

Spiritual Assessment Entrance/Exit Survey

Dear Student,

You are either entering The WEST Institute / Shepherds Institute or exiting. We desire to measure the effectiveness of our shepherding. It is our hope that students demonstrate tremendous spiritual growth during their time of study. In order to measure the spiritual growth of students, a survey is given upon entry and exit of the one-year programs.

Thank You,
Jimmy Carter
Director, Shepherds Institute

** Indicates required question*

Student Information

1. Student Name: *

2. Sex: *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Female

☐ Male

3. Age: *

4. Program of Study *

Mark only one oval.

☐ MTS

☐ Diploma

☐ MDiv

☐ Other:

Instructions

Please note that this is not a graded survey. It is important that you provide an answer that accurately represents the way you actually think, feel, and behave. Please do not select what you think the correct answer is or what you think we want the answer to be. Please answer in a way that rightly represents you. We are not looking for the "right" answer. We are looking to understand our students.

There are three more sections to this survey. Please follow the directions for each section. Also, once you have answered a question, do not change your answer. Once you have completed a section, please do not return to a previous section.

Section 2

The following section includes vignettes that depict the actions, thoughts, and behaviors of certain persons facing everyday problems. After reading each vignette you will be presented with a series of statements. Please respond to each statement using the appropriate scale provided.

Vignette

Kira is a 20 year old college senior. Her schedule is very full. She attends class a few hours every day. She is in the honors program. She also works part-time every day as a receptionist. She committed her life to Christ during her freshman year of college. She has been learning about the Lord ever since. Kira tries to spend around 30 minutes each day reading her Bible and praying. She is currently in the process of praying about what to do after she graduates. Her college pastor thinks she has amazing artistic gifts and thinks she should pursue an open internship with The Walt Disney Company. He doesn't think God would give her talents for no reason.

Kira's friend Beth thinks she should pray about God's purpose for her life before making any decision. Beth doesn't think talents alone point to how God will use a person. Beth has advised Kira to search the Scriptures and see that it doesn't matter what job she carries out in life, rather her purpose is to be an ambassador as set forth in Scripture. Beth wrote down 2 Cor 5:20 on a piece of paper and told Kira to consider whether or not the job opening would help or hinder Kira's ability to be an ambassador. Beth thinks Kira needs to make sure she is carrying out her assigned biblical purpose, and then think about ways to carry that out in an occupation, no matter what that might be.

Kira's parent think Kira should take the job with Disney. The likelihood of landing a job with Disney after an internship with Disney is high. Kira's parents think God has given her a gift, and her primary job is to use her gifting in a way that is pleasing to God. Jobs have been difficult to land in the current economy, and this seems like a great opportunity. Kira's parents also told her that no matter what decision she makes, they will support her 100% and to remember that God leads our hearts so she should follow her heart and do what will make her happy in the end.

Kira is having a difficult time knowing what to do. She wanted to speak with her college pastor one more time before making a decision.

Kira's college pastor gently encouraged Kira not to over-think everything. Kira brought up the passage that Beth had encouraged her to consider. He said that some people do try to apply verses like that to people today. He kindly demonstrated to her how many of the verses in the Bible cannot be applied to today's issues because they were written to people in a different culture dealing with different issues. His main point was that the Bible can most definitely be trusted to communicate a message of Christ and Love. While some of the details do not transfer over to the issues of today, Beth should have peace about doing whatever the Lord lays on her heart, rather than try to use verses that were written to believers of a different age and culture to determine what she should do today.

