

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

EVERY STUDENT

Goes

Gives

Prays

Welcomes



EVERY STUDENT *Goes*



The lost are why Jesus came to this world. And we must remember that each of us is a beneficiary of His passion for lost souls. He came, seeking to save the lost. Those of us who have been rescued must in turn, by word and deed, proclaim the saving gospel to dying souls around us.^a

–Dr. George O. Wood

Some wish to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a Rescue Shop within a yard of hell.^b

–C.T Studd

If you are reading this right now, it's highly probable that you are one of twenty million students attending college.^c What a privilege, considering the billions of people that make up our world's population. We attend college with the hopes of bettering lives around us through knowledge and expertise, while in turn aspiring to provide for our families and ourselves financially. For four to six years we hunker down, live in a world behind a window, and push the mute button on life outside of a mile or two. The world goes on with its ups and downs, but we are free to focus, study, receive, grow, learn independence, and to live and spend quality time with thousands in our same age range. What a unique freedom and life-altering experience!

While we have this freedom to shut the world out in some sense, focusing in on our studies, there is a much larger world out there beyond what we can see. There is a commission, a command, and a call, given over two-thousand years ago, that was never to be muted, paused, or overlooked—no matter what life phase we find ourselves in. Jesus Christ said He came to seek and save the lost.^d He told His disciples they would fish for men.^e Before He ascended, He told His followers to go and make disciples of the all the nations, to go into all the world and preach the gospel.^f Jesus lived a life, like ours, with social, cultural expectations, and daily responsibilities, yet He never lost sight of His purpose, His mission, and His calling, to reach out and rescue the lost. Because of His sacrifice, we are rescued and free and this freedom beckons us to reach out and rescue others.

First and foremost, while we are attending college, we must take the blinders off so that we can see the lost around us. They are in our classes; they are our professors, our project partners; they are in our clubs, on our intramural sports teams. The mission surrounds us now. Now is the time to reach beyond ourselves while thousands of dying souls are within an arm's length, and the most affluent in our nation and internationally are in our backyard. As we do this, we understand, how we steward our sphere of influence now, is part of the preparation for our spiritual assignment after college. In Chi Alpha, we are given many opportunities during college to go beyond our borders on spring break and summer Expeditions. This gives us an opportunity to move outside our present world and see first-hand the nations that Jesus spoke about. *Every Student Goes* is a reminder that the mandate to reach our world and to continually expand our sphere of influence to cross cultural communities is for each of us.

In the nineteenth century, a young man, named Robert Wilder, responded to this call, along with many others. While attending Princeton University, he invited Arthur Pierson, a pastor and advocate of missions, to speak. Arthur gave a provoking address titled, "Christ means that all should go, and shall go to all." Those twenty-one students, attending the meeting, took that message, that command, as non-optional, and in the next forty years, more than eight-thousand student volunteer missionaries were recruited to evangelize the world!^g As we prepare to study Scripture on this topic, let us ask God with sincere hearts how we are called to finish the work of Jesus and of those student volunteers that said, "Here we are Lord, send us."

God's not conscripting, He's not drafting, but He is asking His sons and daughters, "How far are you willing to go for me?" I believe He is asking us, as His church, to go to the far ends of the earth."^h

–E. Scott Martin

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Scripture Meditation: Matthew 28:19-20

"¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Partner Assignment: Meet with one of the members of your small group this week to pray together, read, and discuss the following passage and questions: **Luke 10:1-16**

1. What does Jesus say in regards to the harvest? Do you feel the conditions of the harvest are the same today? Why or why not?
2. List the commands Christ gives in regards to the harvest.
3. Which verses of this passage do you find the most encouraging and why?
4. Which verses of this passage do you find the most challenging and why?
5. Take some time to pray together for the harvest and ask God for fresh faith and courage to "go" and do as He has commanded you to do.

Pre-Article Question: Describe the most adventurous trip or time in your life. What were the risks involved? How did your friends and family react to the news?

