

# Little Pilgrim's Progress

## Adventure Guide

By Deanna Conrad

### Guide 1: Chapters 1-10

**Vocabulary (look up or discuss the following words):**

- slough
- obstinate
- pliable
- despond
- symbol

**Questions:**

1. What is the name of the city that Christian lives in, and why does he want to leave to travel to the Celestial City?
2. Who encourages Christian to make the journey?
3. What are the problems Christian feels prevent him from traveling to the Celestial City?
4. Evangelist gives Christian a message written in beautiful gold writing.
  - a. What is the message? Who is it from?
  - b. The message comes from Proverbs 8:17. Read the verse in your Bible and discuss what it means to you.

5. How do Obstinate and Pliable react to Christian's decision to go to the King's City?
6. Describe the first danger Christian and Pliable encounter and their different reactions to this discouragement.
7. What happened to Christian's mother? Where does he hope to see her again?
8. Summarize Mr. Worldly's message to Christian in chapter 6.
9. In chapter 7, Christian feels "ashamed and miserable" for having taken the "wrong path." Christian is concerned that he will be turned away when he reaches the Wicket-gate. Evangelist comforts Christian, telling him the King never turns away a pilgrim at the gate. "You have only to knock, and He will open the gate for you at once."

**Read Mathew 7:7-8:** *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."*

- a. What is promised to an individual who asks?
  - b. To an individual who seeks?
  - c. To an individual who knocks?
10. Why does the Wicked Prince command his soldiers to shoot arrows at those knocking at the Wicket-gate?
  11. Now that Christian is through the gate, he is officially the King's pilgrim.
    - a. What is the name of the path he must travel on?
    - b. How does Christian distinguish this path from any other?
  12. Compare and contrast the two children, Patience and Passion, from chapter 10. Show how they are the same and how they are different.

13. Interpreter takes Christian outside to a place where they can see once of the King's places not far off.
- Describe what Christian observes and learns from this scene.
  - Look up Revelation 21:27 in your Bible. What is the book called in this scene?
14. Consider the first ten chapters of *Little Pilgrim's Progress* and describe the setting of the story.
15. Christian often refers to a "Book" in the story. What does the Book represent?
16. A metaphor is a literary tool in which a term or phrase is applied to something it is not but that it represents.

**Read Psalm 119:105:** *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."*

- How is this verse a metaphor?
  - What does this verse mean to you?
17. Christian is carrying a burden that makes his journey difficult. He describes his burden to Christiana, telling her it is the reason he must leave because only the King can remove it. Keep these two Bible readings in mind as you answer the questions.

**Read Ezekiel 33:10b:** *"Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?"*

**Read Psalm 38:4, 17-18:** *"My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear... For I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity; I am trouble by my sin."*

- What does Christian's burden represent?
- Where and by whom is Christian going to be freed of his burden?

18. Christian admires the picture of the Shepherd that the Interpreter shows him. In your own Bible, read Isaiah 40:11; John 10:11-15; and Hebrews 13:20.

a. According to the Interpreter and the above verses, who is the Good Shepherd? Who are the sheep/lambs?

b. How is the picture going to be an encouragement to Christian?

# Character Matching

Match the following characters from chapters 1-10 to their descriptions.

- A. Friend of Christian's; not a pleasant companion, for he loved to have his own way.
- B. The doorkeeper of the Wicket-gate.
- C. Wise-looking, tall figure with a white beard; shows Christian the Good Shepherd picture and offers him shelter.
- D. A tall, fine-looking man who tries to convince Christian to forget about going to the Celestial City and to live a happy life in his kind village.
- E. Friend of Christian's; peacemaker who follows Christian for a while but abandons him at the Slough of Despond.
- F. Grave and pleasant face with a gentle voice; provides guidance and encouragement to Christian.
- G. Cross and discontent, he wants his pleasure right now instead of at the proper time.
- H. King's servant; a kindhearted boy who helps pull Christian from the Slough of Despond.

Evangelist	
Obstinate	
Pliable	
Help	
Worldly	
Goodwill	
Interpreter	
Passion	

## Guide 2: Chapters 11-22

Vocabulary (look up or discuss the following words)

- sloth
- presumption
- formal
- hypocrisy
- timid
- discretion
- piety
- prudence
- charity
- faithful
- idleness

Questions:

1. Describe Christian's arrival at the cross.
2. After Christian's burden is removed, he is visited by three servants of the kind called Shining Ones. Name the three gifts they give Christian.
3. In chapter 12, what lesson do you learn about idleness from Presumption, Sloth, and Simple?
4. Formalist and Hypocrisy confidently believe they do not need to enter through the gate. Where are Formalist and Hypocrisy from? Why is it important to enter through the gate and not create shortcuts?
5. What do Formalist and Hypocrisy find to be the results of creating their own path around the Hill of Difficulty?
6. How does Christian's idleness affect his journey in chapters 14-15 and how is Watchful able to help him?

