

Introduction: Dear Friend, the Bible is God's word; God wants us to *hear it, *understand it, *believe it, and *apply it. Note the words of Benjamin Franklin: <u>tell</u>, <u>teach</u>, and <u>involve</u>:

- If I only tell, you may only hear but receive no benefit.
- If I teach, that means I will explain what I told so that you can understand; that's good, but not enough.
- I want you to take the important step of applying God's word as you include what you learned in your life.

So, *as a follow-up to the series*, **The Christian Engine**, I am challenging you to apply the contents of this folder. <u>Take this challenge</u>: "...prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves" (James 1:22 NAU).

Part 1 – Bible<mark>:</mark>

- Memorize these verses ♦ for your own benefit and ♦ to be equipped to use them with others:
 - a. Sin ^{NIV} Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the <u>glory</u> [sinless requirement] of God…"
 - b. Salvation ^{NIV} John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever <u>believes</u> in him shall not perish but have eternal life." // <u>FAITH</u> Forsaking All I Trust Him
 - c. Anxiety ^{NIV} 1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on <u>him</u> [God the Father] because he cares for you."
 - d. Fear ^{NIV} Isaiah 41:10 "...do not fear, for <u>I</u> [the LORD your God] am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
- <u>Read</u> this section of Luke during this season of Lent; read <u>slowly</u>—a little each day, <u>thoughtfully</u>—thinking about the meaning, and <u>prayerfully</u>—asking God to help you apply it to your life: <u>Luke 19:28 – 23:56</u>

Part 2 – Prayer<mark>:</mark>

- 1. <u>Read these passages about Jesus praying</u>:
 - a. Luke 3:21-22: After Jesus was baptized.
 - b. Luke 6:12-16: Jesus prayed all night.
 - c. Luke 9:18-20: Before Peter's confession.
 - d. Luke 22:39-46: When Jesus' sweat became blood.
 - e. Luke 23:34, 46: From His cross.
- 2. Read these passages about prayer and power:
 - a. Acts 4:23-31: The place was shaken!
 - b. Acts 16:25-34: A great earthquake!
 - c. James 5:16-18: Earnest prayer, powerful results!

3. <u>Pray</u>:

- a. Use the weekly Sat-Sun Participation Guide insert.
- b. List reasons to give thanks: ______
- c. List people with physical needs: _____
- d. People with spiritual needs: _____
- e. People I want to talk to about Jesus: _____

Part 3 – Worship<mark>:</mark>

- Worship means to "bow down" something we do to show great respect, and to "adore" – because of what God is: eternal, unchangeable, almighty, all-knowing, holy, just, faithful, good, merciful, and gracious.¹
- Our getting is more important than our giving: God WILL be okay – *if we do not give,* but we WILL NOT be okay – *if we do not get the gifts God is offering to us.*
 - a. Faithfully attend with an open heart and mind to receive <u>truth</u>, <u>forgiveness</u>, <u>peace</u>, and <u>guidance</u>!
 - b. Gladly respond by giving great respect, much thanks, sincere prayers, and a trust-inspired tithe!

Part 4 – Fellowship: Fellowship is ⇒a close relationship and ⇒sharing of something in common.

Let us treasure our fellowship with God the Father:
NAU 1 John 1:7 "...if we walk in the Light as He Himself is

¹ An Explanation of the Small Catechism, 1991 CPH, 105-107.

in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

 Four key components of early church fellowship: ^{NAU} Acts 2:42 "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' <u>teaching</u> [instruction] and to fellowship, to <u>the breaking of bread</u> [the Lord's Supper] and to prayer." // Let us faithfully do the same!

Part 5 – Witnessing: A witness testifies to others about Jesus!

- Witnesses include prophets, apostles, pastors, and regular believers: NAU Acts 8:1, 4 "[On the day Stephen was killed, the believers in Jesus] were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, <u>except</u> <u>the apostles</u>. [And] those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."
- Memorize, <u>understand</u>, <u>share</u>, and <u>explain</u> this phrase to others: We **are** saved, **by** grace, **through** faith, **in** Jesus, **for** eternal life (*see part 5 of the series for details*).

More Information: Go to these locations to find The Christian Engine sermon series; then watch, listen, or read:

- Watch, Listen, or Read: Church website: <u>www.BLC7500.com</u>
- Subscribe to Our Weekly Emails: Go to the website; then, under "Connect" click on "Email"
- Watch: Go to your YouTube app, then search for "Benefit from the Bible"
- Listen: Go to your podcast app, then search for "Benefit from the Bible"
- Facebook: Go to Facebook, then search for "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"

Website: <u>www.BLC7500.com</u>; YouTube and Podcast: Benefit from the Bible Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; Pastor: <u>RevRLGreen@aol.com</u> 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230