



LIVE *Last*

MARK 9:35

KEITH NEWMAN

STUDY GUIDE & WORKBOOK

FOR INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

DR. CHUCK DOWNING



An Invitation from Dr. Chuck Downing

I've known Dr. Newman for nearly twenty years. I was privileged to have him as my pastor at Mission Church of the Nazarene in San Diego, California. Being a LiveLaster himself, he exhibits the characteristics he writes about in his book. Because of who he is, through God's grace, we get together whenever he's close enough to make that happen.

I was flattered and honored when he asked me to develop a study guide for *LiveLast*. He sent me a copy of the book right after publication. I read it immediately.

My calling in life is teaching. I taught 31 years of high school science, 8 years of Teacher Education and biology at Point Loma Nazarene University, and 10 years as an adjunct professor at PLNU and Azusa Pacific University. During those 49 years, I learned a lot about learning. One thing I learned is a carry-over from other aspects of life:

Use it, or lose it!

Simply put, if you want to retain information you've been exposed to, you have a much better chance of doing that if you put your mind to work by using the information in a different way from the way you learned it.

I've been called many things in my career, but boring was not one of them. You can ask any of the nearly 6,000 students I've had in classes. They will confirm there was a lot of information provided, but in ways that made them think.

About now, if not early in this Invitation, you're wondering; what does any of this have to do with a study guide to a book about living the Christian life? Wonder no more.

What follows is a series of 21 **study sessions**, for want of a better term. As you might expect, you are asked to read and write. However, the writing is probably not what you're used to writing. Anywhere.

Eighteen of the **study sessions** begin by asking you to:

- **Think** and react to something in the chapter you just read.
- **Read** something from the chapter, or otherwise provided, and react in various fashions to that reading.
- **Pray** in writing, or other format, about something that impacted you in the chapter.

But, wait! There's more!

In every study session you're asked to do one or more of the following:

- Draw a comic strip.
- Write a Psalm or Haiku poem.
- Organize a list in some creative way.
- Write a dialog about a specific aspect of the chapter.

There's more, remember? But those are a fair sampling of the type of tasks you'll be tackling.

This book ends with a case study of the Key Idea in each chapter.

I know, you're asking yourself, "Where's the invitation?"

Right here.

I invite you to give God a chance to impact you in new ways.

I know this book can help you do that. **This book is a good personal study guide.**

Another thing that will help is to share what you learn and how you completed each study session with other people. **This book is a great group study guide.**

That's all from me.

The ball's in your court.

One more invitation.

Dr. Downing's website is crdowning.com. There you'll find other Christian resources. He's also authored 11 books: science fiction, mystery, humor, and biblical fiction. His fiction writing has been described as "G and PG with an occasional step into PG-13." He invites you to explore and enjoy.

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Writing a Haiku poem

Try your hand at writing a haiku poem or two about God's family. A traditional Japanese haiku is a three-line poem with seventeen syllables, written in a 5/7/5 syllable count.

Green/ and/ speck/led /legs,
Hop/ on/ logs/ and/ lil/y /pads
Splash/ in/ cool/ wa/ter.

Writing a Psalm

While there are many formats in the Psalms, parallelism is one of the most common.

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters.* Psalm 24:1-2

Notice that the first and second lines express the same idea [God is in charge of the world]. So do the third and fourth lines [God created land on/in the seas]. Repeating the theme makes each couplet parallel.

Of course, it's okay to write in any poetic format. God accepts you—and your poetry—just the way you are, and it is!

Writing an Acrostic* Poem

An *acrostic poem* in which the first letter of each line is a letter that begins a word or message.

Here are some examples.

Spelling out "candy"	Spelling out "cats"	Spelling out "school"
Crunchy chewy Awesome Nice and sweet Delightful and delicious Yummy treat	Cuddly Acrobatic Tenacious and terrifying Softly purring	Row S of desks Tea Ch ers explain Pencils sH arpened Going O ver the facts Writing p O ems and essays The bell L rings, finally

In columns one and two, the first letter of the word is the letter in the message word.

Column 3 shows how to do an acrostic poem and not follow the first letter of each line rule. As long as the letter in the message word is highlighted, it can be anywhere in that line.

Choose the method that makes this task the easiest for you.

Introduction

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page_____ Paragraph #_____ Why?_____

Page_____ Paragraph #_____ Why?_____

Page_____ Paragraph #_____ Why?_____

2. What is **one** question you have after reading the Introduction?

Do

3. Read the following quote by Winston Churchill. Do what it says at the end.

*Success is not final, failure is not fatal:
it is the courage to continue that counts.*

Describe at least one way this quote is **similar** to the quote by C. S. Lewis on page xi.

Describe at least one way these quotes **differ**.

Pray

4. Write a short prayer asking God to guide you through this study of LiveLast. Be specific in your requests. End your prayer by praising God. Use the back of the page if you need more room.



CHAPTER 1
LiveLast

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. What is **one** question you have after reading Chapter 1?

