

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## I Corinthians 10

Lesson 17

**FIRST DAY:** Review and Overview

1. Scan I Corinthians 8 and 9. What particular instruction have you had an opportunity to apply this past week?

Challenge: State the doctrines taught in I Corinthians 8:6.

2. Mark the paragraph divisions in I Corinthians 10. Observe the contents and give a short title to each paragraph.
  - a. I Corinthians 10:1-10
  - b. I Corinthians 10:11-13
  - c. I Corinthians 10:14-22
  - d. I Corinthians 10:23-33
3. This chapter is so rich in instruction, admonition, and promise, we would prefer studying just one paragraph of it a week. Since we cannot, we urge you to note any passage, verse, truth, or word that you want to ponder more thoroughly. Use a small sheet of paper that will fit in your Bible to do this or mark the place in your Bible with a small symbol that will draw your attention to this area. Begin this study by writing I Corinthians 10:31 as a prayer expressing your heart's desire as you *do* your lesson this week.

*Thy glory alone, O God,  
Be the end of all that I say;  
Let it shine in every deed  
Let it kindle the prayers that I pray.*  
F.G. Scott

**SECOND DAY:** Read I Corinthians 10:1-10

1. *All* Christians need to seriously contemplate I Corinthians 10:1-10. Why? I Corinthians 10:5a, 6a, 11.

2. Notice the word *all* repeated five times in I Corinthians 10:1-4. *All* of those who came out of Egypt's slavery had the same blessings and provisions. List these.

- |                 |       |     |   |
|-----------------|-------|-----|---|
| Exodus 13:21,22 | vs. 1 | all | (God's presence & God's guidance)                   |
| Exodus 14:22    | vs. 1 | all | (God's deliverance)                                 |
| Exodus 14:31    | vs. 2 | all | (Identification & unification with Moses as leader) |
| Exodus 16:4, 31 | vs. 3 | all | (Supernatural provision of food)                    |
| Exodus 17:6     | vs. 4 | all | (Supernatural provision of water)                   |

3. In spite of God's miraculous deliverance of the Children of Israel out of the bondage and slavery of Egypt, what did many of them do? Use the following chart to record their actions and the consequences of their behavior from I Corinthians 10:5b-10.

| What they did | The consequences     |
|---------------|----------------------|
| vs. 6b        | vs. 5b               |
| vs. 7a        | Exodus 32:(6b, 9) 10 |
| vs. 8         | vs. 8                |
| vs. 9*        | vs. 9b               |
| vs. 10        | vs.10                |

\*Note: Verse 9a literally means to put God on trial. See Exodus 17:2 and Numbers 21:5,6.

4. To increase your understanding of I Corinthians 10:1-10, read Psalm 106:6-43. Observe the consequences of the disobedience of God's chosen people, Israel, from this Psalm, especially verse 15. Record one event or verse that stuns or bewilders you in light of their behavior. (You may want to also read Exodus 13-17 and Numbers 10-15.)

**THIRD DAY:** Read I Corinthians 10:11-13

1. *These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.* I Cor. 10:11 NIV How are you warned by these examples?

a. If you are tempted to lust after evil things, put anyone or anything above God, indulge in immorality, test the Lord, or murmur, how will you deal with it? Support your answer with scripture if possible.

2. Perhaps we look at these specific sins and think: *I'd never do any of those.* How does I Corinthians 10:12 speak to us about overconfidence?

a. What should *take heed* mean in your life?

3. Print I Corinthians 10:13 phrase by phrase.

a. In light of this verse, why is there no excuse for our willful indulgence in sin?

b. Often when people are caught up in some sin they think no one has ever been as tempted as they have, or that no one else has ever experienced such a torrid, irresistible passion as they have. What one word does I Corinthians 10:13 use to describe temptation:  
c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ to man.

(1.) How does this downsize their deception?