Post-Article Question: What initial thoughts, comments, or observations do you have about the article?

Post-Scripture Questions: Matthew 28:16-20

1. What do you think were some of the thoughts, questions, and concerns the disciples had after Christ said these words and ascended?
2. What proof from other Scriptures throughout the New Testament do we have that the disciples obeyed and took this command as non-optional? Discuss a few of them.
3. Describe what would be the hardest to leave behind and lay down—whether people, attitudes, dreams, or fears—if you were to go to the nations and preach the gospel?
4. According to verse 18, what is the basis for all missions, domestic and frontier?
5. In what ways does going in Christ's authority make a difference in our mission? How have you seen this firsthand as you have reached out to others on your campus?
6. According to verses 19-20, how does one go about making a disciple of the nations? What is holding you back from making disciples now at your university?
7. Describe how has Christ proven himself to be faithful and "with" you thus far in your mission as a student on your campus.
8. If you were to give a year or two, and pray about a life of full-time missions after college, in what ways do Christ's words in verse 20 encourage you?
9. Overall, in what ways has God spoken to you afresh and anew over this brief passage of Scripture? What is He asking you to do practically and spiritually after participating in this study?

To Close: *Take some time as a small group to worship and pray over one another. Ask God to make the Great Commission a priority in each other's lives now, ask God to break off feelings of doubt, fear, or condemnation, knowing He is with you and for you as you reach out now. And lastly, if you are ready, ask God to prepare you and make you open and willing to go to the ends of the earth to serve Him.*

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EVERY STUDENT Gives



For God so loved the world, that He **gave** His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.^a

—John 3:16

Love for God and obedience to God are two faces of the same coin. You absolutely cannot have one without the other.^b

—Angelique McGlotten

Giving; it can be a touchy subject because, it seems, no one really wants to talk about money or how we use it. Jesus, however, did not shy away from talking about finances. In fact, money is in the top three topics he preached on. From the parable of the rich fool in Luke 12, to addressing the difficulties posed by wealth in Matthew 19, Jesus had a lot to say about our money and how we use it.

In Psalm 24:1, the psalmist writes, “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.”^c A right view on money begins with acknowledging that our money isn’t actually ours.^d Not only are our lives subject to Jesus, but so is our money and even our ability to “get wealth.”^e Therefore, learning to use that resource in a way that honors God as the sovereign King is not only important, it is an imperative expression of our love for Him.

Giving isn’t something that God just commands or expects of us, He set the example of real generosity Himself when He gave up His only Son for us. The apostle Paul makes it clear that one benchmark for giving that looks like God is the reality of sacrifice. This is not a new concept; Jesus laid the groundwork for this approach to giving when He explained the foundational principles of discipleship in Matthew 10:37-39:

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.^f

The essence of the generous life, the life of a disciple, is to live dead.^g To follow Jesus we are required to lay down everything, including our possessions. Sometimes He returns them to us to hold lightly, but others may be part of the sacrifice that the Spirit uses to help conform us to the character of Jesus. This is the hard truth that undergirds the good life we are offered in Christ: to save your life, you must lose it for Christ’s sake.

Jim Elliot famously said, “A man is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”^h Money and the material possessions of this life are fleeting and temporary—their only real value are how they are invested.ⁱ If someone looked at your checkbook, would the priorities you claim to have be supported? Are you investing in eternity by giving to make the gospel known to all peoples in all nations, or are you caught up in the seemingly endless cycle of the newest technology, the latest fashions, an extra cup of coffee here, a new movie there? Real giving involves a true revelation of God’s generosity, followed by a response of love that is not afraid to sacrifice.

