



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **12th Grade | Unit 1**

BIBLE 1201

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Knowing Yourself

Introduction

One of the most important steps in the life of a Christian is the development of **vocation**. Some drift along and are forced into hasty career decisions, but you can plan your personal career goals and seek a suitable, Spirit-led ministry. Vocational choices have a vital influence on our lives and the lives of others. They affect lifestyle, home life, living standards, and Christian service.

The first three LIFEPACs in this course are designed to help you find vocational and spiritual guidance for career planning and Christian ministry. With these LIFEPACs comes a prayer that you will be equipped to make a larger contribution to the lives of others and receive a fuller blessing from God.



As a project for these first three LIFEPACs, obtain a small-ring loose-leaf notebook to be your “career notebook.” Stock it with ruled notebook paper. Keep all the material you write and collect in it. Twenty-three assignments in the first three LIFEPACs are to be written and numbered in the notebook.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC®. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe what God has given man in creation and salvation.
2. Explain how to improve personality and relationships.
3. Show how to mature in Christian life.
4. Describe how God calls people and what spiritual gifts are.
5. Use techniques and instruments for recognizing personal skills.
6. Identify vocational skills.

1. WHAT YOU ARE

Self-understanding is the foundation upon which intelligent career decisions are built. Successful people learn to utilize their strengths and compensate for their weaknesses. This prayer expresses a healthy attitude toward one's self:

"God grant me the courage to change the things I can, the serenity to accept the things I cannot, and the wisdom to know the difference."

The ultimate source of truth about ourselves is God's Word, the Bible. It reveals how our Creator

views us, as we really are. A Christian has the advantage of receiving an accurate view of himself and others. A secondary source for information is the social sciences, including sociology (the study of society and human groups) and psychology (mind and human behavior). Observant people can discover much about themselves and others on their own, and those people with whom we associate can show us how we affect them.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe what God has given man in creation and salvation.
2. Improve your personality and your relationships with other people.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

career

ministry

personality

skill

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.



GOD'S CREATION

The human race was in Adam when God created the first man (Acts 17:26). God declares in Isaiah 45:12. "I have made the earth, and created man upon it ..."

Adam and Eve were created directly by God, but all of their offspring and descendants are made indirectly by God through parents. According to Acts 17:28, "... we are also his offspring." Your mother and father are your parents, but God is your Maker. Job's friend, Elihu, reminded him of this truth: "The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life." (Job 33:4)

Not only are we God's creation, but mankind is the highest form of life on the earth. In Genesis 1:26, the triune God said, "... Let us make man in *our* image, after *our* likeness: and let them have dominion ... over all the earth ..." (italics added to emphasize the Trinity). Men and women are God's image bearers here on the earth, and thus were created as his vice regents, given dominion over his creation. David may have realized the depth of this when he exclaimed (Psalm 139:14), "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made ..."

Christians recognize the evil nature of mankind, for the unsaved are spiritually dead and separated from