Do

3. Read John 13:3-16 below.

³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he came from God, and was going to God, ⁴arose from supper, and laid aside his outer garments. He took a towel, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶Then he came to Simon Peter. He said

to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"⁷ Jesus answered him, "You don't know what I am doing now, but you will understand later."⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me."⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Someone who has bathed only needs to have his feet washed, but is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you."¹¹ For he knew him who would betray him, therefore he said, "You are not all clean."¹² So when he had washed their feet, put his outer garment back on, and sat down again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"¹³ You call me, Teacher' and 'Lord.' You say so correctly, for so I am.¹⁴ If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.¹⁶ Most certainly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his lord, neither one who is sent greater than he who sent him. World English Bible (WEB)

Describe. Assume the role of one of Jesus' disciples. Don't pick Peter. John uses him as an example. What are you thinking and feeling as Jesus begins the foot washing of other disciples?

My thoughts about Jesus washing my feet:

Describe. Write a dialog between you and Jesus as He washes your feet.

You:

Jesus:

You:

Jesus:

Pray

4. Write a prayer committing yourself to LiveLast.



CHAPTER 2

Mulligans

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. Dr. Newman lists sharing, serving, and forgiving as “not always popular” LiveLaster traits. Describe one time in your life when you exhibited one of those three traits.

Do

3. Read.

The last paragraph on page 12 through the first full paragraph on page 13.

Describe the intent of giving out the paper sacks.

Describe what you would do with a) \$1.00, b) \$20.00, c) \$100. Be specific and detailed in your answers.

\$1

\$20

\$100

Choose one of those plans and implement it this week.

I choose \$_____.

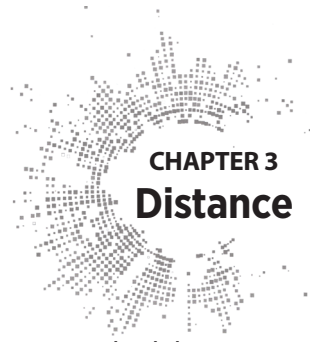
Pray

4. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mulligans. Include in your prayer a request for direction to someone you can serve as you "Do what only you can do" for them. Record what happened and share your experience with at least one person

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Request for Direction

Here's what happened...



CHAPTER 3

Distance

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. What are you doing that makes strangers think “Christian” when they watch you?

Do

3. Read

<p>"A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you can't see something that is above you." <i>C. S. Lewis</i></p>	<p>"I used to think that Gods gifts were on shelves one above the other and that the taller we grew in Christian character, the easier we could reach them. I now find that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other. It is not a question of growing taller, but of stooping lower, that we have to go down, always down, to get His best gifts." <i>F. B. Meyer</i></p>
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How can both of these quotes be used to describe humility?

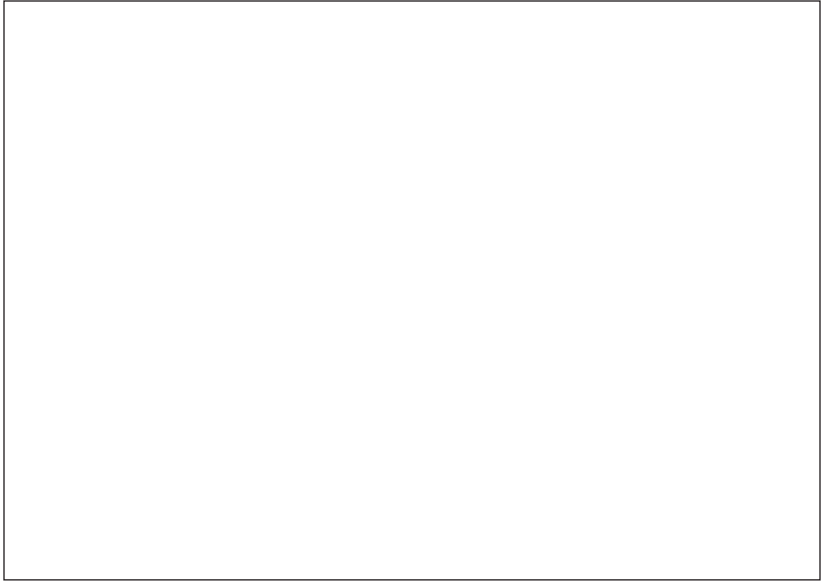
Describe at least one way these quotes **differ**.

On the following page, draw a cartoon about humility. It can humorous or serious.

If you're not an artist, imagine a scene that represents "humility."

List five objects in the scene and describe or explain the purpose of each in the scene.

Cartoon

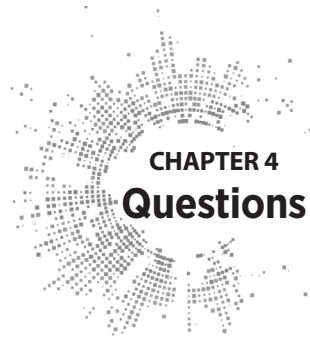


Scene Description and Explanations

Characteristics/Objects	Description/Explanation

Pray

4. Write a prayer about humility in your life. Be honest about how you feel and the way you see yourself now.



CHAPTER 4 Questions

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. What question at the top of page 35 intrigued you most when you read that list?

What about that question was intriguing?

Why?

Do

3. Read.

The paragraph on page 42 that starts *“Could He say to us today, “You’ve been religious. . .”*

Describe at least one way this question is **similar** to the three key questions in this chapter.

