

# Faithful Men's Spiritual Retreat 2006

*Muckross Venture Centre, Killarney*

**Studying the Life Principles of:**



**“When my soul fainted  
within me I  
remembered the  
LORD”  
Jonah 2:7**

**Doing the Will of God from the Heart!**  
(Ephesians 6:6)

**Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig**  
29 Westcourt Heights  
Ballincollig, Cork  
(021) 4875142  
Pastor Craig Ledbetter  
[www.biblebc.com](http://www.biblebc.com)

**This handbook belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_**

## Schedule of Events

Time	Duration	Main Function	Support Function
<b>THURSDAY 20 APRIL</b>			
4:30pm	30min	Arrive at Camp between 4.30 and 6.30pm, Unpack and start dinner	
6:00pm	1 hour	Dinner ( <i>Spaghetti, Garlic Bread</i> )	
6:45pm	45 min	Break, <b>Sports Time</b>	<i>Clean-up</i>
7:30pm	1:30 hour	<b>First Session – <u>Introduction – Signs of Jonah</u> – Craig Ledbetter</b>	
9:00pm	1 hour	Snack ( <i>Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches</i> )	
10:00pm	45min	<b>Second Session – <u>Silliness of Jonah</u> – John Crabbe</b>	
11:15pm	45min	<b>Activity Time</b>	
12:00am	7:30hrs	Sleep	
<b>FRIDAY 21 APRIL</b>			
7:30am	1 hour	Wake-Up, Read Bible & Take Shower	<i>Prepare Breakfast</i>
8:30am	45min	Breakfast ( <i>Eggs, Sausage, and Cereal</i> )	
9:15am	15min	Break	<i>Clean-up</i>
9:30am	1 hour	<b>First Session – <u>The Sins of Jonah</u> – Craig Ledbetter</b>	
10.30am	45min	Talk Session – Worksheet	
11:15am	15min	Break	
11:30am	45 min	<b>Second Session – <u>The Sorting-Out of Jonah</u> – Bob Zemeski</b>	
12:15pm	30 min	<i>Prepare Bag Lunches</i>	
12:45pm	4:00hrs	<b>Hiking and Hill Walking</b> (bag lunch)	<i>Prepare Dinner</i>
4:45pm	30min	Break	
5:00pm	1 hour	Dinner ( <i>Roast Chicken</i> )	
6:00pm	30min	Break	<i>Clean-Up</i>
6:30pm	1 hour	<b>Third Session – <u>The Soul-Winning of Jonah</u> – Kevin O’Keeffe</b>	
7:30pm	1 hour	<b>Sports Time</b> (Outdoor)	
8:30pm	45min	Dessert, Tea and Coffee	
9:15pm	45min	<b>Singing and Testimony Time</b>	
10:00pm	45min	Prayer Time	
10:45pm	1 hour	<b>Sports Time</b>	
11:45pm	30min	Evening Quiet Time	
12:15am	7:15hrs	Sleep	
<b>SATURDAY 22 APRIL</b>			
7:30am	45min	Wake-up, Read Bible & Take Showers	<i>Prepare Breakfast</i>
8:15am	45min	Breakfast ( <i>Eggs, Porridge and Cereal</i> )	
9:00am	1 hour	<b>Final Session – <u>The Second Chances of Jonah</u> – Layton Kelly</b>	
10:00am	45min	Talk Session – Second Chances	
10:45am	15 min	Break	
11:00am	30min	<b>Testimony Time</b>	
11:30am	1 hour	Pack-up and clean-up	<i>Prepare Lunch</i>
12:30pm	30min	Lunch ( <i>Sandwiches</i> )	
1:00pm		Final Clean-up, Leave for Home	



## Special Songs

---

### Faithful Men

I am looking to Jesus, giving all in the race,  
pressing upward to gain the heavenly prize!  
Faithful men are my witness,  
who have struggled for Christ,  
and they watch from the grandstands in the sky!



*Chorus*

**Faithful men... have gone before us!**  
**Faithful men... who fight and stand!**  
**I want to fol-low in their footsteps!**  
**Make me Lord... a faithful man!**

Jacob joined with the faithful; Joseph followed behind;  
Moses ran with the mighty men of old!  
There was David and Daniel; Then came Peter and Paul.  
Now they shout as they run on streets of gold!

*(To Chorus)*

*End of the last Chorus*

Make me Lord... a faithful man.  
Make me Lord, a *faith-ful* man!

