

# CIA Year 1

## Title: Making wise choices- accountability and integrity

Unit 8:How do I live out my faith?  
**Week 20**

**OVERVIEW:**

Students are often blinded by what molds and shapes the decisions they make. This lesson helps peel back the “why”, “how” and “what” behind their choices.

**MATERIALS:**

Bible,  
Pen  
Resource Manual Materials

**OBJECTIVE:**

Students will learn how to make wise choices by examining questions to ask themselves while they are making decisions.

**FOUR CHAPTER GOSPEL:**



**KEY VERSE(S):**

Mark 12:30-31

**OTHER RESOURCES:**

**OUTLINE:**

1. Who's going to make that choice for you?
2. How are you going to make that choice?
3. What should we think about before we make decisions?
4. Why will you make that choice?

**ADAPTATION:**

**EXPANDING:**

**Kicking Off:**  
Introduce the topic. Get them talking!  
(5 mins.)

**Lead students through these questions to get them thinking about making right choices in their lives;**

- *Ever think about the everyday choices we make? Like for real!*
- *Why do we dress the way we do?*
- *Why do we talk and act the way we do?*
- *Why do we hang around the people we hang with?*
- *Why are we sitting in this room right now?*

*Before today is over, I want you to ask yourself three questions...*

*Who makes my choices?*

*How am I making my choices?*

*Why am I making them?*

*(It is important for us to look at making right choices as we are faced with thousands and thousands of choices each day. It can be hard to sift through all these choices and know what is the right decision to make.)*

**Examining God's Word:**  
Observe and discuss the Scripture.  
(20-30 mins.)

*There are lots of decisions that we make everyday, and for the purpose of thinking about guidance & God's Will, it will be helpful to put these decisions into three categories:*

***Trivial decisions*** ... like what color socks am I going to wear today? Or should I eat cereal for breakfast or oatmeal? ***Prudent decisions*** ... like should I choose history or geography? Or should I buy a Ford or a Chevy?

***Righteous decisions*** ... like should I spread hateful gossip about someone on facebook? Or should I steal someone's car?

**1. Who Makes Our Choices?**

✓ **Ask students: Who or what pressures us to do what we do?**

*(Wear what we wear...Talk how we talk...If we are honest with ourselves, we would say that the culture around us has a huge say in what we do, what we wear, how we act, and how we talk. And when I say culture, I'm talking about social media, movie stars, recording artist, athletes, where we live, the school we go to, and the friends we hang out with. I'm talking about technology, books, and whatever social class people put us in. Maybe your parents make all the choices for you. Either because they are afraid that you are going to get not follow after Jesus, or because they want to "protect you"! Maybe your friends make your decisions for you. Because they are the closet*

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## WEEK 20 CONTINUED

family you have, and you're afraid you will lose them too! Maybe money makes your choices. Because you don't have any, and you are tired of living broke! Or you have a lot of "stuff" and that's what drives you. That's a few examples of what could be making your choices. Let's look at how we are making our choices.)

### 2. How are we making our choices?

✓ **Ask students: How can music influence the choices you make? How does it influence how we act, talk, and what we wear?** (Get responses)

(The rapper Drake made a song called "Motto". I don't suggest you guys go and Google the song, but most of you probably have it on your phones. Drake's main message is "YOLO", you only live once. A lot of people adopted this "motto" and starting to live life like there was no tomorrow.)

✓ **Ask students: Now what happens when you live like there is no tomorrow?**

(Then all of a sudden, tomorrow comes. You've been spending all your money. Telling people what's on your mind, because you know they deserve it. Maybe you started gravitating towards drugs and alcohol. Skipping school and sleeping in.

What happens then?

What happens when someone disrespects you and you're like "YOLO"!

What happens when you are tempted to steal from the mall, knowing the police is in there, knowing they have people watching you, knowing they have cameras...but you're like "YOLO"!

That's just one example of the culture around us can influence our choices. The idea is to be aware of what is influencing you and how you make the choices you do.)

(So how do we make wise choices, if we are being influenced by our culture? There are some things to think about when having to make decisions that we help you make wise choices.)

### 3. What is the "why" behind our choices?

(Again, if we are honest – music, money, friends, movies, sports shape the choices we make for two reasons: Acceptance and fear! Pretty much any choice we make hinges on those two things.

We dress like our friends because we FEAR that we will look different, and we want to be ACCEPTED by our friends. We want to fit in! We chase money or "stuff" because we FEAR that we won't live a good life and have good things. We fear that we won't be ACCEPTED if we don't have a lot of money or "stuff". We get drunk at parties and do drugs because we FEAR that people will label us "goody goodies", and goody goodies are not ACCEPTED by the circles we run in.)

✓ **Read Romans 12:1-2 has to say about choices. What does this say about why we make choices?**

(Talk a little about the meaning of this passage in your own words)

(Let me give you a choice to make.

Live free following Jesus!

Or..

