

Mizizi Supplemental Journal Questions and Scripture Readings

Please use these prompts in place of the "Questions for My Journal." (You will find that much of the material in this updated version overlaps with the original.) We have also added a foundational scripture reading to augment some of the days' material, and recommend that you read it as part of your daily time with God.

Week 1: Our New Identity

Day 1: Who God Is Not (Psalm 111)

1. What faulty view(s) of God have you carried? What is the danger of having such a view(s) of God?
2. Read Psalm 111. What can one learn about God—who He is and isn't—from this Psalm?
3. What more accurate views of God's character can you carry into the future? What practical effects in your life might this clearer picture of God have?
4. Pray for God's help to let go of your faulty views of Him and replace them with a biblical view.

Day 2: Who God Is (Genesis 1)

1. What is your response to Psalm 139 and the fact that God created you for relationship with Him?
2. How can you begin to develop and deepen your relationship with God?
3. What is your reaction to the fact that God made you for a purpose?
4. Take a moment to talk to God, sharing with Him your reflections from today's and yesterday's journaling. Ask Him to continue to reveal Himself to you.

Day 3: Our Problem (Genesis 3)

1. What are some of the ways in which you have resisted or overlooked God personally?
2. What inadequate solutions have you used to fill in the "missing piece" inside of you?
3. What are some of the consequences of sin that you have encountered in your own life and family?
4. Write a prayer to God, telling Him about your sin and its effects on both you and others. Ask for His forgiveness, and thank Him for working to restore your brokenness.

Day 4: God's Solution (John 3:16-18)

1. Reflect on the image of Jesus on the cross, bearing all the sins of all those who would ever believe in Him and bearing the full wrath of and separation from the Father. What thoughts and feelings surface in you?
2. In what ways can your responses to the above questions help you to approach your day with a different outlook?
3. If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord, reflect on some of the reasons why. What is holding you back?

Day 5: Whose Report Will You Believe? (Isaiah 55:8-13)

1. Which of the statements in today's Mizizi or scripture reading is most significant to you and why?
2. The message of the world and the media is that you don't need God. If you are a Christian, what would you miss if you didn't have God in your life? If you aren't a Christ follower, what about God appeals to you?
3. If you are still allowing any of the enemy's words to define you, reflect on God's corresponding promise. Write it down and look at it throughout this week.
4. Take a few minutes now to ask God for His help in accepting and holding onto this promise. Thank Him for his great love and faithfulness in following through on what He has said.

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Week 2: Encountering God

Day 1: God Speaks (Psalm 19:1-6)

1. What truth strikes you most about the ways God uses to speak to us?
2. Do you ask others to pray for you? If you don't, why is that? Who might you ask?
3. Through which of the 6 ways outlined in today's reading have you sensed God speaking to you? Think back on such a time and thank God for it.
4. In which of these 6 ways would you like to grow? How can you be more attentive to God's voice in this area?

Day 2: Listening to God (Psalm 145)

1. How can you make your daily time with God most productive and meaningful? (E.g., What time of day are you most alert? How can you ensure that this time is uninterrupted?)
2. Psalm 37 says, "Be still before the Lord..." What in your life makes that difficult to do? What will help you to put aside distractions so that you can be still in God's presence?
3. The WRAPS model will help you to continue in your quiet times with God, even after this course has ended. Try using WRAPS now with Psalm 145.

Day 3: Treasuring God's Word (Psalm 19:7-14)

1. According to 2 Timothy 3:16 and Joshua 1:8, what are some benefits of meditating on God's Word? Can you think of any others?
2. Which of the suggestions in today's reading have never or rarely been a part of your time in God's Word?
3. Read Psalm 19, keeping in mind the suggestions you just read, particularly those you identified as new.
4. How will you know if you are "treasuring" God's Word in your life?

