**Legos for Life**

**Basic Building Blocks from the Bible\***

**POWER**

•The One who created and holds the universe together is the Supreme Power, God (Colossians 1:15-20 NIV p. 875).

•God has no equals. Idols made of wood and stone are deaf, dumb and powerless (Isaiah 45:5-7 NIV p. 545; Psalm 115:1-8 NIV p. 457).

•Pride destroys (Proverbs 16:18 NIV p. 484). Humility and servanthood are the path to greatness (Mark 9:33-37 NIV p. 752).

•An evil power is at large on the earth, seeking to control and destroy us (John 10:10 NIV p. 799; 1 Peter 5:8 NIV p. 902).

•We want to be significant (James 4:13-17 NIV p. 899). God alone decides what is significant (Matthew 22:34-40 NIV p. 736). Only what’s done for Him will endure (1 Corinthians 3:11-15 NIV p. 849).

•This world’s rulers go in and out of office as God chooses. We’re to honor them unless that would disobey God (Psalm 75:7 NIV p. 436; Romans 13:1-7 NIV p. 845).

•The most powerful organ in your body is your tongue. Choose your words wisely (Psalm 19:14 NIV p. 408; James 3:3-12 NIV, p. 898).

•God values a lifestyle in which we live justly, love with mercy and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8 NIV p. 695).

•**God the Father has put God the Son (Jesus Christ) in charge of everything in the universe.** (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV p. 743).

**DISCUSS: When are we at our strongest, and why?**

2 Corinthians 11:16-30 NIV p. 863

\*By no means is this compilation of principles the complete summary of God’s wisdom for man as found in the Bible. It is merely a representative few, collected at the request of one man from a distant country who was curious to know what God’s thoughts are on these three topics: power, money and women. We added “men” to the latter, plus some Master Principles. 9-21-10

**MONEY**

•God gives you the ability to earn a living. Everything you have is a gift from Him, including your career. You are a caretaker, not an owner (Deuteronomy 8:18 NIV p. 137; John 3:27 NIV p. 791; James 1:16, 17 NIV p. 897).

•Because the love of money spawns all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10 NIV p. 883); you cannot be consumed with both God and money (Matthew 6:24 NIV p. 721).

•Don’t put confidence in riches. They can vanish (Proverbs 23:4-5 NIV p. 489).

•What profit is there in riches if you lose your soul (Mark 8:34-38 NIV p. 751)?

•Money is a means, not an end. How much is enough (Luke 18:18-30 NIV p. 781)?

•Be a generous giver, but not for public display (Matthew 6:1-4 NIV p. 720).

•Giving joyfully is better than to receive and amass (2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NIV p. 862).

•The borrower is the lender’s slave. Try to live debt-free, owing others just your love and respect (Proverbs 22:7 NIV p. 489; Romans 13:7-8 NIV p. 845).

•God designed man to work productively. Anxiety wanes when you know you’re actually employed by Christ. (Genesis 2:15 NIV p. 2; Colossians 3:23-24 NIV p. 877).

•**Use your time and treasure here to build your portfolio in heaven** (Matthew 6:19-21 NIV p. 721).

DISCUSS: Why did Jesus say it’s harder for a wealthy person to follow Him?

Mark 10:17-31 NIV p. 753

**MEN AND WOMEN**

•God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit have always had a loving relationship (Genesis 1:1 NIV p. 1; John 1:1, 32-34 NIV p. 788).

•God created us in His image (with body, soul and spirit) (Genesis 1:26-28 NIV p. 1).

•God designed our first parents, Adam and Eve, (1) to be in relationship with Him, (2) to care for and rule over the planet and all its life forms, and (3) to procreate and populate the Earth (Genesis 1:28 NIV p. 1).

•Before man was created, angels existed. The most beautiful angel was Lucifer who has many names in the Bible, some of which are: the serpent (Genesis 3:1 NIV p. 2), satan and the devil (Matthew 4:1-11 NIV p. 719), father of lies (John 8:42-47 NIV p. 797) and son of the morning (Isaiah 14:-15 NIV p. 520). When Lucifer wanted to be worshipped like God, God threw him out of heaven along with the rebellious one-third of all the angels (Revelation 12:7-9 NIV p. 916). This demonic cabal was given temporary freedom to wreak havoc on Earth until Jesus Christ returns for the second time to banish this fallen angel and his cohorts to hell forever (1 Peter 5:8 NIV p. 902; Matthew 25:41 NIV p. 739; 2 Peter 3:9 NIV p. 904).