Describe at least one way this question **differs**.

Select one of these questions:

a. Can you be trusted?

b. Will you love me? (even when I'm unlovable, even when I don't love myself?)

c. What is the cost?

Write a dialog between a Christian and a non-Christian friend. The dialog starts as shown. If you need to, add more slots for the characters.

CAST: C = Christian

NC = non-Christian

NC: Why are you sitting here with your eyes closed?

C: I'm praying

NC: What?

C:

NC: Why?

C:

NC

C:

NC:

C:

NC:

C:

NC:

C:

NC:

C:

NC:

C:

NC:

Pray

4. Write a psalm or prayer focusing on getting and obeying directions from God.



CHAPTER 5
Seekers

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. Page 50: "Do you know anyone who is an example for you of what it means to have that elevated spiritual temperature?"

Cite three incidents of this faith life that you believe are reflective of an elevated spiritual temperature.

Do

3. Read.

The four Scriptures quoted in this chapter.

Describe at least one way each Scripture is similar to the others.

Describe at least one way each scripture differs.

Four Scriptures are quoted in this chapter. Explain in your own words why each is in the chapter titled **Seekers**. Include who is seeking and what they are seeking in your explanations.

Verse	Reason
<p>"I know you inside and out, and find little to my liking. You're not cold, you're not hot—far better to be either cold or hot! You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit. <i>Revelation 3:15-16 (MSG)</i></p>	
<p>For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. <i>2 Chronicles 16:9</i></p>	

Verse	Reason
<p>But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.</p> <p><i>Matthew 6:33 (ESV)</i></p>	
<p>They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"</p> <p><i>Luke 24:32</i></p>	

Pray

4. Write a prayer poem about seeking God.



CHAPTER 6
Stuff

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. What question on page 58 is the most important in your mind?

How was that question different from the others on the page?

What's your answer to that question?

Do

3. Read.

The first paragraph and the two bullet points on page 55.

Describe at least one way that one of these questions is similar to one of the two questions at the bottom of page 54.

Describe at least one way that one of these questions differs from one of the two questions at the bottom of page 54.

Pray

4. Write one or two sentence prayers about the specific stuff in your life.

The title of this chapter should be Giving, not Stuff.

Agree or disagree with the above statement. Circle one below and explain your choice using examples from the chapter.

Agree

Disagree

Dr. Newman uses two examples to illustrate giving like a LifeLaster: the boy and his lunch of five barley loves and two small fish; Don and Joyce.

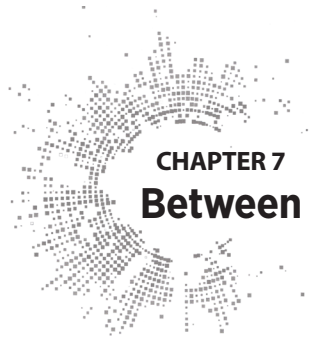
Fill in the T-chart comparing the two examples. You should have at least four items in each column.

Similarities	Differences

Choose one item from each column and explain why you included it.

I chose _____ as similar because:

I chose _____ as different because:



CHAPTER 7
Between

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. Why does Dr. Newman spend from “As I think . . .” on page 67 to “three-and-a-half-year ministry” on page 69?

Do

3. Read.

⁷He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:7-8

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)

Describe at least one way these verses are similar to each other.

Describe at least one way these verses differ.

Pray

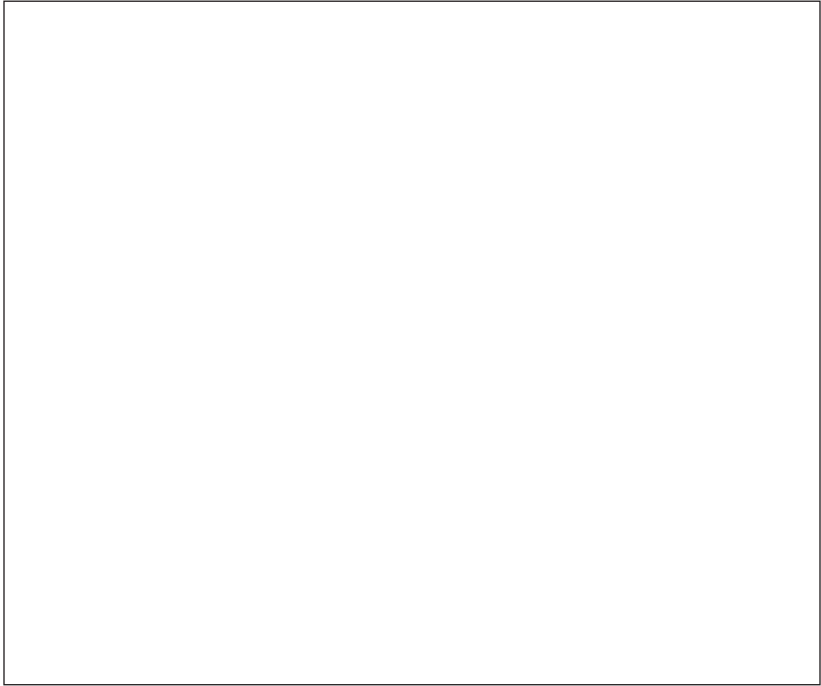
4. Write a prayer asking God to help you be more like the psalmist who wrote

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

And in his word I hope.

