

Great Escapes, Cindy Colley

Introduction:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Comfort foods. Comfort spas. Comfort oils. Comfort rooms. Comfort homes. Comfort lotions. Even comfort vacation packages. We can almost feel the warm blanket and hot soup effect when we hear the word “comfort”. Our study this year will wrap us in a very plush spiritual blanket. Few passages can offer more comfort to women of God today than the one at the top of this page.

There are several simple words that make it so. The first one is “no”. “No” is an exclusive word. It rules out any exceptions, clauses, or fine print. It simply means there's not a single temptation that will ever come to me which will not fall into the category the Spirit is about to describe.

The next word I love is “common”. In the Greek, that word is actually only one word for the phrase “common to man”. It simply means that every temptation to sin will be one that's already been faced and overcome by others. There's a lot of comfort in knowing that a difficult path has already been traveled by others who are just like me. In

fact, our study this year will be zooming in on particular instances of heroes of faith who found the escape routes.

The next word that explodes with assurance is the word “faithful”. *God is faithful*. Those three words will recur frequently in the study this year as they are deep within the theme of the great escapes of the Word. The word means He is trustworthy. Of all of those you thought would never let you down, He is the One Who, literally, is incapable of failing you. You can securely anchor your eternity in His promise. He is the only Being Who can make a promise in the past tense. God is faithful!

Then I love that phrase “will not suffer”. There are some things that my faithful and infinitely powerful God simply will not allow. The promise He is about to make through His Spirit is one of those things. When you just *had* to get involved, set something right, protect a friend, or rectify an egregious error, have you ever said “I just could not leave that alone”? That’s literally what God is saying here. When we are fiercely tempted, He is simply not going to sit by and let that temptation take us down. He can’t “leave that alone.”

Then I love the word “able”. It means that God knows my capabilities where temptation is involved and He will not allow me to be in any impossible situation relative to temptation. I will always, through His power, be “able”. This word gives me a very practical arsenal when the devil comes at me with powerful lures to sin. Because I know,

already, that there is at least one escape route, I have to hunt that route. I may have to take time. I should always pray. I may have to expend lots of energy or even money. I could have to sacrifice friends. I may have to hurt. But there's a way. I would do well to list, mentally or on paper, all of my options, when time allows, and then choose the one (or more) that does not involve spiritual compromise. Those routes are the way of escape. If I have not found a way to get out of—to escape—the situation without sinning, I have not explored all the options. I love my “ability” through this promise.

Then there's the incredible essence of the promise. He will “with the temptation make a way of escape.” I love what Adam Clarke says about this little piece of divine comfort:

...as the trial *comes in*, he will make your *way out*. The words are very remarkable, ποιησει συν τω πειρασμω και την εκβασιν, "He will, with the temptation, make the deliverance, or way out." Satan is never permitted to *block* up our way, without the providence of God making a *way through the wall*. God ever makes a *breach* in his otherwise impregnable fortification.

Did you get that? God, who knows you intimately, is making sure to penetrate that wall that the devil is constantly trying to build around you. He is breaking the trap, piercing the darkness, blocking the dart, throwing out the lifeline, reaching out his Almighty hand to your

trembling one. He is doing all of that even as the temptation is presenting itself. I cannot ever truthfully say, "There was no other choice," or "I was forced to," or "I just could not find a way out," because God is faithful and he is able to calculate all variables and plot the route of escape.

I hope you will give your heart to this study. The lost souls around you can better be reached when you are confident of His power to deliver. Your children will grow up more confident in their ability to defeat the devil in personal choices if you are constantly aware of the great lengths to which your Father is going to provide immunity from the devil's destructive power. Your marriage will be better. Your example in the community and church will be brighter. You will be happier in your soul if you commit to always finding the way of escape...not to mention, it's the way of escape that leads to heaven.

One more thing....As always, I'm very small beside the weight of this material. As I contemplate even the first month's study on the blood, I realize my utter worthlessness in view of the blessings of the redemptive scheme. I cannot approach the wisdom that such a study deserves. Then again, if we do not together start paths of study, we can never grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Let's be humbled together by the amazing promise that's the basis of our study!

Month One

Escape with the Blood

Sin is, by far and away, the largest dilemma man has known or will ever know. Without God's intervention, its consequence is always certain death (Romans 6:23), but prior to that eternal death there's always sorrow and ruin that needs no magnification. Sin hurts and haunts. Sin destroys families and friendships. It hijacks careers during the building years and comfort during the retirement years. It simply brings ruin to everything and everyone it touches. If you have not lived long enough to know this, you will soon recognize its destructive power.

Thus, the escape route that we need most is that route from sin and its consequences. This study begins and ends with that passage through the cleansing blood. We will study many deliverances from various perils, but paramount in every detailed escape, we will keep our eyes on the greatest escape of all...the Christian's escape from the eternal peril that is sin. Let's get started!

1. When I was a child, I heard Bobby Duncan preach a life-changing lesson from Luke 15 many times. Let's go here (<http://bit.ly/MaclangRoadChurchVideos>) and

hear my son, Caleb Colley, discuss that material about the prodigal. Watch the video from July 23, 2017 a.m. and list four characteristics of sin here. Make other notes as you listen, too. Read Luke 15.

2. Read Genesis 1-3 and note the entrance of sin into a perfect world. What lie was told in chapter three and by whom regarding the consequence of sin? See if you can think of ways that lie is still being perpetrated in our world today. List some modern-day lies about specific sins and their consequences: (One example: Participation in sex before marriage is good preparation for a healthy marriage.)
3. Write the verse in Genesis 3 that first mentions the “escape route” for the sin problem:
4. Read Deuteronomy 12 and Leviticus 17, highlighting the verses that tell us where the life is. Where is the life? How does identifying the “substance” containing physical life help us to understand the price that must be paid for eternal life?
5. Notice the following New Testament verses. Beside each citation, list the valuable commodity purchased by blood:

Matthew 26:28

Revelation 1:5

Acts 20:28

Ephesians 1:7

Colossians 1:14

I Peter 1:18,19

Revelation 5:9

Romans 3:25
Romans 5:9
Ephesians 2:13
Colossians 1:20
I John 1:7
Revelation 12:11

6. Read Leviticus 16, highlighting each mention of “blood” or “atonement”. Look up the meaning of the Hebrew word *kaphar* (atonement): Write it here:

7. Read Hebrews 9-13, highlighting each mention of “blood” or “remission”. Look up the meaning of the Greek word “remission” (*aphesis*) and write it here:

8. Read Matthew 27, the account of the offering of our blood sacrifice. Locate the phrase “innocent blood” in this passage. What is the significance of that word “innocent” as it relates to our salvation? What is the opposite of “innocent”?

9. List five events/occurrences in the life of Jesus in which he purposefully and victoriously maintained the innocence of his blood even as Satan attempted to contaminate the “innocent blood”? (Our answers will differ here, but these are easy to find when you peruse portions of the gospels.)

Getting Practical: This Sunday, approach the Lord’s Supper with the list of verses from number five in your purse or Bible. As you take the Lord’s Supper, specifically

as you drink the cup, re-read them. As you examine yourself (I Cor. 11:28), pray that you will always live according to I John 1:7, so that your washing will be continual.

Month 2

Escape with Obedience

Of course, all of the escape routes intersect at times. It's the blood of the lamb that ushered in our new law—the law that gives our instructions for obedience. There's the intersection of blood and obedience. It's in Hebrews 9:14,15.

1. Read Genesis 6:1-9:19. Find the verse in chapter 6 that describes the complete nature of Noah's obedience.
2. What specific act, according to Hebrews 11:7 was "to the saving of his house" (the escape route)? What specific act of obedience on our parts is compared to Noah's obedience in I Peter 3:21?
3. In Joshua 5, Joshua was shown, in a couple of ways, the importance of complete submission and humility before God. Find and list these ways as you read that chapter.

4. Now read the account from Joshua 6 about the destruction and plundering of Jericho, a city with great fortifications and a great army. The army of Israel escaped with no loss of life. What items did they add to the Lord's treasury? (Sometimes we escape much richer for the challenge.)
5. Now read Joshua 8. Find and list the verses that emphasize Joshua's dedication to the word of the Lord. This goes without saying, but careful reading and study precedes obedience.
6. Incidentally, there's also an example of gross disobedience stemming from Joshua 6. Highlight the promised curse from that chapter. Then read I Kings 16 and find the promised result of disobedience. What is the name of the man that evidently failed to read and study the words of God?
7. Several great escapes from Israelite history are chronicled in Joshua 24. Read this chapter. After this list of triumphs we find the word "therefore". What is it that should have been a no-brainer for Israel after a review all of these escapes?
8. Read I Kings 17, II Kings 4, and II Kings 5. In these chapters, we find some people who were in dire straits during the time of the divided kingdom of Israel. These people very much needed a passage to survival. List each of these people and what they were required to do, as per God's prophet, in obedience in order to find that passage.
9. Now skip to a time when Judah was in her last days prior to being taken into her final captivity. Let's key in

on Jeremiah 36, realizing that a wicked king reigned and he would not be receptive to the prophecies of Jeremiah. Who was called on to deliver those prophecies? To what lengths did this scribe go to be sure he obeyed the prophet?

