

**WEEK 6 – WHAT SHALL I SAY IF PEOPLE ARE HARD?
DAY 1 – PEOPLE WHO HAVE TURNED BACK**

Last week you learned what to say about Jesus. You learned five things and six verses.

1. Write all of them here. Use your fingers to help you remember.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____

When you talk to people, you may find someone who knows these verses. He was once a Christian. But now he has turned back. He does not follow God any more. Today we will learn how to help this kind of person.

2. Do you know people who started to follow God but turned back? _____

It makes us sad to see these people. We know they have no joy. We know their sins trouble them. The Bible tells us about these people. Open your Bible now and read 2 Peter 2:20-22.

3. What two animals show the life of a person who turns back?

- (1) _____ (2) _____

Peter says strong words here. He says it is better not to know the way of God than it is to turn back. Many times a person who turned back has a hard heart. It is easier to help a person receive Jesus the first time. The one who turned back knows the way of God. He will say, "I tried and turned back."

4. What kind of person is often hard to help? _____

How shall we talk to a person who has turned back? Shall we show him how bad he is? No, there is a better way. This person may feel that God no longer loves him. We must say, "God still loves you."

Jesus used a story to show this. Open your Bible to Luke 15:11-24. Read the story Jesus told.

5. Did the father still love the son when he went away? _____

The father still loved his son. Look how he was waiting for him to come home. You will want to show this story to your friend who turned back. Memorize where it is found.

6. It is found in _____

7. What does God still do to the one who turned back? _____

The son in this story went away from his good father. He did many bad things. But when he was with the pigs, he thought of his father. The young man decided to come home again.

8. What did the father do when he saw his son coming? _____

The father went out to meet his son. He kissed him. He still loved him. Jesus told this story to teach about God. God is like the father. People who leave God's way are like the young man.

9. From this story, how does God feel about people who have left His way?

Use this story to help a person who has turned back. Tell him, "God still loves you."

10. Where in the Bible do we find the story to show this? _____

11. What will you say to the person who says, "I tried and turned back"?

But we must not stop here. We must show the one who turned back what to do. When the son was with the pigs, he became sorry for his sin. He prepared to confess his sin to his father.

12. What did the son say to his father when he met him? _____

This is what the man who has turned back must do. He must know that God still loves him. He must come to God. He must be sorry for his sin. And he must confess his sin to God.

13. What will God do to a man's sins if he confesses them? _____

A man who turned back can be forgiven. God still loves him. He can confess his sins and God will receive him again.

14. What verses can you show the man who has turned back? _____

15. How will you answer when someone says, "I tried and turned back"?

ANSWERS

13. He will forgive them.
10. Luke 15:11-24.
7. He still loves them.
4. The one who turned back.
1. (1) God gave men life. Genesis 2:7.
(2) Men refused life. Romans 3:23.
(3) God gives new life in Christ. Romans 6:23.
(4) Men must receive new life. John 1:12; 1 John 1:9.
(5) New life must be seen in men. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
14. Luke 15:11-24.
11. God still loves you.
8. He went to meet him, or he received him, or he kissed him.
5. Yes.
2. This is up to you.
15. God still loves you.
12. Father, I have sinned.
9. He still loves them.
6. Luke 15:11-24.
3. (1) A dog. (2) A pig.

**WEEK 6 – WHAT SHALL I SAY IF PEOPLE ARE HARD?
DAY 2 – PEOPLE WHO SAY, “I AM NOT VERY BAD”**

We have now learned how to help two kinds of people. We know verses to help a person receive Jesus for the first time. We know verses to help someone who has turned back.

1. Someone will say, “I tried and turned back.” You will answer, “God still loves you.” What verses will you use to show this? _____

When you use these verses, some people will not listen. Some will become angry. Others will make excuses. They will try to give you reasons why they cannot receive Jesus. How shall we answer these people? Remember this verse. Proverbs 15:1:

A soft answer turns away wrath.

2. How should you talk to a person who becomes angry? _____

We should talk quietly. We should also try to give good answers. Today we will learn how to answer people who make excuses.

Making excuses is not a new thing. Jesus told about people who did this. He said that a certain man made a feast. The man sent his servants to call people to come. Everything was ready. Luke 14:18:

But they all alike began to make excuses.

The feast Jesus was talking about is eternal life which He wants to give.

3. Will all people accept God’s call when we do evangelism? _____

Many people will refuse. But look what Jesus said in the story. Luke 14:23:

And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be full.

Did the feast stop when people made excuses? No, the servants kept on calling people until the house was full.

4. What does this teach us to do when people make excuses? _____

If we know good verses, we can answer people's excuses. Some people will listen to us. Let us look at the excuses people give.

