

What is this TXT Fondue program about?

The purpose of this program is to help you understand that God the Father want to be in touch with you. He does this in several ways, like through the Bible and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The questions we discuss come down to: "What is the importance of the Bible?" The Bible was given to us and is also called the Word of God the Father. We want to excite you for how God the Father speaks through his Word, the Bible. In any case, everyone needs a Bible for the closing question, but for other questions multiple Bibles also come in handy. Additionally, several pens and sheets of paper are necessary.

How is a TXT Fondue played?

Two teams take turns in asking each other questions. There usually are 12 questions for each team. The team that has question 1a begins with asking. After the question has been asked and in some cases a passage from the Scriptures has been read, the other team has one minute to discuss their answer. Then they give their final answer and the team that asked the question decides whether the answer is correct. Keep in mind that if your team demands strict answers, the other team will do the same.

Not the answer but the process

With a TXT Fondue, it's not about the answer, but all about the process. Questions will lead to new questions, which is good, but keep these thoughts until after the TXT Fondue, so that the program may continue fluently and dynamically. That is important, because a TXT Fondue is actually a sermon that is divided into chunks. It is apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42), so just like any sermon it has a structure that builds up to an application. Those who wish to go in-depth can do so afterwards.

Referee

Like the referee ensures that the rules of play are respected, the elder in a house feast supervises that all that is said remains Biblical (1 Timothy 4:16). There are just two rules: if someone says something unbiblical, the elder takes corrective action, like a referee in football issues a yellow card. In case of sin, he intervenes, comparable to a red card.

Feedback

Have you got a suggestion? Did you discover an error in a TXT Fondue program? Let us know through HuisfeestNetwerk.org! Questions regarding the contents can be discussed with the House Feast Network at facebook.com/HouseFeastNetwork.

Version: July 19, 2013.

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What is the House Feast Network?

Those who are in the house feasts intend to reach all people in their own network who have not yet been reached with the gospel.

Networking

Of course you are curious to see how other house feasts do things. You wish to pay each other visits, help each other, and in any case you celebrate a large feast together, three times a year. To facilitate this, we have set up a House Feast Network group on Facebook: facebook.com/HouseFeastNetwork. Elders can exchange their experiences at facebook.com/groups/Oudsten.

Share impressions

House feasts support one another by continually sharing photos in "The House Feast Network". House feasts unite because of this. We prefer that the ambience pictures you share do not intrude people's privacy.

What is the Learnhouse?

A collection of 84 TXT Fondue programs together form a complete training to spiritual maturity. It is composed of 7 fundaments, with 12 programs per fundaments. The program you now hold is part of the second fundament: baptism

We recommend you to read the book of Deuteronomy while you take the 12 lessons in this fundament.

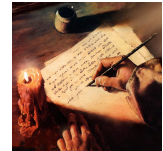
Previous program:
2.01 God the Father

This program:
2.02 Bible

Next program:
2.03 Resurrection

For an overview of all programs, see the [Learnhouse](#).

	1. Conversion					
1	↓					
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1a. God the Father comes to you in and through the Bible. John 1:1–5 says:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

What or who is meant here by “the Word”?

(answer) King Jesus is the Word of God the Father that has become flesh.



2a. (Please read the bold text of this question aloud.)

Someone from the team asking the question will describe what, besides manna, is another image of the Word of God the Father in the tabernacle. The other team will try and guess these “forbidden words”.

(answer) The table with (shew)bread.



3a. (Please read the bold text of this question aloud.)

When the Bible is “spiritual food”, how should you use it? Someone from the team asking the question will demonstrate through lip reading which three activities you carry out with the Bible. The other team will try and guess these three words.

(answer) The other team must name all three points:

- Read.
- Study.
- Apply.

4a. King Jesus says in Matthew 5:18 (CJB): “Yes indeed! I tell you that until heaven and earth pass away, not so much as a *yud* or a stroke will pass from the Torah — not until everything that must happen has happened.” For how long is the Bible valid?

(answer) Until heaven and earth disappear, after which the new heaven follows, so: forever.

