



# WELCOME TO PASSAGE

LEADER'S GUIDE

*Passage: A Systematic Study of the Christian Faith for Teenagers*

by Jeremy Writebol

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## **A Note to Pastors, Bible-Study Teachers and Parents,**

Thank you for picking up *Passage*. I am glad that you care so much about teaching your students and kids doctrine. Let me tell you a little bit about *Passage* and how I hope you will use it.

One of the things that concerns me most about youth ministry these days is that we seem to be selling our teens short. We have been told that entertainment, games, cool bands and hip dudes are what teens need to connect with the church. The problem is that a ministry like that does nothing for the souls of teens. What our teens need is to know what the basis for their beliefs are and how they impact everyday life. *Passage* is nothing less than a course of systematic, Biblical theology for teenagers.

I wrote this for the 8th graders at Santa Rosa Bible Church to teach them doctrine and to serve as a “rite of passage” for them before they enter high school. The format was simple. We met together weekly during the school year (with a few breaks here and there) and worked through the contents of this course. They did the homework, I checked it and we moved through the major doctrines of the Bible together. At the end of the year, in May, I gave them a R.O.P.E. Exam to test them on what they learned, and then, recognized their study and labor before the rest of the church. We wanted to create a culture where students were not only encouraged to learn doctrine but where they enjoyed it too.

The results have been great. First of all, we have had a myriad of students complete the *Passage* course since we started in 2005. They have loved it! Some of the students that went through *Passage* even became believers during the course! Secondly, we have a strong group of high school students that are now loving Christ, loving the Scripture, loving the lost and are going to do fine when they hit college. Do you know how I know this? They are grounded in their faith and you can see it in their lives.

This leader’s guide will be your tool as you take your teens through *Passage* this year. I have filled in all the blanks and added a bit more content for you as you teach. I would also recommend you pick up a more substantial volume on systematic theology, such as Wayne Grudem’s *Systematic Theology*, to assist you in your study each week. You will benefit much from it as well.

With that said, let me encourage you to get your teens together (they don’t have to be 8th graders), get your Bibles and *Passage* and discover the depths and riches of God’s Word together. Again, thanks for letting me serve you thru this course!

For the Glory of Jesus,  
Jeremy Writebol  
Wichita, Kansas

## Passage Schedule:

Here's a glimpse of what we will cover in Passage this year!

1. What Is the Bible?
2. What Good is the Bible?
3. How do I use the Bible?
4. The Existence and Essence of God
5. The Attributes of God (Part 1)
6. The Attributes of God (Part 2)
7. The Trinity
8. The Person of Christ (Part 1)
9. The Person of Christ (Part 2)
10. The Work of Christ – Christ the Mediator
11. The Work of Christ – The Atonement
12. The Work of Christ – The Resurrection and Ascension
13. Sin – The Need for Salvation
14. Salvation - God's Action to Save Sinners (Part 1)
15. Salvation - God's Action to Save Sinners (Part 2)
16. Salvation - God's Action to Save Sinners (Part 3)
17. The Gospel Message - How we receive salvation
18. The Person of the Holy Spirit
19. The Work of the Holy Spirit
20. The Identity of the Church
21. The Work of the Church when Gathered
22. The Mission of the Church when Scattered
23. The Means of Grace for the Church (Part 1)
24. The Means of Grace for the Church (Part 2)
25. The Second Coming of Christ
26. Death, Resurrection and Judgement

Sounds pretty amazing doesn't it? Of course we don't want to teach you all this stuff without helping you to remember it. At the end of the year we put the books away, crank our minds up and go for the R.O.P.E.. The R.O.P.E. is the Right of Passage Exam made just to help you finalize and articulate what you have learned. But don't stress over that right now! We are going to be there every step of the way to help teach and lead you through Passage. So get your Bible ready, sharpen a pencil and crank up your brain because you are about grow in ways you never even imagined!

But before we get started... let's take a little quiz!!

## Passage Introduction Quiz

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read each question and answer it to the best of your ability. This is not for a grade. So don't sweat it.

1. Who is the first and best of beings?
2. What is the chief end of man?
3. How do we know there is a God?
4. What is the Word of God?
5. How do we know that the Bible is the Word of God?
6. What do the Scriptures mainly teach?
7. Who is God?