10. Highlight the verse in Jeremiah 36 that contains the Lord's temporary reward for obedience for both prophet and scribe...i.e. the "escape".
11. In questions 8 and 9 above, there were some characteristics needed to facilitate obedience. One character needed zeal. One had to have a healthy dose of trust. One needed a lesson in humility. One required great bravery. Which attitudes were needed by which characters? Which attitude adjustments have you ever needed to prompt your obedience? How do children sometimes need to prepare their hearts for obedience to parents?
12. Read Matthew 4 and highlight the passages that show the dependence of Christ on the law for His own obedience. See if you can find a New Testament passage that tells us how Jesus, Himself, learned obedience.
13. Read these familiar passages in Acts: chapters 2, 9,10,11,16 and 22. From these passages list the people who needed a plan of escape for salvation from sin. In each case, what were they were told to do in order to be free from sin? How essential is strict adherence to these commandments for salvation? Look again at your list from these chapters and highlight any of the instructions or commands for

salvation that are so difficult to understand that our obedience would be impossible. Think about the word “able” from our key passage. Has he enabled us to escape the eternal consequence of sin...to escape hell?

14. Finally, go back to the Old Testament and read Jeremiah 35. Take a look at those Rechabites who continued to honor the command of their patriarchal ancestor. (Rechabites were not Israelites, but Kenites, likely descendants of Jethro, who was the father-in-law of Moses). How do we know that God was pleased with this long-term honoring of the command of a forefather? What does this say about our responsibility before Jehovah to delegated authorities?

Getting Practical: Think of an area in your life in which obedience—complete submission—is challenging for you, personally. It might be in the command to abstain from gossiping or it may be in the admonition to develop a meek and quiet spirit. Maybe it is in the command to think on things that are pure or to be given to hospitality. (To be honest, there’s more than one area for this girl!) But let’s just choose one, for now, and commit to praying for His strength to render pure obedience. Pray this prayer relative to this shortcoming every day for a month.

Month 3

Escape with the Help of the Faithful

I love this part of the study! I rejoice almost every day when I think about the fact that God has put us in His church—His kingdom. That's where He puts us when he delivers us out of darkness according to Colossians 1:12-14:

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Let's look at some physical rescuers who can teach us to appreciate the help of fellow Christians in escaping from the captivity of sin.

1. Read Genesis 14 and find out why Abraham did battle. How can we engage in spiritual warfare for those we love who are in the captivity of sin? List at least five things we can do to help ensure the rescue of lost loved ones around us.
2. Read Ephesians 6 and highlight the portion about the whole armor of God. Make a list of each piece of the armor and how each item could be used to help rescue

another in our spiritual battle. From this passage, our perseverance and supplication is for whom?

3. Read Numbers 12. A prayer was offered by Moses for what purpose in this chapter? Can you make a note of a prayer of intercession you have made for spiritual resistance, strength, or avoidance of temptation for someone you love? It's interesting to notice that Miriam had once interceded for Moses, so that now he could intercede for her. How does this sometimes happen with Christians when we realize our dependency on one another?
4. Choose 10 favorite "one another" passages from the New Testament and make a note of how each one can be helpful in our escapes from sin.
5. Read I Samuel 11. Who is rescued here and by whom? I love the phrase "...by this time tomorrow, you shall have help." That should be the attitude of our congregations when a brother or sister is in peril or danger of falling away.
6. See if you can note a time in the book of Judges when this people, who now needed help in I Samuel 11, had failed to offer it to someone else. How should this affect our willingness to help those who have themselves failed to offer help in the past?
7. Read II Samuel 9. Who was the crippled orphan who found a place at the king's table? What had originally happened to him when he was only five years old (II Samuel 4:4)? How have we been rescued in a similar way as this son of Jonathan?

8. Read I Kings 1. Who was the prophet who rescued Solomon's kingdom from being taken by Adonijah? This prophet used great wisdom in retaining the kingdom for the previously appointed Solomon, working through those who could be influential. Let's make spiritual application: Are there times when we look for those who may be poised to exert influence on endangered souls in the kingdom today? (Many times when talking over a sin problem with someone who is concerned about another, I find myself saying, "Is there anyone you can think of who might be influential enough to talk this person out of living in this sin?") Make a note for your prayer list of someone for whom you may be that "influential" person.
9. Read Jeremiah 37,38. From what situation do we find Jeremiah being rescued by some men with some old rotten rags? Do a little research on Jeremiah and write a paragraph characterizing the kind of work he had been doing for the Lord that landed him in this situation. Did Jeremiah ever get discouraged? (Give scriptures for your answer). Are there those in the kingdom today who may fight temptations of discouragement? Make a list of things you can do to encourage faithful preachers and elders who may be tempted at times, like Jeremiah, to give up.
10. Read Acts 9-17. Make a list of several "rescue missions" in these chapters that provided ways of escape for those endangered or oppressed. Discuss these in the group discussion.

11. Read the book of James. Find at least one thing from each chapter (stated or implied) that we can do to help our brethren who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

Getting Practical: Go back to number 9 and choose one entry from your list of ways to encourage leaders who may be tempted to give up. Find a leader you think might be in this situation in your congregation or another and get busy.

Month 4

Escape with Repentance

But what about if I've already missed the golden opportunity at the *initial* escape—at the point of temptation? What if, instead, I walked right into the Devil's trap and ate the forbidden fruit? What if I've already rejected that way of escape that's best of all?

Perhaps the phrase is overused: "We serve a God of second chances." But it's not overused when it's my turn to need the second, third or fourth chance. God is faithful to forgive as His people turn back to Him in true repentance. There are so many misconceptions and questions about repentance, though:

If I do not know the law relative to my sin, do I still have to repent when I learn the law?

If I regret having done something, is my regret enough, or do I have to go back and try to make restitution for the wrongs?

Does confession always accompany repentance or can I repent privately, in my own heart?

If I've never been in a covenant relationship with God, can repentance for a sinful lifestyle put me in that relationship?

What does repentance look like when I find myself in complicated situations and my repentance may, of necessity, hurt others?

From this study, we are learning that, as long as there's life and the mental capacity to find it, there's always a way of escape from sin. (We should remember that an easy route is not promised. Sometimes repentance hurts. Think of David and all of the painful ramifications of his sin committed in I Samuel 17.) Repentance is always key to that passageway if I have already participated in the sin. Let's dig into some examples of repentance and then come back and try and answer the difficult questions.

1. Read Genesis 20 for a compact illustration of repentance of a sin committed in ignorance. Can you remember a sin you committed in ignorance? Is sin still a transgression of the law, even if I do not know the law relative to my sin? In your notes compare the civil law to the spiritual law, in this regard. (What if I do not know the speed limit? Am I still guilty when pulled over?) Why did God approach Abimelech in a dream?
2. Read Joshua 1-2 and re-read Joshua 7:17-27. List the specifications required as Rahab repented. How might her physical relocation picture our spiritual relocation after repentance? Find and list every reference to Rahab in the New Testament.
3. Read I Samuel 7. How is sacrifice generally involved in repentance? Do you believe the sacrifice of Israel was instrumental in the deliverance? What was the heart's sacrifice behind the physical sacrifice of the lamb? Read II Chronicles 18-20. Why was it a bad thing for Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, to be in league with the king of Israel? Who was the catalyst for the penitence of Jehoshaphat? Copy a verse from chapter 20 that shows Jehoshaphat's heart had changed from its pride to humility before God. Is the penitence of humility and submission always permanent in our lives? How do we know this from these chapters? Find three New Testament passages that show that we must sometimes repent again after our initial repentance and turn to God.
4. Read Ezra 10. What was required for repentance in this case?

5. Read the book of Jonah, remembering that the people of Ninevah were not a part of the Jewish nation. What did they do to find the escape route? What amazing fact about the beasts of Ninevah showed a great commitment to true repentance? How does Jonah show the need for a second repentance as was mentioned in #4?
6. Hosea was a prophet who begged Israel, the prodigal son of Jehovah, to return in repentance. He did this at great personal cost. He hurt over sin as perhaps no other prophet save Jeremiah. Read the last chapter in the book of Hosea and find with me the attitude we should have toward those around us who need repentance for deliverance. Copy the last verse of this book for your refrigerator. At the bottom of this verse, write the words "God is faithful..." How should this attitude affect us when we speak with friends who are in sin's captivity?
7. In your own words, describe what you believe happened in the heart of the prodigal son in Luke 15 when the Word says "he came to himself". What exactly happened when he came to himself and made the escape from the pigpen that represented a life of sin's filthiness?
8. There were three crosses on Calvary on the day Jesus died. One cross was that glorious one of redemption, one was a cross of rebellion and one was a cross of repentance. Read Luke 23 and find the passage that implies repentance from a robber. For group discussion: Can I be saved by repentance in the same

way this thief was saved? Why or why not? (Let's really dig here and not just give short answers. The world needs this answer.)