Day 4: How to Pray (Matthew 6:5-15)

1. Why is it important that you be genuine in your prayers and not try to be anything that you are not?
2. Which of the three aspects of prayer (regular, private, genuine) do you find to be most challenging? Why? How can you grow in this area?
3. Today's reading includes the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). Using this prayer as a starting point, write a prayer to God that expands upon its themes, applying them to your own situation. (For example: "hallowed be your name"—Why is God's name special to you? What can you praise Him for?)

Day 5: A Model for Prayer (John 17)

1. Read John 17. What does it tell you about how Jesus prays for us as his followers? Does this give you any new ideas on how to pray for fellow believers?
2. What are some of the difficult situations in your life (and friends/family/coworkers' lives) that you would like to start praying specifically and persistently about?
3. Begin a prayer journal today.

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Week 3: Becoming a Christ Follower

Day 1: No Longer Mine (Romans 6:15-23)

1. "Surrender" can sometimes imply being weak or passive. How is surrendering to God different from that?
2. How do you see yourself and your role/mission in life? How might this view align or not align with how God sees you and what He wants for your life?
3. What do you think you will struggle most with if you come totally under God's new management?

Day 2: The Cost (Matthew 19:16-26)

1. Which of the above four categories describes where you are or have been?
2. Reread Jesus' words in Mark 8:34. What might God be calling you to deny yourself? What might be your "cross"?
3. Make a list of your "wealth" areas. What is most important to you? What may even be controlling your life?
4. Are there any areas that you have difficulty surrendering to God? Write down why you are holding so tightly to these areas, and ask God for His help in surrendering them.

Day 3: God is Able (Isaiah 40:22-27)

1. Think about a time in your life when you felt like your situation was beyond God's ability to help. Do you see the situation any differently now? If so, how?
2. If you truly believed that God is in control, how would your life be different? If every decision you make now is premised on this belief, how will you choose, act, or feel differently?
3. What needs, desires, or worries have you regularly brought before our able God in prayer? Take some time now to talk to Him about anything that is weighing on you. You can pray with gratitude and confidence, knowing that He is able to take care of you in every way.

Day 4: God is Willing (Isaiah 40:28-31)

1. Do you sometimes find it hard to trust that God has your best interests at heart? If so, why?
2. What areas of your life can only be explained by your faith in God? Are these areas visible to others?
3. If there is anything you are trying to do on your own, bring it before God and ask for his help in surrendering control. Ask that He will help you to develop the right attitude and habits as you face this issue moving forward.

Day 5: In His Hands (Ephesians 5:1-21)

1. Re-read Romans 12:2. In what ways do you currently conform to the world? How can you renew your mind?
2. What circumstances are you facing now that are helping to shape your character to be more like Christ's?
3. If you give Jesus complete control of your life and follow Him as your Leader in every area, what do you sense will happen?
4. Thank God for the opportunities He gives to become more like Christ. Ask for His help to trust His plan and good purposes, especially when following that plan comes at a price.

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Week 4: Holiness & Wholeness

Day 1: Holiness (Ephesians 4:17-24)

1. Has today's reading changed how you feel about holiness? If so, how? If not, why not?
2. What labels do you carry, whether from other people or yourself? Do any of these compete with the identity God has given you—His child, a new creation?
3. Consider the above story of the crippled beggar. What habit(s) have you carried over from your old life that hinder the effectiveness of your message?
4. Is there a way in which God is disciplining you now, to work that attitude or pattern of living out of your character? Ask that God will make you alert, patient, and responsive as the Spirit works in your life.

Day 2: Relational Purity (Colossians 3:1-17)

1. When you're not focused on accomplishing a specific task, where do your thoughts most commonly gravitate?
2. When you're meeting someone for the first time, or simply observing passersby, what is your heart and mind's response? (interest, fear, judgment, joy, disconnectedness, empathy, etc.)
3. Today's scripture reading encouraged us to set our hearts and minds "on things above." Identify any responses from questions 1 and 2 that wouldn't fall into this category. Ask for God's help in setting wise boundaries in your thought-life so that you can spend more time in healthy patterns of thought and action.
4. Colossians 3:5-9 contains a list of thoughts and actions which characterize distorted relationships. Which of these do you struggle with? Which characteristics and actions from verses 12-14 can you "clothe yourself with" to bring your relationships to a healthier place?

