



Sampler

COLABORATE METHODIST STUDENT BIBLE SAMPLER

New Revised Standard Version

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colaborate

SPARK
HOUSE

Welcome to the Colaborate Methodist Student Bible Sampler!

The Colaborate Methodist Student Bible is designed specifically for students in Grades 7–12 and is an essential component to the Colaborate: Methodist Confirmation curriculum. This Sampler contains everything you need to check out the unique features of the Colaborate Methodist Student Bible.

FEATURE CONTENT

As students explore this Bible they will encounter feature content that helps make sense of key faith-formation Bible passages. Each piece of content includes a thought-provoking illustration and interactive prompts.

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BONUS FEATURES

Readers will enjoy a comprehensive Bible experience with access to maps, a subject index, and engaging book and section introductions.



i
Acts 2:41-47
The Way still continued to worship in the temple before its destruction in 70 CE. This is important; it means the community saw the Old Testament as prophetic, as we do today.

Acts 2:41-47

As described in the first chapters of Acts, the early church members were all Jewish. These people who heard the gospel converted to following Jesus as a “way” to be good Jewish people. In fact, this unique community called themselves that—the Way! At first, these early Christians could have been considered an offshoot of Judaism—they even continued going to synagogue on Saturday, the Sabbath. Eventually, the Way became its own religion, Christianity, and began opening the door to Gentiles. This new Christian community had a very tight bond, sharing not only possessions and food but also sharing their hopes and joys as a community gathered in Christ.



Connection is a big deal in Methodism. What's one way you feel connected to your church?

from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.” ³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,^a this Jesus whom you crucified.”

THE FIRST CONVERTS

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers,^b what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

LIFE AMONG THE BELIEVERS

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds^c to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home^d and ate their food with glad and generous^e hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

PETER HEALS A CRIPPLED BEGGAR

3 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o’clock in the afternoon. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. ³When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. ⁴Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,^a stand up and walk.” ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹All the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

PETER SPEAKS IN SOLOMON’S PORTICO

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s Portico, utterly astonished. ¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites,^b why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant^c Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this

we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus^d has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷ “And now, friends,^e I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah^f would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah^g appointed for you, that is, Jesus, ²¹who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets. ²²Moses said, “The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people^e a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. ²³And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out of the people.” ²⁴And all the prophets, as many as have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, also predicted these days. ²⁵You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant that God gave to your ancestors, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ ²⁶When God raised up his servant,^e he sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE COUNCIL

4 While Peter and John^h were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, ²much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. ³So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand. ⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and

Acts 3:6
In your worship services or prayers, when do you do or say things “in the name of Jesus”?

^a Or eating ^b Or by

^a Or the brother of ^b Gk brothers ^c Gk Men, brothers ^d Or swelling up ^e Other ancient authorities read the share

best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.¹⁶ Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety,¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth by claiming that the resurrection has already taken place. They are upsetting the faith of some.¹⁹ But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness."

20 In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary.²¹ All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned^a will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work.²² Shun youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.²³ Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.²⁴ And the Lord's servant^b must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient,²⁵ correcting opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth,²⁶ and that they may escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.^c

GODLESSNESS
IN THE LAST DAYS

3 You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come.² For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boast-ers, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,³ inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good,⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lov-ers of God,⁵ holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them!

⁶For among them are those who make their way into households and captivate silly wom-en, overwhelmed by their sins and swayed by all kinds of desires,⁷ who are always being in-structed and can never arrive at a knowledge of the truth.⁸ As Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these people, of corrupt mind and counterfeit faith, also oppose the truth.⁹ But they will not make much progress, because, as in the case of those two men,^d their folly will become plain to everyone.

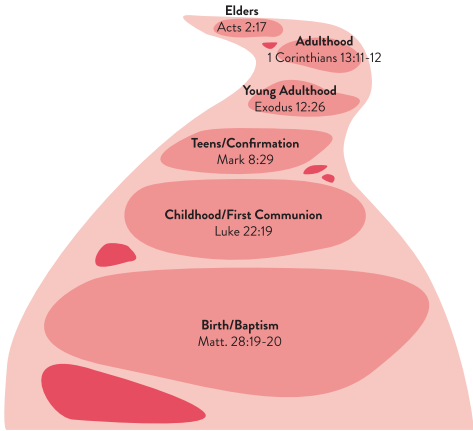
PAUL'S CHARGE TO TIMOTHY

10 Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,¹¹ my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.¹² Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.¹³ But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived.¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it,¹⁵ and how from child-hood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is^e useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that everyone who be-ongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encour-age, with the utmost patience in teaching.³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for them-selves teachers to suit their own desires,⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Timothy is encouraged to continue in his faith and to trust what he has learned from Scripture (the books we now call the Old Testament). Timothy would have known plenty of Scripture by heart, and the writer wants him to call on those passages in his adulthood too. These ancient words were like a guidebook for the first Christians, reminding them of God's love and care, God's faithfulness and provision, and God's promises to the people. In times of struggle or doubt, or anytime he needed to be reminded of who he was, Timothy could trust the inspired Word of God to help him find his way.



John Wesley believed that our traditions, reason, and experiences help us understand and use what we learn from the Bible. What's one way your confirmation experience is helping you understand the Bible?

wander away to myths.⁵ As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my depart-ure has come.⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS

9 Do your best to come to me soon,¹⁰ for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia,^a Titus to Dal-matia.¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry.¹² I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord

will pay him back for his deeds.¹⁵ You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them!¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

FINAL GREETINGS
AND BENEDICTION

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.²⁰ Erastus re-mained in Corinth; Trophimus I left ill in Miletus.²¹ Do your best to come before win-ter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers and sisters.^b
22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.^c

2 Tim. 3:14-17
Timothy's father was Greek and his mother was Jewish. Today, we might call that a multicultural family.

2 Tim. 4:5
The word evangelist means someone who speaks enthusiastically about and lives out the good news of Jesus Christ.

2 Tim. 4:19
Prisca—also known as Priscilla—and Aquila were Paul's friends and fellow missionaries. The three of them were also tentmakers.

^a Gk of these things ^b Gk slave ^c Or by him, to do his (that is, God's) will ^d Gk lacks two men ^e Or Every scripture inspired by God is also

^a Other ancient authorities read Gaul ^b Gk all the brothers ^c The Greek word for you here is plural. Other ancient authorities add Amen

