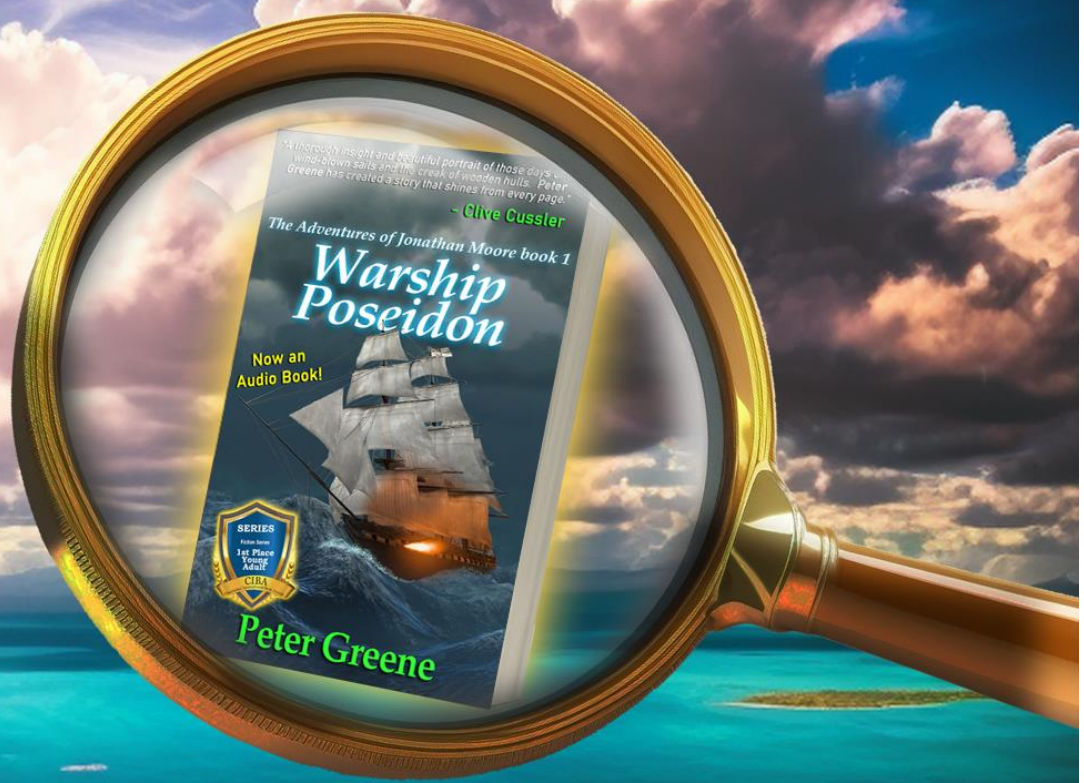


# THINK ABOVE THE BOX

*Looking at literature through a Biblical lens*



Bible study guide for  
***Warship Poseidon***

**B.C. PIETSCH**

# Think Above the Box

Bible Study Guide for

Peter Greene's  
*The Adventures of Jonathan Moore Book 1:*  
*Warship Poseidon*

by  
B.C. Pietsch

**LIFE IS SHORT. ETERNITY IS FOREVER.**





*Looking at literature through a Biblical lens*

Think Above the Box Bible Study for  
Peter Greene's The Adventures of Jonathan Moore: *Warship Poseidon*  
First Edition

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## Think Above the Box Books

Our culture today has pretty much put God on the DO NOT TOUCH shelf for schools, teachers and students. The Think Above the Box series was born as an aid to counter the shutting out of all things Biblical in education today. This study guide is the first of hopefully a long series that will take more books into the theological realm.

When Peter Greene, the author of the award-winning Adventures of Jonathan Moore series, asked me to read and critique his rough draft of book 1, *Warship Poseidon*, I was honored. The book caught and kept my attention from the beginning in the dark alleys of London all the way through to the tearful and emotional final scene. Even though it was written as young adult adventure fiction, this story will touch people of all ages.

God is speaking through *Warship Poseidon* in so many ways throughout its nineteen chapters. As I was reading the story, Bible verses and concepts kept shouting at me from every page! I pitched my idea of doing a Biblical study guide to Peter and he agreed. This study guide will not ask for chapter outlines, plot points, character development, or word definitions but will provide an opportunity to take a secular story and use Scriptural references, videos, essays, music and thought-provoking questions to teach students how to comprehend a story using a Biblical worldview. *Think Above the Box Study Guides* for books 2 and 3 of the Jonathan Moore series are also available, with additional popular literature guides to come!

The Lord and His teachings are everywhere if one only knows how to find them. May this be the beginning of a whole new way of looking at literature through a Biblical lens!

Think Above the Box study guides are now available for all three  
Adventures of Jonathan Moore books  
(books available on Amazon, free guides at [www.thinkabovethebox.com](http://www.thinkabovethebox.com) )



Send yourself back to the age of tall sailing ships and stow away with Jonathan Moore, Sean Flagon and Miss Delain Dowdeswell on their adventures to the Caribbean, the Black Sea, Africa and all points in between. Based in the early 1800's at the dawn of the Napoleonic Wars, the books are centered on Jonathan Moore and his adventures aboard various sailing ships of the British Royal Navy. Joining Jonathan on these journeys is his best friend and confidant Sean Flagon, their acquaintance made on the mean streets of London. In their travels they meet Delain Dowdeswell, an adventurer in her own right, challenging the order of things as she demands her fair share of excitement and intrigue.

Book 1: *Warship Poseidon* tells the tale of the seemingly-orphaned, twelve-year-old Jonathan Moore, as he is abducted by a gang and pressed into service aboard HMS *Poseidon*, a forty-four gun fighting frigate of the British Royal Navy. However, there is more to the event than just a change of address. How is it that some members of the crew, including the captain, already know his name? Why do the officers seem to favor him above the other new crew members? As Jonathan endeavors to solve these mysteries, he is thrust into a

daring mission to recover a hidden treasure on a remote Caribbean isle. Unfortunately, the crew and officers of the *Poseidon* are not the only ones searching for the prize. In a desperate race across the Atlantic, Jonathan is pitted against sword-wielding spies, engages in terrifying ship-to-ship battles, and in the end, must match his wits and courage against a ruthless and cunning French captain and his powerful warship.

Book 2: *Castle of Fire*: Jonathan Moore is now reunited with his father, though soon leaves the comfort of family and London on what is considered by all to be a 'peach' of a mission. However, with the arrival of another midshipman holding a severe but unexplained grudge, life aboard the HMS *Danielle* is anything but pleasant. Why are the new midshipmen his enemies? Who is stealing food from the ship's stores, and why must Jonathan and Sean sneak into a heavily guarded Spanish fort in the middle of the night to do some burglary of their own? In this second book of the Adventures of Jonathan Moore Series, Jonathan must capture a stolen British ship from blood-thirsty pirates, solve the mystery of the surprising stowaway, and defend his honor and his life during a fierce duel to the death with a murderous adversary. Alone and vastly outnumbered, the crew of the *Danielle* engages in a violent battle on the wild seas south of the farthest tip of Africa. Only Jonathan, Sean and an unexpected guest can turn the tide of the struggle by unlocking the secrets of a mysterious island and re-igniting the ferocious power of the *Castle of Fire*!

Book 3: *Paladin's War*: 1802. Midshipman Jonathan Moore, Marine Private Sean Flagon and adventurer Delain Dowdeswell enjoy the company of family and friends during a delicate peace between France and England. However, mysterious spy networks now freely roam Europe's great cities, and the ships and armies of all nations remain on the edge of war. An elaborate scheme involves misleading and manipulating Jonathan, now aboard the eighteen-gun HMS *Paladin*, commanded by his friend and mentor, Lieutenant Thomas Harrison. Their mission: to deliver the King's treaty to a clandestine location in the Black Sea. Remaining in London, Delain encounters a shadowy black rider sneaking about the mansions of London's elite. Suspecting foul play, she investigates and enters a web of secret meetings, spies, coded messages and kidnapping. At first merely interesting, Delain's investigation soon turns deadly as she finds that all clues lead to the *Paladin's* mission, and to her friends, now thousands of miles away—and in grave danger. Led to waters far from home, the boys fight for their ship and their lives against a rogue naval commodore with a war plan of his own. Now in an impossible situation, Jonathan must find a way to defeat his powerful enemies in the Black Sea - and survive the final conflict of the *Paladin's War*.

*Think Above the Box* and this study guide are dedicated to  
Mason, Tanner, Evelyn, Scarlett and Molly.  
May you always remember where you came from and to Whom you belong.

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# Think Above the Box

## *How To Use This Guide*

### *What you will need:*

- a copy of this guide. You can download more for free at [www.thinkabovethebox.com](http://www.thinkabovethebox.com)
- a copy or copies of the book *Warship Poseidon* by Peter Greene, available in paperback, hardcover and eBook on Amazon. There may be coupon codes available to Think Above the Box friends to discount the entire series of Jonathan Moore Books. Check our website before purchasing!  
[www.thinkabovethebox.com](http://www.thinkabovethebox.com)

The book is written on the fourth/fifth grade reading level, is clean, without magic, and contains mild violence. For more information on the series, see: [www.jonathanmoorebooks.com](http://www.jonathanmoorebooks.com)

### *Reading and using the guide:*

Have students read a chapter of the book, or read aloud together. At the completion of a chapter have students open their copy of *Think Above the Box Bible Study Guide for The Adventures of Jonathan Moore*, and answer questions individually or have the teacher guide the discussion.

▶ There are questions noted by a blue dot as shown in the following diagram.

▶ **TAB** (Think Above the Box) says:

The author has given you guidance on answering questions in red! Check it out!



**Think Above the Box:** There are also discussion/reflective questions shown under the *Think Above the Box* logo (see above) that have no answer given due to the nature of the question.

### *Hyperlinks to featured articles, blogs, videos and music:*

Hyperlinks listed in the guide are available within chapters in **bold orange**. Just click and go!

Links to music will be prefaced with a musical notation: 🎵

chapter in book

## Guide for Chapter 4 *A Hot Steaming Bowl*

topic #1

1. Jonathan looks about the ship and marvels at all of its varied components and equipment. It must have been overwhelming to see how much learning lay ahead. He made it his private goal to know everything about the ship with a positive, ambitious and determined attitude. Think of a new believer facing an unopened Bible.

question

▶ What should their attitude be?

answer

▶ **TAB says:** The same as Jonathan's: **eager, positive, determined, ambitious.**

for discussion



**Think Above the Box:** Do you see Bible study with the same attitude that Jonathan viewed his seamanship training or do you see it as a chore? How could someone improve their attitude? Read the blog below!

link to web content  
(click on it)

<http://ronedmondson.com/2015/01/7-ways-to-better-enjoy-reading-the-bible.html>

topic 2

2. Jonathan, Sean and Claise stand 'bowl-less' in front of the salvation of their hunger - fish stew! After Steward declares that there are no more bowls for them, Harrison improvises with three small cooking pots from the galley. Steward had never even considered them for use as he was looking only for bowls.

Bible verses

**2 Corinthians 4:7 NIV** But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

**2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

another question

▶ Why does God use unlikely, weak, imperfect, unsuitable 'vessels' (people) for furthering His kingdom?

answer

▶ **TAB says:** We are all sinners here on earth so no one is perfect. If God used people that the world considers the best, the brightest, the smartest, the most talented, etc., we would end up giving the credit and glory to them and not to God.

question

▶ How are Moses, Rahab, David, Jonah, Samson, and Paul imperfect?

answer

▶ **TAB says:** Moses: stutterer, murderer; Rahab: prostitute; Jacob: liar; David: adulterer, murderer; Jonah: ran from God; Samson: womanizer; Paul: persecuted Christians.

# Guide for Chapter 1

## *Life on Brick Street*

1. The living conditions that Jonathan and Sean endured on Brick Street are deplorable for anyone, let alone children living on their own. Many forms of sin such as selfishness, prejudice, apathy, godlessness, substance abuse, stealing, fighting, murder, irresponsibility, and hate contributed to the harsh conditions of the poor and orphaned of East End London in 1800. God tells us what He thinks of such acts and the consequences:

**Matthew 25:45-49** (AMP Amplified Bible) Then He will reply to them, 'I assure you and most solemnly say to you, to the extent that you did not do it for one of the least of these [my followers], you did not do it for Me.' Then these [unbelieving people] will go away into eternal (unending) punishment, but those who are righteous and in right standing with God [will go, by His remarkable grace] into eternal (unending) life.

**James 4:17** (TPT The Passion Translation) So if you know of an opportunity to do the right thing today, yet you refrain from doing it, you're guilty of sin.

**Isaiah 59:2** (ERV Easy To Read Version) It is your sins that separate you from your God. He turns away from you when he sees them.

► What is God telling us about how we are to deal with all the evil and injustice in the world?

► **TAB says:** We are to do the right thing and help people in any way that we can with empathy and compassion by modeling Jesus' behavior through the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit. By doing so, we are serving both God and people.

Wait just a minute! You might be thinking, "But who *is* the Holy Spirit? Is He really a *ghost*? Isn't he involved with God and Jesus somehow? I don't get it!"

**Ephesians 3:16** (AMPC Amplified Bible Classic Edition) May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened *and* reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the [Holy] Spirit [Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality].

Wait, there's more! Author Robert Hampshire gives us a handy list of who the Holy Spirit is in his post below:

*"Don't live a life of defeat. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life, allow him to govern your life, and allow him to empower you. God has put in us a well of "living water," but it is our choice whether or not we drink from it. May our prayer be, 'God empty me of myself and show yourself more in my life. Strengthen me with your power.'"*

- Robert Hampshire

Please read his blogpost for more detail:

**How Are Believers Empowered by the Holy Spirit? ([christianity.com](http://christianity.com))**

Let's cap this off with a praise song by Bryan and Katie Torwalt entitled *HOLY SPIRIT (You are welcome here)*:

♪ **Bryan & Katie Torwalt - Holy Spirit (Lyrics) - YouTube**

2. Jonathan and Sean's chimney sweep employer spent his own wages at the bar on food and drink then promptly passed out. The proprietor of the pub made a separate agreement with the boys for a sandwich and a glass of milk each in return for them sweeping and cleaning up. He also cheated them and refused to keep his word.

**Leviticus 19:11 AMP** You shall not steal, nor deal deceptively, nor lie to one another.

**Exodus 22:22 (GNT Good News Translation)** Do not mistreat any widow or orphan.

**Deuteronomy 15:11 ERV** There will always be poor people in the land. That is why I command you to be ready to help your brother or sister. Give to the poor in your land who need help.

**Proverbs 14:31 AMP** He who oppresses the poor taunts and insults his Maker, But he who is kind and merciful and gracious to the needy honors Him.

**Proverbs 29:7 (NLT New Living Translation)** The godly care about the rights of the poor; the wicked don't care at all.

▶ What does the Bible say about such behavior?

▶ **TAB says:** The Lord commands us to be kind, merciful, gracious and compassionate with the poor. We are not to cheat, steal or oppress them.

▶ If the chimney sweep and proprietor were followers of Jesus, how might they have handled the situation differently?

▶ **TAB says:** They would have honored their agreement with the boys and paid them their wages and possibly found a way to assist them with their homeless situation.

These men oppressing and stealing from the boys were showing contempt for God in their actions. How, you say? Read on!

*"God cares deeply for the poor and expects His followers to also care. More than that, we are to act on that care: 'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth' [1 John 3:18] The way we treat the poor reflects our love for God. When we mistreat the poor, we treat God with contempt."*

- gotquestions.org

**1 John 3:18 AMP** Little children (believers, dear ones), let us not love [merely in theory] with word or with tongue [giving lip service to compassion], but in action and in truth [in practice and in sincerity, because practical acts of love are more than words].

**How does oppressing the poor show contempt for their Maker (Proverbs 14:31)? | GotQuestions.org**

3. Sean says that a life at sea is 'no life for anybody' and compares it to being a slave.

▶ How do the following verses describe being 'a slave for Christ' and how is it different from human slavery?

**Ephesians 6:5-8** (MSG The Message) Servants, respectfully obey your earthly masters but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ. Don't just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ's servants doing what God wants you to do. And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God. Good work will get you good pay from the Master, regardless of whether you are slave or free.

**Romans 6:22** NLT But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.

**Galatians 5:1** TPT Let me be clear, the Anointed One has set us free—not partially, but completely and wonderfully free! We must always cherish this truth and stubbornly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past.

► **TAB says:** We *voluntarily* submit ourselves to God's will, unlike human slavery, which is *forced* submission.

The thought of being a slave to God or man sounds awful. But they are the exact opposite!

*"To submit to God in any given situation is to refuse to try to get anyone to do anything or to make things turn out a certain way, but instead simply to be responsible (which mostly means to love God and neighbor) and to trust the Sovereign Lord."*

- Bill Gaultiere

## Submission to God - Soul Shepherding

4. Sean was brutally attacked by a group of bullies attempting to steal his hard-earned sandwich. Jonathan helped scare them off by using one of the brush poles as a sword. He told the last bully, "You were stealing from us. That will not stand. I wish you no further harm..." The bullies ran off, leaving the two boys alone.

► Is it ever justifiable to fight and hurt someone? Why?

► **TAB says:** Yes, if it is in defense of someone being unjustly attacked.

► What do the following verses mean?

**Psalms 82:2-4** MSG Enough! You've corrupted justice long enough, you've let the wicked get away with murder. You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break; Your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them.

**Proverbs 22:22-23** MSG Don't walk on the poor just because they're poor, and don't use your position to crush the weak, because God will come to their defense; the life you took, he'll take from you and give back to them.

**Ezekiel 33:6** NLT But if the watchman sees the enemy coming and doesn't sound the alarm to warn the people, he is responsible for their captivity. They will die in their sins, but I will hold the watchman responsible for their deaths.

**Proverbs 31:8** NLT Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.

► **TAB says:** God wants believers to stand up for injustice and help victims of crime. It is a sin to look the other way. All human life is sacred to God. We can call on the Holy Spirit for strength and wisdom when faced with such situations.

*“The Bible does support self-defense. Many examples are given in Scripture of followers of God seeking to protect themselves and others from harm. While Christ does denounce retaliation and revenge, He does not prohibit acting in self-defense. Therefore, believers are not sinning when they defend themselves or others from harm and suffering.”*

- Sophia Bricker

## What Does the Bible Say about Self-Defense? (christianity.com)



**Think Above the Box:** Have you ever had to protect someone from a bully or had someone defend you from one? Would you have been able to abide by the above Bible verses?

5. Jonathan probably shocked the last bully by setting him free without further blows.

► In light of the following verses, would Jesus approve?

**Luke 6:35-36 NLT** Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

**Micah 6:8 (TLB The Living Bible)** No, he has told you what he wants, and this is all it is: to be fair, just, merciful, and to walk humbly with your God.

**James 2:13 ERV** Yes, you must show mercy to others. If you do not show mercy, then God will not show mercy to you when he judges you. But the one who shows mercy can stand without fear before the Judge.

► **TAB says:** Yes.

► How would the above verses aid you in showing mercy to someone?

► **TAB says:** We are to be Christ-like in how we treat others in our lives. After all, Jesus accepts us, loves us and is merciful to us even though we all are sinful. It is an opportunity to show the love of Jesus to someone.

*“While there may be little mercy or civility in our society today, the Bible instructs us to show mercy by giving people what they NEED, not what they deserve. See, God didn’t give us what we deserve – he gave us forgiveness, instead. When you bless someone who hurt you, you are actually following in the footsteps of Jesus. So, think about it: Who hurt you most recently in life? They may need your mercy the most.”*

- Liquidchurch.com

## 5 Ways To Show Mercy To Others - Liquid Church



**Think Above the Box:** Has someone ever been merciful to you? How did you feel about them after they showed compassion? Have you ever shown mercy to someone who hurt you? Would a non-believer be influenced by such behavior to perhaps look into Christianity and the love and forgiveness of Jesus?

6. Jonathan and Sean were kidnapped by a press gang and thrown into a cage-topped horse cart. The boys were captured and physically taken away, not wanting to go. Let's compare their experience of being taken against their will to how the culture of the world 'kidnaps' and distracts a person away from God, most times with his own permission to do so.

Today, there are many things that spiritually take us away from God such as non-believing friends, peer pressure, busyness, etc. These things are not bad on their own, of course. Also, many forms of entertainment, such as TV, movies, the internet, social media and books are designed to be ungodly and anti-Christian. We can actually *allow* imprisonment to happen and not even realize it! Many times, a pattern is set in someone's life and they move totally away from God and never return. When you take your mind off Christ then it will be put on the world. You will start getting distracted by everything.

► Read the following verses. How can the world become a prison for someone?

**1 John 2:15-16** (NIV New International Version) Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

**Matthew 6:19-21** NIV Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**1 John 2:16-17** GW Not everything that the world offers—physical gratification, greed, and extravagant lifestyles—comes from the Father. It comes from the world, and the world and its evil desires are passing away. But the person who does what God wants lives forever.

► **TAB says:** Worldly pleasures are seductive and most importantly, in the "here and now" (easily seen and felt with our physical and mental senses.) Godly pleasure and joy are not always as evident in this life, it takes faith in Jesus to keep the believer on his heavenly path. The rewards of eternity with God far outweigh anything the world has to offer.