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Scripture Meditation: 2 Corinthians 9:8

“⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

Partner Assignment: Meet with one of the members of your small group this week to pray together, read, and discuss the following passage and questions: **2 Corinthians 8:1-9**

1. What two kinds of giving does Paul describe in verse 5? What is tithing and why is it important?
2. What foundational reason for giving does Paul give the Corinthians?
3. How does your understanding of what Christ freely did for you influence the way you give to others?
4. Which verses of this passage do you find the most challenging and why?
5. Take some time to pray together for a revelation of the generosity of God the Father and Jesus His Son and ask God for fresh faith and courage to give as He lays on your heart to do so.

Pre-Article Question: Have you ever given financially “beyond your ability?” Tell us the story and how that turned out.

Post-Article Question: What initial thoughts, comments, or observations do you have about the article?

Post-Scripture Questions: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

1. What analogy does Paul use to explain the laws God has set in place concerning giving?
2. Read Leviticus 23:9-14. What does the Lord command His people to do in this passage?
3. Why do you think giving is important to the Lord? (Hint: Read Deuteronomy 8:6-18.)
4. What does Paul reference as the foundation for our giving? (Hint: See 2 Cor. 9:11: God’s grace and His abundance that makes us rich in every way—spiritually, emotionally, even materially sometimes—so that we can be generous on every occasion.)
5. Describe a time in your life when God gave you something so that you could give it away. What was the result? How was your faith in God strengthened through this act?
6. Is it easy or difficult for you to give cheerfully when you feel prompted by the Holy Spirit? Why?
7. How does giving to the point of sacrifice challenge you in your faith?
8. Think about a time when you were on the receiving end of generosity. Did the gift you received cause you to praise God? Why or why not?
9. How is giving related to the Great Commission?
10. Overall, in what ways has God spoken to you afresh and anew over this brief passage of Scripture? What is He asking you to practically and spiritually to put into place in your life after doing this study?
11. Overall, in what ways has God spoken to you afresh and anew over this brief passage of Scripture? What is He asking you to do practically and spiritually after participating in this study?

To Close: *Take some time as a small group to worship and pray over one another. Ask God to give you all a deeper understanding of His generosity and how He wants to demonstrate His love through our generosity. Ask the Lord to show you how you can build the discipline of giving into your life in a way that would deepen your trust in and love for Him.*

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EVERY STUDENT *Prays*



Because there are few workers for the great harvest it is incumbent on the disciples to do something. The particular action Jesus singles out is prayer. In an age like ours we would expect a call to more vigorous and effective action ourselves. But Jesus points to prayer as the real effective thing.^a

—Leon Morris

Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.^b

—Psalm 2:8

We have a problem. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few! In Matthew 9, when Christ refers to the harvest, He's speaking of those ready to receive the good news of the gospel and follow Him. All around the world, including the U.S., so many are ready, open, and willing to receive Christ as their Savior and follow Him. Thousands are ready to enter into His Kingdom, but there is, and has been, a shortage of laborers willing to preach, teach, and be the hands and feet of Christ. Thankfully, our Lord gives us a solution to this alarming situation and it requires action. To our shock, the action is not to book a plane ticket tomorrow, or drop out of school and pass out evangelism tracts day and night. The *first* action Christ requires of us is to pray.

He desires we would *first* ask Him, seek Him, and beseech Him, to send out workers. This should come as no surprise since we see Christ Himself modeling this behavior, spending an entire night praying to God before he picked the twelve apostles through whom the gospel would reach the world: ¹²“One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles.”^c

What a relief that the posture we are all to take is the most possible posture we all can take: prayer. When we take the time to really see the needs around our world for Christ's love, healing, and salvation, it is easy to be overwhelmed or paralyzed by fear and inaction. When we hear of the trials and tribulations of missionaries being martyred, the continual need around them, and the financial obstacles they face, it's just easier to tell ourselves, “Someone else will help. Someone else will give. Someone else will go.” Well, thanks be to God, we cannot make excuses about prayer. Praying for the nations is not for someone else; it is for you and me. All disciples of Christ are called to ask the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers. It is out of God's great love for us that our burden for our nation, other nations, and the world, is relieved through the great act of prayer. Prayer is the greatest and surest action any and every believer can take when there is a need.

