

# THE CHURCH INSIDE THE FENCE



**CROSSROADS**  
PRISON MINISTRIES

## ANSWER KEY

Cover artwork by Alex R., Crossroads student



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# STUDY TOOLS

Throughout this course, students will be provided the tools listed below to assist them in their studies. These tools provide ways that you can interact with students.



**CONVERSATION BOXES:** We have included some spaces throughout the lessons that we call **conversation boxes**. Students can use these boxes to write questions and thoughts they have about the lesson or about life. You can also respond to a student in any space that the student has not filled.



**ACTION STEPS:** At the end of each lesson, we have included a challenge called an **action step**. It asks the student to apply what they have learned. If they feel that they need help or encouragement to complete it, they may simply write down what they plan to do. You can follow up with the student by asking if they have completed it.

# Glossary of Terms

Each lesson contains Bible names, terms, and ideas that may be new to students. We will do our best to provide definitions that are easy to understand. The list below includes all of the terms found in this course. In each lesson, we have included an asterisk (\*) the first time each term appears.

**Align** – To put things in their proper order or position.

**Apologetics** – A religious discipline of defending religious beliefs through systemic debate and discourse.

**Consistent** – Doing or demonstrating something over and over again. The basketball player was consistent. Every day she spent 30 minutes practicing shooting free throws.

**Divine Appointment** – An event orchestrated by God to place us in the right place at the right time to do something specific for God, like share the Gospel.

**Eloquence** – Skillful language and impressive presenting of ourselves.

**Ethiopian** – A person from Ethiopia, an east-central African nation to the south of Israel and Egypt.

**Jerusalem** – The capital city in Judea where the Temple was and where Jewish people would go to worship.

**Judea** – In Jesus' time, the area surrounding Jerusalem.

**Kingdom of God** – The heavens and earth where God rules. This includes the rule we allow God to have in our own lives and hearts.

**Martyr** – Someone who is put to death or made to suffer because of their religious beliefs.

**Mesopotamian Region** – The area of present-day Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

**Pagan** – A person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main or recognized religions.

**Pagans** – Among the nations during the period of the early Christian Church, pagans were those that held religious beliefs other than those of Christianity or Judaism.

**Persecuted** – Subjected (someone) to hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of their ethnicity, religion, or their political beliefs.

**Pharisee** – A member of a sect of Jewish teachers of the Law during the 1st Century.

**Pledge** – A binding promise to do something.

**Reconcile** – To restore relationships. Through Christ, we are reconciled to God and are brought into a right relationship with our Creator.

**Roman Empire** – At its height of power, the Roman Empire encompassed most of continental Europe, Britain, much of western Asia, Egypt, Israel, Northern Africa, Mesopotamia, and the Mediterranean islands.

**Samaria** – In Jesus' time, the area north of Judea and roughly to the west and south of the Sea of Galilee.

**Smallpox** – A highly contagious viral disease responsible for millions of deaths over centuries.

**Sovereign** – In theology, God's sovereignty is God's supreme power to do His will in the creation that He has made.

**Sufficient** – Enough, adequate.

**Synagogue** – The building where a Jewish assembly or congregation meets for religious worship and instruction.

**Testimony** – A public sharing of our story of coming to faith in Jesus.

**Witness** – Having knowledge of an event or change from personal observation or experience.

**Zealous** – Showing great energy and enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective.

# LESSON 1: The Kingdom Come

Look up and complete the following verses from the New Testament:

1. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." (John 18:36)
2. The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. (Acts 17:24)
3. Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst." (Luke 17:20-21)
4. If someone were to ask you "What is the Kingdom of God?," in your own words, how would you answer them?

**The student's answer should reflect an understanding that the Kingdom of God is not an earthly kingdom, but a spiritual kingdom where God rules and reigns. They may or may not quote a verse(s).**

5. Describe a time when you experienced God's presence in your life. (If you have never experienced God's presence, what do you think prevents you from doing so?)

