERSE:** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

— Ephesians 6:11

**RESOURCE MATERIAL:** Tract No. 30 — The New Birth, Tract No. 125 — Sanctification, Tract No. 14

— The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

The Word of God plainly teaches that God has three initial experiences for the Christian as a foundation to prepare him for his walk of faith here on earth. The first two, salvation and sanctification, are provided through the shed Blood of Jesus on Calvary (Hebrews 9:22,28; 13:12). The third, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, is a gift of God (Acts 2:38; 10:45), given to provide power for us so that we can fully serve the Lord.

**1.** What proof have we from Scripture that the three basic experiences God has for a Christian—salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost—are to be sought and received in this sequence?

See John 3:3; 17:17, and Acts 1:5.

**2.** There are several words in use today which indicate the experience one receives when he becomes a Christian. Find Scriptures that use these expressions:

Born again

Saved

Converted

**3.** What actions stated by Jesus in Mark 1:15 are necessary on our part in order for us to be born again, or saved from sin? Explain what these actions involve.

**4.** What outward change takes place in one's life when he or she becomes a Christian? See 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Ephesians 4:22-32.

**5.** When someone comes to God to be saved, he must repent and turn from his sins. In contrast, how do we come to God when seeking to be sanctified? See Romans 12:1,2 and 6:13.

**6.** What effect does the experience of sanctification have in the life of a Christian? See Romans 6:6 and Hebrews 2:11.

**7.** What do Jesus' admonitions to His disciples in Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:4,8 teach us of the importance of seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost?

**8.** Can we expect to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost today in the same manner and with the same witness as the Early Church, or was the gift just for those in that day? Explain. See Acts 2:38,39.

# Do I Fit?

**TEXT:** 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES:** Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:1-4,11-13,16

**KEY VERSE:** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. — Colossians 1:18

Just as the many members of the physical body are dependent on each other, so it is with a church. The members are united and supportive of each other. Without this union no church could exist. God has given to each of us grace and ability to accomplish the work He has called us to do. But to be effective for God we must consecrate our lives to do His bidding.

1. What is meant by the phrase, *the Body of Christ*?

2. How is the decision made to determine where one fits into the Body of Christ?

3. What is the particular place that Christ fills in the Body? What is the responsibility of the members toward Christ?

4. In what manner does a person develop his usefulness, and become able to accept other responsibilities as a part of the Body of Christ?

5. What part of the Body is more important than the others, apart from the Head?

6. What is the responsibility of each member toward the others?

7. List some of the ways in which the Body is benefited when all the members are working together as a unit and all fit into their respective places.

8. How does consecration help us continue to fit into the place that God has planned for us?

# Pass It On

**TEXT:** 2 Kings 5:1-4; John 1:40-49

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES:** Matthew 9:36-38; Acts 8:4

**KEY VERSE:** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

— Mark 16:15

Throughout the years, men have pondered the most profitable activity in which to engage themselves. Myriad have been the goals which they have set for themselves as the ultimate or highest possible degree of usefulness while on earth. But without doubt, the highest calling and occupation ever to thrill and hold the heart of any man is the call of God to the winning of souls for the Kingdom of Heaven. Not only does this unique call contain the greatest of earthly joys, but it also is inherent with the promise of eternal reward.

**1.** In today's lesson we are studying three persons as examples for witnessing. Identify the person which best fits each statement.

Having love and concern for the person's enemies.

Having found the Messiah, he did not let the day pass until he had brought his brother to Christ.

This person brought one of his best friends to the Messiah.

**2.** Identify the person to whom Christ ministered, who in turn spread the Good News throughout a whole city and saw many of the people believe on Him. See John 4. Note two or three reasons why this person was so successful in getting the people to come, see, and hear Jesus.

**3.** What do you think was most influential in achieving the startling multiplication of members in the Early Church? See Acts 4:31; 8:4. In what way are all Christians to be "preachers of righteousness"? See Mark 16:15.

**4.** When you think about speaking of Christ, how do you react? Circle one of the sentences given below or write one of your own.

I find it difficult to speak of such a personal matter.

I do not speak about Christ unless someone asks me.

I find it easy to talk to friends about Christ, but not to people I don't know.

I find it easy to talk to strangers about Christ, but not to close friends.