*"Here's the thing: you can't be of the world and a believer at the same time. As a believer you will still have things of the world of course, but they won't be your goals. Meaning, you won't be saying to yourself "I must have that new Camaro" or "A huge house would make me happy". It is not things that give us eternal happiness. Only **true joy in Jesus** can give you happiness. A test for you would be to ask yourself "do I always want more?"*

- Derek Hill

## What Does The Bible Say About Living in the World? A Bible Study on Worldliness (whatchristianswanttoknow.com)

7. Jonathan and Sean appreciated every little good thing that came their way, down to a crummy sandwich! Imagine how you would fare if placed into their situation. For the majority of us, it would be a major downgrade!

▶ What are some things that we all take for granted in our daily lives?

▶ **TAB says:** God, family, shelter, food, electricity, education, friends, clothing, church, freedom, cell phones, computers, etc.

**Psalm 100:4** (ESV English Standard Version) Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**Colossians 3:17** ERV Everything you say and everything you do should be done for Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** ESV Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

*“One of the evidences that we have grown accustomed to our blessings is this spirit of criticism and complaining. Instead of thanking God for what we have, we complain about it and tell him we wish we had something else. You can be sure that if God did give us what we asked for, we would eventually complain about that. The person who has gotten accustomed to his blessing can never be satisfied.”*

- Warren Wiersbe

### Danger of Taking Your Blessings for Granted | Bible.org

8. Many children had rough lives in the 1800's compared to now, but troubles in the modern world do exist and seem to be multiplying in our post-Christian culture.

▶ What are some examples of problems today's young people face?

▶ **TAB says:** Cyber-bullying, peer pressure, broken homes, homelessness, abuse, poverty, issues with parents, crime, addiction, hunger, unplanned pregnancy, lovelessness, Godlessness, etc.

▶ How are Christian ministries helping with these issues?

▶ **TAB says:** Prayer, food pantries, foster care ministry, counseling, youth ministry, mentoring, pregnancy counseling, parenting classes, addiction programs, etc.

The following post is addressed to youth pastors, but provides important insight into assisting hurting teens.

*“You probably didn't get into youth ministry to help teens deal with abuse, addiction, parental divorce, abandonment, premarital sex, cutting, suicidal thoughts, anger issues, and other painful life situations. But it doesn't take long to learn that crises come with the territory. As you build deep relationships with the students and families in your church and your community, pain will*



*inevitably emerge. Your response can help redeem a teen's suffering and mitigate the collateral damage."*

- Wilson Greg

## 10 Steps to Help Hurting Students in Your Ministry — YM360 (youthministry360.com)



**Think Above the Box:** What kind of children's and youth ministry would you like to see your church offer? Can you get it started by talking to your pastor?

**REAL LIFE:** Sadly, homeless children like Jonathan and Sean are not just a thing of the past. Watch the testimony of Stephanie Fast, an amazing story of faith, hope and the love of Jesus Christ from a woman who was abandoned as a very young child in Korea. Each video is about the same person, just different in length:

**Stephanie Fast video.mov - YouTube** (5:32 minutes)

**EXTRA CREDIT:** for watching Stephanie's testimony below:

**ABANDONED AT 4 YEARS OLD, ABUSED, RAPED, LEFT FOR DEAD, STEPHANIE FAST - YouTube** (53:55 minutes)

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** You may have heard the word *apologetics* mentioned in church and wondered why we need to 'apologize' for our Christian beliefs. Actually, the word comes from the Greek *apologia* meaning 'speaking in defense', which is a far cry from apologizing which means 'expressing regret'!

**1 Peter 3:15** ESV "But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense (apologia) to anyone who asks you for a reason (logos) for the hope that is within you: yet do it with gentleness and respect."

In the following video, Matt Slick explains why we need Christian apologetics:

**Why We Need Apologetics - YouTube**

## Guide for Chapter 2

### *Aboard His Majesty's Ship Poseidon*

1. As the two caged carts started to pull out on the street, Jonathan noticed that one man in the cart was actually sleeping, despite the fact that he had just been kidnapped and locked up in a cage while two other men sat tired and complacent.

▶ Why do you think they were like that?

▶ **TAB says:** Hunger and exhaustion, apathy from life on the street, they were just going from one awful situation to another.

▶ Most non-believers are very apathetic towards the God of the Bible or think they have plenty of time left in the years to come to finally give God some attention. Do you think that people can 'sleep' through being imprisoned by sin during their lives and not even realize it?

▶ **TAB says:** Yes. Worldly living is attractive, sin is fun for a time, our worldly culture abhors God and his holy precepts, non-believers are ignorant of the eternal consequences of sin.

*"In 2 Timothy 3:1 (NLT) it says: 'You should also know this...that in the last days there will be very difficult times.' The Greek word **difficult** means perilous – many devastating events occurring in the earth. But it means even more. It means that what is going on – the evil and lack of living for God will reduce the strength of people to resist evil. It means that the increase of the evil of the day will diminish not only unbelievers but believers' strength to withstand the temptations that lead them to violate God's word and instruction for living."*

- Timothy Burt

#### apathy toward God | Timothy Burt ([timburt.org](http://timburt.org))

2. Jonathan was both amazed and frightened at the sight of the great ship *Poseidon* at the pier in Chatham.

▶ Find words in Chapter Two that describe the ship as both fearful and amazing.

▶ **TAB says:** *Fearful:* black, foreboding, huge, floating fort, colossal black stallion, dark, mysterious. *Amazing:* new home, sail to the glory of England, excitement, adventure, beautiful, grand, fast.



**Think Above the Box:** Does the idea of God ever feel like that to you? Why?

**James 2:19** (GW God's Word) You believe that there is one God. That's fine! The demons also believe that, and they tremble with fear.

**Luke 5:24-26** GW "I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Then he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, pick up your stretcher, and go home." The man immediately stood up in front of them and picked up the stretcher he had been lying on. Praising God, he went home. Everyone was amazed and praised God. They were filled with awe and said, "We've seen things today we can hardly believe!"

► After reading the above verses, can you find reasons to both fear and be in awe of God Himself?

► **TAB says:** Fear: most powerful, judgement, all-knowing, can save or condemn. Awe: perfect, miracles, died for us, creation, love, worship.

*“To fear God is absolute reverence and awe for an Almighty God, the Creator of all things. In the Bible we get a few glimpses into heaven, and we see the heavenly creatures worship Him around His throne continually, crying out “Holy, holy, holy!” and covering their faces. This Almighty God has called me by name to serve Him, and He is working in me so that I can be saved to be with Him for eternity. This should cause an inexpressible love and gratitude and reverence to grow and increase in my heart!”*

- Ann Steiner

### What does it mean to fear God? Why should we fear God? ([activechristianity.org](http://activechristianity.org))



**Think Above the Box:** Fear in Scripture can mean respect and reverence, much like we have for our parents, teachers and people in authority. Do you think Jonathan felt those towards the ship? Have you ever felt like that towards something or someone? Do you feel that way towards God?

3. Jonathan was in awe of the immense size of the *Poseidon's* anchor. One definition of anchor is an object used to hold something else firmly in place.

**Hebrews 6:16-19 GW** When people take oaths, they base their oaths on someone greater than themselves. Their oaths guarantee what they say and end all arguments. God wouldn't change his plan. He wanted to make this perfectly clear to those who would receive his promise, so he took an oath. God did this so that we would be encouraged. God cannot lie when he takes an oath or makes a promise. These two things can never be changed. Those of us who have taken refuge in him hold on to the confidence we have been given. We have this confidence as a sure and strong **anchor** for our lives.

► How is Jesus our anchor through life's storms?

► **TAB says:** As in the verse above, God won't lie to us, He keeps his promises, He loves and encourages us and is our refuge and source of confidence.

*“Having Jesus as our anchor doesn't mean that we'll never experience hard times. But it does mean that when they come, we'll be prepared.”*

- Alannah Francis

### Why Jesus needs to be your anchor in times like these ([christiantoday.com](http://christiantoday.com))

*“But it was in the night / Through the storms of my life / Oh, that's where God proved / His love to me. / The anchor holds / Though the ship is battered / The anchor holds / Though the sails are torn”*

- Lawrence Chewning

♪ **The Story Behind - "The Anchor Holds" written and performed by Lawrence Chewning - YouTube**

4. A group of young boys, eyes downcast, were being led off the ship, turned away by the crew. Steward informs Jonathan and Sean, "They're not what we are lookin' fer."

▶ Why do you think they were rejected?

▶ **TAB says:** Too small, weak, not able to perform required duties, unsuited for the tasks required, unteachable, unskilled, immature, sickly.

We may face rejection by people in our lives, but those who follow Jesus will never be rejected!

**John 6:37 NLT** However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them.



**Think Above the Box:** Look up some of the following verses and comment about how someone can make sure that they are "welcomed aboard the Lord's ship."

**Acts 2:38    Matthew 7:21    John 3:16-17    Romans 10:9-10**  
**Mark 16:16    John 1:12    John 3:35-36**

5. Mister Koonts gasped upon hearing Jonathan's name as he added it to the ship's manifest and all the *Poseidon's* crew seemed to mysteriously know who he was. Jonathan wondered why all these strangers seemed to know more about him than he did!



**Think Above the Box:** Do you think God is that way with *your* name? What does the following verse say to you?

**Jeremiah 29:11 ERV** I say this because I know the plans that I have for you. This message is from the Lord. "I have good plans for you. I don't plan to hurt you. I plan to give you hope and a good future."

Scripture tells us about another type of manifest that God, like Mister Koonts, keeps track of called the Book of Life.

*"On most occasions where the Lamb's book of life is mentioned it refers to the register of those who have been chosen for salvation from eternity past. It is not temporal or earthly blessings that are in view, but participation in the eternal kingdom of God as recipients of eternal life."*

- Sam Storms

Read the article below to get the full picture:

## The 'Lamb's Book of Life' - 10 Things You Need to Know (crosswalk.com)

► How is the Book of Life like a ship's manifest?

**Revelation 21:22-27 AMP** describes the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem as follows: "I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty [the Omnipotent, the Ruler of all] and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to give light to it, for the glory (splendor, radiance) of God has illumined it, and the Lamb is its lamp and light. The nations [the redeemed people from the earth] will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring into it their glory. By day (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed [in fear of evil]; and they will bring the glory (splendor, majesty) and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing that defiles or profanes or is unwashed will ever enter it, nor anyone who practices abominations [detestable, morally repugnant things] and lying, but only those [will be admitted] whose names have been written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

► **TAB says:** The manifest records all that is permitted entry on board the ship. The Book of Life has the names of all people (believers in Jesus' free gift of salvation) who are granted entry into heaven.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Read **Psalm 139** and put yourself in the place of the psalmist.

Try this link on for size!

## Ps139 AMP - God's Omnipresence and Omniscience. - Bible Gateway

6. Before meeting the Captain, Sean and Jonathan were treated to new clothes and a much-needed bath. They felt cozy and happy literally washing away the dirt of the streets of London.

► How do the following verses describe a 'spiritual' bathing?

**Psalm 51:2 GW** Wash me thoroughly from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.

**Isaiah 1:16 GW** Wash yourselves! Become clean! Get your evil deeds out of my sight. Stop doing evil.

**2 Corinthians 7:1 GW** Since we have these promises, dear friends, we need to cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit and live a holy life in the fear of God.

**1 John 1:9 ERV** But if we confess our sins, God will forgive us. We can trust God to do this. He always does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrong things we have done.

**Ezekiel 36:25 ERV** Then I will sprinkle pure water on you and make you pure. I will wash away all your filth, the filth from those nasty idols, and I will make you pure.

► **TAB says:** We are to remove sin from our life through God's help by way of the Holy Spirit. He will forgive us and help us live a holy life. We must repent of sin to become clean in His eyes.

**REAL LIFE:** Homeless and orphaned, Jonathan and Sean were actually grateful to have been kidnapped from their life on the streets to life on a ship that included food every day and a bunk to sleep in. Below is a

testimony of a man who grew up poor, unloved and without a loving father until a wonderful Christian mentoring program showed him the love of God.

**Psalm 68:5** ESV Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

Watch the video and read the article here:

**Christian Youth Mentoring | Mentoring at Risk Youth ([liyouthmentoring.com](http://liyouthmentoring.com))**

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** Just as Jonathan saw the *Poseidon* with his own eyes and could describe it in detail, eyewitnesses in Scripture verify Biblical events. How can we know the Word of God is reliable? View the video below from *The Case for Christ* Documentary:

**The Case For Christ [2017] // full documentary that brings DEFINITIVE PROOF Jesus actually existed! - YouTube**

We recommend you watch the entire film, but see minute 0 through 13 for personal observation and eyewitness testimony, and then minute 52 through 58 for the accounts of the women at the empty tomb and the 500 witnesses.

## Guide for Chapter 3

### *Captain Walker*

1. During the *make and mend* time, the boys met some of the members of the crew. They were busily repairing clothing, tying ropes and braiding their hair. Did you realize that as Christians, we can also have a *make and mend* time with God?

▶ According to the following Bible verses, can a broken soul be mended?

**Matthew 11:28** NIV Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

**Psalms 107:19-21** NIV Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

**Psalms 30:2** GW O LORD my God, I cried out to you for help, and you healed me.

**Psalms 103:2-4** NIV Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion

▶ **TAB says:** Yes, with the Lord's help, we can see our sin and failings through His perspective and change our behavior and know He has love, compassion, rest, redemption and healing for all those who seek Him.

*"I discovered the Father's love. I realized that I had a true Father in heaven who loved me and cared about me. He began to restore my soul by renewing my mind...But what truly healed the way I saw myself was when He made me realize I wasn't merely His creation, I was His child!"*

- Marjorie Duterte

**When God Heals a Broken Soul: Second Place Winner of MAI-Asia Writing Contest - Media Associates International ([maiglobal.org](http://maiglobal.org))**

Take a listen to a song based on Psalm 84:

♪ **Better is One Day - Kutless - YouTube**

2. Jonathan was shocked to see Gallotta, the man he had kicked in the alley, within the group. He then offered a heartfelt apology to him and consequently impressed the crew with his manners and gentlemanly ways. Gallotta graciously forgave him.

**Matthew 18:21-22** AMP Then Peter came to Him and asked, "Lord, how many times will my brother sin against me and I forgive him and let it go? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered him, "I say to you, not up to seven times, but seventy times seven."

**Psalms 51:3** NIV For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

**Matthew 5:23-24** NIV Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

**James 5:16** NIV Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

**Ephesians 4:32** MSG Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

**Romans 14:19** ESV So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

**Hebrews 12:14** ERV Try to live in peace with everyone. And try to keep your lives free from sin. Anyone whose life is not holy will never see the Lord.

▶ How do you think things would have proceeded if Jonathan had not apologized to Gallotta? Would the crew have thought differently about him?

▶ **TAB says:** Yes, Jonathan might have made an enemy for life and the crew might have had a low opinion and no respect for him and life onboard the ship would have been full of tension.



**Think Above the Box:** Is there someone to whom you need to apologize? Is there someone you need to forgive? Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and give you the strength to make things right with them.

3. At sunset, the lights of Chatham reflected beautifully on the water of the harbor. Nevertheless, as Jonathan gazed at the sight, he thought to himself, 'I don't care if I ever go back ashore.' He is looking forward to his new life at sea. As Steward said, "New world, new life." God wants us to remember that this life is temporary and that we should focus more on heaven, which is eternal. He wants us to be completely centered on Christ in everything we do.

**1 John 2:15-17** MSG Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from Him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

**Matthew 6:19-21** MSG Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

**John 17:16** TLB They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

**Romans 12:2** AMP And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed *and* progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].



*“It seems that Jesus understood the tension we would experience as Christians living in a **hostile ideological environment**. The authors of the New Testament also encouraged us to continue our relationships with the world around us, but to be careful to live in a way that pleases God, not the culture...”*

- J. Warner Wallace

## **Christian Worldview: What Does It Mean to Be “In the World” but Not “Of the World”? | Cold Case Christianity**



**Think Above the Box:** Do you find it hard to be *in* the world but not *of* it? What would your daily life look like if you were completely devoted to Jesus rather than to this temporary life?

4. Jonathan was both thrilled and crushed to be assigned to midshipman’s school. The thought of leaving the ship to go back on land was too much to bear so he declined the offer. Once the Captain explained that his training would be on board the *Poseidon*, Jonathan was so overjoyed and relieved that he felt that it was the best day of his life! Jonathan could never have entered midshipman's school on his own, it was a wonderful undeserved gift.

► How is that like God’s gift of salvation? Read the verses below.

**Ephesians 2:8 AMP** For it is by grace [God’s remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God.

**2 Corinthians 9:15 TPT** Praise God for his astonishing gift, which is far too great for words!

**Romans 6:23 ERV** When people sin, they earn what sin pays— death. But God gives his people a free gift— eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Psalms 16:11 AMP** You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.

**Psalms 71:23 NIV** My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you—I whom you have delivered.

**John 5:24 ESV** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

► **TAB says:** Jonathan was given the opportunity through no effort of his own just as Jesus paid the price on the cross for us so that we can be given the free gift of salvation. Upon hearing that he could stay, Jonathan immediately accepts the position with joy and happiness in his heart, just like when a believer puts their faith in Jesus.



**Think Above the Box:** In regards to being a follower of Jesus, do you “accept and volunteer?”

5. Captain Walker told Jonathan to “learn what you can, whenever you can” in regard to his upcoming seamanship training.

► In light of the following verses, how would this apply to Scripture?

**Proverbs 22:6 ERV** Teach children in a way that fits their needs, and even when they are old, they will not leave the right path.

**2 Timothy 3:15-17 ESV** ... and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Ephesians 4:11-15 ESV** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...

**Proverbs 20:15 NIV** Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.

► **TAB says:** By learning all we can about God through the Bible, we will become mature Christians, able to be ready to serve Him at all times. A person with strong Biblical knowledge will not be influenced by every new spiritual/religious trend that the culture comes up with. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they will have the discernment to know what is Truth as opposed to what are man-made falsehoods.

*“The Bible is the only book inspired by God, filled with what He wants us to understand. To read it is to read a personal message to us, written by God Himself. To ignore it is to reject His primary method of communicating with us...The more we study the Bible, the more we will gain.”*

-compellingtruth.org

### **Why should we study the Bible? (compellingtruth.org)**

6. After Jonathan exited the captain’s cabin, the remaining men discussed the fact that any information on him, past or future, was not to be discussed until all plans were successful and also due to the fact that there were too many pieces still left to chance. Just as Captain Walker followed the directives of the letter to not disclose information on Jonathan, Jesus also had reasons to not have some miracles publicized.

**Mark 1:40-45** ESV And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

**Mark 9:2-9** ESV And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

**Mark 5:40-43** ESV And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, "*Talitha cumi*," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Miracles could cause a distraction among the towns, obstructing Jesus's movements and purpose. The people might also only be interested in seeing miracles and not want to know about salvation and eternal life.

*"It would seem that Jesus would want everyone to know about the miracle. But Jesus knew that publicity over such miracles might hinder His mission and divert public attention from His message."*

- gotquestions.org

## **Why did Jesus command people to not tell others of the miracles He performed? | GotQuestions.org**

**REAL LIFE:** Sadly, many children have suffered through the loss of one or both of their parents just like Jonathan. The suffering and pain of such a loss can make one think that there is no God.

*"... I can't accept the existence of a God who allows us to suffer. How can He be good or loving if He takes people from us and hurts us for no reason?"*

- C.S. Lewis

Read the following post of how this man, the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Mere Christianity*, *the Space Trilogy* and many other works, went from atheist to believer and how he used his imagination and vast literary knowledge to help others come to faith in Jesus.

## **C. S. Lewis: An Adventure in Faith - Church History For Kids (christianity.com)**

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** The majority of miracles in the Bible are used by Jesus to prove that He is the Son of God.

*“if God exists, He created the natural laws, so it should be no problem for Him to move beyond or outside these laws, nor can He be restrained by these laws... Jesus used miracles as signs to his credentials as the Son of God. Without miracles it would be exceptionally difficult to believe His claims.”*

- Rob Vandeweghe

Please read the following informative essay on miracles:

**[Jesus' Miracles, Signs of Divine Powers? | FaithWriters](#)**

## Guide for Chapter 4

### *A Hot Steaming Bowl*

1. Jonathan looked about the ship and marveled at all of its varied components and equipment. It must have been overwhelming to see how much learning lay ahead. He made it his private goal to know everything about the ship with a positive, ambitious and determined attitude. Think of a new believer facing an unopened Bible. What a daunting task lays before them!

▶ What should their attitude be?

▶ **TAB says:** The same as Jonathan's: eager, positive, determined, and ambitious.



**Think Above the Box:** Do you see Bible study with the same attitude that Jonathan viewed his seamanship training or do you see it as a chore? How could someone improve their attitude? Read the blog below! But first, here is one of the ways mentioned:

*“Pray-The Bible is not like any other book. You need God’s Spirit to help you understand and process it. You should always pray before and as you read it. Ask God to help you understand what you’re reading – even to help you enjoy it. Good news here! This appears, in my experience, to be one of God’s favorite prayers to answer.”*

- Ron Edmondson

### **7 Ways to Better Enjoy Reading the Bible - Ron Edmondson**

2. Jonathan, Sean and Claise stood ‘bowl-less’ in front of the salvation of their hunger - fish stew! After Steward declared that there were no more bowls for them, Harrison improvised with three small cooking pots from the galley. Steward had never even considered them for use as he was looking only for a specific type of bowl, but sometimes the unconventional can work as well as the conventional! Even as Steward was very strict in what dish was appropriate, God, like Harrison, has other ideas! One would expect God to use the strongest, most intelligent, good looking and “perfect” people to accomplish His plans on earth, but He often uses unlikely, weak, imperfect, unsuitable ‘vessels’ (people) for furthering His kingdom.

