

POWER TOOLS



...help you
share Jesus
faster and
cheaper.
That means
more souls!



Have you noticed an emphasis on “power tools” as gift ideas for occasions like Father’s Day? Ads promote electric and fueled gear with amazing capabilities, from driving screws to clipping hedges.

This *Action!* explores ideas for the far greater mission. We start with God’s inspired instrument, the Gospel—“the power of God for salvation” and “the surpassing power” (Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 4:7), upon which we cannot improve. But the Word acts on hearts that hear it, which requires us to be messengers and senders (Romans 10:8-15). These tools, then, are about delivering the saving Message. Well-rounded effectiveness addresses multiple dimensions:

QUALITY means staying true to the Gospel while using “all means” to attract and to persuade (Acts 18:4; 1 Corinthians 9:22).

QUANTITY means mobilizing as many as possible to teach as many as possible (Mark 16:15).

**We start with God’s inspired instrument, the Gospel—
“the power of God for salvation.”**

COST relates to wise stewardship that uses limited resources to maximum effect (Matthew 25:13-30).

FOLLOW UP means doing what we can for enduring results—fruit that lasts even to eternity (John 4:36; 15:16).

World Bible School addresses each dimension. During my work in South Africa, I could teach about 200 in home Bible studies annually. WBS added a powerful workforce of hundreds of American correspondence teachers—everyday Christians who partnered with us in our mission. They sifted through multitudes of South African applicants, teaching the interested, and sending to us 5,000 for follow up. Our home studies and seminars then focused on the most responsive.

Since then, God has empowered WBS to improve lessons and advertising (quality), to connect more seekers with more teachers (quantity), to take advantage of modern technology (for speed, reach and cost-effectiveness), and to expand worldwide networking (for follow up). Make the most of “power tools” for fulfilling the Great Commission.

REACH means giving opportunity to all peoples worldwide (Matthew 28:19).

SPEED reflects the urgency of our race against death and judgement (2 Thessalonians 3:1; Hebrews 9:27).



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Sharing Powerful Tools

Bill Colwell — CEDAR PARK, Texas

As with many of us in World Bible School, the summer of 2018 has been “fast and furious”. In mid-June my wife Ruth and I travelled to Hobbs, New Mexico, to represent WBS at the National Jail and Prison Ministry Workshop. This annual event, sponsored by New Life Behavior Ministries (nlbm.org) and hosted this year by the Jefferson St. church of Christ, provided great networking with Christians in prison work. We learned from them and shared WBS tools that prove effective in jails and prisons. We also enjoyed the opportunity to go into the Lea County Correctional Facility to fellowship with new Christians there.

From June 18 to July 3, I travelled to Thailand with a team from my home congregation, Westside church of Christ in Round Rock, TX. We encouraged the Thai preachers we support there and planned future work. We also registered 130 English-speaking high school students to study the Bible using WBS paper lessons.



Chiang Khan Thailand high schoolers register to study with WBS.

From July 11-30, Ruth and I travelled to congregations in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and California and to attend two brotherhood events. The Faith Builders Workshop in Tacoma, WA, provided great visibility in a region where WBS is not well known. In CA, the Tahoe Family Encampment allowed us to visit with current WBS teachers in the Western U.S. and to encourage others to begin using WBS tools in local and foreign outreach.

If your congregation could benefit from a WBS visit, please call me at 512-345-8190. We'd love to share with you what's new with WBS!

Power Tool: WBS Campaigns

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Our first “God Bless Africa” (GBA) campaign was for a nine-month period in 1994-1995. The Reese family worked with nationals who recruited 150,000 new World Bible School students in Southern Africa. From 1997 on, American campaigners joined GBAs. Early campaigns spent more time on student recruiting and later campaigns emphasized follow up, with nationals handling more of the organizing. Now the American role is to boost the ongoing work, encouraging, strategizing and equipping with resources. Over the years, such partnerships have led to thousands of baptisms and many new congregations.



