

VOLUME 1

104

Useful Sermon Illustrations

FROM

 IT IS WRITTEN®



BY JOHN BRADSHAW

104 Useful Sermon Illustrations from It Is Written, by John Bradshaw

Graphic design by Michael Prewitt.

Copyright © 2020–2021, It Is Written, Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized reproduction is prohibited by law. It Is Written is a registered service mark of It Is Written, Inc.

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible texts are from the New King James Version, copyright 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.

For additional copies, please visit itiswritten.shop, or call 888-664-5573.

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN 978-1-63569-216-7

Introduction

Sermon illustrations—or the lack thereof—can make or break a sermon. While preaching is most certainly the ministry of God’s Word, effective sermon illustrations fix important points in the mind of the hearer. Jesus frequently illustrated His messages. Two thousand years later we call to mind stories of a shepherd who lost a sheep, a son who wandered far from home, and young women who discovered they were without sufficient oil for their lamps—stories that call to mind the powerful lessons in Christ’s teaching. I pray you will find these illustrations helpful, and that they will help you recognize potential sermon illustrations as they come to your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bradshaw', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Bradshaw
President of It Is Written

P.S. I'd love your help as I compile volume two of *104 Useful Sermon Illustrations*. If you have sermon illustrations you would like to share that you feel would be a blessing to others, please submit them to me at itiswritten.com/preach.

Sermon Illustrations

1. Presumption; Faith

That had to hurt. An Ethiopian athlete running in a meet in Lausanne, Switzerland, sprinted to the finish of the men's 5,000 meter race, 20 meters or more in front of the second-place runner, and crossed the line in celebration. Except that the race wasn't over. There was still 400 meters left to run, and our friend—who won an Olympic bronze medal in 2016—ended up finishing ... tenth. He thought the race was done, but didn't realize there was still a lap to go. We see a spiritual lesson there. Jesus said in Matthew 24:13, "He [or she] that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." You don't want to coast to the finish. Christianity is about staying connected to Jesus. Take hold of Jesus and let Him guide you all the way to the finish line.

Associated verse: Matthew 24:13

2. Forgiveness

A man in New Zealand backed out of his driveway when a cat came out of nowhere. He ran over the cat, and the cat died. But what made it even worse is that the cat was owned by the prime minister of New Zealand, who lived nearby. The man's two children wrote a condolence card in which they asked the prime minister not to send their father to prison. When he bumped into her in person, he apologized, but she apologized for the inconvenience, and it was one of those, "I'm so sorry," "No, I'm so sorry," moments. One could easily have held a grudge. But forgiveness is always better. God forgives. We want to remember that. Remember to forgive others.

Associated verse: Psalm 86:5

3. Words; Conversion

It pays to speak clearly. A woman called a cake shop, wanting a cake decorated for her daughter's birthday. The cake came back decorated with a large marijuana leaf and other drug symbols. They called the shop asking what happened to the cake they asked for, the cake based on *Moana*, a movie. They said "Moana," but the bakery heard ... marijuana. The family thought it was all quite funny and the birthday girl still enjoyed the cake, but it pays to be careful how you sound. How do *you* sound? Do you ever catch yourself *not* sounding like a Christian? Saying things you regret?

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

We speak a lot of words, and too often words we wish we hadn't said. But God can change your heart, and when He does He'll change your words, too.

Associated verse: Psalm 141:3

4. Small Things; God's Care

As the family drove along the busy freeway, the four-year-old sitting in the back seat threw her favorite stuffed animal out the window of the car. And no replacement dolphin would possibly do for this child, who simply could not be consoled. So Mother called the police, who staged a rescue operation and retrieved the toy dolphin from the side of the busy freeway. A little girl was happy—and her parents were very relieved. A stuffed toy—a small thing. Aren't you glad small things matter to God? They do when they matter to you. You can give all your worries and cares to God, knowing He really does care.

Associated verse: 1 Peter 5:7

5. Honesty; Integrity

A few years ago in Syracuse, New York, an armored truck that evidently wasn't properly shut dropped more than \$300,000 onto city streets. The two men who first came across the bags started to gather the money up so it could be returned to its rightful owners. When word got out about what had happened, a crowd—later described as “mostly helpful”—began to gather. But there were some who didn't want to hand the money back! One of the honest men said, “If I wasn't so big I might not have been able to convince them to do the right thing.” The prospect of free money can change a person's behavior. It seems people have a buying price. You know that the people who gathered weren't all evil people, but they were people who had a buying price. When confronted with the opportunity to gain, their scruples went out the window. Honesty is still the best policy. Integrity is still the right path. You'll never be worse off when you choose to do the right thing.

Associated verse: Proverbs 13:11

6. Trials; God's Care

A dad was taking items out of a box and piling them one by one in his young son's arms. A passerby asked the little boy if it was too much for him. The boy smiled and said, “No, it isn't too much. My Daddy knows how much I can carry.” It's true. God won't allow more to come to you than you can bear. If you're dealing with grief, or loss, or illness, or pain, or something that seems very heavy today, remember this verse. Your Father knows how much you can carry—and He'll give you His strength to do so.

Associated verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13

7. Connection with God

In the late 1990s Ireland's economy grew at such a rate it was dubbed the Celtic Tiger—because it was like one of the surging Asian economies. But the revival fizzled and all of a sudden there was talk of a massive bailout. Riding high, and then down it went. Believers in God can be like that. Riding high, and then the wind goes out of your sails, and you're in the doldrums. The key is to be revived and to *stay* revived. Faith in Jesus is an ongoing relationship. You're in it for the long haul with God. You want to be revived and stay revived, and that happens through maintaining your connection with Him.

Associated verse: 1 John 1:7

8. Revival

During the Welsh revival in the early 1900s, more than 100,000 people joined churches. Some 250,000 people gave their life to Christ, and the Welsh revival sparked other revivals around the world. Newspapers reported on the revival. The preachers were household names. But Christianity in Wales has been in decline ever since, and today it's not strong at all. Revival is good, but if revival is an event—if it isn't lasting—it isn't true revival. God wants you to get revived and stay revived. Your *life* can be a revival when Jesus lives His life in you. Come to God, get connected, stay connected. Hold on to God. And let Him hold on to you. He won't ever let you go.

Associated verses: John 15:4; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:6

9. Small Things; Value; Priorities

A woman visiting a second-hand store on a winter's day, took off her muddy boots and left them at the front door of the store. When she went to get them after shopping they were ... not there! While she was in the store, the \$100 boots were sold. For two dollars! The man at the cash register thought they had been on sale in the store. He didn't see the value of the boots and thought they were worth little. How like people today, who don't see the value in the Bible, don't see the value in prayer. While you're earning a living or getting an education or otherwise changing the world, remember the little things. They're really the big things. And they're valuable.

Associated verse: John 6:12

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

10. Choices; Decisions

There are some things that sound just too improbable to believe. A United States citizen arriving on a flight into Baltimore was found to have a missile launcher in his luggage. You can imagine the surprise security got when they found . . . a missile launcher. The man said it was a souvenir from his time in the military in the Middle East, and he wasn't planning on using it to launch missiles when he got home. People sometimes do the oddest things and make the strangest decisions. Faith in God is a decision. It's a decision that may even surprise some people around you as they see your life change. It's not a one-time decision, but a continual surrendering of the heart and life to God. It's not a strange decision. Not to make that decision really doesn't make sense.

Associated verse: Romans 6:23

11. Christianity; Witnessing

Ask someone what their least-favorite vegetable is, and you'll more than likely be told Brussels Sprouts. Many people like them, but a lot of people wouldn't eat them if you paid them to do so. At Pike Place Market in Seattle there was a veggie seller who had a sign on the Brussels Sprouts which called them "Little Green Balls of Death." But what Brussels Sprouts lovers will tell you is that you have to be careful how you prepare them. Prepare them right, and you'll enjoy them, maybe even love them. I wonder if more people would respond positively to Christianity if we presented it right. Someone said that the strongest argument in favor of Christianity is a loving and lovable Christian. When the love of God is presented right, it's hard not to love. Get the flavor right, and God is hard to resist.

Associated verses: Matthew 5:13; Matthew 5:14

12. Heaven; Science

NASA recently announced the discovery of a possible Earth-like planet that might be able to support life. It's an exoplanet six times larger than the planet we call home, and is named GJ 357 d. It's 31 light years away, so it's quite a commute, and as you can imagine this discovery fired up the scientific community. But if the discovery is good news, or interesting news, or some other kind of news, I've got some *great* news for you. There's a place purpose-designed to support life. It's even further from here than GJ 357 d, but that's no problem at all. Jesus said in John 14:3, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Associated verse: John 14:3

13. Christianity; Faith

In Trafalgar Square in London, England almost 2,500 paintings hang in the National Gallery. Some of the paintings are 700 years old. It's easy to spend hours there. A place like that can't truly be appreciated on just a short visit. You don't drive past Westminster Abbey and say you've seen it. You don't visit the Statue of Liberty by seeing it from a distance. It's like that with Christianity. You don't rush through it. You can't appreciate it from the window of a tour bus. There's a connection there. Your faith will never be what God wants it to be without truly connecting with Jesus.

Associated verse: Galatians 2:20

14. God; Holy Spirit; Christian Life

When a major international airline announced it had begun video recording passengers on its planes, there was no shortage of people who were uncomfortable with the practice. The airline said that while it wouldn't record people through the planes' entertainment systems, it would use those systems as well as security cameras to conduct surveillance on its planes. It's no secret you're being watched. Your movements online are recorded and shared far more broadly than you ever imagined when you first connected to the Internet. Security cameras seem to be everywhere. But do we stop and think that *God* is watching? That shouldn't fill us with fear, but it should make us stop and think.

Associated verse: Proverbs 15:3

15. Second Coming; Age; Nature

Scientists working in the North Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Greenland announced they had found a Greenland shark that they calculate could be 512 years old. A tortoise was once found to be 177 years old, and that's not young either. But keep in mind that Adam lived to be 930. Methuselah was 969 when he died. And one day things will be restored to how they should be! There's coming a time when what we now consider old is going to be ludicrously young, which is the way God wants it.

Associated verse: 1 Thessalonians 4:17

16. Gratitude; Faithfulness; Blessings

It's an extreme case for sure, but in India a young man who was given a new BMW car as a birthday gift from his parents pushed the car into a river. He didn't like it. He said it was too small, and he wanted a Jaguar. You won't find too many examples of selfishness and ingratitude that rise to this level. We could learn lessons

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

here about gifts and kids and parenting and fouling waterways with motor vehicles, but we should probably stop and consider how we express our gratitude to God. God has been so good to every last person. Don't make the mistake of overlooking your blessings, or failing to appreciate them.

Associated verse: James 1:17

17. Spiritual Strength; Faith in God; Devotional Life

It was green, a lot like crystals, and it gave off a form of radiation. That radiation was harmless to humans, but there was one person for whom that green material and its radiation had a devastating effect. The green stuff was kryptonite, and it came from Superman's home world, Krypton. Of course, there's no Superman and there's no Krypton, and there's no kryptonite, but in the stories kryptonite was that one thing that deprived Superman of his powers. If you were the devil—and I hope you'll not mind me putting it that way—but if you were the devil, what would you do if you wanted to ruin God's plans? How would you work to prevent people from receiving everlasting life—especially people who are committed to God? What would you do about believers? You'd look for the Christian's kryptonite. You'd quickly discover that drugs and alcohol would work for some but not for most. You'd discover immorality and dishonesty and covetousness would work for some but not for most. But if you were the devil, you'd discover that if you could get in between people and prayer, and in between people and reading the Bible, you'd have found the key to robbing people of their spiritual strength. The Christian's kryptonite is neglecting the Bible and prayer. Do you think the devil knows that? He sure does. Do you think the devil has been successful with that? He certainly has, and we see the evidence of that all around us. So here's what you do. You put God *first*. Don't give God what's left over. Give Him what's best. Protect your time with God—make sure you read the Bible, make sure there's time to pray. Put God first, and there won't be any spiritual kryptonite to rob you of your spiritual strength.

Associated verse: Romans 1:16

18. Happiness; God; Faith

It's official, then. A researcher says that being a billionaire does *not* make you happier. He states that money doesn't make you happier, but instead magnifies your personality. Happy people, he says, get happier when their wealth increases, and unhappy people get unhappier. Many people who become wealthy discover that that wealth brings a lot of complications with it. A person dealing with poverty also

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

experiences complications, but more money doesn't necessarily make him or her happier. Money or not, where can we find real happiness? We find happiness in the presence of God.

Associated verse: Psalm 16:11

19. Salvation

A group of tourists in Iceland discovered one of their party was lost. So they started searching for the lost person. After a while one of the women in the group realized it was *her* they were all looking for. The lost woman was *in* the search party looking for the lost woman! How can you be lost when you're in the middle of your own group? We might ask how a person can be lost when they're part of a church family. But it can happen ...