**2 Corinthians 4:7** NIV But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

**2 Corinthians 12:9** NIV But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

*“Yes, we are weak, cracked, and far less than perfect, but the treasure within us is glorious. If we were to be beautiful and polished vessels, then others would see that...and not the treasure within.”*

- Tamara Chamberlain

## "Jars of Clay" Biblical Meaning from 2 Corinthians 4:7 (crosswalk.com)

*"The Bible is full of stories of people who were used by God despite their unfaithfulness and failures. Here are four of the numerous stories of men who were used by God and what we can learn from their lives."*

- Patrick Mabilog

## 4 people in the Bible God used despite their imperfections (christiantoday.com)

3. The pressed man named Robinson was treated with compassion and fairness by the captain, released from service and allowed to return home to his family. A leader without those qualities might have kept him onboard regardless of any burdens it might place on the man, including punishment, harsh treatment, and assigning him the worst jobs on the ship.

► What do the following verses teach us about Jesus' compassion and fairness?

**Matthew 9:36** NIV When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

**Matthew 14:14** MSG When Jesus got the news, he slipped away by boat to an out-of-the-way place by himself. But unsuccessfully — someone saw him and the word got around. Soon a lot of people from the nearby villages walked around the lake to where he was. When he saw them coming, he was overcome with pity and healed their sick.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4** GW Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He is the Father who is compassionate and the God who gives comfort. He comforts us whenever we suffer. That is why whenever other people suffer, we are able to comfort them by using the same comfort we have received from God.

**1 Peter 3:8** NIV Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

► **TAB says:** Jesus always has time to comfort us in our journey. Therefore, we are to be just like Jesus is: compassionate, fair, comforting, and sympathetic to others through the Holy Spirit's help.

4. After supper, Jonathan, Sean and Claise went belowdecks in the darkness, aided by a little candlelight.

**John 1:5** GNT The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

**2 Peter 1:19** GW So we regard the words of the prophets as confirmed beyond all doubt. You're doing well by paying attention to their words. Continue to pay attention as you would to a light that shines in a dark place as you wait for day to come and the morning star to rise in your hearts.

**John 8:12** GW Jesus spoke to the Pharisees again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark."

**Isaiah 9:2** AMPC The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light; those who dwelt in the land of intense darkness and the shadow of death, upon them has the Light shined.

**Isaiah 60:19 TLB** No longer will you need the sun or moon to give you light, for the Lord your God will be your everlasting light, and he will be your glory.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus is the Light of the world and those who follow Him walk in the Light. Darkness symbolizes sin and ignorance while light symbolizes the truth and goodness of God's love. The Light offers us salvation from sin and eternal life.

*"A life touched and guided by the Light of Christ is evident, because of the powerful effect it has on those who truly claim salvation in the Son of God."*

- Meg Bucher

### **"God Is Light" Meaning and Biblical Importance in 1 John 1:5 (christianity.com)**

*"Joy of the Father / Reach through the darkness / Shine across the earth / Send the shadows to flight / Light of the World / From the beginning / The tragedies of time / Were no match for Your love"*

- We the Kingdom

### **♪ Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah) - We The Kingdom (Lyrics) - YouTube**



**Think Above the Box:** How's *your* light shining? Discuss!

5. Jonathan gasped in awe at the sight of the *Poseidon* in full sail in the morning sunlight.

**Psalm 68:35 TLB** What awe we feel, kneeling here before him in the sanctuary. The God of Israel gives strength and mighty power to his people. Blessed be God!

**Psalm 8:3-4 TLB** When I look up into the night skies and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you have made—I cannot understand how you can bother with mere puny man, to pay any attention to him!



**Think Above the Box:** Have you ever seen anything so beautiful, amazing or immense that it made you think about God? What was it?

6. Jonathan discovered that his assigned duties of cleaning the heads (bathrooms) and caring for the animals were not as fun as he had imagined but he completed the tasks in spite of how distasteful they were.

**Colossians 3:23-24 TLB** Work hard and cheerfully at all you do, just as though you were working for the Lord and not merely for your masters, remembering that it is the Lord Christ who is going to pay you, giving you your full portion of all he owns. He is the one you are really working for.

**Philippians 4:13 GNT** I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me.

**Proverbs 14:23 GW** In hard work there is always something gained, but idle talk leads only to poverty.

**Matthew 25:23 GW** His master replied, 'Good job! You're a good and faithful servant! You proved that you could be trusted with a small amount. I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master's happiness.' "

▶ How do the above verses apply to Jonathan's attitude about his assignments?

▶ **TAB says:** He knew that completing his chores successfully was a part of the process of learning everything he could about being aboard the ship. A job well done would allow him to proceed to the next level in his training.

▶ Why does God want us to show honor in a job well done?

▶ **TAB says:** Any chore or job we do should be done correctly, completely and with joy for we are not only working for our earthly boss (parent, teacher, coach, etc.) but more importantly for God. We honor Him by our honest, hard-working attitude, which can lead to greater things that He has planned for us. A faithful, honest and skillful Christian worker is a witness to unbelievers.

*"Every Christian will give an account for how he or she lived their life on earth. Those who consistently lived obedient lives and followed God's priorities will hear God say, 'Well done!' Pleasing our Heavenly Father should be all the praise and reward we need."*

- wellspringchristianministries.org

## Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant - Wellspring Christian Ministries



**Think Above the Box:** What is your attitude like when it comes to school? Obeying your parents? Homework? Chores? In what ways can you improve your mindset so you are honoring the Lord? Pick one area to work on today/this week, praying for the Holy Spirit's guidance and strength to help you.

**REAL LIFE:** Read the following blog post about working for recognition from a Christian viewpoint. You can substitute many things (school work, music, sports, chores, etc.) into the place of work to get an understanding of how God feels about our endeavors. Having a Godly attitude about your work and school activities can set you on the right path for life in regards to pleasing God!

*"As Christians in the marketplace, we actually have an advantage over our non-believing co-workers, because we work for a higher level of management than they do, and our manager has a wonderful program of recognition and reward."*

- Mary Whelchel

## Working for Recognition | Work Life



**APOLO-GET-ITS** Everyone loves a cute seahorse, don't they? But can this unique creature really be the result of millions of years of development and mutation as evolutionists proclaim?

*"So unique is the sea horse that it is difficult to accept, as the evolutionists would like us to, that it is the product of purposeless evolutionary forces. In fact, study the sea horse carefully and you find evidence that points to its being wonderfully designed by God the Creator."*

- David Juhasz

Giddy up!

**The amazing sea horse ([creation.com](http://creation.com))**

## Guide for Chapter 5

### *The Barker and the Belcher*

1. The crew of the *Poseidon* engaged in gun practice to prepare for actual battle, with Jonathan and Sean assigned to be ‘powder monkeys.’

▶ Why did the Captain have the crew go through all that trouble just to hit a small makeshift raft out in the water?

▶ **TAB says:** Target practice prepared and strengthened the crew for when an actual battle would take place.

▶ How do the following verses instruct a Christian to prepare for spiritual battle?

**Ephesians 6:10-18 NLT** A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

**Hebrews 4:12 NLT** For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

▶ **TAB says:** We are to know God’s Word in our hearts, aided by the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, then we will be prepared and ready to distinguish between good and evil and to make correct choices in our life and honor God.

Want to know how being God’s ‘powder monkey’ keeps us ready for spiritual battle? Read on, mate!

*“The Bible often describes the life of someone following Jesus using the language and imagery of warfare. This is where the term “**spiritual warfare**” comes from. It refers to the ongoing struggle of living our lives in a way that puts pleasing God before pleasing ourselves or others. Spiritual warfare is also about recognizing that we have an enemy, the devil, who is battling to pull us away from God.”*

- Chelsea Kight

### **The Armor of God: How to Prepare for Spiritual Warfare | Cru**

2. A gundeck can be a very dangerous place, with the recoil sending the gun barreling 10 feet behind it with immense force. The boys were warned to never stand behind a gun. In his eagerness to deliver the

cartridges, Jonathan found himself right behind the Belcher, about to be crushed to death. Harrison saved him and proceeded to take the blame for the error of the gun not being fired.

▶ What was the likely punishment going to be according to the crew?

▶ **TAB says:** The numerous available punishments included lashes, whipping, getting chained to a mast, and no meals.

▶ Why would Harrison take the blame?

▶ **TAB says:** Harrison was a good man, taking responsibility for the men under him. He wanted to protect Jonathan from the severe punishment that was coming from the captain.

Can you see where we are going with this? Jesus also stood in for the guilty, similar to Harrison, but on a *much* grander scale:

**1 Peter 2:24** TLB He personally carried the load of our sins in his own body when he died on the cross so that we can be finished with sin and live a good life from now on. For his wounds have healed ours!

**Isaiah 53:4-5** AMP But [in fact] He has borne our griefs, and He has carried our sorrows and pains; yet we [ignorantly] assumed that He was stricken, struck down by God and degraded and humiliated [by Him]. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing]; the punishment [required] for our well-being fell on Him, and by His stripes (wounds) we are healed.

**1 Peter 3:18** GW This is true because Christ suffered for our sins once. He was an innocent person, but he suffered for guilty people so that he could bring you to God. His body was put to death, but he was brought to life through his spirit.

**1 Peter 1:18-19** TPT For you know that your lives were ransomed once and for all from the empty and futile way of life handed down from generation to generation. It was not a ransom payment of silver and gold, which eventually perishes, but the precious blood of Christ—who like a spotless, unblemished lamb was sacrificed for us.

▶ The crewmen all prayed that Captain Walker would be lenient towards Harrison, but why was God *not* lenient to Jesus, resulting in His crucifixion?

▶ **TAB says:** No one with sin can enter God's holy Heaven. In order for us to be righteous, our sins must be paid for. Due to His amazing love for us, Jesus, as the perfect, sinless sacrificial lamb, took the punishment for our sins so we could have eternal life with Him in Heaven. If God had not let Jesus pay for our transgressions with His life, we would be eternally lost.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** AMP He made Christ who knew no sin to [judicially] be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God [that is, we would be made acceptable to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness].

Let's take a deeper dive into this all-important concept of Christianity:

*"Jesus's selfless act meant that Christ, a part of the holy **trinity**—Father, Son, and Spirit, three in one—took on the mantle and oppression of our sin as a sacrificial act for us. He did this out of love. Jesus, who was perfect and sin-free, God Himself come to earth in the flesh, humbled*

*Himself by taking on the stench of our guilt and pain. He covered Himself in filth, our filth because He loves us."*

- Jessica Brodie

## He Became Sin Who Knew No Sin - Meaning of 2 Corinthians 5:21 ([crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com))

Chris Tomlin's song, *Jesus Messiah* wraps it all up:

### ♪ [Jesus Messiah - Chris Tomlin - Christian Music Videos \(godtube.com\)](http://godtube.com)

▶ Harrison took Jonathan's punishment in his place. How do you think that made the boy feel?

▶ **TAB says:** Guilty, embarrassed, unworthy, horrified, shocked, relieved, etc.

▶ How do you feel when you consider that Jesus saved you by taking the punishment for your sin upon Himself, enabling you to enter into Heaven for eternity?

▶ **TAB says:** Guilty, embarrassed, unworthy, horrified, shocked, relieved...but also thankful, in awe, unable to fathom, joyful, prayerful, full of praise, etc.!



**Think Above the Box:** Take some time to thank Jesus for the amazing gift of salvation He provided for you. Do it now. Not sometime later. Now.

**REAL LIFE:** What do you as a believer and a butterfly emerging from its cocoon have in common?

*"The apostle Paul says we are works in progress and that our transformation from the old to the new is a struggle...This picture of a monarch during metamorphosis is a loose comparison to the change a believer undergoes in the cocoon of divine grace."*

- Jim Allen

## The Butterfly Effect: Transformation in the Christian Life ([blogos.org](http://blogos.org))

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Watch the metamorphosis of a butterfly (could this *really* happen by *chance*?)

### Metamorphosis | Kids Answers ([answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org))

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** Just as everyone was in shock when Harrison took the rap and punishment for Jonathan's error, people have a hard time understanding why Jesus had to die to save us. Sometimes using an analogy (a comparison between two stories) can help make a complex subject understandable and clear. The following article does a great job of explaining the technical term of *substitutionary atonement*: Wait, what does that mean? Check these out first:

### What is the meaning of substitutionary atonement? ([compellingtruth.org](http://compellingtruth.org))

### Substitutionary Atonement | Moody Bible Institute

Then read this!

*“We want to be good communicators of the message of Jesus Christ. But sometimes, even the most skillful presentation fails to connect. This is where stories can help. They illustrate and simplify spiritual truths.”*

- Katie Croft

**Telling The Gospel With Story | Cru**

## Guide for Chapter 6

### *The Crow's Nest*

1. Shortly after the gun mishap, Jonathan noticed Mister Langley up on the stern of the ship with Mister Watt at the wheel. He recalled that Harrison told him that the sailing master is *ever-present* steering the ship and always doing his job and what was expected of him.

► Read the following Scripture and describe how Mister Watt could be a symbol for Jesus:

**Joshua 1:9** ESV Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**Psalm 139:7-10** GW Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run to get away from you? If I go up to heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in hell, you are there. If I climb upward on the rays of the morning sun or land on the most distant shore of the sea where the sun sets, even there your hand would guide me and your right hand would hold on to me.

**Psalm 46:1** MSG God is a safe place to hide, ready to help when we need him. We stand fearless at the cliff-edge of doom, courageous in sea storm and earthquake, before the rush and roar of oceans, the tremors that shift mountains. Jacob-wrestling God fights for us, God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.

**Psalm 23:1-6** ESV The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**Matthew 28:20** ESV ...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

► **TAB says:** According to Scripture, God is ever-present to help us in times of need and trouble, anytime and anywhere. Just as the sailing master must always be in control of the ship to keep it from sinking, going off course or crashing, God is always by our side to aid us in our times of need and give us strength and wisdom to carry on. He loves us and always wants the best for us.

► Would these verses have helped Jonathan prepare to confess to Captain Walker?

► **TAB says:** Yes!

*"God is spirit (**John 4:24**) and is able to be everywhere at one time. He is not just an atmosphere, but rather a personal God that has the unique capability of being ever-present. This is how He can truly promise, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you' (**Heb. 13:5**)."*

- Cliff Wrener

### **God is Ever-Present - Step Study Teach**

Watch Cliff's short video entitled *God Never Leaves*:

### **God Never Leaves - YouTube**

2. When Harrison said that Mister Watts was a man who always did his job and what was expected of him, Jonathan made up his mind to do the right thing. "I can't let Mister Harrison take the blame for my mistake! I will tell the captain the truth: that I stood behind the gun, and that's why Mister Harrison held Gallotta's fire!" He was determined to be honest and tell him straight away that it was really his fault and that he deserved the punishment, no matter how awful it would be.



**Think Above the Box:** Has guilt ever led you to be honest about something you did wrong?

► How could the following verses give you courage to be honest?

**Proverbs 10:9 ERV** Honest people can always feel secure, but lying cheaters will be caught.

**Proverbs 11:3 GW** Integrity guides decent people, but hypocrisy leads treacherous people to ruin.

**2 Corinthians 8:21 GW** We intend to do what is right, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of people.

**2 Timothy 2:15 ERV** Do your best to be the kind of person God will accept, and give yourself to him. Be a worker who has no reason to be ashamed of his work, one who applies the true teaching in the right way.

► **TAB says:** Following God's word on honesty gives us security, peace of mind and a clear Christian witness to others. We can be fearless, unashamed and be free of guilt, etc. The most important one to please is God Himself!

*"...Don't pretend to be someone you're not / living life afraid of getting caught / There is freedom found when we lay / our secrets down at the cross, at the cross... If we're honest / If we're honest / It would change our lives / It would set us free / It's what we need to be..."*

- Francesca Battistelli

♪ **Francesca Battistelli - If We're Honest (Live) - YouTube**

3. During Jonathan's first midshipman's lesson, Langley referred to him as Mister Moore, which confused the boy as only officers had earned that title. Jonathan asked why some of the crew addressed him in the same way. Langley awkwardly answered that it is because of his almost assured promotion that would happen someday. Being given an unearned title is not just for a recently pressed landlubber. Did you know that Christian believers are referred to as *saints* in the Bible (over 60 times!) Just as Jonathan probably said to himself, "I'm not a Mister!" you might be saying, "I'm no saint!" We often think of a saint as someone who is perfect and impossibly good above all others but the Greek word for saint, *hagios*, means someone who has been saved, made holy and set apart for God's use. Why would the Bible call us that when even the best-intentioned among us commit sin and are unholy? Read and ponder the following verses:

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11 AMP** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived...And such were some of you [before you believed]. But you were

washed [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], you were sanctified [set apart for God, and made holy], you were justified [declared free of guilt] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God [the source of the believer's new life and changed behavior].

**Ephesians 4:12 AMP** [and He did this] to fully equip and perfect the saints (God's people) for works of service, to build up the body of Christ [the church];

**Corinthians 1:2 AMP** To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified (set apart, made holy) in Christ Jesus, who are selected and called as saints (God's people), together with all those who in every place call on and honor the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.

► Why do believers get this unearned title?

► **TAB says:** Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross gave His righteousness to all believers so that God sees us as He sees Jesus - without sin. We receive the title of saint even though we are all in the process of becoming holy (sanctified) during our lives.

*"We are not saints because we have been declared to be saints by a church, nor can we work our way to sainthood. Once we are saved by faith, however, we are called to certain actions befitting our calling as saints of God... (1 Peter 1:15-16). Saints are not sinless, but the lives of saints do reflect the reality of the presence of Christ in our hearts, in whom we 'live and move and have our being' (Acts 17:28)."*

- gotquestions.org

From the article and video below:

### **Are Christians sinners, saints, or both? | GotQuestions.org**

4. At supper, Jonathan stashed a bowl of soup and some bread in his jacket then stealthily climbed up the main mast to the crow's nest to surprise Harrison, who was completely stunned at his appearance. The boy explained that he braved the climb to show his gratitude for Harrison's selfless act of taking on undeserved punishment on Jonathan's behalf.

**Galatians 6:2 GW** Help carry each other's burdens. In this way you will follow Christ's teachings.

**1 Peter 3:8 AMP** Finally, all of you be like-minded [united in spirit], sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted [courteous and compassionate toward each other as members of one household], and humble in spirit;

**John 13:14 AMPC** If I then, your Lord and Teacher (Master), have washed your feet, you ought [it is your duty, you are under obligation, you owe it] to wash one another's feet.

**Ephesians 5:21 TPT** And out of your reverence for Christ be supportive of each other in love.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 GW** Therefore, encourage each other and strengthen one another as you are doing.

**1 John 3:16 ERV** This is how we know what real love is: Jesus gave his life for us. So we should give our lives for each other as brothers and sisters.



*“You are called to love like Jesus, laying down your life for the brethren. But what does that mean?”*

- Shawn Lazar

Let's find out!

## **How to Apply “Lay Down Your Life” (1 John 3:16-17) – Grace Evangelical Society (faithalone.org)**



**Think Above the Box:** Have you ever had someone sacrifice for you? How did you feel? Have you ever sacrificed for someone else? How did you feel and how do you think they felt?

*“Who else would do this but a friend who bears another’s burdens and in doing so fulfills the law of Christ? Who do you know in your life that doesn’t necessarily deserve it but needs a friend that will lay down his life for them?”*

- Sharon Glasgow

## **Laying Down Your Life for a Friend (proverbs31.org)**

5. Safe from the raging storm in their makeshift tent, the two boys spent hours sharing their life stories and hopes for the future. Harrison recounted his time on the *HMS Helios* and the horrific battle fought against French Captain Jean Champagne. As the British ship was sinking, its captain surrendered as a ruse to allow the remaining crew to escape unseen by the French, thereby saving Harrison in the process. Jonathan wondered if someday he would be as brave and fearless a leader as the British captain who was still imprisoned in France.

► What do the following verses tell us about what God thinks of such courageous acts?

**John 15:13 TLB** And here is how to measure it— the greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends.

**2 Kings 2:2 GW** Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here because the Lord is sending me to Bethel.” Elisha answered, “I solemnly swear, as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not abandon you.” So they went to Bethel.

**Job 2:11 AMP** Now when Job’s three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite; for they had made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and to comfort him.

**Proverbs 18:24 AMP** The man of too many friends [chosen indiscriminately] will be broken in pieces and come to ruin, But there is a [true, loving] friend who [is reliable and] sticks closer than a brother.

**Luke 6:31 MSG** Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them!

► **TAB says:** We show our love and gratitude for what God has done for us by being a good friend and reflecting Jesus' character of self-sacrifice in our care and actions toward others. This behavior also supports our Christian witness to unbelievers!

6. After much discussion, Jonathan cannot fathom why a fatherless and homeless nobody would be allowed to train for midshipman considering that Harrison's father had to beg, plead and ask for favors for his son to have the same opportunity.