---

### A Few Good Men

What this dying world could use, Is a willing man of God  
Who dares to go against the grain, And work without applause  
A man who'll raise the shield of faith, Protecting what is pure  
Whose love is tough and gentle, A man whose word is sure

God doesn't need an orator, Who knows just what to say  
He doesn't need authorities, To reason Him away  
He doesn't need an army, To guarantee a win  
He just needs a few good men!

*Chorus*

**Men who'll love compassion, Who'll laugh and love and cry**  
**Men who'll face eternity and aren't afraid to die**  
**Men who'll fight for freedom and honor once again**  
**He just needs a few good men**

He calls the broken derelict whose life has been renewed  
He calls the ones who know his Son to stand up for the truth  
Enlistment lines are open and he wants you come in  
He just needs a few good men

*To Chorus*

**Scriptures to Memorize**

<p><b>Jonah 2:7</b>  <b>When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD:                  and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.</b>  <b>Jonah 2:7</b></p>	
<p><b>Romans 5:20</b>                  Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.  <b>Romans 5:20</b></p>	<p><b>Luke 9:56</b>                  For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.  <b>Luke 9:56</b></p>
<p><b>1 Timothy 1:15</b>                  This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. <b>1 Timothy 1:15</b></p>	<p><b>Jeremiah 23:24</b>                  Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. <b>Jeremiah 23:24</b></p>
<p><b>Ephesians 4:31,32</b>                  Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.  <b>Ephesians 4:31,32</b></p>	<p><b>Ephesians 6:5,6</b>                  Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart <b>Ephesians 6:5,6</b></p>
<p><b>Jonah 4:4</b>                  Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?  <b>Jonah 4:4</b></p>	<p><b>Luke 13:5</b>                  I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.  <b>Luke 13:5</b></p>
<p><b>Matthew 12:39</b>                  But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. <b>Matthew 12:39</b></p>	<p><b>Matthew 12:41</b>                  The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. <b>Matthew 12:41</b></p>
<p><b>James 4:6</b>                  But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.  <b>James 4:6</b></p>	<p><b>Proverbs 8:13</b>                  The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. <b>Proverbs 8:13</b></p>
<p><b>1 Peter 4:17</b>                  For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?  <b>1 Peter 4:17</b></p>	<p><b>Proverbs 16:6</b>                  By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.  <b>Proverbs 16:16</b></p>

**Scripture Points to Ponder**

Scripture	Write-out the verse, then Ponder the Truth Being Taught
<b>Jonah 2:7</b>	
<b>Romans 5:20</b>	
<b>1 Timothy 1:15</b>	
<b>Jonah 4:4</b>	
<b>Luke 13:5</b>	
<b>Jeremiah 23:24</b>	
<b>James 4:6</b>	

Men's Spiritual Retreat Spiritual Retreat 2006

<b>Luke 9:56</b>	
<b>Matthew 12:39</b>	
<b>Matthew 12:41</b>	
<b>Ephesians 6:5,6</b>	
<b>1Peter 4:17</b>	
<b>Proverbs 16:6</b>	
<b>Proverbs 8:13</b>	

## Whale Humour

### A RIDDLE: WHO AM I?

The answer is ONE word.

Adam, God made out of dust,  
But thought it best to make me first.  
To answer God's most holy plan,  
A living being I became,  
And Adam gave to me my name.  
I from his presence then withdrew,  
And more of Adam I never knew.  
I did my Maker's law obey,  
Nor never went from it astray.  
Thousands of miles I go in fear.  
But seldom on earth do I appear,  
For purpose-wise which God did see,  
He put a living soul in me.  
A soul from me God did re-claim,  
And took from me the soul the same.  
I travel on from pale to pale,  
I labor hard by day, by night,  
To fallen man I give great light,  
Thousands of people, young and old,  
Will by my death great light behold.  
No right or wrong can I conceive,  
The Scripture I cannot believe.  
Although my name therein is found,  
They are to me an empty sound.  
No fear of death doth trouble me,  
Real happiness I'll never see,  
To Heaven I shall never go, nor to Hell below.  
Now when these lines you slowly read  
Go search your Bible with all due speed,  
For that my name is written there,  
I do honestly to you declare!

### *Who am I?*

A Preacher was doing his "Children's Church" sermon where all the youngsters come down front and hear a story. The pastor was discussing the story of Jonah. He quoted the scriptures from Jonah 1 and 2.

When the Pastor finished the scripture quotation, he started trying to solicit input from the youngsters to help him complete his mini-sermon. He asked thoughtfully, "What does the fish vomiting Jonah out on dry land indicate to us today.

One of the youngsters spoke with great enthusiasm for the entire congregation to hear, "It proves, even a fish can't stomach a bad preacher!"



