

"To be or not to be, that is the question."

There are so many iconic catchphrases in our history of stories, from films and books and everywhere else. Part of the reason we love them so is because of how they speak to us. We relate with the character, we struggle as they struggle, and we want to overcome our struggles just as they have.

These phrases also speak to us because they work. They affect our lives. Some of them even take on a life of their own. They speak to us even though we have no idea where they come from. (Did you know the second one in the list is from Lord of the Rings? Few people do...)

One such catchphrase: Constant Vigilance. Without knowing any of the background, without knowing the story or the character, these words tell a story of their own. We know exactly what they mean. We even have ideas of what they cost. They can inspire us or scare us (or both). They are a way of life.

They are the way of the life we have been called to in Christ. Our relationship with Jesus is one of constant vigilance. He is to be a part of our every breath, our every thought, everything we do and say should be tied to Him.

But how?

How do we live a life of constant vigilance for our soul? Let's find out together.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Not all who wander are lost."

<sup>&</sup>quot;I'll be back."

<sup>&</sup>quot;To infinity and beyond."

<sup>&</sup>quot;You can't handle the truth."

# **CONSTANT VIGILANCE**



MAD-EYE MOODY He's such a looker

34-35"Watch out! Don't let my sudden coming catch you unawares; don't let me find you living in careless ease, carousing and drinking, and occupied with the problems of this life, like all the rest of the world. <sup>36</sup>Keep a constant watch. And pray that if possible you may arrive in my presence without having to experience these horrors." Luke 21:34-36 (TLB)

1-2I look to you, heaven-dwelling God, look up to you for help.
 Like servants, alert to their master's commands, like a maiden attending her lady,
 We're watching and waiting, holding our breath, awaiting your word of mercy.

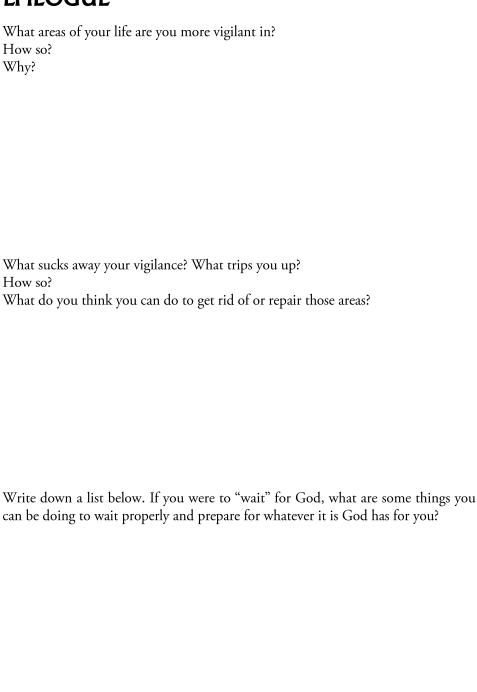
Psalm 123:1-2 (MSG)

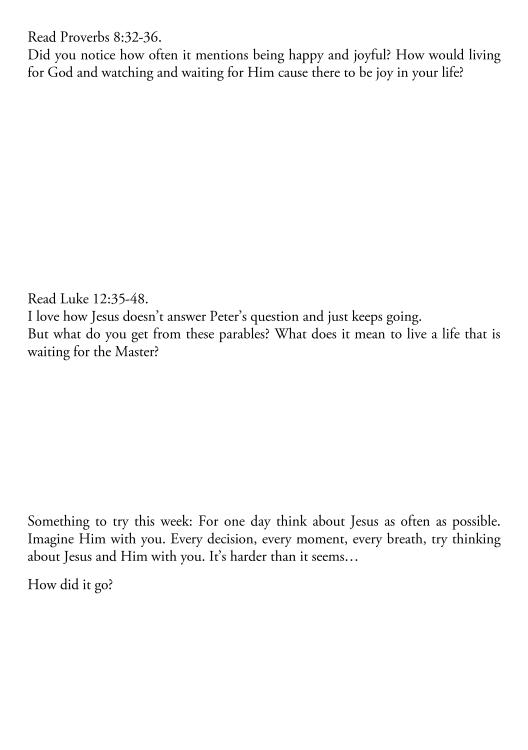
#### WATCHING

# **WAITING**

<sup>3</sup>Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? <sup>4</sup>For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Romans 6:3-4 (NLT)





# VIGILANT IN OUR TIME WITH GOD

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND DOOM SCROLLING? ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO CHECK YOUR SETTINGS AND FIND OUT?