► Do the following verses offer any hints as to why Jesus would suffer and die to save unworthy, undeserving people?

**Romans 5:8 MSG** Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. He didn't, and doesn't, wait for us to get ready. He presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn't been so weak, we wouldn't have known what to do anyway. We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.

**Ephesians 2:8-9 AMP** For it is by grace [God's remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God; not as a result of [your] works [nor your attempts to keep the Law], so that no one will [be able to] boast or take credit in any way [for his salvation].

**Matthew 5:3 AMP** Blessed [spiritually prosperous, happy, to be admired] are the poor in spirit [those devoid of spiritual arrogance, those who regard themselves as insignificant], for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [both now and forever].

**Isaiah 57:15 GW** The High and Lofty One lives forever, and his name is holy. This is what he says: I live in a high and holy place. But I am with those who are crushed and humble. I will renew the spirit of those who are humble and the courage of those who are crushed.

► **TAB says:** Yes, Jesus became the sacrifice for our sins because of His unfathomable love, hope, compassion, goodness, gracefulness, and generosity for those who accept his free gift of salvation.

7. Late into the night, Harrison shows Jonathan how to use a telescope to search for ships and land. Much to Harrison's surprise, Jonathan actually sights a ship and the crew goes into battle mode. Just as the man in the crow's nest is responsible for scanning the seas for approaching vessels, God calls us to be 'on the lookout' spiritually. We are to be discerning not only for ourselves, but for others in our families, schools, places of work, cities and country.

**Isaiah 62:6 NLT** O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen on your walls; they will pray day and night, continually. Take no rest, all you who pray to the Lord.

**1 Peter 5:8 AMP** Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour.

**1 Thessalonians 5:21 MSG** Don't suppress the Spirit, and don't stifle those who have a word from the Master. On the other hand, don't be gullible. Check out everything, and keep only what's good. Throw out anything tainted with evil.

**Colossians 2:8 GW** Be careful not to let anyone rob you of this faith through a shallow and misleading philosophy. Such a person follows human traditions and the world's way of doing things rather than following Christ.

**Hebrews 5:13-14 AMP** For everyone who lives on milk is [doctrinally inexperienced and] unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a spiritual infant. But solid food is for the [spiritually] mature, whose senses are trained by practice to distinguish between what is morally good and what is evil.

*"If watchmen do not keep their post on a ship during serious weather conditions, it could mean the loss of the ship and every person on board. Remember the Titanic, which sank very quickly because the watchmen were not doing their job. Let's learn to concentrate on prayer, listening with expectation, and seize the moment as we keep our watch. Let's learn to be God's watchmen."*

- Debbie Przybylski

## God's Watchmen ([crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com))

► How does having a strong knowledge of God's Word help us to be spiritual watchmen?

► **TAB says:** By opening our heart to the Holy Spirit, we are able to make Godly decisions and choices based on what Scripture advises. Knowing God's Word gives us discernment, keeps us from following false teachers and enables us to be able to spot non-Biblical doctrine. The Bible has given us everything we need to live a Godly life on this earth. Lack of Biblical knowledge can lead to living in a worldly way.

**REAL LIFE:** Just as Jonathan and Harrison spent the night tucked under a tent in the crow's nest protected from the squall, we can be comforted by God's love during the stormy times in our lives.

**Psalm 18:2 AMP** The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and the One who rescues me; My God, my rock *and* strength in whom I trust *and* take refuge; My shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower—my stronghold.

See the following blog for a great story of peace in a storm:

## My Peace in the Rock! – May God Be Glorified!

*"There I was empty-handed / Crying out from the pit of my despair / There You were in the shadows / Holding out Your hand, You met me there / And now where would I be without You? / Where would I be, Jesus? / You were the voice in the desert / Calling me out in the dead of night / Fighting my battles for me / You are my rescue story"*

- Zach Williams

## 🎵 Zach Williams - "Rescue Story" (Official Lyric Video) - YouTube

Listen to Zach's testimony of how God sheltered him through the storm of addiction and brought him back into His loving arms:

## How God Radically Transformed Zach Williams Life - YouTube

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** Many people use science to try to prove that God doesn't exist but science and logic actually can prove that He does! Watch this video on the Kalam Cosmological Argument to see how:

**The Kalam Cosmological Argument | Does #God exist? Or is the material universe all that is, or ever was, or ever will be? One way of answering this question is the Cosmological Argument.... | By Reasonable Faith | Facebook**

## Guide for Chapter 7

### *The Paladin*

1. As the men rushed to their battle stations at the sighting of an oncoming ship, Jonathan was admonished by Steward, Johnson and many crew members to stay to the side of the guns to keep safe. These warnings were to protect him during battle. Read the following verses and answer:

► Can the Bible be our constant reminder to remain in God's will and be 'battle ready'?

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT** All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

**Joshua 1:8 NIV** Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

**Romans 10:17 GW** So faith comes from hearing the message, and the message that is heard is what Christ spoke.

**Hebrews 4:12 AMP** For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Psalms 119:11 AMP** Your word I have treasured and stored in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

**Job 23:12 NLT** I have not departed from his commands, but have treasured his words more than daily food.

► **TAB says:** Yes. By reading Scripture every day, we're reminded of God's will for our life, His love, laws, promises, grace, forgiveness, and power. It's our instruction manual for living the best Christ-like life we can!

2. The boys were relieved to learn that the approaching ship was not an enemy, but the British mail carrying packet, the *Periwinkle*. Its original name, the *Paladin*, meant the King's most reliable and fastest standard bearer (champion) that brings news. The sloop made up for its lack of size and large guns by its speed. The Bible talks about four kinds of creatures on the earth who, although small, are very powerful in their own way and survive extreme conditions for their size. Sometimes the largest objects (and people) are not always the strongest!

**Proverbs 30:24-28 MSG** There are four small creatures, wisest of the wise they are: ants—frail as they are, get plenty of food in for the winter; marmots—vulnerable as they are, manage to arrange for rock-solid homes; locusts—leaderless insects, yet they strip the field like an army regiment; lizards—easy enough to catch, but they sneak past vigilant palace guards.

*"I am constantly amazed at the variety of life on earth. Animals, fish, birds, there are all kinds and varieties of each, and the variety speaks loudly of God's existence (Ps. 19:1). But of all the creatures God has created, there are four that seem particularly wise, even though they are small in size: the ant, the badger, the locust, and the spider."*

- Matt Hennecke

## Proverbs 30:24-28 - Four Small, Wise Creatures (bible.ca)

Just for fun, click through the following slideshow:

### FreeBibleimages :: Four small wise creatures :: Proverbs about four small but wise creatures (Proverbs 30:24-28)

PS: I don't know about you, but the marmot is *my* favorite!

3. "Her captain was a young lieutenant named Brendan Christopher, and he was all of twenty-two years old." It was surprising that a brand-new experimental ship was given to the command of such a young man. The British Royal Navy saw something in Brendan that enabled them to award him such an honorable position. We sometimes think that God only uses older people to serve Him, but that's not so!

► How do the following verses display God's opinion of youth?

**1 Samuel 16:12** ERV Jesse sent someone to get his youngest son. This son was a good-looking, healthy young man. He was very handsome. The Lord said to Samuel, "Get up and anoint him. He is the one."

**1 Timothy 4:12** ERV You are young, but don't let anyone treat you as if you are not important. Be an example to show the believers how they should live. Show them by what you say, by the way you live, by your love, by your faith, and by your pure life.

**2 Timothy 2:22** ERV Stay away from the evil things a young person like you typically wants to do. Do your best to live right and to have faith, love, and peace, together with others who trust in the Lord with pure hearts.

**Jeremiah 1:7** NLT The Lord replied, "Don't say, 'I'm too young,' for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you."

► **TAB says:** God says even young Christians can further the kingdom by being mature and wise. They are to be an example of Godliness to their friends, peers and family.

*"... what if I told you serving God in your youth doesn't have to be complicated? You can easily serve God in your everyday life, right in the midst of all the homework, tests, sports practices, and band rehearsals... Serving God in your youth doesn't have to be difficult. It's not about big, huge acts of service that everyone notices. Serving God in your youth is about the small things you do each day to point others to God. It's about waking up each morning and deciding you're going to live for God despite everything you have going on."*

- Sierra Smith

### 5 Ways to To Serve God In Your Youth According to Scripture (bloggersforthe kingdom.com)



**Think Above the Box:** Name a way in which you are strong for God in spite of your age and size.

4. The young captain stayed out a little too long and sailed a little too far from the rest of the British fleet and ran into a small squadron of French ships. He managed to outfox and outrun the five French ships using wisdom and strategy.

**Matthew 10:16** MSG Stay alert. This is hazardous work I'm assigning you. You're going to be like sheep running through a wolf pack, so don't call attention to yourselves. Be as cunning as a snake, inoffensive as a dove.

**Ecclesiastes 9:16** ERV But I still say that wisdom is better than strength...

**Proverbs 24:3-7** GW With wisdom a house is built. With understanding it is established. With knowledge its rooms are filled with every kind of riches, both precious and pleasant. A strong man knows how to use his strength, but a person with knowledge is even more powerful. After all, with the right strategy you can wage war and with many advisers there is victory. Matters of wisdom are beyond the grasp of a stubborn fool. At the city gate he does not open his mouth.



**Think Above the Box:** Have you ever had a situation where your knowledge of God's wisdom helped you? How would things have worked out if you hadn't let the Holy Spirit be your guide?

5. The *Periwinkle* delivered fresh orders to the captain involving immediately altering the *Poseidon's* course and mission. Plans were changed and a new destination was set. Captain Walker was obedient to his superior, the King of England and directly obeyed the order. When God's Holy Spirit prompts us, we should do the same.

► What happens when a believer obeys?

**Hebrews 13:17** GW Obey your leaders, and accept their authority. They take care of you because they are responsible for you. Obey them so that they may do this work joyfully and not complain about you. (Causing them to complain would not be to your advantage.)

**Deuteronomy 11:1** .GW Love the Lord your God, and do what he wants you to do. Always obey his laws, rules, and commands.

**John 15:14** GW You are my friends if you obey my commandments.

**Luke 11:28** ERV But Jesus said, "The people who hear the teaching of God and obey it—they are the ones who have God's blessing."

**Romans 2:6-8** ERV He will reward or punish everyone for what they have done. Some people live for God's glory, for honor, and for life that cannot be destroyed. They live for those things by always continuing to do good. God will give eternal life to them. But others are selfish and refuse to follow truth. They follow evil. God will show his anger and punish them.

**Exodus 19:5 NLT** Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me.

► **TAB says:** A believer that obeys God's word pleases Him, furthers His kingdom, provides a Christian witness to non-believers, receives God's blessing, rewards, honor and eternal life. He is considered a treasure to God.

**REAL LIFE:** Never feel that you cannot contribute to God's work just because you are young. God can use us at any age!

*“Regardless of your age you are able to place your life in the hands of God and allow Him to work. God is doing, and will do, a great work in this world. He chooses to use people of all ages to accomplish His purposes. How wonderful it would be to allow Him to use us to accomplish great things for Him.”*

- David Peach

## **5 Young People In The Bible That Did Great Things ([whatchristianswanttoknow.com](http://whatchristianswanttoknow.com))**

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** Captain Walker had a little talk with Jonathan at the stern where it was revealed that he was well aware of what had transpired on the gundeck and the crow's nest. He knew his ship and all that went on with her. God is like that too! Read the following article about God's *omniscience*, an attribute which means knowing and comprehending everything that there is to know.

**Proverbs 15:3 TLB** The Lord is watching everywhere and keeps his eye on both the evil and the good.

## **The Omniscience of God - Apologetics Press**



## Guide for Chapter 8

### *The Log and the Epée*

1. The boys learned the system of measuring the speed of a ship in the water through the use of a knotted rope with a triangle shaped wooden log at the end. The number of knots that went over the side in 30 seconds revealed how fast the vessel was going. Scripture tells us that faith can also be measured. As believers, we may start with a small amount of faith, but we can increase the measure of it by hearing the Word, understanding it, believing it and accompanying these with action in our lives.

**2 Thessalonians 1:3** ERV We thank God for you always. And that’s what we should do, because you give us good reason to be thankful: Your faith is growing more and more. And the love that every one of you has for each other is also growing.

**Romans 10:17** AMPC So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself).

**Luke 17:5-6** AMP The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith [our ability to confidently trust in God and in His power].” And the Lord said, “If you have [confident, abiding] faith in God [even as small] as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree [which has very strong roots], ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea’; and [if the request was in agreement with the will of God] it would have obeyed you.”

**1 Peter 2:1-3** TPT So abandon every form of evil, deceit, hypocrisy, feelings of jealousy and slander. In the same way that nursing infants cry for milk, you must intensely crave the pure spiritual milk of God’s Word. For this “milk” will cause you to grow into maturity, fully nourished and strong for life—especially now that you have had a taste of the goodness of the Lord Jehovah and have experienced his kindness.

Read the following post on how to increase the knots in your faith rope:

*“As believers, our desire to grow in faith should be accompanied by actions that match this desire. We can grow through applying what we do know, growing in God’s Word, serving God, surrounding ourselves with others who are growing in faith, and prayer. Even a small increase in faith is significant and worth the effort in our walk with God.”*

- compellingtruth.org

#### **What should I do to increase my faith? (compellingtruth.org)**

▶ If you were advising a new believer on how to increase their faith in God, just as a ship increases its speed by letting out more sail, what could you suggest they do?

▶ **TAB says:** You could advise them to ask the Holy Spirit through prayer to: open their heart to God’s voice and empower their prayer life to reveal God’s will, start a quiet time to study and meditate on Scripture, convict them of any unconfessed sin and attend a Bible-believing church. Advise them to not just learn the Scripture but understand what it means, believe it and follow through with how they live their life.

2. Jonathan was taught how to fence by Harrison and they practiced every chance they could get with their épées, rain or shine, which enabled the boy to progress in his skills. The Bible talks about weapons also:

**Ephesians 6:13-18 MSG** Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

**Hebrews 4:12 TLB** For whatever God says to us is full of living power: it is sharper than the sharpest dagger, cutting swift and deep into our innermost thoughts and desires with all their parts, exposing us for what we really are.

Read the following blog post for a deeper understanding of this concept (warning- not for the squeamish!):

*"How would you like God to give you a weapon that can rip to shreds the devil's strategies against you? Well, that's exactly what He has done! Ephesians 6:17 declares that God has given you '...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God!'"*

- Renner.org

## **The Holy Spirit Wants To Place A Razor-Sharp Sword in Your Hands | Renner Ministries**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Read and answer the three questions at the bottom of the above post.

3. The arrival of Captain Gorman onto the ship made quite an impression on Jonathan and Sean as he stood tall in his red coat and shining silver sword, with an air of importance, prompting Sean to assume he was the *King* of the Royal Marines. His demeanor of confidence and knowledge was most impressive, causing Sean to want to be like him someday (with the added advantage of the red coat showing off his beautiful blonde hair!)

**Titus 2:7 ERV** You should be an example for them in every way by the good things you do. When you teach, be honest and serious.

**Matthew 5:14-16 ERV** You are the light that shines for the world to see. You are like a city built on a hill that cannot be hidden. People don't hide a lamp under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand. Then the light shines for everyone in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.

**1 Peter 2:12 AMP** Keep your behavior excellent among the [unsaved] Gentiles [conduct yourself honorably, with graciousness and integrity], so that for whatever reason they may slander you as evildoers, yet by observing your good deeds they may [instead come to] glorify God in the day of visitation [when He looks upon them with mercy].

**Philippians 3:17 ERV** Brothers and sisters, join together in following my example. Also, learn by watching those who are living the way we showed you.

► How does God want us to appear to unbelievers?

► **TAB says:** By patterning our behavior and choices after Christ through the direction of the Holy Spirit, we become an intriguing model for non-believers who see peace and love in our actions. This can cause them to seek what we have (belief in Jesus as our Savior.)



**Think Above the Box:** Have you ever met a Christian that gave that kind of impression to you by their knowledge, behavior and attitude? Are you modeling the same impression?

4. The boys were excitedly looking forward to Steward's breakfast of fresh eggs and soft tack now that they were in the port of Lisbon. Much to their disappointment, they were immediately summoned away to the captain's cabin to sit and watch the officers eat amid the most delicious aromas ever. To their surprise, Captain Walker invited them to the table to dine with the men. As Harrison had remarked earlier, they were used to eating garbage off the streets of London and were now feasting on the most delicious meal they had ever seen! Heaven is like that:

**Isaiah 25:6-8** GW But here on this mountain, God-of-the-Angel Armies will throw a feast for all the people of the world, A feast of the finest foods, a feast with vintage wines, a feast of seven courses, a feast lavish with gourmet desserts. And here on this mountain, God will banish the pall of doom hanging over all peoples, The shadow of doom darkening all nations. Yes, he'll banish death forever. And God will wipe the tears from every face. He'll remove every sign of disgrace from his people, wherever they are. Yes! God says so!

**John 14:1-3** NLT Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

**Luke 22:29-30** AMP ... and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you [the privilege] that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Revelation 19:9** GW Then the angel said to me, "Write this: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the lamb's wedding banquet.'" He also told me, "These are God's true words."

**Revelation 3:20** ERV Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you. And you will eat with me.

**Revelation 2:7** AMP He who has an ear, let him hear and heed what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes [the world through believing that Jesus is the Son of God], I will grant [the privilege] to eat [the fruit] from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

**Luke 14:15** AMP When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, "Blessed (happy, prosperous, to be admired) is he who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

**Revelation 7:16** ERV They will never be hungry again. They will never be thirsty again. The sun will not hurt them. No heat will burn them.

► Could our life in heaven be like this? What we think is the best the world has to offer is really like eating garbage compared to Jesus' heavenly feast. Some people prefer the dark of the world and its sin while they give up the most exquisite eternal existence with the Creator of the universe. Why is that?

▶ **TAB says:** Sin is fun for a while, people like to live by their own rules and do what they want, refusing to acknowledge an existence after death, selfishness, willfully blind to things of God, they love the world too much to even contemplate God's gift of grace, and unwillingness to accept that they would have to change their ways.

▶ Could the Captain be a symbol for Jesus inviting us to join Him?

▶ **TAB says:** Yes!

*"Have you ever bought an economy ticket for a flight, but because of overbooking, been upgraded to first class? Did you regret the upgrade? Did you spend your time wondering, 'What am I missing by not being in the back of the plane?'"*

- Randy Alcorn

## 9 Facts About Heaven that Will Surprise You (lifeway.com)

5. After much discussion of the coming mission, Captain Walker admitted that it would be so much easier to find the island with the Spanish gold if they had a treasure map. He then asked, "Do we have one?"

▶ More importantly, do *we* have a treasure map?

▶ **TAB says:** Yes, the Bible!

▶ What do the following verses tell you about what God considers true treasure?

**Luke 12:33-34** ERV Sell the things you have and give that money to those who need it. This is the only way you can keep your riches from being lost. You will be storing treasure in heaven that lasts forever. Thieves can't steal that treasure, and moths can't destroy it. Your heart will be where your treasure is.

**Matthew 13:44** AMP The kingdom of heaven is like a [very precious] treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again; then in his joy he goes and sells all he has and buys that field [securing the treasure for himself].

**Proverbs 2:4-5** AMP If you seek skillful and godly wisdom as you would silver and search for her as you would hidden treasures; then you will understand the [reverent] fear of the Lord [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome] and discover the knowledge of God.

**2 Corinthians 4:7** AMP But we have this precious treasure [the good news about salvation] in [unworthy] earthen vessels [of human frailty], so that the grandeur and surpassing greatness of the power will be [shown to be] from God [His sufficiency] and not from ourselves.

**1 Timothy 6:18-19** ERV Tell those who are rich to do good—to be rich in good works. And tell them they should be happy to give and ready to share. By doing this, they will be saving up a treasure for themselves. And that treasure will be a strong foundation on which their future life will be built. They will be able to have the life that is true life.

▶ **TAB says:** Our salvation is the treasure that God gives us, and our life of obedience, worship and love is the treasure we give to Him. His treasure is not of this world. Worldly possessions cease to be ours at the

moment of death, whereas heavenly treasures will be with us forever. It helps to keep an eternal perspective on your life and remember that your life is not just the 80 years or so we spend on planet earth.

*"If we approach the Word of God like a hidden treasure, we gain total access to the knowledge or riches of God."*

- Lori D'Augustine

## **The Key to Unlocking Your Hidden Treasure | CBN**

**REAL LIFE:** Sometimes a person can have many opportunities in their life to be exposed to God's Word and still choose to thoroughly reject it. Read about a famous humanist and science fiction writer who, like a child of the street, chose the garbage food of the world over Heaven's feast. So sad...