5. The best advice Kira received was from Beth. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
I dis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	I agree

6. Beth's advice was well intentioned, but God's Word cannot always be used in the here and now. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
I dis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	I agree

7. Beth's parent's advice concerning how God leads our hearts was good advice. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
I dis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	I agree

8. Kira's college pastor gave her good advice. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
I dis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	I agree

9. The Bible cannot be applied to today's issues because it was written to people in a different age and culture. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
I dis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	I agree

Vignette

Rick is in the final stages of divorcing Karen, his wife of eight years. Rick discovered a two-year relationship that Karen had developed over Facebook with an old high school classmate named Jason. Rick is certain that Karen had a sexual relationship with Jason. Karen has fully admitted to being emotionally entangled in her relationship with Jason, but insists that the relationship was only emotional and was never physical. Since the discovery, Rick and Karen's relationship has deteriorated. Anger, bitterness, frustration, hurt, and distrust would only be a few words to describe some of the emotions involved. Karen fully acknowledges that their marriage has been very difficult for the past six years. Rick has been very demeaning and very difficult to live with and to love. Rick had a hard time separating the stresses of work from his home life. If Rick had a hard day at work, everyone at home would experience his short fuse and quick temper. Karen described the last six years of their marriage as "walking on egg shells."

Karen's friends have encouraged Karen to accept the divorce, as it would remove Karen from a very difficult marriage. Many of them feel that the reason she emotionally connected with Jason was a result of how difficult life had become for Karen. She needed someone to talk to, and she found that person in Jason. Her friends blame Rick for the destruction of their marriage.

Since the discovery, Karen has been cooperating with the elders of the church and has been meeting weekly with church counselors. She states that she has sought forgiveness from God and her husband. Rick feels destroyed inside and still feels confused and angry about how it all happened. Rick has become more and more angry over the past several months and is ready to end their marriage. He does not think he will ever be able to trust Karen again, and he is unsure whether or not he will ever be able to forgive Karen for what she has done.

Rick knows their marriage was not in a good place. He doesn't, however, think that the state of their marriage excuses the actions of Karen. Rick has received counsel from several individuals, including elders from another church in town, that he does, in fact, have grounds for divorce. They don't think Rick would be sinning if he divorced Karen. They are encouraging Rick to divorce Karen. One of the main reasons have been that they feel life would be very difficult moving forward concerning trust and intimacy.

Rick's closest friend Steven has opposed most of the counsel Rick has received. Steven thinks Rick needs to remember that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is centered on unmerited grace and mercy. He has counseled Rick to think differently about his situation based upon the forgiveness Rick himself experienced in his salvation. Steven thinks that Rick needs to focus more on understanding the Gospel, than pursuing a divorce at this point. Steven has counseled Rick to hold off on pursuing the divorce for now.

Rick went to his friends with the advice Steven had given him, and they think Steven is being extreme and using the Gospel to guilt-trip Rick into staying in a marriage he doesn't have to.

10. Steve's use of the Gospel in attempting to help Rick *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Very Good

11. Karen's friends encouragement of divorce *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Very Good

12. Karen's desire to stay in the marriage *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Very Good

13. Rick's desire to leave the marriage *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Very Good

14. Rick's friends advice to leave the marriage *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Very Good

Vignette

Mitch and Tessa have been married for 13 years. They have two boys and two girls. Their kids range in age from 12 to 6 years old. Tessa describes her marriage as difficult, and Mitch is mostly content with the state of their marriage. When asked to explain what is difficult about their marriage, Tessa responded with the following example.

"Life with Mitch is draining and difficult. For the most part, I feel like I do most of the work in our marriage. I am not saying Mitch does not work. He works hard. He makes money for our family, but outside of that, I feel like I do everything. Mitch comes home, and it is his time to unwind and relax from a hard day. I take care of the kids all day long and then all night. Mitch mostly watches T.V. and sometimes plays with the kids when he feels up to it. Here's one thing in particular that zaps my energy and zaps my attitude: Mitch has never been much of a picker-upper. I mainly clean up after him. One of his favorite things to do is to take the paper hamburger wrappers that come on Burger King hamburgers and wad them up. Then he sees if he can make a basket in the kitchen trash can all the way from the living room. If he misses, he leaves them for me to clean up.

I know this sounds like complaining, and maybe it is. I really do love Mitch. Maybe you just caught me on a bad day. I know that my biblical role is to love and serve Mitch, not because he deserves it, but because the Scriptures call me to serve him like he is Christ. I have asked him on a few occasions to please pick up after himself, but he usually just tells me that it is my job to do. So I do it. I don't want to just nag him. I don't think he is doing the right thing, but I do want to serve Christ, so I will continue to pick up after him.

