

Winning the Race – Vocabulary

A

Abomination – Something that is hated, disgusting, or detestable (p. 58)

Abound – To increase, fill, and overflow (p. 25)

Alpha and Omega – The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet; in the Book of Revelation, a phrase referring to God’s power over all things, beginning to end (p. 137)

Ambassador – A messenger or representative; someone who represents another (p. 93)

Antichrist – Someone who is against Jesus Christ (p. 151)

Apostle – A “sent one”; a witness of the resurrection of Jesus (p. 128)

Archangel – An angel appointed over a special task; a chief angel (p. 146)

Ark of the Covenant – A gold-plated chest containing important items from Israel’s history, including the Ten Commandments; a symbol of God’s presence with His people (p. 48)

Armageddon – Greek for “hill of Megiddo”; in Scripture, the place where Christ destroys the armies that have gathered against Him (p. 157)

Ascension – The event in which one rises upward; in Scripture, Jesus’ rise from Earth to heaven (p. 128)

Atonement – When something wrong is erased or canceled (p. 5)

B

Ba’al – An Old Testament name for many local false gods; can mean “lord” or “ruler” (p. 20)

Baptize – To use water to symbolize someone’s new relationship with God (p. 63)

The Beatitudes – Eight “blessings” that begin Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (p. 118)

Beelzebub / Beelzebul – A name used in Scripture to refer to Satan or another demon (p. 67)

Bitterness – Hating someone for past wrongdoing; rehearsing someone’s faults in your mind (p. 38)

Blasphemy – Insulting God or something sacred; saying something untrue about God (p. 123)

Blessed – Having special favor, grace, or happiness (p. 118)

The Book of Life – God’s record of everyone redeemed by Jesus Christ (p. 161)

C

Carnal – Relating to physical desires and appetites; often relating to sinful pleasure (p. 79)

Censer – A bowl or container for burning incense (p. 151)

Centurion – A Roman military officer; traditionally commanded 100 soldiers, but often more (p. 108)

Chaff – The empty husks left behind after threshing grain; the useless part of the plant (p. 43)

Commandment – A law or rule; in Exodus, the Ten Commandments begin God’s Law (p. 48)

Confess – To admit wrongdoing; to reveal what you believe (p. 38)

Conform – To become like something or someone (p. 25)

Conscience – Inner feelings of right or wrong; our moral sense (p. 98)

Contentment – Peace and gratitude for what we already have; happiness in our current state (p. 75)

The Council / Sanhedrin – A group of Jewish leaders who made legal and religious decisions for the people (p. 123)

Covenant – A binding agreement between two or more people; a promise (p. 10)

Coveting / Envy – Wanting something that another person has, even if it's sinful to take (p. 75)

Crucifixion – A method of execution; killing someone by attaching them to an upright piece of wood and leaving them to die (p. 123)

D

The Day of the Lord – In Scripture, a time when God fulfills His promises in an undeniable way (p. 151)

Deceit – Lying; making a false statement (p. 38)

Defile – To corrupt; to make unholy or impure (p. 58)

Devil – Another name for Satan; means “liar” or “deceiver” (p. 79)

Disciple – A student or follower who learns from a teacher (p. 25)

Doctrine – An important teaching or belief, often by a religious group (p. 10)

Doubt – To distrust; a feeling of uncertainty or unbelief about something (p. 15)

E

The Elect – In Scripture, another term for Christians; people chosen by God (p. 151)

Envy / Coveting – Wanting something that another person has, even if it's sinful to take (p. 75)

Epistle – A letter; one of the 21 letters in the New Testament (p. 5)

Exalt – To lift higher; to call attention to (p. 25)

F

The Fall – Humanity's turn from God toward sin and death; the results of the first sin (p. 84)

Famine – A time when many people have very little food (p. 151)

Fasting – Choosing not to eat, often to focus on praying or some other spiritual activity (p. 75)

Favor – Special blessings or grace; goodwill (p. 34)

Firstborn – The first child of a husband and wife (p. 53)

Fleece – A coat of wool; often taken from sheep (p. 20)

The Flesh – The part of us that wants to sin; our mortal weakness (p. 29)

Flog / Scourge – To beat or lash with a whip (p. 123)

Foolishness – Refusing to learn; using knowledge poorly; the opposite of wisdom (p. 71)

Foreknowledge – To know something ahead of time; to know about an event before it happens (p. 123)

Forerunner – Someone who goes ahead of another, often to prepare the way (p. 63)

Forgive – To not hold people's wrongs or failures against them; to give up revenge (p. 38)

G

Gentile – A term for someone who is not Jewish (p. 113)

Glorify – To give honor and praise to someone; in Scripture, to point toward God's glory (p. 25)

Glory – The honor, praise, or credit for being great (p. 20)

Gospel – “Good news” or teaching about Jesus (p. 5)

The Great Commission – The task Jesus gave His followers to make more disciples for Him (p. 128)

Greed – A desire for more than what is good or needed; the opposite of gratitude (p. 75)

H

Hallowed – Set apart as special, sacred, or holy (p. 118)

The Heart – Used in Scripture to mean our deepest beliefs and attitudes; our core, inner self (p. 58)

Honor – To show great respect or reverence; to value the good in someone (p. 48)

Hypocrite – Someone who pretends to be better than they are; a person who contradicts their words with their actions (p. 58)