*"Although the time of death is approaching for me, I am not afraid of dying and going to Hell, or [what would be considerably worse] going to the popularized version of Heaven. I expect death to be nothingness and by removing from me all possible fears of death, I am thankful to atheism."*

- Isaac Asimov

## **Asimov Meets His Creator | The Institute for Creation Research (icr.org)**

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** As stated in the following article, *"Each of us, as Christians, ought to allow our Christian beliefs to shape the way we think about every aspect of life, including the way we consider notions of beauty and artistic expression."* Read the following interview about an album where every song is about an aspect of Christian apologetics:

## **Yes, We Can Make the Case for Christianity with Music | Cold Case Christianity**

Listen to Aryn Michelle's song, *The Question*:

*"Could a holy breath turn dark to light / Were the pieces placed by a matchless mind? / Am I one small speck in a great design? / Asking for answers to the question..."*

🎵 **Aryn Michelle | The Question [Lyric Video] - YouTube**

## Guide for Chapter 9

### *The Treasure Map*

1. Gorman gave Jonathan and Sean a coded sentence to repeat to Frasier at the public house to identify themselves as emissaries of the British Navy. Did you know that the early Christians had a secret code to identify each other without incurring detection? Perhaps you have seen the Christian fish symbol on jewelry, bumper stickers and t-shirts. A once secret symbol is proudly proclaimed today by believers. Jesus referred to fish often in Scripture:

**Matthew 4:19** ESV And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

**Matthew 13:47** ERV "Also, God's kingdom is like a net that was put into the lake. The net caught many different kinds of fish."

**Luke 5:5-6** GW Simon answered, "Teacher, we worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I'll lower the nets." After the men had done this, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to tear.

*"These five origin facts will encourage you to look differently when you see the Christian fish while out and about in your day. It may cause you to beam with appreciation for the longevity of the fish in our lives for generations or be in amazement that such a simple figure could have impacted the Christian faith as much as it has."*

-Blair Parke

### **Ichthys, The Christian Fish Symbol Origin and History Facts ([biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com))**

2. The name of the inn that Frasier was staying in, the *Peixe Estragado* means 'spoiled fish' in English. The cleverly designed plan to get the treasure map was 'spoiled' when the glint of the boys' new spears was seen by the French spies in the tavern. "At first, Jonathan was scared: this was no game. It was real, and the spies meant to kill him and his friends. But what he found was a confidence in his swordplay, and he soon realized, as he matched move for move and blow for blow, that he was better than his opponent. And that made him smile."

▶ Do you think that Jonathan and Sean's characters changed after being in a real sword fight as opposed to using an épée during training?

▶ **TAB says:** Yes, they faced real death-defying danger this time, not pretend!

▶ How can the following verses help prepare us for spiritual battle?

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** AMP For though we walk in the flesh [as mortal men], we are not carrying on our [spiritual] warfare according to the flesh and using the weapons of man. The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought and purpose captive to the obedience of Christ.

**1 Peter 5:8-9** AMP Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour. But resist him, be firm in your faith [against his attack—rooted, established, immovable], knowing that the

same experiences of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world. [You do not suffer alone.]

**2 Chronicles 20:15** GW Jahaziel said, “Pay attention to me, everyone from Judah, everyone living in Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the Lord says to you: Don’t be frightened or terrified by this large crowd. The battle isn’t yours. It’s God’s.”

► **TAB says:** By knowing and understanding God’s Word, we can be prepared for anything that Satan uses to tempt us. The knowledge and wisdom of what God desires for our life enables us to have a firm foundation to base our choices on and remain loyal to Jesus, who is at our side at all times. Just as the boys relied on the hours of training they received in swordsmanship aboard the *Poseidon*, we can rely on the help of the Holy Spirit when things get *real* in our lives. But you may be thinking, “What if I can’t feel the Holy Spirit?” See the blogpost below for some answers and help!

*“God’s work does not always look supernatural. It is not always an audible voice in a dark room. Or tongues of fire. Or miraculous healings. That we don’t see these amazing signs in our own lives does not necessarily mean that we’re lacking, or that we’re missing out on a relationship with God. If we have committed our lives to Him, then we have already been given everything we need for a godly life (2 Peter 1:3). What amazing provision from the God who loves us!”*

- Christina E., USA

**2 Peter 1:3** GW God’s divine power has given us everything we need for life and for godliness. This power was given to us through knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and integrity.

### What If I Can’t Feel the Holy Spirit? - YMI

3. The boys were learning quickly that life in the Royal Navy had its share of danger and adversity. In our lives, God uses events and circumstances that are negative, frightening, sad, disappointing, painful, maddening, malicious, life-changing, etc., to grow and mature our Christian character and witness.

► How does that work? Read the following verses for help:

**Romans 8:28** AMP And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.

**James 1:2-4** ERV My brothers and sisters, you will have many kinds of trouble. But this gives you a reason to be very happy. You know that when your faith is tested, you learn to be patient in suffering. If you let that patience work in you, the end result will be good. You will be mature and complete. You will be all that God wants you to be.

► **TAB says:** Godly character and faith are often built through adversity. If everything always went well with you, there would be no room for growth because there would be no need to change the ways in which you are living. Many times, the person with the most possessions, successes and a worldly perspective is the hardest to reach for Christ because they have no perceived need for God!

*“Adversity is not simply a tool. It is God’s most effective tool for the advancement of our spiritual lives. The circumstances and events that we see as setbacks are oftentimes the very things that*

*launch us into periods of intense spiritual growth. Once we begin to understand this, and accept it as a spiritual fact of life, adversity becomes easier to bear.*

- Charles Stanley

## 25 Encouraging Bible Verses About Adversity (Overcoming) (biblereasons.com)



**Think Above the Box:** Can you name a time in your life that some negative event caused you to mature as a believer? Do you feel that your Christian character and witness grew also?

4. Once the boys were discovered as British agents at the inn, the French spies seemed to materialize from every corner of Lisbon to attack Jonathan, Sean and Gorman. They fought them off valiantly, which enabled Jonathan to deliver the map to the ship.

► Read the following verses and answer the question: How are those spies like temptation, sin and false teaching in our life?

**James 1:14 NLT** Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.

**1 Corinthians 10:13 AMP** No temptation [regardless of its source] has overtaken or enticed you that is not common to human experience [nor is any temptation unusual or beyond human resistance]; but God is faithful [to His word—He is compassionate and trustworthy], and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability [to resist], but along with the temptation He [has in the past and is now and] will [always] provide the way out as well, so that you will be able to endure it [without yielding, and will overcome temptation with joy].

**2 Timothy 4:3-4 NLT** For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

► **TAB says:** We are constantly under attack from Satan to get us to sin through selfishness, other people, social media, video games, difficult circumstances, movies, the culture, and peer pressure. How can we thwart him and avoid sinning?

*“Every army general serious about success enters a battle with a plan. He knows his strengths, his weaknesses, his tactics, his contingencies. Most of all, for his plan to be successful, he must know his enemy. If he doesn’t, even his best intentions won’t keep him from destruction.”*

- J.D. Greear

## Satan’s Go-To Temptation Against You | Desiring God

**REAL LIFE:** Can a professional spy really give up espionage to become a follower of Christ? Read the following essay on Jack Barsky, Russian spy for the KGB who turned his life over to Jesus:



*“So how does an ex-communist and KGB agent, who received rigorous scientific training and thorough ideological brainwashing, become a Christian? Unexpectedly!!!”*

- Jack Barsky

## **Faith - Jack Barsky | Author, Speaker featured on 60 Minutes**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** If you have time, please watch the interview video at the end of the above Faith story!

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** The logical arguments of believing apologists helped Jack Barsky come to see the truth of Christianity.

*“Why are we here? Literally. The latest science says we shouldn’t be. It says that the chance life exists at all is less than zero. So, is science the greatest threat to the idea of Intelligent Design or is science its greatest advocate?”*

- Prager U

## **Does Science Argue for or against God? | PragerU**

## Guide for Chapter 10

### *The Mysterious Danielle*

1. Sean's masterful swordplay did much to honor Steward's secret tutelage. "'Sean was masterful,' said Jonathan. 'He dispatched one spy while still in the house, and his swordsmanship was the envy of us all. It is a true tribute to your training, Steward.'" Does your behavior in how you live your life do honor to Jesus' training through your love for Him and knowledge of Scripture?

► How can the following verses help you?

**1 Corinthians 10:31** TPT Whether you eat or drink, live your life in a way that glorifies and honors God.

**1 Peter 2:12** AMP Keep your behavior excellent among the [unsaved] Gentiles [conduct yourself honorably, with graciousness and integrity], so that for whatever reason they may slander you as evildoers, yet by observing your good deeds they may [instead come to] glorify God in the day of visitation [when He looks upon them with mercy.]

**Hebrews 13:18** AMP Keep praying for us, for we are convinced that we have a good conscience, seeking to conduct ourselves honorably [that is, with moral courage and personal integrity] in all things.

**1 Samuel 2:30** NLT "Therefore, the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I promised that your branch of the tribe of Levi would always be my priests. But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me."

**Romans 12:10** ERV Love each other in a way that makes you feel close like brothers and sisters. And give each other more honor than you give yourself.

► **TAB says:** If we love God, we will want to glorify Him in our actions in thanksgiving to Him for all we have been blessed with and as a witness to unbelievers. To not do so risks God's disfavor. We can ask the Holy Spirit for strength to accomplish this.

*"Every morning when you wake up, I pray you will ask God, "How can I honor You today? Please help me to honor You with the time, talent, temple, treasure, and ticker You've given me." Jesus Christ gave His life for you, and He promised to give you the Holy Spirit to help you in all things. The Holy Spirit lives inside every believer—to counsel, comfort, and guide us."*

- Dudley Rutherford

### **5 Ways to Honor God Today | Lift Up Jesus**

*"For the honor of Your kingdom / Who's reign will never end / We'll give our lives in sacrifice / until You come again."*

- Elevation Worship

### **♪ For The Honor | Live | Elevation Worship - YouTube**

2. Once back aboard the ship, Jonathan put up a brave front despite being frantic about Sean's safety in the hands of the French. The men tried to comfort him and Harrison counseled Jonathan to hope and pray for Sean's safe return. It is hard to imagine the pain and fear he was going through. The following verses tell us what to do when we are in such a situation.

**Philippians 4:6 MSG** Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

**Romans 12:12 ERV** Be happy because of the hope you have. Be patient when you have troubles. Pray all the time.

**Luke 18:1 ERV** Then Jesus taught the followers that they should always pray and never lose hope.

**1 John 5:14-15 AMP** This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us. And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears and listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him.

*"It can be challenging to find peace and calm amid a stressful and pressing situation. We always want to control the problem, so we feel powerless when it gets out of hand and anxiety creeps in. God offers His help in handling our storms because no matter how impossible a situation may seem, He is still in control. The best way for us to remember this is to go back to His Word. When we read Bible verses about anxiety, how God has the power to handle them, and our circumstances, the truth in His Word can calm our fears."*

- FaithGiant.com

## **Encouraging Bible Verses About Anxiety and Worry - FaithGiant**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Watch the video below entitled "What Does the Bible Say About...Fear, Anxiety and Worry":

*"Anxiety affects us all but for many it is a very restricting feeling. We get stressed about our daily life and wonder how to cope. What does the Bible say about this issue? Does the Bible even really address anxiety and worry and what to do about it?"*

- Myles Rumion

## **What Does The Bible Say About...Fear, Anxiety, and Worry? - Ep. 3: WTBS | Impact Video Ministries - YouTube**

3. As the ship's officers studied the treasure map, time was of the essence in order to beat the French to the prize. Koonts suggested that they take a shortcut, which was promptly put down by the captain. He stated that they will follow the map as written.

**Proverbs 21:5 NLT** Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

**Proverbs 19:2 ERV** Being excited about something is not enough. You must also know what you are doing. Don't rush into something, or you might do it wrong.

There have been times in the Bible that people took 'shortcuts' from God's plan. How did that work out? Read about Genesis 15 and 16 on the actions taken by Abram and Sarai in Genesis:

Satan tried to get Jesus to take a shortcut from his suffering in the desert:

**Matthew 4:1-11 AMP** Then Jesus was led by the [Holy] Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After He had gone without food for forty days and forty nights, He became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But Jesus replied, "It is written and forever remains written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took Him into the holy city [Jerusalem] and placed Him on the pinnacle (highest point) of the temple. And he said [mockingly] to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You [to serve, care for, protect and watch over You]'; and 'They will lift you up on their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written and forever remains written, 'You shall not test the Lord your God.'" Again, the devil took Him up on a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory [splendor, magnificence, and excellence] of them; and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written and forever remains written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" Then the devil left Him; and angels came and ministered to Him [bringing Him food and serving Him.]

▶ Would taking the devil up on his offer to have food, earthly treasure and angelic care (short term gain) have been a good shortcut for Jesus to avoid suffering?

▶ **TAB says: No!**

▶ Name an eternal consequence that would be a result of this.

▶ **TAB says:** Jesus would have sinned by giving into Satan's temptation, going against the will of God and thus He would not have been able to be the sinless, perfect, sacrificial Lamb of God which was required in order to forgive our sins (substitutionary atonement.) We would then not be offered the gift of eternal life with God.



**Think Above the Box:** Discuss a time when you took a shortcut that ended up being the "long cut." How would Scripture have helped you out? How can you know when a shortcut might have negative results, according to God?

4. In the midst of a deadly game of cat-and-mouse fought on the battlefield of a raging maritime thunderstorm, Captain Walker commanded all crew to be quiet so they could listen for the enemy's ships. It was as if his very words mastered the power of the tempest, stopping the wind, waves and rain! Did you know that Jesus actually did this very thing?

**Matthew 8:23-27 TPT** They all got into a boat and began to cross over to the other side of the lake. And Jesus, exhausted, fell asleep. Suddenly a violent storm developed, with waves so high the boat was about to be swamped. Yet Jesus continued to sleep soundly. The disciples woke him up, saying, "Save us, Lord! We're going to die!" But Jesus reprimanded them. "Why are you gripped with fear? Where is your faith?" Then he stood up and rebuked the storm and said, "Be still!" And instantly it became perfectly calm. The

disciples were astonished by this miracle and said to one another, “Who is this Man? Even the wind and waves obey his Word.”

**Psalm 46:10** ESV “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

The following essay gives us a little more detail of this miracle:

*“Today’s passage shows us that we can trust Him because He has authority over all nature and is worthy of our faith since He is the incarnate God over all creation. We follow the Creator of all things, not merely a good man.”*

- [ligonier.org](http://ligonier.org)

**Jesus Stills the Storm | Reformed Bible Studies & Devotionals at Ligonier.org | Reformed Bible Studies & Devotionals at Ligonier.org**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** What does *Corum Deo* mean?

► **TAB says:** *Corum Deo* is Latin for “In the presence of God.”

**EXTRA-EXTRA CREDIT:** read the verses noted at the end of the article.

*“Chaos / You Speak and everything comes to a stillness / In Your presence the darkness turns to light and I have witnessed / Broken / You choose to bring me in despite my history / You are with me, You piece me back together in Your glory.”*

- UNION Creative

♪ **"Calm the Storm" Lyric Video | UNION Creative - YouTube**

5. After a quick sighting of the *Danielle* in the fog, her escort ships lured the *Poseidon* into a deadly game of cat and mouse through the violent storm. Only when Jonathan realized that the *Danielle* had slipped by them to return to Lisbon and that the *Poseidon* had been tricked did the Captain turn the ship back to the port to save any surviving men from the *Phoenix* and the *Centaur*. The *Poseidon*'s crew had assumed that her enemy was lurking in the fog and did not see through the ruse.

► How does Satan trick and manipulate us into pursuing the wrong things without taking into account the big picture? Read the following verses:

**Matthew 26:41** AMP Keep actively watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

**Ephesians 4:27** AMP And do not give the devil an opportunity [to lead you into sin by holding a grudge, or nurturing anger, or harboring resentment, or cultivating bitterness].

**2 Corinthians 2:11** GW I don't want Satan to outwit us. After all, we are not ignorant about Satan's scheming.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** AMP ... among them the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving to prevent them from seeing the illuminating light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**Matthew 6:13 AMP** 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'

► **TAB says:** Satan tricks us when we find ourselves far from God, not in touch with Him through prayer, ignoring the Holy Spirit's guidance, feeling weak, alone, angry, resentful, bitter, jealous, impatient, selfish and short-sighted. Sin comes easy when we are not vigilant to remember God's Word and keep Him foremost in our decisions. Again, taking shortcuts can lead to ruin.

Let's consider one area we all should be cautious about: SOCIAL MEDIA!

*"When social media was created, it was used primarily as a means of connection. Over the years, it has gone beyond connection (a blessing) and has become a place of contention, confusion, and conflict (a curse). It's in these places of disagreement and discord that Satan thrives."*

- Clarence L. Haynes Jr.

### **Is Satan Using Social Media to Trick You? (crosswalk.com)**

6. In discussing various possible scenarios regarding Sean's treatment aboard the enemy ship, the crew became disheartened. Once they started listing the advantages they had, they felt a renewed sense of hope.

► How does God help us to hold onto hope when all seems lost in our lives? Read the following verses:

**John 17:15 ERV** I am not asking you to take them out of the world. But I am asking that you keep them safe from the Evil One.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18 AMP** Therefore we do not become discouraged [spiritless, disappointed, or afraid]. Though our outer self is [progressively] wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day by day. For our momentary, light distress [this passing trouble] is producing for us an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendor and an endless blessedness]! So we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are unseen; for the things which are visible are temporal [just brief and fleeting], but the things which are invisible are everlasting and imperishable. [eternal perspective]

**Romans 12:12 TPT** Let this hope burst forth within you, releasing a continual joy. Don't give up in a time of trouble, but commune with God at all times.

**Romans 15:13 AMP** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

**Psalms 43:5 TPT** Then I will say to my soul, "Don't be discouraged; don't be disturbed, for I fully expect my Savior-God to break through for me. Then I'll have plenty of reasons to praise him all over again." Yes, living before His face is my saving grace!

► **TAB says:** We are to keep an eternal perspective and live on the hope that God has promised us that He is always with us. If we pray for God's will to be done, He will hear us.

*“True hope comes by trusting God even when circumstances are difficult. One way to know whether you’re trusting God is whether you’re obeying his Word. Trust produces obedience, which produces hope, which results in joy and peace; and that is the power of the Holy Spirit.”*  
- billygrahamlibrary.org

## 5 Things the Bible says about Hope - The Billy Graham Library Blog

**REAL LIFE:** Today people can have different existences-in actual life and virtual reality. Read one pastor’s take on the cultural shift that people are moving towards - from wanting meaning in their real life to wanting to exist in a virtual world that they can control, citing *Star Wars*, *The Matrix* and *Ready Player One* films. But first let’s look at an explanation of postmodernity:

*“Postmodernity, as a worldview, refuses to allow any single defining source for truth and reality.”*

- Stephen W. Cornell

For a more thorough explanation (and *definitely* EXTRA CREDIT!), see Cornell’s essay here:

## What does postmodern mean? | Wisdomforlife (wordpress.com)

On to the main course:

*“Thus, Christianity offers two worlds, so to speak, and both of them are genuine. We are honest about the problems of the present world. We do not pretend it is something other than what it is. And we are honest about the greatness of the world to come.”*

- Michael J. Kruger

## Would You Take the Red Pill or the Blue Pill? Steven Spielberg's "Ready Player One" and the Triumph of Postmodernity - Canon Fodder (michaeljkruger.com)

PS: An *easter egg* could be defined as a hidden piece of information, a picture, video or feature in a computer program’s software that may be accessed by a hidden code or sequence of characters.

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** [Jeremiah 29:13 ERV](#) You will search for me, and when you search for me with all your heart, you will find me.

Many skeptics on Christianity often cite that Jesus was a very clever magician and not the Son of God. Watch the video on Andre Kole, one of the world’s top master illusionists, and how he came to know that Jesus Christ is Lord.

## Master Illusionist Andre Kole: Is Jesus Messiah or Magician? - YouTube

## Guide for Chapter 11

### *Race Through the Storm*

1. While kidnapped and held prisoner, Sean carefully assessed his situation aboard the *Danielle* and realized that the French were treating him reasonably well, so they must have needed him alive for information on the treasure map. Once they obtained the details, they would most assuredly kill him! He knew he couldn't be complacent but must plot a course of action to string them along to allow the *Poseidon* to rescue him. Satan also treats a person reasonably well and makes sin attractive at first, shows him a good time, but in the end, like the crew of the *Danielle*, he has plans to destroy that person's very soul.

**2 Corinthians 11:14 ERV** That does not surprise us, because even Satan changes himself to look like an angel of light.

**James 1:14-15 AMP** But each one is tempted when he is dragged away, enticed and baited [to commit sin] by his own [worldly] desire (lust, passion). Then when the illicit desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin has run its course, it gives birth to death.

Read the following:

**The Beauty of Satan –If I were the Devil –Bible Verses Truth – Darrell Creswell – A Study of Christian Grace (wordpress.com)**

Watch this video of Paul Harvey's 1965 (!) broadcast *If I were the Devil...*

**Paul Harvey 1964 Radio Show: "If I were the devil...." - YouTube**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Listen to a song reflecting Paul Harvey's words country-style!

*"If I were the devil, first thing that'd I'd do / is I'd come off like I ever gave a damn about you / I'd let you catch a peek of all your greatest desires / And I'd watch the flames in your eyes burn like hellfire."*

- Colby Acuff

**♪ (Official Music Video) "If I were the Devil" by Colby Acuff - YouTube**

▶ How does a person become complacent about sin in their life?

▶ **TAB says:** Sin can start small and grow, it is pleasurable at first, people dull their God-given conscience into complacency, gradually forgetting God. It gets to a point where they feel that they can never live without their sin and stopping it seems impossible.

▶ Name some sins that start out fun and exciting but have long-term consequences that people ignore at the start.