2018 campaign group



Agnes' baptism

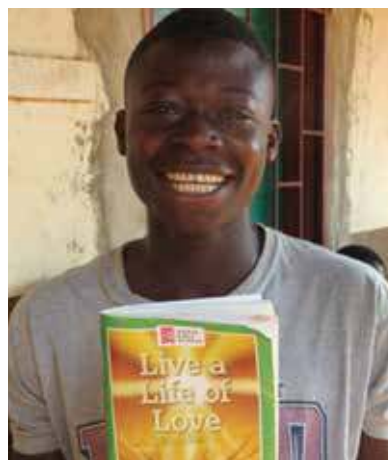
Coinciding with GBA, local leaders conduct the annual “Follow Up Workers Workshop” at the Avondale church of Christ that, for some 20 years, has hosted Zimbabwe's WBS Service Center. This year about 30 national evangelists participated in the Workshop. They included U.S. GBA campaigners in sessions for worship, motivation, problem-solving and planning.

Most of the evangelists stayed for the “WBS Follow Up Seminar” held annually at Harare's Polytechnic College. Some 410 WBS students received personal follow up. That day, June 9, 34 were baptized into Christ. Reports with photos were sent to the students' respective U.S. correspondence teachers.

The GBA campaign then moved to Chivero Home of Hope. Infrastructure for this home had been put in place gradually over 20 years. GBA 2017's campaigners resolved to raise the funds to open the home. God blessed their appeals and the hard work of Zimbabweans, and 20 orphans entered the Chivero Home in January 2018. GBA 2018's campaigners proved a blessing to the children and their caregivers and, guided by Beth Reese and the Magadus, helped to equip the home. Much remains to be done, especially for the Home to become self-sustaining through farming and livestock. Lord willing, God will continue to bless Africa through GBA Campaigns.



Seminar group



Students of the Hillcrest church of Christ/WBS Youth Conference in Mumena, Zambia, gladly received their copy of *Live a Life of Love* which served as the curriculum for the conference. Look for more news in the next **Action!** about the exciting results of Hillcrest's mission work.

The Right Tool for the Job



God created us to do many wonderful things with our hands, hearts and minds. He also created us with the intelligence to create tools to match needs. There's nothing like the right drill, drive or saw to manufacture things and to repair them. There is, of course, one tool we could never have created on our own: The Bible.

God reminds us in His Book that, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Praise the Lord for the ultimate multipurpose tool He breathed to life!

At WBS we want to make sure you have this tool in your hand, in your home and in your congregation. In 2017 World Bible School put over 60,000 copies of the WBS Study Edition Bible in hands all over the world! Did you get yours? More importantly, did you give one to someone else?

There's nothing like the right tool for the right job—like this pocket-size Bible!

This special edition "tool" is taking our brotherhood by storm not only with its very readable English Standard Version, but also with the 100 plus pages of study and reference material

in the back. This special WBS Bible equips workers and the world for every good work!

This pocket-sized Bible is the right tool for the right job in so many ways: edification, education, gifts, awards, personal evangelism, mission work and more. For that reason, we continue to highlight this Bible. By purchasing Bibles or giving a gift so WBS can distribute Bibles around the world, you'll be making an eternal difference in the lives of seekers. Begin thinking of ways you can give the tool that is like no other. Contact me to discuss ways to use 5, 50, 500 or 5,000 Bibles for your soul-saving outreach and for building up your congregation. You can also take action right now at worldbibleschool.net/bible.



Baskets for Babies

Cherry Bernard—ROUND ROCK, Texas

In 2016, some ladies from the Westside church of Christ in Round Rock, Texas, began a ministry called Baskets for Babies. These baskets are filled with an assortment of infant items such as clothes, blankets and diapers to help struggling families offset the needs of a new child. Addressing a family's spiritual needs, each Basket provides two Bibles—a World Bible School study edition and Baby's First Bible—as well as adult and children's World Bible School lessons.

To date, over 400 baskets have been distributed in Central Texas. Our prayer is that each basket will be a vehicle to teach more about God's Word and plant the seeds of God's love in the hearts of young families.



Pat Brown is always available to talk to friends of WBS—individuals and churches. Contact him at pat@worldbibleschool.net.



WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

Action!

Editor: John Reese

Action! (ISSN 8750-1333) USPS 004380 is published bi-monthly by the non-profit ministry of World Bible School. WBS is everyday Christians sharing Jesus with printed and Web-based Bible lessons.