Psalm 130:5 (ESV)

Draw a single frame of four-frame comic about a time you had to wait.



Which viewpoint does your comic illustrate? Circle your choice below and explain.

Waiting God's way.

Waiting and worrying.

Waiting and complaining.



CHAPTER 8
Worms

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. What is your answer to the question that opens this chapter on page 79? Explain your choice.

Do

3. Read.

The paragraph on page 87.

The title of this chapter, **Worms**, might be seen as an odd choice.

Explain why Dr. Newman uses Jonah as an example in this chapter.

Pray

4. Write a prayer or psalm* thanking God for His grace and ask Him how you can gracefully share His truth with others.

The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. John 4:1-26.
Fill in the T-chart with examples of grace and truth shown by Jesus and the woman. Add more spaces if you need to.

Examples of Grace		Examples of Truth	
BY JESUS	BY THE WOMAN	BY JESUS	BY THE WOMAN

Which column is longest? Why do you think that's the case?

Digging Deeper #1

Digging Deeper prompts are invitations to revisit and reflect on previous material.

This alternative look at the facts and ideas you've been studying is a time for you to reflect on your responses to Chapters 1-8 of LiveLast.

Select one or more of the **Ask and Answer** choices.

Ask and Answer.

My favorite section in the Introduction and Chapters 1-8 was _____ because

Ask and Answer.

What in the Introduction and Chapters 1-8 can I relate to? How/Why?

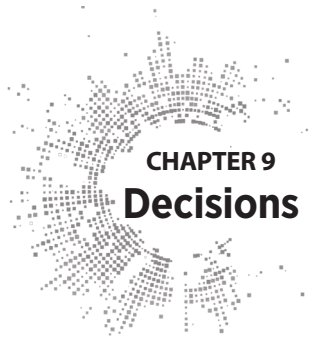
Ask and Answer.

What can I include in my prayer life from what I learned in the Introduction and Chapters 1-8?

Select one or more of the **Think and Write** choices.

Think and Write. Describe something unexpected you learned or experienced during the week(s) spent in the Introduction and Chapters 1-8.

Think and Write. I learned/read/discovered this special truth in the Introduction and Chapters 1-8. Living that truth makes me a better _____(term) by/because. Fill in any term that fits this prompt for you. Explain your choice.



CHAPTER 9
Decisions

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. What question do you have about the title? Write one down.

Do

3. Read.

From "Jesus speaks about a different kind of hunger and thirst" on page 90 to the end of the list on page 91.

Think of one or two other "Blessed... for they shall..." examples and write them down.

Pray

4. Write a poem or prayer thanking God for His blessings. Include a list!

These four subheadings are found on pages 92-98.

- a. The longer the perspective, the better the decision.
- b. Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide.
- c. "No decision" is itself a decision.
- d. Direction determines destiny.

Select two of the subheadings and write a 1-2 paragraph summary of what Dr. Newman wrote about each one. Space is provided if you want to do all four.

Number	Summary



CHAPTER 10
Teams

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. What is your answer to the question “Who steals your sleep?” on page 101? Include many details.

Do

3. Read.

The paragraphs on page 104 regarding compassion and action.

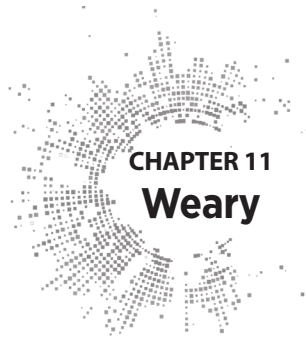
Explain why Dr. Newman puts the two words together in the term “compaction” and why it’s the perfect term to describe the four friends and what they did.

Pray

4. Write a prayer of thankfulness the crippled man might have prayed after his adventure.

Draw a cartoon of the four men carrying the crippled man to see Jesus. It can be a single frame or one with 3 or 4 frames. Include a caption or dialog if it’s a single frame. Include dialog if your cartoon has multiple frames.

In the space below, explain your cartoon to someone who does not know the story of the man and his friends.



CHAPTER 11
Weary

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. Explain the difference between **being tired** and being **weary**?

Do

3. Read.

“Sit down and make a list of the times you are absolutely, positively, beyond a shadow of a doubt convinced that God spoke to you, did something for you, intervened, blessed, or even made a dramatic difference in a situation.” (p117)

Make that list now. If you made it when you read the chapter, you get an A+! Whether your list is new or “old,” re-arrange it from least to most significant in your life.

Select two of those items and explain why you put them in the positions they are in.

Pray

Write a prayer you prayed, might have prayed, or should have prayed, at a time in your life when you were spiritually weary.

The following is Psalm 42. It's a story/song about spiritual weariness. Below this psalm, write your own 4-6 verse Psalm about worry you've experienced. Even if you're worried now, end your psalm with a verse encouraging yourself to turn your worry over to God. Read your Psalm of overcoming worry whenever you feel the need.

As the deer pants for water, so I long for you, O God. ²I thirst for God, the living God. Where can I find him to come and stand before him?