Be enslaved to FEAR and ACCEPTANCE)

**Who's going to make that choice for you? How are you going to make that choice? Why will you make that choice?**

### 4. What should we think about before we make decisions?

#### A. Work out which decisions are important

(The three different categories of decisions all involve some important decisions, but some have a greater impact than others, particularly those decisions of Prudence and Righteousness. Righteous decisions are usually a lot more straight forward to make, and although some are more complex, it's fair to say that most are black and white. Prudent decisions on the other hand are much more grey... they involve the life choices that are not necessarily right or wrong in a moral sense, but are still decisions that may have important consequences for your life and direction. So as you are faced with decisions you need to think about how important is it to my own spiritual walk and my life. Based on

#### Examining

#### God's

#### Word:

Observe  
and  
discuss the  
Scripture.  
(20-30  
mins.)


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<p><b>Examining God's Word:</b> Observe and discuss the Scripture. (20-30 mins.)</p>	<p><i>(the importance you how much thought to put into that decision.)</i></p> <p><b>B. Make choices that reflect God's purpose for your life</b> <i>(When thinking about guidance &amp; God's Will, the inevitable question is: <b>What is God's purpose for my life?</b> There is often so much fluffing about over this question that people either end up "making" God say what they want to hear, or they end up just as confused and aimless as before... But the Bible has a clear answer! These are your purposes as a follower of Jesus:</i></p> <p>✓ <b>Read Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18 and 1 John 3:2</b> <i>Romans 8:29 - This is God's eternal purpose for you if you are a Christian: He predestined you before you were born to be like his son Jesus.</i> <i>2 Corinthians 3:18 - This is God's historical purpose for you: That right now he is transforming you into the image of his son Jesus.</i> <i>1 John 3:2 - This is God's final purpose for you: That when Christ returns, you will be just like Jesus.</i> <i>You probably spotted the theme... What is God's purpose and will for your life? You are to be like Jesus.</i></p> <p>✓ <b>Ask students: What do these verses tell us about the purpose of making wise choices?</b> <i>(You are to make sure that the choices you are making, at school, with your friends, at home and more reflect that you are living for God and not for yourself.)</i></p> <p><b>C. Ask 'what does Jesus value?'</b> <i>(And so the question to ask when you're trying to make prudent &amp; righteous decisions is: <b>What does Jesus value?</b> Because if you know what Jesus values, then you'll make your decisions according to what he thinks is important.</i></p> <p>✓ <b>Ask students: So what does Jesus see as important?</b> <i>(Well you really need to read through the gospels to find out, but you can summarise it in the two greatest commandments: Love God and love your neighbour (<b>Mark 12:28-34</b>). The gospels and the New Testament letters show you how Jesus and the first Christians applied this to their lives. So it's usually not so hard to work out God's will and seek his guidance, when it comes to righteous decisions. All you have to do is ask: <b>how will this option serve Jesus and his kingdom values?</b>)</i></p> <p><i>(When you're faced with a prudent decision like choosing your subjects for school, like between History and Geography for example, then consider things that Jesus values. Things like: 'Ancient history will help me understand the context that the Bible was written in and help me to understand it and teach it better, or 'geography will give me the opportunity to understand the landscape of communities and society to help apply God's word'.)</i></p>
<p><b>The WHY? Applying to Real Life:</b> Relating faith to life &amp; life to faith (10-15 mins)</p>	<p><i>Remember to think about these questions as you are faced with choices, so that you can make wise choices.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Who's going to make that choice for you?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>How are you going to make that choice?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What should we think about before we make decisions?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Why will you make that choice?</i></p> <p><i>I hope this message has challenged you to think about the choices you make.</i> <i>I hope you're inspired to ask God to show you the source of your choices, how you make them, and why you make them.</i></p>

