



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade | Unit 8**

BIBLE 808

Understanding Today's Problems

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Understanding Today's Problems

Introduction

When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God gives us a new destination for the future (heaven) and a new life style for the present (the abundant life). Jesus said (John 10:10), "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." However, living the abundant life does not mean that we will be free from problems. Christians have problems. One reason that we have problems is that we still have the old nature that attempts to control our actions (see Romans 7:15–20). Another reason that we have problems is that Satan does all that he can to make us stumble and sin (see Ephesians 6:12).

Therefore, living the balanced Christian life involves recognizing problems confronting us and then seeking God's answers to meet the problems. As we confront problems and solve them, a maturing process will be taking place in our lives.

In this LIFE PAC®, you will study problems confronting you in three areas of your life: your self, your school, and your planning. You will also discover solutions to these problems and learn how to apply these solutions to your life.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the ways the Bible gives guidance for behavior.
2. Explain the origin and the solution to guilt.
3. Explain the dangers of illegal drugs.
4. Identify the characteristics of friendship.
5. Describe how to study effectively.
6. Tell why some students do not study honestly.
7. Tell how God provides guidance.
8. Explain how to get things done.

1. PROBLEMS WITH SELF

Occasionally everyone has questions concerning how to make right decisions. Christians have the Bible to help them to make right decisions so that their lives will be pleasing to the Lord. When a Christian fails to behave in a proper manner, the Word of God can correct him and then give him encouragement in following the Lord.

In this section of the LIFE PAC, you will learn how to make right decisions that honor the

Lord. In the Scriptures God has given positive commands, negative commands, and guiding principles that you can apply to every situation in your life. You will also learn how to deal with guilt that arises when you have made wrong decisions. Some youth have made wrong decisions and have become involved with illegal drugs. You will learn why some young people take illegal drugs and what such a person should do to correct his behavior.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the ways the Bible gives guidance for behavior.
2. Explain the origin and the solution to guilt.
3. Explain the dangers of illegal drugs.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

conflicting (kun flik' ting). Clashing; opposing.

confront (kun frunt'). To bring together face to face.

covet (kuv' it). To earnestly desire to have more.

descend (di send'). To be born in the line of some ancestor.

dilemma (du lem' u). A situation that requires a difficult choice.

euphoria (yü fôr' ē u). Bodily well-being or happiness.

hallucination (hu lü' su na' shun). Hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, or feeling something that only exists in one's imagination.

hypocrisy (hi pok' ru sē). Pretending to be what one is not.

impart (im pärt'). To give.

incur (in kër'). To bring something on oneself.

inhibition (in' hi bish' un). An inner force that holds back one's impulses.

persuasion (pur swā' zhun). Belief

tranquillity (trang kwil' u tē). Peace and quiet.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFE PAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

KNOWING WHAT TO DO

Many teenagers are unsure about how to know what is acceptable to do and what should not be practiced. A counselor related the following account.

Cathy came into my office one day saying, "I am really puzzled. I just do not know what to do. I attend a good church. My Sunday school teacher says that if I really want my life to count for Christ, then I should not be involved in questionable practices. My friend, Alice, tells me how much fun she had doing some of these things. Here is my **dilemma**. Sometimes I want to join my friend, but my teacher tells me not to become involved in these activities. What should I do?"

Read Colossians 3:12–17;
Ephesians 5:3–4;
and Romans 14:1–15:6.



Cathy's dilemma presents the problem of how to deal with questionable practices. The Bible has the answer. Christians can find the answers to life's dilemmas through the positive commands, the negative commands, and the guiding principles of the Word of God.

Positive commands. The Bible contains many positive commands. These commands give positive direction in a Christian's life, encouraging him on to maturity. For example, the Bible tells us to bear good testimony with our works (Matthew 5:16), to love one another (Galatians 5:14), to be kind to each other (Ephesians 4:32), to speak the truth (Ephesians 4:25), to pray (Colossians 4:2), and so on.



| Consideration of Questionable Practices



Complete this activity.