(comment) A *yud* (or *yodh*) is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. A stroke (or tittle) is a dot, a diacritic, that is used to add accents to the text. Other Bible verses also speak of the everlasting nature of the Word of God the Father, such as Isaiah 40:8: “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

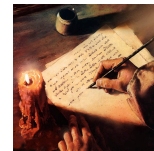
5a. There is more interesting going on with the Bible book Isaiah. We will explain this using the rectangles on page 10. The top rectangle (rectangle 1) stands for the entire Bible book Isaiah. Just like the complete Bible, it consists of two parts. In other words, the smaller right part is the “second part” of Isaiah, chapter 40 through 66.

This second part of Isaiah can be divided into three equal parts of nine chapters each (rectangle 2):

- 1. The first group is about comforting the people of God the Father.**
- 2. The middle group is about the “Servant of the LORD”. We know him as King Jesus, and it clearly describes that He had to die and also rise again.**
- 3. The third group is about the glorious future.**

The middle group of nine chapters can also be divided in three equal parts of three chapters each (rectangle 3) and the middle group of three chapters can in turn be divided in three separate chapters (rectangle 4).

[continues on page 3]



[5a. continued]

This middle chapter is the core of the book Isaiah and also of the Bible. This chapter is twelve verses long, so this chapter can be divided in three equal parts of four Bible verses each (rectangle 5).

What is the core chapter of both the Bible and Isaiah, and what is this middle group of verses about? The team that has to answer the question calculates which chapter of Isaiah this is about, and reads the middle four Bible verses.

(answer) This core chapter is Isaiah 53, and verses 5–8 of that chapter say:

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
 he was crushed for our iniquities;
 the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
 and by his wounds we are healed.
 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
 each of us has turned to our own way;
 and the Lord has laid on him
 the iniquity of us all.
 He was oppressed and afflicted,
 yet he did not open his mouth;
 he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
 and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
 so he did not open his mouth.
 By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
 Yet who of his generation protested?
 For he was cut off from the land of the living;
 for the transgression of my people he was punished.

(comment) *These verses are about the purpose of the suffering and death of King Jesus.*

6a. The Hebrew rhyme sometimes makes use of a so-called "acrostic". With this type of rhyme, each verse or every line begins with the following letter of the alphabet.

There is, for example, an acrostic in Psalm 119, which is one long poem of praise about the Word of God the Father. This psalm is composed of 22 groups of eight verses. Each verse from the first group begins with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the "Aleph". In the second group, each verse begins with the letter "Bet". Every next group begins with the following letter, until all 22 letters from the Hebrew alphabet have been used, and the eight verses of the last group begin with the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the "Taw".

The team that has to answer the question, will now write an acrostic of their own. Make a poem of praise using an acrostic, in which you praise the Word of God the Father just like Psalm 119 does. The word "but" may only be used once. You can for example do this using the letters ABCDEF, XXYYZZ, QQQRRR, or JJJJJJ.

(answer) The team answering the question checks the acrostic.

(comment) *You can also make an acrostic using a name. Edgar Allen Poe, for example, wrote a poem he called "An Acrostic". Each line begins with the next letter of the name "Elizabeth". In addition to the Psalms, the Lamentations of Jeremiah also includes an acrostic.*

7a. In the world is much resistance against the Bible. There are countries where the Bible has been banned. In underdeveloped areas, interpreters of Wycliffe work to translate the Bible to the local tribal languages. Name two example of how you can still bring the Bible to places it is forbidden.

(answer) By smuggling Bibles, via radio broadcasts, and through internet distribution.

(comment) *This for example applies to North-Korea, China, Iran, Yemen and other countries, that are usually Islamic. The organization Open Doors smuggled Bibles to communist countries like East Germany and Poland.*



8a. Many people have a problem with it, that there are so many theologians that contradict each other, because they interpret the Bible in different ways. How should we deal with that?

(answer) Read the Bible in the way you read a contract at the notary: everyone who reads it, is unanimous on what it literally says.