7. Christian spends three days at the Palace Beautiful. While there, he receives several pieces of armor from Discretion and her three daughters. Identify each piece. Who is the true giver of the armor?
8. Before leaving the Palace Beautiful, Watchful provides Christian with some pleasing news. Explain.
9. In chapters 19-20 Christian faces a fierce enemy. Who is this enemy and how is he described?
10. There are two parts of the battle Christian fights with Self. The first phase is the battle of the mind.
  - a. How does Self try to defeat Christian's mind?
  - b. Have you ever felt attacked by guilt or discouragement? Describe.
11. Christian defeats Self in the first phase of the battle with a very important truth. What is that truth?
12. Chapter 20 finds Christian in the second phase of the battle, which is now physical. What does Christian use to physically defeat his enemy?
13. The narrator states that she believes the Dark Valley to be the worst part of Christian's pilgrimage.
  - a. Describe how the Dark Valley is especially discouraging.
  - b. What brings Christian comfort as he nears the end of the valley?
  - c. Perhaps Christian was hearing the words of Psalm 23:4. Write it out below.
14. Who does Christian finally catch up with on his journey?
15. In chapter 12, Presumption tells Christian, "Go on your journey and don't meddle with other people."

a. Define meddle:

b. Think about the following verses from the Bible. Read **Matthew 28:18-20**:  
*“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the every end of the age.’”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:14**: *“And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak be patient with everyone.”*

Using these verses, explain what you think the Bible says about “meddling” with others.

16. Entering specifically through the Wicket-gate is again highlighted in chapter 13. Thinking allegorically, read the following verses about the gate.

**Matthew 7:13-14**: *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*

**John 10:7, 9a**: *“Therefore Jesus said again, ‘I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep’ ... ‘I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.’”*

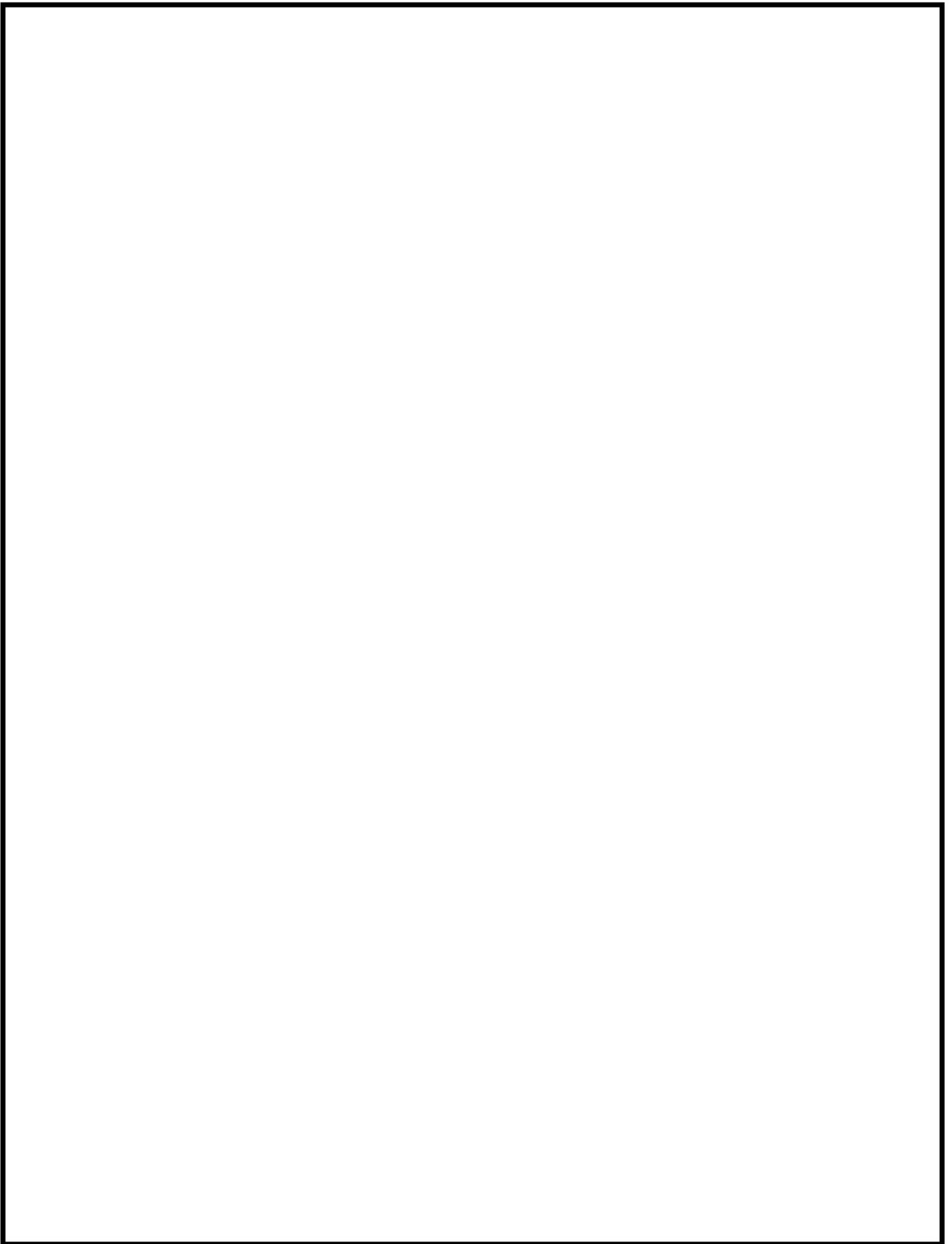
**Acts 4:12**: *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”*