Normally, I have a good attitude about it all. When I get frustrated and start thinking more about myself and less about Christ, I tend to get frustrated as I am now. I guess I am just thinking more about myself and less about Christ. Every time I go to Christ in prayer and ask Him for the strength to serve my husband, I have renewed energy to serve no matter the cost, and my attitude is much better than what it is right now. Every time I get frustrated, it is because I forget that God is the source of my strength and that my actions are pleasing to God, so I ask God to change my perspective to His perspective. I guess I know what I should be doing right now rather than venting to you. I should be asking Christ for strength and a new perspective."

Tessa's friend and long-time mentor Jane thinks that her actions are only enabling Mitch to continue his ways. She thinks Tessa should stop "acting like his mother" and tell him to pick up his own trash. Jane thinks that Tessa's understanding of the Scriptures is off, and she should stand up for herself.

15. I would respond the same way as Tessa. *

Mark only one oval.

1	2	3	4	5	
Very	☐	☐	☐	☐	Very Likely

16. I would offer similar advice to Jane's. *

Mark only one oval.

1	2	3	4	5	
Very	☐	☐	☐	☐	Very Likely

17. I, like Tessa, would ask God to give me the right perspective. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Likely

18. I would understand the Scriptures in the same way as Tessa. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Likely

19. I, like Tessa, would turn to God as the source of strength in this situation. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Likely

Vignette

Derik, a 25 year old college graduate, made a decision to take a job in California teaching 2nd Grade at a small public school. Derik felt good about making this decision after praying and fasting about it for six weeks.

Derik's job and life have not gone as Derik hoped they would. Having moved all the way from his hometown of Denver, CO, Derik has felt isolated and lonely. Derik has struggled to find a church to attend and has struggled to make friends. Before his move, Derik would occasionally deal with episodes of fear and anxiety. Since moving to California, he has really begun to struggle with anxiety and fear on a regular basis. The job is not what Derik imagined it to be. He always dreamed of teaching 2nd graders. He always envisioned working with kids who were excited to learn and excited to have fun in life. He feels like his kids don't like him. They seem to like their 1st grade teacher much more, as they talk about her often. The parents of the children have been more difficult to deal with than Derik imagined. Most of the parents don't seem to like Derik. They disagree with how he structures his class and how hard he seems to be on the kids, especially when it comes to grading. Derik feels defeated in being able to do his job as a 2nd grade teacher.

God seems distant from Derik. Derik is beginning to think that maybe he made the wrong decision. On top of this, Derik is struggling to make ends meet financially. Derik makes just enough money to cover his bills and has very little money remaining at the end of each month. Derik feels trapped. He doesn't have enough money to do things he once enjoyed in Colorado. He wishes he could go hiking and skiing, but the cost of driving to the mountains in California is just too much on his tight budget.

Derik's parents are concerned about Derik and think he should move back to Denver and take the rest of the year off before looking for jobs again. Derik is upset with how life has gone over the past six months. He feels like God has let him down. He can't figure out why God would do this to him, even if he made the wrong decision.

After six months, Derik has decided to turn in his resignation. He feels that moving far from home was not a wise decision. Family and friends are very important to Derik, and he feels much better having returned to his parent's house. Derik feels like he made the wrong decision in the first place, and God was using his difficult circumstances to help him make the decision to return home. Since returning to Denver, Derik's overall happiness has improved greatly. Derik is confident that part of God's desire for him and others is to be happy. Derik thinks God moved him back to Denver to help him understand God's desire for his happiness. Derik is currently looking for jobs in the Denver area.