1.1 From Colossians 3:12–17, list fifteen positive commands that each believer should obey. Show the verse reference for each command.

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| a. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| b. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| c. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| d. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| e. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| f. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| g. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| h. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| i. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| j. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| k. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| l. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| m. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| n. | _____ | verse | _____ |
| o. | _____ | verse | _____ |

Negative commands. In addition to positive commands, the Bible gives clear negative commands that you can apply to your daily life. For example, the Bible teaches that you should

not lie (Colossians 3:9), **covet** (Ephesians 5:3), fellowship with unbelievers (Ephesians 5:11), or create disturbances between believers (Proverbs 6:19).



Complete these activities.

1.2 Using your Bible, write Ephesians 5:3 and 4 on the lines.

1.3 In your own words rewrite the meaning of Ephesians 5:3 and 4.

Guiding principles. For some situations, God has not given a positive or a negative command. For example, the Bible does not contain positive or negative commands concerning attending movies, joining clubs at school, being a cheerleader, or going to parties. In situations like these God has provided guiding principles in the Bible that can be applied to any specific behavior. Five of these principles can be found in Romans chapters 14 and 15. If you memorize these principles, then

you will always know what God wants you to do concerning any questionable practice.

Principle 1. The principle of personal persuasion. Paul teaches in Romans 14:5 that every man should be fully persuaded in his own mind. The word *persuaded* means *convinced* or *assured*. It implies that even when others have doubts, you have no hesitation in your own mind as to what you should do. This kind of persuasion can be seen in a baseball umpire. If the umpire calls a strike, he must be so certain



| Games and Life Have Rules

in his own mind that the call was correct that no one can convince him to change his mind. He is persuaded concerning what he should do.

Principle 2. The principle of not judging others. A second principle that Paul teaches is found in Romans 14:13: "Let us not therefore judge one another any more...." The Greek word translated *judge* in this verse means to *judge with a view to condemning*. Another word in the Greek language translated *judge* in English means to *discern* and occurs in 1 Corinthians 2:15: "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things...." Therefore, believers are to discern situations, but believers are not to judge others with a view to condemning them. Paul explains in Romans 14:10–12 that one reason we are not to judge others is because we all must stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Christ is the only one who is to pass final judgment.

Principle 3. The principle of not being a stumbling block. The problem confronting the believers in Rome involved what foods they could eat. Paul acknowledged that various believers may have different **persuasions** concerning what they can eat and what they should not eat. However, Paul said that what a Christian does ought not to be a stumbling block to others. A stumbling block is something that causes others to trip and fall. The liberty a Christian has to do a certain thing is restricted if that practice will cause others to sin.

Of course, a Christian has to recognize that his actions will not always satisfy everyone. He sometimes may feel that whatever he does,

somebody will criticize him. A wise person will listen to another's criticism and evaluate his own behavior. If his behavior is imitated by someone to whom it is sin, he must cease from that behavior.

Principle 4. The principle of surrendering personal rights. Romans 14:19 says, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." The Greek word translated *follow* means *pursue, make a determined effort*. This verse teaches us to be sure that what we do will *edify* others. The English word *edify* comes from a Latin word that means to *instruct* or to *improve spiritually*. We are to be concerned about helping others to grow toward maturity. Therefore, we may have the freedom to do something, but we should willingly give it up so that we can help others.

Principle 5. The principle of glorifying God. To glorify Principle God means to live the type of life that points others to God. Although your friends cannot see God, they see the works of God in your life. Therefore, Paul wrote (Romans 15:6), "That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

When Paul was writing to the believers in Corinth, he instructed them (1 Corinthians 10:31), "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." A very practical question to ask in everything you do is, "Does this action point people to Christ?"



Answer these questions.

1.4 According to Romans chapter 14, what was the questionable practice that troubled the believers in Rome? _____

1.5 How did the believers in Rome react when they disagreed with each other concerning their behavior? _____



Write true or false.