9. Read I Corinthians 5 and find the instruction for dealing with a brother or sister in the church who refuses to repent. Is this example binding on churches today? Why or why not? What line in this chapter shows the attitude of pride prior to the practice of withdrawal? Find a passage from II Corinthians that details the effectiveness of this procedure. How are faithful elders a bit like Jehu in #4 and how can they "turn the tide" in spiritual battle against the enemy? Have you ever known of a case where withdrawal of fellowship as instructed in I Corinthians 5 was effective? If so, list that here. Read II Thessalonians 3 and note the command of withdrawal there.
10. Read Revelation 2-3. From this passage list the sins in these churches for which repentance was enjoined. Notice the long-suffering of God as he waited for this repentance, giving them space to escape. Find four more New Testament passages that show the patience of God and his desire for our repentance.
11. Now, let's plan to, in light of these and other passages, discuss the questions in the preface of this lesson in our group discussion.

Getting Practical: Go through your hymnal or your memory and think of a favorite song that begs repentance of sin. We usually call these "invitation songs" and some of them bring tears to my eyes. Sing at least one of these together

in your study group. If you do not have a group, ask your song leader to sing one of these during one of the worship times in your congregation. In addition, pray specifically for a sister who has left the safety of His fold. Pray for repentance on her part and for wisdom on your part as you try to influence her to repentance. Pray for boldness on the part of the leaders of your congregation to lead in the practice we studied in I Corinthians 5. It takes a huge love for souls and a large dose of bravery in our culture to practice this action which acknowledges the judgment of God on people who persist in sin. Judgment, even the judgment of God, is an extremely unpopular theme for discussion in our world today.

Month 5

Escape by His Providence-Part One

Providence means just that: His “Provide-ence”. It’s when things may seem pretty hopeless to you, but He, often in ways that are far beyond your power or creativity level, steps in and makes a way of escape; for our purposes, a way of escape from temptation. Often in miraculous eras of time, He did this supernaturally, by some disappearance of humanity or matter or a parting of the sea or an instantaneous healing. But He still does it today through the natural order He has ordained in our universe. Anyone who has served Him with fervor for any length of time has witnessed the amazing way he can work things for the good of His people, especially for their eternal good.

Romans 8:28 is a banner passage as we study the ways that our God provides so that we might remain in that covenant, forgiven, continually cleansed relationship with Him.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Looking back over your life, you cannot help but know that, as you navigated through situations of temptation, God was there with you, sometimes testing and sometimes fortifying; not in still small voices or through miraculous feats, but through normal events, challenges and resolutions. You also know that often, the resolution is not as happy as it was in this case. But happy resolutions on this earth are really not the point of providence. The point is growing in ability to resist the devil and escape the trappings of sin and faithlessness. The point is that we serve a God who provides bountifully for our spiritual stamina if we stay in His Word and act upon our Word-trained consciences. He provides, with every temptation a way of escape. Let's Dig!

1. The most providence-filled account in the Old Testament, in my judgment, is the story of Joseph found in Genesis chapters 37-50. Looking back on this chronicle, we know the end goal: Separate the children of Jacob into a place of prosperity and fertility and

grow a great nation through which the Messiah (our great sin-escape) can one day arise. Knowing that's the goal, read the story of Joseph's life and make a list of each providential occurrence that inched the children of Jacob toward that exact outcome. Put an asterisk beside each one that could be characterized, in some way, as an escape.

2. In Judges 4-5, we read of the unlikely deliverance of Israel from the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan. The occurrence in Jael's tent signaled the beginning of the end of the threat of Jabin. Read these chapters and then choose any one statement from the song in chapter five that shows that God's hand was in the escape from Jabin that day. Remember, we are moving a nation of often faithless people to the eventual birth of a Savior from among them.
3. The account of the judge, Abimelech, is found in Judges 9. Read this and find that he was a wicked and power-hungry murderer. Notice particularly the escape of the city of Thebez because of one unlikely woman in a tower at the right time. Was God involved in the destruction of this evil man? Cite a verse for your answer.
4. Read about the civil war between Israel and the tribe of Benjamin in Judges 20-22. Why was this war begun? Find a passage that assures us that God was directing this war. Find another that assures us that God was in charge of the outcome. Find yet another that tells us that it was God who made the void or breach in Israel.

5. Notice the last verse of the book of Judges. It's interesting to notice that even when things were chaotic and, seemingly, out of control in Israel, God was still on the throne and participating in the progression toward the Messiah. Where else is this statement found in the book?
6. We should, at this juncture, be thankful for the providential preservation of the tribe of Benjamin. We should be glad wives were provided. Who, in the New Testament, was a prolific writer and a son of Benjamin?
7. David was to establish the throne upon which the Messiah was to come. Thus it was, of course, God's will that he would ascend to the throne. He was, from man's point of view, a very unlikely candidate for Israel's sovereign—a shepherd boy, not of the royal family, a fugitive from a powerful man and hated by some of his own family. Yet God's plan is always a happening thing. Read I Samuel 15-31 and list the providential occurrences that led him to the throne. Again, put an asterisk by those that can be classified as escapes. Next month we will continue this thread of providence and make some spiritual applications.

Getting Practical: Find a child this month, age twelve or under, with whom you can share any portion of the account of Joseph. (I spoke with a friend last week who related to me that the children in her family had never heard about Joseph! I consider such a void in knowledge a real tragedy.) You can do this for a segment of your

family Bible time or you can invite a child or a group of children into your home or into your Digging Deep study group to talk about the coat of many colors or the dreams of the butler and the baker or the way Joseph saved Egypt (and Israel) from the famine. You can ask to visit a children's class to do this. You can do it in pairs or in a group or all by yourself. It's important to be sure children know about the amazing providing power of God from very early ages! Besides, you may, by His providence, open up a conversation that grows into a mentoring relationship or an opportunity of service, or a chance to evangelize. You never can tell, But God provides! (You can go here if you need an idea for a "Joseph" activity to do with your child: <http://apcurriculum.com/menu.asp>. You should sign in and go to the curriculum tab on the side bar. Then proceed to year two of the 2-year-to-4th-grade curriculum.)

Or: Try too BE a little bit of providence for someone:

Find a child for whom you can be a part of God's providence. Take a bag of school supplies to your local elementary school to donate to children who cannot afford to buy them.

Or invite children from your neighborhood who do not attend worship to ride with you to Bible class on Sunday.

Or make packets of hot cocoa mix and distribute them to college students in the campus library in your town.

Or purchase a spiritual planner or a sound parenting book and give it to a tired mom in your congregation.

Or crochet a blanket and take it to a neglected nursing home resident. Your nursing home will have workers who can identify those who are not well attended.

In any case where you're ministering to those who are not members of the body, always be sure you attach a card with the name of your congregation and an invitation to visit. Including an encouraging spiritual tract is even better!

Month 6

Escape by His Providence-Part 2

I love the close of Hebrews 11. I love the amazing list of ways God blessed the trusting, faithful heroes of the Old Testament. The chapter is a chronicling of how faith was exhibited and rewarded. It's a mighty story of providence.

But notice the provision for us today, that's heralded in the last two verses of the chapter. This is good news about providence. This is the best news!

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect (Hebrews 11:40).

We have the better part of providence. We have the fulfilled Messianic promise. We have the end result of all of the Old Testament rescue missions He provided. Let's bask in the situation of providence in which He has mercifully placed us!

1. I Kings 13 pictures a man of God escaping by what means in verse 4? Read the chapter and assess whether or not his delivery was a permanent escape. Are there times when we escape temptation early only to allow defeat later?
2. Read I Kings 17 which shows our compassionate God taking care of a faithful and very tired prophet. What natural agents did God employ in this care? Note any times you recall in your life when you have been very tired and appreciated the gentle providence of rest and nourishment.
3. Read about the deliverance of the Moabites in II Kings 3. Was God involved in this? How do you know? Do you think the color of the water was miraculous in verses 22 and 23 or an optical illusion?
4. Read II Kings 7. In verse 1, Elisha, the prophet of God, made a promise that one could hardly believe. By the end of the chapter the providence of God had delivered. What is the word picture for what the Lord

- indeed can make for the disbursement of His provisions? Find this same word picture in Malachi 3.
5. In I Kings 21:19, the Lord made a promise regarding the death of Ahab. Read chapter 22 to find the details of that promise fulfilled as God began to deliver Israel from the house of Ahab. In I Kings 21:23, he made a promise about the end of Jezebel, the wife of Ahab. Read II Kings 9,10 to find out how God orchestrated not only this death of Jezebel, but how he delivered Israel from the rule of the family of Ahab. Can/does God sometimes use wicked people to accomplish His purposes? What is a good example of that occurring from these chapters? Can you think of any examples in modern day history where good has come through the lives and actions of wicked people?
 6. As we can see from this quick bird's eye view of some of the events of the kings of Israel, wickedness was rampant in high places in the kingdom. Read II Kings 13:23 and note why God kept providing for the endurance of Israel.
 7. In II Kings 25: 27-30 and Jeremiah 52: 31-34, we find parallel accounts of something that happened to Judah's king, Jehoiachin, after the defeat of Judah and their languishing as captives in Babylon. What provision was made for this shamed king? How was God, even when the wicked men of Judah had been carried to Babylon, still aware of and involved in their plight? This king who was imprisoned and later released was in the royal seed line of the Messiah. He

is Jechonias of Matthew 1:11,12. God's design and plan for the Messiah is progressing all the while.

