

One Year through the New Testament

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The Gospel of John, con't

June 1: John 20: 1-31

- 1) Who was Mary Magdalene?
- 2) Why was she with the other women?
- 3) The cloth that covered Jesus head was folded. What makes that a very significant phrase?
- 4) Because May left the other women, she didn't hear the message that the other women heard.
- 5) Who can forgive sins?
- 6) How is it that done in a practical way?
- 7) When would we not forgive sins?
- 8) How do we resemble Thomas?
- 9) What is the purpose of miracles?

Important questions and thoughts:

I like it, Lord that you're with me. I can't see you but I know you're there. When you walk with me through the darkest valleys of fear—even death itself—make me strong, give me courage, and lead me to life everlasting. Amen.

June 2: John 21: 1-25

- 1) Why wouldn't the disciples realize that it was Jesus who was on shore?
- 2) Why would a detail like the number of fish in the net be included?
- 3) What does the fact that Jesus ate fish and bread tell us about the resurrection body of Christ?
- 4) The section that deals with the word 'love' has two different types of love. When Peter uses the word 'love,' this is the love of friendship. When Jesus uses the word 'love' the first two times, the word is unconditional type and no strings attached caring. It is the kind of love that is used when God loves. What does this tell us about Peter especially in the light of his denial of Christ?
- 5) How would Peter die?
- 6) How are lambs and sheep fed?

Important questions and thoughts:

Heavenly Father, we confess that all of us are like little children in need of growth in the knowledge of your Word. We give thanks that you are willing to save us through the gift of our Savior Jesus. Lead us to listen carefully and take to heart all you have to say to us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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Acts

June 3: Acts 1:1-26

- 1) To whom was this book written? What was his position?
- 2) Why were the disciples to wait in the city of Jerusalem?
- 3) God calls us to be witnesses. What is the difference between a witness and an evangelist?
- 4) What did the disciples witness?
- 5) The apostles got together in Jerusalem to elect one to take the place of Judas. What according to these words is a definition of an apostle?
- 6) What was the “apostolic ministry?”

Important questions and thoughts:

Eternal God, Most Patient Father, forgive our lack of attention to you and those around us. Make us daily aware of our need for your Word of Life in Christ and give us the opportunity and willingness to encourage others to come with us before the final day of their life and ours. We pray in the name of our crucified, risen and ascended Savior. Amen.

June 4: Acts 2: 1-47

- 1) What event occurred here?
- 2) What different miracles happened that day?
- 3) Some people believe that the tongue speaking that people claim today is a language known only in heaven. What kind of tongue-speaking was evident here?
- 4) What did the Jewish leaders have for an explanation?
- 5) Who stood up? Why was this a switch?
- 6) What was the theme of his sermon?
- 7) Which verses do you find most significant and why?
- 8) What was the powerful result of the Word that was preached?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord Jesus, abide with me to wash away my sins, to banish my cares, and to protect me. Hear me for your name's sake.

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June 5: Acts 3:1-26

- 1) What is the purpose of miracles?
- 2) How long had the man been crippled?
- 3) When he was healed, how did the man show it?
- 4) Why did Peter refer to God as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
- 5) What is the purpose of repentance?
- 6) Why is this sermon by Peter no less than miraculous?

Important questions and thoughts:

Thank you, God, for giving me strength to perform my work and grace to live as your child. Keep me in your everlasting love through Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen

June 6: Acts 4: 1-37

- 1) Why is the resurrection from the dead such an offense?
- 2) Again notice the change if Peter. Why does that lead one to believe the resurrection must be true?
- 3) How is 4:12 such a comforting passage?
- 4) How is 4:12 such an offensive passage?
- 5) Verse 25b and 26 come from Psalm two. How was that fulfilled? How is that being fulfilled even to this day?
- 6) What were evidences of the power of the Holy Spirit?