Associated verse: Luke 2:45

20. Joy; Genuine Christianity

A man wrote recently about his experience as a fake shopper. A business struggling to attract customers owing to construction outside its front door hired people to pretend to be happy shoppers. The idea was that people outside the store would see something going on inside; they would see that the people in the store looked happy, and they would be attracted to come inside. There's a message there, isn't there? What if people looked inside the church and saw happy, satisfied people in the church? Would that be attractive to people on the outside? It would certainly be a whole lot more attractive than looking in from the outside and seeing unhappy, unkind, unloving, joyless people! What do people see when they look into your church? Or even your heart? People see joy, happiness, excitement, and they want to be part of it. And the same principle is true in matters of faith. No one wants to be part of something that doesn't exude joy. Thankfully we don't have to fake it. If Christ has you, it will shine out. If a group of believers is committed to Jesus, it will show. If God inhabits your home, it will affect you and your witness to others.

Associated verse: Matthew 5:14

21. Risks; Faith in God; Relationship with God

These stories will continue to be told. Hopefully, we can learn from them. Four people died in India when they were swept away by water flowing in a reservoir. They were ... taking a selfie. And they took a risk to impress their family and friends. A few years ago three people in California were swept over a waterfall more than 300 feet high after one of them waded out to a rock upstream to get a photo. She slipped, and that was that. Some risks aren't worth taking, and that's true in your spiritual



Introducing the new full-time channel from It Is Written!

Enjoy our great lineup for FREE on your favorite device: the award-winning *It Is Written* series; *It Is Written Classics* with founder George Vandeman; our exclusive new shows *Conversations*, *Line Upon Line*, and *In the Word*; several Spanish series including *Escrito Está*; and other high-quality programs. New programs are added daily, so watch now!

You can watch It Is Written TV
online 24/7 at **itiswritten.tv**

LOOK FOR IT IS WRITTEN TV ON THESE PLATFORMS:

itiswritten.tv



apple tv



fireTV

Roku



YouTube

The Android robot is modified from work created by Google and used under the Creative Commons 3.0 Attribution License. Apple TV is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. Amazon, Fire, and all related logos are trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates. ROKU and the ROKU Logo are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Roku, Inc.

life. To go it alone without God? That's risky. To dabble with sin? Risky, and so often fatal. Stick with Jesus. You'll be safe, and saved.

Associated verse: Acts 4:12

22. Lucky Escape; Trials; Bitterness

These are the sorts of things that leave you searching for answers that aren't easy to find. A 38 year old man was diving with friends when he was caught in a rip current and swept out to sea. His friends thought he had drowned, but the man drifted in the ocean for 75 hours. He had a buoyancy compensator with him that helped him to stay afloat, and he was wearing a sturdy wetsuit, but few people are able to survive 75 hours in the ocean, no matter what. His family thought he was dead. He was a big, strong man and physically fit and that certainly helped. But then you'll hear the story of another person who got into a scrape and didn't survive, and not a lot of that makes a great deal of sense. After the ordeal the man who spent so long in the ocean reflected on it all and said, "I'm a different person to what I was." He got the mother of all second chances, and it had a transformative effect on him. "I'm a different person." So what happens in your life when you come through tough experiences? They can embitter you, or they can transform you. It's make or break, often. You get sick and recover, survive a car accident, have what you might call a "lucky escape" from something ... What's your reaction to that? These moments happen often. Someone didn't make it home from work today, but you did. Someone got hit by a drunk driver, but you didn't. Someone died of a heart attack, but you're fine. We owe God everything. Let your blessings lead you to say, "I'm a different person."

Associated verses: Lamentations 3:22–23

23. Honesty; Small Things; Faithfulness

Research shows that one in five people who have used the self-checkout at a supermarket has stolen items as they've done so. One in five! That's a lot of dishonesty! And while stealing something at a checkout isn't quite the same as adultery or murder, there's something really wrong with the human heart that will dishonor and disregard the law of God—which happens to say, "Thou shalt not steal." Many supermarket thieves justify their theft saying it really isn't a big deal. If you decide to be faithful in small things, then you'll be faithful in big things, too. Don't cut corners in your relationship with God. There are no small things when God has your heart.

Associated verse: Luke 16:10

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

24. Sleep; Spiritual Reality

A man in a small town had trouble sleeping after he became ill. Then he had an idea. He decided to start an Internet radio station that would play only relaxing music for the purpose of putting people to sleep. He now has tens of thousands of listeners tuning in each month from Hungary, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Afghanistan, and other countries all over the world. But while it's important to get plenty of sleep, God wants you to be wide awake to spiritual realities. While some people are determined to drift off to sleep and ignore God, the truth is you want to be wide awake.

Associated verse: Matthew 25:5

25. Wisdom; Education; Scripture

A year at an Ivy League university costs around \$55,000. And that will buy you a great education, and enhanced career prospects. But now think for a moment of someone you know—or knew—who was really wise. People will usually say something like, “My grandfather. My father. My grandmother.” Very often, the people who are considered to be the very wisest—people who have influenced someone's life—are people who didn't have a great education in terms of academics. Of course, you can be well educated, have advanced degrees, *and* still be wise. But where does real wisdom come from? Job 28:28 says, “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.” The principles of the Bible and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit give true wisdom.

Associated verse: Job 28:28

26. The Bible; Truth; Bible Study

In the 19th century, bicycles suddenly became a huge craze, and bicycle manufacturers sprang up everywhere. The famous Wright brothers repaired, sold and manufactured bicycles. But back in those days some doctors warned that people would develop “bicycle face.” They said that a person's face might end up in a permanent grimace, eyes bulging and jaw clenched, as a result of riding a bicycle. (It's a bit like when someone told you as a kid, “If you keep doing that, your face will stay that way.”) Of course, that was ridiculous, but in their sincerity even educated people said nonsensical things about subjects they simply didn't understand. That's why doctors practiced bloodletting, which was only discontinued in the early 19th century. President George Washington asked to be “bled,” and that bloodletting likely contributed to his death. But the same thing happens with the Bible, where people—sometimes well-educated and well-respected people—comment on the Bible without actually understanding just what it is they're saying. So what do you do? You read for yourself. There's no shortage of people with a new idea or a revised

understanding of what the Bible says. Always check the Bible for yourself. Don't be led astray by the opinions or claims of others.

Associated verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

27. Second Coming; Truth

So, does the Loch Ness Monster really exist? I'm going out on a limb here, and I'm saying ... No. In spite of the hype and all of the publicity and the claims made over the years, there's just no proof. Canada's equivalent of Scotland's Loch Ness Monster is Ogopogo, said to inhabit Okanagan Lake in British Columbia. There are people who genuinely believe in the existence of the Sasquatch. But their belief doesn't make a wrong right. When it comes to the second coming of Jesus, we have not been fooled. This isn't make-believe. It hasn't happened yet, but it will. This is what Paul called the Blessed Hope. Jesus' return is as sure as tomorrow's sunrise.

Associated verses: 2 Peter 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; John 14:1–3

28. Second Coming; Preparation

You'll see people rush to the gate at an airport, and then they're desperate when they find that their flight has already departed. You get to the bus stop just in time to see the bus pulling away; it can be a long wait until the next bus comes. That's a bad feeling. But it's nothing compared to what far too many people will go through at the return of Jesus when they discover it's real, and they're not ready. What should be the happiest moment of every life is going to be calamitous for many people.

Associated verse: Revelation 1:7b

29. Encouragement; Hope; Faith

What is it that keeps you going? You work hard to get through that long shift at work because your family is depending on you. You run that extra mile because you know that your training will pay off, and you'll reach your goal of running your first marathon. You keep sharing your faith because you know that one day someone you speak to will give their heart to Jesus. But in all of these things you can encounter setbacks and disappointments. So what keeps you going? King David went through some real hardships in his experience, but there was something that got him through. He says in Psalm 27:13, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." David said he simply wouldn't have made it through if he didn't believe that. So what keeps you going? Don't lose heart. We'll see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Let that hope encourage you.

Associated verse: Psalm 27:13

30. Small Things

In 1916 an Irish nationalist was hanged for treason. But his life was very nearly spared. It all depended on the placing of a comma in the Treason Act, which was passed in 1351 by the British Parliament. The court in the case of Roger Casement, the Irishman, decided that the comma mattered, and he was found guilty and executed. Small things evidently matter, even something as small as a comma.

Associated verse: Luke 23:43

31. Honesty; Money

Roommates—university students—bought a used sofa for their apartment from a second-hand store. They paid \$20. They noticed it was a little lumpy, and in the process of getting it settled into their home they discovered \$40,000 stuffed in envelopes and hidden in the sofa. They started to dream about what they could do with the money. They were students, after all! But they realized the right thing to do was to find the original owner of the sofa, and when they did, they learned that the woman's deceased husband had saved that money so she'd have something when he was gone. And now she did. It's always better to do the right thing, and honesty is always the best policy. When you have a chance to explain to the person at the cash register that they've given you too much money, when you realize you're not actually entitled to that tax return, when you discover that the person who moved out of the apartment before you left something valuable behind, it's hard to feel good about yourself if you're not honest about it. And, of course, God wants you to be honest in all things. These moments are tests, tests which reveal to us what we're really like.

Associated verse: Romans 12:17

32. Genuine Christianity

This fascinating age in which we live has presented us with challenges we didn't face a generation ago. News websites often run click-bait headlines you wouldn't have seen years ago because the business model for Internet news involves getting you to click. Fewer clicks, less revenue, so outrageous or sensational or provocative or inappropriate headlines vie for your attention. Society is left to navigate a maze of half-truths, this phenomenon of style over substance. A cynic might say that Internet news agencies learned this trick from the church, which for years and years has in many quarters been more about the butter and less about the bread. "It's a miracle!" has attracted worshipers when the word of God has been little more than an accessory after the fact. "God is going to shower you with blessings and the money is going to flow," is often heard. We know Jesus never promised wealth to everyone. The Bible warns about the love of money while big-name preachers ask

for donations for private jets. It's common that pleasing interpretations of Scripture are popular without being Biblical. Popular churches will be full for an hour a week, but Christians often seem to be little different from non-Christians. Is there a way we as Christians can rise higher than that? There is. Christianity isn't about click-bait or window dressing or headline grabbing. You don't want to confuse the frosting for the cake in matters of faith. Christianity has substance.

Associated verses: John 8:31–32

33. Health

She was sick. She wasn't even sure what was wrong, but her health was crashing and she needed to do something. She felt God was telling her to follow a Biblical diet, so she read the Bible and chose to follow what she found—that the original diet was made up of fruits, grains, nuts and then vegetables. And her health improved, she completely recovered, and now she lectures on health and encourages others. Of course, one person's experience isn't always prescriptive for another person, and you want to do what you do in consultation with a doctor. But the psalmist wrote in Psalm 67:2 that God's way “may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.” The Bible promises you that God's presence in your life will be a blessing to you physically.

Associated verses: Psalm 67:2; 3 John 2

34. Priorities; Finance

So tell me what this is. It was described in a news report as having “a nose of rich, dark, dried fruits—raisins, dates and prunes—with wonderfully woody spices (cloves) and treacle toffee,” a palate of “robust resinous wood, sweetened with medium treacle toffee and rich dried fruits,” and a finish of “drying wood with dark dried fruits and treacle toffee.” So what could be so wonderful? That's a bottle of old scotch whiskey being described, which sold for almost \$1.9 million. Of course it's absurd that a bottle of alcohol should sell for just under two million dollars. Even though it might have been bought as an investment, that's an enormous amount of money to spend and might just represent that someone's priorities were a little out of balance. What you spend is a commentary on where your heart is. What do your receipts say about your priorities?

Associated verse: Luke 12:34

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

35. Salvation

The Rubik's Cube was invented by a man in Hungary in 1974. In the 1980s it really took off. Hundreds of millions of them have now been sold. What you might not have known is that there are 43 quintillion, 252 quadrillion, 3 trillion, 274 billion, 489 million, 856 thousand possible arrangements for a Rubik's Cube—and I'm sure I've tried most of them. But here's what might surprise you—or even disappoint you. A Rubik's Cube is never further than 20 moves away from being solved. Once you know how, it's not that complicated. But if you don't know how, it's seemingly impossible. Salvation may seem a little bit like that. For some people it's endlessly complicated, and some preachers make it seem that way. But figuring out salvation shouldn't be like figuring out a Rubik's Cube. Paul and Silas told a jail keeper in Philippi, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." (Acts 16:31.) We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus. It's simple.

Associated verse: Acts 16:31

36. Plans; Surrender

The third-largest city in California by land area is ... not L.A., not Sacramento, not San Diego, not San Francisco. The third-largest city in California by land area is California City, about 100 miles north of Los Angeles. In the late 1950s there was a master plan to turn it into a city larger than Los Angeles. Lots sold like hot cakes, homes were built, but it all basically came to nothing. About 14,000 people live there today. You don't want your plans to come to nothing, but if God's not in them that's what will happen. When King David was nearing the end of his life, Adonijah, David's fourth son, the son of Haggith, declared that he was going to be the new king. He gathered a group of supporters, and it was reported the group were saying, "God save King Adonijah." This would mean that Solomon would not have been king—not then at least—and in all likelihood would have been killed by Adonijah. But Adonijah's plans came to nothing. Wise people make plans. But wise plans are made in accordance with God's plans. You might want to attend an Ivy League school, or retire early, or buy a new home, or pursue a certain career, or marry him or her, or live in the city or in the country—and that's all fine unless, of course, your plans aren't what God wants. If your plans aren't filtered through God's will for your life, you're just buying for yourself a frustrated future. The original vision for California City just didn't work out. If your plans are connected to God's plans for you, they'll work out every time.