8. Are there more Gods than one?
9. How many persons are there in the Godhead?
10. What is the work of creation?
11. How did God create man?
12. What is sin?
13. What was the sin that our first parents fell into?
14. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first sin?
15. Into what condition did the fall bring mankind?

16. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?
17. What do we mean by Christ's humiliation?
18. What do we mean by Christ's exaltation?
19. What is justification?
20. What is adoption?
21. What is sanctification?
22. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?
23. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the Resurrection?

24. What shall be done to the wicked at death?
  
25. What shall be done to the wicked at the Day of Judgment?
  
26. What is the duty which God requires of man?
  
27. What does every sin deserve?
  
28. What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?
  
29. What is faith in Jesus Christ?
  
30. What is repentance unto life?
  
31. What is Baptism?









# **Lesson 17:** **Salvation:** **The Gospel Message**

THE GOSPEL IS A GOOD AND A SWEET WORD, AND AN  
ASSURED TESTIMONY OF GOD'S GRACE TOWARD US,  
EXHIBITED IN CHRIST UNTO ALL BELIEVERS.  
HEINRICH BULLINGER

# **PASSAGE**

LEADER'S GUIDE

## Statement of Faith:

### From the The Gospel Coalition Confessional Statement

**The Gospel** - We believe that the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ—God’s very wisdom. Utter folly to the world, even though it is the power of God to those who are being saved, this good news is christological, centering on the cross and resurrection: the gospel is not proclaimed if Christ is not proclaimed, and the authentic Christ has not been proclaimed if his death and resurrection are not central (the message is: “Christ died for our sins . . . [and] was raised”). This good news is biblical (his death and resurrection are according to the Scriptures), theological and salvific (Christ died for our sins, to reconcile us to God), historical (if the saving events did not happen, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, and we are to be pitied more than all others), apostolic (the message was entrusted to and transmitted by the apostles, who were witnesses of these saving events), and intensely personal (where it is received, believed, and held firmly, individual persons are saved).

## Study Guide:

As we think about salvation and all that it includes and means we must ask a very important question about how someone receives this gift of all that we have described as salvation. Simply, \*how does a person become “saved”?\* This lesson will seek to understand and explain that dynamic as it relates to the larger concept of salvation.

## The Gospel Message

Before we talk about how someone is saved we must ask the question, what do they need to understand and believe in order to be saved? This is what we call *the gospel*, or Good News. The apostle Paul unpacks the core elements of the gospel message for us in 1 Corinthians 15:1-6. This passage shows us how the gospel message is advanced and what it affirms.

### The Gospel Message is Declared To Us Verbally (v. 1)

- Paul *preached* or declared the message of the gospel to the Corinthians.
- So the gospel message must be verbally spoke and declared to be received and believed.
- The gospel message is demonstrated by a lifestyle that is consistent with it, but it must be declared in word to be received and held (Romans 10:14).

### The Gospel Message is the Declaration of Christ (vv. 3-6)

The message of the Gospel is *christocentric* or a message predominately dealing with the person and work of Jesus on our behalf. This message contains three primary aspects that we must receive.

1. *Jesus is declared as the sinless mediator who lived for our righteousness.*

- Jesus is the one who lived the perfect life we could not live and thereby fulfilled the Law of God in perfecting righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Jesus’ life must be declared, not just as an example for us, but as a gift to us in which we are credited as living a perfectly holy life in God’s sight.

2. *Jesus is declared as the sacrificial substitute who died for the forgiveness of our sins.*

- Paul's emphatic statement is that "Christ died for our sins" (v. 3).
- Jesus stood in our place for our sin and took the wrath of God upon himself so that we could be forgiven from all our sins. (1 Peter 2:24)
- Jesus' death on our behalf for our sins must be declared as the only remedy to our sin-problem.

3. *Jesus is declared as the resurrected Savior who lives again for the securing of eternal life.*

- Central to the gospel message is the resurrection of Jesus from death to life (v. 4)
- As Paul further elaborates in 1 Corinthians 15, if Jesus has not been raised to life then we are hopeless in the prospects of having eternal life.
- The resurrection is the physical declaration of the Lordship of Jesus over all things, including death (1 Corinthians 15:22-26).
- Jesus' resurrection must be proclaimed as the only hope we have in being raised to life again.