#### **BIBLE**

#### THE SH'MA

<sup>4</sup>Listen, Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! <sup>5</sup>You must love the Lord your God with your whole mind, your whole being, and all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NET)

<sup>6</sup>These words I am commanding you today must be kept in mind, <sup>7</sup>and you must teach them to your children and speak of them as you sit in your house, as you walk along the road, as you lie down, and as you get up. <sup>8</sup>You should tie them as a reminder on your forearm and fasten them as symbols on your forehead. <sup>9</sup>Inscribe them on the doorframes of your houses and gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NET)

BIBLE VERSES EVERYWHERE
SOUNDS FUN
HOBBY LOBBY WOULD HAVE MADE
A KILLING IN ANCIENT ISRAEL

<sup>8</sup>Always remember what is written in the Book of the Teachings. Study it day and night to be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything.

Joshua 1:8 (NCV)

#### PRAYER

<sup>2</sup>Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.

Colossians 4:2 (GNB)

THE FIRST CHRISTIANS PRAYED 3 TIMES PER DAY

FIFTH CENTURY MONKS PRAYED 7 TIMES PER DAY

Modern priests and monks PRAY 4 TIMES PER DAY

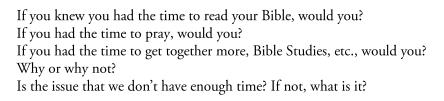
## GETTING TOGETHER

<sup>42</sup>They continually devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to times of prayer. Acts 2:42 (ISV)

Would you come to FIRE & WATER EVERY NIGHT OF THE WEEK?

<sup>2</sup>But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on his laws and thinking about ways to follow him more closely.

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees along a riverbank bearing luscious fruit each season without fail. Their leaves shall never wither, and all they do Psalm 1:2-3 (TLB) shall prosper.



If you were in a serious relationship with someone, how would you spend your time with them? Why that?

Does this translate to how serious we are about knowing Jesus and being His? Why or why not?

Take a moment and look around your bedroom and/or bathroom.

If you could put Scripture somewhere that you would see it and think about the could be a second to be a seco

If you could put Scripture somewhere that you would see it and think about it, where would you put it? Why?

Why don't you try putting some there now?

Read Matthew 6:19-21.  How do we store up treasures in our lives?  If someone were to open the treasure box of your life, what would they find?  So then how do we store up "treasures in heaven"?
Read Matthew 6:5-15. What can you learn about prayer from this? How do you pray? What do you need to pray about? Who do you need to pray for?
Read Hebrews 10:23-25. What encouragement do you get from being with other followers of Jesus? What encouragement to you give from being with other followers of Jesus?

# VIGILANT IN FIGHTING TEMPTATION

TRY READING "THINK LIKE A SPY"
IT'S FASCINATING

<sup>14</sup>We have a great high priest, who has gone into heaven, and he is Jesus the Son of God. That is why we must hold on to what we have said about him. <sup>15</sup>Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin! <sup>16</sup>So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help. Hebrews 4:14-16 (CEV)

<sup>8</sup>Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack. <sup>9</sup>But you must resist the devil and stay strong in your faith. You know that all over the world the Lord's followers are suffering just as you are. <sup>10</sup>But God shows undeserved kindness to everyone. That's why he had Christ Jesus choose you to share in his eternal glory. You will suffer for a while, but God will make you complete, steady, strong, and firm. <sup>11</sup>God will be in control forever! Amen.

I Peter 5:8-11 (CEV)

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE VIEWED GIVING INTO TEMPTATION LIKE GIVING INTO BEING MAULED BY A LION?

## **ADMIT NOTHING**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

<sup>3</sup>Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."

<sup>4</sup>But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'" Luke 4:1-4 (NLT)

# **DENY EVERYTHING**

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup>"I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>I will give it all to you if you will worship me."

<sup>8</sup>Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say,

'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'" Luke 4:5-8 (NLT)

# **COUNTER ACCUSE**

EVERY VERSE JESUS QUOTES IS FROM DEUTERONOMY.

I BET THERE'S A REASON WHY...

<sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! <sup>10</sup>For the Scriptures say,

'He will order his angels to protect and guard you.

<sup>11</sup>And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.' "

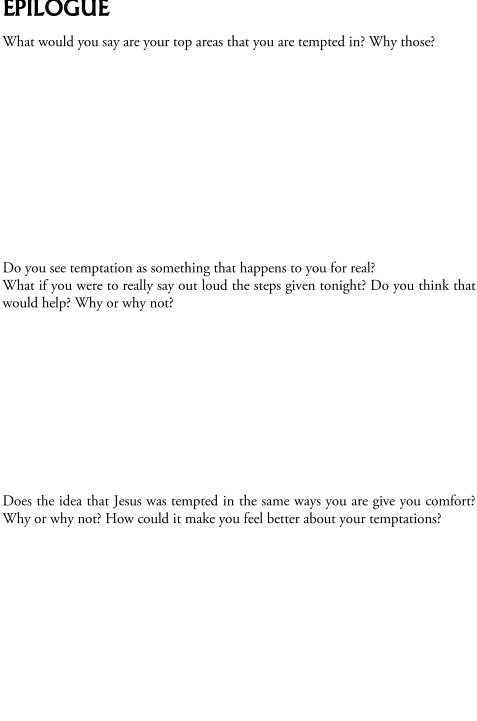
<sup>12</sup>Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" Luke 4:9-12 (NLT)

<sup>11</sup>Dear brothers, you are only visitors here. Since your real home is in heaven, I beg you to keep away from the evil pleasures of this world; they are not for you, for they fight against your very souls.

I Peter 2:11 (TLB)

<sup>7</sup>Don't participate in the things these people do. <sup>8</sup>For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!

Ephesians 5:7-8 (NLT)



Read James 1:12-18.
Do we sometimes put the blame for our temptation on God?
What does this tell us about how badly our enemy really wants to derail the lives
God has for us? How often is that enemy ourselves and our selfishness?
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Read Psalm 119:9-16.

Remember how Jesus quoted Scripture to the devil each time He was tempted? How does this prayerful poem encourage us to know God's Word?

Read I Corinthians 10:12-13.

If there is always a way out of temptation why do we as followers of Christ still make so many mistakes? How can we hold on to this truth and live the lives Christ intended for us?

# VIGILANT IN WELCOMING

# WHAT SAFETY NETS ARE YOU RELYING ON? WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY FAIL?

#### INVITING

<sup>14</sup>But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? <sup>15</sup>And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

Romans 10:14-15 (NLT)

## WELCOMING

<sup>32</sup>The group of believers were united in their hearts and spirit. All those in the group acted as though their private property belonged to everyone in the group. In fact, they shared everything.

Acts 4:32 (NCV)

## LIVING IT

<sup>17</sup>O God, you have helped me from my earliest childhood—and I have constantly testified to others of the wonderful things you do. Psalm 71:17 (TLB)

TRY LOOKING UP THE MAGNET EFFECT.

It's fascinating how true it is.

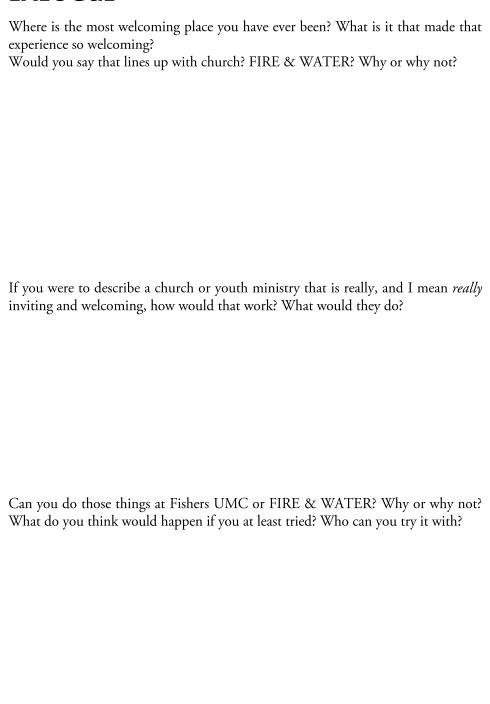
<sup>5</sup>The Spirit of God whets our appetite by giving us a taste of what's ahead. He puts a little of heaven in our hearts so that we'll never settle for less.