Associated verse: 1 Kings 1:49

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

37. Anger; Temptation; Surrender; Sin

A psychologist in Maryland wrote that “uncontrolled anger has become our number one mental health issue.” A lot of crime is committed in anger—crimes of passion, they’re often called. Road rage for example. Almost everyone can think of things they’ve witnessed or done that are the result of anger. But instead of lashing out when temptation comes, you can turn to God, and He’ll deal with those destructive impulses. Of all people, Jesus could have been angry, but instead of getting angry or getting even, He prayed God would forgive His tormentors. You don’t have to cave in to anger. God can guide you out of what is so often really bad news.

Associated verses: Ecclesiastes 7:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 4:26

38. Faith; Relationship with God

If you’ve done much swimming at the beach, then you’re familiar with this. You get in the water, and before you know it, you’re farther down the beach than when you started. Sometimes a long way down the beach. That’s because you drifted. There doesn’t need to be a storm or heavy seas or big waves; it’s just the way it goes. You drift. When you get out of the water, you can be a long way from where you got into the water. Your faith in God can be like that. If you’re not careful, you’ll drift. That’s the tendency—unless you’re closely connected to Jesus, unless you’re mindful of where you are.

Associated verse: Hebrews 2:1

39. The Bible; Prophecy

Before a general election in Australia, almost everyone agreed that the prime minister would not be reelected. It seemed impossible. The opposition party was popular, and the government at that time was extremely unpopular. But an information technology professor at a university in Queensland predicted the party in power would win the election, and the no-chance prime minister would be returned. And that’s exactly what happened. The professor’s thorough analysis led him to believe that the unlikely would happen, which it did. There are many things you see in the Bible that can strike you as unlikely, or even impossible. There are people who claim there was no creation, no virgin birth, no resurrection of Jesus, and that there’ll be no return of Jesus. But God’s actions aren’t dependent on anyone’s expectations. If you look at the Bible, you’ll see that God has done the impossible again and again. You can trust the Bible. God’s Word has a track record that we simply should not ignore.

Associated verse: Isaiah 13:17

40. Faith; Evidence; The Bible

A man had an argument with his wife late at night and then left the home to buy himself some food. When he came home, he discovered she'd been horribly attacked, and he was charged with and then convicted of the crime. Even though a person at the fast food restaurant said he had been there, even though he had warm food with him when the police arrived, even though there were no witnesses... he was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison, and he was refused parole because he wouldn't admit guilt. After serving 16 years in prison he was exonerated due to DNA evidence and another man's confession. How does someone get convicted of a crime when it seems any reasonable person would look at the facts and say, "He didn't do that"? Confirmation bias is real. When you have a certain narrative in your mind, you interpret evidence in such a way that it confirms your bias. It often happens in matters of faith. Suppose someone wants to believe humans evolved. Show them evidence that the Bible can be believed, and they may reject the biblical evidence. Present scientific evidence, and it's thrown out because it doesn't fit with someone's ideas. Show an atheist a sunset or a penguin or the development of a baby in the womb, and they'll say that isn't God's doing, and simply the way things happen. No one in their right mind would say a computer designed itself, but it's somehow rational to believe that the human cell—and the human being—just happened all on their own. If you're a thinker, think. Use your mind to weigh up the evidence.

Associated verse: Luke 23:21

41. Progress; God; Change

We have cameras without film, phones that aren't attached to a wall, meatless burgers, driverless cars, and the ability to communicate with virtually anyone, anywhere, anytime. There are virtually no more pay phones. There are basically no more record stores, no one uses folding maps when they drive, and not only are cassette tapes history, but CDs have just about gone the same way. Young adults don't remember 9/11—it's been that long—nor do they remember a time when airport security wasn't like it is now. Many people don't know their friends' phone numbers—or their children's phone numbers. People don't go out to eat without reading reviews of the restaurant first, there are more TV channels than you can count, and people now watch movies without going to the theater or to a video store to rent them. We're now closer to the year 2050 than 1990. A phone isn't just a phone anymore, but it's a GPS map, something you play music on, a flashlight, a video camera, a tool for editing photos and music and video. You can use it to pay for your groceries, play games, or watch TV, and do who knows how much more. People don't smoke in restaurants or on buses or trains or planes. Things have changed! But while things

continue to change rapidly, there's one thing that doesn't change. One Person that doesn't change. And that's ... God. God said in Malachi 3:6, "I am the Lord, I change not." God was love and still is love. God was good and always will be. God is patient and kind and merciful, and that isn't going to change.

Associated verse: Malachi 3:6

42. Words; Love

If you seed a lawn you're doing something different than if you're seeding a tomato. Dusting the furniture means you're taking dust away, while dusting your crops means you're putting something on. You can stone peaches, or you could stone your neighbor—two very different things. If a man cleaves to his wife, they're together, but if he cleaves a block of wood, it's split apart. A company can weather a recession, but a fence that is weathered is in bad shape, not good shape. A lot depends on how you use a word. Think of "love." You love ice cream, love your dog, love a special person; but what about love for God? That's different, surely, to your love for ice cream, or your love for your brother, or your love for Thanksgiving. What does love for God look like? Jesus calls for everything you've got. Of course, you grow in your commitment to Him. But be sure to surrender everything to God. That's what love looks like.

Associated verse: Matthew 22:37

43. God; Miracles

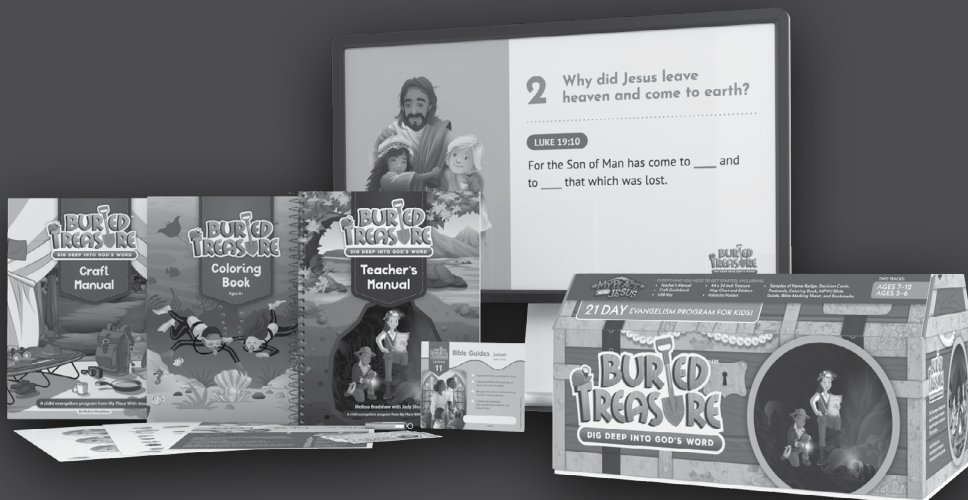
In 1848 people were astonished to see that Niagara Falls had run dry. There was no water going over the falls. It also happened in 1969 when the river was intentionally dammed so the Army Corps of Engineers could do some work. But in 1848, ice upstream dammed the river and cut off water, so for a couple of days people could explore the falls like they'd never done before. You'd be surprised to see a waterfall dry up. Imagine the surprise of the children of Israel to see water come out of a rock, or to see the ground carpeted with manna, or to see the Red Sea open up. Imagine the surprise of people in Jesus' day to see the blind receive their sight, to see the lame walk or to see water turned into wine. God is God; He is able, He is sovereign. Don't limit what God can do, especially in your own life. We shouldn't be surprised when God surprises us. Expect big things from God.

Associated verse: Exodus 17:6

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach



21-day evangelism program for kids



Child evangelism is an extremely important aspect of evangelism as a whole and a vital part of the ministry of the church.

Buried Treasure provides you with an effective, Christ-centered way of not only sharing Jesus with children but also encouraging them to make decisions for Jesus that will last a lifetime.

Featuring original songs, crafts, games, and life-changing Bible learning opportunities, Buried Treasure is specially designed to be

used during an evangelistic series. Buried Treasure enables children to learn many of the major teachings of the Bible in a Christ-centered way. Understanding the Bible should be for the whole family, and it is, thanks to Buried Treasure.

Buried Treasure is easy to use and connects children with Jesus, their Savior, and friend. Children will dig into the Bible, and discover that Jesus is the most precious treasure of all!

See complete list of kit contents on itiswritten.shop.

To order call 888-664-5573 or visit itiswritten.shop

44. Eternal Life

In 1940 the life expectancy for all Americans was just 62.9 years. By 2000 it was up to 76.8, and in 2014 it was 78.8. And that's due in part to lifestyle—we eat better and exercise more, and we can also credit improvements in education and science. But while we strive to see those life-expectancy numbers rise, the really good news is that the life expectancy for believers in Jesus is ... really old. God's plan is to give us immortality. People very clearly want to live longer. That's why we have life support and expensive treatments for serious illnesses. But God offers you the longest life—life in connection with Jesus.

Associated verse: 1 Corinthians 15:53

45. The Bible; Bible Study

When a school teacher in Georgia received the insurance policy she had recently purchased, she did something the vast majority of people do not do. She read the policy. All of it. Including the fine print. And in the fine print she found something she was not expecting: A note that said, "If you are reading this during the contest period, be the first to contact us and win \$10,000." So she contacted Squaremouth, the insurance company, and won \$10,000, in a contest designed to raise awareness of reading your policy. The company didn't think anyone would actually read the entire policy. When it comes to the Bible, read it carefully. Notice what God is saying. Don't ignore certain parts of the Bible. Don't ignore the "fine print." And you'll receive blessings you might not expect.

Associated verse: 2 Timothy 3:16

46. Sin; Temptation

A 17-and-a-half foot long Burmese python was caught in the Florida everglades. That's a big snake. And it was pregnant with an unbelievable 73 eggs, so before long there would have been many more Burmese pythons slithering about. So what is a Burmese Python doing in the Florida everglades? Burmese pythons are not native to Florida, but it's thought some escaped from a breeding facility after a hurricane in 1992, while it's likely others were abandoned in the everglades by pet owners because they got too big. It's estimated there are now tens of thousands of Burmese pythons in the everglades. Give them an inch, they will take a mile. Give sin an inch, and sin will take a mile. Give the devil a toehold, and before long it's a foothold.

Associated verse: Ephesians 4:27

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

47. Relationships; Surrender

A couple in North Carolina celebrated their 82nd wedding anniversary. He was 103, and she was 100. They were asked what the secret is to living long and keeping their marriage healthy. Mrs Williams said, “Just be nice to each other.” Isn’t that good advice? Counseling? Sure. Books and classes? Very good. Psychology? Why not? But the key to happiness in relationships simply comes down to this: Just be nice to each other. If we could remember that, we’d really be remembering something important. The challenge, of course, is being able to be nice under pressure, in a rough place, when someone mistreats you. But when God has your heart, He can keep you in His way.

Associated verse: Matthew 7:12

48. Character of God

A 32-year-old woman was driving home from her cosmetology class on August 1, 2007. Becoming a cosmetologist was “her lifetime dream.” But as she drove home something happened that she could never have expected. The 8-lane bridge across I 35 collapsed as she was driving across it. It was rush hour, and traffic was bumper to bumper. Thirteen people were killed and 145 were injured. This young lady’s ex-husband said, “God can be so cruel sometimes.” But is that really what God is like?

Associated verses: 1 John 4:83

49. Health; Diet

The prestigious English medical journal, *The Lancet*, recently announced that one in five deaths is linked to unhealthy eating habits. It said people aren’t consuming enough nuts, seeds and whole grains, and are consuming too much processed meat, sodium and sugary drinks. A University of Washington professor said, “Poor diet is responsible for more deaths than any other risk factor in the world.” We’re eating ourselves to death. It would seem that in this day and age most people know the difference between healthy and unhealthy. There’s enough information around on the subject. It’s hard to imagine anyone really doesn’t know. Maybe the missing link is the “how-to,” taking that knowledge and turning it into action. The same is true spiritually. Most of us know the difference between right and wrong, we know it’s not right to hate, or steal, or commit adultery, or to be racist. But people find themselves going back to those behaviors—those sins—over and over again, like someone slowly killing himself through poor habits. But here’s what we know. Jesus is able to change any heart. He can do in your life what you could never do yourself.

Associated verses: Philippians 4:13; Genesis 1:27

50. Truth; Tradition; The Bible

When the “Holy Staircase” in Rome was reopened after being renovated for a year, the news media reported on the event. What they said was interesting. One very large and respected news organization said that they “are the same steps Jesus climbed before being tried by the Roman governor and sentenced to crucifixion.” Of course they are not. That’s a legend, a myth. Even the Catholic Church officially says *at the staircase itself*, “Whatever the origin of the stairs, they serve as a reminder of...” and so on. But a mis-truth is told, then reported, so that people who read it, believe without question. How often is that true in life! And how often is that true spiritually. Mis-truths get stated again and again, and before long, they’re taken as true.