16110 Anderson Mill Road · Cedar Park, Texas 78613
512.345.8190 · 800.311.2006 · fax 512.401.8265

Lessons: 877.393.0211 · info@worldbibleschool.net

Ministry site: www.worldbibleschool.net

Student site: www.worldbibleschool.org

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to World Bible School, P.O. Box 2169, Cedar Park, TX 78630
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- ☐ where most needed
☐ for Incentive Bibles

☐ I want to make a commitment by joining **Sowing the Seed**.

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Spouse _____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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(You can give securely online: worldbibleschool.net/give)

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☐ I'm setting up **Automatic Bill Pay** from my bank.

☐ My gift is a **Tribute**. See the back of this form.

Tell me more about: ☐ will planning
☐ income-producing gift options

☐ I am } including WBS in my will
☐ I am considering } or other estate plans.

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Ruth McCauley

Reggie & Susan Crawford
Bonnie Strickland

Sue Duncan
Betty Conyers

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Margaret Thrash

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Betty Conyers

Beryl Vandergriff
Troy Bowman

Larry & Alicia Wimberly
Randy & Donna Stephens

Leisa Williams
Don Williams

Sheryl Williams
Floyd & Sandra Vanderford

Earl Wright
Harry & Janet Cybulski

Flavil Yeakley
Maydell Yeakley

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Phyllis A. Adams

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Mark & Judy McCoy

Kathy Barner
Gary & Virginia Wagner

Dixie Smith Berlin
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Rusty Russwurm
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The Holler Family

Marion West
Deborah Harrell

Ray & Barbara Harris

Jim Shannon

Springer church of Christ

Judy Williams
Danny Williams

Joe & Berni Wilmeth
Lois Robinson

Kathleen Withers
Betty Romich

Bryan Womble
Jerrel & Barbara Alexander

Judy Anders

Janet Helgesen

Rita Rhodes

Please make my gift a tribute.

Memorial Gifts and Honor Gifts

are ideal ways to pay tribute to a loved one's legacy or special occasions. At the same time, your gift will be used to "share Jesus" with WBS.

☐ I have completed my personal information on the back of this form.

☐ **HONOR GIFT** ☐ Birthday ☐ Anniversary ☐ Illness ☐ Friendship ☐ Other _____

☐ **MEMORIAL GIFT**

For:

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

City _____ ST _____

Please send a letter of acknowledgement to:

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Their Relationship to Honoree _____

Editor's Note: *In addition to WBS' extensive toolbox—which Action! is unpacking all year—innovative WBS' partners continue to make progress. As an example, consider Jim and Virginia McPeak's Riso printers that serve strategic mission locations.*

Powerful Partnerships

Jim McPeak — FAIR OAKS, California

In the early 1980's Curt Golden and the Orangevale congregation partnered with Jake Coppinger and others to print World Bible School lessons for use primarily in India and Africa. We were blessed with some good used presses and skilled press operators.

Working with Paul Renganathan in India and Lloyd Deal in Kenya taught us firsthand the value of distributing printed Bible lessons. In southern Malawi we learned the importance of providing lessons in the common language of the people. In the early 1990's we began printing Bible lessons in the Chewa language. These lessons continue to help Malawian Christians reach the lost. We are thankful for partners that transport these lessons, such as the Malawi Project, Mission Printing and Chimala Mission for their parts of Africa and Healing Hands International for French Bible lessons to Haiti.

Recently we began printing the new Swahili WBS lessons for use in East Africa. Phil Palmer coordinated the translation of the lessons and is busy introducing them. This is another example of empowering African Christians to reach Africa.

As the years progressed, we needed to find a fast, reliable, low cost copier that didn't require a lot of skill. We found one in the RISO machine. Last year we printed and shipped five tons. The need is so great for printed Bible lessons, we want to encourage printing both here and abroad. We are thankful to WBS and our other partners for allowing us to participate in their important efforts. Above all, we are thankful to God for making all things possible!

Tribute to Oleta Paden

John Reese — CEDAR PARK, Texas

Oleta Thompson Paden—the mother of my wife Beth and of her brother Gary—left us for heaven on July 24, 2018. Here is part of my tribute to her at the funeral.

