Martin Luther was born into a poor German home; his father worked hard as a miner, to send Martin to school; he wanted Martin to be a lawyer. Sometimes they were so poor that Martin sang for people to earn a coin to buy food and he was often teased and bullied at school. His parents were very strict and religious, and to young Luther, pleasing God seemed to be a very difficult thing.

Life was easier when he went to university; he was a dedicated student with good memory, reasoning and understanding skills and did well. One day in the library, he found a Latin Bible; he had never known such a book existed! The priests had parts of the New Testament to read in church and he thought that was all there was.

He had always worried about sin and as he read he felt overwhelmed by his sinful state. He decided to join a monastery, and found a Bible chained to a wall and so in his spare time he read, even giving up sleep and food. The monks in this monastery spent their time fasting, begging for food and doing many other things that were painful to both their bodies and their pride in the hope of removing guilt. But despite doing everything required, Luther felt worse. Then God sent Johann von Staupitz, the priest in charge of the university, to Luther. Staupitz told Luther to stop torturing himself and to turn to Jesus for forgiveness. This was not easy, but Luther was finally able to gain the peace of forgiveness from God.

Luther moved to the University of Wittenberg; he continued to study the scriptures and at Staupitz' urging, began preaching about them.

Luther was delighted when he was able to travel to Rome, the centre of the Church. He walked, staying at monasteries on the way; in Italy, he was surprised to find that some monasteries were like luxury resorts – a total contrast to the monastery where he had lived.

Another surprise awaited him in Rome itself. The language of the people, especially the priests was anything but pure - often filled with swearing, even in church! And opportunities for all types of sin were found everywhere. Still he joined the crowds of people climbing Pilots staircase on their knees at the promise of forgiveness from sin; but half way up, a thundering voice seemed to say to him, "The just shall live by faith." – He sprang to this feet and left in shame, promising that from now on he would follow only the word of God.

The Witnesses

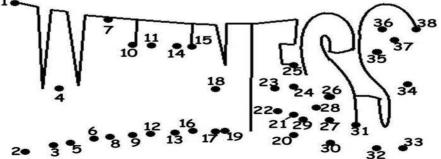
Sabbath

Matthew 5:16_{NLT} says to let people see you doing good things so that...





What do we call this?



Year 2, Quarter 1, Week 11, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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Refer: 2 Kings 5-7 NLT; Prophets and Kings p244-253; The Bible Story vol5 p79-88; The Great Controversy chapter 7

Sunday

<u>Naaman</u> was the army commander for the king of Aram. He had <u>leprosy</u>, a disease identified by white patches on the skin, and losing all sense of touch; a person with leprosy gets skin sores and often loses their fingers or toes because they can't feel when they are injured.

Naaman's wife had a young Israelite slave girl for a maid and one day the young maid said to her, "If Naaman could see the prophet in Israel, he would be healed."

And so it was arranged Naaman would travel to the land of Israel to be healed. He took several men, many gifts and a letter of introduction from the king of Aram to the king of Israel; but when he gave the letter to the king of Israel, the king tore his robes saying, "Am I God?"

Then Elisha sent a message to the king, to send Naaman to him.

When Naaman arrived at the house of the prophet, a servant answered the door and told him "Go, wash in the <u>Jordan</u> River seven times and then you will be healed."

Naaman was angry the prophet hadn't bothered to greet him. And he said, "Why should I wash in the Jordan River? We have much nicer rivers at home."

But the men with Naaman reasoned. "It is an easy thing he has asked you to do. Why not do it? If it was a hard thing you would do it."

So Naaman stopped by the muddy Jordan River and washed and dunked himself under the water seven times. When he came up on the seventh time, he found he was healed!

Then Naaman returned to the prophet's house to thank him and give him the gifts. But the prophet refused the gifts.

Now Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, had been listening, and when Elisha wasn't looking he hurried down the road after Naaman. He said "Two visitors have just arrived and the prophet would like some silver and some of the new clothes to give them." So Naaman gave Gehazi these things and even more. Gehazi hid the gifts and returned but Elisha met him at the door and said "Because you have been greedy, you and your children will now suffer from Naaman's leprosy."

Friday

In a court room a witness is someone who tells or testifies to the court about what they saw. But an effective witness requires more than just eyes and a mouth; people will notice how the witness is dressed, how they act and talk and if it is known, how they live their life. The same is true for Christian witnesses and some people will be thinking... "If that's what a Christian I think I would like to be a Christian." Or "If that's what a Christian is like I do not want to be one."

What do people see when they look at you? As you read each verse ask your self if you there are areas of Christian witness that you need to improve on, and talk to God about it – He is just waiting to help you.