Associated verses: Revelation 21:27; John 17:3

51. Truth; Holy Spirit

Northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, is a patch of ground known as Area 51. There’s a government military installation there operated by the Air Force, and whatever goes on at Area 51 is top secret. It’s claimed that several aircraft were developed at the site, and research projects are evidently conducted there. Some people say aliens and alien spacecraft are kept there. There’s a whole movement of people convinced the government is hiding the truth about what really goes on at Area 51 because they don’t want us knowing about aliens and alien craft. The truth about Area 51 is probably known only to the people who work there. But one thing we *can* know is God’s truth. God wants us to understand His word. Let the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth.

Associated verse: John 16:13

52. Temptation; Sin

On May 1, 1960, an American U2 spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union, and pilot Gary Powers was captured by the KGB and imprisoned. The U2 plane wasn’t supposed to be flying in Soviet airspace, but it was thought that flying at 70,000 or so feet would mean the plane and its pilot would be safe, out of the range of enemy fire. But the military on the ground had surface to air missiles. Although U.S. forces thought Gary Powers was safe at that altitude, he certainly wasn’t. You don’t want to make the mistake of thinking you’re spiritually bulletproof, as though temptation won’t get you, as though you won’t be overtaken by temptation. Every person alive needs to guard against spiritual presumption. There’s an enemy firing at you. And the only place you’re safe is in the arms and heart of Jesus.

Associated verse: 1 Corinthians 10:12

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

53. Jesus; Witnessing

There are 66.5 million people in Great Britain, but only two percent of them are able to look up into “truly dark” skies, and therefore can’t clearly see stars because of light pollution. In many of the UK’s major cities most people can’t see a single star in the sky. How many people today can clearly see Jesus? If they’re not reading the Bible, where might they see Him? That’s where we come in. Jesus said in John 13:35, “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” That’s not always easy because someone just cut you off in traffic, or someone was unkind, or you had your mind on other things. Imagine not being able to see the stars! That’s reality for many people. Imagine not being able to see Jesus? That’s reality, too. God is calling us to let others see Jesus in us.

Associated verse: John 13:35

54. The Christian Life; Discouragement

The 2019 Boston Marathon, 26.2 miles long, was notable for its incredible finish. Three athletes were running together with only a few hundred yards left in the race, and two of them fought out an epic sprint to the finish line. After 26 miles, they somehow found the energy to sprint, with Laurence Cherono of Kenya edging out his Ethiopian rival by two-tenths of a second. The Bible says something similar about God’s people in Earth’s last days. Matthew 24:13, “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Sometimes the road seems long. Sometimes it feels like you’ve blown it. There’ll be times when you wonder if you can go on. But you can. If you’ve started the Christian race, don’t stop now. Don’t let discouragement or anything else hold you back. Keep your eyes on Jesus, and He’ll give you the grace you need to finish strong.

Associated verse: Matthew 24:13

55. Sin; The Christian Life

In March 1979 a partial meltdown of a reactor occurred at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station just outside Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. About 140,000 people evacuated the area, and a relatively small amount of radioactivity escaped into the atmosphere. No one died in the accident and no injuries or illnesses were linked with it, but when radiation leaks into the environment, we know that’s serious. Pregnant women were taken to a safe zone, and people were urged to stay in their homes—because radiation is deadly. Now let’s keep in mind that sin is deadly, and we ought to want to avoid that more than radiation. What are you doing to avoid sin, to prevent it from taking root in your life?

Associated verse: 1 Corinthians 15:34

56. Value; Love of God

In 1943 a young man from Oregon was killed in battle on the island of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands (in the western Pacific). But Private First Class Dale Ross never made it home. His remains were not found. Then in 2017, a World War II researcher visiting the Solomons met someone who had found dog tags and remains. They belonged to Private Ross. Seventy-six years after he died, Dale Ross finally made it home. It's not rare for a person to feel like they're forgotten, left behind, unimportant, but you're important to God. Matthew 10:29–31 says, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." You're not forgotten. You matter to God. And soon, Jesus is coming back to bring you home.

Associated verses: Matthew 10:29–31

57. Jesus

When a truck overturned in an accident on Interstate 70 about half way between St. Louis and Indianapolis, 3000 piglets were released. Local fire departments, department of transportation workers, police—in fact, anyone who could—helped round up the little piggies. One hundred of them died, but the rest were okay. It reminds me of the Bible story where demons went out of a man and into a herd of swine. But in that case, the locals were angry with Jesus for what He had done, and insisted He leave their area. It's hard to imagine someone telling Jesus to go away, but I wonder if there are ever times that you don't want Jesus around—or times that He gets that impression? We can't afford to be without God's presence even for a moment.

Associated verse: Mark 5:17

58. Prayer

A fishing boat was hit by a freak wave and flipped, and the crew of three—two men and a woman—ended up in the cold ocean water for two hours waiting before being rescued. The 47-year-old captain of the fishing vessel said later, "I was praying and I'm not a praying man, but I was that day." Why wait until an emergency to pray?

Associated verse: Luke 18:1

59. Making Changes; Health

Public health researchers at Harvard University reported that people who drink two or more sugar-sweetened beverages a day—drinks such as soda, sports drinks, and sugar-sweetened fruit drinks—have a far greater chance of dying early than people who drink one or less a month. Some researchers are saying these findings

will mean the death of soda because people will stop drinking it. But how likely do you think that is? While the report was undoubtedly factually correct, the claims of those researchers could not have been further from the truth. Since when have people given up bad things that they enjoy? It was stated a few years ago that processed meat causes cancer. Sales of processed meat weren't affected at all. The Bible says our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We're told drinking sugary drinks shorten our lives. There are about ten teaspoons of sugar in a can of many soda drinks. The human body wasn't designed to ingest that much sugar in one hit. But now that we know this, are we going to change? People know smoking kills; but they still smoke. Alcohol has devastating effects on families and communities, but alcohol sales are still strong. Simply knowing something is bad doesn't seem to cause too many people to alter their behavior. Thankfully, God has the power we need to bring about lasting change in our lives.

Associated verse: 1 Corinthians 6:19

60. Small Things

Something went wrong when a vintage aircraft performing an acrobatic display at an air show in England plummeted towards the ground. The pilot managed to pull the plane out of the nosedive just fifty feet above the ground. That was close! Investigations revealed there was nothing wrong with the plane, except that a writing pen in the cockpit of the plane had gotten loose and jammed the plane's controls. A small pen just about crashed an aircraft and almost killed the pilot. It's often the little things that do great harm. A word carelessly spoken, an inappropriate comment, criticism, gossip—they can all do incalculable damage. Watch the little things. You don't want a small thing to cause you to nosedive.

Associated verse: James 3:13

61. Doctrine; Truth

The Pew research group recently published some alarming findings. They said that while 62% of Americans hold at least one New Age belief, half of all people who go to church weekly *also* hold at least one New Age belief. Nineteen percent of evangelicals say they believe in reincarnation, while 33% believe in psychics! Plenty of Christians use crystals, which are said to be healing stones, harnessing—to quote one source—“the life-giving elements of the earth and the universe.” These beliefs are neither Christian nor harmless. It's concerning to see how people can so easily be led away from God's plan.

Associated verse: John 4:24

62. Plans; Outcomes; The Mind

When the British Airways flight that left the London City Airport in England landed in Edinburgh, Scotland, passengers thought someone was joking. The flight was supposed to land in Dusseldorf, Germany. It takes just as long to fly from London to Edinburgh as it does to Dusseldorf, so before the flight landed, no one suspected anything was wrong. But something very definitely *was* wrong. The company operating the flight for British Airways filed the wrong flight plan. What was put into the computer affected the final outcome. What you put into your mind affects your final outcome. The Bible provides the flight plan for your daily life. Let your decisions, your intentions, your actions be guided by God's Word, and you'll follow the right path.

Associated verse: Psalm 48:14

63. Happiness; Mental Health

The commissioner of the National Basketball Association said early in 2019 that a lot of professional basketball players are “generally unhappy,” that there’s an enormous amount of jealousy among players, and that there are “pervasive feelings of loneliness and melancholy across the league.” He said many players are lonely. You might expect that young men earning tons of money living a glamorous lifestyle would be happy. No doubt some are, but the man who runs the league says there are major mental health issues among players, calling this a “generational issue.” Mental health is vitally important, so where do we find true happiness? There’s only one place to find *true* happiness, and that’s in God’s presence.

Associated verse: Psalm 16:11

64. Thankfulness; Trials

A woman was speaking with a teenage girl who was a refugee. War had forced her family to flee their country, and they were living in extremely challenging conditions. Someone said to the young lady, “I’m so sorry for what you went through, having to leave your home and country, having to endure war and bombings.” Her answer was quite incredible. She said, “I’m not at all sorry it happened.” Now why would she say that? She said, “If the war hadn’t forced us from our home, then I wouldn’t be here where I am now, and I would never have learned about Jesus.” Not only is that a positive way of looking at things, it reminds us that God has a purpose even in our toughest challenges.

Associated verses: Romans 8:28; Matthew 28:20

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

65. Fear; Trust in God

If you don't have a phobia, you might not be able to relate, but a real phobia can be disabling. A lady once told a pastor that even if there was a million dollars on the bottom of the baptistery, she wouldn't go in to get it owing to her hydrophobia (fear of water.) Some people struggle with claustrophobia, others arachnophobia (fear of spiders), and then you get gephyrophobia (fear of bridges), ecclesiophobia (fear of churches), triskaidekaphobia (fear of the number 13) and even phobophobia, which is fear of fear. Some fears are irrational, but some are deeply linked to triggers and episodes in a person's life, so they can't easily be dismissed. But, if you're dealing with helminthophobia (fear of worms), graphophobia (fear of writing) or scotophobia (the fear of the dark), or any phobia, remember what the Bible says. "Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You." (Psalm 56:3).

Associated verse: Psalm 56:3

66. Judging Others

Here's an interesting word—*misophonia*. It combines *miso*, a Greek word that means "hate," and *phonia* which means "voice," or in this case, "sound." Misophonia means "a sound you hate." And there are people for whom certain sounds cause anger, or disgust, or anxiety. The brain's alarm system—the amygdala—does its thing and deep down in the brain there's something that causes a person to perceive these sounds as a threat. That might not happen to you, but it happens to others. This helps me to remember we're not all the same, and we don't all have the same issues. Transfer that over to a spiritual experience. You might not ever have an issue with addiction, but there are people who do. You might not be able to understand why someone can be so flaky or so irresponsible, but maybe we need to remember that we as people are varied, and we have differing strengths and weaknesses. Someone gets drunk, someone gets caught in adultery, someone gets caught in an act of dishonesty—the knee-jerk response is often to castigate or shun or shame or berate. But the Bible urges us to bear one another's burdens, to help people up when we might just want to help them out the door.

Associated verses: Galatians 6:1–2

67. Warnings; Judgment; Second Coming

In 1959 construction was completed on the tallest dam in the world. It rose 860 feet above the village of Longarone, 60 miles north of Venice in Italy. During construction it became apparent that the mountains around the dam were unstable, and engineers warned there could be landslides. A landslide crashing into a dam would cause water to spill over the front of the dam, and that would be a disaster. But the

warnings were ignored. In fact, journalists who raised the alarm were sued by the Italian government for “undermining the social order.” Four years after the dam was completed a massive landslide dumped so much rock and dirt and debris into the dam—in a very big hurry—that an enormous wave 820 feet high surged over the top of the dam down into the valley, inundating five villages and killing around 2000 people. It wouldn’t have happened if people had listened to the warnings. Are you listening to the warnings? The Bible warns of a time of trouble coming. It warns about the return of Jesus. There are warnings about sin and judgment and the fate of the lost. But really, they’re more than warnings. They’re opportunities to be in the right relationship with God. Luke 12:40 says, “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Jesus is coming back soon. Knowing that is an opportunity. Knowing the Bible talks about a time of trouble, that’s an opportunity—to come to Jesus in faith and accept Him as your Lord and Savior. If you’re living close to Jesus, hold on and don’t let go. If you’re not, you’re hearing this because God loves you and wants you to make the decision to let Jesus into your heart and life. If you haven’t made that decision, don’t wait a moment longer to do so. Do it now.

Associated verses: Luke 12: 40; Matthew 24:23–25

68. Reactions; Anger; Mistakes

Have you ever been angry and wanted to react? Someone does something dishonest or unjust, and you feel like setting them straight or taking revenge. A man in England who hadn’t been paid the £600 for work he’d done, was so upset that he drove a backhoe into the foyer of a hotel in Liverpool and went on a rampage, causing massive damage. But here’s the thing. He actually *had* been paid. There was a glitch at the bank and the money was transferred into his account late. Even as he was demolishing that foyer, the money was in his account. James wrote in James 1:19, “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.” Take a deep breath, think, pray—and you’ll do much less that you’ll later regret.