Oleta's caring heart was evident as long-term loyalty. Despite her husband Edsel's passing in 1981, and despite her limited teacher's income, Oleta resolved to visit us regularly in Africa during our mission years there. For over 40 years she contributed regularly to our mission travels. She was also generous with others, and especially her local church. Our mission roles have changed over the years, but her consistency, entirely as a matter of her own choice, never changed. Mission work often took her only daughter and beloved grandchildren far away, yet she actually helped to fund their going, and that without ever a murmur of complaint.

For 35 years, Oleta partnered with us as a teacher in WBS, with students mainly in South Africa and Zimbabwe. We personally followed up with some of her students. During her visits to Africa, she was thrilled to meet a number of her students. For 25 years, Oleta coordinated the WBS program at Ennis, TX. When she retired from coordinating in 2014, her team had a card catalogue of over 100,000 students.

Oleta's dedication to world evangelism was recognized formally. As the new WBS Master Series emerged, the first major course, *God Has Spoken*, was dedicated to Oleta, and a plaque was presented to her at the Ennis congregation. At the Global Missions Conference in 2014, she was honored as a fitting representative of the faithful families behind those sent to mission fields. In 2015, she was honored by WBS, and her plaque was added to the Wall of Honor in Cedar Park.



Oleta with great-grandson Riley

Honoring Kathleen Withers

Kathleen Withers died unexpectedly on July 20 at the age of 94. She is now with Jesus. The following paragraph from her obituary emphasizes how well she served Him.

Kathleen embraced her favorite Scripture, Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciplines of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all things I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." As a result, beginning in 1975 and for 40 years, she managed the Church of Christ Oceanside's (Satellite Beach FL) World Bible School correspondence ministry to thousands of students in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Zambia. Many of her students called her "Mother." In lieu of flowers, please donate in her name to World Bible School, PO Box 2169, Cedar Park, TX 78630 or to your favorite charity.



Sheryl Williams of WBS, Cedar Park: Norma B. sent a gift of \$80. The top of the note has the Scripture "Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures" (Psalm 90:10). Then she wrote, "In expression of gratitude for my 80-years of enduring strength. Blessings for the good you do!" It's so thoughtful of her!

Also from Sheryl: Howard H. included a nice note [with his gift], "Use this for Bibles for Africa for use in schools or by preachers for individuals. Thanks for the latest copies of *Action!* I circle some things in red and highlight some things—then mail to friends to encourage them to support WBS."

From Mandy, a recipient of the new WBS Bible: "I have been looking for a forever Bible for years! Thank you so much—it's perfect! It has everything that I want in a Bible from the concordance to the studies! Small enough to hold easily and beautiful leather [look] cover. Thank you!"





OPENING MORE OF THE WBS TOOLBOX

WBS TOOL: WBS | CONNECT

Many congregations (and groups and individual Christians) use WBS Connect to find and teach people who want to study the Bible—in their own communities and in mission points around the world. Connect has two distinct kinds of useful tools, both effective for helping find and teach seekers.

Connect's Web Ads 2.0 online advertising service finds people searching the Internet for Bible answers or who have an interest in Bible study.

Whenever someone responds to an ad in the target area and enrolls with WBS, their name is made available only to your Study Helpers.

A Connect **Traditional Campaign** equips you with a free, personalized web address that you create (e.g. *Histruth.worldbibleschool.org*). WBS gives you templates of business cards, posters and flyers that include your unique web address. Christians personally use these items to reach target audiences, for example, distributing cards to the people they meet and placing flyers in public places.

WEBADS 2.0 

WBS TOOL: SCANNING

Postal student enrollments continue to increase. However, this year has seen a drop in the number of physical postal lessons returned to the WBS Cedar Park office. Why? *Scanning technology*. Scanning has become a reliable and cost-effective alternative to mail delivery services. That means many students and Study Helpers no longer wait for “snail mail” to carry lessons overseas.

Here's how it works. WBS students return their completed lessons to their country's WBS Service Center. Service Center staff scan and upload the lessons to “the cloud” (an online storage service called Dropbox). WBS coordinators download their students and start the teaching process. Currently, most exchanges are one-way—from a scanner-equipped WBS Service Center (soon to be thirteen in total). But more congregations are using their own scanner for two-way exchanges of graded lessons back to the student. Scanning is smart because it reduces delays, increases retention rates, engages students in their Bible studies longer and leads to more conversions to Christ.