I often find myself talking to people about Christ, and I am thrilled when I have that privilege.

**5.** In your opinion, how would the Apostle Peter have answered question 4 above? Why? See Acts 4:20.

**6.** Why is it so very important to witness for Jesus and win others to Him? See 2 Corinthians 5:20. Why is the Gospel vital to every person we meet from the standpoint of eternity? See Romans 6:23.

**7.** Why is the Gospel important right here and now to every person we meet in the daily affairs of life? See 1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1.

**8.** What reward do those reap who witness for Christ? See Revelation 12:11 and Daniel 12:3. What happens to those who fail in this endeavor? See Mark 8:38.

# Keep On Keeping On

**TEXT:** Acts 4:13-22

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES:** Job 23:10-12; Psalm 119:30-32; Isaiah 30:21

**KEY VERSE:** For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. — Acts 4:20

Perseverance—the determination to continue on in the face of opposition or difficulty—is a necessary attribute in the Christian life. The spread of Christianity would have come to a standstill if there had not been those who kept on in spite of persecution. Our text deals with two of the Apostles who stood through a severe testing time. As Christians today, we may not face the same types of opposition that the Early Church faced. But there will be times when we will have to be steadfast no matter what opposition comes to turn us from remaining true to God and His directives for our lives.

1. What crime had the Apostles committed that brought them before the Jewish rulers? See Acts 4:1-3.

2. The Apostles had not always been so bold. Peter had denied the Lord and others had forsaken Him and fled when He was taken by the high priest. Even after His Resurrection they didn't seem to promote the cause of Christ, but, instead, went fishing. What was it that compelled these men to speak out now so forcefully for Christ? See Acts 1:8.

3. How do you suppose the authorities expected Peter and John to respond when they were commanded not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus?

4. How did the Apostles respond when the council commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus? Looking on into the next chapter of Acts, find where the Apostles showed by their actions that they meant what they said.

5. In the Old Testament, we read of others who, like Peter and John, were determined to cling to God in spite of temporal and physical adversity. Briefly review the calamities that were the lot of Job. See Job 1:13-19 and 2:7. Which phrases in Job 23:8-11 prove that Job had kept his trust in God in spite of these circumstances?

6. Read Psalm 119:30,31. What do you think is meant by the phrase, "I have stuck unto thy testimonies"?

7. In order to keep on keeping on in our Christian walk it is important that we know what God wants us to do. One verse which brings out the necessity of studying God's Word is 2 Timothy 2:15. Find some other verses that bring out this thought.

8. We pray to have our sins forgiven, and to make a start in our Christian life. Why is it necessary to continue in prayer in order to keep steadfast in the way? See Matthew 26:41 and John 16:24.

9. What part does obedience play in keeping on in our Christian walk?

10. What good advice did Paul offer to those who want to keep on keeping on? See chapter 6 of Ephesians.



# Your Friend, Jesus

**TEXT:** John 15:9-17

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES:** John 13:1; Hebrews 13:5

**KEY VERSE:** A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. — Proverbs 18:24

**RESOURCE MATERIAL:** Tract No. 3 — When You Need a Friend, Tract No. 80 — For Another's Crime

Of greater value than the rarest of jewels is the possession of a true friend, one in whom we can place an absolute trust. Everyone needs a friend—someone with a kindred spirit to share the joys and the interests of life, someone who can be relied upon for advice in time of perplexity, someone who can comfort a troubled heart in the day of grief. Jesus is that perfect Friend. When He comes into the heart, He is able to satisfy every longing of the heart and to give flawless counsel in every time of need.

1. What is the dictionary definition of the word friend? Why is it necessary to have friendships?

2. What circumstances might arise which would cause a person to change the level of friendship upon which he has placed another person? How might your answers apply to friendship with Jesus? (See Levels of Friendship chart on inside back cover of this book.)

3. Our key verse states, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly." In what manner did Jesus prove this statement true in His friendship toward us?

4. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Henceforth I call you not servants . . . but I have called you friends"?

5. What advantages are there in having Jesus as your best Friend?

6. How can our relationship with Jesus be maintained?

7. What evidence will be obvious in our lives when Jesus is our closest Friend?

8. Many people in the world seemingly do not love Jesus at all. How then can He be their closest Friend?  
See Romans 5:10.