20. Derik's understanding of how God worked in his life to get his attention to move back to Denver is correct. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
I Dis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	I Agree

21. Derik was following God when he took the job and moved to California. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
I Dis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	I Agree

22. Derik was following God when he moved back to Denver. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Dis ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Agree

23. Derik's view of God's desire for his happiness is correct. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Dis ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Agree

24. Derik's view of God and a difficult life is correct. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Dis ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Agree

Vignette

Aaron recently sat down with his parents and asked if he could have permission to marry Amber, his girlfriend of two years. Both Aaron and Amber are 17 and will both be seniors in high school next fall. Aaron's parents have always been concerned about Amber. They view her as a negative influence upon Aaron. They have gone so far as to ask Aaron to break up with Amber; however, Aaron has not done so. He feels that Amber is one of the few people who understand him and love him for who he is. The parent's view of Amber has been at the center of many arguments. Most of the arguments end with screaming and yelling.

Aaron's parents did not approve of Aaron's wishes to marry Amber. They not only did not give their blessing, but they also restated their desire for the two of them to break up. The chief reasons were as follows:

- 1) Aaron and Amber are too emotionally attached to one another.
- 2) Amber is not a believer and Aaron is.
- 3) Aaron has made poor choices in his physical relationship with Amber.
- 4) Aaron and Amber are too young to understand what real love is all about.

Aaron and Amber can feel the distrust and dislike of Aaron's parents. They talk often about their anger and frustration towards them. Aaron will at times get so mad that he will punch walls and scream as loud as he can. Amber wishes they could just get married and sees Aaron's parents as the source of all their troubles and the source of Aaron's anger.

One of the things Aaron and Amber talk about often is their love for one another, and how they will not let others get in the way of it. They are both starting to come to terms with the views of Aaron's parent and realize that life might always be difficult with them. They have made a plan to just let things be until they graduate. Once they graduate, they will both be out of the home and out from the authority of both sets of parents, but especially Aaron's parents. They have agreed to get married just before the start of their freshman year of college, as they will both be eighteen. Amber thinks that once the parents are removed from the situation, and they can finally live together for the rest of their lives, things will be drastically different. Until everything has settled down, Amber has encouraged Aaron to think more positively about the future and to develop a thankful heart that they still have each other, even though they have to wait one more year. Aaron and Amber are excited to embark on the rest of their life together.

25. The cause of Aaron's anger is his parents. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Dis ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Agree

26. Amber's assessment of Aaron's anger is correct. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Dis ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Agree

27. Aaron should not be kept from this relationship. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Dis ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Agree

28. Thinking more positively and developing a thankful heart will lead Aaron to freedom from his anger. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Dis ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Agree

29. Aaron and Amber have a good understanding of their problems and are handling them well. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Dis ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Agree

Section3

The following section does not include vignettes. In this section you will simply be presented with a series of statements. Please respond to each statement using the appropriate scale provided. Please note that the style of language and the scale will change after every five questions.

30. No matter what happens, God has a plan for it. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Ag ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Disagree

31. God's Word is without error, and I can trust every single part to guide my life. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Ag ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Disagree

32. It is easy for me to forgive those that have sinned against me. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Ag ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Disagree

33. I tend to follow the leading of my heart. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Ag ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Disagree

34. Prayer is a very important part of my life. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

I Ag ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I Disagree

35. Your ability to wait upon the Lord before acting on your own *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Good

36. Your ability to apply God's Word to the way you think *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Good

37. Your ability to serve people sacrificially with whom you have meaningful relationships *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Good

38. Your ability to trust in God's Word *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Good

39. Your ability to view God as being all good *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Good

40. I trust in my gut instinct. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Likely

41. My normal behavior demonstrates that the Gospel makes a difference in how I treat people. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Likely

42. My study, reading, and memorization of scripture produces significant change in my life. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Likely

43. I live in such a way that my life demonstrates God is in total control of all things. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Likely

44. I patiently wait, and live in a way that demonstrates a dependency upon God. *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Likely

45. The impact of God's Word in my life *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Effective

46. The impact of being adopted as a child of God upon my life *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Effective

47. The impact of understanding the futility of man upon my life *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Effective

48. The impact on my life of being totally dependent upon God as the source of all things *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Effective

49. The impact on my life of God being all sovereign and all good *

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Effective

50. The Scriptures instruct me on how I am to live, think, and relate to God and others. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

51. God is the source of all things and my only hope. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

52. Apart from Christ, the efforts of man are all futile. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

53. The Gospel of Jesus Christ not only affects my eternal destiny, but also my present earthly affairs. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

54. God is all good and all sovereign. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Section 4

This section uses the same vignettes that were used in section 1. Please reread the vignettes in order to familiarize yourself again with the details. This time, at the end of each vignette, you will be asked to select from a list of verses ones you think will be helpful to the persons involved.