I

Idolatry – The practice of worshiping idols or false gods (p. 10)

Iniquity – A wicked or evil action; a sin (p. 103)

Inspiration – The way God worked through human writers to record Scripture; “God-breathed” (p. 10)

J

Justice – The state of being just, lawful, or right; fair punishment for wrongdoing (p. 53)

Justify – To declare that someone is innocent or righteous; to defend something as right (p. 137)

L

Leaven / Yeast – A single-cell fungus used in breadmaking to help the dough rise (p. 98)

Leprosy – In Scripture, a term to describe diseases that could result in sores, loss of feeling, and deformities; was once untreatable (p. 108)

M

Magistrate – A government official that helps apply and enforce the law (p. 29)

Malice – The desire to harm someone; hurtful thoughts (p. 38)

Manna – A bread-like food that God gave Israel in the wilderness (p. 84)

Martyr – Someone killed for their religious beliefs (p. 151)

Meditate – To think deeply and continually about something (p. 43)

Millennium – One thousand years; in Scripture, a time when Christ reigns physically on Earth (p. 157)

Miracle – A divinely-caused event that does not follow the laws of nature (p. 108)

O

Obey – To do what someone else says to do; to comply or submit your will to another (p. 48)

P

Pagan – Relating to a religion that worships many gods or even nature itself (p. 103)

Parable – A story that pictures or illustrates a lesson (p. 15)

Passover – A Jewish holiday celebrating the day God rescued the Israelites from Egypt (p. 103)

Peacemaker – A person who ends conflict in a lasting way (p. 118)

Pentecost – The “fiftieth day” after Easter; when the Spirit first arrived to bless the Church (p. 132)

Persecute – To continually oppress or mistreat people, often for their religion or ethnicity (p. 58)

Pharisees – A Jewish religious group that added their own rules to God’s law (p. 58)

Plague – A disaster for a large number of people; in Scripture, often reveals God’s judgment (p. 103)

Prophet – Someone who shares a spiritual message (p. 5)

Propitiation – The act of propitiating; avoiding God’s judgment for sin by offering a sacrifice (p. 103)

Proverb – A wise saying; a short statement that teaches a general principle (p. 71)

R

Rapture – To grab or take away; a name for the event in which Christ takes believers to be with Him in heaven (p. 146)

Rebel – To oppose a ruler or some other authority, often with hatred or violence (p. 53)

Rebuke / Reproof – To tell people that they have done wrong (p. 10)

Reconciliation – The act of reconciling; restoring a good relationship (p. 93)

Rejoice – To take joy from something good; in Scripture, to appreciate God’s gifts (p. 34)

Repent – To regret sin and turn back toward God; to ask God to forgive you (p. 38)

Reproof / Rebuke – To tell people that they have done wrong (p. 10)

Resurrection – The event in which someone dead becomes alive again (p. 128)

Revelation – Something that is revealed or shown; God’s communication to us (p. 15)

S

Sackcloth – Rough fabric used for sacks or bags; in Scripture, often worn to show sadness (p. 75)

Saint – A sacred or holy person; in Scripture, a term for a believer or Christian (p. 146)

Samaritan – In Jesus’ time, a person from Samaria who descended from both Jews and Gentiles (p. 113)

Sanctify – To make holy or sacred; to set apart for a special purpose (p. 25)

Sanhedrin / The Council – A group of Jewish leaders who made legal and religious decisions for the people (p. 123)

Satan – An evil being opposed to God and those who follow Him; means “adversary” (p. 79)

Scourge / Flog – To beat or lash with a whip (p. 123)

Scripture – Sacred writings; another name for the Bible (p. 5)

The Sermon on the Mount – The longest message from Jesus recorded in the Gospels (p. 118)

Sin – Turning away from God; to break God’s Law (p. 38)

Sovereignty – Power and authority; in Scripture, God’s sole rulership over everything (p. 137)

Stricken – Struck or beaten; suffering under violent abuse (p. 103)

Submit – To serve someone or follow leadership; to put your wants under another’s (p. 29)

Synagogue – A gathering place for Jews to learn and worship (p. 108)

T

Tabernacle – In Scripture, a tent compound where God showed His presence to Israel (p. 5)

Temple – A holy or sacred place for worship (p. 93)

Temptation – The act of tempting; any pressure to do wrong; can refer to the thing that tempts (p. 84)

Testament – A promise or record; the name for the two major divisions of books in the Bible (p. 5)

Testimony – A record or witness, often of something important (p. 67)

Thresh – To separate grain from the rest of the plant (p. 20)

Tongues – In the New Testament, a term for different languages (p. 132)

Tradition – A custom that is practiced over a long time; a long-held set of beliefs (p. 58)

Trespass / Transgress – To step over a line or boundary; to break a rule (p. 79)

Tribulation – Great suffering, hardship, or trouble (p. 141)

V

Vineyard – A place for growing grapevines (p. 15)

Vow – A serious, unbreakable promise, sometimes to God Himself (p. 53)

W

Winepress – In ancient times, a hard floor or pit where people squeezed grapes to make wine (p. 20)

Wisdom – The ability to use knowledge well; insight and understanding (p. 10)

The World – In Scripture, can mean the system of power built by those who oppose God (p. 79)

Wormwood – A very bitter herb (p. 151)

Y

Yeast / Leaven – A single-cell fungus used in breadmaking to help the dough rise (p. 98)