8. Daniel chapter 6 contains one of the most amazing, miraculous escapes of all of Scripture. Find the verses in Daniel 6 that show the following: (design this:) Daniel's good attitude: Daniel's good reputation: Daniel's decision to continue to serve publicly: Daniel's influence over the throne: Daniel's respect for authority: God's victory through Daniel:

9. Read this excellent article from Christian Courier about Cyrus, King Of Persia: <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/264-cyrus-the-great-in-biblical-prophecy>. You will remember he is the king who did not even know Jehovah, but yet allowed the Jews to return from captivity in Persia to rebuild Jerusalem. (This was following Judah's being carried away into Babylon as we studied above in #6. Persia conquered Babylon, thus retaining the Jewish captives.) Read the Christian Courier article first. Then read the prophecy given about 200 years before the events occurred (actually naming the man!) from Isaiah 44:28. Then read the almost unbelievable chapter of providence when Cyrus allowed God's people to return to Jerusalem, Ezra 1. For what event was Cyrus preparing unbeknownst to him?

10. Now read the following article about the Cyrus Cylinder. What is the Cyrus Cylinder? I believe we have this evidence of the Bible's historicity today by His amazing providence! http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Cyrus_cylinder (4 lines)

11. Read Matthew 2. What escape in that chapter was providential?

12. Read Luke 8 and note each supernatural deliverance.

13. In John 11, Lazarus escaped from the tomb through the power of the Lord. Read the chapter and find, near its end, the providential effect that the raising of Lazarus had toward the cross. How did Lazarus' escape from the tomb facilitate our escape from the death that comes from sin?

14. Finally, read these four chapters in Acts and find at least one providential escape, miraculous or otherwise, in each of them. Chapters 5, 16, 18, 27:

Getting Practical: The Matthew 2 escape was commanded and it was crucial to the scheme of redemption. It was, in a real sense, though, a protection program from God from danger from a corrupted government. Are there times when situations in our country today threaten our babies,

both physically and spiritually? List five prayer requests for the innocent children in our nation relative to the moral crisis that's occurring in our country. Post these on your refrigerator and pray daily for the children this month. Here are mine:

1. May our children, in the United States, one day in the near future be safe from legal abortion. Help me to do what I can to affect this change. Please provide.
2. May children in dangerous communities in our city be protected from harm and give us, Your people, opportunities to help them know You. Please open doors.
3. May children in well-to-do communities in our city be providentially led to know what real wealth is, and may I be granted chances, to help individual parents to help accomplish this. Please show me these chances.
4. May we influence our schools to one day be restored to places of moral safety. Until then, may we be individually protective of our children by being intensely involved in their education processes. help me to influence good parents in productive ways.
5. Please be with my grandchildren, Ezra and Colleyanna. Be with their parents and grant them wisdom in doing all that is humanly possible to put You in their hearts for the battles that will be theirs. Oh Lord, please grant this, my heart's fervent desire for them. Please help us to one day be together in that prepared place.

Month 7

Escape with Boldness

Our bravery is small when positioned in the providence of the Almighty, infinitely resourceful God of this universe. When stated that way, our boldness to face the giants of relativism, atheism, and even, ironically, the giant of spiritual weakness in our churches, should be a given. We have God on our side! Whom shall we fear?

That question is asked in Psalm 27:1...

The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

...and answered in Luke 12:5:

But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

This month I want us to look at some people who were awake or were awakened and roared back at the devil. In their bravery, God took His opportunity to save. The escapes, born of bravery, are exciting and motivating. Let's Dig. God is faithful.

1. Read I Samuel 13 and 14. Sometimes we think about Jonathan as the “loyal friend”, and he was that. We fail to study the brave and skilled warrior side of Jonathan that probably had a lot to do with the “knitting together” of the souls of David and Jonathan in the first place (I Sam 18:1). Look for a verse in chapter 14 that tells us that Jonathan knew that his power to escape alive that day was only in the Lord and that the “majority edge” in battle does not apply if God is in one of the camps.
2. Read Jeremiah 26. Review in your mind what kind of society Jeremiah was addressing. Where did God tell Jeremiah to stand to speak his discomfiting message to Judah? Does it matter where we stand when we say what we need to say for God? How so?
3. Notice in verses 3-6 the outcomes that were at stake with the reception or dismissal of Jeremiah’s pleas on behalf of God. What kinds of things are at stake today when we speak for God? List a few times when you’ve had a chance to say something in behalf of truth and note what was at stake.
4. How much of what God dictated did Jeremiah say? Cite a passage. Have you ever heard a spokesman stop short of all the message? Make a note of this.
5. In verse 11, what fate did the leaders decide was appropriate for Jeremiah? Then, after this announcement in verse 11, how did Jeremiah respond?
6. In verse 14, Jeremiah made it clear that his life was less important than his message. What two groups of

people changed their minds about the fate of Jeremiah between verses 11 and 16?

7. What excellent line of defense (escape route) was offered by certain of the elders beginning in verse 17? (Bonus: can you think of a place in the New Testament when someone was defended with similar logic? This is a good discussion topic for group discussion.)
8. We can see what great danger came to Jeremiah as a result of his boldness when we see what happened to Urijah, who was also on trial this day. Note that result here:
9. Name the man who was bold enough to become a protector of Jeremiah on this day. Are there times when we need boldness to speak out for and be protective of our brothers and sisters who may be standing for right in perilous situations? Note such situations that come to mind. What is the name of the man who failed to do this for Paul when the going got tough? Find him in II Timothy 4.
10. Now read the book of Esther. Make a note of every bold statement and action on behalf of Mordecai or Esther that led to triumph for the people of God in the end. What was the overriding purpose of God in the preservation of the people of Judah?
11. What was encapsulated in the statement by Esther, "If I perish, I perish," in chapter 3? How does this statement relate to the command of Revelation 2:10? (Notice that crowns are at stake in both passages.) Observe that if we fail to stand when we believe it may

mean death to do so, it entails certain spiritual death if we leave this world having failed to stand for truth.

12. I cannot conclude a study of boldness without looking at Acts 3-5. Just read this and marvel at the resilience of these apostles! Every time they were punished they came back stronger than ever. Make a list of the bold statements you find in these chapters. Also, find the prayer for boldness. Notice who is in charge of escapes in these chapters, as well. Copy the sentence that contains the word boldness here:
13. Let's close this month's study with the examination of I Peter 3: 10-18. Especially notice verse 15. Commit this verse to memory and let it enable you to be bold for Christ. List some things that we can do to "be ready" as this passage instructs:

Getting Practical: This month choose a difficult issue of faith and morality...one that has cultural backlash against Christians (abortion, homosexuality, removal of scripture from landmarks, transgender issues, government funding of sinful practices, removal of the Word and its influence from any curriculum in public schools, prohibition of prayer in government funded venues, speaking truth regarding Muslim doctrines, or morality in dress or entertainment. All of these issues are hot-button in most of our communities and, sadly, in many churches.) Choose one issue and find one venue of speaking out in kindness about the truth of God's Word regarding that issue. You can use your Facebook page, your blog, your local newspaper, join forces with the American Family Association on some

issue for which it's making a bold stand, or speak to your Congressman or Senator. You can write to a teenager who needs to hear the truth dispensed in love or you can sit down with your grandchildren and put boldness for Him in their hearts. You can speak (kindly, but forcefully) difficult truth in a ladies venue in your congregation. Do something bold. Make this count for Him. Don't forget the spirit of Jeremiah when you do this. I know that our country is not a spiritual Israel, but our voices should be heard in venues where we can let the light of the Israel of today—the church—shine for truth. You will not face death for doing this. But you should be building those spiritual muscles at every opportunity. May God bless this month's challenge with greater opportunities and continually increasing boldness. We've been too timid for too long.

Month 8

Escape with Ingenuity and Work

This portion of the study may be a bit different because it ties the value of work to our escape from sin. Often, the word “work” is categorized as a “bad word” when spoken in religious circles. So many Calvinists in the broad spectrum of Christendom have a very hard time with the truth that God requires certain actions and behaviors—

certain works—to bring about our salvation. Human ingenuity is never sufficient to gain spiritual deliverance—salvation. Without grace and direction from God, we are desperately and eternally lost, having no escape plan, but it also takes the works of belief in Christ (yes, belief is a work. [John 6:29]) and repentance of sin (Luke 13:3), and baptism (Acts 2:38), to initially escape damnation. In addition, we often read in the pages of the Bible about regular men and women accomplishing some pretty significant things with the resources given by God..

1. Read the Parable of the Talents from Matthew 25:14-30. Perhaps this story, told by Jesus, gives us insight into the reasons that, so many times, we fail to find the passages of righteousness that God makes available to us. Sometimes we are afraid to invest. List here some things that are difficult to invest in the work of the church.
2. Sometimes we just hide things rather than dealing with them or cleaning them up to use for Him (vs.18). It takes a lot of work to confront challenges and rectify troubling situations in our lives. It takes work to use everything we've been given for the cause of Jesus. So, sometimes we fail to escape because we just hide things that are difficult or hurtful, but could be turned into something for his glory. What kinds of things might we dig up and make better for His service?
3. Sometimes we have an unhealthy fear of the nature of God (vs. 24). Granted, perhaps this statement of fear by

the one-talent man was an excuse, but sometimes we have a very hard time overcoming the fear that we are not pleasing to God, even though we, unlike the one-talent man, may be faithful. This fear will stymie our contentment. It will draw us inward and weaken any efforts at evangelism. It will weary us of the work of the kingdom. Make a list of spiritual exercises that might help one who suffers from constant spiritual fear (For a jumpstart, my list would begin with completing a simple outward-focused service project every day.)