Important questions and thoughts:

O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have accomplished our salvation, creating us, redeeming us, and sanctifying us. Now we ask you to keep us in the fellowship of the saints and to bless your church everywhere. Grant that your Word may be taught in all its clarity and purity. Open hearts to receive it, and raise up more men, women, and children who know their Savior and worship you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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June 7: Acts 5: 1-42

- 1) What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?
- 2) This text (verses 3-5) is often used to prove the Holy Spirit is God. How is that true?
- 3) Why did God deal so harshly with Ananias and Sapphira?
- 4) What is the lesson for us?
- 5) What did the miracles do?
- 6) What are circumstances where we are commanded to obey God rather than men?
- 7) What was the bottom line as far as advice from Gamaliel?
- 8) The zeal of the apostles is impressive. How do we get that zeal?

Important questions and thoughts:

Redeemer of the world, I ask for your blessing on my work today. But don't bless only me, bless all labors that are performed by your followers. Let people around us see that we love you by the way we work and act. I confidently look for your blessing, Lord Jesus.

June 8: Acts 6: 1-15

- 1) What was the problem that needed to be addressed in the early Christian Church?
- 2) Why did the problem come about?
- 3) Besides the Grecian widows and orphans that were being neglected, who else was?
- 4) How did the church deal with the issue?
- 5) What are the lessons for us?
- 6) Why were the unbelievers irritated with Stephen?
- 7) What can we expect and why?

Important questions and thoughts:

My God and Father, I cast myself on your care yet again today. I am weak. You are mighty. Hold me with your all-powerful hand. Hear me for the sake of Jesus, my Savior.

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June 9: Acts 7: 1-29

- 1) Why was Stephen on trial?
- 2) Why did he give the Sanhedrin a history of the Children of Israel?
- 3) How did Abraham show great faith?
- 4) Why is Moses such a powerful figure in Israel's history?
- 5) After hearing all that Stephen said about the history of Israel, what did he want to know about God's place in it all?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord God give me strength and willingness to say with your Son, "Not my will but your will be done." Make me cheerful and trusting to bear whatever you let happen to me. From your hand I am willing to take the good and the bad, the joy and the sorrow. Keep me from sin, gracious Father, and comfort me with your kind Word. Amen.

June 10: Acts 7: 30-50

- 1) Stephen continues his sermon. What is the significance of the Lord identifying himself by saying, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?"
- 2) What were some of the miracles by which God, through Moses, demonstrated his presence and power?
- 3) To whom does verse 37 refer?
- 4) How did the Israelites respond to the presence and power of God?
- 5) What was Solomon's role?
- 6) What role do you have in God's kingdom?

Important questions and thoughts:

Holy Spirit, you are the source of all light to my soul. Thank you for teaching me that God loves me as his child, that I am safe in his almighty care, and that he will bring me to heaven when my service here is over. In Jesus' name I pray.

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June 11: Acts 7:51 – 8:13

- 1) What is a stiff-necked person?
- 2) While Jesus chooses us (John 15:16), what can we do to our relationship with the Lord?
- 3) Needless to say this part of Stephen's sermon is heavy with the Law. Was he too harsh? After all, how were they to know? (I write that with a lot of sarcasm).
- 4) What is most exemplary to you about Stephen?
- 5) Saul's name is brought up for the first time. Why did Stephen's martyrdom set off a lot of persecution?
- 6) How was the Devil frustrated by this entire incident?