A lady on an airliner was reading her Bible. The man sitting next to her gave a little chuckle and asked, "You don't really believe all that stuff in there do you?"

"Of course I do. It is the Bible." the lady replies!

"Well, what about that guy that was swallowed by that whale?" he asked.

"Oh, Jonah ... Yes, I believe that, it is in the Bible." she replied.

"Well, how do you suppose he survived all that time inside the whale?" he asked.

"Well, I don't really know. I guess when I get to heaven, I will ask him." said the lady.

"What if he isn't in heaven?" the man asked sarcastically.

"Then YOU can ask him." replied the lady!



## Jonah and Jesus

Characteristics of Jonah	Characteristics of Jesus <i>(What Jonah was Supposed to be Like)</i>
A Great Prophet	A Greater than Jonah
Hated his enemies	Loved His enemies
Ran FROM God	Ran FOR God
Was a Sign to Nineveh	Was a Sign to the world
Was 3 days and 3 nights in a Whale	Was 3 days and 3 nights in Paradise
Was Silly	Was Steadfast
Had Many Sins	Was Sinless
Was Sorted Out, he at least in part did God's will	Was Submissive fully to God's will, no matter the cost
Effective in Soul-Winning	Effective in Soul-Winning
Was Given a Second Chance	Gives Lots of Second Chances
Remembered for stubbornness	Remembered for Success

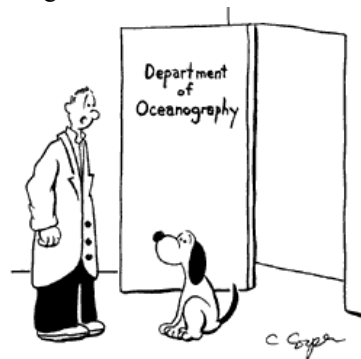
### Checking A Christian's Life Signs

Revelation 3:1,15,16

Body temperature tells a lot about a person's health. It is the first thing they check when you visit the doctor's office. A person who is sick is listless instead of zealous. The same goes for a Christian. A healthy Christian is a fervent Christian that is zealous and lively. The following are some external gauges of a Christian's spiritual temperature.

- Enthusiastic in soul winning -- Are you excited about getting people saved?
- Exuberance in singing-- Is your singing half-hearted?
- Earnestness in supplications -- How fervent are you when you pray?
- Enjoyment in stewardship -- Are you a cheerful giver?
- Eagerness in study -- How eager are you to study the Word of God?
- Excellence in service. -- Do you do your best, or do you do just enough to get by when doing something, anything for God? How long does it take to get you to volunteer to help in the ministry?
- Exultation in suffering-- What is your attitude during times of suffering?

All these things reveal the condition of our heart, and our relationship with God.



"I'm sorry. The ad said we need a whale tagger. Not a tail wagger."



## Session One – Introduction – The Signs of Jonah

Pastor Craig Ledbetter – Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig

“But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas...” **Matthew 12:39**

### I. Introduction – Make Much of the Man!

- A. While the church looks for better methods, better ways, and means, God is looking for better men (Ezek 22:30; Acts 6:3,5,7; Jn 1:6-8; 1Sam 10:26)
- B. All men’s lives have been touched by God at some time, but not all men allow God to change them!
- C. Some accept the work of God upon their lives:
- D. Some resist the touch of God upon their lives:



### II. Who was Jonah? He not remembered for his successes as much as he is for his stubbornness. It should not have been that way, nor should it be with us

### III. Who Were These Ninevites?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ People
- B. Wicked People
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ People

### IV. The Signs of Jonah – present in Jesus’ Day, and in Our Day

#### A. God’s Warning Signs of Coming Judgment

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 24:3-8).
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Whales (Jonah 2:10)
- 3. The Judgment of \_\_\_\_\_ People (1Pet 4:17)
- 4. Death, burial and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:22-24, 36-41)
- 5. Preachers with a Bible, and a call (Lk 11:30).

#### B. The World’s Spiritual Condition at the time of impending Judgment

- 1. Carnal prophets/preachers
- 2. General Unbelief
- 3. An Evil Generation
- 4. An Adulterous Generation
- 5. Unconcern for people
- 6. Universal need for repentance
- 7. Need for unconditional belief in God



#### C. Why Did the Ninevites respond so well?

- 1. They \_\_\_\_\_ God - They knew of God’s judgment in the past
- 2. They \_\_\_\_\_ God

#### D. How to respond today!

## Session Two – The Silliness of Jonah

Resisting God's Call and Work in Your Life

*John Crabbe – New York*

“Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.”