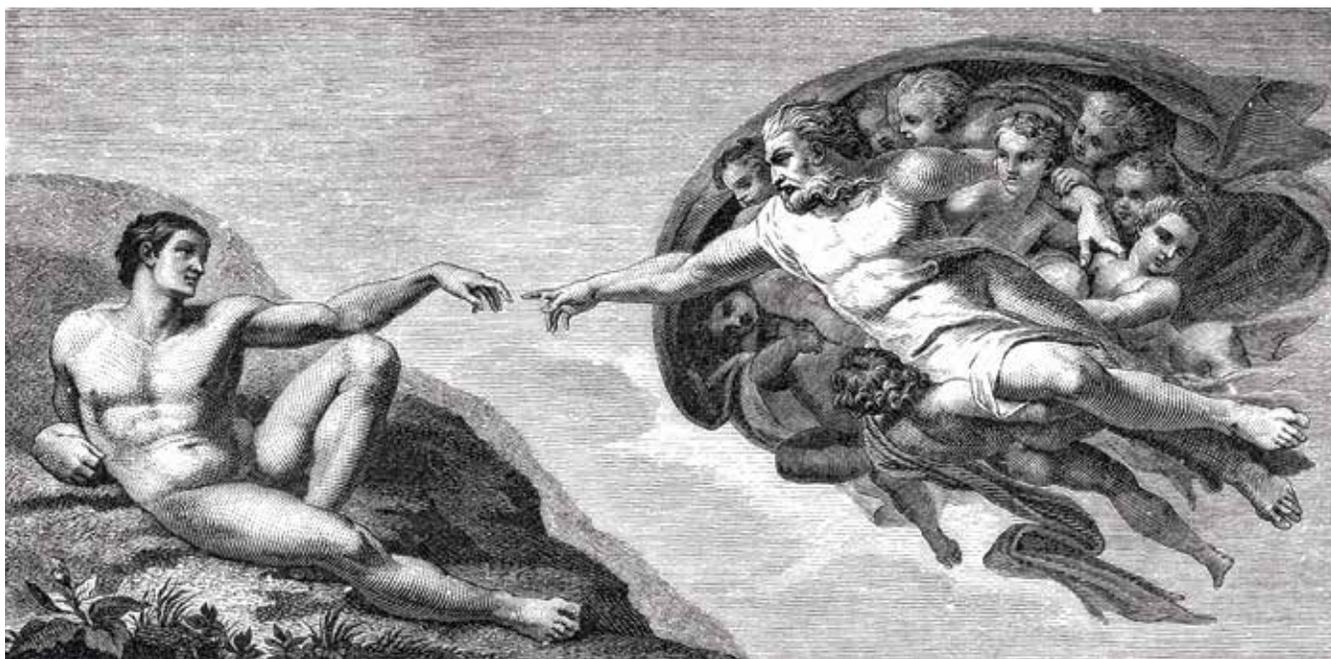
Read Genesis 2:4-15

God by sin. When Christ regenerates someone's heart, they finally believe in him and receive him as Lord and Savior. Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:1. "And you *hath he quickened* [made alive] who were dead [spiritually] in trespasses and sins."

Knowing that God created you allows you to find fulfillment in your **ministry** and **career**; whereas materialists view man as a highly evolved form of animal and tend to seek material rewards in their careers. The acquisition of money is their life goal.

As believers, God gives us the satisfaction of knowing a ministry that grants eternal rewards. Jesus commanded in Matthew 6:19-20, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth ... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven ..."

In Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, he correctly explained that all men are endowed by their Creator with equal rights. However, we must not confuse this with the erroneous concept of everyone being created *identically*. Each individual differs from all others. For example, Jacob and Esau were twins, yet were very different.



| The Creation of Man

Write the answers on the lines.

1.1 Read Genesis 25:19–34 and list the differences between Jacob and Esau.

	Jacob	Esau
a.	_____	_____
b.	_____	_____
c.	_____	_____
d.	_____	_____
e.	_____	_____
f.	_____	_____

1.2 Although you have parents, a. _____ is your b. _____.

1.3 In his creation, God gave man two things, his a. _____ and b. _____ over all the earth.

1.4 The use of plural personal pronouns (us, our) in Genesis 1:26 may be explained by the _____, the Biblical concept of God.

1.5 In Psalm 139:14 David praised the Lord because he was a. _____ and b. _____ made.

1.6 Christians can know the satisfaction of a ministry that grants _____ rewards.

1.7 Lincoln's statement that all men are created equal meant that _____
_____.

1.8 Like snowflakes, each individual _____ from every other individual.

PERSONALITY

We all know what personality is, don't we? "Erin has a great personality, but poor Andy, he has none at all." This common misinterpretation sees personality as the magnetic quality that makes someone popular. Erin's pleasant, outgoing personality makes her more sociable, but Andy also has a personality. The crowd may think him "boring," but it may give

Sam other qualities much more commendable than popularity.

Personality includes all the characteristics that distinguish someone as an individual.

Many components make up one's personality, including disposition, drives, sociability, intelligence, sensibilities, and character.

Psychologists offer many models to explain personality. These models range from simple generalizations to complex classifications of interacting traits. One of the oldest theories originated with Hippocrates four centuries before Christ. He noticed four types of temperament:

1. The *phlegmatic* person is the quiet, easygoing individual.
2. The *melancholic* person is sensitive and often negative.
3. The *choleric* person is active and decisive.
4. A *sanguine* personality is very sociable and often impulsive.

The average person possesses more than one of these traits in varying degrees which change throughout their lifetime.



| Personality Differences

Answer this question.

1.9 Which one or more of these four types reflects your personality most clearly? Explain.

Modern psychologists identify three to seven major categories of personality traits. Five fundamental dimensions of human personality are:

1. *changeability*, some people tend to be more creative, curious, and complex; while others are more conventional, down-to-earth, and of specific interest.
2. *conscientiousness*, some people tend to be disorganized and undependable; while others are more reliable, well-organized, and self-disciplined.
3. *extroversion*, some people tend to be sociable, outgoing, and talkative; while others are more introverted, inhibited, and quiet.
4. *agreeableness*, some people tend to be critical, abrasive and callous; while others are more good natured, forgiving, and courteous.
5. *stability*, some people tend to be calm, relaxed, and secure; while others are more nervous, tense, and insecure.

Answer these questions.

1.10 Which parts of these personality traits do you possess? _____

1.11 Which ones do you dislike, and wish to change? _____

Your personality and gifts determine how you will perform in your vocation. You should choose a vocation that suits your natural abilities. For example, if you are withdrawn, you should not attempt social work. If you have a need to be with people, you should not bury yourself in research.

Career specialist, John Holland, built his entire program around *personality factors*. He matched every occupation with personality types:

1. *Realistic* people belong in **skilled** trades and technical occupations.
2. *Investigative* individuals fit best into scientific endeavors, law enforcement, and related technical occupations.
3. *Artistic* types should pursue art, music, and literature.
4. *Social* personalities usually enjoy educational and social professions.
5. *Enterprising* persons tend to seek sales and managerial positions.
6. *Conventional* people usually do office and clerical work.



A similar set of six types is described by Edward Spranger. The unique one is his final category, *religious*. By this category he identifies people in various occupations who aim at unity and pursue high ethical goals.

Answer these questions.

1.12 Which one of these types describes you more than the others? _____

1.13 Which combination of more than one best describes you? _____



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