

For their final Bible projects, the students from the TBCS high school program compiled five personal writings based on Bible verses to create a mini-devotional booklet. Each student submitted their favourite writing for their Eagles' Eye newsletter.

Jealous Through Life

By: Karen Boyes

*"But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic."
James 3:14-25*

When you're a kid, you most likely wanted your friend's bike. As a teen, you crave the latest phone. Past that, you just want to be rich like other people. Most people want something that they can't have or that they don't need. I know I want the new Iphone, but I don't even have a phone at all. It makes me so jealous seeing everyone else with their phones! I wonder sometimes though if it's even worth it looking at all the things I want, when I already have something to look forward to. We don't need to waste our time on earthly things. Everyone should stop being jealous of each other's earthly items. These items don't matter in God's eyes. Why should we get them then? Is there really a point for me to have a phone? If we keep wasting our time looking at everything else, we will lose the big picture. God! The more we look around at everything else, the more temptation there will be, and the more sin we will have. We don't need earthly items. Our life is short on earth, but our life in heaven is everlasting. The earthly objects don't come to heaven with us. What's the point of buying this stuff if there no need for it later? I understand that we can have some things to entertain us and make us happy, but they will lead us away from our time and praise with God. I'm not saying that you should just give everything up that you have, but next time you buy something think about if you really need it. One times I was so jealous of my friend's shorts that I went and bought the same ones in a different color. Truthfully I didn't even need shorts, but I just liked hers so I bought them. After that I didn't wear them much. There was really no point to buying them; I just grew out of them. We should really focus on the Bible and God instead of everything else we crave. Some things we want but have no use for us in the afterlife, and I think it is more important for us to just follow the Lord and focus on looking forwards to him.

Dear Lord, Please help us to focus on the right things and not the temptations around us. We are jealous, sinful people that need salvations from you. Thank you for everything you have given us. Help us to not crave earthly things from others. Thank you for the health we have and a house to live in. You are truly amazing and have given us so much we don't need. Amen

Hatred

By: Austin Hall

*"If anyone says, 'I love God', and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."
1 John 4:20*

Hate is bad; love is good. God dislikes it when we say we love him but we don't love our own brother. 1 John 4:20 is such a good verse and it's so true. Certain people think they can hate others, but still love God. God says no to that, he wants us to love and care for all people even if they're - in our opinion - evil, annoying, racist, or any thing else we don't like. Just remember if we can't love others then how we can truly love God.

I see many people who are always on their phones consuming things that do not glorify God. Our culture shows us that it is normal to treat others badly. We as Christians need to either stay away from bullying or at least try to stop it. Matthew 5:11 says, "God will bless you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me." As Christians we may feel persecuted because of our faith. This verse tells Christians that it will happen but God will bless us in heaven. People kill themselves each year from bullying. It even happens in our communities, our homes and even Christian schools. Their was a huge suicide that happened not that long before when a teenager killed her self from drinking bleach and she tried a couple of times because of bullying. You can see how the world changed from a stricter age to a slack and lazy, rude, and bad era. Kids now a days bully constant and it's not right. Christians or others need to open our eyes and really see what happens, to try to stop bullying or at least block some out. Bullying can make us feel very alone and like no one is standing beside us. Yet, God is always with us. In these moments where everything seems dark and when we feel most alone, He is there to help us.

Holy Spirit, please help those people who are being bullied. Send people to help them. Please help the people who are doing the bullying to get help so that they will not continue to hurt people. Lord, give me the courage to tell my parents about anyone I know who is being hurt or bullied. Amen.

Forgiveness

By: Zachary Bakker

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:14-15

Forgiveness is hard to do, but with God's help, we can forgive. The meaning of forgiveness is to pardon or excuse. It means that we no longer blame others or are angry at those who did us wrong. God tells us that forgiveness is not an option if we want God to forgive us. We are not perfect; we all make mistakes. We will not all agree on everything all the time. We must understand that and learn to forgive those who purposefully or unintentionally hurt us. We may have a moment of anger, but we must not become used to being angry at the one who has wronged us. We need to ask forgiveness from God for holding bad feelings against others so that we can be forgiven by God.

We want to stand before God and know that He is happy with the things we do for him in our lives with us. We don't want to carry the sin of unforgiveness in our hearts. It's no easy feat to forgive someone who has hurt you deeply and who you've most likely had a hateful grudge against for awhile. We can find inspiration to do so in our Lord Jesus Christ who was able to forgive his persecutors as he died on the cross. He not only forgives them himself but he also asks God to forgive them because they were blinded by sin and had become slaves to their anger at Jesus so they didn't realize that they were persecuting an innocent man, but that that innocent man was truly the Son of God.

A good thing that helps to forgive is to remember the simple phrase "what would Jesus do". Would Jesus hold a grudge against someone and look for away to get revenge, no he would forgive them. Using this phrase to figure out tough choices in life is good habit to get into and can help you become a better Christian.

Dear Lord we thank you for the perfect example you gave us when you sent your son to earth. We praise you for helping us to overcome our feelings and forgive the ones we hate. We are also so thankful for you forgiving us. We know that we fail you in so many ways and we are thankful that you still love us enough to forgive our sins. Amen.

Lying

By: Collin Cramer

"But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison."

James 3:8

The tongue can be the most wicked weapon on earth, so use it wisely and think before you speak. As Christians, we shouldn't fill our lives with lies. We should always try to live honest lives that are full of trust and love. But, since we are all human, sometimes it is hard to not to lie.

White lies and small lies or even twisting the truth or exaggerating the truth are still lies and that's something we should always remember and think about. The option to lie should not be a in our lives; we should always think of the truth first. We are not made perfect and we are tempted by original sin. But no matter how imperfect we are, we should always try to be good people and this means not lying.

The Bible is clear that lying is a sin and is not pleasing to God. The first sin in this world involved a lie told to Eve. The Ten Commandments given to Moses includes "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor", so obviously lying is a sin and is just as bad as stealing or swearing. It's a commandment so it's clear that God doesn't take lying lightly. In the Old Testament Ananias and Sapphira lied about a donation in order to make themselves look more generous than they really were They both were killed because of this lie which shows that God doesn't take lying lightly.

Your grandmother gives you a shirt for a present. You lie by saying, "Grandma, I love it!" Is that little lie a big deal or not? In God's eyes, a lie is a lie is a lie. A small lie told to save someone's feelings is as much of a sin as a mean lie. Both are sin. Both are hurtful. Both separate us from God and from others. That's why the best way for Christians to speak is to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. If you're not sure how to speak the truth kindly, tell God. He'll help you honor both the truth and the person you're taking to.

Dear God, thank you for today and thank you for forgiving us from small to great sins including lies, help us think before we say and to be able to tame the tongue and remember a lie even a small one is still a sin and does not impress you .