The emphasis of the Wicket-gate is symbolic of the verses above. Explain.

17. **Read 1 Peter 5:8-9a**: *“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in your faith.”*

**Romans 13:1b**: *“For there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”*

How are these verses a reflection of Watchman’s words to Christian, “Don’t be frightened; the lions are both chained. Keep to the middle of the path, and they will not hurt you”?



# Character Matching

Match the following characters from chapters 11-22 to their descriptions.

- A. Travel companions who sneak over the wall rather than entering through the gate; they also choose their own way at the Hill of Difficulty.
- B. Doorkeeper of the Palace Beautiful who directs Christian around the lions.
- C. Mistress of the Palace Beautiful who takes Christian in and feeds him.
- D. Two boys fearful of the lion; they try to discourage Christian with the trouble that lies ahead.
- E. Three brothers asleep with bound feet, idles and unaware of their circumstance.
- F. Three persons wearing shining white robes who give Christian new clothes and a parchment paper.
- G. Evil-looking man; one of the chief officers in the army of the Wicked Prince who battles fiercely with Christian.
- H. Three daughters at the Palace Beautiful who ask Christian many questions about his journey.

Discretion	
Mistrust and Timorous	
Shining Ones	
Self	
Formalist and Hypocrisy	
Watchful	
Piety, Prudence, Charity	
Simple, Sloth, Presumption	

# Guide 3: Chapters 23-36

**Vocabulary (look up or discuss the following words):**

- justice
- discontent
- vexed
- vanity
- envy
- stile
- diffidence

**Questions:**

1. Briefly describe Faithful's pilgrimage.
2. What encouragement and warning concerning the road ahead does Evangelist give the little pilgrims in chapter 25?
3. Explain why the Wicked Prince chose to put Vanity Fair in that specific location.
4. Describe the city of Vanity Fair.
5. Chapter 26 read, "the Wicked Prince took care to give [the wayward pilgrims] plenty of things to enjoy so that they might never have a moment to spare in which to think of the King whom they had forsaken."
  - a. Define distraction:
  - b. What are some things you enjoy that also might distract you?
6. Define persecution:
  - a. Why are the boys beaten in Vanity Fair?
  - b. How do Christian and faithful respond to their persecution?
  - c. What are some kinds of persecution someone your age might experience?

7. Faithful is put to death in Vanity Fair for speaking boldly about his devotion to the King. Remembering Evangelist's encouraging words from chapter 25 and reading the final events of chapter 28, explain how Faithful is the victor even in his death.
8. Considering Faithful's courage and strength to speak about his love for the King while knowing he would be punished for his boldness, please give chapter 28 a more honoring title.
9. Faithful and Christian are powerful examples of the King's pilgrims to the people of Vanity Fair-so powerful, that after Faithful's death and Christian is set free, a boy from Vanity Fair decides to leave the wicked city to join Christian on his journey. Who is this boy?

10. Where does the King provide rest for Christian and Hopeful?

The word "rest" is mentioned 324 times in the Bible (NIV). God appoints one entire day to rest on the Sabbath. Why do you think rest is so important?

11. Why do the boys leave the path and cross the stile into Bypath Meadow?

What are the horrible results of this choice?

12. Knowing that the Giant Despair is "one of the most famous soldiers of the Wicked Prince," it is important to understand the word despair.

Define Despair:

13. How do Hopeful and Christian finally escape the dungeon of Doubting Castle?

How do Hopeful and Christian try to help future pilgrims avoid the trouble they had experienced at Doubting Castle?