### **The Gospel Message is Comprehensive of the Entire Bible (vv. 3, 4)**

- Paul declares that the gospel message is "in accordance with the Scriptures" (vv. 3, 4).
- The gospel was not an add on to the last part of the Bible but is depicted and progressively revealed throughout the entire scope of the Bible.
- The prophecy and symbols of the Old Testament were types to speak of the reality of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for us and our salvation.

### **The Gospel Message is Received By Faith (vv. 1-3)**

- The gospel of Jesus is received by renouncing our sinfulness and work to be our own Saviors. This is called repentance.
- The gospel of Jesus is received by trusting fully in the person and work of Jesus as our only hope of salvation and help.

### **The Gospel Message Deals with Our Past, Present, and Future (vv. 1-2)**

- The gospel deals with our past because it is what received for our salvation
- The gospel deals with our present because it is the reality "in which you stand." This deals with our present life. We daily live trusting Jesus' life, death and resurrection for us.
- The gospel deals with our future by being the promise of our future "being saved." As we believe and hold fast to the gospel we demonstrate its impact in our lives and are being assured of our salvation in Jesus.

### **The Gospel Message Must Be Responded To.**

- We can either ignore, reject or receive the gospel message.
- What response does your life give about the gospel of Jesus?

# Lesson 17 Homework

## The Gospel Message

### Memory Verse: Romans 10:8-10

*But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

The homework for this lesson is simple. Sit down with your pastor, youth leader, parent or friend and have a discussion about your reception of the gospel. Here’s a few questions that you should discuss together:

1. What do you believe the gospel is? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How are you responding to the gospel in your everyday life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What declaration does your life make about what you believe regarding the gospel?

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4. Have you received the gospel message? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

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# **Lesson 24:** **The Means of Grace (part 2)**

PRAYER IS ONE HAND WITH WHICH WE GRASP THE  
INVISIBLE; FASTING THE OTHER, WITH WHICH WE LET  
LOOSE AND CAST AWAY THE VISIBLE.  
ANDREW MURRAY

## **PASSAGE**

STUDENT WORKBOOK

## Study Guide:

### Reviewing the Means Of Grace

The means Of grace are any activities that God uses to bless Christians and equip them to fight sin and become more like Christ in their relationship to Him.

- Activities that God uses - these can be personal or corporate but they are usually activities that God has mandated as specific channels of His blessing, normally they are spiritual activities.
- To bless Christians - one purpose of these activities is to draw the believer closer in their relationship to Him and allow them to enjoy more of His grace and power for their lives.
- To equip them to fight sin - a second purpose of these disciplines is to help equip them to fight sin in their lives and grow in their sanctification.

### More Specific Means of Grace

In the last lesson we looked at two specific means of grace that God has given to us to help us grow in our walk with Him and to become more Christ-like in the way we live. In this lesson we will unpack four more important and helpful means of grace for our daily lives.

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Defined: Intentionally giving up the use or intake of specific physical activities for a period of time to devote yourself to prayer and being satisfied in God.

Examples in Scripture: Jesus - Matthew 4:1-2  
David - 2 Samuel 12:16  
Nehemiah - Nehemiah 1:4

Purposes of fasting:

1. To express desire for God that is greater than desire for food (or pleasure) - fasting is a way of showing that God is greater and more satisfying than a meal (or many meals).
2. To acutely know God's will and provision in prayer - prayer should always accompany fasting, so that the reason for your fast is to give yourself to prayer. We refrain from eating (or TV, or whatever) to give and allow ourselves more time to spend in prayer.

Practice of fasting:

- Dedicate yourself to prayer when you fast.
- Do not fast to be noticed or perceived as spiritual. (Matthew 6:16)
- Fast for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

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Defined: Worship is the practice of declaring the greatness and worth of God and rejoicing in His works. It is an intentional focusing of your heart on who God is and what He has done.

Examples in Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:3  
Nehemiah 8:9-12  
Acts 2:42-43

Purposes of Worship:

1. To understand the greatness and glory of God - by worshipping we see God as He rightly is.
2. To realign ourselves beneath His greatness - worship forces us to see God as great and ourselves as not.
3. To express the emotions and joy of our heart in gratitude to God - worship is a means for us to express our hearts to God for His goodness and greatness.