(comment) *In addition, that there can be only one possible interpretation is a Greek way of thinking. Jewish rabbi's don't have this problem at all, because the Jewish thinking is that there are forty perspectives to look at a Bible verse, just like someone's head looks different when looking at them from various directions.*

9a. In "free" countries where the Bible is not outlawed, the truth and reliability of the Bible is often questioned. Let's say that you want to know whether the Bible really is reliable and truthful. Then you go look for evidence.

One form of evidence is "historic distance" (distance in time). It refers to the time between an event and the moment the event was documented. How many years after King Jesus were the gospels written about Him?

(answer) Between 40 and 60 years after King Jesus.

(comment) *Biographies of famous people are sometimes being written hundreds of years later, and their accuracy is often not disputed. With King Jesus, the accuracy is often doubted.*

10a. Many excavations and archaeological finds in Israel confirm texts in the Bible. But important data have also been found outside of Israel that confirm the accuracy of the Bible, such as in Egypt, where hieroglyphs have been found that describe the exodus from Egypt.

A separate part of the archaeological arguments are the Dead Sea Scrolls. In 1947, in a cave near Qumran, a place by the Dead Sea, a shepherd boy discovered ceramic jars containing scrolls; texts of over two thousand years old. Ultimately, after years of searching, more than 900 scrolls have been found, 40% of which are texts from the Jewish Bible. These first had to be translated, and after that it turned out that they accurately matched the texts that already existed.

Why were the involved scientists nervous when these Dead Sea Scrolls were translated?

(answer) Because they were older than the writings we knew, they could have shown abnormalities.

(comment) *In addition to excavations and archaeological finds, many historic documents that do not belong to the Bible but that stem from the same era, have also been preserved. The most well-known of these are the works of the Roman-Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, and the letters of the Roman literary and politician Pliny the Younger. These are called "external evidence", that you can compare with the Bible to determine that the events described in the Bible actually did happen at the place and time as named in the Bible.*



11a. In the time of the Old Testament, most people couldn't read. This is why the priests had to read the Law. We have the privilege that we can read the Bible ourselves, and have it at our disposal. How was the Biblical knowledge transferred in Western countries before the printing press was invented?

(answer) Faith and Biblical knowledge were transferred through reading, images/art, (passion) plays and songs.

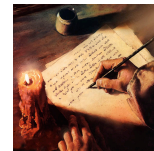
(comment) *Even today, passion plays are performed in many places, often under the name "The Passion". Murals and stained glass windows and old churches and cathedrals show events from the Bible.*

12a. From the beginning of time, God the Father speaks. With Creation, we see that everything He says is immediately being created to His will. He also writes to us. Reading a letter is like hearing the author speak. When you want to read the love letters from God the Father, you also need light to be able to read what it says. His Word is the Bible, and you receive His Light from the Holy Spirit. Can you also really understand the Bible without the Holy Spirit? Please explain.

(answer) No, you cannot read the Bible in the dark.

(comment) *Ephesians 4:17-18 for example says: "So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts."*

Closing question (both teams): Psalm 119:105 says: "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Take one minute of silent prayer to seek out a Bible verse for someone in the group. After this moment of searching by listening, the elder ends the silence, and everyone will be given the opportunity to voluntarily give someone from the group a Bible verse. Who has a Bible verse? Don't forget to write down which Bible verses have been shared, and who they were for.



1b. God the Father gave His Word, the Bible, to you personally as a "love letter", so that you can get to know him, and as a "manual" on how you can live with Him. This manual was given in the desert to the people of Israel. The Bible book of Exodus tells the story of how this nation was freed from the slavery of Egypt and were fed daily by God the Father with manna, some type of bread. Are we also still being fed daily with manna? Please explain.

(answer) Yes, because by reading the Word daily, you are being fed spiritually.



2b. What does King Jesus mean in Luke 11:3 with "Give us each day our daily bread"? Choose from:

- a. Food.
- b. A steady income.
- c. Spiritual development.
- d. All of the above.

(answer) The correct answer is: "c. Spiritual development."

(comment) In Luke 4:4 (KJV), King Jesus says: "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." So he is not talking about food.



3b. (Please read the bold text of this question aloud.)