4. Sometimes we make excuses (vs 25). I believe this one-talent man knew what to do, but just failed to do it. Therefore, when reckoning time came, he attempted to deceive the master with a very weak excuse. In fact, he put the blame for his lack of effort on the master, himself. When we find ourselves lacking spiritually, in hard times or moments of crisis, do we sometimes blame God for the crisis or for our failures? Find a New Testament passage (or more) that tells us that God does not tempt us to sin.

5. Sometimes we are wicked or lazy or both (vs. 26). Wickedness is a condition of the heart. Laziness is its manifestation in our actions. The master did not mince words about the character of the one-talent man. God knows where our talents are...all of them. He knows if we are digging and burying or constantly growing them for His glory. He knows what we can handle and what

we are doing with that we've been given. Incidentally, in light of our key passage for this study, it's interesting that in guaranteeing our way of escape, God has promised not to allow us to be tempted above that we are able. Likewise, in this parable, the master distributed talents according to each man's ability. He did not give any man more than he could handle. What two reasons are given for having a good work ethic in I Thessalonians 4:11-12?

6. There are several statements in the book of Proverbs about laziness or slothfulness. Find and list five of those here:

7. Read the book of Ruth. We know, of course, there's divine providence in this plan. We are remembering that God is bringing the Messiah through the seed line of this Moabite woman. But there are some good ideas and hard work happening in this book that ultimately bring Ruth's life (and Naomi's) to a really good place. After reading, make a list of decisions that fell into place without which the marriage of Ruth and Boaz (and the ultimate birth of the ancestors of David and Christ) would not have happened.

8. Read I Samuel 25. Now read this characterization of Abigail (Used by permission from *Women of Scandal* by Cindy Colley, Taken from Lesson 6, *In God's Bundle: Abigail*, Publishing Designs, Huntsville, AL 2016.). Highlight, from these excerpts, instances of resolve and ingenuity on the part of Abigail.

I love the fact that Abigail was a “Proverbs 31 woman.” She was not caught unprepared. She had plenty of food preserved and she knew right where it was stored. If it had been me, I would have been searching through a disorganized freezer and sending someone out to “hurry up and pick some blueberries!” . . . “Have we got a cooler that looks any better than this?” . . . “You know this man is going to be the king!” But not Abigail. She spent a short while that evening putting together a catered feast for David and his men, five sheep, raisins, fig cakes, and more. She sent those ahead with a servant, who apparently waited for her to catch up as they met David coming down “under cover of the hill” (1 Samuel 25:20). He was still mumbling angrily about Nabal’s behavior. Let me paraphrase that citation from verses 21 and 22:

Hmmph! Who does he think he is? Here we spent all this time and went to all the trouble to make sure nothing happened to this fellow’s sheep. Not only did we bother nothing that was his, we kept others away from his flocks. And then he has the audacity, the unmitigated gall to turn right around and spite me! Before the sun comes up every male in this man’s house will be dead.

Abigail’s Face-Down Speech

Just as David finished that last line about who was going to be dead before morning, he stopped abruptly. A woman, right in front of him quickly slid from her saddle and fell from her donkey, face down, on the ground at David's feet! David must have been more than a little surprised at this scene. And then she started the speech that I'm sure she had been articulating and playing over and over again in her mind all the way to this spot on the hillside:

On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant. Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him! But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. Now therefore, my lord, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, since the Lord has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal (1 Samuel 25:24–26).

1. She did not try to excuse her vulgar husband. She did not mince words about his character. The name Nabal means “foolish, base, or villainous” and Abigail obviously deemed that it was correctly assigned to her husband. It summed up and sewed up his character, in a word.
2. She proclaimed her own innocence and ignorance of Nabal's answer to David's servants. I'm sure she felt it prudent to do that quickly.

3. She credited the Lord with holding David back from shedding innocent blood.

While we know that the Lord will never make us do right, is it true that He may, in His protective care and providence to His people, “hold us back” from sin until clearer heads can prevail? I believe so. Why would we pray, “Lead us not into temptation,” as Christ directed in the model prayer (Matthew 6:13 KJV), if our Father in heaven has nothing to do with our resistance to temptation? Further, has He not promised that with every temptation He provides a way of escape? (1 Corinthians 10:13). David, himself, said it this way: “Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression” (Psalm 19:13). Maybe we should pray more often for God to hold us back!

4. She quickly and clearly aligned herself with David and opposite his enemies. We need to let people know whose side we are on. Now let’s examine the rest of her speech:

And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord. Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the Lord will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the Lord, and evil is not found in you throughout your

days. Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the Lord your God; and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling. And it shall come to pass, when the Lord has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel, that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself. But when the Lord has dealt well with my lord, then remember your maidservant (1 Samuel 25:27–31).

5. Abigail offered her gift. Although she had not actually transgressed, she then humbly asked for forgiveness, as if simply by being the wife of Nabal, she was guilty by association. Or perhaps it could have been that she was asking for forgiveness for boldly approaching and stopping David's approaching army (i.e., "Pardon me for interrupting."). Either way, she demonstrated humility before David.
6. She proceeded to acknowledge David's political situation. She knew of Saul's pursuit and she was aware that she was speaking to the next king of Israel. I imagine her only glancing up now and then as she shouted from her prostrate position on the ground. I imagine it was dark and David had to hold out a lantern to see her face.

God's Bundle of Life

The next statement is probably my favorite of this entire volume: “the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the Lord your God” (1 Samuel 25:29).

Did you know that God has a bundle? Are you in His bundle of life? I know there are a lot of different ways to express the security that we have as His children, but this has to be one of my favorites. We are His frail children, but it is as if He has wrapped us up in a blanket and He is holding us in His arms. We are in His bundle of life.

I think every child who has a good father remembers what it felt like to be in his arms. I remember pretending I was asleep in the back of our station wagon when I was a child just so my daddy would carry me in the house. Ultimate protection, strength, and safety were wrapped all around me.

That's what God does. The Bible describes our God as “a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). He is right there, right then, every time. He is the father who pities His children (psalm 103:13) and hears their cries (Psalm 34:17). he is the one who offers His help to His people “Just at the break of dawn” (Psalm 46:5). Deuteronomy 33:27 says He puts His everlasting arms around us.

Let me assure you, even if you have never felt the need to cry out to your Father or to feel His arms beneath you, there will come a time when you will. You will look in horror at the prospects before you and you will desperately want to cry out to Him. Are you secure in the house of the father? Will He hasten to your side who you cry? If not, will you contact me and let me help you find that security? I wish this safety, the safety of being in His bundle of life, for every reader.

9. Before leaving Abigail, let's reconsider the escape. I love that she called the safety of the Lord's protection the "bundle of the living." Remember, our key passage, I Corinthians 10:13, offers us the security of comfort in God's blanket. Even as she characterized David as being in that bundle as God's chosen successor to the throne, she poised herself to escape the fallout of David's wrath. On what three things did David pronounce a blessing when he later contacted Abigail? There is blessing in the bundle.

10. Read II Kings 4. There are two women in this chapter, each of whom escaped a dire circumstance. It's the second woman, the woman of Shunem, that we will notice. Her deliverance began by her simple act of hospitality toward the prophet of God. She was

a woman of ingenuity. Think about the following: How do we know that she had no selfish motive in offering her hospitality? How do we know her hospitality was generous? What was her first instinct when her son died? What signs of humility are displayed by the woman?

11. The account of Nehemiah and the Jerusalem wall is one of the greatest feats of ingenuity in the Scriptures. Read Nehemiah 2:1-7:5 marking each instance of the word “work” or “build” and be amazed at the completion of this wall, during some pretty hefty persecution, in only 52 days. From chapter four, notice and mark the multi-tasking that occurred. Also, make note of the jobs done by night in this text.

Getting Practical: This month, the challenge is to work. Look at Proverbs 31 and bake your husband’s favorite cake or pie or send him an encouraging card (vs. 12)...

OR Crochet or sew something for some family member or friend or person in need to wear (vs. 13)...

OR find a simple recipe and preserve some winter jellies or jams or vegetables for your family. (vs. 14)...

OR Stay up past bedtime one night and prepare some freezer meals for your family (vs. 15)...

OR Plant a small vegetable garden or some potted herbs or peppers or tomatoes, etc... (vs 16)...

OR Take a bag of groceries to a needy family or participate in your congregation's benevolence or pantry program this month (vs. 20)...

OR Make a warm blanket for a baby in your house or a neighbor's house (vs 21)...

OR sew something you can wear yourself, even if a simple apron or scarf (vs. 22)...

Or...Teach a ladies Bible class (vs. 26)...

OR...Choose a teenager who doesn't have an attentive mother and take the time to bake her some cookies and give them to her with a note of kindness and encouragement (vs. 26).

Month 9

Escape by Faith

This month, let's study people who just acted on the premise that "He is God and He said to do it, so that's the plan." These are situations in which God's will was excruciating. It was not the route that any man would devise for himself. But faith is not about doing His will when it seems right to me. Faith is doing his will—period.