Day 3: Forgiveness and Accountability (1 Thessalonians 5:4-15)

1. Can you recall a time when you experienced God's forgiveness and grace through another Christian? Take a moment to thank God for His work through this person.
2. Have you ever spoken words of healing and hope into someone else's life?
3. Be attentive this week to situations where God might be using someone else to hold you accountable in your walk with Him—whether you asked for it or not! Seek to cultivate a humble heart, so that you'll be ready to hear God's voice.

Day 4: Freedom from Strongholds (James 4:1-10)

1. What spiritual stronghold(s) are you struggling with in your life? It might not be immediately evident to you, so take some time to reflect on this.
2. Are you ready to surrender this area of your life to Christ?
3. What Christian friend or mentor can you talk to about this?
4. If you're still not sure what stronghold or foothold might be in your life, who can you ask for their honest and wise insights?

Day 5: Wholeness (Ephesians 1:3-10)

1. What part of God's plan speaks most strongly to you right now?
2. Several of this week's readings focused on brokenness and distorted patterns of living. In what way is God calling you to join Him in His work of restoring "unity to all things"?
3. Make a list of things that God has made whole or more beautiful in your life and present it to Him as an offering of prayer.

Mizizi Supplemental Journal Questions and Scripture Readings

Week 5: Sharing God's Heart, Part One

Day 1: Lost People Matter to God (Luke 15:1-7)

1. Take a moment to use the Impact List on the previous page to list five unsaved people in your life—people you see often who have not given their lives to Jesus.
2. How do you feel about the people you listed?
3. In what ways can you imitate Christ in actively serving and reaching out to them?
4. Think back to a time when you were acutely aware of God's compassion in your life and thank Him for that. Ask Him to develop this same compassion in you towards other "lost sheep."

Day 2: God's Plan A (Romans 10:13-15)

1. What does "witness to someone" mean to you and what would it look like in action?
2. Identify someone who had a positive impact on your life by sharing their faith with you. Why was their witness effective? If they are still alive, consider writing them a note of gratitude.
3. How are you currently serving as Christ's witness to the people on your Impact List? What other steps can you take?
4. What's the biggest challenge you face in sharing your faith?
5. Pray for the people on your Impact List. Be looking for how God might want to use you in their lives.

Day 3: Natural Connections (Acts 2:42-47)

1. Identify the style that most resonates with your personality. Read the biblical account referenced next to it. What do you learn from this passage about sharing the gospel?
2. How can you use your evangelism style(s) to reach your lost friends, neighbors, and family?
3. Besides your preferred evangelism style, you may have abilities in other styles. Which style(s) do you think would be most effective in reaching each person on your Impact List?
4. Thank God for the specific personality He has given you, and for the specific people He has placed in your life. Ask Him to give you specific opportunities to share His good news with them this week.

Day 4: Telling Your Story (Acts 26:12-29)

1. Have you ever shared your faith with someone else? If so, how did it go? If not, why not?
2. If you haven't written down your story yet, do so now. (You may need to set aside time to finish later, as this can take a while.) Imagine situations and settings where you can share your story with your non-Christian friends.
3. Which of the three common communication tips do you need help with? Mentally rehearse how you can avoid this pitfall.
4. Thank God for the story He is writing in your life. Share with God your hesitations and fears about sharing your story. Ask for His courage and wisdom to do so.