**Jeremiah 23:24**

When you go your own way, you never reach your desired destination and it's always costly. However, when you go God's way, you'll always get to His destination and He'll pay the price.

### Sermon Notes:



Jonah in the ship, sleeping

## Session Three – The Sins of Jonah

By Pastor Craig Ledbetter, Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig, Cork

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.” **Ephesians 4:31**

### I. Introduction

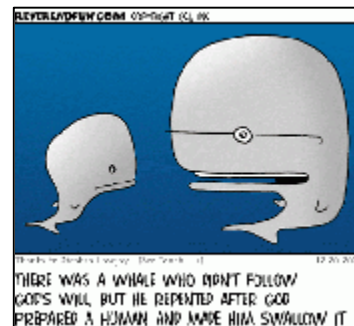
- A. The sins of Jonah all need to be brought out and examined for what they are and see for how wicked and awful they all are
- B. And then, as we recognize any of them in our own lives, we need to hate them, and repent of them! Fast, before they ruin us for good! And they will ruin any and all of us without us taking action!

### II. Message - The Key Sins of Jonah to Conquer

- A. Backing out of vows and commitments to God
- B. Backsliding – giving in to the tendency to get away from God
- C. Bitterness towards an enemy - Bigotry
- D. Becoming Hard and Uncaring – to the point that you don't care about people going to hell, or even about you living anymore (suicidal)
- E. Beguiling – lying, putting on a spiritual show
- F. Bending but not Breaking
- G. Blaming God for Him not considering you and your feelings
- H. Bad Attitudes
- I. Being Beaten – Jonah never got changed. Never got right – it is a sin to not break, and change and become like the Lord Jesus!

### III. Conclusion – How do you conquer such a list of sins?

- A. Fall on the Rock, and be broken (Mt 21:44) – Jesus is the Sin-\_\_\_\_\_ and the Sin-nature \_\_\_\_\_. Allow Jesus to break you:
  - 1. Emotionally
  - 2. Spiritually
  - 3. Financially
  - 4. Even physically, if need be
  - 5. In order to allow Jesus Christ to become your Lord and Saviour
- B. Fall flat – hold nothing back
- C. Fall daily – mortify your feelings and attitudes every time they show up
- D. It is then, that God will make you over again, and begin to change you (Mt 18:1-5)



## Session Four – The Sorting Out of Jonah

*Pastor Bob Zemeski – Riverview Baptist Church, Leixlip, Dublin*

“When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.” **Jonah 2:7**

### Sermon Notes:



**Session Five – The Soul-Winning of Jonah**

*Kevin O'Keeffe – Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig*

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

**Luke 13:5**

**Sermon Notes:**



Billy Sunday preaching

## Session Six – The Second Chances of Jonah

*By Layton Kelly, Reformers Unanimous, Dublin*

“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” **Romans 5:20**

### Sermon Notes:



## Worksheet One - Struggling With God's Will

I. A man once said, "*A successful man is one who finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life, and then does it.*" Therefore, the true measure of a person's success is not in social status, bank account, influence, or fame. It simply is doing what God wants him to do.

### II. Understanding God's Will

- A. There are two kinds of wills that God has - His *general*, all encompassing will for people everywhere; and His *specific will* for each individual.
- B. Before God reveals His *specific* plan to an individual, that individual must be submitted to God's authority over his life. Every person must want to not only find God's plan, but already be willing to do it no matter what it happens to be!
- C. The key rests in whether you are truly interested in not just *knowing* the will of God, but more importantly, interested in *DOING* it (**Romans 8:5; James 1:22**)!
- D. God has given 7 foundational instructions for all mankind to live by. God's general will for all of mankind is to:

<b>God's Will for You</b>		Accomplished?
1	Be _____ ( <b>1Tim 2:4; 2Pet 3:9</b> )! Everyone must begin here!	
2	Be <b>saturated</b> /filled with the _____ ( <b>Ephesians 5:17,18</b> ). Surrendering your life to the work and authority of God over your will and plans.	
3	Be <b>satisfied</b> /thankful in _____ things ( <b>1Thes 5:18</b> )	
4	Be <b>submissive</b> servants in everything you do ( <b>Eph 6:5-8</b> ), remembering " <i>ye serve the _____</i> " ( <b>Col 3:23,24</b> ).	
5	Be <b>sanctified</b> ( <b>1 Thes 4:3-7</b> ). It means we separate ourselves from sins and evils so that we can be holy and clean objects in God's hands ( <b>2 Tim 2:21</b> ). This involves every Christian coming away from all the activities and influences that hinder us from serving the Lord with our whole heart ( <b>2 Corinthians 6:17,18</b> ).	
6	Be ready to sometimes _____ ( <b>1Peter 4:19</b> ).	
7	Be a <b>soul-winner</b> ( <b>Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8</b> )	

E. If you are not obeying God's revealed will for your life (the above list), then He can never reveal His specific will to you because the one builds upon the other.