Vignette

Kira is 20 year old college senior. Her schedule is very full. She attends class a few hours every day. She is in the honors program. She also works part-time every day as a receptionist. She committed her life to Christ during her freshman year of college. She has been learning about the Lord ever since. Kira tries to spend around 30 minutes each day reading her Bible and praying. She is currently in the process of praying about what to do after she graduates. Her college pastor thinks she has amazing artistic gifts and thinks she should pursue an open internship with The Walt Disney Company. He doesn't think God would give her talents for no reason.

Kira's friend Beth thinks she should pray about God's purpose for her life before making any decision. Beth doesn't think talents alone point to how God will use a person. Beth has advised Kira to search the Scriptures and see that it doesn't matter what job she carries out in life, rather her purpose is to be an ambassador as set forth in Scripture. Beth wrote down 2 Cor 5:20 on a piece of paper and told Kira to consider whether or not the job opening would help or hinder Kira's ability to be an ambassador. Beth thinks Kira needs to make sure she is carrying out her assigned biblical purpose, and then think about ways to carry that out in an occupation, no matter what that might be.

Kira's parent think Kira should take the job with Disney. The likelihood of landing a job with Disney after an internship with Disney is high. Kira's parents think God has given her a gift, and her primary job is to use her gifting in a way that is pleasing to God. Jobs have been difficult to land in the current economy, and this seems like a great opportunity. Kira's parents also told her that no matter what decision she makes, they will support her 100% and to remember that God leads our hearts so she should follow her heart and do what will make her happy in the end.

Kira is having a difficult time knowing what to do. She wanted to speak with her college pastor one more time before making a decision.

Kira's college pastor gently encouraged Kira not to over-think everything. Kira brought up the passage that Beth had encouraged her to consider. He said that some people do try to apply verses like that to people today. He kindly demonstrated to her how many of the verses in the Bible cannot be applied to today's issues because they were written to people in a different culture dealing with different issues. His main point was that the Bible can most definitely be trusted to communicate a message of Christ and Love. While some of the details do not transfer over to the issues of today, Beth should have peace about doing whatever the Lord lays on her heart, rather than try to use verses that were written to believers of a different age and culture to determine what she should do today.

This time Kira decides to ask you for some verses that will help her navigate her decision. Please select whether or not you would use the below verses in your response to Kira by selecting "YES" or "NO."

55. 2 Cor 8:9—For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

56. Acts 20:24—But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

57. Mt 5:20—For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will ^{*} not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

58. Mt 5:48—Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. ^{*}

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

59. Acts 15:10—Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke ^{*} which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Vignette

Rick is in the final stages of divorcing Karen, his wife of eight years. Rick discovered a two-year relationship that Karen had developed over Facebook with an old high school classmate named Jason. Rick is certain that Karen had a sexual relationship with Jason. Karen has fully admitted to being emotionally entangled in her relationship with Jason, but insists that the relationship was only emotional and was never physical. Since the discovery, Rick and Karen's relationship has deteriorated. Anger, bitterness, frustration, hurt, and distrust would only be a few words to describe some of the emotions involved. Karen fully acknowledges that their marriage has been very difficult for the past six years. Rick has been very demeaning and very difficult to live with and to love. Rick had a hard time separating the stresses of work from his home life. If Rick had a hard day at work, everyone at home would experience his short fuse and quick temper. Karen described the last six years of their marriage as "walking on egg shells."