Day 5: Presenting the Good News (1 Peter 3:8-16)

1. Which gospel-sharing tool works best for you? Why?
2. Re-read 1 Peter 3:15. In what ways are you not prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have? How can you prepare yourself?
3. Outline your answer to the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian?" using language that is natural for you. Practice sharing the good news with another believer.
4. What commitment are you willing to make about presenting the gospel to your friends and neighbors?
5. Pray that God will open a door this week for you to share your faith story (or part of it) with someone. You have just asked for something that is dear to God's heart—get ready for Him to act!

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Week 6: Sharing God's Heart, Part Two

Outreach Experience:

Pray daily that God will open the door to opportunities to share His good news. Pray that you will be alert and responsive. You might share your faith story, the good news of Jesus, or invite someone to church. This is a time for you to be prepared, expectant, and bold—even if it's outside your comfort zone.

Day 1: God's Mission (Matthew 9:35-38)

1. To which of these aspects of God's heart are you most attracted? If you have had past experience in this area(s) reflect on it in your journal.
2. Which of these aspects will you find most difficult to engage in? Why?
3. Go back to your answers for the above two questions and read the Bible passages that are cited with them in the diagram. How do these passages shape your view of God's heart for these areas?
4. Ask God to ignite passion in you for the things He is passionate about. Share your thoughts, ideas, and fears with Him.

Day 2: Real Faith (Matthew 25:31-40)

1. How are you currently involved in helping those less fortunate than yourself?
2. What needs to change in your life for you to become a blessing to the poor?
3. Where are the poor in your community? How can you get to better know them and their needs?
4. "God's intention is to bless you for the sake of others." List a few ways that God has blessed you, specifically. How might you share these gifts with those who are in need?

Day 3: Engaging the Powers (Isaiah 58:1-12)

1. Think of a time when you encountered a situation of injustice. How did you react?
2. Read Isaiah 58:1-12. In today's world, what does it mean to "loose the chains of injustice" and "set the oppressed free"?
3. What organizations that fight for social justice does your church partner with? How might you play a role in one of them?
4. Talk to God about a situation of injustice that hits close to home. Ask Him to draw you into the work He is already doing to overcome this system or situation.

Day 4: Caring for Our Environment (Romans 8:19-23)

1. Take careful note of the environment around you today. What effects of humanity's abuses do you notice?
2. How do you think God is calling you to make a difference in your immediate environment?
3. What are several practical steps you can implement in your home or lifestyle?
4. Where might "engaging the powers" and "caring for the environment" converge in your sphere of influence?

Day 5: God's Vision for the World (Genesis 12:1-9)

1. Which of the suggestions for involvement in the Great Commission would you like to initiate immediately?
2. What regional and global "great commission work" is your church involved in and how can you become more involved in one of these ministries?
3. God wants Christians to give more than just humanitarian aid to the global poor. What does it mean "to take the whole gospel"? What would an "incomplete" gospel look like?
4. God's global vision has carried his good news all the way to your corner of the world. Take a moment to reflect on this truth and talk with God about how you can partner with Him to help carry out this vision.

Mizizi Supplemental Journal Questions and Scripture Readings

Week 7: Money Matters

Day 1: The True Owner (Luke 16:10-13)

1. How would your life look different if you really believed that God owned all the resources you have?
2. Read Matthew 6:25-34. What are "these things" which Jesus says will be given to you if you seek first His kingdom and His righteousness?
3. Talk to God about how you have been acting like an owner and how you have been acting like a manager. Ask Him to teach you to be faithful in managing the resources He has blessed you with.

Day 2: Management Principles (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

1. In which of these categories (giving, taxes, etc.) have you been a good manager? In which do you need to adjust your approach?
2. Today's reading reminds us that work is about more than earning money; it is part of God's design for our lives. How does your job allow you to contribute productively to God's creation? If you don't have a job at this time, how can you serve in your community to contribute to God's purposes?
3. Reread 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Which part of this passage sticks out most to you? Write to God about it, sharing your experiences, reactions, thoughts, and hopes.

