

The Journey Take the First Step

Spiritual Challenges:

1. **1 Week Daily Bible Challenge** –

Each day of a week you need to read one paragraph, or more, a day of the Bible. Each day, write in your journal what you have read and anything that stood out to you, we want to know!

2. **Write a letter...** –

Write a letter to God or Jesus or both. The letter must be at least one full page and include questions that you want to ask Him, things that you're thankful for and a prayer that you have. Turn your letter into a youth leader after you are finished. The letter can be typed or handwritten but if handwritten, it must be one full notebook page (8.5"x11").

3. **Memorize Philemon** –

Memorize the book of Philemon and be able to recite it to a youth leader without any help or corrections. Don't forget to bring whatever translation you used to memorize so that we can check your memorization with the same translation. It does not have to be done at the same time as the other memorizations; they only need to be one at a time.

4. **Bring a Bible and Respond** –

For 4 different weeks (not including game nights or events where a lesson is not taught) you must bring your own personal Bible and read along to the message being taught. Then write a response to the message that was taught that week (for all 4 weeks) and include scripture used, main points, how it impacted you, and how you can use it in your life.

5. **Serve a Neighbor for Free** –

Spend a day doing house, yard, or some other type of work for a neighbor free. Have your PARENT (not the neighbor) sign off on the work you did. Let us know about the experience and how it felt to serve someone without expecting anything in return.

6. **Memorize Psalm 119** –

You must memorize and be able to recite Psalm 119 to a youth leader. Bring whatever translation you memorized with you so the leader can check your memorization. You must be able to recite it with only 2 corrections from the youth leader. It must be from memory only – no cheat sheets.

7. **Pick a Person for Prayer** –

Pick one person in your life (must be a non-Christian or someone who does not practice their Christian faith) and pray for them every day for a month. You must devote at least 5 minutes of prayer to this person and you must pray for them every day. You must keep a tally every day and show the leader the tally as well as share about the relationship you have with that person or how you know them. (We do not need to know names but it gives us the ability to pray for that person also.)

8. Memorize the 10 Commandments –

You must memorize the 10 Commandments and be able to recite them for a youth leader before or after youth group in the proper order and be able to explain what each one means.

9. Read at Dinner –

Read at least one passage of Scripture out loud for your family at the dinner table. If your family is constantly running around due to sports or work, then you are only required to sit down and eat with at least one parent and read for them. Scripture selections can be of your choice. In order for this to be counted, you must list the 7 dates, what Scripture you read on each date, and have a parent sign off for each day.

10. Reading Matthew –

Reading the entire book of Matthew (if you have read it before, it does not count, you have to read it again after now.) You do not have to do it in one sitting but you must read the entire book without skipping chapters or sections.

11. Reading Mark –

Reading the entire book of Mark (if you have read it before, it does not count, you have to read it again after now.) You do not have to do it in one sitting but you must read the entire book without skipping chapters or sections.

12. Reading Luke –

Reading the entire book of Luke (if you have read it before, it does not count, you have to read it again after now.) You do not have to do it in one sitting but you must read the entire book without skipping chapters or sections.

13. Reading John –

Reading the entire book of John (if you have read it before, it does not count, you have to read it again after now.) You do not have to do it in one sitting but you must read the entire book without skipping chapters or sections.

14. Read the entire Old Testament –

Read the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi. If you have read any of the books before, it does not count, it must be from today on.

15. Read the entire New Testament –

You must read every book, every page of the New Testament of the Bible (from Matthew to Revelation). It does not need to be in one sitting, but every page and book must be read. We recommend reading with a highlighter in your hand. Also, if you read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John for the other challenges then you do not have to re-read them again. If you have read all the books or any of the books before, you cannot check them off for this, it is starting now.

16. Week of Prayer with Parents –

For one week straight, every day for 7 days you must pray with your parents. In order for this to be accomplished all you need to do is write the dates of all 7 days and have a parent sign next to each one. You must be the one who is praying the primary prayer, you parents can also pray but you need to be a big part of the prayer time. If you are unsure of how to pray, ask one of the leaders to help you out with this.

17. Memorize Psalm 91 –

You must memorize and recite Psalm 91 without help of a Bible, cards or hints. Whichever translation you memorized it from, please bring that with you so we can make sure to read along with the same translation that you memorized. You get as many tries as you need, but you must recite it for one of the leaders without correction.

18. Prayer Journal –

For 1 week straight, you must keep a prayer journal. Instead of just praying in your head or out loud, you write down what you would pray. It enables you to go back years from now, and you can look at what you were praying for and how God has answered your prayers or how you have grown. We would not read the prayers but we would just check off that you have 7 days done in order to get credit. It must be a hard copy (written down on paper.)

19. Sharing the Gospel –

In order to accomplish this challenge, you must share the Gospel with someone and then write a couple of paragraphs (around 1 page) about the experience. In the explanation talk about how they responded, how you answered their questions, what you told them, etc. If you are unsure about how to share the Gospel message with someone, talk to one of the youth leaders and we would be more than happy to help.

20. Mentoring Challenge –

The mentoring challenge is to help personal growth and accountability through a relationship with one of the leaders. Girls must be mentored by a female leader and boys by a male leader. In order for a mentoring relationship to be initiated, you must ask a leader to be your mentor, and it has to last at least 3 months.

What is involved in a mentoring relationship?

- 1) Sharing – what are you struggling with in your faith? What questions do you have? What are you struggling with as a child of Christ? Opening your lives to one another is necessary to enable growth.
- 2) You need to go through either Scripture or a devotional book together during your mentoring time.
- 3) Remembering to pray for each other and keeping each other updated on the needs for prayer and praise.
- 4) Communicating outside of the Church at least once every other week. It can

be through e-mail, phone, private message on the forum, catching up for dinner or instant messenger.

Challenges Explained

We will be rewarding those who accomplish the challenges and they are ongoing so as long as you are at youth group you will be able to do the challenges. We want to see you grow in your faith so we have set up these challenges.

Level 1 (*accomplish 1 challenge*)

Reward -Your favorite candy bar (we will buy whatever candy bar you want)

Level 2 (*accomplish 5 challenges*)

Reward - Custom home made iron on t-shirt designed by the leaders just for you.

Level 3 (*accomplish 10 challenges*)

Reward -\$10 iTunes card

Level 4 (*accomplish 15 challenges*)

Reward -Youth Leaders take you out to a meal any place you want to eat within an hour of the Church

Level 5 (*accomplish 20 challenges*)

Reward -New Bible signed by all the youth leaders with your name engraved on it.

There will be some extremely hard challenges that are time consuming and there will be some easy ones but they all in some way help you to grow in your faith. Some challenges involve you posting in their topic updates, answer questions or so on. Some of the others we will take your

word on your progress.

Also, as you gain each level of accomplishment it will be attached to your name on the forum and you will receive a certificate at youth group.