▶ **TAB says:** Substance abuse, adultery, gambling, telling lies, gossip, stealing, really any and all!

▶ Just as Sean had to remain alert to the crew of the *Danielle*, how can you keep yourself from falling for Satan's tricks?



**1 Corinthians 10:13** TLB But remember this—the wrong desires that come into your life aren't anything new and different. Many others have faced exactly the same problems before you. And no temptation is irresistible. You can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it, for he has promised this and will do what he says. He will show you how to escape temptation's power so that you can bear up patiently against it.

**Philippians 4:6-8** TLB Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus. And now, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say this one more thing: Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.

► **TAB says:** Through prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to open your heart, to strengthen you, and to give you discernment, by being in God's word daily, having an accountability partner, knowing right from wrong, being active in a ministry, staying away from temptation if possible, saying no, etc.

The following post lists some of the Devil's devices we need to be aware of:

*"We know that, because of Satan's influence, people don't like to be told what to do. The 'forbidden pleasures' grab people's attention and focus. Satan makes them seem somehow more enticing and pleasurable than the true pleasures God wants us to have."*

- Mike Bennett

## **Don't Be Ignorant of Satan's Devices ([lifehopeandtruth.com](http://lifehopeandtruth.com))**

2. Sean's ploy to make the French think he knew the location of the treasure would technically be telling a lie. In this case, it could very well have saved him from grisly torture and/or death. But God says we are not to lie. What's an honest guy to do?

**Proverbs 6:16-19** AMP These six things the Lord hates; Indeed, seven are repulsive to Him: A proud look [the attitude that makes one overestimate oneself and discount others], a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that creates wicked plans, feet that run swiftly to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies [even half-truths], and one who spreads discord (rumors) among brothers.

Uh oh!

**Exodus 1:15-17** TLB Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, instructed the Hebrew midwives (their names were Shiphrah and Puah) to kill all Hebrew boys as soon as they were born, but to let the girls live. But the midwives feared God and didn't obey the king—they let the boys live too.

Oh boy!

Read the following for a Biblical perspective:

## **Is it ever right to lie? | [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)**

► How can we reconcile the fact that Sean had to sin to save his life?

► **TAB says:** From the above post, *“In an evil world, and in a desperate situation, it may be the right thing to commit a lesser evil, lying, in order to prevent a much greater evil. However, it must be noted that such instances are extremely rare. It is highly likely that the vast majority of people in human history have never faced a situation in which lying was the right thing to do.”*

3. Captain Walker had the crew tighten stays and add a flying jib at the bow, which pulled the ship along as if it was attached to a giant kite, greatly increasing its speed. In the following verse, Scripture uses the ocean to show how God is powerful and always in control.

**Psalm 107:23-32 NLT** Some went off to sea in ships, plying the trade routes of the world. They, too, observed the Lord’s power in action, his impressive works on the deepest seas. He spoke, and the winds rose, stirring up the waves. Their ships were tossed to the heavens and plunged again to the depths; the sailors cringed in terror. They reeled and staggered like drunkards and were at their wits’ end. “Lord, help!” they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves. What a blessing was that stillness as he brought them safely into harbor! Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. Let them exalt him publicly before the congregation and before the leaders of the nation.

► How does the speeding *Poseidon* remind of us of God’s hope and protection?

► **TAB says:** Just as the jibbed *Poseidon* was able to cut through the mighty waves of the ocean, God’s ever-present power, strength and protection can cut through all of our troubles and guide us through them.

Read the following verse and blog:

**Isaiah 43:16-21 MSG** This is what God says, the God who builds a road right through the ocean, who carves a path through pounding waves, the God who summons horses and chariots and armies— they lie down and then can’t get up; they’re snuffed out like so many candles: “Forget about what’s happened; don’t keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it? There it is! I’m making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands. Wild animals will say ‘Thank you!’ — the coyotes and the buzzards— Because I provided water in the desert, rivers through the sunbaked earth, drinking water for the people I chose, the people I made especially for myself, a people custom-made to praise me.

The following post states, *“When He asks us to move, He never asks us to go alone. He asks us to move because He wants to go somewhere and He wants us to move with Him!”*

## **When God Says "Go" | CBN**

► How are we to act when God moves?

► **TAB says:** God will move whether we join Him or not. We should look forward and not dwell on past issues (start fresh) and be alert and watchful for His leadings. He will provide whatever is needed for us to move with Him. We have only to join Him!

4. The approaching storm was the biggest Harrison had ever seen and the captain was steering the ship straight into it. The good news was that the fierce winds would give them the speed they needed to overtake the *Danielle* in the race to Isla Pasaje. The bad news was that storms of this size eat ships for lunch!

► What does Scripture say about getting through life's storms? To find out, read the following verses:

**Mark 4:38-41** AMP But Jesus was in the stern, asleep [with His head] on the [sailor's leather] cushion. And they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are about to die?" And He got up and [sternly] rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still (muzzled)!" And the wind died down [as if it had grown weary] and there was [at once] a great calm [a perfect peacefulness]. Jesus said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith and confidence [in Me]?" They were filled with great fear, and said to each other, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

**Isaiah 25:4** GNT The poor and the helpless have fled to you and have been safe in times of trouble. You give them shelter from storms and shade from the burning heat.

**Psalms 89:8-9** ERV Lord God All-Powerful, there is no one like you. You are strong, Lord, and always faithful. You rule the stormy sea. You can calm its angry waves.

► **TAB says:** God will be with us through the storms of our life. He uses them to build us up, get us stronger, give us an eternal perspective, witness to others by how we go through them, provide new opportunities that we never saw coming, and to help us see His power. God is always in control over all. He promises to calm, comfort and never forsake us during trying times.

Life on earth inevitably will include storms from time to time. Enjoy this musical interlude from Casting Crowns. As singer John Mark Hall states, "...sometimes He calms the storms in our lives and sometimes He just rides them with us. But either way, blessed be the name of the Lord!"

*"But as the thunder rolls / I barely hear You whisper through the rain / 'I am with you.' / And as Your mercy falls / I raise my hands / and praise the God who gives and takes away."*

🎵 **Casting Crowns-"Praise You In This Storm" (live) - YouTube**

5. Jonathan was amazed to see Steward topside in the wave-tossed storm, risking drowning to bag the flying fish that landed on the deck to put in his fish stew. Even in the depths of a frightening storm, God provided food for the crew. Throughout Scripture, God tells us that He will provide for our needs:

**Psalms 111:5** GW He provides food for those who fear him. He always remembers his promise.

**Nehemiah 9:15** ERV They were hungry, so you gave them food from heaven. They were thirsty, so you gave them water from a rock. You told them, 'Come, take this land.' You used your power, and took the land for them.

**Matthew 6:31-32** AMP Therefore do not worry or be anxious (perpetually uneasy, distracted), saying, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' For the [pagan] Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; [but do not worry,] for your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

**Luke 12:24** AMP Consider the ravens, for they neither sow [seed] nor reap [the crop]; they have no storehouse or barn, and yet God feeds them. How much more valuable are you than the birds!

**John 21:6** ERV He said, "Throw your net into the water on the right side of your boat. You will find some fish there." So they did this. They caught so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat.



**Think Above the Box:** Can you name a time in your life that God provided aid through a storm?

**REAL LIFE:** The following (a somewhat long read, so take some **EXTRA CREDIT** for yourself!) is an excellent essay about a Coast Guard rescue that the author experienced and the shipwreck that Paul experienced in Acts 27 and how God is there through it all. Note: you can listen to Acts 27 and the audio from the article using the link at the top of the page:

**Lesson 69: Weathering Life's Storms (Acts 27:1-44) | Bible.org**

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** God's creation is truly amazing! Watch this video of actual flying fish in action:

**BBC Life - Flying Fish - YouTube**

Read the following on God's amazing biodiversity:

**God Fitted Habitats for Biodiversity | The Institute for Creation Research (icr.org)**



**Think Above the Box:** Do you think the flying fish's ability just happened on its own? How about the amazing biodiversity found on earth?

## Guide for Chapter 12

### *Sabotage*

1. There were many factors aboard the French ship that differed from the *Poseidon* that Sean observed: it was dirty and unkempt, the crew spent time drinking and lazing about the deck instead of making repairs, half the guns were unmanned, rusty and unfired, the men were allowed to question the captain's orders and the powder room was unattended during battle. When the *Trident* was sighted, the crew was in total surprise and unprepared for battle. We can be like that too in regards to where we stand with Jesus-is he our *Lord* or just some nice guy in sandals and a robe?

**Matthew 24:42-44 AMP** So be alert [give strict attention, be cautious and active in faith], for you do not know which day [whether near or far] your Lord is coming. But understand this: If the head of the house had known what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, you [who follow Me] must also be ready; because the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him.

**Luke 21:36 AMP** But keep alert at all times [be attentive and ready], praying that you may have the strength and ability [to be found worthy and] to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man [at His coming].

**Mark 13:32-33 AMP** But of that [exact] day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son [in His humanity], but the Father alone. "Be on guard and stay constantly alert [and pray]; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. "

**Matthew 25:1-13 AMP** Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [farsighted, practical, and sensible]. For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all began to nod off, and they fell asleep. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! The bridegroom [is coming]! Go out to meet him.' Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them]. But the foolish virgins said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No, otherwise there will not be enough for us and for you, too; go instead to the dealers and buy oil for yourselves.' But while they were going away to buy oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut and locked. Later the others also came, and said, 'Lord, Lord, open [the door] for us.' But He replied, 'I assure you and most solemnly say to you, I do not know you [we have no relationship].' Therefore, be on the alert [be prepared and ready], for you do not know the day nor the hour [when the Son of Man will come].

► Many people lazily sail through their spiritual lives like the crew of the *Danielle*, selfish and worldly, living for the day. How do we make sure we are spiritually prepared like the *Poseidon* crew?

► **TAB says:** We should spend each day transforming ourselves to be more like Christ. He should be foremost in our minds in all we do and say. We can pray to the Holy Spirit to help mold our character, increase our faith in God, comfort and uplift us and guide us in how we live our lives.

*"We become lazy when we take our faith for granted, pray in halfhearted ways, stop reading the Bible, or stop spending time with God. The Bible encourages us to combat laziness by being spiritually proactive. We need to make the things of God a priority."*

2. The inattentiveness of the *Danielle's* crew enabled Sean to obtain a clay pot, cartridges, flint and rope to make a bomb. He proceeded unnoticed to hang it over the rail and into Captain Champagne's cabin, where it detonated and ripped a gaping hole in the stern, taking the captain's bed and the ship's rudder with it!

▶ How were Sean's actions a picture of how Satan acts on the lives of the unprepared, leaving their ship (soul) spiritually rudderless? Consider the following passages:

**2 Corinthians 4:4** ERV The ruler of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They cannot see the light of the Good News—the message about the divine greatness of Christ. Christ is the one who is exactly like God.

**Matthew 13:18-19** MSG Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn't take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person's heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

**Romans 1:28-32** MSG Since they didn't bother to acknowledge God, God quit bothering them and let them run loose. And then all hell broke loose: rampant evil, grabbing and grasping, vicious backstabbing. They made life hell on earth with their envy, wanton killing, bickering, and cheating. Look at them: mean-spirited, venomous, fork-tongued God-bashers. Bullies, swaggerers, insufferable windbags! They keep inventing new ways of wrecking lives. They ditch their parents when they get in the way. Stupid, slimy, cruel, cold-blooded. And it's not as if they don't know better. They know perfectly well they're spitting in God's face. And they don't care—worse, they hand out prizes to those who do the worst things best!

**Romans 8:5-6** AMPC For those who are according to the flesh and are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit and are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit. Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever].

**Ephesians 2:1-3** ERV In the past you were spiritually dead because of your sins and the things you did against God. Yes, in the past your lives were full of those sins. You lived the way the world lives, following the ruler of the evil powers that are above the earth. That same spirit is now working in those who refuse to obey God. In the past all of us lived like that, trying to please our sinful selves. We did all the things our bodies and minds wanted. Like everyone else in the world, we deserved to suffer God's anger just because of the way we were.

▶ **TAB says:** Satan is able to sneak up and catch a person unaware, mostly because people are so busy with their worldly lives and don't believe he is real. He blinds men's consciences, keeps them in darkness with promises of pleasure and adds doubt to their minds. Under Satan, men enjoy sin and are proud of their actions, having no shame or self-control, then they find themselves ruined and without God's steering in their lives.

*"We should be well-aware of the various ways in which Satan works. He attacks believers when he thinks it will be to his advantage. This includes the time after a great spiritual experience, or right before someone is going to begin a new spiritual venture. He also attacks when believers are*

*vulnerable either physically and/or mentally. Satan also likes to attack believers when they are alone. Christians, therefore, must always be on guard."*

- Don Stewart

## **When Does Satan Spiritually Attack the Believer? (blueletterbible.org)**



**Think Above the Box:** Has Satan ever “bombed your cabin” due to neglecting your relationship with God? Were you able to right the situation? How did you do it? Did you ask for help through the Holy Spirit?

**REAL LIFE:** Watch the following video testimony of a person whose life changed from pain and addiction to one of serving and loving God:

*“I was a full-blown addict. But the Lord totally and completely transformed my life. Now I live my life to show that God can change anyone. No matter who you are, what you have done or how you live, God can transform you too. Ask Him to come into your life and take control, ask Him for forgiveness and chase after a relationship with Him with everything you’ve got. I pray that my story gives you hope and inspires you to open your heart to the Almighty God!”*

- Keaton Buster

## **An Addict Redeemed - Testimony and Baptism - YouTube**

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** [Psalm 8:8 ESV](#) the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

Read the following essay on how one man pursued a Bible verse and discovered ocean currents in 1847!

## **Science in the Bible – Ocean Currents | Bible-Science Guy (wordpress.com)**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** define *sobriquet*

► **TAB says:** *A sobriquet is a nickname.*

## Guide for Chapter 13

### *The Bet Pays Off*

1. Upon approaching the battle-wearied *Trident*, with its broken masts, ripped sails, smoke, blood and dead crewmen, Jonathan realized that the grand adventure he had been on at sea had a dark side, with the reality that they were at war and suffering, pain and even the loss of his own life was now facing him. Becoming a believer in Christ is similar. There is much happiness, joy and hope in the knowledge of spending an eternity with God in Heaven. We have crossed over from worldly pursuits and now strive for heavenly ones. But the world says, "Not so fast!"

**John 15:18 AMP** If the world hates you [and it does], know that it has hated Me before it hated you.

**1 Peter 4:12-14 ERV** My friends, don't be surprised at the painful things that you are now suffering, which are testing your faith. Don't think that something strange is happening to you. But you should be happy that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings. You will be happy and full of joy when Christ shows his glory. When people say bad things to you because you follow Christ, consider it a blessing. When that happens, it shows that God's Spirit, the Spirit of glory, is with you.

**1 Peter 3:17 AMP** For it is better that you suffer [unjustly] for doing what is right, if that should be God's will, than [to suffer justly] for doing wrong.

**Luke 6:22 ERV** People will hate you because you belong to the Son of Man. They will make you leave their group. They will insult you. They will think it is wrong even to say your name. When these things happen, know that great blessings belong to you.

**1 Peter 4:19 TPT** So then, those who suffer for following God's will should enfold their lives into the Creator, who will never fail them, and continue to always do what is right.

*"We do not hope for rejection, but in Christ, it may come. Let us resolve now to rejoice in that day, knowing that our hope is secure in Christ, and to pray for those who persecute us. Ultimately, they are not rejecting us, but Christ. As we seek the Lord for their souls, we may be part of their future testimony of redemption through his grace and power."*

- Kim Cash Tate

### **Rejected by Friends, Loved by Jesus | Desiring God**



**Think Above the Box:** Have you ever experienced rejection, ridicule, bullying or persecution for your belief in Jesus? How did you handle it?

2. The night before the mission to Skull Eye Island, Jonathan was kept up tossing and turning, going over all that he would be facing in the early dawn - the hunt for the treasure, eluding the French, the coming sea battle between the *Poseidon* and the *Danielle* and the search for Sean. He worried about which way things would turn out and finally fell asleep right before Gorman came to wake him.



**Philippians 4:6-7** ERV Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have. And because you belong to Christ Jesus, God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings. His peace can do this far better than our human minds.

**Matthew 11:28-30** ERV Come to me all of you who are tired from the heavy burden you have been forced to carry. I will give you rest. Accept my teaching. Learn from me. I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will be able to get some rest. Yes, the teaching that I ask you to accept is easy. The load I give you to carry is light.

**Psalm 55:22** AMP Cast your burden on the Lord [release it] and He will sustain and uphold you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken (slip, fall, fail).

**Psalm 56:3** TLB But when I am afraid, I will put my confidence in you. Yes, I will trust the promises of God. And since I am trusting him, what can mere man do to me?

**Psalm 94:19** GW When I worried about many things, your assuring words soothed my soul.

► What does God want us to do during a time like this of high stress, worry and anxiety?

► **TAB says:** We are to pray by relying on the Holy Spirit for direction and courage, giving God our worries and fears, having confidence in Him, and offering thanks for the blessings we do have in our life. We can learn from Jesus's actions in Scripture and trust God's promises and assurances for us.

*"Jesus talked about fear, worry, and anxiety often because He didn't want us to lose sight of what was most important in life. In each principle Jesus taught about anxiety, He also gives us an action step. Use the four principles below to evaluate your heart and see how you should take action."*

- Dr. Tim Allchin

## **How Jesus Addressed Fear, Worry, and Anxiety - Biblical Counseling Center**

*"Jesus, take the wheel / Take it from my hands / 'Cause I can't do this on my own / I'm letting go / So give me one more chance / And save me from this road I'm on."*

- Brett James, Hillary Lindsey and Gordie Sampson

## **♪ Carrie Underwood - Jesus, Take The Wheel (Official Video) - YouTube**

3. As Jonathan got ready for the mission in the early dawn, Gorman told him that he was just like his father and that he would be so proud of him, bringing honor to the Moore name. As their boat was lowered into the ocean, Jonathan knew that he was risking his life but also possibly making his father proud. As believers, we too can make our heavenly Father proud!

**Matthew 17:5** ESV He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

**1 Thessalonians 4:1** GW Now then, brothers and sisters, because of the Lord Jesus we ask and encourage you to excel in living a God-pleasing life even more than you already do. Do this the way we taught you.

**Psalm 147:10-11** TLB The speed of a horse is nothing to Him. How puny in His sight is the strength of a man. But His joy is in those who reverence Him, those who expect Him to be loving and kind.

**1 Chronicles 29:17 AMP** I know also, my God, that You test the heart and delight in uprightness and integrity. In the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things. So now with joy I have seen Your people who are present here, make their offerings willingly and freely to You.

**Colossians 3:20 TLB** You children must always obey your fathers and mothers, for that pleases the Lord.

▶ Name some ways that you can make God proud and bring honor to His name.

▶ **TAB says:** Through the help of the Holy Spirit, you can live a prayerful God-pleasing life, have love and reverence (deep respect) for God, be upright, merciful, kind and loving to others, have integrity, obey your parents, study His Word, be a good Christian witness, and help those in need.

How 'bout a handy list?

### **How to Please God (lifehopeandtruth.com)**

**REAL LIFE:** Pastor D. L. Moody's 1892 voyage on the *Spree* details an event fraught with terror, anxiety and fear for the 700 people aboard the crippled steamship and how turning to God was the cause of his cable message that read "Prayer saved the ship." The frightened and distraught passengers sang the following hymn, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" as they faced certain death.

*"Jesus, lover of my soul / let me to Thy bosom fly / While the nearer waters roll / while the tempest still is high. / Hide me, O my Savior, hide / till the storm of life is past; / Safe into the haven guide; / O receive my soul at last."*

- Charles Wesley

### **🎵 Jesus, Lover of my Soul - YouTube**

His first-person account of those 700 "quaking souls":

### **Affecting Incident at Sea. (biblehub.com)**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Crack open your Bible and read **Psalms 91** and **107!**

Hey, Esther Mui and Jason Silver put these two psalms to music. Time to light a candle and take a listen!

### **🎵 Psalm 91 Song (KJV) "My God, In Him Will I Trust" (Esther Mui) - YouTube**

### **🎵 🕯️ Psalm 107 Song - Cried to the Lord - YouTube**

**EXTRA EXTRA CREDIT:** Check this site out for more amazing anecdotes from D.L. Moody. Please note that you will have to scroll down to get to each story that is listed in alphabetical order:

### **D. L. Moody's Anecdotes (gutenberg.org)**

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** The twelve apostles were eyewitnesses of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Could they have been deceived? Watch Josh McDowell explain how the fact that these men went to their deaths proclaiming the truth of the Gospel convinced Chuck Colson, against his will, that the Bible was true:

**Chuck Colson: Pressure | Bible: Fact or Fiction? - YouTube**

## Guide for Chapter 14

### *Search for Treasure*

1. The *Danielle* struggled to navigate with her shattered and broken rudder which forced the ship to make many course corrections which rendered her unable to 'sail true.' A person's rudder (their heart) can be broken and cracked, also causing them to not 'sail true' in God's will. The good news is that repairs to ship and soul can be made!

**Isaiah 61:1 AMP** The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and commissioned me to bring good news to the humble and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up [the wounds of] the brokenhearted, to proclaim release [from confinement and condemnation] to the [physical and spiritual] captives and freedom to prisoners,

**Psalm 34:18 AMP** The Lord is near to the heartbroken and He saves those who are crushed in spirit (contrite in heart, truly sorry for their sin).