4. What is God's part when we are tempted? I Corinthians 10:13

a. What is our responsibility:

(1.) Psalm 119:11

(2.) I Corinthians 6:18a

(3.) I Corinthians 10:14

(4.) II Corinthians 10:5

(5.) II Timothy 2:22a

b. What practical counsel would you give someone who is struggling with temptation?

5. If you are in a place of temptation, how will Hebrews 2:18 minister to you? Use other versions if possible.

a. Define the word *succour*.

(1.) Now write synonyms for *succour* by using these letters:

S

U

C

C

O

U

R

*Yield Not to Temptation  
For yielding is sin*

*Ask the Saviour to help you,  
Comfort, strengthen, and keep you;  
He is willing to aid you, He will carry you through*

**FOURTH DAY:** Read I Corinthians 10:14-22

1. In I Corinthians 10:14-22 believers are warned not to take part in pagan feasts. The key words in this passage are *communion* verse 16 and *fellowship* verse 20 (Koinonia). When we partake in a religious feast we are fellowshiping with the one worshipped at the feast. With Whom do we have *fellowship* when we take the bread and cup in our Communion service? I Corinthians 10:16,17
  
2. With whom is a person fellowshiping in the pagan feasts? I Corinthians 10:20 (The word *devils* in other versions is *demons*.)
  - a. What does I Corinthians 10:20c say about this?
  
3. With all the pagan idols brought into our country the past few years, if you were invited to one of their religious feasts, in adherence to this passage, what would you do?
  - a. In our present culture, what else might we encounter that has demonic influence and that we should avoid?
  
4. According to verse 21 what are we told we *cannot* do?
  - a. What could be the result of this? verse 22a
  - b. How will you follow the advice of I John 5:21?

*I will serve no foreign gods or any other treasure  
You are my heart's desire  
Spirit without measure unto Your Name  
I will raise my sacrifice.*

**FIFTH DAY:** Read I Corinthians 10:23-33

1. Although the Christian has liberty in Christ to do whatever is not sinful in itself, what guidelines must govern this freedom? Summarize your answer from I Corinthians 10:23,24.

Advanced students: Research and explain the instruction of I Corinthians 10:25-30.

- a. How does I Corinthians 10:27 differ from the instruction of I Corinthians 10:16-21?
2. Contrast the use of the words *all things* in I Corinthians 10:23 and in I Corinthians 10:33.

- a. Do you have a problem with relinquishing your rights for another's edification? Explain your answer.
  - b. How is I Corinthians 10:31 a powerful motivation for laying down your rights?
3. Share any insights from John 15:12-14 that will encourage you to apply I Corinthians 10:24 (*wealth means profit or good*).
  4. Write the three principles from I Corinthians 10:31-33 that should govern our freedom in Christ. Use other versions if you desire.
    - a. Which of these principles presents the greatest challenge to you today? Be specific.
      - (1.) Why?

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.  
Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God -  
even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good  
but the good of many, so that they may be saved.*

*I Corinthians 10:31-33 (IV)*

**SIXTH DAY:** Review I Corinthians 10

1. Why does Paul use the historical failures of the Children of Israel as examples for us?
  - a. It is incomprehensible to us that after all the miracles the Israelites were eyewitnesses of, they would turn to idolatry, immorality, unbelief, and murmuring. Why would *we* as Christians who have been blessed beyond measure be appalled at the Israelites' behavior and do the same things?
2. *Murmuring* seems to us to be much less of a sin than idolatry and immorality. Yet, the consequences for it were just as severe as for the other sins. Define the word *murmur*.
  - a. Write here and apply to your life Philippians 2:14 (15).
  - b. Why is *murmuring* such an awful sin?
  - c. What should replace *murmuring*?
3. What did you learn from I Corinthians 10:11-13 that you can apply to your life today?
  - a. Explain why it is significant that every temptation you encounter is *common to man*.
4. How does I Corinthians 10:16-22 affect your attitude toward Communion?
5. Share with your group the most powerful insight you've received through this lesson.