Karen's friends have encouraged Karen to accept the divorce, as it would remove Karen from a very difficult marriage. Many of them feel that the reason she emotionally connected with Jason was a result of how difficult life had become for Karen. She needed someone to talk to, and she found that person in Jason. Her friends blame Rick for the destruction of their marriage.

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Rick went to his friends with the advice Steven had given him, and they think Steven is being extreme and using the Gospel to guilt-trip Rick into staying in a marriage he doesn't have to.

This time Rick decides to ask you for some verses that will help him navigate his decision. Please select whether or not you would use the below verses in your response to Rick by selecting "YES" or "NO."

60. Pr 22:14—The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit; He who is cursed of the LORD will fall into it. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

61. Dt 25:12—then you shall cut off her hand; you shall not show pity. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

62. Eph 4:31-32—Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

63. 1 Jn 5:10—The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

64. 1 Peter 4:8—Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Vignette

Mitch and Tessa have been married for 13 years. They have two boys and two girls. Their kids range in age from 12 to 6 years old. Tessa describes her marriage as difficult, and Mitch is mostly content with the state of their marriage. When asked to explain what is difficult about their marriage, Tessa responded with the following example.

"Life with Mitch is draining and difficult. For the most part, I feel like I do most of the work in our marriage. I am not saying Mitch does not work. He works hard. He makes money for our family, but outside of that, I feel like I do everything. Mitch comes home, and it is his time to unwind and relax from a hard day. I take care of the kids all day long and then all night. Mitch mostly watches T.V. and sometimes plays with the kids when he feels up to it. Here's one thing in particular that zaps my energy and zaps my attitude: Mitch has never been much of a picker-upper. I mainly clean up after him. One of his favorite things to do is to take the paper hamburger wrappers that come on Burger King hamburgers and wad them up. Then he sees if he can make a basket in the kitchen trash can all the way from the living room. If he misses, he leaves them for me to clean up.

I know this sounds like complaining, and maybe it is. I really do love Mitch. Maybe you just caught me on a bad day. I know that my biblical role is to love and serve Mitch, not because he deserves it, but because the Scriptures call me to serve him like he is Christ. I have asked him on a few occasions to please pick up after himself, but he usually just tells me that it is my job to do. So I do it. I don't want to just nag him. I don't think he is doing the right thing, but I do want to serve Christ, so I will continue to pick up after him.

Normally, I have a good attitude about it all. When I get frustrated and start thinking more about myself and less about Christ, I tend to get frustrated as I am now. I guess I am just thinking more about myself and less about Christ. Every time I go to Christ in prayer and ask Him for the strength to serve my husband, I have renewed energy to serve no matter the cost, and my attitude is much better than what it is right now. Every time I get frustrated, it is because I forget that God is the source of my strength and that my actions are pleasing to God, so I ask God to change my perspective to His perspective. I guess I know what I should be doing right now rather than venting to you. I should be asking Christ for strength and a new perspective."

Tessa's friend and long-time mentor Jane thinks that her actions are only enabling Mitch to continue his ways. She thinks Tessa should stop "acting like his mother" and tell him to pick up his own trash. Jane thinks that Tessa's understanding of the Scriptures is off, and she should stand up for herself.

After speaking the Jane for a bit Tessa thinks it would be good to have your input. She is hoping that you will guide her with some Scripture. Please select whether or not you would use the below verses in your response to Kira by selecting "YES" or "NO."

65. Phil 2:5-6—Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

66. Rev 21:4—and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

67. Jn 11:35—Jesus wept. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

68. Ps 56:8—You have taken account of my wanderings; Put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

69. 1 Pt 4:19—Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Vignette

Derik, a 25 year old college graduate, made a decision to take a job in California teaching 2nd Grade at a small public school. Derik felt good about making this decision after praying and fasting about it for six weeks.