Important questions and thoughts:

Heavenly Father, guide me today in all my contacts with people so they see that I am your child. I ask this in the name of Jesus, through him alone I am your dear child. Amen

June 12: Acts 8: 14-40

- 1) The people of Samaria accepted the Word of God. We do that only through the power of the Holy Spirit. Then why is it true that Peter and John were sent to Samaria to pray they would receive the Holy Spirit?
- 2) Simon has a sin that is named after him called Simony. What is it? How did it begin here?
- 3) Was Simon repentant?
- 4) The eunuch was reading the Word after having been in the Jerusalem. What was he reading?
- 5) This text teaches us how we deal with adults when it comes to baptism. How do we deal with adults?
- 6) Why would he want to be baptized? WHY are you glad you were?
- 7) Do you remember your baptism on a daily basis? What do you believe about your baptism?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. You died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. You rose from the dead to give us eternal life in heaven. I am glad that everyone who trusts in you alone for their salvation will live forever with you in heaven. Comfort us in our grief today as we bid farewell to our former president, Ronald Reagan. We thank you for all that you accomplished for our nation through him and for the world. Dry our tears and console us in our sorrow. Give us peace that surpasses all understanding. In your name, we pray. Amen

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June 13: Acts 9: 1-25

- 1) Why is the 'Way' such an appropriate name for Christians?
- 2) What do you say to people who say that everyone, if they want to know for sure they are Christians, need a conversion experience like Paul had?
- 3) How does the conversion of Paul prove that God is the one who needs to convert people and not our work?
- 4) What was Paul's work supposed to be?
- 5) Why did the Jews want him out of the picture?
- 6) Would the same be said about you and me that we were a threat to those who were not believers?

Important questions and thoughts:

Ever-living and ever-loving Lord, you are a tranquil sea of peace for those who call on you in faith. Your life, death, and resurrection made true and lasting peace between God and us. You have forgiven all our sins, and you promise us eternal life in heaven. Yet, you have not forsaken us while we live on earth. Threats of terrorism and international conflict surround us. They churn at our frightened hearts like waves on a choppy sea. Forgive our sins of doubt and worry. You still rule wind, waves, nations, and history to carry out your saving will. Be with us and protect us with your almighty power. Calm our fears with the knowledge that you are in control. With you continually at our side, even in tumultuous times, all is truly well. Amen.

June 14: Acts 9:26-43

- 1) Barnabas means 'encourager.' How did he live up to his name?
- 2) Why didn't things work out well for Paul in Jerusalem?
- 3) Peter was an apostle. Why was that office looked on as a special office in the early church?
- 4) How did God make it a special office?
- 5) What was very clear whenever such miracles were done?

Important questions and thoughts:

Heavenly Father, each and every day we receive blessings from you. But when we watch the news, we tend to focus on the negative and not the positive. Even though we are directly between the Memorial Day and Flag Day holidays, we cannot stop but think about the war in Iraq, and the struggles of our world. Do not let us forget that through these wars and troubles, you use us and our many blessings in the U.S. for others. Whether we agree with the war or not, we all still need to ask you to watch over and protect our troops wherever they serve stateside and abroad. We fervently ask you to watch over all the men and women or our armed forces. Guard them in conflict, protect them from danger and harassment and attacks from hidden foes, enable them to carry out all their duties honestly, truthfully and to the best of their ability, holding to a high regard of human life and public service. Help us dear Lord, to look at them all as our protectors used by you and keep them daily in our prayers. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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June 15: Acts 10: 1-23a

- 1) Who was Cornelius?
- 2) Why was being a Gentile a big deal?
- 3) God knows all things and is in control of all things. How did he bring all things together here?
- 4) What was unusual about all the animals in the sheet?
- 5) Why did Peter protest?
- 6) Why was it unusual for Peter to invite the men into the home?
- 7) What was ground-breaking about all this?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord Jesus, abide with me to wash away my sins, to banish my cares, and to protect me. Hear me for your name's sake. Amen

June 16: Acts 10: 23b-48

- 1) Why was Peter going to Cornelius' house?
- 2) Was it really true the Jews were not to associate with Gentiles?
- 3) Give proof in the Old Testament that God did not show favoritism?
- 4) How did God show he did not show favoritism in the person of Christ?
- 5) How did God show he was not showing favoritism with the gift of the Holy Spirit?
- 6) How does the fact that God does not show favoritism affect you personally and with those who are the objects of your witnessing?