14. Christian has experienced various hardships since beginning his trip to the Celestial City; the loss of his companion, Faithful, in Vanity Fair being the most difficult. Read the following Bible verses about difficulty and hardship.

**Matthew 13:21:** *“But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.”*

**John 16:33:** *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

Is the choice to follow the King always a smooth, easy road without pain and suffering? Name some people from the Bible who served God but experienced hardship.

15. Though we will face difficulties in this life, we also are promised that God is with us. Read the following:

**Psalm 138:7:** *“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me.”*

**Psalm 46:1:** *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”*

**Psalm 56:3:** *“When I am afraid, I will trust in you.”*

**Psalm 57:1:** *“Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.”*

Describe how these verses can be helpful to you during a difficult experience.

16. The Giant Despair and his wife, Diffidence, hate the King and set out to stop pilgrims from going to the Celestial City. The circumstances of their dungeon are both cruel and evil.

**Read James 1:2-4:** *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”*

**James 1:12:** *“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”*

a. Define perseverance:

b. How do Christian and Hopeful exercise perseverance while in Giant Despair's dungeon?

## Guide 4: Chapters 37-49

**Vocabulary (look up or discuss the following words):**

- ignorance
- conceit
- enchanted
- flattery

**Questions:**

1. What country is Ignorance from? Has Ignorance been through the Wicket-gate?
2. In chapter 39, Christian and Hopeful are passed by soldiers of the Wicked Prince who are carrying a pilgrim prisoner. How did this pilgrim become their prisoner? Based upon his character and experiences, give this pilgrim a fitting name.
3. The pilgrims have faced lions, giants, dungeons, and wicked cities. How is the Enchanted Ground just as dangerous?
4. In chapter 44 we read that although Ignorance is “careless” in his pilgrimage, he meets “with no trouble or difficulty.” Why?
5. Who is never permitted to enter the Land of Delight? Why are the pilgrims there?
6. Describe Ignorance’s fate.
7. How does Hopeful encourage Christian as the cross the Dark River?
8. What does the Dark River symbolize?
9. Who is there to greet Christian when he arrives at the Celestial City?

10. Fill in the blanks of these excerpts from Chapter 49:

When Christian and Hopeful passed through the gateway, they found a great company waiting to receive them with sweet music and songs of welcome. Everyone looked glad and happy, for there was no \_\_\_\_\_ in the Celestial City, and no \_\_\_\_\_, and no \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ Himself was waiting to receive them, and He smiled upon them and took their \_\_\_\_\_ in His own. Then He led them into the Palace, and the whole City was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ because their pilgrimage was over and they had been brought safely through the Dark River into the presence of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 25:21:** *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant? You have been faithful... Come and share your master's happiness.'"*

11. After the pilgrims are rescued from the Flatterer by the Shining Ones they are punished. Also, remember that Faithful was punished by Justice in chapter 23.

- Consider the circumstances of these punishments and explain why the King's servants punish the pilgrims.

- Have you ever been disobedient and punished for it?

**Read Hebrews 12:5-6, 10-11:** *"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son"...*

*"Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."*

- What do these verses say about discipline?

12. Although Christian's journey was not easy, he was encouraged many times along the Way. His two greatest encouragers were his traveling companions,

Faithful and Hopeful. Read the following verses about friendship, and the comfort and encouragement that God sends through friends.

**Ecclesiastes 4:10:** *“If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up.”*

**Proverbs 17:17:** *“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”*

**2 Corinthians 7:6-7a:** *“But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him.”*

**James 4:4:** *“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”*

What have you learned from Christian and his traveling companions about being a friend and choosing a friend? Describe how you can be a better friend.

# Character Matching

Match the following characters from chapters 11-22 to their descriptions.

- A. Too idle and fond of his own comfort to be willing to serve the King faithfully.
- B. Servant of the Wicked Prince; tempts pilgrims with riches.
- C. Vain and foolish; pretends to be a pilgrim to amuse himself; talks about the King but doesn't follow Him.
- D. Entices and deceives Christian and Hopeful; captures them with his net.
- E. Master of Doubting Castle who hates the King and imprisons pilgrims in his dungeon.
- F. Flees Vanity Fair after Faithful's death to join Christian.
- G. Good intentions, however, relies on himself and is not obedient in entering through the Wicket-gate.
- H. A town of all material pleasures and everything pleasant; established by the Wicked Prince, a city of temptation and distraction for pilgrims on their journey.
- I. A good-natured and happy man who laughs at the pilgrims and tells them there is no such thing as a Celestial City.

Talkative	
Vanity Fair	
Hopeful	
By-Ends	
Demas	
Giant Despair and Diffidence	
Ignorance	
Unbelief	
Flatterer	