Romans 15:4 says: "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

The team asking the question will demonstrate using pantomime for which two reasons the Bible has been written as a manual, according to this Bible verse. The other team will try and guess this.

(answer) The other team must name both points:

1. To comfort.
2. To encourage ("Hang in there!")

4b. The word "Bible" is the English translation of the Greek word "biblia", which is the plural form of "biblion", which means "booklet", "letter" or "document". "Biblion" is a diminutive of "biblos". That word, in turn derives from the Egyptian word for a papyrus scroll.

This means the plural "biblia" is a collection of books, so you could see the Bible as a small library. But there is something interesting going on there. The Bible is composed of 66 books, and is divided into two parts: the first (Old) Testament, and the second (New) Testament. These two parts are usually referred to as OT and NT. The Old Testament is composed of 39 books; the New Testament of 27.

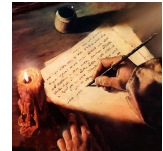
Now something supernatural happens: over 700 years before the second part is written, the prophet Isaiah writes a Bible book. When you research the composition of this Bible book, you discover that there is a remarkable similarity to the structure of the whole Bible. For example, Isaiah has 66 chapters, and this Bible book can be divided into two parts just like the Bible.

In that case, Isaiah 40 is the first chapter of the second part. How does the following Bible verse, Isaiah 40:3, correspond to the beginning of the New Testament?

"A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"

(answer) This is where John the Baptist is announced, who heralds in the New Testament.

(comment) Mark 1:2-4 says: "as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way — a voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." The other gospels also mention this; see Matthew 3:3, Luke 3:4, and John 1:23.



5b. Some people think that the Old Testament has been done away. But the Old Testament is not subordinated to the New Testament, or vice versa. They form a unity together and are equally important.

In the New Testament, the gospels describe the fulfilling of the prophecies from the Old Testament, and the letters that come after the gospels explain the significance of it to us. For example, it is impossible to understand the letter to the Hebrews without understanding of the Old Testament. The Bible is a unity, not a collection of individual parts.

Name two texts or events in the New Testament, that refer back to events or prophecies in the Old Testament.

(answer) There are thousands of examples, and this is why the team asking the question will decide whether the two answers of the other team are correct. Possible answers include:

- Statements of King Jesus: about Himself and His assignment (for example Isaiah 61:1–4 compared to John 1:32–33; Luke 4:18–19, 7:20–22);
- King Jesus is the High Priest (Leviticus 16:15 compared to Hebrews 6:20, 7:27);
- The significance of the crucifixion (Isaiah 52:14–53:12; see question 5a);
- The announcement of John the Baptist (see question 4b);
- The infanticide in Bethlehem (Jeremiah 31:15 compared to Matthew 2:16–18).

(comment) 1 Corinthians 10:11 explicitly describes this relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament: "These things happened to them [the people of Israel] as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come."

6b. There are many more structures hidden in the Bible. The first five books in the Bible are linked together. This group of five books are referred to with different names, such as the Law, the Books of Moses, and the Torah. Several features have been added to the text of the Torah to show that together, they form a whole. One of those characteristics, is that a word has been woven into the Hebrew text at the beginning of each book.

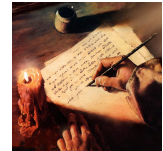
- The word "TORA" was included in the first and second book, Genesis and Exodus. From the first occurrence of the letter "Taw" (T), exactly every 50 letters later, you will find the O, R, and A.
- The word "TORA" but written backwards was included in the fourth and fifth book, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
- The Name of God the Father, JHWH, was included in the third book, Leviticus, but there every 8 letters.

The team answering the question will now search for an existing English word of four letters long in the sentence included on page 11 of this program. This "code word" begins with the first occurrence of the letter "L" in the text, and it is not the name of a person or a country. The four letters of the code word are separated by the exact same amount of letters in between (spaces and commas not counted). To help you, page 11 shows the sentence twelve times, and each letter is numbered.

(answer) Every ninth letter starting from the letter L returns the word "LAMP":

"When you read the Bible, you will always get much food spiritually."

(comment) Other intervals return words such as "Lula" and "Liam". These are persons' names, and so they are not the correct answer.