When you do evangelism, some people will say, "I do not need to receive Jesus. I am not very bad. I am trying to do good things." But remember this verse. Romans 3:23:

Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

5. Does this verse say some people are all right because they have not done many bad things? _____

This verse says that all people are sinners. It does not matter if they have done big things or little things. All people have failed to do what God wanted them to do. This is what we must tell people who say, "I am not very bad."

6. What verse will you use to show them this? _____

People will say, "I am not very bad." We must answer, "All people are sinners." Romans 3:23 means each of us. We must not just point at other people. We must say that we have sinned too. But God forgives us if we agree that we have sinned.

7. Are there some people who have not broken God's law? _____

People will say, "I am not very bad." We must answer, "All people are sinners." Romans 3:23 means each of us. We must not just point at other people. We must say that we have sinned too. But God forgives us if we agree that we have sinned.

7. Are there some people who have not broken God's law? _____

Romans 3:23 is a good verse to show people. We can use it to tell people the good news. Now we see that we can use it to answer people's excuses. We must know this verse. Open your Bible to Romans 3:23. Memorize it now. When you can say it without looking, write it down here.

8. Romans 3:23: _____

9. What will you answer when someone says, "I am not very bad"? _____

All people are sinners. Even if they try to do good things, they are sinners.
James 2:10:

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

10. If I break one little law of Zambia (or the country where I live) can I say I have not broken the law?

Let us say I have stolen some chickens. I am brought before the court. I say, "I am not very bad. I only stole chickens. I did not steal money. I did not kill anyone. I am not very bad."

11. Will the court say I am all right because I only stole chickens? _____

I break the laws of my country if I steal chickens. And I break God's law if I disobey in one small thing. I am a sinner.

12. Write Romans 3:23 again. _____

Some people make excuses. They say they are not very bad. They think they do not need new life.

13. What will you say to the person who says, "I am not very bad"?

14. What verse will you show him? _____

ANSWERS

- 2. Talk softly or quietly.
- 5. No.
- 8. Look in your Bible to see if you have written it right.
- 11. No.
- 14. Romans 3:23.
- 3. No.
- 6. Romans 3:23.
- 9. All people are sinners.
- 12. Look in your Bible.
 - 1. Luke 15:11-24.
 - 4. Keep on talking to people, or calling people, or inviting people.
 - 7. No.
- 10. No.
- 13. All people are sinners.

**WEEK 6 – WHAT SHALL I SAY WHEN PEOPLE ARE HARD?
DAY 3 – PEOPLE WHO SAY, “THE CHRISTIAN WAY IS TOO HARD”**

Yesterday we learned how to answer the person who says, “I am not very bad.”

1. What verse will you show him? _____

When you talk to people, many will give excuses. Some know that they are sinners. They know that they need to receive Jesus. But they will say, “The Christian way is too hard. I may repent today, but tomorrow I will go back. I will not be able to go on.”

2. Have you ever heard anyone say this? _____

What shall we answer when someone says, “The Christian way is too hard”? Some Christians answer like this: “No, the Christian way is not hard.”

3. Can you say that the Christian way is always easy? _____

I think we may make a mistake here. Sometimes we make people think there are no hard things in the Christian life. But this is not true. We Christians have troubles. We Christians have sorrows.

4. Let us say you tell your friend the Christian life is easy. He receives Jesus. Then he has many troubles. What will he think about you?

Your friend may think you have deceived him. When people say, “The Christian way is hard,” we must agree. We must say, “Yes there will be hard things, but there is someone to help you.” 1 Corinthians 10:13:

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

5. Who will help us when hard things come? _____

This is a good verse to show people. It tells us that there are temptations in the Christian way. But God will help us. He will not let us be tempted too much. He will help us overcome temptations. People will say, "The Christian way is too hard." We must answer, "God will help you."

6. What verse can we use to show this? _____

You must remember this verse. Find it in your Bible to help you remember. It is 1 Corinthians 10:13. Memorize where it is found.

7. What can we tell people who say, "The Christian way is too hard"?

We must say, "God will help you." There are many verses in the Bible which tell this.

Isaiah 40:29:

He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Jude 24:

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing.

Matthew 11:28-31:

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

8. From these verses, are there any burdens to be carried in the Christian life?

Yes, there are hard things in the Christian life. But God will help us. You cannot learn all these verses today. Perhaps you want to mark them in your Bible so you can learn them later. The verse we are learning is 1 Corinthians 10:13.

9. What shall we answer when people say, "The Christian way is too hard"?

When people say that the Christian way is too hard, they forget that the way of sinners is hard too. When sinners tell lies, it brings trouble. When they drink beer, it makes them poor. When they commit adultery, it brings hatred. Sinners have many troubles. They have no one to help them.