Derik's job and life have not gone as Derik hoped they would. Having moved all the way from his hometown of Denver, CO, Derik has felt isolated and lonely. Derik has struggled to find a church to attend and has struggled to make friends. Before his move, Derik would occasionally deal with episodes of fear and anxiety. Since moving to California, he has really begun to struggle with anxiety and fear on a regular basis. The job is not what Derik imagined it to be. He always dreamed of teaching 2nd graders. He always envisioned working with kids who were excited to learn and excited to have fun in life. He feels like his kids don't like him. They seem to like their 1st grade teacher much more, as they talk about her often. The parents of the children have been more difficult to deal with than Derik imagined. Most of the parents don't seem to like Derik. They disagree with how he structures his class and how hard he seems to be on the kids, especially when it comes to grading. Derik feels defeated in being able to do his job as a 2nd grade teacher.

God seems distant from Derik. Derik is beginning to think that maybe he made the wrong decision. On top of this, Derik is struggling to make ends meet financially. Derik makes just enough money to cover his bills and has very little money remaining at the end of each month. Derik feels trapped. He doesn't have enough money to do things he once enjoyed in Colorado. He wishes he could go hiking and skiing, but the cost of driving to the mountains in California is just too much on his tight budget. Derik's parents are concerned about Derik and think he should move back to Denver and take the rest of the year off before looking for jobs again. Derik is upset with how life has gone over the past six months. He feels like God has let him down. He can't figure out why God would do this to him, even if he made the wrong decision.

You will notice that the last part of this vignette is different. The ending of Derik moving back to Denver has been removed. This time Derik decides to ask you for some verses that will help him navigate his decision. Please select whether or not you would use the below verses in your response to Derik by selecting "YES" or "NO."

70. Jn 10:10—The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

71. Jer 29:11—‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

72. 3 Jn 2—Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

73. Jn 14:14—If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

74. Jm 1:2-3—Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Vignette

Aaron recently sat down with his parents and asked if he could have permission to marry Amber, his girlfriend of two years. Both Aaron and Amber are 17 and will both be seniors in high school next fall. Aaron's parents have always been concerned about Amber. They view her as a negative influence upon Aaron. They have gone so far as to ask Aaron to break up with Amber; however, Aaron has not done so. He feels that Amber is one of the few people who understand him and love him for who he is. The parent's view of Amber has been at the center of many arguments. Most of the arguments end with screaming and yelling.

Aaron's parents did not approve of Aaron's wishes to marry Amber. They not only did not give their blessing, but they also restated their desire for the two of them to break up. The chief reasons were as follows:

- 1) Aaron and Amber are too emotionally attached to one another.
- 2) Amber is not a believer and Aaron is.
- 3) Aaron has made poor choices in his physical relationship with Amber.
- 4) Aaron and Amber are too young to understand what real love is all about.

Aaron and Amber can feel the distrust and dislike of Aaron's parents. They talk often about their anger and frustration towards them. Aaron will at times get so mad that he will punch walls and scream as loud as he can. Amber wishes they could just get married and sees Aaron's parents as the source of all their troubles and the source of Aaron's anger.

One of the things Aaron and Amber talk about often is their love for one another, and how they will not let others get in the way of it. They are both starting to come to terms with the views of Aaron's parent and realize that life might always be difficult with them. They have made a plan to just let things be until they graduate. Once they graduate, they will both be out of the home and out from the authority of both sets of parents, but especially Aaron's parents. They have agreed to get married just before the start of their freshman year of college, as they will both be eighteen. Amber thinks that once the parents are removed from the situation, and they can finally live together for the rest of their lives, things will be drastically different. Until everything has settled down, Amber has encouraged Aaron to think more positively about the future and to develop a thankful heart that they still have each other, even though they have to wait one more year. Aaron and Amber are excited to embark on the rest of their life together.

This time Aaron decides to ask you for some verses that will help him navigate his thoughts and actions towards his parents. Please select whether or not you would use the below verses in your response to Derik by selecting "YES" or "NO."

75. Pr 12:15—The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

76. Mk 7:21—For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

77. Dt 32:35—'Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, in due time their foot will slip; for the day of their calamity is near, and the impending things are hastening upon them.' *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

78. Jer 20:13--Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord! For He has delivered the soul of the needy one from the hand of evildoers. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

79. Ps 34:16—The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

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