•When Eve and Adam sinned against God by giving in to Satan’s lie, their intimacy with God was broken, and all of us, their descendants, are born with this brokenness. Now separated from God, the ultimate Arbiter of right and wrong, we need to have that oneness with Him restored. Loving humanity so passionately, God sent His Son to Earth to be the sinless Sacrifice for our sin and all the sins of all people (Genesis 3:1-24 NIV p. 2). Those who accept God’s forgiveness are welcomed into His family permanently (John 3:22-36 NIV p. 791).

•God created male and female, both equal in His sight but with different roles. Man is the protector/provider. Woman is the child-bearer/nurturer/helper (Genesis 2:20b-24 NIV p. 2; Proverbs 31:10-31 NIV p. 496). As initiators, men want to be respected; as responders, women want to be loved (Ephesians 5:21-33 NIV p. 871).

•Marriage-for-life, or until death, of one man to one woman is God’s original design. Sex between one man and one woman, married to each other, is God’s plan (1 Corinthians 7:1-40 NIV p. 851; Song of Solomon NIV p. 504).

•Parents are to love, teach, appropriately discipline and introduce their children to God, never provoking them to anger. Children are to respect their parents (Ephesians 6:1-4 NIV p. 872).

•Husbands are to love their wife as Christ loves us, submitting to each other in love and understanding (Ephesians 5:21, 22 NIV p. 871; 1 Peter 3:1-9 NIV p. 901). A calm spirit helps (James 1:19-21 NIV p. 897; Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV p. 871).

•It’s impossible to genuinely love anyone without experiencing how much God, who *is* love, truly loves you (John 3:16-18 NIV p. 791). God’s Holy Spirit, given to us when we put our faith in Jesus Christ, is the Power available to us to love and to live.

•**Being personally and intimately related to God as the Source of my life, I have unshakeable faith in Him, hope that’s grounded in Him, and Love that lasts forever** (1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13 NIV p. 855).

DISCUSS: If you were to love someone as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians ch. 13, how would it change your relationship with that person?

**MASTER PRINCIPLES**

•Inspired by God, the Bible is His story of His love for mankind, and is the ultimate record of authority (Matthew 24:35 NIV p. 738; 2 Timothy 3:14-17 NIV p. 885).

•True wisdom comes from respecting God, *the* Truth will set you free, and Truth is whatever God says it is (Proverbs 1:1-7 NIV p. 472; John 8:31, 32 NIV p. 797).

•What’s unseen is more real than what’s seen (2 Corinthians 4:13-18 NIV p. 860).

•The Law of Reaping and Sowing is inviolable (Galatians 6:7-8 NIV p. 868).

•God loves to hear “Thank You” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV p. 879).

•God loves you deeply (Psalm 139:1-24 NIV p. 467; Matthew 6:25-34 NIV p. 721).

•Your Creator knows how you can enjoy optimum performance and value, being all He created you to be. His “How To” is preserved for us in the Bible, the Creator’s Handbook (Proverbs 2:6; 3:5-6; 8:1-36 NIV p. 473; 2 Timothy 3:14-17 NIV p. 885).

•Life is a brief prologue to endless eternity. Don’t be distracted by pursuing power, money and sex instead focusing on forever (Mark 8:36-37 NIV p. 751).

•Suffering can teach us perseverance and give us hope, realizing that God is in control, not us (2 Corinthians 4:7-12 NIV p. 860; Romans 5:1-5 NIV p. 839; Hebrews 5:7-10 NIV p. 890; James 1:2-5 NIV p. 897; 1 Peter 2:18-25 NIV p. 901).

•God gave Moses His ten laws to live by (Exodus 20:3-17 NIV p. 56; Romans 13:9-10 NIV p. 845). Obeying them all would require sinless perfection. So, God sent Jesus to earth to keep them perfectly for us, freeing us from sin’s penalty so that, through faith in what Jesus did for us, we may live with God forever.

•**Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the only route to His Father. As the Supreme Power, all truth and life originates and exists in Him** (John 14:1-7 NIV p. 803; Romans 10:9-10 NIV p. 843).

**DISCUSS: What does “Focus on Forever” mean, and how could doing it affect your decisions”**

His Deal

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george@hisdeal.org

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