Moreover, Christ's call to pray came from the place of compassion. Christ was moved by compassion for the masses of people who had no guide, no help, no way of moving forward. Sheep are helpless, defenseless without a shepherd. Biblical scholar and theologian, William Barclay, writes, “The word which is used for *moved with compassion (splanchnistheis)* is the strongest word for pity in the Greek language... it describes the compassion which moves a man to the deepest depths of his being.”^d This compassion fuels our prayer and the prayer movement around the world for the lost and for the nations.

Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China, was most noted for his reliance on prayer in all things, especially laborers. “After he had been in China for some years, he prayed that God would give twenty-four missionaries, two for each of the eleven provinces and Mongolia, each with millions of souls and with no missionaries. God did it... These twenty-four increased, in the course of time, to a thousand missionaries... Faith may rely on God to move men to do what His children have asked of Him in prayer.”^e Knowing this, we can take responsibility and play our part in God's global mission by first joining with Him in compassionate, earnest prayer. This is the first, humblest, simplest, and greatest approach any man or woman could take before God when it comes to missions.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 7:7-8

⁷Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

1 John 5:14-15

¹⁴This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Scripture Meditation: Psalm 2:8

⁸Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

Partner Assignment: Meet with one of the members of your small group this week to pray together, read, and discuss the following passage and questions: **Luke 18:1-8**

1. What overarching lesson does this parable teach?
2. How does this widow’s prayer life compare or contrast with your experience of prayer?
3. In what ways does this parable encourage and challenge you?
4. How could you apply this parable to praying for the lost around you and the nations?
5. In what practical ways can you make prayer a more persistent and consistent part of your daily spiritual life?

Pre-Article Question: What is the most important prayer you pray/would pray for the world today and why?

Post-Article Question: What initial thoughts, comments, or observations do you have about the article?

Post-Scripture Questions: Matthew 9:35-38, Matthew 7:7-8, and 1 John 5:14

1. In Matthew 9:35, what words are used to describe Jesus’ actions in towns and villages?
2. Which of these actions words have most impacted your spiritual journey recently and why?
3. How does Christ describe the crowds to whom he ministered? In what ways are the crowds Christ ministered to similar to the nations around the world?
4. What motivates Christ to reach them and to teach on the harvest? Can you describe a time in your life when compassion for those lost and dying around you, or overseas, motivated you to serve and reach them?
5. Reread Matthew 7:7-8, and 1 John 5:14. What do these Scriptures teach us about prayer?
6. How would investing in missions through prayer make a difference in your heart and actions for the lost around you and around the world?
7. Which nations are you praying for and what has God laid on your heart to pray? How has this blessed your relationship with Christ?
8. Overall, what is God asking you to practically and spiritually put into place in your life after doing this study on “asking”? How have you been encouraged and challenged tonight?

To Close: *Play some worship music and spend some time asking God, together as a small group, to send laborers to the mission field. Pick a specific nation or people group to start with. From there spend some time asking God to use you to spread the gospel around your campus, to send you into the harvest that is all around you.*



EVERY STUDENT *Welcomes*



The beauty of going to university is that you are headed to the mission field. Instead of going to the world—the whole world comes to you.

Practice hospitality.^a

—Paul

“After several months [of being] involved with Chi Alpha, I realized there was more to it [than just a group of people who hung out] and this is how I start[ed] my new journey with Jesus.”^b This is the testimony of so many international students who are welcomed in Chi Alpha communities across the nation. They come alone, nervous, perhaps not speaking the language as well as they would like, not knowing that Kroger and Safeway are grocery stores and Walmart and Target carry everything. They don’t know the bus system. They may not know where the library is. Even seemingly simple things are a tremendous opportunity to change someone’s life forever.