Associated verse: James 1:19

69. Wealth; Money; Judging Others

Eyebrows were raised when a hedge fund manager paid \$238 million for a home in New York City—almost double the price of the nation’s previous most expensive home. It occupies four floors in a residential skyscraper next to Central Park. Who would spend that sort of money on a home? It’s easy to default to criticism when you

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

hear something like that, easy to be critical of the über rich who have “far too much money.” But before you go there, it’s good to remember that our house-buying man has donated half a billion dollars to numerous charitable causes, including education and research. You can’t judge a person’s motives. A man innocently asked a friend once why he bought such a big vehicle. It was huge. His response: “Tax reasons.” The bigger vehicle got him a big tax break, so it made financial sense to buy the much bigger vehicle. When others spend money on one thing or another, those of us who don’t are wise to refrain from judging.

Associated verses: John 7:24; Matthew 7:1

70. Technology; Priorities

Technology has brought the world some wonderful innovations. The mobile phone. 3D printing. Self-driving cars. And now—\$350 basketball shoes that lace themselves up using an app on your smartphone. I’m sure someone is excited by that, but ask yourself: Of the things that you think are important, which are *really* important? Sports? No. TV? No. Work? Yes, but ... Family? Yes. Faith in God? *Yes!* Some things we could probably just let go of. If it’s time to weed some things out of your life, don’t wait any longer.

Associated verses: Matthew 6:33; Deuteronomy 6:5; Mark 8:36–37

71. Influence

It’s not uncommon these days to hear about someone who is an “influencer.” Social media “influencers” encourage others to buy or use certain products. An “influencer” might say, “I just love this brand of exercise clothing!” and post that to his or her Instagram account, for example, and millions of people are “influenced.” Influencers might be celebrities, musicians, or just a regular kid who gained a social media following so big that she or he can “influence” huge numbers of people. You know, God’s plan is that *everyone* is an influencer—maybe not online, but certainly in everyday life. Whether you realize it or not, you influence people all the time, sometimes positively, and maybe sometimes negatively. Attitudes, words, and actions all influence other people. How are you using *your* influence? When someone interacts with you, are they left feeling drawn towards God or ... the opposite? Jesus was an influencer—and it didn’t seem to matter who He was with. Sinners were influenced by His patience, His kindness, and His love. Religious leaders were influenced by His wisdom, His holiness, and His uncompromising life. When His path crossed those who were demon possessed, the influence He had on them was powerful. Remember

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

that you have influence. Your influence can be great with children or grandchildren. With the Uber driver or the FedEx driver, your influence might be smaller, but it's still there. Use the influence that you have to point people towards the God of heaven.

Associated verses: John 5:40; Matthew 5:13–16; 1 Peter 3:16; 1 Peter 2:12

72. Salvation; Surrender

The headline read, “A billion dollars nobody wants.” The United States government produces one dollar coins, but unlike in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, or in Britain with one pound coins, they're just not popular with the public. They've never caught on. So in vaults all over America, there's about a billion dollars worth of dollar coins sitting unused. All that money, just sitting there. Perfectly good money that could be used, but isn't being used. But far more importantly, salvation so often isn't being claimed or accepted. Today, you and I can come to Jesus, and have life—and He's waiting to give it. Even to the most undeserving person. If you'll claim it, Jesus will give it to you. Everlasting life. It's too good to leave just sitting there.

Associated verses: John 5:40; John 6:66

73. God's leading; The Blessing of Trials

No doubt there have been times when you've failed to see the good in some unfortunate thing that's happened. A Pennsylvania man hit in the head by a professional golfer's wayward shot was found during a concussion examination to have a malignant tumor on his thyroid. A year later the man was cancer free and was able to thank the golfer who hit him with the ball. Do you think the man was thankful for having been hit by a golf ball? Not at the time, but later he was very grateful! Life can be challenging sometimes, but if you are walking with God, you have a right to believe that all things that happen in your life will ultimately work together for good.

Associated verses: Romans 8:28; Romans 12:12; James 1:2–8

74. Decisions

Years ago, if you wanted to buy soda you went to a store, and it was mixed right in front of you at a soda fountain by well-trained soda jerks. But then a man named William Painter invented the crimped metal bottle cap in the early 1890s, and that simple little thing that we take for granted today changed the way soda was bought and bottled. It's not a stretch to say it impacted the world in a big way. A decision is a small thing. But one little decision can have a big effect. A simple little decision to follow Jesus changes your life. A decision to ignore God's will for your life can bring negative consequences. One small decision can have a very, very big effect.

Associated verses: Joshua 24:15; Romans 6:16

75. Value

A man recently paid \$238 million for a home in Manhattan. Is that too much to pay? Huge sums have been paid for everything from stamps and coins to cars and paintings. Is tens of millions of dollars for a painting too much? Some years ago a man in Japan paid more than \$6,000 (USD) for a watermelon. That's a lot of money, but is it too much? When you really want something, how much is too much? What would you be willing to pay for ... eternal life? Thankfully, it's free. But Jesus said in Matthew 22:37, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Is that too much? All God asks for is your heart in what has to be the most one-sided deal in history. We get eternal life; God gets our heart.

Associated verse: Matthew 22:37

76. Surrender

After a month-long siege at Yorktown, Virginia, British Commander Lord Cornwallis surrendered to the American Continental Army led by General George Washington. Cornwallis didn't attend the surrender ceremonies. He claimed he was sick. But you can hardly blame him. Surrendering is a galling thing. No one wants to be defeated, much less admit defeat. But admitting defeat is essential for successful Christian living. Surrender is at the very heart of the gospel. We're in a war, a spiritual war we cannot win against an enemy we cannot defeat. But when we surrender to Jesus, He lives His life in you. When you surrender, you're saying you'll no longer fight God, and you want Him to take over. Surrender is the way to victory.

Associated verses: Romans 6:13; Galatians 2:20

77. Judging Others

Several years ago an Australian television host wore the same suit on TV every day for a year. He was conducting an experiment. His female co-host would regularly get criticized for her choice of clothing—mostly by females—so he wore the exact same suit every day for a year, and nobody noticed, and no one complained. He pointed out—very successfully—the enormous double-standard that exists in society. You'll notice that people find it easy to judge others. Especially in this online age where it's simply a matter of writing an anonymous comment. Criticism is deadly.

Associated verses: James 4:11; John 7:24; Matthew 7:1

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

78. Spiritual Growth

A university professor was recently quoted talking about the dangers of not getting enough sleep—something *very* serious. You'll frequently see news articles about the dangers of not eating enough fruit and vegetables, and by now we're all familiar with the health hazards associated with not getting enough exercise. But think about this: Getting more sleep really is not a hard thing to do. Eating more of certain foods, or taking a walk, or taking the stairs, or just being more mobile isn't difficult for most people. The experts are telling us that if we take small steps, we get big returns. Spiritually it's the same. The most important things that impact our spiritual health are prayer and reading the Bible. These are small things, simple things, that really are big things. A little neglect can become a big spiritual problem.

Associated verses: Song of Solomon 2:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 6:33

79. Commitment

A faulty door led to a man being locked in a fast-food restaurant bathroom for an hour—which couldn't have been pleasant. To make it up to the man the manager of the restaurant promised him free meals for life. After he ate there every day for the next 13 days—twice on some days—the restaurant manager rescinded the deal. No more free meals! The man got a lawyer and took the fast food place to court, demanding either the free meals or the monetary value of one free meal a week for the rest of his life. He said, "A deal is a deal!" It's true that a deal is a deal, and it's important to honor the commitments you make to God. If you're worried about a few dollars here or there, don't be. God will take care of you and make it up to you in this world or in the world to come. Our willingness to let God be the Lord of *all* of our life says a lot about the reality of our Christian experience.

Associated verses: Acts 5:2; Malachi 3:8

80. Hearing God's Voice; Guidance

Have you had a song come into your mind that you haven't heard for years, and yet you know every word, every key change, and every harmony? You last heard it in 1978 or 1988 or 1998, and yet when you hear it, you know it all. That's because you learned the song, you loved it, you sang it over and over, you listened to it on the radio, bought the record (or the cassette or the CD), or maybe you downloaded it, and it got locked into your memory so you're not going to forget it. And maybe you *wanted* to remember it. But then there are times that you look to know the will of God, and when you listen for God's voice ... there's silence. If you spend a lot of time listening to Pink Floyd, or ABBA, or Bruno Mars, or whoever it might be, those words get engraved on your brain. But if you spend that much time in God's Word,

listening to it, memorizing it, downloading it, when you turn to God for guidance, His Word will be at the front of your mind and not the back: His voice will be clear and not distant. If you up your consumption of the Word of God, you'll hear His voice much more clearly. If you need to hear more from God, listen more *to* God. You'll be amazed at the difference it makes.

Associated verses: Isaiah 30:21; Psalm 32:8; Psalm 119:11

81. Words

Did you ever text the wrong person? Most people have done it. If all you texted was something like, "What time is dinner?" or "Was that one avocado or two?" then there's no harm done. A young couple received a text announcing the birth of a child. They realized it was from someone they didn't know, but they sent congratulations anyway, and the texting continued. They kept getting updates on the child. So, they texted back and asked what hospital and room number mother and baby were in, and they turned up with gifts for the mother and baby! Although this story had a nice outcome, most of us have learned that we need to be careful when we text to make sure we're not saying the wrong thing to the wrong person. Isn't that true for our words too? Ecclesiastes 10:20 becomes very relevant in this age of electronic communication. "Curse not the king, no not in thy thought, and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber. For a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter." Solomon is making the point that we ought to be careful what we say, because things can be repeated that you might hope would never be repeated. Our words matter. Before you speak, or text, or post, it's good to stop and think. "Do I really need to say this? Do I want this heard? How would I feel if this went to someone else?" And really, the best question is, "Does this glorify God?" If that little bird repeated what you say, how would it sound? If your private words or texts or online posts were made public, how would that be? It's always better to let God filter your communication.

Associated verses: Ecclesiastes 10:20; Psalm 141:3

82. Money; Trust in God

A couple of teenagers went into business developing apps, and the business quickly exploded. They employed a big staff, got big contracts, made a name for themselves, and in their early twenties they were worth millions. The company was doing great, when suddenly it wasn't; and in a matter of just a few months the whole ride was over. Contracts failed, income dried up, and what had been so successful was suddenly all gone. There's certainly nothing wrong with wealth, but wealth can be temporary, and the last thing you want to do is trust in money. What the experience of the two

young men shows us is that money can be here today and gone tomorrow. We want to work hard, plan well, and make careful decisions. It's great if you can do well financially, but we don't want to let money be our God. We can't take it with us when we're gone. What will last forever is faith in God.

Associated verses: Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 6:19–21

83. Appearance; Character of God

There's no question that cosmetic surgery has its place and that many people have benefited from it. Perhaps you've seen the pictures of actors or celebrities, people who are, or once were, household names who have had cosmetic surgery that hasn't worked out well. Or, maybe they just had too much of it. It's understandable that people want to look good. I want to tell you how a person can look their *very* best. Psalm 17:15. "As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness." One day there'll be a resurrection, when the saved are raised to live eternally. And we'll look good—in God's likeness, never to succumb to the ravages of time. You can't get better than that.

Associated verses: Psalm 17:15; John 5:28–29; Titus 2:13; John 14:3

84. Truth; The Bible

A reporter from *Der Spiegel*, a respected German magazine, traveled to Minnesota to do a story on the state of rural America. Turns out his article contained a ton of mind-boggling inaccuracies and inventions. The award-winning journalist described people who were nothing like those he interviewed. He described a city administrator who carries a gun at work—except the city administrator does not. People who didn't exist were invented for the article. The reporter said visitors to the high school have to pass through a security line and be scanned for weapons—which was not true—and he talked about a high school trip to New York City that didn't happen. The whole thing was bizarre, and the magazine said it was going to go so far as to press charges against the rogue reporter. It's pretty hard to know who to trust when even significant publications write, well, lies. How important is the truth? If someone has ever said something about you that isn't true, you know how important the truth is. How important is it that we represent the *Bible* correctly? Jesus warned us of a time that's coming when truth won't be valued. He said in Matthew 24:4–5, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." So how are we to handle that? You check. You verify. Verify what you're told in church, verify what you're told by

**To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach**

well-meaning church members. We can't afford to be fooled. The Bible is the Word of God. Someone's opinion, a video on YouTube or Facebook—that's not the Word of God. Read the Bible and believe that. There's too much at stake to believe a lie.

Associated verses: Matthew 24:4–5; John 8:31–32; John 14:6

85. God's Care for Us; Seeking the Lost

When a New Jersey woman accidentally flushed her wedding ring down her toilet she thought it was gone forever. Nine years later, a man working near a man-hole 400 feet from the woman's house saw something shiny in the mud. It turns out he had talked with the lady some years before and knew about the lost ring. When he saw it, he wondered if it could possibly be the missing ring. It was; and she got her wedding ring back! Nine years later! God cares about lost things. He *especially* cares about lost people. If you feel like you're lost, God knows where you are! God has His eye on you! And the same goes for your family members and friends who aren't walking with Jesus. God knows where they are. His eyes are on them, too. In the parable a woman had ten coins, lost one, and searched for it. Luke 15:9 says that when she found it she said, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!" That's how God feels about finding one of His lost children. You matter to God! (Oh, and in case you're wondering: After boiling it in peroxide and lemon juice, yes, she *is* wearing that ring again!)