Practice of Worship:

- It can be done privately by singing or expressing the attributes and work of God.
- It can be practiced corporately with a local gathering of Christians by singing, thinking about Scripture or serving others.
- It should be regularly practiced both corporately and privately by all Christians

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Defined: Small groups are communities of Christians that meet regularly together to encourage and help one another in their faith and lives. It's practically loving others as Christ has loved us.

Small Groups are a way to regularly encourage Christians in their walks with the Lord, be strengthened on your own and a practical way to carry and bear the burdens of one another.

Examples in Scripture: Hebrews 3:13; 10:24  
Galatians 6:2  
Acts 4:32-35

Purposes of Small Groups:

1. To share life and the Word with other Christians
2. To exhort or encourage other Christians away from the deceitfulness of sin
3. To serve and bear the burdens of other Christians in a way that shows your love for other believers.

Practice of Small Groups:

- Get together with 8-10 other Christians to study the Bible and encourage one another.
- Meet regularly.
- Pray together.
- Share your needs and possessions with each other.
- Do ordinary, everyday things together (i.e. go shopping, play games, serve in the church).

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Defined: Giving is a way to support the needs of the local church and other believers. It demonstrates your reliance upon God rather than on money.

Examples in Scripture: Dorcas - Acts 9:36  
Cornelius - Acts 10:2  
Barnabas - Acts 5:32-37

Purposes of Giving:

1. To support the needs of a local church and the poor
2. To demonstrate that God is more valuable than money and it's power
3. To grow your faith in the God who will provide all things according to His riches in glory

Practice of Giving:

- Give regularly.
- Give sacrificially - don't just give what you can, be stretched and give beyond what you are able.
- Give cheerfully. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

## **Conclusion**

The means Of grace are not laws that a Christian must follow in order to be saved or to keep your salvation. Yet they are very important practices that God uses to grow your faith in Him and help you fight sin in your life. The great reality is, that as sinners, we will always fail at the practice of these means. The good news however is that we need the gospel everyday. Christ died for our failure to practice the means of grace! So do not despair and give up, practice these means regularly, under the grace of Christ, and see your faith and your walk with Jesus grow more and more!!

# Lesson 24 Homework

## The Means of Grace (part 2)

### Memory Verse: 2 Peter 3:18

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

#### *Fasting*

When might you need to practice the discipline of fasting?

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Are there practical things from which you can fast?

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What should be the purpose of fasting?

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#### *Small Groups*

Are you currently in a small group with other believers? \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you get together with for the purpose of Bible study, prayer, accountability and the sharing of life and needs together? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will you practice this means of grace in your life?

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#### *Worship*

In what ways do you practice worship privately? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do you practice publicly? \_\_\_\_\_

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Beyond singing how can you practice the means of grace in worship? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Giving*

Do you give? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How often? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is giving a chore or something you enjoy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can you be a better giver now? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion**

After studying the means of grace over the last two lessons, which ones can you practice more often?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can you do that?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who can you ask to help you in practicing the means of grace in your own life?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_









# THE R.O.P.E.

# PASSAGE

STUDENT WORKBOOK

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

## Welcome to the R.O.P.E.

Take a deep breath. You're going to do fine! This is a chance to see what you have retained from what you have learned this last year in Passage. Be sure to take a moment and pray before you begin, and then go for it! We know you're going to do fine. It has been a blast leading you through the Bible this year in Passage!

### True or False:

Circle T or F following each statement. If the statement is false UNDERLINE the part of the statement that is false).

1. God did not use the personalities and the writing styles of the author to communicate the Scriptures - the writers were like robots when they wrote the Bible. T or F
2. Every word of Scripture was chosen and spoken by God. T or F
3. There are no mistakes in the Bible and the Bible is incapable of containing errors. T or F
4. The Scriptures are relevant only for the people in the Bible, today we need other help to live Godly lives. T or F
5. There are three distinct persons to the Trinity, one divine nature. T or F
6. The three persons of the Trinity are all equal in nature. T or F
7. God is changeable. T or F
8. Everything God does is righteous and just. T or F
9. God's ability to do anything and everything He pleases is called his omniscience. T or F
10. Jesus Christ was created when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in Mary. T or F
11. Jesus was not prone to human weaknesses such as thirst or sleep. T or F
12. Jesus was able to sin. T or F
13. Jesus' obedience provides the righteousness we need to stand before God. T or F
14. The benefits of Christ's atonement are given to everyone on planet earth. T or F
15. Jesus' resurrected body is not a physical body. T or F
16. The resurrection is the distinctive doctrine of Christianity. T or F

