

A person wearing a dark suit jacket is holding a large, thick, yellow rope. The rope is coiled and has a prominent braided texture. The person's hands are visible at the bottom, gripping the rope. The background is dark and out of focus.

Solving Life's Problems

Solving Life's Problems

A CHRISTIAN APPROACH

by Dorothy L. Johns

Developed in Cooperation With
the ICI University Staff

Instructional Development Specialist:
Juanita Cunningham Blackburn

Illustrator:
Ray Braun

Global University
1211 South Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65804
USA

Address of the local ICI office in your area:

First Edition 1982

Second Edition 1994

Reprinted 1996

Reprinted 1999 1/99 3M LR

Third Edition 2006

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ICI University

S6161E-90

ISBN 1-56390-025-4

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THE ICI CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the ICI Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each. *Solving Life's Problems—A Christian Approach* is Course 6 in Unit I. You will benefit by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive a certificate, or for personal enrichment.

ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course, and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your ICI instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page of this study guide.

Course Introduction

Turning Problems Into Victories

A philosopher once wrote this observation of life: “Life is an interval from oblivion to oblivion, interspersed by tears.” Certainly it is not a Christian point of view that life goes from nothingness to nothingness and is filled with tears. But even those of us who are Christians have our share of tears and trials, and we need help to find answers to our problems.

What *is* the purpose in life? Why do the godly suffer? Why is there so much pain and sorrow and hatred in the world? What is the source of problems, and how can Christians avoid problems? Are all problems caused by sin in our lives? Where can we go for the answers to life’s problems? These are some of the questions we consider in this course.

There is no clear cut solution for some problems which confront us. However, the Bible does give us guidelines for finding solutions to many of the problems which come to us, and it also shows us how we can avoid many problems.

It is not God’s will that Christians be defeated by their problem. He has provided a Problem-Solver who will give us direction and help us to turn our problems into victories, if we go to Him for help.

As you study this course, apply the principles of problem solving to situations in your own life, and you will discover the wonderful blessing of allowing your Problem-Solver, Jesus Christ, to help you as you give your problems to Him! The principles you learn will also help you in your ministry to others who have problems.

Course Description

Solving Life's Problems—A Christian Approach is a study of the source of problems, methods of problem solving, and ways of finding solutions, from a Christian perspective. Major universal problems are presented, such as problems in social and family relationships, problems of the single person, problems related to human sexuality, and other problems related to suffering and death. Biblical solutions are given for all of these problem areas, and principles are developed which provide a solid foundation for the Christian to find solutions for his problems, or to help others who are in need. Emphasis is given to the Christian's sure hope, which is based on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, his Problem-Solver.

Course Objectives

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Explain the source of problems in the life of a Christian.
2. Discuss ways to find solutions for your problems according to biblical teaching.
3. Know the steps in the two methods of problem solving and apply them to problem situations in your own life in order to find the right solutions.
4. Find biblical solutions for specific problems of a Christian.
5. Help other people to approach their own problems from a Christian perspective and find solutions according to biblical principles.
6. Affirm in every circumstance your trust and hope in Jesus Christ to give you victory and help you to be an overcomer.

Textbooks

You will use *Solving Life's Problems—A Christian Approach* by Dorothy L. Johns, as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The Bible (*New International Version*) is the only other textbook required. *Today's English Version* (TEV) has also been used for some quotations from the Bible.

Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions. Answers to each self-test are at the back of your textbook before the unit student reports.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

Do not look ahead at the answers until you have given your answer. If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

How to Answer Questions

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1 The Bible has a total of a
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

- 2 Which statements below are TRUE?
- a The Bible has a total of 120 books.
 - b The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - d The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements b and d are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors

Example

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| .. 1 . a | Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| .. 2 . b | Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| .. 2 . c | Marched around Jericho | |
| .. 1 . d | Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases a and d refer to Moses, and phrases b and c refer to Joshua. You would write 1 beside a and d, and 2 beside b and c, as you see above.

Ways to Study This Course

If you study this ICI course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although ICI has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes

Unit Student Reports

In the back of your study guide are located the unit student reports and answer sheets. These are to be completed according to the instructions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send each unit answer sheet to your instructor for his grading and suggestions regarding your work. Send one when you complete each unit.

Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the unit answer sheets by your ICI instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

Author of This Course

Dorothy Johns has taught in elementary and middle schools in New York and Missouri, USA. She has also taught at Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. She is currently teaching in elementary and middle schools in Missouri.

Mrs. Johns received a Bachelor of Music Degree from Eastern School of Music in Rochester, New York. She received a Master of Science Degree in Education from the State University of New York at Brockport, New York. She did additional studies at Drury College, Central Bible College, and Missouri State University, all in Springfield, Missouri.

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this Individual Study Textbook, such as an Instructor's Guide and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.

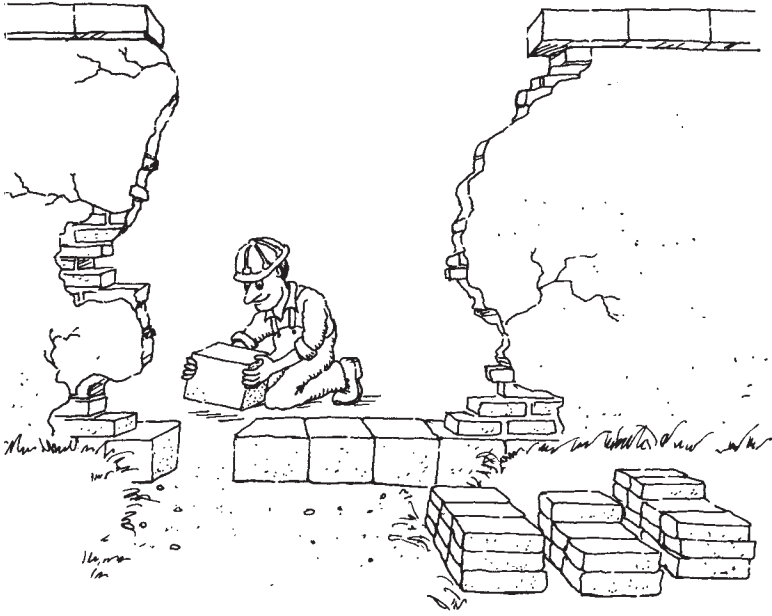
Your ICI Instructor

Your ICI instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you begin to study *Solving Life's Problems—A Christian Approach*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.



1
Unit



BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR PROBLEM SOLVING

Lessons

- 1 The Source of Problems
- 2 Finding Solutions — A Christian Approach
- 3 Christian Principles of Problem Solving