# Choosing Friends

**TEXT:** Ruth 1:6-18

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES:** Proverbs 14:7; 16:19; James 4:4

**KEY VERSE:** Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. — Psalm 37:37

The Book of Ruth relates one of the most down-to-earth examples of true friendship in the Bible. It is a story of choices and the consequences of those choices. Ruth unquestionably felt a deep kinship with her mother-in-law which caused her to forsake all that was familiar and journey to an unknown land where she became an ancestress of Christ.

1. What were some of the attributes Naomi possessed which drew Ruth to her? Ruth 1:8,20,21; 3:1,6,18

2. Ruth made one choice, and Orpah another. Their decisions made a great difference in the future events of their lives. What took place in Ruth's life? What very likely happened to Orpah?

3. Consider these biblical examples of friendship, and write what influence you think each of the people had on their friend.

Moses and Aaron — Exodus 17:10-13

Joshua and Caleb — Numbers 14:6-9

David and Jonathan — 1 Samuel 18:3,4

Elijah and Elisha — 2 Kings 2:2,4,6

Paul and Silas — Acts 16:25

4. What qualities should we look for in friends?

5. Using Proverbs 18:24, how should we go about establishing friendships?

6. An old saying, “Birds of a feather flock together,” might have had its inspiration from Proverbs 13:20. Read this verse and write how you think our associations affect what other people think of us.

7. Why is it important to have godly standards and goals established in our own life while developing friendships?

8. It has been said that every Christian needs a Paul, a Barnabas, and a Timothy in their lives. Paul represents the influence of an older person—a friend who can serve as a spiritual advisor or mentor. Barnabas represents friendship with a peer—someone who holds you accountable and is not afraid to “tell it like it is.” Timothy represents a younger person, or a new Christian who looks to you for spiritual nurturing or example. Why is it important for a Christian to develop friendships on all three levels?

# Keeping Friends

**TEXT:** 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES:** 1 Samuel 23:16-18; 2 Kings 2:2

**KEY VERSE:** Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. — Malachi 3:16

In the account of Jonathan and David we have one of the most beautiful examples of friendship found in the Word of God, one that lasted until Jonathan's death and beyond. The envies, jealousies, and competitions that can so often break up friendships had no effect on them because of the godly love that existed between them.

1. From a natural standpoint, what was especially unusual about the love Jonathan had for David?

2. What was the supreme test of Jonathan's friendship with David, and how did he retain his friendship in spite of this test? 1 Samuel 20:30,31; 23:16,17

3. List some of the things that might come along to test a friendship. In what way would God have us react to these tests if we would keep our friendships intact?

4. What kind of confidence did David have in the strength of his friendship with Jonathan, as Saul made attempt after attempt to take his life?

5. What was David's reaction to Jonathan's death? What did he do to keep the covenant he had made with Jonathan? See 1 Samuel 20:14-17 and 2 Samuel 1:26; 9:6-10; 21:7.

6. Several times in the Book of Proverbs, Solomon gives us instruction as to the way we should treat our friends. As Christians, what are some of the things you feel we can do to prove our love and friendship for others? See Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, and 27:10.

7. Close friends usually enjoy the same interests, go to the same kinds of places, enjoy each other's company, and like to talk about the same things. The prophet Malachi tells us how the Lord feels about those who channel these interests into spiritual pursuits. What has He promised those who do this? Malachi 3:16-18

8. In 1 John 1:3,6,7 we can read of the fellowship Christians should have one with another as they walk in the light of God. What is the meaning of fellowship and how can we apply it spiritually?

# Handling Peer Pressure

**TEXT:** Daniel 3:1-18

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** Romans 8:35-39

**KEY VERSE:** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. — Psalm 1:1

Three young Hebrew men who served God—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—were asked to bow down and worship a golden image. Like true men of faith, they refused. There were, however, some Chaldeans who observed the Hebrews' refusal. They quickly reported the incident to the king. Now the heat was on! It was literally bow or burn. They had to choose between bowing to an idol or being true to the God of Israel.