**The student's answer may describe a time when they felt peace, when they knew that God had done a miracle for them or someone they were praying for, when the Holy Spirit convicted them of sin, or a similar time. Affirm their experience unless it contradicts Scripture.**

6. How, specifically, do you think God wants to establish His Kingdom in your own heart and life?

**The student's answer will provide the mentor with an opportunity to learn what the student thinks God desires for their life. Examples could be through: repentance, peace, forgiveness, love for others, a calling to ministry, and/or reconciliation with someone. Reflect on the student's answer and provide the student with feedback or encouragement.**

7. At your correctional facility, where or how do you see God's Kingdom being displayed?

**The student's answer will tell the mentor what the student perceives about God's activity where they live. Provide feedback and affirmation if appropriate.**

Complete these verses from Paul's letter to the Ephesian church (Ephesians 2:19-22):

8. *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)*
9. What do you think it means that you, too, if you are a follower of Jesus, have been given the keys to the Kingdom of God?

**The student's answer should reflect an understanding that, as a Christian, they have been called to share in the work of Jesus and given spiritual authority by God to speak and act on His behalf.**

10. Complete the following statement that Jesus made to His followers:

*"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14:12-14)*

11. If someone asked you, "What is the 'Church'?", how would you answer them?

**The student's answer should reflect an understanding that the Church is all of those people that have surrendered their lives to Christ and are trying to follow God. Their answer may or may not include that Jesus is the head of the Church.**

12. We may not feel that we are good enough to invite others to know Jesus, but through the blood of Jesus, we are made righteous, not through our own good deeds. This is "good news." This is the Gospel. How can you share Jesus today at your facility?

**The student should name or describe something concrete that they can do to share their faith at their jail or prison.**

## Action Step

This week, keep a log and write down everywhere you can see God's Kingdom being expressed at your facility. This could be in the caring action of others, in the staff that live out their Christian faith at their workplace, in the expression of Christian believers, or in God's grace and peace being poured out.

### My Notes

## LESSON 2: The Gospel That Brings Salvation

1. Why do you think the disciples still did not understand the mission of Jesus after witnessing His death and resurrection from the dead?

**While we don't fully know why the disciples were slow to understand, students' answers might reflect one of the following ideas:**

- **Based on the cultural and religious views of the Jewish people at the time, Jesus' actions were not what people were expecting from the Messiah. The disciples lived in this culture and had their own preconceived ideas.**
- **The disciples were human, and like us, were sometimes slow to understand or believe.**
- **The events of the week of Jesus' last week were traumatic for the disciples. They were grieving and in shock. When Jesus first appeared to them after His resurrection, they thought He was a ghost.**
- **Jesus sometimes taught in parables that were hard to understand, particularly when they related to what Jesus would have to suffer.**
- **It takes spiritual discernment to understand spiritual matters. After His resurrection Luke tells us that Jesus opened their minds to understand.**

**Luke 24:44-45 says:**

***He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. (emphasis added)***

**This question is designed to spur the student to consider why the disciples might not have had understanding. There is not a right and wrong answer, but the student's answer should reflect a plausible reason for the disciples' lack of understanding.**

2. In your own words, how would you say what Francis was reported to have said? (*"Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary."*)

**Some possible responses could be:**

- **People don't care what you say. They watch what you do.**

- **When we love others, we are demonstrating who God is.**
- **Our words are sometimes not clear. They need to “see” Jesus in us.**

3. *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? (James 2:14)*
4. *Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:15-17)*
5. *But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds and I will show you my faith by my deeds. (James 2:18)*
6. *Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. (1 Timothy 1:13)*
7. *The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 1:14)*
8. *Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. (1 Timothy 1:15-16)*

Practice writing your own testimony by completing the following sentences.

**This exercise may be difficult for some students. Look at their answers to 9 through 13 and give affirmation and suggestions to make their testimony clear and succinct.**

9. Before coming to faith in Jesus and surrendering my life to him, I . . .
10. God got my attention by . . .
11. I prayed and asked God . . .
12. After asking God to forgive my sins and help me to follow Him, I . . .
13. Today my life is different. Today, . . .