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<b>TITLE: Choosing to follow God through living an authentic faith life!</b>		Unit 8:How do I live out my faith? <b>Week 21</b>
<b>OVERVIEW:</b> Becoming a Christian is about faith. Salvation is made possible by God through the work of His Son, Jesus. Most of your students know what kind of life they were saved from. But what kind of life are we saved to? What does it mean to truly live an authentic faith-life? In this lesson your students will learn that living out their faith starts with following Christ. They'll be challenged to think about who or what they are following.		<b>MATERIALS:</b> Bible, Pen, Resource Manual materials
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> To introduce the concept of "following" as the true foundation for their faith-relationship with Christ, and to get students thinking about whether or not they follow Christ's example or someone else's.		<b>FOUR CHAPTER GOSPEL:</b> 
<b>KEY VERSE(S):</b> Matthew 16:24-26		<b>OTHER RESOURCES:</b>
<b>OUTLINE:</b> 1. "What Makes A Person A Christian?" 2. Authentic life with Jesus	<b>ADAPTATION:</b> Shorten kicking off	<b>EXPANDING:</b>
<b>Kicking Off:</b> Introduce the topic. Get them talking! (5 mins.)	<p>✓ <b>What's wrong with faking it?</b>  <i>Pass out the three narratives. Have each student read their narrative. When you've finished, have a short discussion afterwards. Consider asking questions similar to the following: <b>What do each of these narratives have in common?</b> (Answer: In each of them, there is some aspect of something fake or inauthentic. <b>What's the problem in each one of these stories?</b> (Answer: Beyonce not truly singing; Braun used drugs to enhance his natural performance; celebrities mask their real appearance using computer software.) <b>Why is it such a big deal that these people aren't real?</b> (Answers may vary. Lead students to begin to think about the concept of authenticity and being real.) <b>Why do we value authenticity?</b> Answers will vary.</i></p> <p>✓ <b>Ask students: What do you think when you hear the word "authentic"?</b> (If you think of words like real, true or original, you're headed in the right direction.)  <i>(The word "authentic" has become something of a buzzword in our culture. But it's a buzzword for a reason. You see we value authenticity. We want the people we do life with to be authentic. We want the brands and movements we support to be authentic. We expect authenticity out of those who lead us. We want the things that matter to us to be real. To be true. We want the experiences and encounters we have to be what they are supposed to be. But what about when it comes to our faith? What then? Do we ask the same questions? Do we truly care what a real or true pursuit of our faith looks like?)</i>  <i>(explain that you're going to be spending time today talking about what real, authentic faith looks like. Explain that, similar to our dissatisfaction with people who are somehow inauthentic in their lives, settling for living out an inauthentic faith won't cut it either. Say: <b>We're going to examine exactly what it means to live out an authentic faith, a faith that's true to God's call. And in this session, we're going to see the heart of this call. Let's jump in.</b>)</i></p>	
<b>Examining God's Word:</b> Observe and discuss the Scripture.	<p><i>(Take a moment and set the stage for what you're about to be discussing. Explain that the purpose of the session is to examine what it means to truly live out a real, authentic faith. What you're NOT necessarily focusing on is how you come to faith. (This is an important distinction.)</i></p>	

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## WEEK 21 CONTINUED

*(Say something like: The Bible is extremely clear that we come to a saving faith in Christ through faith. We are all sinners and our sin creates separation from God. Jesus came to make peace between God and us through His death on the cross. Only when we believe that Jesus was who He said He was and did what He said He did on the cross are we saved from the penalty of our sins. Our actions can't save us. Yet, as Scripture makes clear, when we come to a saving faith in Christ, we're made new and our lives are transformed. There are certain expectations of our new lives. There is a certain path we're called to follow. This living out of our faith is what this lesson is about. The idea is to make sure students know that you're not talking about a works-based salvation. You're talking about how to live life as one who has been saved, how to journey with Christ.)*

✓ 1. **"What Makes A Person A Christian?"**

✓ **Ask Students: How would you answer the question "What makes a person a Christian?" from the perspective of someone who doesn't believe in God?**

*(Answers will vary. But you are trying to lead students to really capture the image the world has of Christians. You might lead students to see that many of these responses might be action oriented, not belief oriented. In other words, you might expect answers that focus on what Christians are perceived to do or not do. Or maybe even what they are against or not against. )*

✓ **Ask Students: How would you answer as someone who believes in God?**

*(Answers may vary some, but should all center around faith in the work and person of Christ as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world.)*

✓ **Ask Students: How does the world know a person is a Christian or not?**

*(Answers will vary. This is a very interesting place to let your students speak as freely as possible. You'll learn a lot about how they see themselves and their faith lives as they answer this question.)*

*(These are all good responses. Let's take a moment to look at a few passages in Scripture, then we'll come back to these thoughts.)*

✓ **Pick a few students to Read Matthew 4:17-22; Matthew 9:9; John 1:43**

✓ **Ask students: It doesn't take long to figure out what each of these passages have in common. What is it?**

*(Answer: Each passage is a description of Jesus calling one or more of people who would become His disciples to follow Him.)*

✓ **Ask students: Instruct students to circle the word follow in each passage. Then, ask students to describe Jesus' call of the disciples. What do they notice about it? What stands out at them?**

*(Answers may vary, but your goal is to lead them to see just how sparse it was. How little information He gave them.)*

✓ **Ask students: What information is not present in Jesus' call?**

*(Answers will vary, but lead students to see that Jesus doesn't flesh it all out for them. He didn't spell it out word for word. There was a little bit of mystery and a lot of faith involved.)*

✓ **Ask students: If we read between the lines in Matthew 4:18-20, we get the idea that there is a little more detail than we might first see. What did Jesus call Peter and Andrew away from?**

*(Answer: Not just their literal nets, but their actual careers. By informing them that He would make them "fishers of men," Jesus was essentially giving them a new vocation, a new career, a new life's purpose.)*

✓ **Ask students: What clues does Matthew give us in verse 20 that their commitment to follow Jesus was one that would dynamically change their lives?**

*(Answer: They "walked away from their nets." They never returned to fishing as their life purpose. They would follow Jesus, become transformed in the process, and grow to become the leaders of the early movement of Christianity. )*

**Examining  
God's  
Word:**  
Observe  
and  
discuss the  
Scripture.  
(20-30  
mins.)

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Choosing to follow God through living an authentic faith life!