**Psalm 147:3 AMP** He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds [healing their pain and comforting their sorrow].

**Isaiah 57:15 NLT** The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.

**Psalm 30:2-3 MSG** God, my God, I yelled for help and you put me together. God, you pulled me out of the grave, gave me another chance at life when I was down-and-out.

**Matthew 7:9-11 AMP** Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will [instead] give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will [instead] give him a snake? If you then, evil (sinful by nature) as you are, know how to give good and advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven [perfect as He is] give what is good and advantageous to those who keep on asking Him.

► Most of us realize deep in our hearts that we are broken (sinful, selfish and imperfect!) Non-believers may sense this in their conscience. Why does God even bother to go through the effort to fix us and repair our heart's 'rudder', considering the depths of sin that men have indulged in since Adam and Eve?

► **TAB says:** God works on our soul because of His deep never-ceasing love for us and the desire to enable us to spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

Let's go a little deeper into God's love for us.

**1 John 4:10 TLB** In this act we see what real love is: it is not our love for God but his love for us when he sent his Son to satisfy God's anger against our sins.

*"Throughout scripture, God has to remind us of his deep passion for us. It's almost too hard to comprehend loving unbelievers in the world who constantly ignore you, worship other idols, and continuously are unkind to others with disrespect, rudeness, and anger. However, He can overcome all of these offensives and tells us that through the Holy Spirit, we can too."*

- Natalie Lynn

**20 Glorious Scriptures about God's Love - Bible Verses for You**

2. When Captain Champagne threatened to kill Sean if he was found to be lying about the treasure, Sean quipped, “My mum would be most put out if you had to kill me, she loves me so.” This caused the entire crew, including the captain, to burst out laughing. Sean’s use of ‘comic relief’ was able to diffuse a tense situation, if only for a moment. Scripture tells us that a little brevity is good for us!

**Proverbs 17:22 NLT** A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person’s strength.

**Psalms 126:2 MSG** It seemed like a dream, too good to be true, when God returned Zion’s exiles. We laughed, we sang, we couldn’t believe our good fortune. We were the talk of the nations— “God was wonderful to them!” God was wonderful to us; we are one happy people.

**Psalms 16:11 ERV** You will teach me the right way to live. Just being with you will bring complete happiness. Being at your right side will make me happy forever.

**Proverbs 15:13 NLT** A glad heart makes a happy face; a broken heart crushes the spirit.

**Luke 6:21 ERV** Great blessings belong to you who are hungry now. You will be filled. Great blessings belong to you who are crying now. You will be happy and laughing.

Let’s laugh a little, shall we? Watch Christian Michael Jr.’s “Jesus’ LIL Brother”:

**Jesus LIL Brother | Stand Up | Michael Jr. - YouTube**

Read about five things the Bible says about laughing and watch the testimony of Michael Jr.:

**'A Time to Laugh': 5 Ways to Add Laughter to Your Life (billygraham.org)**



**Think Above the Box:** Have you had an instance in your life when a little laughter helped change the mood during a tense situation for the better?

3. Once on Isla Pasaje, Gorman, Jonathan and the rest of the longboat crew followed the treasure map to the letter, ending up on the heart shaped beach later that day only to find no skull and no treasure. Moaning, disappointment, anguish, hopelessness and a deep sense of failure was rampant amongst them, each desiring to bring their beloved captain some good news after all of the *Poseidon’s* travails.

► How would the following Scriptures have given them hope and perseverance?

**Psalms 30:5 TPT** We may weep through the night, but at daybreak it will turn into shouts of ecstatic joy.

**Isaiah 40:31 ERV** But those who trust in the Lord will become strong again. They will be like eagles that grow new feathers. They will run and not get weak. They will walk and not get tired.

**Joshua 1:9 ERV** Remember, I commanded you to be strong and brave. Don’t be afraid, because the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

**Psalm 3:5 TPT** So now I'll lie down and sleep like a baby — then I'll awake in safety, for you surround me with your glory.

► **TAB says:** Trusting in God strengthens a person, giving them hope, endurance, support and courage to persevere because He is with us always.

*“Christians can always find hope in the promises of God and power of His name, knowing that in their darkest nights, hours of fear, and moments of greatest uncertainty, anxiety, and struggle, God is God and in control. He has a plan, and that plan is ultimately good.”*

- Joel Ryan

### "Joy Comes in the Morning" Psalm 30:5 Meaning & Promise (crosswalk.com)

*“Giving in to your feelings is like drowning in the shadows / Oh, you gotta keep believing even in the middle of the unknown / ‘Cause grace will be there when you come to the end of your rope and you let go (Oh) / It may feel like you’re goin’ down now, but the story isn’t over. (Oh)*

- Tauren Wells

### ♪ Joy in the Morning [LIVE] feat. Tauren Wells - YouTube

**REAL LIFE:** What's in a question? Many scientists have come to the realization that certain arguments for evolution cannot hold up to scrutiny. Watch the report on how a very polite college student opened a devout atheistic evolutionist's heart to God through a series of 'innocent' questions about the origin of life, DNA, the fossil record, etc.!

### Wretched: An atheist professor converts to Christianity. - YouTube

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** While Sean waited for his window of escape, he gazed out on the beauty that the Caribbean Ocean displays - the clear blue-green waters, colorful fish and bountiful sea life. One of the most amazing features that God has given some living things on this planet is the ability to use *bioluminescence*, which is the biochemical emission of light by living organisms, such as fireflies and deep-sea fishes.

*“Engineers envy the efficiency of bioluminescence. Whoever designed its differing strategies outperformed human engineers on all 40-plus attempts. Evolutionary stories about bioluminescence have far too difficult a task surmounting these two scientific obstacles for them to stand in the way of the brilliant Creator getting the credit He deserves.”*

- Brian Thomas, PH.D.

### The Unpredictable Pattern of Bioluminescence | The Institute for Creation Research (icr.org)

Check out this TED Talk video for more amazing creatures that God created. It takes more faith to believe that this all came about by 'chance' rather than by an all-powerful God:

### Edith Widder: The weird, wonderful world of bioluminescence | TED Talk

## Guide for Chapter 15

### *The Dance of Death*

1. The *Danielle* and *Poseidon* played a dangerous game of cat and mouse, taking turns firing their guns at each other. It looked like the *Poseidon* had gotten the best of her enemy, counting on the fact that the *Danielle* was undermanned and had no working guns on her starboard side. Captain Walker was caught off guard when the *Danielle* came about for a new attack because she had moved all her guns and was able to fire from the port side resulting in the *Poseidon* taking on heavy damages.

In life, we are often like the *Poseidon* - vulnerable against the devil's "broadships and comeabouts." The Bible has a few things to say on the subject that can guide us. John Piper has compiled some ammunition for you here:

#### **Load Your Guns With Some of These Anti-Satan Shells | Desiring God**

So how do we avoid taking on heavy damages from Satan? Let's look at the time the deceiver had the nerve to take on the Creator in the wilderness:

*"This dissection of Jesus's temptation experience helps us examine not only the devil's specific strategy with Jesus, but the core strategy he employs in every temptation."*

- Jon Bloom

#### **Disorient, Distort, Deceive: Satan's Core Strategy Against Us | Desiring God**

But how can *we* polish and perfect our character and faith to follow Jesus' example when temptation catches us by surprise? Would a Biblical worldview help?

*"Everybody has a lens through which they interpret where life came from, and why bad things happen, and what their purpose of existence is really all about. Everybody has a worldview. You and I as Christians choose to have a biblical worldview, which means that we view life through the lens of God's Word. We believe the Bible is inspired of God, inerrant and infallible."*

- Dr. Mike Norris

#### **What Is a Biblical Worldview? | Ministry127**



**Think Above the Box:** Can you name a time that a Biblical worldview influenced your behavior and kept you from sinning? How can a person's non-Biblical worldview affect their actions? Discuss!

2. In the heat of battle on the deck of the *Danielle*, Harrison faced certain death at the blade of Marcel, only to see him drop dead from a pistol shot by Steward, who promptly claimed that a debt was owed for his life saving act. Moments later the tables were turned and Harrison saved Steward from an axe attack and claimed that they were now even.



**Think Above the Box:** Imagine that someone saved you from certain death. How would you feel towards them?

God has something to say about this too, being that He laid down His life to save all who would believe and take his free gift of salvation:

**Romans 5:8** AMPC But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us.

**1 John 3:16** ERV This is how we know what real love is: Jesus gave his life for us. So we should give our lives for each other as brothers and sisters.

**Romans 12:1-2** MSG So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

**Mark 10:45** ERV Follow my example: Even the Son of Man did not come for people to serve him. He came to serve others and to give his life to save many people.

**1 Peter 4:10** AMP Just as each one of you has received a special gift [a spiritual talent, an ability graciously given by God], employ it in serving one another as [is appropriate for] good stewards of God's multi-faceted grace [faithfully using the diverse, varied gifts and abilities granted to Christians by God's unmerited favor.]

**Galatians 5:13** AMP For you, my brothers, were called to freedom; only do not let your freedom become an opportunity for the sinful nature (worldliness, selfishness), but through love serve and seek the best for one another.

▶ Jesus has saved all who accept his gift of salvation from sin and the 'second death' which is eternity in hell. We can enjoy being with Him in Heaven forever instead. How do you feel about that?

▶ **TAB says:** Thankful, relieved, appreciative, happy, beholden, in God's loving debt, wanting to do something in gratitude and love for Him.

*"How can I say thanks – For everything You've done – and how can I give praise / Lord You've given me so much / You gave it all / You paid the price / Now I want to give You my life."*

- Doug Moen

♪ **SACRIFICE OF PRAISE (With Lyrics) : Don Moen - YouTube**

**REAL LIFE:** Watch the following video about a camping trip gone horribly wrong and how two friends and countless prayers to God saved their companion after a 65 foot fall off of a cliff:



## **Carter Crutchfield: Saved After the Fall | CBN**

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** Josh McDowell provides an explanation as to why Jesus had to die and how justice was served in the following video, Propitiation (Illustration):

## **Propitiation (Illustration) | Why Did Jesus Have to Die - YouTube**

## Guide for Chapter 16

### *Skull Eye Island*

1. In the early dawn, Jonathan and Hudson built a campfire using dry brush and a flint kit. The men were glum and disappointed with their failed mission to find treasure. A snapping twig jolted them out of their melancholy and a very happy reunion with Sean ensued. Everyone shared stories of what had happened to them while sipping coffee around a welcoming fire. It must have been a wonderful feeling of happiness and relief for Jonathan and Sean to be together again!

**Proverbs 18:24** AMP The man of *too many* friends [chosen indiscriminately] will be broken in pieces *and* come to ruin, but there is a [true, loving] friend who [is reliable and] sticks closer than a brother.

**Proverbs 27:9** NLT The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.

**Proverbs 27:17** ERV As one piece of iron sharpens another, so friends keep each other sharp.

*“Human beings were created to be relational, and friendships are an important part of our lives. We need friends—people we bond with in mutual affection.”*

- gotquestions.org

### **What does the Bible say about friends? | GotQuestions.org**

Did you realize that Jesus spent lots of time around campfires with His friends, otherwise known as the disciples? Read the following article on why Jesus loved a campfire:

### **Why Jesus Loved a Campfire and Why You Should join Him There - Kids Outdoor Zone**

2. As dawn broke on the island, Jonathan and the King’s once proud Marines sat around moping about lost treasure and failure. The unforeseen, but happy, reunion with Sean shook them out of their depression long enough for them to realize that the outgoing tide and the yellow morning sun were the key to finding the Spanish treasure. Once the tide receded, the tiny island they had been morosely staring at revealed itself to be a giant skull just as the map depicted!

Many people contemplate their lives and future as glumly and despairingly as those men on the beach, who only see what’s right in front of them, which could be called a *worldly perspective*, missing the true depths of existence available to them. For the believer, having an *eternal perspective* enables them to have hope and joy for the future, even if they cannot see ‘below the waterline’ of earthly life to an eternal life with Jesus. Please check out the following video and blogpost for a deeper dive into having an eternal perspective. Don't skip them, they could change your life!

For a great visual on the worldly vs. eternal perspective by Francis Chan, watch this!

### **Francis Chan Rope Illustration - YouTube**

*“Most of us see no further than the horizons of this world. To correct our shortsightedness, God prescribes a vision correction that allows us to look through the lens of eternity. Suddenly we realize this present life is but a brief window of opportunity to invest in what will last for eternity.”*

- Randy Alcorn

## Why an Eternal Perspective Changes Everything - Blog - Eternal Perspective Ministries (epm.org)



**Think Above the Box:** Where is your perspective right now? Does it need any recalibrating to be less worldly and more in line with eternity?

3. The *Poseidon's* shore party hustled to discover a way down the rock-skull to its inner chamber that hid the treasure. After much toil and injury, they had removed the treasure and placed it on top of the rock—only to be foiled by Captain Champagne and his crew who awaited them in the water a few feet below. Facing a certain and painful death, Jonathan used his anger to come up with a plan. Gorman lobbed the heavy chest right into the French longboat, severing it in half and sending its crew to the waiting sharks.

As Jonathan, Sean and the marines fearfully awaited the arrival of the *Danielle*, they were amazed to see that Captain Walker was in control of the ship and had come to save them and the treasure. Life is like that sometimes, a roller coaster ride of pain, happiness, disappointment, joy, sadness, triumph, defeat, awe, salvation, peace. You can see why having an eternal perspective and believing God's promises will give you a triumphant ending every time:

**2 Peter 1:4 NLT** And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

**Romans 8:37-39 ERV** But in all these troubles we have complete victory through God, who has shown his love for us. Yes, I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not death, life, angels, or ruling spirits. I am sure that nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us or nothing below us—nothing in the whole created world—will ever be able to separate us from the love God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Proverbs 1:33 TPT** But the one who always listens to Me will live undisturbed in a heavenly peace. Free from fear, confident and courageous, you will rest unafraid and sheltered from the storms of life.

**John 14:27 AMP** Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]

**Romans 10:9 ERV** If you openly say, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from death, you will be saved.

**Romans 6:22-23 MSG** But now that you've found you don't have to listen to sin tell you what to do, and have discovered the delight of listening to God telling you, what a surprise! A whole, healed, put together life right now, with more and more of life on the way! Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death. But God's gift is real life, eternal life, delivered by Jesus, our Master.

Read about someone who went through a roller coaster of praise and rejection all the way to triumph. His name is Jesus:

## God's Promises Through Trials - We Wait He Works ([beliefnet.com](http://beliefnet.com))



**Think Above the Box:** Has there been a time in your life that you relied on God's promises for your future to get you through a crisis?

**REAL LIFE:** Read the inspiring story of a baby girl born to a missionary couple in Africa, Aggie Hurst, and how what seemed a horrible, tragic loss had an amazing impact on bringing many people to Christ:

### Aggie: A Girl Without a Country ([livingavision.org](http://livingavision.org))

**APOLO-GET-ITS: Isaiah 45:18** ESV For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and there is no other."

God's creation has been designed to work perfectly to support life, from Earth's distance from the sun to the work of ocean tides. Check out the following video and article on the fine-tuning of the Universe:

### Fine Tuning | Reasonable Faith

*"Of all the lessons which the Earth continually teaches us, perhaps the most obvious and profound is that **it alone** among the worlds framed by the Word of God (Heb. 11:3) is divinely crafted, sculpted, and engineered **to sustain life**. In fact the more we learn about our solar system and the universe, the more unique our Earth becomes. As home to over one million different species of life, each with its own special criteria for survival, the Earth repeatedly reinforces the fact that **God orchestrated each detail necessary for terrestrial existence.**"*

- David V. Bassett

### Creation Evidence Museum of Texas

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Pick out one of the ten planetary parameters listed above and look up the Bible verses given. How does the Scripture relate to the factor you chose?

## Guide for Chapter 17

### *Tales Told*

1. The first few pages of this chapter describe the emotions of the crew after the acquisition of both the *Danielle* and the Spanish treasure. Some of the feelings and actions noted are: thankfulness, joy, relief, laughter, grins, smiles, waving, cheers, congratulations, blessings, victorious mood, hooting and hollering, crying, satisfaction, happiness, feasting, partying, music, and excitement. You get the picture. Sounds like what Scripture says our first moments in Heaven with Jesus will be like! Did you know that there are Bible verses about Heaven in fifty-four of its sixty-six books? Here are just a few of them:

**Isaiah 25:6-9** ERV The Lord All-Powerful will give a feast for all the people on this mountain. At the feast, there will be the best foods and wines. The meat will be good and tender, the wine pure and clear. But now there is a veil covering all nations and people. This veil is called “death.” But death will be destroyed forever. And the Lord God will wipe away every tear from every face. In the past, all of his people were sad, but God will take away that sadness from the earth. All of this will happen because the Lord said it would. At that time people will say, “Here is our God! He is the one we have been waiting for. He has come to save us. We have been waiting for our Lord. So we will rejoice and be happy when he saves us.”

**Psalms 16:11** ERV You will teach me the right way to live. Just being with you will bring complete happiness. Being at your right side will make me happy forever.

**Revelation 21:4** AMPC God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more, neither shall there be anguish (sorrow and mourning) nor grief nor pain any more, for the old conditions and the former order of things have passed away.

**Isaiah 65:21-25** ERV “In that city whoever builds a house will live there; whoever plants a vineyard will eat the grapes from that garden. Never again will one person build a house and another person live there. Never again will one person plant a garden and another eat the fruit from it. My people will live as long as the trees. My chosen people will get full use of whatever they make. Never again will a woman suffer childbirth and have her baby die. Women will not fear childbirth. I, the Lord, will bless all my people and their children. I will answer them before they call for help. I will help them before they finish asking. Wolves and little lambs will eat together. Lions will eat hay like cattle, and snakes will eat only dust. They will not hurt or destroy each other on my holy mountain.” This is what the Lord said.

**John 14:2-3** TLB There are many homes up there where my Father lives, and I am going to prepare them for your coming. When everything is ready, then I will come and get you, so that you can always be with me where I am. If this weren't so, I would tell you plainly.

**Luke 23:43** TLB And Jesus replied, “Today you will be with me in Paradise. This is a solemn promise.”

**Isaiah 35:10** ERV The Lord will make his people free, and they will come back to him. They will come into Zion rejoicing. They will be happy forever. Their happiness will be like a crown on their heads. Gladness and joy will fill them completely. Sorrow and sadness will be far, far away.

**2 Corinthians 4:17** AMP For our momentary, light distress [this passing trouble] is producing for us an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendor and an endless blessedness]!



**Think Above the Box:** Circle words in the above verses that describe aspects of Heaven.

Since we (believers) will be spending eternity there, let's take a deeper look at Heaven.

*"Sometimes we talk about a "God-shaped vacuum" inside the human heart. I believe there is also a "heaven-shaped vacuum," a sense that we were made for something more than this life. We were made to live forever somewhere. In a real sense we were made for heaven."*

- Dr. Ray Pritchard

### **What is Heaven Like? Top Questions Answered with Bible Quotes (biblestudytools.com)**

*"How I long to breathe the air of Heaven / Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets / To look upon the One who bled to save me / And walk with Him for all eternity."*

- Phil Wickham

### **♪ Phil Wickham - Hymn Of Heaven (Official Music Video) - YouTube**

2. After a delicious meal with Captain Walker, the telling of tales began. Stories of how the *Poseidon's* crew bested the *Danielle's* men, Sean's adventure as a kidnap victim of the French Captain Champagne and how the longboat crew found the treasure were traded and relished. Everyone loves a story, which is why Jesus used parables (stories used to teach a spiritual or moral lesson) frequently in his teaching of the Gospel:

**Luke 18:9-14** GNT Jesus also told this parable to people who were sure of their own goodness and despised everybody else. "Once there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, 'I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everybody else. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. I fast two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!' I tell you," said Jesus, "the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, was in the right with God when he went home. For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great."

**Luke 15:3-7** GNT So Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbors together and say to them, 'I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent."

**Matthew 13:47-50** AMP Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet which was lowered into the sea, and gathered fish of every kind, and when it was full, they dragged it up on the beach; and they sat down and sorted out the good fish into baskets, but the worthless ones they threw away. So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw the wicked into the furnace

of fire; in that place there will be weeping [over sorrow and pain] and grinding of teeth [over distress and anger.]

**Mark 13:34-37 ERV** “It’s like a man who goes on a trip and leaves his house in the care of his servants. He gives each one a special job to do. He tells the servant guarding the door to always be ready. And this is what I am telling you now. You must always be ready. You don’t know when the owner of the house will come back. He might come in the afternoon, or at midnight, or in the early morning, or when the sun rises. If you are always ready, he will not find you sleeping, even if he comes back earlier than expected. I tell you this, and I say it to everyone.”



**Think Above the Box:** Pick a parable, rewrite it using modern characters and activities and explain how it could apply to your life today.