Associated verses: Luke 15 (parables of lost sheep, lost coin, lost son); Jeremiah 31:3

86. The Bible; Understanding the Bible

Not everyone loves mathematics. If you've been blessed to have a good teacher—and if you were a good student—that's a big help. But there are some people who study algebra, and their eyes glaze over. Some people just love polynomials and exponentials and calculus, but others, no way in the world. And then when you push on to abstract algebra and vector analysis, stochastic processes and number theory, that's like a whole new universe for many people. Few find it easy, and *most* people find advanced mathematics incomprehensible. What's truly unfortunate is that many people find Bible prophecy (or deep Bible study) the same! King Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon had an incredible dream. He saw an image made of various metals, with a head of gold and a chest and arms of silver and a mid-section of bronze and legs of iron and feet of iron and clay. And when Daniel interpreted the dream, he said in Daniel 2:37–38, "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.” A mysterious dream, but a straight-forward answer. Simple, really. “Head of gold? King, that’s you. It’s you and your kingdom, Babylon.” The next kingdom was the chest and arms of silver, which history shows is Medo-Persia. Then Greece—actually named in Daniel 8—and then Rome. When you look at prophecy, be confident that there *is* a way to understand many of the mysterious things you encounter. Stay away from fanciful, sensational, way-out interpretations because the Bible usually isn’t that. The answers are usually pretty straight forward. The Bible is a book that makes good sense when you let it interpret itself.

Associated verses: 2 Timothy 3:16; Daniel 2

87. April Fools; Answered Prayer; Faith

In 1974, a man named Porky Bicker pulled off one of the great April Fools’ Day stunts of all time when he set fire to a pile of tires he had put in the crater of a dormant volcano in Alaska. Mount Edgecumbe hadn’t erupted in 400 years, but on this clear morning residents of Sitka, Alaska, came outside and stared across to Kruzof Island and saw a plume of smoke. Porky had told the local police about it, but he didn’t think to tell the Coastguard. When the Coastguard helicopter flew out over Mount Edgecumbe, the pilot looked down and saw “April Fool!” stamped out in 50-foot-high letters in the snow. The prank was such a big deal that Alaska Airlines featured it in an advertising campaign the next year. There’s a story in the book of Acts where people think someone is pranking them. Peter has been imprisoned. James has been executed, and it seems Peter is next, but there’s that amazing thing where the angel sets Peter free and walks him out of prison. The prison door opened up before him as he approached it. Peter went to John Mark’s house where people were gathered and knocked on the gate. Rhoda recognized Peter’s voice, but left Peter standing there while she went in to tell the group he was outside. Acts 12:15 says, “But they said to her, ‘You are beside yourself!’ Yet, she kept insisting that it was true. So they said, ‘It is his angel.’” They basically said, “You’re kidding us!” I’m not sure why they were so surprised. They’d been praying, hadn’t they? They prayed, and when their prayer was answered, they thought Rhoda was joking with them. God does truly amazing things. And when He does, we shouldn’t be surprised. God is able. He’s mighty. When you pray in faith, you shouldn’t be surprised when your prayers are answered.

Associated verse: Matthew 7:7

88. Speculation; Sensationalism

You'll hear from time to time about sensational teachings, speculation, usually something extreme. It could be something connected to the truth without actually being the truth. Some people are drawn to those sorts of things. The remarkable story goes that Sir Winston Churchill, the wartime prime minister of Great Britain, gave a three-word speech at a school. "Never give up!" That's all he said, and then he sat down. Or, so the story goes. But as you know, not all stories are accurate. He did speak at Harrow School and he did say "Never give in;" but it was a much longer speech than just three words. There's enough power in the Bible that it's never necessary to make up stories about what it says. There's enough power in the Bible that we don't need to get caught up in speculation and sensationalism. Paul writes that love "does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth." There's enough in the Bible that is true. Let's be sure we concern ourselves with that. Speculation and tall stories never grew anyone's faith in God.

Associated verses: 1 Corinthians 13:6; John 14:6; John 8:31–32

89. Incredible Stories

It has been said that you shouldn't let the facts get in the way of a good story. In 1943, a U.S. Navy destroyer got so close to a Japanese submarine that the ship's commander said the cook could have thrown a potato at it. But the legend grew. American sailors threw potatoes at the Japanese sub; the Japanese thought the potatoes were grenades and fled, and the USS *O'Bannon* was able to sink the submarine. The fact is that the submarine was sunk by ammunition, and no potatoes were involved. We don't need to embellish the Bible. It's a true story, remarkable enough. Think of the walls of Jericho coming down—an incredible, true story. The same for water coming from a rock, manna carpeting the ground, a little boy's lunch becoming a feast for thousands of people, and a crucified Savior coming back from the dead. You can believe the remarkable stories in the Bible because they're stories of a remarkable God.

Associated verses: Joshua 6:20; Matthew 14:17–19

90. Not So Smart

If you have a smart phone, then most likely you either have an iPhone or an Android phone. There are others, but they're not nearly as popular. Did you ever have a Nokia phone? Nokia, from Finland, was a huge company whose phones were everywhere. It seemed as though anyone with a mobile phone was using a Nokia phone. But when smart phones came out, Nokia dismissed them saying that touch screens were a gimmick. And that was, basically, the beginning of the end for Nokia. The giant cell phone maker basically disappeared. Many Christians make the same

mistake as Nokia. God shows them new light, God urges them to grow in their faith, and they say “No,” and they refuse to advance. That can be the beginning of the end. In Mark 4:28, Jesus is talking of spiritual growth when He says, “For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.” You don’t want to be afraid to grow spiritually. Embrace what God brings to you. Don’t do what Nokia did and refuse to advance.

Associated verses: Mark 4:28; John 12:35

91. Falsely Accused

In 1945, the USS *Indianapolis* steamed from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor, setting a record that still stands for the fastest such journey. From Pearl Harbor it traveled to Tinian, an island in Micronesia. It was from Tinian that the Enola Gay left to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The *Indianapolis* delivered many key components that would be used in that bomb, including enriched uranium. The ship then traveled to Guam and from there it set out for the Philippines, but it was torpedoed on the way and sank rapidly. Of the 1,200 men on board, 300 went down with the ship, and of the remaining, only 316 were rescued about four days later. They told harrowing tales of surviving in shark-infested waters. Even though the United States lost hundreds of ships during World War II, the only ship’s captain to be court-martialed was Captain Charles McVay of the *Indianapolis*. The government said he failed to zigzag to avoid the Japanese ship that torpedoed him. Captain McVay believed zigzagging was optional. The Japanese captain of the submarine that sank the *Indianapolis* said zigzagging would have made no difference; the ship still would’ve been sunk. Some years after the war, Captain McVay took his own life. He was found holding a small toy sailor in his hand. He was blamed for things that were outside of his control. Jesus died not for His own sins, but for the sins of the world, for sins that were not His fault. He was pure, perfect, spotless, but He was nailed to a cross all the same. Isaiah 53:6 says, “And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Jesus died for *you*, not for what *He* did, but for what *we* did. He was treated like we deserve to be treated. And because He was, we’ll be treated as only *He* deserves to be treated.

Associated verse: Isaiah 53:6

92. God’s Power

A man told the story of when he was a boy and was invited to spend the week on his friend’s dairy farm—several hundred acres in the country and hundreds of cows. His friend dared him to grab hold of an electric fence. But he was much too smart

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

for that. No way! However, when his friend grabbed hold of a wire on the fence, and it didn't do him any harm, our man thought he'd give it a try. Nervously he gripped the wire. For a moment, nothing. But then—boom! It felt like he'd been kicked by a moose. What he didn't realize is that his friend had *not* been holding a live wire! But, when this boy grabbed a live wire, he felt a solid jolt of electricity run through him. It made its presence known. It moved him! So while you probably shouldn't grab hold of an electric fence, you should take hold of Jesus. And when you do? Boom! You'll experience His power run through you. There's power in Jesus, and when Jesus gets into your life, He brings His power into your life. When you take hold of Jesus, you notice the difference. Others notice the difference too!

Associated verse: Colossians 1:27

93. Revival

A great spiritual revival took hold in Wales in the early 1900s. It was sparked by a young man named Evan Roberts. When he heard that a preacher was holding revival meetings nearby, Roberts asked the principal of the seminary he was attending if he could be relieved of his classes for a week to attend. The principal said he thought the student would probably learn more about the essence of Christianity by attending a week of revival meetings than by sitting in class. That little decision made a huge difference. Roberts was so encouraged by what he saw at the revival that he committed himself to prayer that he might be “bent by God” (as he put it) and give himself to doing God's will. He started preaching around the seminary. Eventually, he had to pay another visit to the principal and ask to take leave of his studies so that he could return home and begin his ministry as a preacher. When he got home, his parents thought something was wrong, that maybe he had failed in school. He assured them that he just wanted to get about his work. So, he started preaching. He had four points to his message. He would stand before a crowd and say, “I have a message for you. Number one: You must confess your known sins and you must make all of your wrongs right. Second, you must put away any doubtful habits. Third, you must obey the Spirit promptly. And fourth, you must confess your faith publicly.” Those became the four points of not only his message, but also of the Welsh Revival. Evan Roberts preached all over Wales, and in a period of just two years, an estimated 100,000 people were converted. It's said that during the Welsh Revival, the culture was so transformed that new mules had to be found to work in the coal mines. The old mules wouldn't respond to miners who no longer cursed and abused them, so they either got new mules or retrained the old ones. Meetings

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

would be held down in the mines. Many pubs (bars) closed down because men were no longer drinking alcohol like they used to. Pub owners were furious as they were losing real money. Cases of drunkenness were cut in half in the county of Glamorgan, where the revival began. In a courtroom one day a judge led a young man to faith in Christ, and the jury burst into song and sang one of those great old Welsh hymns. The revival spread. As many as 150,000 people joined churches during this time, and it's said that as many as 250,000 were born again. Newspapers reported on the revival, and in some cases even published the amounts of people who joined various churches. Coal miners would listen to appeal songs and weep. And the Welsh revival sparked more than 30 other revivals around the world. But today? Wales is getting revived by rugby, beer, and not much else. It's a very secular country. Today we hear calls for revival in the church. But, we want a revival that will last. Not a revival just for a season, but a revival that will see us into eternity. God's desire for us is that we're consistent, and He can give us that consistency.

Associated verses: Colossians 1:27; John 15:1–5; Philippians 1:6

94. Truth; Salvation; Searching

In 2016, a man announced he and his team had discovered the remains of a 16th-century ship on the ocean floor less than a mile off the coast of Cape Canaveral in Florida. The ship had left France for what is now Florida in 1565—half a century before pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. The ship was transporting munitions, gold and silver, livestock, soldiers, and French Huguenot colonists—Protestants seeking religious freedom. The goal was to secure a foothold in America—much of which Spain had already claimed. The ship was wrecked in a storm, and for 450 years it lay undisturbed on the sea floor. So, how was it found? The salvor [salvager] and his team had spent three years scouring an area of 100 square miles: for 250 days a year they were up at dawn, scouring the ocean floor, diving down onto anything their technology suggested was worth investigating. The vast majority of the time it was a false alarm, until they found what they were looking for. The “treasure” on the boat was said to be worth tens of millions of dollars. Possibly hundreds of millions. And how did they find it? By searching. Hunting. Looking. As valuable as that sunken treasure ship might have been, eternal life is infinitely more valuable. If people are willing to go to such great lengths to find a sunken ship, finding the blessing of heaven is surely worth investing in. God said in Jeremiah 29:13, “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Associated verses: Jeremiah 29:13; Revelation 3:18; Matthew 6:33

95. Trust

A 45-year-old woman in Minnesota met a man on a dating website. He was a naval officer, an Afghanistan veteran who was finishing his doctorate at the University of Minnesota. After the bad luck she'd had with men in recent times, this seemed too good to be true. He took care of her, paid bills for her, even suggested he could put her and her daughters on his insurance. This couldn't possibly get much better! Well . . . things started to feel a little odd in that relationship. One day she looked in his wallet and took out his driver's license. It was his picture, but a different name. She was being conned. When she web-searched the name on the license, she found out he was a serial con man with a history of deception. Before the story was over, she learned that he was lying to multiple women at the same time. He would worm his way into their lives, win their confidence, lie to them, and then steal from them, sometimes enormous sums of money. Each woman had made the decision to *trust* him, and in each case it turned out to be a bad decision. It isn't always easy to know who to trust. But you can always trust God, and you can always trust the Bible.

Associated verses: 2 Timothy 3:16; Proverbs 3:5–6

96. Trust in God; God's Word; Prophecy; Wisdom

The book *A Thousand Shall Fall* contains this remarkable story. In spite of the difficult circumstances in which he often found himself, a committed Christian serving in the German military during World War II maintained his faith in God and his belief that the Bible was truly God's word.¹ One day Franz Hasel was invited by a superior officer to bring his Bible to a morning meeting, and was surprised to find two other officers present. One was a Lieutenant who had been hostile to Franz and his faith in God. During their discussion Franz took the opportunity to ask the gentlemen a few questions. Remembering that in civilian life the Captain had been a history professor, Franz asked him if he could check the historical accuracy of some of the Bible's prophecies. The Captain graciously agreed. While the men listened in rapt attention, Franz detailed the prophecy from Daniel 2, and interpreted it for the German army officers, explaining from history that after Babylon came the kingdoms of Medo-Persia, Greece and finally the iron monarchy of Rome. The former history professor was impressed. "Everything is accurate," he said. "I have never heard anything so amazing in my life." But then Franz Hasel explained the rest of the dream. He actually took his life in his hands when he explained to them that the ten toes on the feet of the image represented the ten nations into which the Roman Empire dissolved. Many, many miles from Germany—in fact, they had crossed over into

1 Susi Hasel Mundy with Maylan Schurch, *A Thousand Shall Fall, Illustrated Edition* (U.S.A.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2001).