³Day and night I weep for his help, and all the while my enemies taunt me. "Where is this God of yours?" they scoff.

⁴⁻⁵Take courage, my soul! Do you remember those times (but how could you ever forget them!) when you led a great procession to the Temple on festival days, singing with joy, praising the Lord? Why then be downcast? Why be discouraged and sad? Hope in God! I shall yet praise him again. Yes, I shall again praise him for his help.[a]

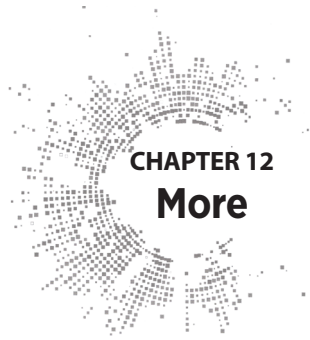
⁶Yet I am standing here depressed and gloomy, but I will meditate upon your kindness to this lovely land where the Jordan River flows and where Mount Hermon and Mount Mizar stand. ⁷All your waves and billows have gone over me, and floods of sorrow pour upon me like a thundering cataract.[b]

⁸Yet day by day the Lord also pours out his steadfast love upon me, and through the night I sing his songs and pray to God who gives me life.

⁹"O God my Rock," I cry, "why have you forsaken me? Why must I suffer these attacks from my enemies?" ¹⁰Their taunts pierce me like a fatal wound; again and again they scoff, "Where is that God of yours?"

¹¹But, O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act! For I know that I shall again have plenty of reason to praise him for all that he will do. He is my help! He is my God! (Living Bible)

My Psalm of Deliverance from Worry



CHAPTER 12
More

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. Why is the phrase “Water always wins” included as emphasis in this chapter?

Do

3. Read.

John 21:15-23 on pages 129-130.

Pretend you are Peter. Describe how you feel about Jesus' words to you (remember you're Peter!) in at least one of the three paragraphs. Use examples from Peter's life as you describe those feelings.

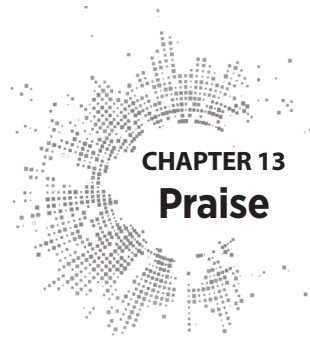
Pray

4. Write a prayer to God confessing a time when at least one of the paragraphs applied to you and your life. End your prayer by accepting God's forgiveness.

Read the three challenges Dr. Newman describes on pages 131-134. Think of someone in your life who helped you master at least one of those challenges and write a thank you note to that person. Be specific in what you are thankful for. If possible, send a copy of your note to that person.

It's okay to write a note to more than one person and/or to write notes about more than one challenge.

Go Deeper	
Start Over	
Follow more closely	



CHAPTER 13
Praise

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. Why is “breaking a vase” important to both the person who receives the benefit of that act AND the person who broke the vase?

Do

3. Read.

The list of Biblical surprises on page 137.

Describe at least one way two of these surprises are similar to each other.

Pick the most surprising surprise and explain why you chose that surprise.

Pray

Write a phrase of praise about something that stood out to you in this chapter.

Think of at least one time you broke a vase or a vase was broken for you. Complete one or more of the options below, or think of one of your own.

- a. Write a poem about that experience.
- b. Draw a picture about the experience.
- c. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for the experience.

After you finish, take time to thank God for people who break vases all over the world.



CHAPTER 14
Images

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. Write an answer to this question: On page 154, why did Dr. Newman include the quote “What we do in life echoes in eternity.”?

Do

3. Read.

Read Matthew 7:24-27 on page 152.

What is the most important part of this story? Explain your answer.

Name at least one famous person whose house was built on the rock and one who foolishly built their house on the sand. Explain why you put each where you did in two sentences total.

Pray

4. Write a prayer asking God to help you Pray Scripture—see page 159.

Dr. Newman lists 18 things Jesus tells you to do in the Sermon on the Mount on pages 156-157.

Optional Activities: Complete the first option and at least two others in the space provided.

- a. Choose from the 18 things referenced and write a five-step action plan to start doing one of the things you are **not** doing now.

Which Bible reference did you choose? _____

Action plan:

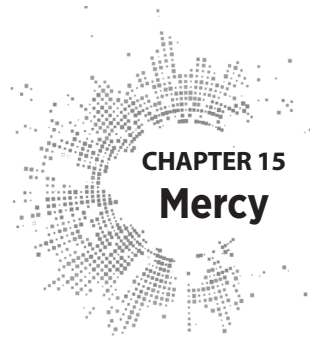
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

b. Draw an illustration of one of the 18 things.

c. Write a haiku* poem inspired by one of the 18 things. *It's okay to write in any poetic format. God accepts you – and your poetry – just the way you are, and it is!

d. Write a short, short story about one of the 18 things.





CHAPTER 15
Mercy

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. React to the statement: *“When our experience doesn’t match our expectation, a gap is created. In that gap are disappointment and doubt.”* (Page 167)

Do

3. Read.

Matthew 11:3 on page 168 and 11:4-6 on page 169.