10. Which is better — to have troubles and have a helper, or to have troubles and have no helper?

Tell your Christian friend that the Christian way has some hard things. Show him that the way of sinners has troubles too. Tell him, "God will help you."

11. What verse can you use to show this? _____

12. What will you answer when people say, "The Christian way is too hard"?

Let us see if you can remember what you have learned.

13. Write the verse you will use for each excuse:

(1) I received Christ but turned back. Luke _____

(2) I am not very bad. Romans _____

(3) The Christian way is too hard. 1 Corinthians _____

ANSWERS

11. 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 7. God will help you.
 3. No.
12. God will help you.
 8. Yes.
 4. He will think you have not told him the truth, or you have deceived him.
13. (1) Luke 15:11-24; (2) Romans 3:23; (3) 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 9. God will help you.
 5. God.
 1. Romans 3:23.
10. To have troubles and have a helper.
 6. 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 2. This is up to you.

**WEEK 6 WHAT SHALL I SAY WHEN PEOPLE ARE HARD?
DAY 4 – PEOPLE WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE CHURCH**

1. What will you answer when someone says, “The Christian way is too hard”?

People make many excuses. They try to run away from receiving Jesus. Some try to complain about the church. They say, “There are bad people in the church.” Or some say, “I go to a different church.” Today we will learn how to answer these two excuses about the church.

2. Do you think there are any bad people in the church? _____

Perhaps you say there are no bad people in the church. But think carefully. Can you say that all church members are good? Can you say that all church members follow God well? If you say that, your friend will tell you some bad things about church members. Soon you will be judging people. This will make trouble.

3. Will talking about people help your friend repent? _____

How will you answer when someone says, “There are bad people in the church”? You can agree that some church people do not follow God well. Then say, “But each person must answer to God for himself.”
Romans 14:12:

So each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

4. Who will answer to God for the bad church members? _____

5. Who will answer to God for the one you are talking with? _____

Someone will say, “There are bad people in the church.” He will say that he does not need to repent because he is better than those people. Answer him, “Each person must answer to God for himself.”

6. What verse can you use to show this? _____

You can explain Romans 14:12 this way. Let us say I have stolen a dress from the store. I am brought before the court. What will I say? Can I say, "But my neighbour has also stolen. He stole more things than I did. Punish him."

No, the court does not ask me about my neighbour. It wants to know what I have done. In the same way, God will ask me what I have done. I must answer for myself.

7. How will you answer someone who says, "There are bad people in the church"?

Remember, it is not your own word which says this. It is God's word. You must give people verses to show what God says. You must learn where this verse is found. Open your Bible to Romans 14:12. Read the verse again. Memorize where it is found.

8. How will you answer people who say, "There are bad people in the church"?

9. What verse will you show them?

Some people say, "There are bad people in the church." Other people complain because churches are different. They will say, "I go to a different church."

Here we need to be careful. It will be easy to say, "My church has the right way. Your church is wrong."

10. Is evangelism to tell the good news of our church?

No, the good news we want to tell is about Jesus. We should not say their church is wrong. First, we must know what their church teaches.

11. How can you find out what that person's church teaches?

When someone says, "I go to a different church," ask him about his church. Listen carefully. Find out if his church teaches him to receive new life in Christ.

12. If his church teaches him to receive new life in Christ, is it a good church? _____

But some churches do not teach this. They say everyone is saved already. Or they say Mary can save us. Or they say the spirits of the dead can help us. Or they say we get new life by keeping laws. Or they say we are all right if we are baptised.

13. Can these things give us new life? _____ Who can give us new life?

If someone says, "I go to a different church," ask him what his church teaches. If it does not teach about new life in Christ, show him this verse.
John 3:3:

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

14. Should you tell him his church is bad? _____

No, just tell him, "A church cannot save you." It is only new birth which can save you.

15. Where do we find the verse which says this? _____

We must know where this verse is found. Open your Bible now to John 3:3. Read the verse again. Memorize where it is found.

Some people put their trust in the church. When we ask them to receive Jesus they say, "I go to a different church."

16. How can we answer them? _____

The church cannot save us. And we cannot hide behind the bad church members. We have learned two excuses about the church. People say, "There are bad people in the church." Or they say, "I go to a different church." We have learned two answers. We can say, "The church cannot save you." We can say, "Each person will answer for himself." Which answer goes with which excuse?

17. Write the right answer after each excuse.

(1) There are bad people in the church. _____

(2) I go to a different church. _____

People will say, "There are bad people in the church." We must say, "Each person will answer for himself."

18. What verse shows this? Romans _____

Some people will say, "I go to a different church." We must answer, "The church cannot save you."