Asia—Franz explained to his superiors that in spite of the best efforts on the part of military and political leaders, the divided Roman Empire could never be brought back together. In other words, Franz told them, the Bible made clear that Hitler was doomed to fail. And if Hitler was going to fail, then Franz’s company—over a thousand miles from home on Russia’s Eastern Front—would certainly fail, too. If what Franz was saying was true, the likelihood of any of the men in the room that morning ever making it home to safety was extremely remote. For Franz to even suggest that Hitler might not win the war was a punishable offense. But based on the prophecies of the Bible, the military men knew they were involved in plans for the world far greater than those of Adolph Hitler. They now realized that they were involved in the outworking of the purposes of God Himself. Franz chose his words carefully. “Sir, the Bible’s predictions have been proved accurate again and again. And if they’re accurate here, it means that we’re fighting a losing battle.” The Captain abruptly dismissed the meeting, and asked Franz if he could borrow his Bible. A week later, he approached Franz and gave him an order that would ultimately save their lives. He told Franz to begin stockpiling gasoline so that when the end of the war came, they’d have enough fuel to make it back home. When Hitler was defeated and the time came for German troops to withdraw from Russia and flee home to Germany and safety, Franz’s company—Pioneer Park Company 699—had the fuel it needed to travel the long distance and make it safely home. Not one of the men were lost.

Associated verses: Psalm 91:1–16; James 1:5

97. Signs of the Times

National Geographic Magazine reported the account by author William Manchester of a man living on Long Island in September of 1938. He became frustrated with the new barometer he had ordered a few days earlier in New York. When it arrived, the needle was pointing to “Tornadoes and Hurricanes.” He thought the barometer was faulty, so he took it to the post office to mail it back. The author wrote, “While he was gone, his house blew away.” The hurricane of 1938 was bearing down upon him. The warning sign told him bad weather was coming. But he ignored it. About 700 people died in the Great New England Hurricane.²

Associated verse: Matthew 24:33

² Source: <https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2012/10/29/hurricane-sandy-will-join-other-storms-that-were-rare-freaks-of-nature/>

98. Signs of the Times; Preparation

The *Costa Concordia* was a cruise ship that wrecked off the coast of a small Italian island named Isola del Giglio. About as long as three football fields, the ship hit a submerged rock, which tore a 160 foot gash in the hull. The *Costa Concordia* began taking on water, and eventually tipped on its side and partially sank. Like the Titanic, it wasn't supposed to sink after such an incident. The passengers were seated to eat supper and were enjoying the moment, totally unaware of the danger. Sadly, some lives may have been lost because no one had told the passengers what to do if a crisis occurred. The mandatory evacuation drill was not scheduled to be given until the day after the crash. Also, once the crash occurred, the crew spent the first hour reassuring the passengers that it was a minor electrical problem and no one was in danger—peace and safety—when in fact the ship was sinking.

Associated verses: Matthew 24:33; 1 Thessalonians 5:3

99. Sin; Evil; Satan

Adolf Hitler joined the Bavarian army when he was 25 years old. In his youth he had been a painter, an artist. He had applied to be accepted by the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, Austria. In World War I he was mainly a messenger. He was decorated twice for bravery. What could make someone go so bad? Evil is a challenge for everyone, and if left unchecked it can cause any person to go to lengths they might not have imagined possible.

Associated verses: Revelation 12:9; Isaiah 14:12–14

100. Salvation; Love of God

In Hobart, Tasmania (in Australia) on January 5, 1975, about 9:30 at night, a cargo ship transporting iron ore hit a bridge over the Derwent River and caused a 73-meter long section of the bridge —240 feet—to collapse. Four cars drove off the end of the bridge and plunged 150 feet into the water below. Two cars were left dangling over the end of the bridge, their occupants managing to escape with their lives. A man named Murray Ling was driving across the bridge and noticed lights on the bridge go out. Realizing something must be wrong, he saw the tail lights of cars in front of him disappear as they drove off the bridge. He braked as hard as he could, his vehicle stopping just inches from the edge. Another car coming up behind him rammed into the back of his car and pushed his front wheels over the edge. Murray Ling got his family out, but then realizing there were other cars heading for that 150-foot drop, he tried to get the drivers to stop. A bus filled with people skidded to a stop, crashing into the railing on the bridge. Two cars ignored him and raced past. One of them slowed, the driver looked at him, and then swerved to get around

him, sped off, and plunged into the Derwent River. The concerned driver tried to save others. Some were saved, but others ignored the appeal to stop, the appeal to be saved, and perished. God is calling each of us to be saved, to be safe, to stop before we go crashing over the edge into an abyss. If you won't respond to God when He calls, what else can He do?

Associated verses: Matthew 11:28; Revelation 22:17

101. Judgment

It is said that when Boris Yeltsin—who at the time was the President of the Russian Federation—stepped off the plane to meet with then-President Bill Clinton, the first question the Russian premiere asked the leader of the free world was, “Do you think O.J. did it?” Some of us remember where we were on October 3, 1995 as we waited to hear the verdict in the O.J. Simpson trial. The trial was on TV for more than four months. Judge Lance Ito., Marcia Clark, and Johnny Cochrane became household names. “If it does not fit, you must acquit!” One writer called it, “The Super Bowl of murder trials.” There have been many famous trials down through the years. The Scopes Monkey Trial in 1925 in Dayton, Tennessee. The Nuremberg War Trials in the 1940s. Presidential impeachment trials. The most famous—or infamous—trial of all would be that of Jesus, who stood trial before Pontius Pilate the night before His death in A.D. 31. Even if you’ve never been on trial, the Bible makes clear that one day we’ll all be on trial. And how will the jury decide?

Associated verse: Revelation 14:7

102. Faith; Endurance; Relationship with God

In 1983, a man named George Meegan walked into history when he became the first man to walk from the bottom of South America to the top of North America. He took 41 million steps in a little over six years. He left Ushuaia, Argentina and then walked up South America, across the US and up the eastern seaboard, then across Canada to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. How do you walk 19,019 miles? 41 million steps? One step after another. For many people the Christian walk seems like a long walk. A difficult walk. A hard walk. So how do we do it? One step at a time, one day at a time, one moment at a time, trusting in God and leaning on Jesus every step of the way.

Associated verse: Matthew 24:13

To submit your own sermon illustration ideas, please
visit: itiswritten.com/preach

103. Vigilance; Faith

You don't want to be like the airline employee who woke up in the belly of a plane headed from Seattle to Los Angeles. He was a baggage handler, and took a nap among the bags he had loaded onto the aircraft. He only woke up when a bag fell on top of him! Passengers heard him pounding on the floor beneath them, and the plane had to turn around and fly back to Seattle. He fell asleep. He didn't watch! He didn't remain alert. Jesus says we don't want to be like that man. We want to watch for the return of Jesus, to be ready for the return of Jesus, not to be sleeping and miss being ready for that great event.

Associated verses: Matthew 24:36–42

104. Salvation; Wealth

The body of a homeless man who died from hypothermia was found by children playing in the snow near a bridge in Evanston, Wyoming. The man died alone and broke. He died not knowing that his great-aunt had recently died and left him nineteen million dollars in her will. He died homeless and penniless when in actual fact, he was very wealthy. He fought hunger every day when he could have bought the local supermarket. He didn't have a home of his own, yet he could have bought the ten most expensive homes in town and had plenty of money left over. He just didn't know what he truly had. He didn't know who he truly was. And, he didn't know what someone had done for him. Do you know how wealthy you are? Do you know what God has done for you? Do you know what God offers you today? Just as that man was the nephew of a wealthy woman, you're a child of the King of heaven. One day soon we'll be reunited with Jesus, and those who have simply accepted his extravagant offer of eternal riches will be saved for eternity.

Associated verses: Psalm 50:10–12

Index of Topics

A

Age 9
 Anger 19, 31
 Answered Prayer 39
 Appearance 37
 April Fools 39

B

Bible Study 14, 23
 Bible, The 14, 19, 20, 25, 37, 38
 Bitterness 13
 Blessings 9

C

Change 20
 Character of God 37
 Choices 8
 Christianity 8, 9
 Christian Life 9
 Commitment 35
 Connection with God 7
 Conversion 5

D

Decisions 8, 33
 Devotional Life 10
 Diet 24
 Discouragement 26
 Doctrine 28

E

Education 14
 Encouragement 15
 Endurance 47
 Eternal Life 23
 Evidence 20

F

Faith 5, 9, 10, 15, 19, 20, 39, 47, 48
 Faithfulness 9, 13
 Faith in God 10, 11
 Falsely Accused 41
 Fear 30
 Finance 17
 Forgiveness 5

G

Genuine Christianity 11, 16
 God 9, 10, 20, 21
 God's Care 6
 God's Care for Us 38
 God's leading 33
 God's Power 41
 God's Word 44
 Gratitude 9
 Guidance 35

H

Happiness 10, 29
 Health 17, 24, 27
 Hearing God's Voice 35
 Heaven 8
 Holy Spirit 9, 25
 Honesty 6, 13, 16
 Hope 15

I

Incredible Stories 40
 Influence 32
 Integrity 6

J

Jesus 26, 27
 Joy 11
 Judging Others 30, 31, 34
 Judgment 30, 47

L

Love 21
Love of God 27, 46
Lucky Escape 13

M

Making Changes 27
Mental Health 29
Mind, The 29
Miracles 21
Mistakes 31
Money 16, 31, 36

N

Nature 9
Not So Smart 40

O

Outcomes 29

P

Plans 18, 29
Prayer 27
Preparation 15, 46
Presumption 5
Priorities 7, 17, 32
Progress 20
Prophecy 19, 44

R

Reactions 31
Relationships 24
Relationship with God 11, 19, 47
Revival 7, 42
Risks 11

S

Salvation 11, 18, 33, 43, 46
 Gift of, the 48
Science 8
Scripture 14
Searching 43
Second Coming 9, 15, 30
Seeking the Lost 38

Sensationalism 40
Signs of the Times 45, 46
Sin 19, 23, 25, 26
Sleep 14
Small Things 6, 7, 13, 16, 28
Speculation 40
Spiritual Growth 35
Spiritual Reality 14
Strength, Spiritual 10
Surrender 18, 19, 24, 33, 34

T

Technology 32
Temptation 19, 23, 25
Thankfulness 29
The Bible 23
The Christian Life 26
Tradition 25
Trials 6, 13, 29
 Blessing of, the 33
Trust 44
Trust in God 30, 36, 44
Truth 14, 15, 25, 28, 37, 43

U

Understanding the Bible 38

V

Value 7, 27, 34
Vigilance 48

W

Warnings 30
Wealth 31, 48
Wisdom 14, 44
Witnessing 8, 26
Words 5, 21, 36

STEP-BY-STEP TECHNIQUES FOR Successful Public Evangelism



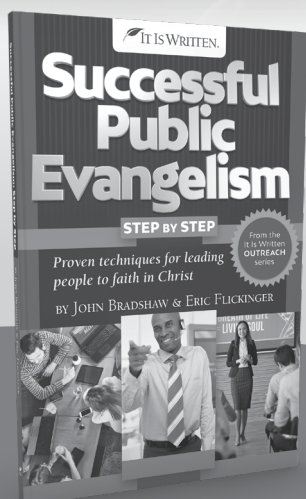
Conducting a successful evangelistic series at your local church is now within your grasp. If you're tired of sitting on the sidelines and you want to get your whole church involved in winning souls for Jesus, this book is for you.

Drawing from over 30 years of experience conducting more than 200 evangelistic series around the world, John Bradshaw and Eric Flickinger share time-tested principles that consistently yield souls for the kingdom of God.

In *Successful Public Evangelism: Step by Step*, you will learn how to:

- Inspire local church members to get involved in your series
- Attract a crowd of guests, keep them coming, and baptize them
- Conduct a successful series even on a tight budget
- Keep newly baptized member enthusiastically involved at church for years to come

Paperback, 64 pages



To order call 888-664-5573
or visit itiswritten.shop



Outreach Series Builder

makes it easy to share your faith with confidence and power. This evangelistic starter pack has all the tools you need to present the fundamental teachings of the Bible to a group of any size! Designed for a 19-day meeting. Includes a copy of the book by John Bradshaw and Eric Flickinger, *Successful Public Evangelism: Step by Step*.