Day 3: Becoming a Kingdom Channel (2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

1. Which part(s) of today's reading is new or challenging for you?
2. What will you need to change in your thinking and/or lifestyle in order to become a more generous kingdom channel?
3. What do the categories of tithe, freewill offerings, and gifts to the poor look like at your church and in your life?

Day 4: Debt-Free Living (Romans 13:6-10)

1. What is your status regarding debt?
2. If in debt, go through the four steps outlined in today's reading so you can form a plan for getting out of debt. This can be a time-consuming process, so you may need to set aside more time later.
3. If you're not in debt, focus on your giving and savings plans. Thank God for the freedom you are able to live in, and ask God how He might be calling you to become a more significant kingdom channel.

Day 5: Our Spending Plan (Matthew 6:19-24)

1. If you do not have a budget, use a pencil and take 10 minutes to begin the budget in Appendix 2.
2. If you have a planned budget, how does it reflect your values and purpose?
3. What are your values (what you consider important) and purpose (where you are going)? You may want to consider this question both individually and as a family, if applicable.
4. As you work on your budget, bring difficult areas to God, asking for His wisdom in making financial decisions.

Mizizi Supplemental Journal Questions and Scripture Readings

Week 8: Shaped for Service

Day 1: Created for Service (Matthew 20:26-28)

1. In what ways did Jesus model servanthood?
2. What are some barriers that might keep you from becoming a servant (pride, money, etc.)?
3. Read Luke 10:38-42. What does this tell you about the need to balance service with worship, prayer, and other disciplines? How are you doing in this regard?
4. Write a prayer expressing your thoughts and experience with service. Ask God to mold your attitude to His.

Day 2: Shaped for Service (1) (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

1. If you haven't completed the Spiritual Gifts Inventory, do so now. What are your primary spiritual gifts?
2. How could you use your spiritual gifts in ministry?
3. What are some spiritual gifts you see in others? How can you encourage them?

Day 3: Shaped for Service (2) (Ephesians 2:1-10)

1. What do you notice about your SHAPE that you haven't noticed before?
2. What ministry opportunities in your church might align well with you SHAPE?
3. How might you use your SHAPE to serve your neighborhood?
4. Thank God for the way He has created and shaped you. Ask Him to reveal opportunities to use all that you are.

Day 4: A Servant Heart (Matthew 25:14-30)

1. Which aspect of having a servant heart is difficult for you?
2. Describe a time when you didn't have a servant heart. How can you react differently if a similar situation arises?
3. Read Philippians 2:5-11. Talk to Jesus about your responses to this passage and ask for God's help as you seek to avoid the pitfalls of pride, disunity, and self.

Day 5: Our Source (John 14:16-17)

1. In what ways has the Holy Spirit worked in your life?
2. In which ways in the above bulleted list are you most in need of the Holy Spirit's help now? Ask the Spirit for His help.
3. Think back to the service possibilities you identified in Days 2 and 3. What might you be able to do for God's kingdom in these areas with the Holy Spirit's power? Invite the Spirit to empower you as you seek to live out your God-given potential.

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Week 9: Welcome to the Family

Day 1: Body Parts (1 Corinthians 12:12-26)

1. What is your experience of being connected with a local church? In what ways does today's reading change your perspective?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. Reflect on the image of the Church as a body. What do you learn about how we are to treat one another?
3. In what good ways would you hope the family of God would be like your family of upbringing? In what ways would you hope the family of God would be better?
4. Write a prayer, asking God to show you specific ways to love people in our church, whether they are suffering or rejoicing (1 Cor. 12:26).

Day 2: The Three A's (Acts 2:42-47)

1. Reread Acts 2:42-47. What excites you? What stretches or scares you?
2. Which of the three purposes for small groups in the reading do you most need? Which can you help with?
3. If you are in a small group, how is it doing in providing association, application, and accountability to you and its other members? What can you do to strengthen it?
4. Take a few minutes to pray for those in your Mizizi group. Ask God to show you ways in which you can encourage and "spur each other on to love and good deeds."