19. What verse shows this? John _____

ANSWERS

3. No.
7. Each person must answer for himself.
11. Ask him.
15. John 3:3.
19. John 3:3.
4. They themselves.
8. Each person must answer for himself.
12. Yes.
16. A church cannot save you.
 1. God will help you.
 5. He himself.
 9. Romans 14:12.
13. No. Jesus or Christ.
17. (1) Each person must answer for himself.
(2) A church cannot save you.
 2. This is up to you.
 6. Romans 14:12.
10. No.
14. No.
18. Romans 14:12.

**WEEK 6 — WHAT SHALL I SAY IF PEOPLE ARE HARD?
DAY 5 — PEOPLE WHO SAY, "I WILL REPENT LATER"**

1. Is it hard to remember all the verses? Let me write them for you. Read all of them. Then you write the last two.

- (1) I am not very bad. Romans 3:23.
- (2) I tried and turned back. Luke 15:11-24.
- (3) The Christian way is too hard. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

(4) There are bad people in the church. _____

(5) I go to a different church. _____

=====
Sometimes people listen when we talk to them. They see that they are sinners. They see that they need to receive Jesus. They thank us for telling them. Then they say, "But I cannot receive Jesus now. I will repent later."

2. Why do you think people say this? _____

=====
Some people are not truthful when they say, "I will repent later." They do not want to receive Jesus. They just want to give us an answer. But some are truthful. They have not yet understood well. They want to think about it more. They want to be sure of what they are doing.

3. Should we force this kind of person to repent now? _____

=====
Some say, "I will repent later," because they think it will be easier. They want to receive Jesus, but it looks very hard. They want to keep their sins for a while. They think it will be easier when they are old.

4. Some people repent when they are old. Are they many? _____ Does it look to you as if it becomes easier to repent if you wait awhile? _____

It does not become easier. It becomes harder. There are many reasons why we should not wait. Jesus may come soon. We may die suddenly. We may get into more troubles. This is what the Bible says. Proverbs 27:1:

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

5. Can we be sure we will still be alive tomorrow? _____

The Bible says that our days are like grass. It grows today and burns tomorrow. We must receive Jesus now while we still have time. People say, "I will repent later." Tell them, "We do not know about tomorrow."

6. What verse can you use to show this? _____

There are other verses which teach us not to wait.

Isaiah 55:6:

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.

2 Corinthians 6:2:

Behold now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

7. When does God say is the time to repent? _____

Perhaps you want to mark these verses in your Bible. You can learn them at another time. But today we are learning Proverbs 27:1. Read it again.

Proverbs 27:1:

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

8. What will you answer when someone says, "I will repent later"? _____

Tell people, "You do not know about tomorrow." Show them that many things may happen to them. They may not be able to repent later.

9. What verse can you use to show them this? _____

Memorize where this verse is found. Open your Bible now to Proverbs 27:1.
Read the verse again from your Bible.

10. What can we show from this verse? _____

A young man was working at our mission hospital. He had not received Jesus. One day he went to a beer drink. He got into a fight. He was killed. He did not want to die without Jesus, but he did. He waited too long to receive him.

11. What verse shows that we do not know about tomorrow? _____

People say, "I will repent later."

12. What can you say to them? _____

You have learned many verses to answer excuses. Now you must try to remember all of them.

13. I will write the excuses and answers. You try to write the verses.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------|
| (1) There are bad people in the church. | Each person must answer for himself. | _____ |
| (2) I will receive Jesus later. | You do not know about tomorrow. | _____ |
| (3) I am not very bad. | All people are sinners. | _____ |
| (4) I received Jesus but turned back | God still loves you. | _____ |
| (5) I go to a different church. | A church cannot save you. | _____ |
| (6) The Christian way is too hard. | God will help you. | _____ |

14. Be sure your answers are right. If some are wrong, draw a line through them. Write the right answers above. Now cover the verses with your hand. Try to say them. Do this until you can say all of them.

Now put your hand over the answers to give people. Try to say them. Do this until you can say all of them.

ANSWERS

- 4. No. This is up to you.
- 7. Now.
- 10. You do not know about tomorrow.
- 13. (1) Romans 14:12.
(2) Proverbs 27:1.
(3) Romans 3:23.
(4) Luke 15:11-24.
(5) John 3:3.
(6) 1 Corinthians 10:13.
- 2. We will talk about this in class.
- 5. No.
- 8. You do not know about tomorrow.
- 11. You do not know about tomorrow.
- 14. I will ask some to say them in class.
- 3. No.
- 6. Proverbs 27:1.
- 9. Proverbs 27:1.
- 12. You do not know about tomorrow.
 - 1. (4) Romans 14:12.
(5) John 3:3.