1. Begin by reading Genesis 22. This is the hardest thing I can imagine being asked to do. How many days did Abraham have to think about the altar and the blood and the upcoming act of faith and horror...the stabbing of his son? How do you think conversations with Isaac went during those days? How tight were the hugs and how deep the gazes into his eyes? How well do you think he slept? How many hours of those days were spent in prayer? How did it feel to choose the knife and grab that handle to put it in his sheath? Do you think he chose a knife that he knew he could throw away up on the mountain? Do you think he told Sarah the plan? Just play out such a conversation in your mind. Imagine him giving Isaac the wood to carry

up the hill. I cannot fathom such an ascent without his tears falling into the sand, nausea in the pit of his stomach, and silence between them, because His trembling voice would have demanded an explanation. Imagine the questions when he asked Isaac to lie down on the wood. Imagine the pleadings when he raised the knife. Then copy Hebrews 11:19 below. It was the one hope to which Abraham must have clung tightly. (It was his faith premise.) But, remember, Abraham had no promise of a resurrection when he executed the trip, laid Isaac on the wood, and raised the knife.

2. Next, read the familiar account in I Samuel 17. This is another favorite of children who love super-heroes. David was that. Find a passage that shows that David was discouraged by the weakness of his brethren. When we are trying to act in faith, who is it that can be most discouraging; the world or the church? Find a passage that shows that David's action of faith in fighting the giant, Goliath, was, at least in part, executed to preserve the reputation and integrity of Israel. Do we ever make choices which are, in large part, to protect the reputation of the church? List an example of how someone today might take away the reproach from the body? Find the passage where David faced anger. When we do the right thing, are

there ever those of our brethren who become angry?
Can you list an example of how that could happen?
Find the passage that indicates that people assigned
evil motives to the faithfulness of David.

3. Find faith's question in verse 29. (Also notice that, within the question, we find the real motive of David... the opposite of pride is getting behind a noble cause.) That's the question contemplated, though sometime sub-consciously, prior to every great act of faith. When God's plan is the "cause", faith falls in line with obedient submission and valor for that cause.
4. Suddenly, this shepherd boy found himself in the throne room. (He'd been there before, but just as a harpist; not as a self-appointed warrior.) Now the discouragement comes from a supreme authority. Write Saul's "nay-saying" here:
5. Sometimes God prepares us for faith's big moment. How had He done this with David? (It's important to remember that David was not just a shepherd. He was not just a giant-slayer. He was not even just a King....He was establishing a throne for the Messiah. [Isaiah 9:7])
6. David's faith premise is in verse 37. Copy here: Who was the final person in this account to mock or discourage David?

7. Notice the short pre-victory speech given by David as he approached Goliath in verses 46-48. He mentions the Lord four times: a) I come in the name of the Lord of hosts b) This day will the Lord deliver thee, c) The assembly shall know that the Lord saves, and d) the battle belongs to the Lord. What does verse 50 say there was NOT in the hand of David. Does the Lord have a sword of His own? Support your answer with scriptures.
8. Now for that amazing escape in Daniel 3. Read the chapter first and find faith's premise. Write it here (It's in three verses right in the middle of the chapter.):
9. After imagining what it felt like to be standing up in a sea of bowed idolaters, find the word that describes how the king was feeling about the three Hebrews.
10. "Now, if you are ready..." I imagine the king was pretty sure that there had been some kind of miscommunication or, at the very least, the Hebrews did not understand the seriousness of the crime. After imagining how it would feel to be standing, as representatives of a people in captivity, before the sovereign, filled with rage, read once again their answer to the king. In the lines below, write the answer you would expect from most people today who tout a religion of "accepting you wherever you

are.” (Stretch your creativity here. These will be fun to share.)

11. Notice how the king had changed his tune (and the tunes of the flute, harp, lyre etc...) by verse 28. What does this verse say about the “bodies” of the three Hebrews? How did they do this? Do we ever have to do this today? When/if called upon to answer the question “Are you a Christian?” even at gunpoint, should we have to have a conference to figure out how we will answer? Explain.
12. Where is the very plain New Testament passage that tells us that it’s impossible to please God without faith? How many “escapes” of faith are listed in that chapter?
13. Now read the following chapters and look for someone who “escaped” and his/her faith is noted as the reason for the “escape”: Matthew 9, Mark 1,5,7, and 9, Luke 7, John 4. List those “escapes” or deliverances here:

Getting Practical: If you are studying along on the initial Great Escapes Digging Deep study, this lesson falls in the late spring of the year. Find someone who is graduating from high school or college and send him/her a graduation card. Include a note of spiritual

encouragement and include the words “The battle belongs to the Lord,” from I Samuel 17.

Additionally, write the four lines about the Lord from #8 on an index card and put that card where you will see it daily. Take that card to prayer with you and pray daily for the faith of that shepherd boy who was just a tool in the hand of God Who handles THE sword.

Month 10

The Escape that Was Not in the Plan

There was one escape that could have, in any physical sense, easily have occurred. But this escape never happened. In our study, we have come full circle to the blood again. Without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus chose, in obedience to the Father, the only available plan for our salvation (Hebrews 5:8) There was one very dark day when, with angels at bay and ready to rescue at any moment, my Lord completed the eternal purpose of redemption with the words “It is finished” and the last breath. At that moment, he had purchased my great and

eternal deliverance. He left heaven so I could go. He came to a sin-filled world, so I could leave sin behind. He died so that I could live. He stayed, so that I could escape. It's the greatest escape.

1. Go back to Month one and cite the passage in which the scheme of redemption was first mentioned. Was this the first occasion on which God had entertained a plan for man's redemption? How long had this scheme been a plan? A good starting point might be I Timothy 1:8-10 and any cross-references you find here. Good group discussion material.
2. Read Hebrews 9 and 10. Make a list of everything you find here that makes you know He was *willing* to come to earth and live and die. Read Ephesians 5 and find two verses that emphasize that His sacrifice was by choice. List any other passages that you find which tell us of His willingness.
3. Next, let's examine some escape routes not taken by our Lord. Let's all stop and pray that this study will heighten our appreciation for the One who chose to travel through a mortal womb into a sin-filled world, proceed through persecutions, temptations and heartaches to a mock trial and a cross, where he chose to stay through mocking, intense pain and death.

4. He could have chosen not to come at all. Read Philippians 2 and find the passage that tells us Jesus chose to leave heaven and become a man.
5. He could have sinned. Of course He could have sinned; otherwise, Matthew 4 would have no meaning. Read Hebrews 4 and find the passage that says his temptations were just like ours. Of course, if he had sinned, he would have disqualified himself from being the lamb that could once-and-for-all take away sin (Hebrews 9:14).
6. He could have miraculously escaped at any point. Read Luke 4 and find one occasion where he made a very difficult escape. This seems to have been miraculous. As Albert Barnes notes, we know that His Spirit at times wielded power over men in a similar fashion—to stop them in their tracks—because we see a clear occurrence of it when the mass of soldiers bowed to the ground before Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Find this occurrence, too. Whether or not it was miraculous, he surely proved, over and over, that He had the miraculous power to escape if he chose to do so.
7. He could have mounted an army in His defense. Read John 18 and find the passage in which Jesus said something in reference to this very thing. Could he have sinned and abandoned the holy purpose for

which He came? Explain. Find a passage in which one apostle actually did use a lethal weapon to injure a soldier who came to arrest the Lord.

8. He could have omitted the last part of His painful prayer: “Thy will be done” Read Matthew 26 and locate this statement.
9. He could have defended himself more fully at His trial. Read Isaiah 53 and find the predictive passage about how he did not open His mouth.
10. He could have called more than twelve legions of angels to his immediate rescue from the arrest scene. Locate this statement in Matthew 26.
11. He could have come down from the cross when the mockers taunted him and told him to do so “if you are the Son of God.” Read Matthew 27 and find this jeer from the chief priests, scribes and elders. Think about how these men were respectable in Jerusalem. They were the men that most good Jewish parents had taught their children to respect. They were the men of broad phylacteries who busied themselves in the synagogue and the temple. This treatment toward Christ, in addition to the crucifixion itself, was extremely humiliating.
12. While focusing on the sacrifice of Christ, we cannot overlook the depth of love of the Father in sending Him. Read Romans 5 and cite the verses that

describe this love. Copy John 3:16 in this space as well.

Getting Practical

Our son is 33 years old, as I write. He's the age of Jesus when they hung him on the cross. My son is a minister of the gospel. He spends his days trying to convince people to accept the free gift that we've studied this month. Jesus was/is willing, but the people who bear the sin in the first place, for the most part, decline the priceless gift of the sinless son of God. This month, I'm going to write to my son and thank him for the constant telling of the gospel. He is, though flawed and indebted just as we all are, about the ministry that took Jesus to the cross. For that, I'm very thankful. Sometimes it's very discouraging to those who are proclaiming the gospel when they know about the great price paid and they watch people react with indifference. . I'm also going to pray for more personal opportunities to tell about Calvary...that I might recognize them and take full advantage of them. For this month, write a preacher that you know and encourage him to keep telling the story. Then pray that you will grow in zeal and knowledge to tell it, too.