Day 3: Caring for One Another (Philippians 2:1-11)

1. What are some ways that you can begin to show God's love and concern for others in your Mizizi group?
2. How can you love your fellow church and small group members who aren't particularly "lovable"?
3. Is there anyone in your church with whom you are not "living in harmony" (Rom. 12:16)? What can you do to repair that?
4. Who in your small group is going through tough times? What can you do to pray for, encourage, build up, serve, forgive, and bear with them?

Day 4: Special Ceremonies (Luke 22:7-20)

1. How does your church practice the three special ceremonies discussed above?
2. Why is it important for the Church to regularly celebrate communion?
3. Have you ever taken communion in a small group setting? If so, what was the experience like? If not, what are your thoughts on it?
4. If you haven't been baptized, reflect on the reasons why. Read through Appendix 2 at the back of this book.
5. Talk with God about baptism and communion. If you have questions about the purposes of these ceremonies, ask God. Listen to His words by reading Rom. 6:1-14 (baptism) and 1 Cor. 11:23-29/Luke 22:14-20 (communion).

Day 5: Serving God Together (Matthew 28:16-20)

1. If you are a part of a small group, how has your group reached out to invite others? If you haven't reached out, how might you do so?
2. What are some of the social needs that you see around you in your community? How could your small group help to meet one of these needs?
3. What local, regional, and global outreach or service ministries does your church have? How might your small group play a role in one of them?
4. How are you feeling about the ideas in today's reading? (Excited? Overwhelmed? Nervous? Inspired?) Talk to God about this and thank Him in advance for how He will meet both your and the world's needs.

Mizizi Supplemental Journal Questions and Scripture Readings

Week 10: The Journey Ahead

Day 1: The Enemy Within (Romans 7:15-25)

1. What sins of the flesh do you need to confess to God? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal these to you.
2. Confess to God these sins, committing not to return to them. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill and strengthen you, so that you can live an obedient life today.
3. To which trusted Christian friend will you confess these sins in order that s/he can hold you accountable?
4. Read Galatians 5:16-26. As you seek to defeat "the enemy within," it is good to replace those influences with the fruit of the Spirit listed in verses 22-23. Which "fruit" would be especially helpful for you to focus on? How can this fruit grow in you?

Day 2: The Enemy Without (1 John 2:15-17)

1. In what ways have you loved the "world" in the past?
2. In what ways might you still be seeking after the world's power, recognition, wealth, status, beauty, and self-gratification?
3. How are these pursuits competing or interfering with your love for God and His purposes?
4. Ask God to open your eyes to the ways in which the world has deceived you, and for His help to be freed from the world's messages.

Day 3: Defeating the Enemy Without (Romans 12:1-21)

1. What are some practices in your culture that are in opposition to the ways of God?
2. How can you positively engage the culture and shed God's light on these practices?
3. Write a prayer asking God to lead you to friends who will keep you accountable regarding the worldly practices that tempt you. Write down the names of those who help you.

Day 4: The Enemy Above (Ephesians 6:10-20)

1. Are there areas of spiritual warfare in your life that you need to be alert to?
2. What defenses can you use against Satan's attacks?
3. Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and write a prayer about what each piece of this spiritual armor looks like in your life.

Day 5: Finishing Well (Psalm 63:1-5)

1. What barriers might keep you from developing a life of intimacy with God?
2. What will you need to do to overcome these barriers? Are you committed to doing what it takes?
3. Read Psalm 63:1-5. Do you feel the same deep yearning for God expressed in the Psalms? If so, express that longing to God, expecting Him to meet with you. If not, ask God to develop that heart in you.
4. Write a prayer thanking God for the good work He has begun in you, and expressing confidence that He can and will deepen your hunger for Him as you continue to invest in your relationship.
5. Invite God to show you what next step you can take to live a fuller life with Him.