WEEK 21 CONTINUED

**Examining  
God's  
Word:**  
Observe  
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the  
Scripture.  
(20-30  
mins.)

✓ **Ask students: So, why do you think each of these men followed Jesus?**

*(Answer: They were compelled by Christ, and most probably by the Holy Spirit, to act. While their belief of Jesus would have been somewhat incomplete at this early stage of their journey with Him, there was at least a tentative acknowledgment of Jesus as the Messiah. They responded to who Jesus was. )*

*(Help your students see that what we see in these passages is that a foundation to an authentic faith is being willing to follow Jesus wherever He leads. Explain to them that this sounds easier than it actually is. We hear this concept and we're like, "I don't get it. I follow Jesus. No big deal, right?" But we step back and think about it, our faith is often less about truly following Jesus and more about following ourselves. Or our friends. Or the world. Few of us can say that we truly live our lives looking only to Jesus to steer our path. Even the disciples couldn't always say this. Let me show you what I mean. )*

*(Explain to students that you're going to show them a passage that you're going to look at it and see what it says about following our way of thinking verses following Jesus' way. )*

✓ **2. Authentic life with Jesus**

*(Instruct students to turn to Matthew 16:21-26 in their Bibles. Explain that this comes after a pretty huge moment in the life of Jesus and His disciples. Peter has just accurately confessed Jesus as the true Son of God, the promised Messiah. Explain that this is a big moment. But tell students that it's followed by what can only be described as a kind of setback for Peter.)*

✓ **Read Matthew 16:21-26**

✓ **Ask students: What happened in verses 21-23? What was shocking about what Jesus told them?** Answers will vary.

✓ **Ask students: When you read that Peter "rebuked" Jesus, how does that make you feel?** Answers will vary.

✓ **Ask students: Why do you think Peter said what he said?**

*(Answer: Peter had his own ideas of how things should go. He wasn't a bad guy. He was just looking at things through his agenda, not Jesus' agenda. Peter was trying to lead, not follow. )*

✓ **Ask students: How do you take Jesus' response?**

*(Answer: Jesus didn't mean that Peter was actually Satan. He was saying that His road was already difficult enough. He didn't need anyone, especially friends, tempting Him with an easier path.)*

✓ **Ask students: How does Jesus refer to Peter's mindset here? How does He point out Peter's faulty way of thinking about His faith relationship?**

*(Answer: This is a perfect example of what happens when we see our lives and our faith through the lens of our own leadership, and not that of Jesus' leadership.)*

✓ **Ask students: What does it mean for people to follow their own will for their life not Christ's?**

*(When we choose to follow our own path, we cut ourselves short. Just like Peter thought He knew best, Jesus knew better. Jesus knew how important His mission was because He knew how it would play out. Jesus knows how His plan for our lives will play out, as well. Following Him instead of following our own desires insures that we'll be in the center of God's will for how He wants to use us to impact the world in His name.)*

*(explain that Jesus used this crisis as a teachable moment like He always did. Explain that Peter's confession of Jesus as Messiah was accurate. Yet Peter, and some of the other disciples, might have had the idea that the Messiah would be a political ruler. Peter might have been rebuking Jesus because Peter had ideas of a position of power in the Messiah's government. But explain that Jesus set Peter straight pretty quickly, and in doing so, once again defined what it looks like to have a faith relationship with Himself.*

*Read or have a student read verses 24-26,. But make sure they see Jesus once again reiterate the phrase "follow me.")*

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Choosing to follow God through living an authentic faith life!

WEEK 21 CONTINUED

**Examining  
God's  
Word:**

Observe  
and discuss  
the  
Scripture.  
(20-30  
mins.)

✓ Read Vs 24-26

✓ Ask students: What does Jesus say we must do in order to follow Him?

(Answer: Deny ourselves.)

*(explain that this idea of denying ourselves and our own will is the key to following Christ. It can't happen when we still want to do things our way. Jesus made it clear. If we believe in Him we must follow Him. It's not a faith that keeps us on the sidelines. Jesus is in motion. His mission is moving all around us. True faith starts with letting go of our lives and following Jesus. Wherever and however He leads.)*

**The WHY?  
Applying to  
Real Life:**

Relating faith  
to life & life to  
faith  
(10-15 mins)

*(Explain to students that we all follow someone. We either follow ourselves, others, or a model put forth by the world. The goal, however, is to commit to truly following Christ. Challenge them to leave from this time of study asking themselves one question: Are they someone who knows about Jesus? Someone who goes through the motions? Or Are they a true follower?)*

# CIA Year 1

**TITLE:** **Serving your friends**

Unit 9: Service  
**Week 22**

**OVERVIEW:**

Christian service is best understood as work done for others in the name of God, bringing good to others and glory to God. Service is central to what it means to be a Christ-follower. We see this in the very character of God Himself. Throughout the Bible, God provides for us, His children. In His great efforts to meet our needs, we see the foundations of the call to serve others. Scripture builds on this and shows that as God's people, we are called to serve others, in His name, as well. The goal of this service-driven love is long-term, Gospel-centered impact on those we serve, doing good for them and bringing glory to God. This lesson will help your students grasp these truths, and will challenge them on their current attitudes toward serving others.