Important questions and thoughts:

How often I've given up on me, Lord Jesus, but you have not. How easily I've ignored with complaint your many and various blessings on me, Lord Jesus, but you have kept giving them with a smile. You are too much. And that's why I love you. That's why I need you. Might I give to you in the same way? Amen.

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June 17: Acts 11: 1-30

- 1) Why was Peter amazed at all that had been revealed to him?
- 2) Why do you think the Lord repeated this vision three times?
- 3) What does it mean when the Scriptures says, "The Holy Spirit came to them?"
- 4) What is noteworthy of the phrase, "So, then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life?"
- 5) Why is the title "Encourager" a good name for Barnabas?

Important questions and thoughts:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying-- and all for your love's sake. In Christ we pray. Amen.

June 18: Acts 12: 1-23

- 1) Which Herod is mentioned here? What other things did he do that made him infamous?
- 2) What made his so gutsy?
- 3) What kind of impact did the miracle mentioned here make?
- 4) God brought about Herod's demise in a hurry. What should be learned from that?

Important questions and thoughts:

Praise to you, O God, maker of all things. You gave me life and breath. You sent your Son to cleanse me from sin and your Spirit to make me glad. Thank you for providing me with all that I need to live. Especially do I thank you for. To you be honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

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June 19: Acts 12:24 – 13:15

- 1) Where had Saul and Barnabas been?
- 2) What did the Lord have in mind for them now?
- 3) Paul traveled on three missionary journeys that are mentioned in the book of Acts. He begins his first. Follow on a map where he is going.
- 4) Why shouldn't we be surprised that man connected with the occult should confront Paul?
- 5) What was their mission strategy as they went from city to city

Important questions and thoughts:

How infinite is your wisdom, dear Creator. You know our needs and satisfy them. Thank you for the institution of marriage. Keep it pure despite the terrible trends of today's society. Bless all godly partners in marriage with companionship, chastity, and godly happiness in Christian homes. Give strength and wisdom to parents that they may train their children to be yours for time and eternity. Avert discord, prevent indifference, and instill love that finds its foundation in our Savior's love for us. Amen.

June 20: Acts 13: 16-41

- 1) Why did Paul in his sermon review the history of Israel to the people in the synagogue in Antioch?
- 2) What is 'preaching repentance' mean?
- 3) Why was it most necessary that Christ be raised from the dead?
- 4) How do you practice repentance in your life?
- 5) What is a resurrection faith?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord God, heavenly Father, you have shown us more kindness than we could deserve. It wasn't enough for you that we should be saved by your grace alone. You knew that, if that were all that our religion was about, we'd soon be bored with it, or worse, would begin to try to earn it by our own good works, no matter what your Word said. But you have placed before us all kinds of things we can do to show our gratitude to you and our love for our Savior. At our churches and our schools there is a veritable host of things that need to be done, and you have given to us many talents with which we can accomplish them. Give us both the zeal and the time to match the abilities you have given us to the needs you have set before us. Although all that we do is done to your glory, it feels even sweeter when we can do it under your roof. Keep our eyes open for the opportunities, and our hands ready and willing to do this work for you. Amen

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June 21: Acts 13:42 – 14:7

- 1) Paul and Barnabas were still in Pisidian Antioch. Why were the people intrigued and wanted to know more about the grace of God?
- 2) What made the missionary team turn to the Gentiles?
- 3) What does it mean that they were 'appointed for eternal life'?
- 4) How does one explain the different reactions to the Word of God?
- 5) What was the purpose of miracles?

