

**Membership** † Discipleship † Leadership

Hebrews 10:24-25 *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching”*

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_.  
“belonging to a congregation of believers who assemble themselves to be edified by faith that they may be fully equipped to do the works of God”

## “Baggage Claims”

† Proverbs 4:7 *“Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding”*

You’ve planned the trip of your life and now you’re ready for the journey. Your plan may experience turbulent times (hit by the winds of worry and the disasters of disturbance). You feel the shaking and you get nervous. However, you remain calm. As your plan begins to land on solid ground, it’s time to walk the runway. You appear confident, courageous, competent and ready for the challenge. In your carry on you conceal the reality of insecurities and the need for validation. No one can see past the facade because you mask so well. Now you have arrived to claim your baggage. We’ve all had bags to carry. Carrying bags is not gender specific. As the carousel of life spins, you look for what belongs to you. You see all sorts of bags...

**Reimbursement:** When we carry oversized baggage it is stressful on the mind, body and spirit. The price for carrying too much baggage can really be expensive. It causes stress, depression and all sorts of physical dysfunction. Your past may have been negative and painful but your future is still positive and productive. You may have had your childhood innocence stolen. Someone damaged your self-esteem and self-worth with physical, verbal or emotional abuse. You want to be compensated for everything that was taken from you without your consent. You feel they don’t deserve your forgiveness and your anger is rightfully justified. Maybe you have done some things that you feel does not deserve forgiveness. You may feel that in some way, you allowed things to happen. You cannot *effectively* serve in the kingdom carrying the pains of the past (Luke 9:62). The baggage is getting too heavy to carry. Let us lay aside every weight (Heb 12:1). You cannot take excess weight into the promise land. Just because you have made some bad decisions, does not mean you’re a bad person. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new (CEV). Jesus reimbursed you when He died on the cross. His resurrection serves as reimbursement. Meditate on Matthew 11:28 and trust God for total restoration!

† Romans 12:2 “. . . be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

**Resemblance:** In airports all across the country, baggage is reported stolen. A percentage of those bags are recovered due to mistaken identity. The bag resembled what they were looking for so they claimed it. Some are so appealing to the eye we get tempted to take it knowing that it does not belong to us. The bag looks really good on the outside. Therefore, we give little thought to the content inside. So many of us fall into this type of deception and trickery. People resemble what we’re looking for so we connect with them based on what they appear to be. After the relationship is established, they reveal what’s on the inside. Sometimes we hold people accountable because they resemble the betrayal and mistreatment that we experienced in the past. We can’t charge innocent people foolishly. Have you ever picked up the wrong baggage, claimed it and later realized it was not what or who you thought it was? Meditate on 1 Sam 16:7 and trust God for total reconciliation!

**Relapsed:** All of us have overcome something that once had control over us. When faced with discouragement and disappointment, it’s easy to succumb to what once had us bound. We’re praying, fasting and reading our bible. At the same time we’re contemplating and compromising. Therefore, you pack light to reserve space for any addictions you may revert to along the way. Self-destructive thoughts and certain learned behaviors will destroy you. We must refuse to let anything have power over us (1 Cor 6:12). Some addictions such as promiscuity, gambling or over eating to fill a void have the tendency to be tolerated. What are you turning to, to fill the void? Meditate on 2 Corinthians 4:17 and trust God for total recovery!

✍ Weekly assignment: Memorize the meditation scriptures for reassurance. Release it!

✍ † Psalm 119:11 “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”

Day/ Week of	Daily Reading	What verse had the most impact? ex: Ruth 2:12 “a full reward be given you by the LORD ”
Monday <input type="checkbox"/>	Judges 4-6	
Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/>	Judges 7-9	
Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/>	Judges 10-12	
Thursday <input type="checkbox"/>	Judges 13-15	
Friday <input type="checkbox"/>	Judges 16-18	
Saturday <input type="checkbox"/>	Judges 19-21	
Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruth 1-4	

Submit questions to MCCquestions@yahoo.com