**MATERIALS:**

Bible  
Pen  
Resource Manual Materials

**OBJECTIVE:**

That the heart of service is seen in God's desire to provide for us, His children. To understand that they are called to serve others, and to evaluate their attitudes toward serving.

**FOUR CHAPTER GOSPEL:**



**KEY VERSE(S):**

1 John 3:17

**OTHER RESOURCES:**

**OUTLINE:**

1. 1. Serve others wholeheartedly!
2. 2. Serve others as if you were serving the Lord!
3. 3. Serving others through the Example of Jesus:
4. 4. What should you do!!

**ADAPTATION:**

Short on time cut the kicking off game and make it shorter.

**EXPANDING:**

**Kicking Off:**

Introduce the topic. Get them talking! (5 mins.)

**Set up, Part 1:** Use the Resource Manual 10 items of varying values. Give each student/team a piece of paper to write down their guesses. **Set up, Part 2:** Use the Resource Manual 10 pictures of different people.

**FIRST**, depending on the size of your group, you can divide up into teams or have each student do it individually. This can be a competition or a just a discussion starter. That's up to you.

**THEN**, explain to your students that you have 10 items, and they have to arrange the items in order from least valuable to most valuable. Give each student/team a few minutes to write down their best guess for the order. The goal is accuracy, not necessarily speed (although speed can be the tiebreaker if needed). Once everyone is done, do the big reveal. If you're doing this as a competition, give each team five points for every item in the right order, taking away a point for each spot an item is away from its right place. **NEXT**, once the game has finished, dig deeper into how they determined how much things were worth. Ask questions such as: **Did you find it difficult to determine what the value of each item was? Why or why not?** o Answers will vary.

**Were you surprised to find something was worth considerably more or less than you thought? Explain.** o Answers will vary.

**(PICK ANY ITEM)** If someone were to offer you 10x what (certain item) was worth, would that change how you viewed its value? **Why would that make a difference?** o Answers will vary.

**THEN**, precede to the second part of the game. This will help to pivot you toward the lesson. Tell your students you're going to play the game again, with a twist. You're going to show them the pictures of ten individuals, and tell them they need to rank them from least valuable to most valuable. Resist the urge to give a lot of explanation, just tell them what



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## Serving your friends

## WEEK 22 CONTINUED

(they're supposed to do and then go. Don't explain what you mean by valuable or the criteria you're looking for. This will be for them to decide. There might be some resistance, but tell them to just go for it.

Give them just a couple of minutes to rank the people. Once they're finished, have each group reveal their order. Ask questions like the following to get them to talk about the decision making process:

**What criteria did you use to rank these people?** o Answers will vary.

**Was it easy or difficult to rank people? Why?** o Answers will vary.

**Was it fair for me to ask you to rank people like that? Why or why not?**

As everyone sits down have leaders bring around drinks or snacks. Ask each student what they would like, and make a big deal about giving it to them.

**Did everyone get something?** Cool. So, I have a question: **how does it make you feel to get waited on like that when you sit down?** Pretty great, right? I bet you guys would come around here a lot more often if we served you treats in your seats every week! Really though, why does it feel so great?

I mean, it's just \_\_\_\_ (a cookie, a soda, a piece of candy, etc.) You can buy one at any grocery store. It's not that big of a deal, so why does it make you feel special? It's because someone served you when you weren't expecting it. No one had to serve you today. You would have been all right if you hadn't received anything out of the ordinary. But someone served you, and that made your day better. Let's take a look and see what the Bible has to say about serving each other.)

✓ **1. Serve others wholeheartedly!**

✓ **Read Ephesians 6:7**

("Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people." – Ephesians 6:7)

✓ Ask students: **How are we supposed to serve each other? (wholeheartedly)**

(Now, this is one of those verses that it's easy to read and not really think about what it means. Let's spend some time thinking about what exactly this verse means for our lives. This verse is saying that when we serve, we should serve **wholeheartedly**. Already, it's a lot to take in. Think about it—the last time your mom asked you to do the dishes, I'm sure you did them. But did you do them wholeheartedly? Where you smile and do the best you can and put your heart into the job? I'm guessing the answer to that one is no. But that's what God is calling us to do—to serve wholeheartedly. Think about what that means! Taking out the trash? Do it wholeheartedly. Babysitting your younger sibling? Babysit wholeheartedly. Helping your friend study for a test because they can't seem to grasp the material? Help wholeheartedly. This could get exhausting!

Okay, so we're already exhausted from making sure that every act of service we do is done wholeheartedly, when we're really thrown a fastball.)