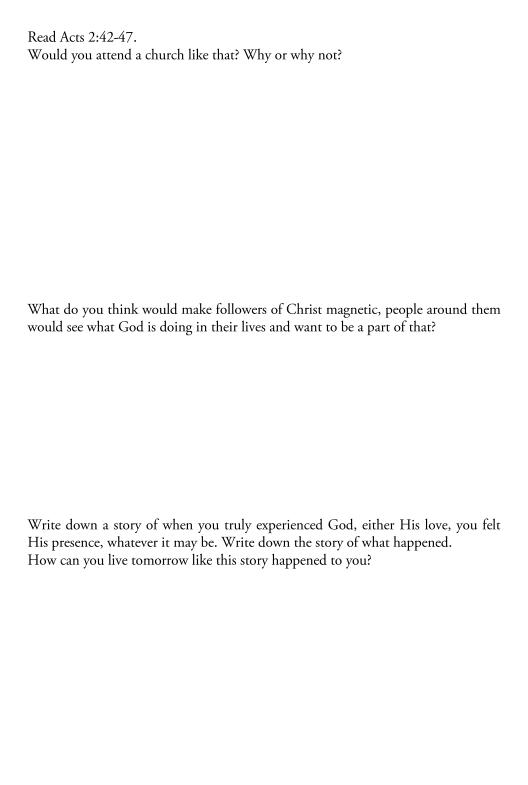
6-8That's why we live with such good cheer. You won't see us drooping our heads or dragging our feet! Cramped conditions here don't get us down. They only remind us of the spacious living conditions ahead. It's what we trust in but don't yet see that keeps us going. Do you suppose a few ruts in the road or rocks in the path are going to stop us? When the time comes, we'll be plenty ready to exchange exile for homecoming.

<sup>9–10</sup>But neither exile nor homecoming is the main thing. Cheerfully pleasing God is the main thing, and that's what we aim to do, regardless of our conditions. Sooner or later we'll all have to face God, regardless of our conditions. We will appear before Christ and take what's coming to us as a result of our actions, either good or bad.

<sup>11–14</sup>That keeps us vigilant, you can be sure. It's no light thing to know that we'll all one day stand in that place of Judgment. That's why we work urgently with everyone we meet to get them ready to face God. God alone knows how well we do this, but I hope you realize how much and deeply we care. We're not saying this to make ourselves look good to you. We just thought it would make you feel good, proud even, that we're on your side and not just nice to your face as so many people are. If I acted crazy, I did it for God; if I acted overly serious, I did it for you. Christ's love has moved me to such extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do.

I Corinthians 5:5-14 (MSG)





# **VIGILANT IN WORSHIP**

"READ IT FOR YOURSELF"
GREAT IDEA...

#### THE LIST

<sup>13</sup>Try to get along with each other. <sup>14</sup>My friends, we beg you to warn anyone who isn't living right. Encourage anyone who feels left out, help all who are weak, and be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup>Don't be hateful to people, just because they are hateful to you. Rather, be good to each other and to everyone else.

<sup>16</sup>Always be joyful <sup>17</sup>and never stop praying. <sup>18</sup>Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do.

<sup>19</sup>Don't turn away God's Spirit <sup>20</sup>or ignore prophecies. <sup>21</sup>Put everything to the test. Accept what is good <sup>22</sup>and don't have anything to do with evil.

I Thessalonians 5:13<sup>b</sup>-22 (CEV)

# How You Live

<sup>17</sup>And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17 (NLT)

HOW ARE YOU LIKE YOUR PARENTS...?

<sup>1</sup>Follow God's example in everything you do just as a much loved child imitates his father.

Ephesians 5:1 (TLB)

#### VIGILANT IN SACRIFICE

<sup>1</sup>So then, my brothers and sisters, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 (GNB)

<sup>23</sup>Then he said to all, "Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and keep close to me! <sup>24</sup>Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it, but whoever insists on keeping his life will lose it; <sup>25</sup>and what profit is there in gaining the whole world when it means forfeiting one's self?

<sup>26</sup>"When I, the Messiah, come in my glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels, I will be ashamed then of all who are ashamed of me and of my words now. <sup>27</sup>But this is the simple truth—some of you who are standing here right now will not die until you have seen the Kingdom of God." Luke 9:23-27 (TLB)