14. What is one mistake that either you have made or saw someone else make when they were sharing their testimony?

**The student is being asked to reflect on how sharing their personal testimony can be more effective. The student may answer something similar to these examples:**

- **Try to share the truth “in love.”**
- **Don’t come across pushy or arrogant.**
- **Focus on how God changed their life.**
- **Try to live the life they are professing so that others might see God working in their lives.**

15. What are some of the reasons that you rejected God or chose not to surrender your life to God in the past?

**Student answers could include, but are not limited to:**

- **I never heard or understood the Gospel**
- **I was just rebellious**
- **I wanted to remain in my sin or addiction**
- **I was bitter towards God because of my past experience**

16. Think of someone at your facility that you want to have come to know Jesus. What do you think prevents them now from surrendering their life to God?

**The student doesn’t have to give a name, but they should identify a specific person, such as their roommate, someone they work or go to school with, a family member, or a friend.**

## Action Step

In the next weeks, make several attempts at writing down your testimony in a way that is clear. With each attempt, try to make improvements. When you have a version that you think communicates clearly, have one of your Christian friends at your facility listen to you share your testimony verbally. Ask them for feedback and suggestions on how to make your testimony as clear and effective as possible.

## My Notes

## LESSON 3: Paul: The Missionary Evangelist

1. As you consider how God has called you to build His Church at the jail or prison where you live, how can you put into practice the lessons of trusting in God's strength, not your own?

**The student's answer should reflect an understanding that God is already working things toward His purposes. Seeking and listening for God's leading is preferable to forcing the Gospel on others who may not be ready or willing to hear. The student might answer that trusting in God's strength helps them to be anxious for nothing.**

Psalm 91 provides a summary of trusting in God's strength.

2. Complete the following verses from Psalm 91:

*Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will **rest** in the shadow of the Almighty.  
I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."*

*Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.  
He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his **faithfulness** will be your shield and rampart.*

*You will not fear the **terror of night**,  
nor the **arrow** that flies by day,  
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the **plague** that destroys at midday.*

*A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but **it will not come near you**.  
You will only observe with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.*

*If you say, "The LORD is my refuge,"  
and you make the Most High your dwelling,  
no **harm** will overtake you,*

*no disaster will come near your tent.*

*For he will command his angels concerning you  
to **guard you** in all your ways;  
they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.  
You will tread on the lion and the cobra;  
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*

*“Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will **rescue him** ;  
I will **protect him** for he acknowledges **my name** .  
He will call on me, and I will answer him;  
I will **be with him** in trouble,  
I will **deliver** him and honor him.  
With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation.”*

3. Who was the person that God used to share the message of the Gospel in your life? Looking back, what was going on in your life that made you willing to consider this message?

**The student is sharing their experience. Use this question to learn about your student’s journey. Affirm their story if appropriate.**

4. Why did Philip travel from Jerusalem to Gaza (Acts 8:26)?

**An angel of the Lord instructed him to go to Gaza.**

5. What was the Ethiopian official’s position in his country (Acts 8:27)?

**He was in charge of the “Kandake” (the queen’s treasury).**

6. What did the Spirit tell Philip in Acts 8:29?

**Go to the chariot and stay near it.**

7. What was the passage of Scripture that the Ethiopian was reading in his chariot? Rewrite the Scripture here in verses 8:32-33.

***He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.***

8. After Philip explained to the Ethiopian what the passage of Scripture he was reading meant, what did the Ethiopian ask Philip to do (Acts 8:36-38)?