### III. Obeying God's Specific Will – What is Your Nineveh?

A. Let the word of God "speak" to your heart. God speaks directly to you through the Bible. You must therefore be saturating your mind with

## Men's Spiritual Retreat Spiritual Retreat 2006

Scriptures so that God can "talk". God spoke audibly to Jonah, but only through the Bible does He speak to us.

- B. One of the main purposes of the Holy Spirit in your life is to guide you in your decisions (Jn 14:26; 16:13; 1Cor 2:9,10). So, when making decisions, especially ones you are unsure of yourself, pray, and seek wisdom from God (James 1:5), and the confirmation of the Holy Spirit before proceeding (Rom 8:14).
- C. Wait for God to "open doors" of opportunity. Sometimes, when we just "push ahead," we find ourselves forcing through blocked "doors" that God intended for us to keep out of (like marrying the wrong person, or working at the wrong job). Learn to accept circumstances as guideposts in the direction of God's leading. Just make sure you "\_\_\_\_\_ " in all the steps of the Lord (Ps 37:23).
- D. Finally, make sure that in your decisions, you "       in the Lord with ALL thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding," (Prov 3:5,6). God's will does not always make sense - but it is always best! Therefore, when you find God's will, you will have \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 37:37), because He knows best! Your attitude must be to let God's "      " be done, not your own (James 4:13-15).
- E. If you have anything in your life stopping you from obeying God's commands for you, then there are only two options: Resist and end up either in a whale of trouble, or repent of every obstacle in your life and get busy doing what God told you to do! It will ONLY be great!

### IV. Concluding Thoughts

- A. Has God touched your life, men? Did you yield, surrender or resist when God ask for the surrender of your all? Is everything open for God to have and use? **Yes** or **No**
- B. Has God called you for a committal of everything to Him? Did you move at that call and start to seek ways to do that challenge? **Yes** or **No**
- C. Men dedicated to allow the love of God to flow through the life is greatly needed in the Church and in the home. Will you become that kind of a man? **Yes** or **No**
- D. List some of the men who have resisted the work of God in their lives:
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. How about you? Will you resist the loving hand of our Almighty God in your life, or will you surrender right now and allow Him to be God instead of yourself, and let him do some great and mighty things? **Yes** or **No**



## Worksheet Two - Second Chances in My Life

Do you feel as though you've made a mess out of your life? There are plenty of people who have done worse, and yet, because of the Lord Jesus Christ giving them grace, another chance to follow Him, and do things HIS way, they became great!

Person	Failure	Faith	Result
Rahab Joshua 2:1			Saved from judgment of Jericho, became great, great, grandmother to king David
Peter Matthew 26:69-75		Willing to start over with the Lord, and follow fully committed!	
Abraham Genesis 16:1-4			
Jacob Genesis 27:19	Deceived his father Isaac, his uncle Laban, and tried to bargain with God		
David and Bathsheba 2Samuel 11:1-4		Trusted God's plan concerning the child, and accepted God's judgment	

Where have you failed in your life? (Tick as many as apply)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> With your parents               | <input type="checkbox"/> With your boss/co-workers  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> With your family                | <input type="checkbox"/> With your pastor           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> With your health                | <input type="checkbox"/> With another church member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> With your relationship with God | <input type="checkbox"/> With your finances         |

Have you missed the opportunity to get saved this weekend? **Yes No**

If so, are you going to let another day go by before getting saved? **Yes No**

Have you let years go by not being concerned about God's will for your life **Yes No**

Are you uncaring about people dying and going to hell around you? **Yes No**

### It is time to take advantage of some second chances that God is offering you!

1. What one thing could you do in your relationship with your parents/wife/kids that would bring it in line with God's blessings instead of judgment and troubles? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What should you do if you have neglected to get saved up to this point in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer List

***“Men ought always to pray, and not to faint”*** Luke 18:1

This list can be used every time we get together to pray, and should be added to as we learn of individual needs and requests.

**For Salvation** (2 Pet 3:9) *“God is not willing that any should perish...”*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**For Christian Growth** (2 Pet 3:18) *“but grow in grace”*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**For Special Needs** (Health, Family concerns)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**For Your Church Needs**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Anything Else – maybe your own needs**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____