✓ **2. Serve others as if you were serving the Lord!**

✓ Ask students: **What does Ephesians 6:7 tell us about how our service to others should look like? ("As if you were serving the Lord, not people.")**

(Ooh. Our service to others should be like we are serving God not his people. That's a tough one. Let's go back to the dishes analogy. Except this time, let's pretend that Jesus came over to your house and asked you to do the dishes. Now, nothing against your (mom, but I'm sure that the way you would do the dishes for Jesus is a little bit different than you would do them for your mom. You'd be washing and drying as fast as you could. You'd be making sure there wasn't a single spot left when you were done. And you'd probably be doing it all with a great attitude. **Am I right?**

Well, here we're told that when we serve other people, we should serve them just like we were serving Jesus Himself. That's a tough pill to swallow, isn't it? Can you imagine? Really treating every person you served the way that you would treat Jesus if you were serving Him? Can you even imagine how much your life would change? Luckily for us, we have an amazing example when it comes to serving others. We can look to Jesus himself to see how this is done.)

**Examining  
God's  
Word:**  
Observe  
and  
discuss the  
Scripture.  
(20-30  
mins.)

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Serving your friends:

WEEK 22 CONTINUED

✓ **3. Serving others through the Example of Jesus:**

✓ **Read John 13:4-5**

*("So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him." – John 13:4-5)*

✓ Ask students: **What example did Jesus give us in serving others?** (Let students share what they are thinking) (Okay, what's going on here? Jesus, the Son of God, is getting down on the ground and washing His Disciples' feet. I'm going to give you two reasons why this is a huge deal. One, these weren't just feet. They were dirty, nasty, filthy feet. If I asked you guys to get on the ground and start washing each others' feet, you'd probably be pretty grossed out, even though most people in here have probably had a shower at some point in the last twenty-four hours. The disciples, however, had not. And let's just remember that cars did not exist yet, so everywhere they went, they walked. Now, if you thought your neighbor's feet were gross before, imagine if they lived in a time where bathing was an occurrence that happened few and far between, and they spent the majority of their time walking on their feet. Like I said, nasty. The other reason that this is significant is that this was the night Jesus was betrayed and taken away to be killed. This was the final meal He had with the people who were closer to Him than anyone else in the World. He knew that this was going to be his final time with these people. He could have talked about anything, done anything, asked anything. Instead, He shows the most beautiful picture of servant-hood by getting grimy and dirty and washing their feet.)

✓ **Read John 13:12-17**

*("When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." – John 13:12-17)*

✓ Ask students: **What was Jesus trying to teach us about serving one another in this passage?** ( Let students share their answer and then discuss)

*(Now, isn't that just like Jesus to do something that blows our mind, and then go and blow our mind again? Not only did He lower Himself to the position of a servant, getting on the ground and getting dirty, but the next thing He said completely tore apart social norms in that age. He said no one is greater than anyone else, but rather that they are all the same. Slaves and masters, messengers and the ones who hire them...everyone is the same. **If Jesus was giving that example today, what do you think it would sound like? The Popular and the unpopular are the same? The Rich and the poor are the same? The valedictorian and the dropout are the same? The boss and the janitor are the same?** Try to wrap your head around that. Jesus is saying that the millionaire owner of a company is not any better than the janitor who cleans the building's toilets. Why is that? It's because He loves them both the same. He came so they could both have hope. He died so that both their sins could be forgiven. In His) (eyes, they're the same. And neither one of them is above serving. So what does that mean for us? It means a few things. **First of all**, we have to get it through our heads that we're all equal. We're not better than anyone else, and not one of us is too good to serve others. Next, we have to come to terms with the fact that if we want to be like Jesus, it means we're going to have to be a servant. We need to serve others because it's what He wants us to do. **Finally**, we have to realize that it's not enough to simply serve others. No, we need to serve them as if we were serving Jesus Himself. **Is that going to be hard?** Of course it is. No one wants to act thrilled about emptying the trash, or have a joyful attitude about sacrificing something they want so that someone else can have what they want. But imagine how amazing the world would be if we all did that. If all of our actions really were the same ones we would do for Jesus if we were serving Him. If, every time someone asked us for help, we responded as if Jesus was on the other end of the conversation.)*

**Examining  
God's  
Word:**  
Observe  
and  
discuss the  
Scripture.  
(20-30  
mins.)

# CIA Year 1

Serving your friends:

WEEK 22 CONTINUED

**Examining  
God's  
Word:**  
Observe  
and discuss  
the  
Scripture.  
(20-30  
mins.)

✓ **Ask students: what are some acts of service you can do for others?** Those were simple, easy acts of service. And they can make people's day! **What would be peoples common reaction for being served by you?** They would be happy, of course. But they were also be surprised. **Why?** Because it's not common. It's not common to serve other people. It's not common to sacrifice something and expect nothing in return. It's not normal to go out of your way to help someone else. And that's what makes it so powerful. If we did these things and treated these people like we'd treat Jesus, can you imagine the difference we would make in the world?)