Month 11

His Greatest Escape

Things did not look good on Saturday night for those apostles of Jesus who had pinned all their dreams on the Messiah. The shadowed references He'd made to eating the Passover new with them in His Father's kingdom (Matthew 26:29)...the time when he'd said he had the power to destroy the temple and then build it back up in three days (Matthew 26:61)....the talk about how they would be sitting on twelve thrones when the kingdom was established (Matthew 19:28). As far as they could tell...as far as all of Jerusalem could tell, all of those dreams had been nailed to a cross of shame out on Golgotha hill. They had known...they were sure that he was the Christ and that he was the One who had the words of life (John 6:68,69). They had seen the miracles—the healing; hundreds of examples. They'd seen the sea calmed, meager little baskets of fish and bread feed thousands, lifeless bodies pulse again at his touch. But now, their hearts were breaking and their minds raced in dissonance. The Pharisees and pompous scribes, those men who wanted to be so powerful and praised, had, in just one weekend, deceitfully taken and illegally tried, convicted and brutally killed this “Savior”. They had done

it on the Passover weekend, too, so that multitudes of Jews were gathered to see the humiliation. They had said it in mockery—“He saved others; Himself He cannot save” (Matthew 27:42). But truly...how could this obviously powerful, supremely good Man conquer any kingdoms now, after the tragic events of this weekend?

Things really were not pleasant for Peter; not after all that had happened. Now he was haunted by all of the mountaintops of faith he'd experienced in the last three years. He had actually been there on the mountain when Moses and Elijah had miraculously appeared and the Lord had been transfigured (Matthew 17:1-9). He was the one who came up with the idea of the three tabernacles. He had personally pulled in the drought of fishes (Luke 5:1-9). He had walked on the water (Matthew 14:29). He had boldly proclaimed “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:15-18). But why could he not have finished strong? When it really counted, when the peers were not friendly, when the stakes were high, he had denied even knowing the man, Jesus...three times! And with an oath. And now, the Lord was dead. There was no going back. The last communication he would ever have with Jesus would be that one...when their eyes connected as the rooster was crowing (Matthew 26:69-75). All of this was

just after he vehemently argued with Jesus that he would never deny Him. Oh, he had cried buckets, but crying would not give him the second chance he wanted now to get this right.

John's house was a sad place, too. That's where Mary was (John 19:27). She, of all people, absolutely knew for a surety that the child she'd borne and raised was the Son of God. And it had not been easy, either. There was the initial scandal in Nazareth, beginning even in the ears of Joseph, about the boy who didn't really know who his father was (John 1:18,19). There was the jealousy and strife and ultimate rejection of Jesus by his brothers (John 7:5). There was the loss, along the difficult journey, of her husband, the father of her other children and the emotional loss of those other children, who were rebellious against the cause for which her firstborn had just died. And then there was Friday, the worst day of her life. Six excruciating hours watching her son and God's, bleeding, in intense pain and struggling to breathe while those self righteous priests shouted out profane blasphemies. And while he struggled, he made eye contact with his mother and lovingly told the apostle to whom He was closest to care for her as his own mother (John 19:27). Did she know? Did she hold the hope of a resurrection in her heart?

Pilate's wife was not happy over at the Roman headquarters. She was low on good sleep and her husband was a push-over for the Jews, but not for her (Matthew 27:17-19). Barabbas was somewhere having a party (John 18:39,40). The chiefs among the priests and the scribes were making sure the Sabbath had been fully observed after having buried the bodies and cleaned up the bloody mess (John 19:31). Sweet women of God were smelling the spices they had prepared and resting till Sabbath's end so they could go and attempt to get permission for passage to the tomb where their beloved Master was lying (Luke 24:1). Somewhere in Jerusalem that day was a Roman centurion, who knew he'd taken part in the crucifixion of the Son of God (Mark 15:39). He was the very one who signaled Pilate when he was sure he was dead. These people were struggling to find normalcy in the aftermath of what had been an extremely unusual and rushed execution. Others had been thrust into eternity in the whirlwind that surrounded the cross. Judas' body was hanging nearby from a tree (Acts 1:18), his wretched spirit having gone to a place of torment. Somewhere on the other side, too, there were two thieves, one hurting more intensely than even the cross had hurt, and one in Paradise with the Lord (Luke 23:39-43). Jerusalem was abuzz about the latest incident

of capital punishment (and so rapidly executed) of that famous man that had claimed to be God. Graves had opened and the sun had refused to give her light. While the strange events surrounding the dying and death of Jesus surely supplied fodder for the next day's chatter, maybe things would calm down now so the Jews would not be in trouble with those oppressive Romans. Maybe things would settle down.

But the most unsettling thing for those Jews was yet to come. Sunday morning rolled around, a stone rolled away and the world has never been the same. The Lord arose from the dead, walked out of that tomb and appeared to hundreds of people, alive and well, except for the healing wounds in his flesh—still there to prove it really had happened and it really was him! He was still in the business of performing miracles and getting ready to disappear in the clouds, make a permanent residence once again in heaven and prepare mansions for us there, too.

What did this unbelievable reversal mean to the apostles? What did it mean to the chief priests? What did it mean to those who crucified him? What about to his brothers? Would they believe in Jesus now? Was Barrabas troubled and afraid when he heard the news?

Did Pilate's wife feel validated in some way? What about that thief in Paradise with the Lord? What were those goodbyes like, when Jesus left that realm? Did the children who had sat in the lap of my Lord jump for joy when they heard the news? Did they go see him again after the resurrection? (If I'd been the mom, I'd have been willing to spend whatever it took to make sure my children saw Him again.) Most personally and most pertinently today, what does the empty tomb mean to you and me? Let's dig!

1. Read Matthew 28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, John 17-21 and Acts 1-2 and answer the following. Make notes as you think of points for group discussion.
2. What provision was made for a burial place for the Lord? In what sense was this arguably the only borrowed tomb in the history of the world?
3. Where was Peter on Sunday morning? What clues do we have that, even upon seeing the empty tomb, he still did not perceive that the resurrection had occurred?
 - a. According to John 20, what may have well been the very first words that the guilt-stricken apostle Peter heard from the mouth of the resurrected Christ?
 - b. Elaborate on the larger meaning of those four words to all people who look for His second coming. Tie

this event to His royal title *Prince of Peace*. Read Colossians 1:20-21 and comment on the big picture of the accomplishment of peace.

- c. What powerful words are recorded from Peter in Acts 2 to affirm the deity of the One he had formerly denied? How do we know that some of the same people who were in the proximity of his denial were also in the audience when he made this bold affirmation?
- d. Which other disciple was at the tomb on Sunday morning? Who told these disciples about the body being missing from the tomb? How many people ran in John 20? Who ran faster to the tomb?
- e. After witnessing the empty tomb, John went home. Do you suppose he had a conversation with Mary, Jesus' mother, about that empty tomb? Read I John 1 and highlight the phrases John uses to authenticate the fact that the human Christ was also divine. I know that he recollected that empty tomb as he was writing this epistle.

2. Did any of the brothers of Jesus believe in Him after the resurrection? How do you know? Which brother, according to reliable sources (uninspired) was hurled from the temple because of His belief? Read the New Testament book that bears his name and choose the

single passage that you believe to show, in the most powerful way, his change of heart.

3. Find a passage in Acts that shows that there were some Pharisees who became believers in Christ. Why were Sadducees generally incensed by talk of and proof of the resurrection?

4. Find a passage that states that Christ was seen of above 500 people at one time post-resurrection. Who else does this passage place in a list of those who saw him?

5. Did those who crucified Jesus have a chance to hear the gospel? From Acts two, how do we know this? What prayer from the cross was being answered at this time?

6. Now read I Corinthians 15 and answer the following:

- a. If Christ is not risen, what happens to gospel preaching? What is the one historical occurrence that makes Christianity vastly different from Islam or Buddhism?
- b. Can sins be forgiven without the resurrection? Document your answer from this passage.
- c. If Christ was not raised, then He was only mortal and a sinner, just like us. It is the empty tomb that's pledge and proof (as Adam Clarke so aptly states it) of our own impending empty tombs, could our forgiveness have been facilitated by one who could not come out of the grave? Why or Why not?

- d. What circumstance would make Christians the most miserable and pitiable of all people? Why?
- e. Who was the first seed ever to be placed in the ground to spring forth to resurrection (the firstfruits of the resurrection)? When do those “other” fruits follow? How does God’s amazing work as the supreme botanist help us understand the resurrection? What about those other people in scripture who were raised from the dead? Why were they not the firstfruits, since their empty tombs were emptied prior to the Lord’s? Good group discussion here.
- f. Because of the resurrection, how much has been placed under that amazing victor over death?
- g. At what point are we simulating this resurrection in our obedience to the Lord? Read Romans 6:1-6 and answer this.
- h. Thus, what does the question in I Corinthians 15:29 mean?
- i. The question of I Corinthians 15:32 is a powerful one. Would it have been probable that eleven of twelve apostles would have, according to history, died deaths of martyrdom for their espousal of the resurrection, IF they were not convinced as eye-witnesses of its historicity? Do little research and document at least three of their deaths here.