Think about your own experience. Have you ever been somewhere that was “foreign” to you? Maybe New York City—the place that never sleeps. Or maybe you’ve experienced a language barrier when studying abroad or on a missions trip. Did someone take your hand or stand alongside you and help you out? If not, do you wish someone had? A little love and a little help go a long way when you’re feeling out of place and all alone. Plus, you never know what going out of your way to welcome someone might lead to.

In Acts, Luke gives us examples of believers in Jesus that reached out to offer guidance and hospitality, with tremendous results. In Acts 8:26-40 we read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. This man has a very powerful position in his government—he reports to the queen of Ethiopia—and at the moment we are introduced to him, he is wrestling with the prophetic words of Isaiah, pondering them without comprehending their meaning. The Holy Spirit prompted Philip to walk down the desert road where he met this man and was able to come alongside him and explain the good news about Jesus. The eunuch is saved and baptized at that very first encounter!

It isn’t unreasonable to assume this guy had come to Jerusalem to seek out the truth, because Jerusalem housed the temple and the greatest number of Torah teachers. As a foreigner, he likely would not have been allowed past the court of the Gentiles at the temple, so he probably wouldn’t even have gotten to talk to a priest or anyone with religious authority. But God sent Philip to meet him right where he was with the truth of the gospel and it set him free. Church history has it that this man, this eunuch, brought the gospel to the African continent and much of the early reception of the gospel there resulted from his influence!^c

No matter who you are or what your gifting is, you can show hospitality—in fact it’s a command we get from Paul in Romans 12 and from Jesus in the form of the second greatest commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”^d So when the Holy Spirit prompts you to welcome someone, go for it! You just never know what great things they might do if they get to know Jesus through you.

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.



³¹“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁷³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Scripture Meditation: Hebrews 13:16

¹⁶*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

Partner Assignment: Meet with one of the members of your small group this week to pray together, read, and discuss the following passage and questions: **Genesis 18:1-15 and Hebrews 13:2**

1. What specific acts of hospitality do we see in the Genesis passage?
2. What does the writer of Hebrews exhort his/her readers to do?
3. In what ways could you show hospitality this week?
4. Take some time to pray together for the Lord to give you opportunities to practice hospitality and then commit to telling each other what happened the following week.

Pre-Article Question: Have you ever been welcomed by someone when you were uncomfortable somewhere? How did that impact your experience?

Post-Article Question: What does hospitality have to do with the Christian life? Why do you think it's commanded?

Post-Scripture Questions: Matthew 9:35-38, Matthew 7:7-8, and 1 John 5:14

1. What laid the foundation of Philip's interaction with the Ethiopian eunuch? How did he end up “stumbling upon him” at just the right moment?
2. Read Acts 18:24-28. How does Priscilla and Aquila's welcome mirror Philip's?
3. Read Hebrews 13:2 and Matthew 25:34-36. What do these passages seem to imply? How might that motivate you to show hospitality?
4. Describe some acts of hospitality of which you have been on the receiving end. What kind of impact did they have on you?
5. How can we, as a small group, foster a hospitable culture not only here, but also in large group?
6. What role does the Holy Spirit play in hospitality?
7. Why is it so critical we reach out to international students with the gift of hospitality?
8. Overall, in what ways has God spoken to you afresh and anew over this brief passage of Scripture? What is He asking you to practically and spiritually to put into place in your life after doing this study?

To Close: *Take some time as a small group to plan a specific way to show hospitality to international students this week. Make a plan, pick a day, and pray together that the Lord would give you opportunities to love people genuinely and that this would open people up to the gospel. Then go do it!*

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EVERY STUDENT *Goes*

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EVERY STUDENT *Prays*

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EVERY STUDENT *Welcomes*

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- ^b Virginia Tech: A City Within Itself. Dir. Klint Ciriaco. Prod. Yi Gao. Perf. Anthony Saladino, Brittnee Willoughby, Yi Gao, Simeone Freeman. YouTube. N.p., 22 June 2016. Web. 06 July 2016.
- ^c Wells, Lauren. Personal Interview. 20 April 2016.
- ^d Mark 12:31. Ibid.