✓ **4. What should you do!!**

✓ **Read 1 John 3:17**

*("If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?")*

*Discuss this idea of what should our service be like ask students questions like the ones below and explain to them that we must be willing to give to show God's love to others.*

- 1. There's an old saying which states that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Do you think it's possible to convince people to follow Jesus if we don't genuinely love them?*
- 2. What are some ways we can preach with our actions to help those in need?*
- 3. Think about your life—who do you know that is in need? How can you help that person?*
- 4. If we have no pity on people, the truth of God is not in us. Does this verse surprise you? Why or why not?*
- 5. Are you a person who is actively helping others? What does this say about your faith?*


**The WHY?**  
**Applying  
to Real  
Life:**  
Relating  
faith to life  
& life to  
faith  
(10-15  
mins)

*(When you think of things that Jesus wants you to do, what comes to mind? Probably things like loving each other, telling the truth, and obeying your parents. But serving is something that is obviously also very important to Him, since it's one of the last things He talked about on this earth. Serving people is not going to be easy, but if your goal is to be more like Jesus, then it's a huge step in that direction.*

*Now, if you're like most people in this room, then serving people like you would serve Jesus is going to be a huge change from your normal life.*

*For example, you could serve someone by paying for their lunch, or by making your family breakfast without being asked. While serving others this week, remember how important it is to Jesus. Think of how proud He is of you for serving others. Remember to do it wholeheartedly, and, perhaps the hardest thing of all, remember to do them as if you were doing them for Jesus Himself.)*

# CIA Year 1

<b>TITLE: Trials and suffering: Does God listen, is He with me?</b>		Unit 10: Dealing with the emotions of life <b>Week 23</b>
<b>OVERVIEW:</b> Most people believe that when they have trials is either God giving them divine payback or stumbling block. That it is cruel and that if God loved them he wouldn't let them go through it. But in this lesson they will understand that trials is what helps us mature in our faith and that they should be considering their trails as pure joy.		<b>MATERIALS:</b> Bible, Pen, Resource Manual materials
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Students will learn to consider trials a joy, realizing it is maturing them in their faith.		<b>FOUR CHAPTER GOSPEL:</b> 
<b>KEY VERSE(S):</b> James 1:2-4		<b>OTHER RESOURCES:</b>
<b>OUTLINE:</b> 1. God's Purpose for Trials and Suffering 2. God's Promise for Trials and Suffering 3. God's Protection for trials and suffering 4. God's Plan for our Trials and sufferings 5. How are we supposed to respond to trials and suffering?	<b>ADAPTATION:</b>	<b>EXPANDING:</b>
<b><u>Kicking Off:</u></b> Introduce the topic. Get them talking! (5 mins.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Flying a Kite:</b></li> <li>✓ Ask students: <b>How many of you have flown a kite or been around someone who has flown a kite?</b></li> <li>✓ Ask students: <b>Is flying a kite hard or difficult? Why?</b></li> <li>✓ Ask students: <b>How do you think that flying a kite can be like the trials and sufferings in your life?</b></li> </ul> <p><i>(Flying a kite can be like trials in your life. Some times you are doing well and flying through your life and it is doing well, then you are hit with trials where you are grounded and can't move. It is difficult and hard to know what to do)</i></p> <p><i>(Sometimes we think of trials and suffering and think that God has abandoned us, we think he is giving us some sort of cruel divine payback or that it is just a cosmic stumbling block that we can't get around. But God has a different plan for trials and suffering that we are going to be looking at today.)</i></p>	
<b><u>Examining God's Word:</u></b> Observe and discuss the Scripture. (20-30 mins.)	<p><i>(It is sometimes difficult to live with trials, but even harder to grow in Christian maturity without them. Here are several simple, biblical principles to remember before, during and after you find yourself facing a trial or testing time from God.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>1. God's Purpose for Trials and Suffering:</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Read James 1:2-4:</b> <i>"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:2-4)</i></li> </ul>	

# CIA Year 1

## Trials and suffering: Does God listen, is He with me?

## WEEK 23 CONTINUED

- ✓ Ask students: **What does James 1:2-4 tell us about God's purpose for our trials and suffering?** ( to create perseverance so that we can mature in our faith)  
(God's purpose when we face any trial from Him is to give us endurance, to make our faith and character stronger.)