Comment on the philosophy of the last phrase of that verse. How would that philosophy make sense if Christ had remained in the tomb? How does humanism today adhere to that philosophy? How do convicted Christians respond to humanism today? When we do not vocally confront the humanistic philosophy in our circles of influence today, are failing to stand for the resurrection, in any sense? Explain. How do verses 33 and 34 speak to our sleepiness with regard to this very prevalent philosophy in our culture?

- j. Look at verses 42-51. Among other expectations, what hope is in these verses for those who are disease-ridden in this life? Copy the simple, but powerful statement (6 words) at the end of verse 54 and put it on your refrigerator for the rest of this study. If you are able, take a picture and post to our Facebook study wall. How encouraging this will be! Read Revelation 21:4 and find the comfort.
- k. What is the sting of death? What is the power of sin? (What makes sin even be sin?) Read Romans 5:13 here. What is the specific occurrence that makes our victory be in Jesus, according to this chapter?

- l. The “therefore” of such a deep and powerful passage must be of paramount importance to us. Find it and write it here.
- m. So let’s be looking for that moment...that twinkling of an eye. List below some of the things that we overemphasize in this lifetime that will be forever unimportant after the twinkling.
- n. Romans 6 is really all about the resurrection, too. Read that now and highlight the passages about resurrection and life.
- o. One final passage: Read Galatians 3 and identify the seed (one seed) of Abraham through which all nations would be blessed. Is this the seed that was planted in I Corinthians 15 and raised to be the firstfruits from the dead? How do I get inside that seed according to the end of this chapter? Since I can be in Christ, the seed, can I also be planted in death and raised to eternal life? Copy verse 29 in response to that question.

Getting Practical: This is fun, but let’s not trivialize the power of this illustration. Paul used it in I Corinthians 15. Take the seeds from inside a summer squash, a tomato, or take some beans and save the seed. Choose healthy vegetables or fruit and follow these instructions from gardenguides.com:

Remove the seeds from the fruit. Scoop out the seeds and gel in tomatoes and melons and place in a glass of warm water until the seeds separate from the gel and sink to the bottom of the glass. For other vegetables, remove the seeds and brush off any pulp that is on them. Leave peas and beans in the pod.

Lay the seeds in a single layer on top of paper towels. Place in a cool, dry place for two weeks while the seeds to finish drying. Inspect the seeds after drying, discard any visibly damaged ones and brush off any remaining dried pulp from the rest.

Place seeds in envelopes or paper bags labeled with the plant variety and year of seed harvest. Store peas and beans in the pod or shell and store in envelopes. Place the seeds in a cool, dry place until you are ready to plant in spring.

Tips and Warnings

- Avoid storing seeds in plastic bags, Moisture trapped in the bags could cause the seeds to rot or break dormancy early. Squash and corn cross-pollinate easily, so seeds saved from these might not be true to the parent plant if other varieties of the plant are grown nearby.

When you are doing this, think about THE seed. and how we are the secondary seeds inside the first fruits...how we can be planted and raised in His likeness. Pray that you will constantly walk in the newness of life described in Romans 3. Let's not forget to plant these in a window cup next March. Responsible sisters will help us remember!

Month 12

Our Greatest Escape

You can look at this, our last month's study as the darkest study or the brightest. You can look it as the hardest to contemplate or the reason for your joy. How you look at it will probably be a reflection of your relationship with Jesus and the security you have in your salvation.

However we view it, no study of escapes can be thorough without a study of hell and the greatest deliverance you and I can, through Jesus, achieve.

This is a big topic for one month, so let's get busy. I think, at the end of this month, you will be glad for this study.

Note: In the past, we've tried to make our last month a practical one—a month of doing; so this month, as we study, the challenge is to engage at least one non-Christian in a discussion about the afterlife. Now I know if you pray for this chance, you will have at least one chance to say “I've been spending some time studying about hell this month... whether or not there really is a place of torment. I've been looking at passages and examining this topic. What do you believe about hell?” I know for some, this conversation will be easy. For others, it will be more difficult...it will seem awkward. Stretch the muscles and make yourself become engaged, even in this small way, with a non-Christian. Surely none of us wants to meet the Lord having been unwilling or unable to have conversations about eternity with lost friends. Pray. Doors will open when we consistently open our mouths. Now, let's dig.

1. Read Matthew 25. Highlight any phrases containing the words “everlasting” or “eternal”. Now let's look at verse 46. Find the Greek word for “everlasting” (NKJV) and the word for “eternal” (NKJV). What do you notice about these

words? From this brief word study, what can we surmise about the equality or inequality of the duration of each (life and punishment)?

2. Since obviously, the eternality of heaven and hell stands or falls together, would those who are unwilling to accept the eternality of punishment also have to reject the eternality of life in heaven? Explain in your own words.
3. For a substantive portion of our study this month, please read this article, by Dr. Caleb Colley on the Apologetics Press website about the existence of hell: <https://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=11&article=2262&topic=427> As you read the article, also read the Biblical references and list them here:
4. How, from this article, do we see that, in order to believe in a short-term punishment and then annihilation (or no punishment except annihilation), we also have to compromise the principle of divine inerrant inspiration?
5. What famous historical philosophers lay to rest the theory that hell, as a place of eternal torment, was creatively invented by Medieval writers?
6. How many passages in your Bible mention the word justice in speaking of God or Christ? Cite the

references here. Write out Psalm 89:14. Also write out Numbers 23:19.

7. This statement jumped out at me from John Clayton in the article we are examining: “I have never been able to be comfortable with the position that a person who rejected God should suffer forever and ever and ever.” Think about the word “comfortable” in that quote and assess how our comfort should apply to our acceptance or rejection of plain Bible teachings. Now read Luke 16:19-31. This is truth, but it is not necessarily all “comfortable” truth.
8. Many have postulated that the account of “The Rich Man and Lazarus” is a parable. Perhaps it is, though that judgment is a leap for me. If it is, it is the only parable of Jesus that specifically names a character. Secondly, if it is a parable, it does not follow the form of other parables—being a story with an analogy. It is simply an account with no needed analogy. Thirdly, if it is a parable, and if it is like 100 percent of the other parables, it contains material that could have actually happened...material that is within the realm of the that which is real and happens...a true-to-life account. How do these three thoughts about this account reflect on the reality of a place of eternal punishment?
9. How would you Biblically examine and answer the question “Can Christians really know joy in Christ

when loved ones are headed quickly toward or now existing in eternal punishment? Surely the phrase “peace that passes understanding” (Philippians 4:7) must be a portion of this answer.

10. Make a list of those who will be in the lake of fire described in Revelation 21:8. Notice that this is only a few lines down from the glorious descriptive promise of heaven.
11. It seems to me to be counterintuitive to any salvation teaching in the New Testament (of which there are scores and scores) to proclaim that there is no hell from which to be saved. If I can just enjoy my life here and then be finished with consciousness (i.e not even aware that I ever was to that I am finished *being*), I do not have to worry very much at all about being rescued or escaping or being ‘saved’ from damnation. Yet this salvation is the theme of the entire Bible. Perhaps this dissonance is the reason that some have created the short-term hell—the hell that lasts for a while before annihilation. I’m going to leave adequate lines here for you to write the Biblical evidence for this: (zero lines—be sure about this!)
12. Recently, I have heard some gospel preachers posit that, while Hell is a real eternal place with real torment and the suffering is more intense than we can imagine, it does not contain a literal fire. They reason

that the literal fire would be comparable to a literal street of gold, which most scholars do not believe is in heaven. While I do not want to make this a point of contention, write your view below (about the metaphorical or literal nature of the fire) and why you believe it.

13. Read the book of Jude. This is a treatise on the judgment of God and, it seems to me, the voice of Jude is one of the closest voices we have in the New Testament to the Old Testament prophets who cried out to Judah and Israel to repent or perish. It is forceful and direct. Highlight references to fire or eternal punishment or the judgment of God. Then write out verses 20 and 21 that give the contrast of His mercy to the faithful, the mercy that triumphs over judgment (James 2:13).
14. Let's conclude the study by reading I John 1:1-2:3. List the comfort factors of I John 1:7. Why don't Christians have to fear hell? Write out I John 2:2...the essence of the great escape offered to you and me.
15. ...And don't forget to bring up eternity in your conversations this month...and every month!

We cannot but give our most earnest heed, in conclusion, to the powerful injunction of Hebrews 2:3. Having the gospel confirmed by the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures:

How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

Resources:

Throughout my work on for this series I studied *Barnes, Albert, Notes on the New Testament* (accessed through the Bible program, *Macsword*) and

Clarke, Adam, The Holy Bible with a Commentary and Critical Notes, Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York, Nashville

Other online resources used:

Chapter 1:

<https://www.learnthebible.org/blood-sacrifices.html>

Chapter 2

<http://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/12616-rechabites>

Chapter 3:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jabesh-gilead>

Chapter 5:

<http://aboutbibleprophecy.com/p263.htm>

Chapter 6:

<http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/Names/Jehoiachin>

Chapter 11

<http://www.gardenguides.com/79360-harvest-seeds-fresh-vegetables.html>

Chapter 12

<http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=11&article=819&topic=428>

<https://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=11&article=2262&topic=427>

<https://www.bereanbiblesociety.org/the-rich-man-and-lazarus-luke-1619-31/>