Just for fun, let’s watch a video from The Jesus Film:

**The JESUS Film HD- Jesus' Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector - YouTube**

3. This chapter described several things that underwent a significant change: kidnapped Sean was reunited with Jonathan, the hidden treasure was discovered and recovered, the filthy, broken down *Danielle* was made clean and beautiful, the shipwrecked *Poseidon’s* parts were scavenged and recycled, sailor Sean was bathed and outfitted as an Ordinary Seaman, and Jonathan went from sailor to Able Seaman to Midshipman. People can also change from sinners to forgiven, righteous saints:

**2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP** Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life.]

**Ezekiel 11:19-20 ERV** “I will bring them together and make them like one person. I will put a new spirit in them. I will take away that heart of stone, and I will put a real heart in its place. Then they will obey my laws and my commands. They will do the things I tell them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.”

**2 Corinthians 3:18 GNT** All of us, then, reflect the glory of the Lord with uncovered faces; and that same glory, coming from the Lord, who is the Spirit, transforms us into his likeness in an ever greater degree of glory.

**Colossians 3:9-10 GW** Don’t lie to each other. You’ve gotten rid of the person you used to be and the life you used to live, and you’ve become a new person. This new person is continually renewed in knowledge to be like its Creator.

**Ephesians 4:22-24 GNT** So get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to—the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires. Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, and you must put on the new self, which is created in God’s likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy.

Sean and Jonathan would never want to go back to being filthy, homeless street urchins, especially having received their new promotions and titles. Sadly, some people give up their 'promotion and title' as a believer in Jesus Christ. The following was posted on Facebook by the Rev. Billy Graham the day before he died:

*"If you went for a walk in the woods, but then decided to wander off the path, and found yourself surrounded by a thicket of thorns and poison ivy, who would you blame? Would you blame the person who built the path? No, of course not. Instead you'd blame yourself if you were honest, because you alone were responsible for wandering from the path. In a far deeper way, this is what happens when we decide to leave God out of our lives. For a time, it may seem like wandering away from Him doesn't make any difference; it may even seem easier and freer. But eventually it catches up with us—just as wandering off that path and into the thicket caught up with you."*

- Billy Graham - "If you went for a walk in the woods, but..."

▶ What might make someone wander off the path (of believing in God) and how can you guard against it happening?

▶ **TAB says:** People backslide in their belief through neglecting their relationship with God, not praying or spending time in Scripture, choosing sin and selfishness, guilt, busyness, falling for temptation, impatience, pride, love of the world and the here and now. You can guard against this by consciously putting God first in your life, through prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit, studying the Bible, asking for His forgiveness for your sins, having fellowship with other Christians, keeping an eternal perspective, humility, selflessness, and loving others.

Reverend Graham gave advice to a backsliding Christian using the thicket analogy below:

### **Is God Punishing Me? (billygraham.org)**

**REAL LIFE:** Watch the video testimony of Jennifer McGill, a former Disney Mouseketeer who experienced backsliding that led to a fulfilling life in Christ:

### **Former Disney Star Fills Void Left by Fame | CBN**

Listen to her singing *Victor's Crown*:

♪ **Victor's Crown - Jennifer McGill (Official Artwork Capture) - YouTube**

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** Many skeptics of Christianity discredit the veracity of the Bible using the excuse that stories change over time, going from fact to myth in a matter of years. Watch the following video of J. Warner Wallace as he talks about why we can know that the story of Jesus isn't a legend or fabrication:

### **Why We Know the Story of Jesus Isn't A Legend - YouTube**



## Guide for Chapter 18

### *All the Pieces of the Puzzle*

1. After the lovely Governor's Ball, Jonathan had a private meeting on the balcony with Captain Walker where his past six months aboard the *Poseidon* were recapped and discussed. It had truly been a remarkable journey! The lost street urchin had grown up from a scared boy to a very capable young man. But there was still the mystery of his father that begged to be solved. The captain filled him in and all the pieces of the puzzle of Jonathan's life came together, culminating in absolute joy at the good news that he would see his father again when they got home to London.

Our time on earth is similar to this...we live, cry, strive, achieve, lose, hurt, win, love, hate, etc. throughout our years. Sometimes life is an amazing, wonderful adventure and sometimes it may seem burdensome, futile and meaningless. But God tells us in His Word that when believers go home to meet Him in Heaven, all will make sense and we will be filled with joy!

**1 Corinthians 13:11-12** GNT When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am an adult, I have no more use for childish ways. What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face-to-face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete—as complete as God's knowledge of me.

**Romans 8:28** AMP And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.

**Galatians 1:4** AMPC Who gave (yielded) Himself up [to atone] for our sins [and to save and sanctify us], in order to rescue and deliver us from this present wicked age and world order, in accordance with the will and purpose and plan of our God and Father ...

**Colossians 2:2-3** AMP [For my hope is] that their hearts may be encouraged as they are knit together in [unselfish] love, so that they may have all the riches that come from the full assurance of understanding [the joy of salvation], resulting in a true [and more intimate] knowledge of the mystery of God, that is, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge [regarding the word and purposes of God.]

**1 Timothy 3:16** MSG This Christian life is a great mystery, far exceeding our understanding, but some things are clear enough: He appeared in a human body, was proved right by the invisible Spirit, was seen by angels. He was proclaimed among all kinds of peoples, believed in all over the world, taken up into heavenly glory.

**Romans 16:25** ERV Praise God! He is the one who can make you strong in faith. He can use the Good News that I teach to make you strong. It is the message about Jesus Christ that I tell people. That message is the secret truth that was hidden for ages and ages but has been made known.



**Think Above the Box:** The amazing news of his father being alive filled Jonathan with so many emotions, ranging from surprised unbelief to hope, joy, gratitude, relief, belonging and happiness. How do you feel about the “Good

News" that God the Father is alive and awaiting your arrival in Heaven someday?

**Romans 8:28 AMP** And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.

Before being pressed into His Majesty's service, the verse of **Romans 8:28** might have had Jonathan smirking and shaking his head. All things work for good? Like being abused, orphaned, beat up, starved, rained on, swindled and frozen? But after speaking with Captain Walker, he finally could see that his life had come full circle back to his father. Believers are the same...

*"This encouragement [of **Romans 8:28**] frames the good, bland and ugly parts of life within the context of the end result. The end result of all things, for those who love God, is for good. This requires adopting an eternal perspective while navigating this physical life."*

- Jason Hyde

### **"All Things Work Together for Good" (Really?) (lifehopeandtruth.com)**

2. Captain Nathaniel Moore wrote an impassioned plea to his dear friend Captain Walker for assistance in finding his son, stating that he was desperately in his debt for this urgent favor. While Jonathan was unaware of this fact, his father had been searching for him since before the boy was taken from the streets of London to the deck of the *Poseidon*. Many people are unaware that God searches for us, offering His free gift of salvation, if we will only believe and accept it.

**Ezekiel 34:11 NIV** For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.

**Luke 19:10 TLB** Jesus told him, "This shows that salvation has come to this home today. This man was one of the lost sons of Abraham, and I, the Messiah, have come to search for and to save such souls as his."

**Matthew 18:12 AMP** What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them gets lost, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountain and go in search of the one that is lost?

**1 John 4:19 TLB** So you see, our love for him comes as a result of his loving us first.

**Psalms 23:6 MSG** Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.

Watch the following video on *Psalms 139-How God Pursues You* and read the commentary that follows it:

### **How God Pursues You - pursueGOD.org**



**Think Above the Box:** Discuss the following statements from the above post.

*"Everyone is pursuing something that they consider ultimate, and that*

*means everyone is pursuing a 'god.'"*

*"Pursuing God is about going "full circle," and it involves faith (trusting Jesus), life (honoring God), and purpose (helping others)."*

3. In the moments before learning the truth, Jonathan felt that he loved his new life on the sea and never wanted to go ashore again, but upon hearing that his father had been actively pursuing him for months and was now in England, the boy couldn't get on land fast enough!

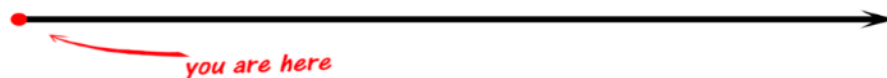
► How could this be compared to having a worldly perspective that changes to an eternal one when someone becomes a believer?

**Colossians 3:1-4** ERV You were raised from death with Christ. So live for what is in heaven, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Think only about what is up there, not what is here on earth. <sup>3</sup>Your old self has died, and your new life is kept with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>Yes, Christ is now your life, and when he comes again, you will share in his glory.

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18** TLB These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever! So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

► **TAB says:** When life on earth is all that is seen and known, either through unbelief or ignorance of the Truth, worldly pleasures become the ultimate pursuit and goal (because in the unbeliever's eyes, this life is all that there is.) Believers know that our time here is short compared to eternity and look forward with joyful anticipation to an endless future with God in Heaven. Hence, our logo:

**LIFE IS SHORT. ETERNITY IS FOREVER.**



*"God has commanded that we live with an eternal perspective. If holding an eternal perspective came naturally, He would not need to command it. So we choose to continually set our minds on things above. As we develop a habit of setting our minds on eternal things, we begin to handle things differently from those with earth-bound perspectives."*

- gotquestions.org

So how does someone gain an eternal perspective on life? See below!

**How can I gain an eternal perspective on life? | GotQuestions.org**

**REAL LIFE:** Sound engineer and producer Bruce Hensal's career journey went from mixing the Eagles' legendary rock album, *Hotel California* to working on the many language versions of *The Jesus Film*:

**The Man Who Mixed Hotel California Now Records JESUS | Cru**

But what is *The Jesus Film*, you might ask...

## **Why Film? It's A Great Way To Share Jesus - Jesus Film Project**

How about *watching* it? (for EXTRA CREDIT, of course. It is two hours long after all!)

## **JESUS - English ([jesusfilm.org](http://jesusfilm.org))**

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** Noah, the Flood, turgor pressure, and flat plants... What does it all mean??? Watch this video for the connection:

## **What do Fossilized Plants reveal about the Global Flood? - Dr. Kurt Wise - YouTube**

## Guide for Chapter 19

### *The Homecoming*

1. It took over three weeks in the Nassau port to refit and repair the *Danielle* to make her seaworthy for the month-long journey back to England. The entire crew worked fastidiously, but Jonathan worked the hardest all day and night, with renewed energy in anticipation of seeing his father again. His zeal was almost the death of him, being so drained that he fell asleep high above the deck in the shrouds and was saved when caught by crewmen below. Steward admonished him to slow down and pace himself. God himself tells us that rest is good for both body and soul:

**Genesis 2:2-3 TLB** So on the seventh day, having finished his task, God ceased from this work he had been doing, and God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he ceased this work of creation.

**Matthew 11:28-30 TLB** Come to me and I will give you rest—all of you who work so hard beneath a heavy yoke. Wear my yoke—for it fits perfectly—and let me teach you; for I am gentle and humble, and you shall find rest for your souls; for I give you only light burdens.

**Mark 6:31 ERV** Jesus and his followers were in a very busy place. There were so many people that he and his followers did not even have time to eat. He said to them, “Come with me. We will go to a quiet place to be alone. There we will get some rest.”

**Exodus 33:14 NIV** The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

**Psalms 127:2 TLB** It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing you will starve to death; for God wants his loved ones to get their proper rest.

**Psalms 46:10 AMP** Be still and know (recognize, understand) that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth.

▶ Just as Jonathan almost died from physical exhaustion, how can a fatigued and overwhelmed person endanger their spirit’s relationship with God?

▶ **TAB says:** When someone is tired and exhausted, they can let their spiritual guard down and be open to making ungodly choices, giving in to temptation, saying hurtful things, falling away from God, relying on their own power not God’s by ignoring promptings by the Holy Spirit, and giving in to temptation by engaging in sin.

▶ Fortunately, Steward and the crew stepped in to help Jonathan. How can we step in to help our friends who are overwhelmed and suffering in their relationship with God?

▶ **TAB says:** We can help by telling them that they need to rest, encourage them to read Scripture, praying for and with them, assisting with their burdens, being an accountability partner, and being a good listener.

*“Rest in me, rest in me / I am your father, you’re my precious child / Be still before me, wait on me a while / and rest in me.”*

- Todd Vaters

♪ **Rest In Me - A Song of Hope & Encouragement by Todd Vaters - YouTube**

Being burnt out means that someone is at the point of total mental and/or physical collapse due to continued hardship and anxiety. Have you ever been there spiritually?

*“When we are in vibrant relationship with God and receiving our fill from Him, we are less likely to push the boundaries God has set for us or to work ourselves beyond what He would ask. We are more apt to recognize what God is calling us to do and what He is not calling us to do. God equips us for what He calls us to ([Hebrews 13:20-21](#); [Ephesians 2:10](#)). When God continually fills our spirit, it is impossible to dry up and burn out.”*

- gotquestions.org

## What does the Bible say about burnout? | GotQuestions.org



**Think Above the Box:** Have you ever made a mistake because you were overtired and didn't rest? How about when you are spiritually and emotionally exhausted? Can you name an instance when you made a bad decision because of your distance from God at the time? How would things have been different if you were relying on God's Holy Spirit to guide your actions?

► Step right up and get your free definition, folks! What is a *shroud* on a ship?

► **TAB says:** Ladder-like rigging that holds the mast up from side to side.

2. Upon the *Danielle's* approach to the English coast, a vast squadron of British ships arrived to escort her into London's River Thames where multitudes of military personnel, lords and ladies, dignitaries and common folk cheerfully awaited them. The festive decorations and lighted Christmas trees reminded Jonathan that it was also Christmas time. It was a joyful, amazing sight to behold.

► Could this be the sort of welcome that we as believers might receive when we arrive in Heaven?

► **TAB says:** Yes!

**2 Peter 1:11** ERV And you will be given a very great welcome into the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a kingdom that never ends.

**2 Timothy 4:18** GW The Lord will rescue me from all harm and will take me safely to his heavenly kingdom. Glory belongs to him forever! Amen.

**Luke 23:43** AMP Jesus said to him, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

**Hebrews 11:16** TPT But they couldn't turn back for their hearts were fixed on what was far greater, that is, the heavenly realm! So because of this God is not ashamed in any way to be called their God, for he has prepared a heavenly city for them.

**Hebrews 12:22-23** NLT No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect.

**Philippians 3:20** MSG But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthly bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him.

**Luke 14:15** GNT When one of the guests sitting at the table heard this, he said to Jesus, "How happy are those who will sit down at the feast in the Kingdom of God!"

**Revelation 7:9-12** GW After these things I saw a large crowd from every nation, tribe, people, and language. No one was able to count how many people there were. They were standing in front of the throne and the lamb. They were wearing white robes, holding palm branches in their hands, and crying out in a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne with the leaders and the four living creatures. They bowed in front of the throne with their faces touching the ground, worshiped God, and said, "Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen!"

*"There will be a day with no more tears, no more pain, and no more fears. / There will be a day when the burdens of this place, / will be no more, we'll see Jesus face to face. / But until that day, we'll hold on to You always."*

- Jeremy Camp

🎵 **Jeremy Camp - There Will Be A Day (Lyric Video) - YouTube**

3. The Londoners certainly idolized the *Danielle* and her crew. Ok, maybe not like the Israelites idolizing a golden calf while Moses was on the mountaintop with God, but don't judge them too quickly as even modern folks have idols...

**Isaiah 40:18-20** NLT To whom can you compare God? What image can you find to resemble him? Can he be compared to an idol formed in a mold, overlaid with gold, and decorated with silver chains? Or if people are too poor for that, they might at least choose wood that won't decay and a skilled craftsman to carve an image that won't fall down!

**Exodus 20:3** NLT You shall have no other gods before Me.

*"Modern day idolatry is alive and well. Anything that you love, treasure, prioritize, identify with, or look to for need fulfillment outside of God, can be acting as an idol in your heart and life. Once we're able to properly identify modern day idolatry, we can ask ourselves what needs we're meeting with those idols, and then bring those needs to God for true fulfillment and satisfaction."*

- Deb Preston

**Modern Day Idolatry | 8 Surprising Idols That Can Separate Us From God (debpreston.com)**



**Think Above the Box:** Do you ever think about that when you see a concert or sporting event where large crowds of people are cheering and idolizing human beings?

4. The ship's crew received much fanfare and praise from the multitude of the population that was gathered to greet her with many cheers and honors. Think of how such royal accolades for a bunch of sailors transporting a cache of treasure to their king compares to our Savior's arrival and birth in a lowly stable with little human fanfare or notice by the world.

**Luke 2:7** ERV She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because the guest room was full.

**Philippians 2:6-9** GW Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross. This is why God has given him an exceptional honor—the name honored above all other names.

**2 Corinthians 8:9** AMPC For you are becoming progressively acquainted with *and* recognizing more strongly *and* clearly the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (His kindness, His gracious generosity, His undeserved favor and spiritual blessing), [in] that though He was [so very] rich, yet for your sakes He became [so very] poor, in order that by His poverty you might become enriched (abundantly supplied).

*"We expect that royalty, future kings and queens, will be born in suitably luxurious places, such as palaces or the best-equipped hospitals. Their birth is widely celebrated because of their status. But the birth of the Son of God could not have been more different."*

- Liz Abrams

## Why Did Christ Come in Such a Humble and Lowly Way? | Answers in Genesis

5. Upon recognizing the solitary naval officer standing on the port side of the dock, Jonathan raced as fast as he could towards his long-lost father and fell into his arms. What a reunion that must have been! Just as the long-lost son raced to his new-found father, the Apostle Paul likens our journey to God as a race to be run and won:

**Isaiah 40:31** GW Yet, the strength of those who wait with hope in the Lord will be renewed. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and won't become weary. They will walk and won't grow tired.

**Hebrews 12:1** AMP Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God's absolute faithfulness], stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us,

**Philippians 3:13-14** ERV Brothers and sisters, I know that I still have a long way to go. But there is one thing I do: I forget what is in the past and try as hard as I can to reach the goal before me. I keep running hard



toward the finish line to get the prize that is mine because God has called me through Christ Jesus to life up there in heaven.

**2 Timothy 4:7 MSG** You take over. I'm about to die, my life an offering on God's altar. This is the only race worth running. I've run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. All that's left now is the shouting— God's applause! Depend on it, he's an honest judge. He'll do right not only by me, but by everyone eager for his coming.

**James 1:12 AMP** Blessed [happy, spiritually prosperous, favored by God] is the man who is steadfast under trial and perseveres when tempted; for when he has passed the test and been approved, he will receive the [victor's] crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

*"Running a race is not easy. Keeping the faith and fighting the good fight is not easy all the time. We will stumble, we will fail at times. Do not be afraid. God is with us along with all believers and saints. They will lift us up, take care of our injuries, and cheer us on as we run. It may seem daunting at first but God provides everything we need, even the strength to get the prize."*

- FaithGiant

## 11 Inspiring Bible Verses About Running the Race - FaithGiant

▶ Jesus is searching for us too! Imagine the moment when we run into His arms. Can it compare to anything offered in this world?

▶ **TAB says:** No.

▶ Why do you think so many people never run the race or drop out early?

▶ **TAB says:** Living your earthly life for Jesus is an amazing journey but can be difficult to do so many people don't even try or give up once they start. Some hold on to a worldly perspective, never truly believing. The good news is they can get back into the race at any time while they are still here in the world by turning their hearts to God and asking the Holy Spirit into their heart.



**Think Above the Box:** How is *your* race coming along?

**REAL LIFE:** Growing up without a dad left LeCrae Moore rudderless and drawn to his uncles' gang lifestyle until he found his heavenly Father, Jesus. Watch his video testimony:

### Lecrae Moore: Finding a Father in God | CBN

Listen to LeCrae tell the world about Jesus:

*"My face look the same, my frame ain't rearranged / But I'm changed, I promise I ain't the same / Your love's so deep, you suffered and took pain / You died on the cross to give me a new name / Ain't nothing like I've seen before, I got a beaming glow / I was low, down, and dirty, but You cleaned me, Lord / You adopted me, You keep rocking me / I'mma tell the world, and ain't nobody stopping me."*

**APOLO-GET-ITS:** People throughout time have instinctively yearned for an afterlife existence in Heaven.

*“Why are we wired to seek the things we find so elusive in this life? The answer is simple: We are designed in the image of God, but are not yet in the presence of God. We are not yet complete. Passing through this imperfect world, we are on our way to perfection; to the place where all our desires and instincts will finally make sense and be satisfied.”*

– J. Warner Wallace

The following essay is chockablock full of reasons as to why this is:

### **What Will We Experience in Heaven? | Cold Case Christianity**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Define *chockablock*. (Hint: it originated as a nautical term!)

► **TAB says:** *Chockablock* means full, crowded and jam-packed. Chockablock began as a nautical term that refers to a square block of wood on a ship’s rigging that consists of a case with pulleys on the inside. When the tackle is tightened as far as it can go, it is referred to as chockablock.

**EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY!** How about showing off and composing a do-it-yourself question in the same style as this study guide? Now that you have completed the Think Above the Box Bible Study Guide for *Warship Poseidon*, can *you* view literature through a Biblical lens? Pick your favorite chapter from the book and pull a Biblical concept out of it! Add relevant Scripture, blog posts, videos and maybe even a song or two.

**EXTRA-EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY!!** Now give me a **REAL LIFE** and an **APOLO-GET-ITS!**

## *Afterword*

Please check out [www.thinkabovethebox.com](http://www.thinkabovethebox.com) for more study guides, blogs, and links to thought-provoking material.

*And please leave us a note on our site about your experience!  
We would love to hear your comments!*



*Looking at literature through a Biblical lens*

**LIFE IS SHORT. ETERNITY IS FOREVER.**