To order call 888-664-5573
or visit itiswritten.shop

EDITION COMPARISON	SILVER	GOLD
Editable slides with notes (Keynote® and PowerPoint®)	✓	✓
Manuscript (PDF and Word®)	✓	✓
Audio of entire series (MP3)	✓	✓
Decision cards (PDF)		✓
Weekly letters (PDF)		✓
Transfer letters (PDF)		✓
Personal invitation letters (PDF)		✓
Media interest letters (PDF)		✓
Handbills (PDF)		✓
Radio ad (MP3)		✓
Video intros by John Bradshaw for each topic (MP4 video)		✓
Suggested tasks for volunteers		✓
Printed manual	✓	✓
Bible School Mega-Mailer sample	✓	✓

Minimum System Recommendations:

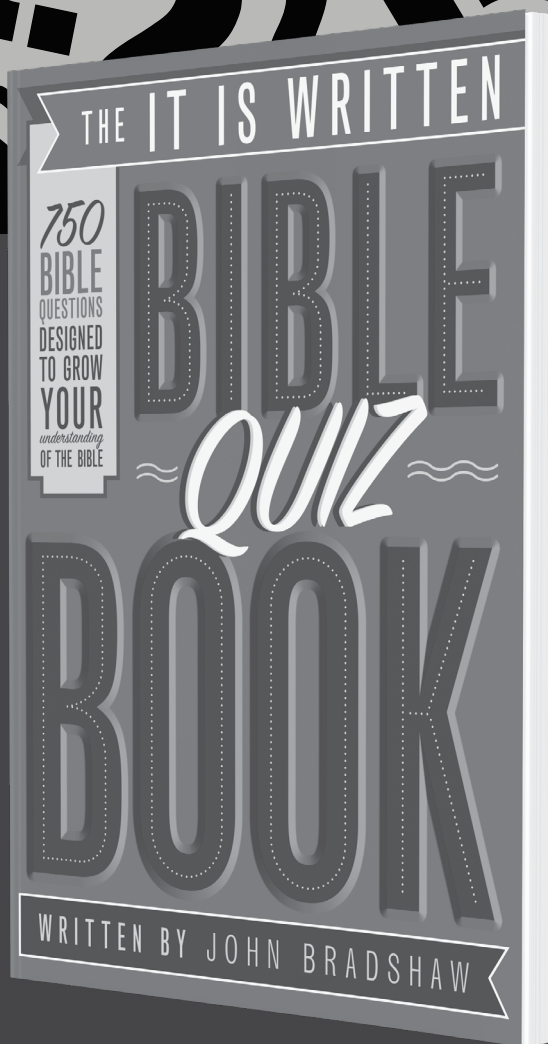
- Microsoft Windows 7, or Mac OS X 10.6
- 4 GB RAM
- 10 GB drive space
- PowerPoint 2013 or Keynote 6



The It Is Written Bible Quiz Book will increase your understanding of the Word of God! Perfect for families, Bible classes, small groups, or for anyone wanting to know more about the Bible, this book will test your Bible knowledge and point you to Jesus, “the Author and Finisher of our faith.” Learn more about people, places, and events of the Bible!

Paperback, 88 pages, includes answer key in the back with scripture references

To order call 888-664-5573
or visit itiswritten.shop

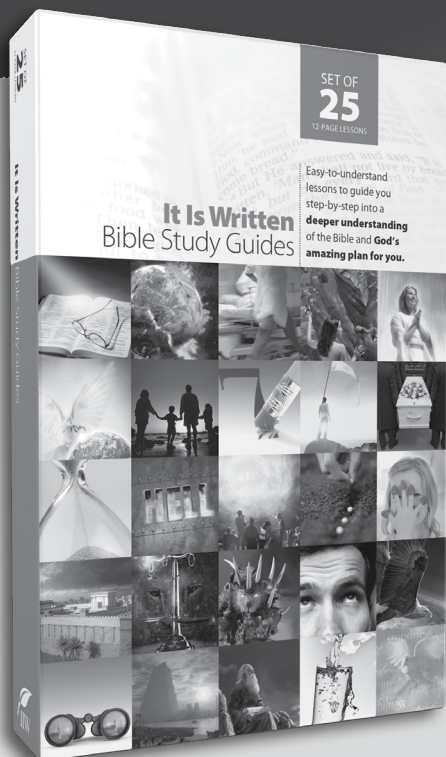


Sample Questions

Which king of Israel had the shortest reign? • In Mark 2, the paralyzed man was brought to Jesus by how many people? • What was the occupation of Cornelius (who sent for Paul)? • Who prophesied that a Star would come out of Jacob? • How long was Moses with God on Mount Sinai? • Which king attacked Jerusalem in the time of Daniel? • What did Judah do to Adonibezek? • How long did the people of Ephesus shout, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians”? • How old was Methuselah when he died?

Gain a **deeper** understanding

The Bible Study Guides from It Is Written are a great way to share the timeless truths of God's Word with your friends, family and community. These 25 guides are attractive, modern, and easy to use.



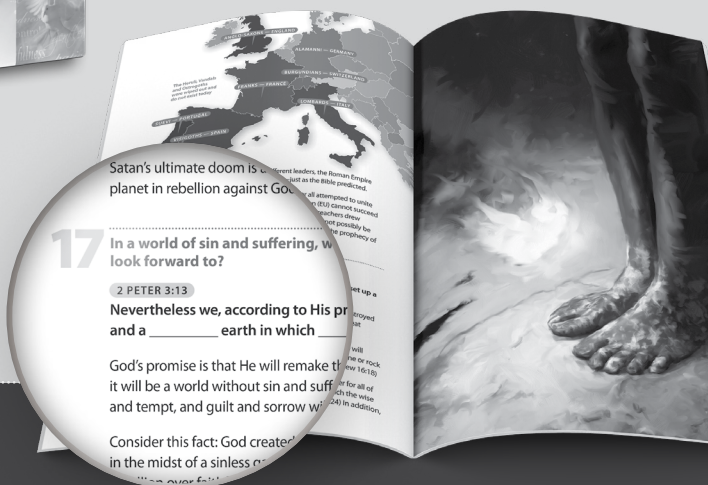
- Simple Q&A format, with the answer key included.
- High-quality photos and artwork
- Lead-in stories, abundant illustrations, and feature boxes to engage readers.
- Twenty-five lessons covering all the major Bible doctrines.
- Each lesson stands on its own.

25 lessons, 12 pages each

To order call
888-664-5573
or visit
itiswritten.shop

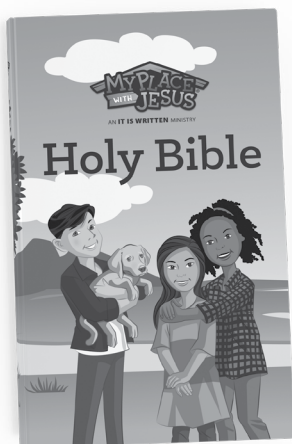
Translations

The Bible Study Guides are also available in Spanish, Arabic, Farsi, German, Hmong, Italian, Korean, Mandarin, and Turkish.





BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES



The Bible should not only be read but studied! The *My Place With Jesus Bible* is packed with features designed to engage children in the study of God's Word, including the complete 21-lesson set of the *My Place With Jesus Bible Guides*!

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- New King James Version
- Reversible color-your-own-cover dust jacket
- Presentation page
- Bible Promises page
- Kids in the Bible page
- Parables and Miracles of Jesus charts
- 36 full-page illustrations
- 4 pages of Paul's Missionary Journeys
- 4 pages of Bible maps
- Foldout timeline, from Adam to present-day
- My Place With Jesus Bible Guides 21-lesson set
- End-of-verse references and translation notes
- Bible book introductions
- Stars indicating messianic prophecies
- Words of Jesus in red
- Concordance



It Is Written wants to help anchor children in the Word of God, so we created the *My Place With Jesus Bible Guides*. These Bible guides explain the plan of salvation, how to have a relationship with Jesus, and the major themes of the Bible. Designed for ages 7 to 12.

These 21 fun and easy lessons for young Bible students feature:

- High-quality illustrations
- Bible-based questions with an answer key in each lesson
- Fun puzzles and activities

To order call 888-664-5573
or visit itiswritten.shop



To order call 888-664-5573
or visit itiswritten.shop

Bible Marking Labels

Ever need to do a quick Bible study, but can't remember all the texts?

Now you can be prepared by marking your Bible with the My Place With Jesus Bible Marking Labels. No need for scissors with these easy, peel-and-stick labels. Equip yourself today with this awesome Bible study tool.

- Based on the My Place With Jesus Bible Guides
- 12 quick references on 22 major topics in the Bible
- Re-positionable labels
- Color-coded chain reference topics

Place stickers next to key verses



AN IT IS WRITTEN MINISTRY

Bible Guides BIBLE MARKING

Code Key

Code	Topic	First Text
B	#1 Bible	2 Tim 3:15-17
G	#2 God	Ex 34:6-7
C	#3 Creation	Gen 1:1
J	#4 Jesus	John 1:1-3
R	#5 Salvation	Isa 14:12-14
PD	#6 Personal Devotions	Jer 2:32b

#1 • Bible
B1 • 2 Tim 3:15-17
B2 • 2 Peter 1:21
B3 • Jn 16:13
B4 • Heb 4:12
B5 • Ps 119:9
B6 • Jn 5:39
B7 • Ps 119:17-18
B8 • Acts 17:11
B9 • 2 Tim 2:15
B10 • Ps 119:105
B11 • Ps 119:130
B12 • Jn 17:17
B13 • Job 23:12
B14 • Psalm 119:11
B15 • Matt 4:4
B16 • Isa 40:8
B17 • Matt 24:35
B • End

#2 • God
G1 • Ex 34:6-7
G2 • Neh 9:17
G3 • 1 Tim 2:4

#5 • Salvation
R1 • Isa 14:12-14
R2 • Ezek 28:15
R3 • Rev 12:7-9
R4 • Gen 3:13
R5 • Isa 59:1
R6 • Rom 8:1
R7 • Rom 8:1
R8 • Act 13:46
R9 • Jn 1:1
R10 • Jn 1:1
R11 • Ep 1:1
R12 • 1 Jn 1:1
R13 • John 3:16
R14 • Acts 3:19
R15 • Ezek 36:26
R16 • Gal 2:20
R17 • Phil 2:13
R • End

#6 • Personal Devotions
PD1 • Jer 2:32b
PD2 • Isa 1:18
PD3 • Ps 100:5

#8 • Signs
SSC1 • Jn 14:3
SSC2 • 2 Pet 3:3-4
SSC3 • 2 Pet 3:9
SSC4 • 2 Pet 3:9
SSC5 • 1 Jn 3:2-3
SSC6 • Matt 24:30-31
SSC7 • Rev 3:21
SSC • End

#9 • Baptism
BP1 • Rom 3:23
BP2 • Ezek 18:30
BP3 • Mk 1:4
BP4 • Mk 1:9-11

#12 • Angels
A1 • Col 1:16
A2 • Rev 5:11-12
A3 • Heb 12:22
A4 • Heb 1:14
A5 • Ps 50:15
A6 • Ps 91:11
A7 • Matt 18:10
A8 • Ps 34:7
A9 • Ps 103:20
A10 • Lk 15:10
A11 • Dan 6:22
A12 • Lk 2:10-11
A13 • Matt 4:11
A14 • Acts 12:11
A15 • Heb 13:2
A16 • Matt 25:3
A17 • Matt 24:3
A • End

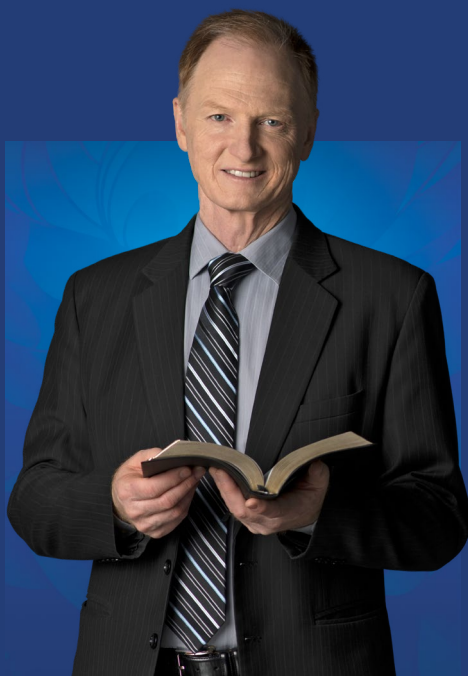
#13 • Death
D1 • Gen 2:7
D2 • Job 33:4
D3 • Ps 104:29
D4 • Ecc 12:7

22
topics!

Every preacher understands the importance of sermon illustrations. *104 Useful Sermon Illustrations* contains sermon illustrations that have proven to work. Whether as stories, illustrations, allusions, or metaphors, these sermon illustrations will open a window and allow light to shine through the message God has placed on your heart.

Be sure to watch for *104 Useful Sermon Illustrations*, Volume 2!

JOHN BRADSHAW is the president of It Is Written, an international Christian media ministry based in Collegedale, Tennessee. He has held evangelistic series on six continents and recorded television programs in thirty countries. He is thankful to work alongside a dedicated team of people committed to sharing Jesus with the world.



Printed in the USA. Copyright © 2021 by It Is Written, Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized duplication prohibited by law. It Is Written is a registered trademark of It Is Written, Inc.

\$9.99

ISBN 978-1-63569-216-7