17. Today Christ is making intercession (praying) on behalf of the believers. T or F
18. All humanity inherited the sin nature of Adam. T or F
19. God is obligated to save humans. T or F
20. God justifies the believer by faith alone. T or F
21. Sanctification is a process of being perfected on this earth. T or F
22. The Holy Spirit is a force. T or F
23. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world of sin and righteousness. T or F
24. The mission of the church when gathered is to evangelize. T or F
25. The church should never discipline its members. T or F
26. Baptism is an act of obedience to the command of Christ. T or F
27. Anyone can partake of the Lord's Supper. T or F
28. Not every believer has a spiritual gift. T or F
29. There will be no signs of the impending return of Christ. T or F
30. Both unbelievers and believers will stand before the judgement of Christ. T or F

**Matching:**

Only using your Bible, match the Scripture passage with the letter corresponding to the specific attribute of God.

- |                 |       |                 |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|
| Titus 1:2       | _____ | a. Mercy        |
| Malachi 3:6     | _____ | b. Truth        |
| Psalms 115:3    | _____ | c. Omnipresence |
| Jeremiah 32:17  | _____ | d. Love         |
| Psalms 145:8-9  | _____ | e. Sovereignty  |
| Romans 5:8      | _____ | f. Holiness     |
| Isaiah 6        | _____ | g. Justice      |
| Job 34:21       | _____ | h. Immutability |
| Psalms 139:7-10 | _____ | i. Omniscience  |
| Isaiah 30:18    | _____ | j. Omnipotence  |

Place a number next to each event surrounding the Second Coming to identify which event happens when in relationship to each other.

- \_\_\_ The Rapture of the Church
- \_\_\_ The Millennium Kingdom
- \_\_\_ The Eternal State
- \_\_\_ Increased Apostasy
- \_\_\_ The Second Coming of Christ
- \_\_\_ The Great Tribulation
- \_\_\_ The Great White Throne Judgement

Place a number next to each event in "God's Action to Save Sinners" that identifies what order God does things in to save people

- \_\_\_ God regenerates the sinner.
- \_\_\_ God justifies the believer.
- \_\_\_ God gives the believer a glorified body.
- \_\_\_ God predestined those who he would save.
- \_\_\_ God adopts the believer into His family.
- \_\_\_ God keeps the believer secure by guarantying their perseverance.
- \_\_\_ God brings about repentance and faith in the sinners heart.
- \_\_\_ God calls the sinner to Himself.
- \_\_\_ God sanctifies the believer.

**Fill in the blank or short answer:**

1. Over \_\_\_\_\_ different men were used to write the text of the Bible.
2. The Scriptures are without \_\_\_\_\_ in all that they speak about.
3. God is a \_\_\_\_\_, infinite, eternal, and \_\_\_\_\_, in His being, \_\_\_\_\_, power, \_\_\_\_\_, justice, goodness and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ God.
5. Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ human.
6. What three roles did Jesus fulfill as the Mediator?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the work that Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation.

8. Jesus' body was a new \_\_\_\_\_ body, not the resurrection of an old former body.
9. All humanity is in \_\_\_\_\_ to sin.
10. God is under no \_\_\_\_\_ to save anyone.
11. Whoever God has called \_\_\_\_\_ to His call in saving faith.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is a war to remove and be rid of sin.
14. The mission of the Holy Spirit is to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.
15. The Holy Spirit exalts Christ by \_\_\_\_\_ believers to become more like Christ.
16. List the three types of leaders under which a Biblical church organizes.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. The Church gathers regularly for \_\_\_\_\_ and worship
18. What are the two ordinances of the church?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. List three means of grace for the believer.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. At the final judgement list the three groups of beings that will be judged.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3. How do you plan on using what you have learned at Passage in the future?

4. What would you change about Passage if you could? (this doesn't have to be a full paragraph).