- 1.6 _____ Paul said that Christians are never to eat meat.
- 1.7 _____ You should evaluate your own behavior.
- 1.8 _____ Christians should avoid behavior that causes a brother or sister to stumble.
- 1.9 _____ A Christian should judge others.
- 1.10 _____ God has given positive and negative commands for all behavior.
- 1.11 _____ Christians should do all things to the glory of God.

Complete this activity.

1.12 List the five guiding principles that apply to questionable behavior.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

DEALING WITH GUILT

When a person sins, he is guilty of unrighteousness and of transgressing God's Law. Guilt is the fact of having done wrong. Guilt is also the feeling of having done wrong, of having sinned. The Bible gives the origin and the solution to the problem of both the fact and the feeling of guilt.

The origin of guilt. The Bible says (Romans 5:12) that "...by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world..." Because all people have **descended** from Adam, they have inherited his nature. When we were born, we were born with a sin nature. That nature is sometimes called the old nature, the old man, or the flesh. No one has to teach us to do wrong or to sin. We sin because of our old sin nature. Someone has to teach us to do right. The following drawing illustrates the nature of a person at birth.

Read Romans 3:23 and 5:12; Galatians 5:16-26; and 1 John 1:3-10.



Because of our nature and consequent actions, we were condemned to death. We had no way to escape the penalty of sin by ourselves. However, God made a way for us through Jesus Christ. Romans 5:8 teaches that "...God commendeth [demonstrated] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." We were condemned to death because of our sin, but Christ died in our place. He also rose from the dead and extends life to all who put their trust in Him. The Bible says (Acts 16:31), "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."

When a person recognizes his position as a sinner and turns to the Lord in faith for forgiveness and life, God gives that person a new nature. Just as the old nature was **imparted**



| Inherited and New Nature

through physical birth, the new nature is **imparted** through spiritual birth, the new birth. The following drawing illustrates the nature of a person at the new birth.

When God gives a person a new nature, He does not take away the old nature. Therefore,

Christians are people with two **conflicting** natures. In Galatians 5:17 the old nature is known as “the flesh,” and the new nature is known as “the Spirit.” Each nature is associated with a characteristic set of behaviors. Christians must not do the works of the flesh, but rather, the works of the Spirit.



Answer these questions.

1.13 What are the two natures of a Christian called?

a. _____

b. _____

1.14 From whom do the two natures come? _____

1.15 Why do people sin? _____

SELF TEST 1

Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-----------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1.01 | _____ | positive commands | a. | 1 Corinthians 10:13 |
| 1.02 | _____ | negative commands | b. | Colossians 3:12-17 |
| 1.03 | _____ | principles | c. | Ephesians 5:3 and 4 |
| 1.04 | _____ | judging others | d. | Hebrews 10:17 |
| 1.05 | _____ | edify one another | e. | Romans chapters 14 and 15 |
| 1.06 | _____ | confessing sins | f. | 1 John 1:9 |
| 1.07 | _____ | forgetting sins | g. | Romans 14:19 |
| 1.08 | _____ | escape temptation | h. | Romans 14:13 |
| 1.09 | _____ | thoughts to honor God | i. | Galatians 5:17 |
| 1.010 | _____ | the two natures | j. | Philippians 4:8 |
| | | | k. | 1 John 1:4 |

Write true or false (each answer, 1 point).

- 1.011 _____ The Bible gives direct commands for all behavior.
- 1.012 _____ The Bible gives no direct commands for behavior.
- 1.013 _____ The Bible gives many principles for behavior.
- 1.014 _____ A person should use illegal drugs whenever he has severe pain.
- 1.015 _____ Doctors prescribe some drugs others use illegally.
- 1.016 _____ When a person becomes a believer, God removes the old sin nature.
- 1.017 _____ Most youth have had opportunities to obtain illegal drugs.
- 1.018 _____ Illegal drugs can have permanent effects.
- 1.019 _____ Illegal drugs have predictable effects.
- 1.020 _____ Christians have unrestricted liberty in their behavior.

Answer these questions (each answer, 5 points).

1.036 Why do people sin? _____

1.037 What are three physical effects of illegal drugs?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

1.038 What are three psychological effects of illegal drugs?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials	date
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