7b. In Mark 16:17–18, King Jesus says:

And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.

Some theologians doubt that King Jesus has said that His followers will speak in tongues and pray with the sick. Some Bible translations additionally have placed these parts in square brackets. What arguments do the theologians have, and what do the square brackets have to do with it?

(answer) It is not sufficiently proven that these words of King Jesus are present in the original text. Some theologians suspect that this was added later. The square brackets then indicate, which parts of the text are brought into question.

8b. Remaining true to the Word of God the Father requires perseverance and determination. The devil uses much temptation to lure you away from God the Father, and many people also make it difficult. Hypocrites pretend, doubters are hard to convince, and about scoffers, Judas 1:18b–19 says:

“In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires. These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.”

Is having divisions a problem when taking the Bible literally? Please explain.

(answer) No, when everybody does exactly what they can read in the Bible, together you can find the answers and experience the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

(comment) *Hebrews 4:12 explains that the Bible separates what is spirit from what is flesh: “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

9b. A different type of evidence is the number of copies that have been made of a text. Thousands of copies have been made from the Bible’s original manuscripts. Those that have been preserved, match one another extremely closely.

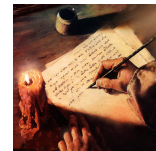
But in that case, one might wonder if these copies are reliable. It is sometimes said that many mistakes must have been made when the texts were copied. However, a little known fact is that in those days, a technique was used that is now also applied in computers, namely the so-called “parity check”, that compares the original with the copy. Here is how it works:

When a page of a scroll was written, the number of letters were counted and noted down at the bottom of the page. When this number was different from the original, the entire scroll was immediately destroyed, and the copyist could start again from scratch. The person who incorrectly copied the text would often be punished as well.

We will now put this to practice. Three persons from the team answering the question, will write down the Bible verse from question 3b, that someone from the team asking the question is being read aloud very clearly and accurately, including every period and comma. When all three written texts are entirely correct, the team answering the question gets a point. When an error has been made, the team answering the question will be punished by having one point deducted.

(answer) The team asking the question checks whether the text has been copied correctly.

(comment) *Even in case of multiple errors, only one point may be deduced.*



10b. Various Bible translations have also included the so-called “apocryphal” Bible books. These are books that have not convincingly been proven to really form a part of the Word of God the Father. Which basic attitude should you have when reading these books?

(answer) It has not been proven that they are the Word of God the Father. You can read them as historical books.

(comment) *The 66 books that have proven to be part of the Word of God the Father, are called the “canonical books”. Remember the 66 chapters of the Bible book Isaiah.*

11b. Knowledge from the Bible is essential. But what is even more importance, is that you put to practice what you’ve learnt from it. About this, King Jesus said in Matthew 7:24–25:

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

Ezra did this as well, and Ezra 7:10 describes three goals that Ezra had: “For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.” Which three things does Ezra 7:10 say he did with the word of God the Father?

(answer) The other team must name all three points:

1. Study / investigate.
2. Do / observe / practice.
3. Teach / explain / educate.

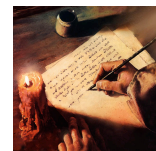
(comment) *In the New Testament, in Acts 17:11, we see that the believers in Berea did their utmost to check whether everything the Bible said was correct: “Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”*

12b. Ephesians 6:17b says: “The sword of the Spirit is the word of God.” How can you use the Bible to defend and stand fast in your faith?