*(Let's look at a few key words in James 1:2-4: These words we are going discuss help us to understand further understand what God's purpose is for trials and suffering.)(Helps students get a good picture about what suffering means and its purpose based on looking at these words from James.)*

- ✓ Ask students **what they think each word means when it comes to facing trials and suffering:**

<b>Consider / Count:</b>	The way we approach our trials is ultimately our own decision. "You" are the key to determining whether your trials are viewed as stepping-stones or stumbling blocks.
<b>Joy / Happiness:</b>	Joy refers to internal contentment regardless of external circumstances. Happiness is an emotional response because of external circumstances. God commands us to consider trials as joy, not happiness
<b>When / If:</b>	Trials are not optional, they are coming! Presenting trials as divine payback for disobedience or something that can be avoided is simply wrong, even if the one attempting to make that case is sincere.
<b>Various:</b>	Trials are used to complete and mature us, so that we can be used as an instrument in God's hand to serve Him in a variety of circumstances. As such, our trials are as varied as the service and circumstances God is preparing us to face. God does know what is around the corner, even if we do not.
<b>Knowing / Hoping:</b>	There is a difference in knowing there is a light at the end of the tunnel and only hoping that to be the case. God's promise that our trials will make us stronger and always work for our good, regardless of the circumstances, should impact the way we approach life; mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually.
<b>Endurance:</b>	God's ultimate purpose for allowing us to endure trials is to make us stronger. Should trials, therefore, be considered positive or negative?

- ✓ **2. God's Promise for Trials and Suffering:**

- ✓ **Read Romans 8:28:**

*"And we know that He causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)*

- ✓ Ask students: **What has God promised when we face trials and suffering?**

*(He will work it out for our good according to he purpose in our life.)*

*(God has promised that as He uses trials to make our faith and character stronger. He will also work the circumstances for our good. Notice that the ultimate basis for knowing that God intends trials for our benefit is rooted in the same promise He made for our salvation. Trials are not based on our human performance but on His promise.)*

- ✓ **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9**

- ✓ Ask students: **What does God promise to give us to sustain us through trials and suffering?** *(he gives us his grace which is sufficient)*

**Examining God's Word:**  
Observe and discuss the Scripture. (20-30 mins.)

# CIA Year 1

**Trials and suffering: Does God listen, is He with me?**

**WEEK 23 CONTINUED**

*(God promises to give us what we need to overcome trials and suffering. This is such good news and should give us peace and joy through our trials to know that we are given what we need to overcome our situations. No fear!!)*

✓ **3. God's Protection for trials and suffering:**

✓ **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13**

*("No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13))*

✓ Ask students: **What kind of protection do we get from God during our trials and sufferings?** *(He won't let us be tempted more than we can handle)*

*(God has provided every needed protection for us as we face our trials. This helps us to confidently walk through our trials as we know that God is with us and giving us every necessary protection that we need.)*

✓ **Read Philippians 4:11-13**

✓ Ask students: **What does God give us to be able to make it through our trials?**

*(It is God's strength that I can get through all trials. It is not my own strength but his. What an awesome protection from our Heavenly Father that he would give me his strength when mine fails.)*

✓ **4. God's Plan for our Trials and sufferings:**

✓ **Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

*("Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) )*

✓ Ask students: **What is God's plan for our trials?** *(he plans to give us comfort and teach us to give comfort to others)*

*(God has a plan prepared to allow our trials, successfully endured, to become a positive benefit, not only to each of us individually, but also to others. His plan is for our trials is to teach us, plan and simple. To help us to grow in maturity, we need trials to help us grow.)*

✓ **5. How are we supposed to respond to trials and suffering?**

*(We should adopt a radical attitude in trials: "Consider it all joy" ( James 1:2) )*

✓ **Read James 1:2 again**

✓ Ask students: **Does it make sense that we should be joyful when suffering? Why/why not?** *(Facing trials can be hard. Usually it's because we find ourselves asking "why?" we wonder why things have happened to us.)*

*(Below is a series of four questions that we should ask ourselves when we are suffering. After those questions, there are some suggestions about what we can do to make it through our trial.)*

**Examining  
God's  
Word:**  
Observe  
and discuss  
the  
Scripture.  
(20-30  
mins.)

**Examining God's Word:**  
Observe and discuss the Scripture. (20-30 mins.)

Question:	What To Do:
Am I suffering a consequence of sin?	Confess your sin, repent.
Is Satan attacking me because of my faith?	Ask God for strength.
Is my suffering a result of a natural consequence for which I am not responsible?	Recognize we're in a sinful world, both good and evil suffer, God promises that one day all suffering will end.
Am I being trained for some special service?	Realize that your suffering can lead to great ministry opportunities. Ask God and others to help you realize these chances to help others who may suffer in the same way.

*(You see, suffering is not fun, and it's not easy, but it is often very productive. Despite the pain we feel, God can often use it for good. There are countless examples of this throughout scripture (Joseph, Jonah, Hosea, etc.). So it's time to ask ourselves some really tough questions in our small groups.)*

**The WHY? Applying to Real Life:**  
Relating faith to life & life to faith (10-15 mins)

**As we sum up what we have learned today there a few things I want us to REMEMBER**

- *Trials are allowed by God and designed for our strengthening and growth, not our destruction.*
- *Trials **approve** us as well as **improve** us. If we could not handle the situation God would not allow it to touch us. He has promised to protect us, and always provide an honorable way of escape through the testing process.*
- *Trials are under God's timing, direction and control. They prepare us for the privilege of sharing with others the same comfort God has given to us. God is greater than our circumstances.*
- *Trials are an opportunity to **respond** supernaturally rather than **react** naturally.*