**He asked him to baptize him.**

9. How has God used you to share your faith with the right person at the right time (divine appointment\*)?

**The student may not have ever shared their faith with someone else. If that is the case, encourage them to be watching for a divine appointment to share Jesus. If the student has an example, it should reflect that the person they shared with was prepared by God to hear the Gospel. Affirm their story if appropriate.**

10. What was Paul's custom (Acts 17:1-4)?

**He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath and reasoned with the Jews from Scripture about Jesus as the Messiah.**

11. Why were the Bereans called more noble than the people in Thessalonica?

**They received the message of the Gospel with eagerness and examined the Scriptures to see if what Paul was teaching about Jesus was true.**

12. Do you need to build a better reputation and the trust of others so that people will be willing to hear your testimony of coming to faith in Christ? Explain:

**Every one of us should be gaining the trust of others by our integrity and faithfulness to God. The student should give an example of something concrete they can do to build trust with others and be a living testimony of God's saving grace.**

13. What are some ways that you can demonstrate the "changed life" that you have experienced through Jesus?

**The student should articulate ways that their Christian witness can be improved by demonstrating the kindness and character of God in their attitudes and behavior. They may note being consistent in their walk with Christ. Challenge the student if their answer does not demonstrate an understanding of how others, especially non-Christians, see the sincerity of their commitment to God.**

14. As you think about and look around your facility, where do you see God working?

**This is a broad, open question. The question should spur the student to look at their facility and identify God's work in their midst.**

Think about the following people and how you might find common ground to build a connection to share the Gospel with them:

15. People at your facility who have a different religion from Christianity

16. People that you work with

17. People in your living unit

**The student's answers to questions 15-17 should reflect an understanding that finding common ground or shared interests with others can build connections that could open the door to share the Gospel.**

## Action Step

This week, spend time praying for wisdom and guidance from God to become an effective ambassador for Jesus. Make a list of where you see God moving at your facility and whom God may be directing you to share His great love with.

### My Notes

## LESSON 4: Building the Church Inside the Fence

1. How are you working to meet the needs of others at your facility?

**The student's answer should reflect an awareness of some of the needs of the people they live and work with at their facility.**

2. Who are the people that you find the hardest to love? Explain:

**Some possible responses could be:**

- **My family**
- **My enemies**
- **People that are annoying**
- **Prison or jail staff**
- **People of other races**
- **People that betrayed my trust**

**The student should offer an explanation about why that particular person or group of people is difficult for them to love.**

3. Who is someone you admire for their faith and willingness to suffer or be persecuted for their beliefs? How have they been an example to you?

**The student's example could be someone they know, a biblical figure, or an historical figure.**

4. How has studying the Bible impacted your life?

**The student is giving their mentor a window into their life and way that studying God's Word has made a difference to them. It could be that they write about their Crossroads experience. Affirm and encourage as appropriate.**

5. For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)
6. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

7. Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the **law of the Lord** and who meditates on his law day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)
8. Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges **that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh** is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. (1 John 4:1-3)
9. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the **hope** that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)
10. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the **world**. On the contrary, they have **power** to demolish strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)
11. What are two common arguments you have heard from people against Christianity?

**The student should provide two arguments that people make against faith in Jesus. Possible examples could be:**

- **You can't prove God's existence**
- **Christians talk about love but don't love others**
- **The Bible was written by men, not God**

12. What are some things you can do to assist your facility chaplain?

**Possible answers include, but are not limited to:**

- **Set up the chapel for services**
- **Volunteer to clean the chapel or chaplain's library**
- **Deliver books from the chapel to living units**
- **Become a chaplain's assistant or librarian**

13. Have you made prayer for the staff that work at your facility a part of your spiritual priorities? Explain:

**The student may or may not pray for facility staff. If not, encourage them to do so and provide some Bible references to help them understand why they should pray for the people in authority over them. If they do not pray for the facility staff, their explanation of why not will give the mentor an opportunity to provide spiritual advice.**

14. Is there currently a group or individuals at your facility to whom people go to ask for prayer? Are you one of those people they come to?

**Affirm or advise the student about having others that they pray corporately with at their facility.**

15. Complete the following verses from the Book of Hebrews in the New Testament:

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then **approach God's throne of grace** with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)*

16. Complete the following verses from Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth:

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to **us** the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)*

## Action Steps

- Join or start a small group of Christians who will pray for the people and needs of your jail or prison facility.
- Meet with your facility chaplain to see how you might help in the chapel or chapel library.
- Seek out a book on the topic of apologetics and study how to share your beliefs more effectively.

# My Notes

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