Matthew 11:3 is John the Baptist's question to Jesus after John is arrested by Herod. Verses 4-6 are Jesus' answer. Write what you think John would have written in response to Jesus' answer.

Describe at least one way these quotes **differ**.

Pray

4. Write a prayer in the pattern of a Psalm* about a time you doubted and what happened in the end.

Read from the bottom of page 172 through the middle of page 174.

A reporter for "Inside Judea" a popular segment in a television talk show is doing a follow-up on a story (Matt 8:23-27) (s)he reported some time earlier. This time (s)he's covering another Lake Galilee story (Matthew 14:22-33). Read both passages of Scripture below:

Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)

²³Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" ²⁶He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. ²⁷The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)

²²Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁸"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat,

walked on the water and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Finish the interview started below between the reporter and an unnamed one of Jesus' twelve disciples—that's YOU, and you're not Peter! Make sure to include something about Matthew 14:23-33. Add more lines if you need them.

Reporter This is Ima Journalist. I'm with a follower of the wandering Rabbi, Jesus. I reported earlier on an event on Lake Galilee when Jesus reportedly calmed the waters during a terrific storm. Today, I'm investigating a report that's even harder to believe. Tell our viewers what happened on the lake last night, Disciple.

Disciple _____

Reporter _____

Disciple _____

Reporter _____

Disciple _____

Reporter _____

Disciple _____

Reporter _____

Disciple _____

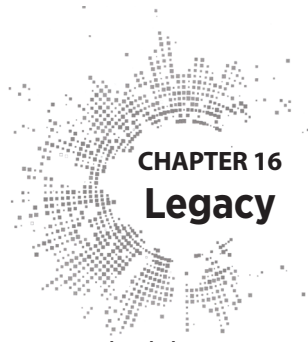
Reporter _____

Disciple _____

Reporter _____

Disciple _____

Reporter _____



CHAPTER 16
Legacy

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

Page _____ Paragraph # _____ Why? _____

2. What are three things you have done or are doing now that you're glad are part of your legacy? Briefly explain why you included each one.

Do

3. Read.

Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land. (Deuteronomy 34:1)

Write your own epitaph ... Twice

First, write a humorous epitaph. See samples on pages 180-181.

Have a good time with this.

Second, write an epitaph that shows what you think people will remember about your life.

Pray

4. Write a prayer asking God for guidance in your life choice so your legacy will honor Him.

Answer the following five questions, taken from pages 182-190. These versions are in the present tense, since, hopefully, you are still alive!

Who do you really love?	
What are you doing for the kingdom?	
How do you handle disappointment?	
Who's following in your footsteps?	
Have you stopped growing? If so, when? Why?	

****1st question**

Pick one of those five answers that is not what you'd like it to be and re-write your answer to what you want as an epitaph on your tombstone.

Make a list of five steps you can/will take to ensure your epitaph matches your new answer.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Digging Deeper #2

Digging Deeper prompts are invitations to revisit and reflect on previous material.

This alternative look at the facts and ideas you've been studying is a time for you to reflect on your responses to Chapters 9-16 of LiveLast.

Select one or more of the **Ask and Answer** choices.

Ask and Answer.

My favorite section in Chapters 9-16 was _____
because

Ask and Answer.

What in Chapters 9-16 can I relate to? How/Why?

Ask and Answer.

What can I include in my prayer life from what I learned in Chapters 9-16?

Select one or more of the **Think and Write** choices.

Think and Write. Describe something unexpected you learned or experienced during the week(s) spent in Chapters 9-16.

Think and Write. I learned/read/discovered this special truth in Chapters 9-16. Living that truth makes me a better _____ (fill in any term that fits this prompt for you). by/because. Explain your choice.

Conclusion

Think

1. What **three** sentences had the most meaning for you? Write the page number, the paragraph number, and why you chose that sentence in the space provided.

Page_____ Paragraph #_____ Why?_____

Page_____ Paragraph #_____ Why?_____

Page_____ Paragraph #_____ Why?_____

2. A) Why does Dr. Newman use Google as an example in this section of the book?

B) What's another example of the same concept?

Do

3. Read.

The full paragraphs on page 194.

Explain why good teachers don't answer every question they ask during a class.

Describe at least one time you had to find the answer to a question without help.

Pray

4. Write an "acrostic prayer" about this section or the whole book for one of these words: PRAYER/PRAYING, REQUEST/REQUESTING, ASKING, PLEAD/PLEADING, PETITION/PETITIONING, LIVELAST/LIVELASTER.

Pick one of the six Quick Thoughts on pages 196-199.

Make a drawing that represents your thoughts and/or your feelings about Dr. Newman's explanation of that thought.

OR, list three items that would be in your drawing if you'd made a drawing and explain why each is in the drawing.

Item	Explanation

Digging Deeper #3

This **Digging Deeper** prompt invites you to revisit and reflect on all the material in LiveLast.

Your task is to demonstrate **not only** how well you connected with the facts and ideas in this book, **but also** how much you understand and how well you can apply the content you've been reading.

All the Bible study in the world is of no value unless you apply what you've learned to your life. On the pages that follow, you will find three tables.