1. Who are one's peers? Who were the peers of the three Hebrew children? See Daniel 2:48,49 and 3:2,3.

2. What is meant by the phrase harmful peer pressure? Give an example of harmful peer pressure from your own experience.

3. How can harmful peer pressure be resisted?

4. Is there such a thing as positive peer pressure? Explain. Give an example of positive peer pressure from your own experience.

5. What guidelines can you use to determine whether the peer pressure you experience is positive or harmful?

6. How can resisting harmful peer pressure help a Christian? How do you think it helped the three Hebrew children in Daniel 1?

7. Why didn't God deliver the three Hebrew children from going into the furnace?

8. How is peer pressure experienced among church associates?

9. How can one effectively accept positive peer pressure among friends?

10. Read Daniel 3:30. The end result of resisting harmful peer pressure was a promotion for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Is the end result always a promotion? Explain.



# On the Alert

**TEXT:** Matthew 25:1-13

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** Revelation 16:15

**KEY VERSE:** Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.  
— Luke 12:40

There are sins which are passive by nature, but are as destructive in their ultimate consequences as those willfully and deliberately committed. The sin of neglect is one of these. We can see from this parable that the consequences of such a sin are terrible to contemplate. Let us be as spiritually vigilant as the wise virgins were. They availed themselves of every privilege, every opportunity, and every experience that came their way.

1. What was commendable about the attitude of both the wise and foolish virgins?

2. In what ways, then, did the foolish virgins fail?

3. What admonition was given to the foolish virgins? How did they react to this advice?

4. What lessons are given to us in the conduct and attitude of the wise virgins?

5. Who does the bridegroom represent in the parable? What does the midnight cry depict?

6. What happened to the foolish virgins?

7. What can we do to keep our "lamps" from going out?

8. What thought in today's lesson do you consider most important?

# Quarter Review

**TEXT:** Review Quarter Texts

**KEY VERSE:** Student's choice from this quarter

The Theme Thoughts for this quarter brought out that even though we may feel we are just one among the millions on earth, in God's eyes we are important. He who notes the sparrow's fall has a perfect and precisely-detailed plan for the life of each one of us. As we look through some important points from our lessons this quarter, let's focus on how we can find that plan and then best follow it.

1. To the Christian, prayer is a required form of communication with God the Father through Jesus Christ His Son, with the aid of the Holy Spirit. Having this knowledge, how should we approach God, and what can we expect to happen as we make our requests known?

2. God's call to us regarding some specific service we are to do for Him may not come by dramatic revelation. We may even question whether it is really God calling us, or just our own ideas and inclinations pointing us in a certain direction. How can we be sure that what we perceive to be God's call is really from Him? See John 7:17 and 1 Corinthians 14:32.

3. In the Word of God we find that God has three initial experiences for the Christian. They are a foundation to prepare him for his walk of faith here on earth. Briefly explain each of these experiences and describe what they do in the life.

4. What are some of the benefits that will come to the individual who has consecrated himself to become a part of the Body of Christ? What are the benefits that will come to the Body of Christ as a whole when all the members are working together in unity of purpose?

5. Why is it necessary to witness to others of Christ's redeeming grace and win souls for the Kingdom?

What are the benefits of taking this initiative? See Daniel 12:3, Matthew 16:27, and Mark 16:15.

6. Once we have committed our lives to the Lord, we can be sure the enemy of our souls will redouble his efforts to discourage, divert, or dissuade us. Our responsibility, as stewards of our souls, is to take advantage of the spiritual armor and weapons God has provided for us to defeat Satan. List some ways we can reinforce our resolve to resist the onslaughts the devil throws our way, and to keep on keeping on.

7. Many instances of true friendship are given to us in the Bible, but the greatest friendship that ever could be experienced is that of friendship with our Lord Jesus Christ. He is a Friend to all, but what actions must we take to ensure an intimate friendship with Him? See John 15:14.

8. God's plan for us may, and often does, call on us to take a stand in a conspicuous way on some issue. At such times, the enemy is always there to give us a reason or reasons why going against the flow of peer pressure is perhaps not the wisest course of action. What is the responsibility of a Christian when it comes to being "different" in order to make a difference, and why?

9. The parable of the ten virgins teaches us the vital importance of spiritual vigilance. Even though the hour was late, the wise virgins were alert and prepared for the bridegroom's coming. What are some measures we can take to make sure we stay ready for Christ's return?