Important questions and thoughts:

Dear God, compassionate Father, you have found us spiritually blind and deaf because of our sin and opened our eyes and ears to the truth of your salvation in Christ. Thank you for your forgiving love. Now in thankfulness and reflecting the hope of our salvation, we desire to show love also to those who have similar physical weaknesses. Help us in our service so that in our labor of love we glorify your name and build up the saving faith of those we reach. We ask this in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

June 22: Acts 14: 8-28

- 1) What was amazing about the man's sudden ability to walk?
- 2) Can you blame the people for getting a bit confused when they came to the conclusion that these men were gods?
- 3) How does God show he exists as Paul states in his sermon in Athens?
- 4) Why did the tables turn so quickly against Paul and Silas?
- 5) Any lessons to be learned from that?
- 6) What are the hardships we must endure for the Kingdom?
- 7) Why was the report so astounding when they returned from the missionary journey?

Important questions and thoughts:

Heavenly Father, each and every day we receive blessings from you. But when we watch the news, we tend to focus on the negative and not the positive. Even though we are directly between the Memorial Day and Flag Day holidays, we cannot stop but think about the war in Iraq, and the struggles of our world. Do not let us forget that through these wars and troubles, you use us and our many blessings in the U.S. for others. Whether we agree with the war or not, we all still need to ask you to watch over and protect our troops wherever they serve stateside and abroad. We fervently ask you to watch over all the men and women or our armed forces. Guard them in conflict, protect them from danger and harassment and attacks from hidden foes, enable them to carry out all their duties honestly, truthfully and to the best of their ability, holding to a high regard of human life and public service. Help us dear Lord, to look at them all as our protectors used by you and keep them daily in our prayers. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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June 23: Acts 15: 1-35

- 1) The teaching of the people from Judea who went to Antioch is called “synergism.” It means works with faith. Why is that wrong?
- 2) Why is synergism so insulting to Christ?
- 3) What points did Peter make to prove the synergists wrong?
- 4) What are the points James makes to prove that synergism is wrong?
- 5) Who were the weak people here – the Jews or the Gentiles?
- 6) What was the advice he was sent to the Gentiles?
- 7) How was love shown both in understanding weakness and in tough love in this situation?

Important questions and thoughts:

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days. Amen.

June 24: Acts 15:36 – 16:15

- 1) What was about to happen?
- 2) Why would Paul want to do that?
- 3) Why do disagreements happen among called workers?
- 4) How did God turn it out for good?
- 5) Why is Timothy so important?
- 6) Why was he circumcised since circumcision was part of the Old Testament Law?
- 7) Chapter 16 records a major event in the history of the church. What is it?
- 8) Why is Lydia such a beloved child of God?
- 9) What does she demonstrate for us?

Important questions and thoughts:

Father in heaven, the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours alone. Therefore, I confidently come to you for all I need today for body and soul. I know that you will hear my prayer for the sake of Jesus Christ.

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June 25: Acts 16: 16–40

- 1) Where was Paul at this time?
- 2) Did the girl who was filled with the evil spirit really have the capabilities to foretell the future?
- 3) Why were the owners of the slave girl angry?
- 4) What happened to Paul and Silas?
- 5) What were the miraculous aspects connected with their jailbreak?
- 6) How did the jailor show he had become a godly father?
- 7) Why did Paul appeal to his Roman citizenship?

Important questions and thoughts:

Heavenly Father, please don't let any success I enjoyed today fill me with false pride or lead me to forget you. All blessings come to me because of your grace. Strengthen me to bear all disappointments with patience and trust in you alone. Hear me for Jesus' sake.

June 26: Acts 17: 1-34

- 1) Where did Paul go when he left Philippi?
- 2) How long was he in the city?
- 3) Why would the Jews be so jealous of Paul's success in preaching the risen Christ?
- 4) Why did Paul escape when, in other cities, he seemed to stick things out?
- 5) What was admirable about the Bereans?
- 6) What impressed Paul about the city of Athens?
- 7) How did they show their uncertainty about God?
- 8) How does God leave witness to his existence?
- 9) What does God want to see in all people? Why?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord and Maker of all people, impress on people of every nation that they are the children of your creation. Lord and Ruler of nations, bless all efforts to promote peace and understanding among the nations of the world. Lord and Savior of the world, remove hatred and enmity from the hearts of people. Enable people everywhere to live at peace with one another. Direct all leaders of government to strive for peace and to conduct international relations so that more people may live in quietness and peace. We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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June 27: Acts 18: 1-22