- Table 1 lists the chapter titles of Dr. Newman's LiveLast in order, by title, in Column 1.
- Column 3 of Table 1 lists Scripture references supporting the Key Idea of each chapter; these are also in the correct order by chapter.
- Table 2, column 1 lists the key idea of each chapter. However, these are in ALPHABETICAL order, not in order by chapter.
- Table 2, column 2 lists Biblical characters. The character(s) in each row are examples of one of the Key Ideas. These are also listed in ALPHABETICAL order, not in order by chapter.

Task 1

1. Review your answers on the pages of this booklet for Chapter 1.
2. Decide which Key Idea from Table 2 is best supported by the content of Chapter 1.
3. If necessary, re-read Chapter 1 to help you make your Key Idea selection.
4. Write that Key Idea in the Chapter 1 cell in Table 1.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 for each chapter in the book.

Task 2

1. Read the Scripture passage listed in Table 1 for Chapter 1. Scriptures listed are provided for you on the pages following Table 3.
2. Decide which Biblical character(s) from Table 2 is/are best supported by the content of Chapter 1.
3. Write the name(s) of the character(s) in Column 4 of Table 1.
4. Describe the action taken that illustrates the Key Idea for that chapter in Table 2, column 3. You might want/need to re-read the Scripture passage or go to your Bible and read the entire chapter of the Bible where that Scripture is found to help you decide on a Key Idea.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 for each chapter in the book.

Task 3

This is the most important task in this entire book. If you complete this task truthfully, you will have a “to do” list for Spiritual growth in your life.

1. Copy your answers for the Key Ideas in Table 2 into Table 3.
2. Pray and ask God for guidance as you complete this task.
3. Fill in the last column of Table 3 with examples from your own life.
4. If you can't think of an example for a Key Idea, ask Christian friends how they've seen that Key Idea in your life.
5. If you still don't have an example, pray again. This time, ask God to cause situations to arise in your life that give you opportunities to experience the blessings associated with expressing that Key Idea in the future.

Table 1

CHAPTER and TITLE	KEY IDEA	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE	BIBLE CHARACTER/S
1. LiveLast		Luke 1:29-38	
2. Mulligans		Luke 10:33-35	
3. Distance		Nehemiah 1	
4. Questions		John 20:26-28	
5. Seekers		Acts 8:26-39	
6. Stuff		Joshua 2:1-24	
7. Between		1 Samuel 1:11-2:2	
8. Worms		Joshua 1:1-9	
9. Decisions		Genesis 39	
10. Teams		Daniel 1:6-20	
11. Weary		Acts 16:22-34	
12. More		Hebrews 11:32-40	
13. Praise		Luke 7:37-38	
14. Images		Genesis 22:1-18	
15. Mercy		1 Samuel 3:1-19	
16. Legacy		Acts 13:36	

Table 2

KEY IDEAS (in alpha order)	BIBLE CHARACTER EXAMPLES (in alpha order)	Description of the action taken illustrating the Key Idea for each chapter
Courage	Abraham	
Discipline	Daniel & the 3 Hebrews	
Empathy	David	
Faith	Ethiopian Eunuch	
Generosity	Gideon, Barak, Samson...	
Humility	Good Samaritan	
Joy	Hannah	
Listening	Joseph	
Patience	Joshua	
Perseverance	Mary	
Purpose	Nehemiah	
Risk	Paul and Silas	
Sacrifice	Rahab	
Self-Control	Samuel	
Thirst	Sinful woman (unnamed)	
Trust	Thomas	

Table 3

CHAPTER & TITLE	KEY IDEA	HOW I SHOW THIS LIVELAST CONCEPT IN MY LIFE
1. LiveLast		
2. Mulligans		
3. Distance		
4. Questions		
5. Seekers		
6. Stuff		
7. Between		
8. Worms		
9. NDecisions		
10. Teams		
11. Weary		
12. More		
13. Praise		
14. Images		
15. Mercy		
16. Legacy		

Scriptures

(FROM BIBLEGATEWAY.COM)

Luke 1:29-38

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 10:33-35

³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii[a] and gave them to the innkeeper.

'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

Nehemiah 1

¹The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ²Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

³They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. ⁵Then I said:

"Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you.

⁷We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

⁸"Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

¹⁰“They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. ¹¹Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.”

I was cupbearer to the king.

John 20:26-28

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Acts 8:26-39

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invit-

ed Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”[b]

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ^[37] ^[c] ³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Joshua 2:1-24

¹Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

²The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” ³ So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

⁴But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. ⁵At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them."⁶(But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.)
⁷So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

⁸Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof
⁹and said to them, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ¹⁰We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea[a] for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.^[b]
¹¹When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

¹²"Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death."

¹⁴"Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land."

¹⁵So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. ¹⁶She said to them, "Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way."

¹⁷Now the men had said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us ¹⁸unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. ¹⁹If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. ²⁰But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear."

²¹"Agreed," she replied. "Let it be as you say."

So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

²²When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. ²³Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. ²⁴They said to Joshua, "The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us."

I Samuel 1:11-2:2

¹¹And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your

servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.”

¹²As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.”

¹⁵“Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. ¹⁶Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”

¹⁷Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”

¹⁸She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

¹⁹Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. ²⁰So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel,[a] saying, “Because I asked the Lord for him.”