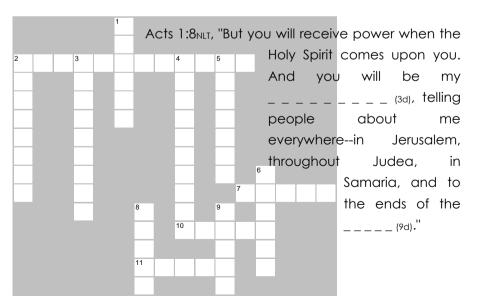
Ephesians 6:1 _{NIV} , "Child	ren, yo	our	$_{-}$ in the Lo	ord"	
James 1:26 _{NLT} , "If you c	claim you are	9	but c	don't con	tro
your tongue, you are f	ooling yourse	elf, and your	religion		
is					
John 13:34 _{NIV} , "A new o	ommand I g	give you:			
one another. As I	have	_ you,	_		
so you must one	another."		-		
1 Thessalonians 5:16 _{NLT} ,	"b	e joyful."			
John 14:15 _{NLT} ,"If you lov	e Me, obey	my	-		
<u>m e n t s</u> .			-		
Galatians 5:22, 23NLT,					
"But the Holy Spirit prod	luces	-			
this kind of fruit in our liv	ves:		_		
love, joy,, patie	ence,				
faithfulness,					
and					
Fit the missing words in	the grid.				

Thursday

Read the introduction that Luke wrote in the beginning of his gospel in Luke 1:1-3

Who did his information originally come from?	<u>_</u> <u>E</u> <u>S</u> (2a)
John 5:39-40 _{ESV} , "You search the	_(4d) because you
think that in them you have $_____\{\mbox{\scriptsize (5d)}}$ life; and	it is they that bear
witness about me," Some Bibles use the word	testify instead of
witness – testify means tells about, a witness testifies	s about what they
have seen or know. The NIV Bible says "The Scripture	es point to me!"

Jesus calls His followers to be witnesses: Matthew 5:14-16_{NLT}, "You are the ______(7a) of the ______(8d) —like a city on a hilltop that cannot be ______(6d). No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a ______(10a), where it gives ______(7a) to _______(2d) in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly _____(1d)."



Monday

One day the men from the school of prophets came to Elisha and said "Our <u>building</u> is too small and so we are going down to the Jordan <u>River</u> to cut trees to build a bigger place. Will you come with us?"

One of the boys had <u>borrowed</u> an axe and as he was <u>chopping</u>, the head suddenly flew off its handle and <u>disappeared</u> in the muddy water. "Oh no" he cried! "It was a borrowed axe!" "Where did it fall in?" Elisha asked. The boy showed him; Elisha took a stick and threw it into the water, and they watched as the axe head floated to the surface!

Elisha would often tell the king of Israel what his enemy were doing and the king of Aram thought he had a traitor. When he found out about Elisha, he sent his army to capture him and they surrounded the city where he was. When the young man working for Elisha saw the army, he was terrified. But Elisha said "Don't be afraid! - There are more on our side than on theirs." Suddenly the young man could see the hillside was <u>filled</u> with horses and chariots of fire - God's army.

Elisha asked God to blind the enemy and he went out and led them to the city of Samaria then <u>prayed</u> for their sight to return. He ordered the king of Israel to feed and send them home!

Another time the king of Aram surrounded Samaria. Food became so scarce that a cup of dove's dung cost five pieces of silver!

Then Elisha received a message from God: "Tomorrow, a single piece of silver will buy five whole quarts of flour, or ten whole quarts of barley." The king's officer listening, said, "That is impossible - even if God opened the <u>windows</u> of <u>heaven</u>." So Elisha replied, "You will see that God is right, but you won't be able to enjoy it."

That evening, four men with leprosy sat outside the city gates; "We are going to starve if we stay here, let's go see the enemy? Maybe they will kill us; but maybe they will feed us." And so they went to the camp.

Now God had sent the noise of a <u>great army</u> to scare the enemy, and they had fled, leaving their camp deserted. The lepers ate and drank until they were full, and took gold and silver and new clothing for themselves.

Tuesday

After eating they had eaten and drank, they hurried back and told the gate-keeper who woke the palace. When the people heard the good news they rushed out to help themselves. The king appointed his officer to guard the gate, but in the rush of people he was trampled; so he heard the good news, but didn't get to enjoy it himself, just as Elisha had predicted.

Why wasn't Elisha scared? Use the code to see what he said in 2 Kings 6:16

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Find the underlined words from Sunday and Monday.



Wednesday

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