- 1) What were the circumstances under which Aquila, Priscilla and Paul met?
- 2) What was the content of the preaching of Silas and Paul?
- 3) Why was the preaching of Christ such an offense to some?
- 4) How did God comfort Paul?
- 5) Why would the Jews have charged Paul with “persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the Law?”
- 6) Why did Paul make the promise that he would come back?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord Jesus, you commanded us to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Bless our every effort to proclaim the message of salvation to the multitudes of people who have never heard of Jesus, the Savior of nations. Help us to send out more missionaries to tell more people the good news of deliverance from sin, death, and Satan--of forgiveness, peace, and salvation through you. We pray this in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

June 28: Acts 18:23 – 19:12

- 1) Paul went to strengthen the disciples he had found on his early mission journeys. What does that also tell us about how we need to do our work?
- 2) Aquila and Priscilla came to know Apollos. What had to be done?
- 3) How does one prove from Scripture that Jesus is the Christ?
- 4) In 19:3,4 the people said they did not receive the Spirit when they believed. Isn't it true that the Holy Spirit is the reason we believe? Explain.
- 5) What kinds of things happened while Paul was in the city of Ephesus?

Important questions and thoughts:

The gift of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, I thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Without your Spirit I would not be able to call on you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for your Holy Word through which the Holy Spirit works. Thank you for water baptism through which the Spirit works. When I desire the Holy Spirit, make me hungry for your word. Help me to recall also my baptism where you placed your name upon me - the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit - and made my body the temple of your Holy Spirit. Help me to remember that I do not earn the gift of the Holy Spirit by my prayers, devotion or tears. Help me to remember - and rejoice - that the gift of the Holy Spirit is entirely a gift of your grace - your undeserved love. Help me to remember that it is not my wrestlings and prayers that cause the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me. Give me peace in knowing that I have everything I need in you, dear Jesus, and I desire nothing more. Amen.

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June 29: Acts 19: 13-41

- 1) What does the incident about the sons of Sceva tell us about demons?
- 2) How did all that backfire for Satan?
- 3) How does Christianity get into the wallets of the ungodly today like it did to the silversmiths in Ephesus?
- 4) Isn't it interesting that the city clerk said that Paul did not insult Artemis. What does that say about the way Paul did mission work?
- 5) Jesus was killed even though he preached love and forgiveness. Paul was charged when he was preaching peace through Christ. Why should we expect the same?

Important questions and thoughts:

Jesus, thank you for fellow Christians with whom I worship, sing your praises, and hear your Word. Through your Word I am strengthened in faith for the daily duties of this week.

June 30: Acts 20: 1-38

- 1) Are you able to trace Paul's journey on a map?
- 2) At Troas Paul didn't want to stop preaching since it was going to be his last time there. What are a couple significant things from this time and other times that happened in Troas?
- 3) The sermon Paul preached at Miletus was a very moving farewell sermon. Why does he spend a lot of time defending his ministry?
- 4) What doctrine do we get from Acts 20:28?
- 5) Did you ever feel particularly sad when a pastor you had left your church? What made it sad?
- 6) What do you think made it sad for the pastor to leave?

Important questions and thoughts:

Sovereign Lord, as the United States pauses to commemorate its independence, we think of the many blessings you have given us. Forgive our many complaints and our negligence in asking your blessings upon our land. Continue to allow us peace, and bless all honest endeavors. Do not let our wonderful freedoms be abused or removed. Let justice and right prevail. Place loyalty in the hearts of our citizens so that all may take an active role to do away with wrong and foster what is right. Above all, preserve our freedom to call upon you and praise you. Bless our land! Amen.