²¹When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfill his vow, ²²Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, “After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always.”^[b]

²³“Do what seems best to you,” her husband Elkanah told her. “Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the Lord make good his^[c] word.” So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

²⁴After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull,[d] an ephah[e] of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. ²⁵When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, ²⁶and she said to him, "Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. ²⁷I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. ²⁸So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there.

Then Hannah prayed and said:

"My heart rejoices in the Lord;
in the Lord my horn^[f] is lifted high.

My mouth boasts over my enemies,
for I delight in your deliverance.

"There is no one holy like the Lord;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.

Joshua 1:1-9

¹After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ²"Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never

leave you nor forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁷“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Genesis 39

¹Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

²The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. ³When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, ⁴Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. ⁵From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. ⁶So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph’s care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"⁸ But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ⁹No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"¹⁰ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

¹¹One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. ¹²She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

¹³When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, ¹⁴she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. ¹⁵When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

¹⁶She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. ¹⁷Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. ¹⁸But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

¹⁹When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. ²⁰Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison,²¹ the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.²² So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.²³ The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Daniel 1:6-20

⁶Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

⁸But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. ⁹Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your^[a] food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

¹¹Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹²"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." ¹⁴So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

¹⁵At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nour-

ished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

¹⁷To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

¹⁸At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Acts 16:22-34

²²The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself

because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Hebrews 11:32-40

³²And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were put to death by stoning;[a] they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—³⁸the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and

mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Luke 7:37-38

³⁷A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

Genesis 22:1-18

¹Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

²Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love— Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

³Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

⁶Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his

son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

⁹When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹²"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

¹³Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram^[a] caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

¹⁵The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring^[b] all nations on earth will be blessed,^[c] because you have obeyed me.”

I Samuel 3:1-19

¹The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

²One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” ⁵And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down.

⁶Again the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

“My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.”

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸A third time the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Sam-

uel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

¹¹And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle.

¹²At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God,[a] and he failed to restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

¹⁵Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, ¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son."

Samuel answered, "Here I am."

¹⁷"What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes."

¹⁹The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground.

Acts 13:36

³⁶“Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed.

LiveLast Study Group Leader's Guide

Introduction

Most Leader's Guides contain answers to questions in the study book, if any; suggested questions to ask during sessions, and examples of responses to those questions; activities for the group meeting time; and recommended times for different activities. Some Leader's Guides have more than that. Few have much less than those items.

This is one of the few.

The purpose of the study guide is for individuals to read, think, react, and change the way they do Christianity. There are no single correct answers to the vast majority of the questions and other prompts in this book. That is intentional.

If you are leading a group that's working their way through Dr. Newman's LiveLast book, I think you are most fortunate. You get to experience the breadth, depth, height, and width of the Christian experience with people you most likely know and care about.

What follows are recommendations for how to structure your sessions. They are suggestions based on my 49-years teaching in public and private schools and probably about the same number of years teaching Sunday school to various ages. If you try something that follows and it doesn't work well with your group, try something you think will work. If that doesn't work, ask the group for suggestions on how to proceed.

The Guide

1. Think of yourself as a facilitator versus a dispenser of information.
 - It's tempting to give answers or comment on what's been said as soon as you experience that inclination.
 - Most teachers wait less than 5 seconds between the time they finish asking a question and the time they give the answer.
 - Very few people are capable of processing the question, formulating an answer in their minds, and getting their hand up in a 5 second window.
 - Even though this study guide has few questions, it does provide many places to react and respond in various ways.
 - Provide your group an opportunity to respond first before telling them what you did in response to the prompt(s). This is critical during the first meeting, but important in every session.
2. I recommend tables and chairs as your room setup.
 - The goal is to have people sitting in a formation that forms natural pairs of participants.
 - Arrange the tables in a square or rectangle. Six-foot tables are good for two group members each.
 - Designate a chair in the middle of a long side of a rectangle—any side in a square—as your seat. If possible, don't have a table partner.
3. If your group has more than seven or eight people in it, there is a very good chance you have someone who is frightened by speaking to a group of people that size or larger.
 - That does not mean they won't talk.
 - It means they will rarely, if ever, give a spoken response to the whole group.

- I use a technique known in educational circles as “Think-Pair-Share” to help those people relax and actively participate.
 - Start by having group members choose a partner for the session.
 - Ask a question, and immediately say, “Talk with your partner.”
 - Allow time for sharing to begin, especially on the first week.
 - Decide when they have talked long enough.
 - You can have pairs share some aspect of their discussion, but that’s not necessary every time.
- 4. Discourage people from shouting out answers. Explain that you want everyone to have a chance to think about what their answer would be before they hear an answer.
- 5. For the drawings, have group members put their drawings on the table. Allow students to wander around looking at the drawings.
- 6. Close with a time of prayer. I suggest you pray the first week. After that, try rotating the closing prayer responsibility by asking for volunteers, having popcorn/sentence prayers, encouraging all who feel led to pray, any other style of public prayer with which you feel comfortable.

Conclusion

I hope this brief leader’s guide helps you and your group grow in knowledge, wisdom, and joy in the Lord.

Blessings on you,
Chuck Downing