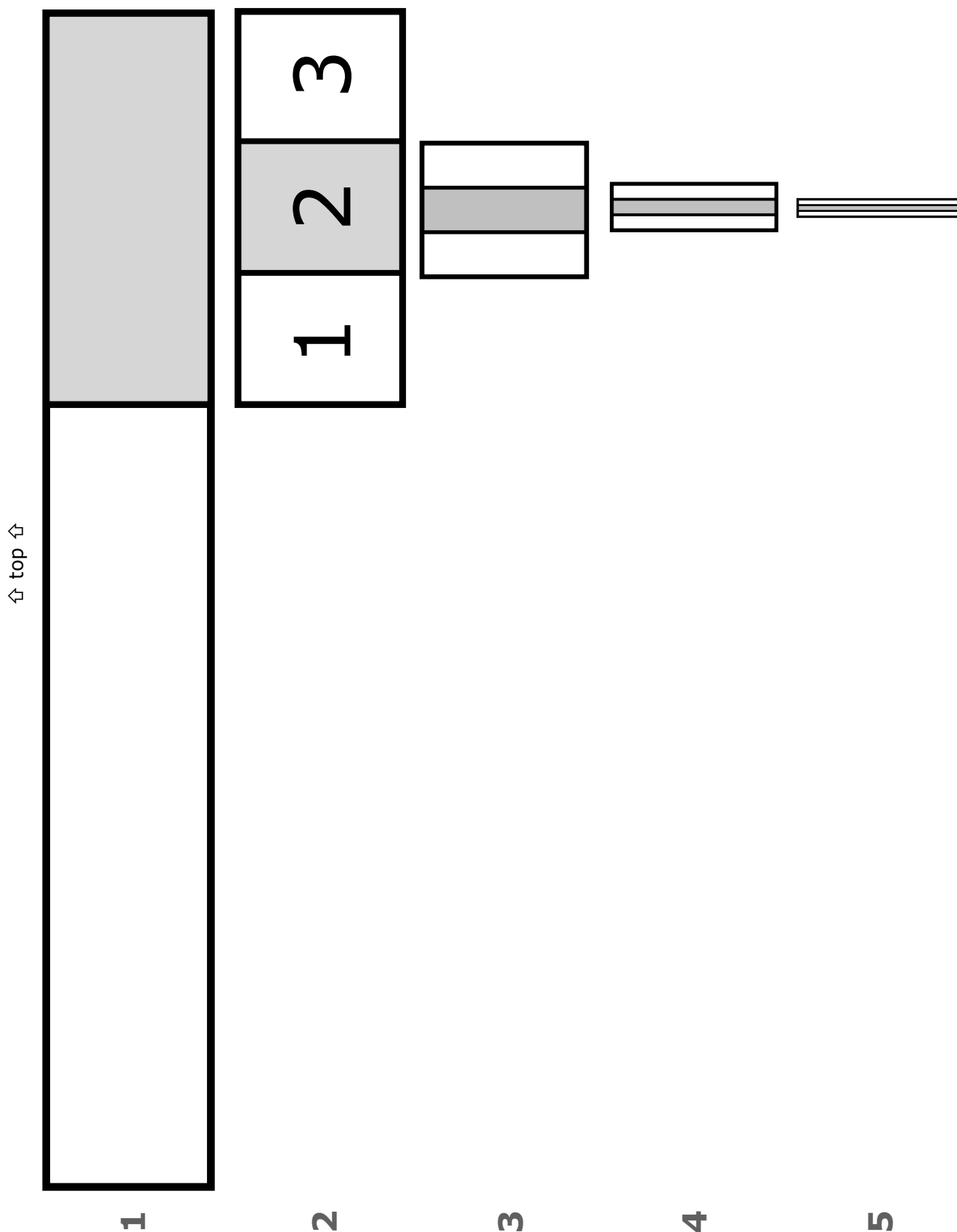
(answer) Proclaim the word against every temptation, deception, distraction, attack or slur against your faith.

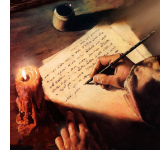
(comment) *King Jesus was tempted three times by the devil, and each time He used the Bible as a sword. Luke 4:4,8,12 says: “Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone.”’ (...) Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.”’ (...) Jesus answered, ‘It is said: “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’” He later also teaches us to trust on what the Holy Spirit will inspire you to say at such times, in Luke 12:11–12: “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”*

Closing question (both teams): Psalm 119:105 says: “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Take one minute of silent prayer to seek out a Bible verse for someone in the group. After this moment of searching by listening, the elder ends the silence, and everyone will be given the opportunity to voluntarily give someone from the group a Bible verse. Who has a Bible verse? Don’t forget to write down which Bible verses have been shared, and who they were for.



Question 5a





Question 6b

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54
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