WBS TOOL: FOLLOW-UP

Each year, many WBS students reach a point where they request baptism or a face-to-face visit. This response is an answer to prayer for all WBS Study Helpers. At this point, WBS' growing worldwide network of volunteer Follow-up Partners connects students with someone who will faithfully assist them.

Postal Study Helpers can submit their student request by emailing followup@worldbibleschool.net. For online students, click on the “Follow-up” link in the right-hand margin on the student page. Be sure to provide accurate student contact information: the best address for the student's physical location, a phone number and email address. Social media contact information, like Facebook or Whatsapp, is also helpful. Until a follow-up visit takes place, continue to teach and write encouraging notes to your students.

WBS is actively building our database of Christians willing to serve in the vital role of volunteer Follow-up Partner. Consider if you can and register at www.worldbibleschool.net/followup.



REACH MORE WITH JESUS USING **WBS  TOOLS!**

Power Tool: Television & WBS

Steve Gober — HODGES, Alabama

The TV program *Getting To Know Your Bible* is stirring up excitement, beginning with presenter Billy Lambert.



Billy Lambert

Billy says, "Have you ever been so excited about something that you could hardly contain yourself?... Well, I am super-charged. I could not be more excited over what is going on with GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE. Good things are happening. Souls are being saved! People are enrolling in Bible correspondence

work. Many are taking the course online. Others are getting the location of the church nearest them. One thing I have learned in preaching on



Neal Pollard

television: people still are wanting to hear the Gospel. Actually, I would say that they are starved for plain, Christ-centered preaching of the Word. That excites me."

The program offers correspondence study through World Bible School. A student named Steven writes, "I

should like to thank you and your staff for a most excellent Bible study course, World Bible School. I have studied each lesson



Ken Forrest

diligently, along with my Bible, and have learned much."

Sponsored by the Summerdale congregation in south Alabama, near Gulf Shores, GTKYB is broadcast Monday through Friday on DirecTV, Dish Network, GBN and other stations. The speakers are Billy Lambert, Ken Forrest and Neal Pollard.

Blessing for Blessings

Editor's Note: Information is power. Among the power tools available to you, make full use of simple things like email addresses, phone numbers and physical addresses. Here is an example.

WBS teacher Pam Pangburn to Don Boyd at WBS: "Hi, my name is Pam. I am studying with a young man from Zambia who is requesting baptism. He has already completed most of the lessons. WBS gave me your email [as part of WBS' follow up network]. Hope you are able to help him. His name is Blessings.... His phone number is.... His house address is.... Yours in Christ, Pam."



Blessing's baptism



Don contacted Kennedy Mukuka in Lusaka, who soon replied, "I am excited to let you know that this afternoon Cephas Mwamba, my co-worker in Christ, and I went to Ndola (200 miles away) where we met and baptized Blessings. He was very excited and his father actually met with us and, to our surprise, gave us a go-ahead to baptize his son. We also were blessed with the presence of a preacher from a congregation near Blessings' home. So someone is nearby to help nurture him. Warmly in Christ, Kennedy."

What a blessing this wonderful news was to Pam!

New School, Old School

The term "power tools" evokes the high-tech advantages unique to our age. We praise God for bringing us to the Kingdom for such a time as this, filled with innovative and exciting possibilities. The Great Commission's urgency compels us to evangelize using "all means" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

We also recognize that "all" encompasses new and old, plain and fancy, fashionable and otherwise. Two friends reminded us of this in the May 2018 issue of *Christian Chronicle*. Under the headings "Online learning, old school" and "Africans provide pencil-and-paper training for online university," Erik Tryggstad wrote: "Amid the technological waves crashing across the continent, something decidedly low-tech is going on in the basement of the Downtown church of Christ [in Pretoria].... Internet study just isn't a viable option in the rural communities of southern Africa, says Machona Monyamane, a South African minister." In such cases, Machona and his co-workers resort to "old school" methods including chalk boards and pencils.

"We use WBS to reach new students NationsUniversity to equip them," says Machona, who helps to lead Gospel Chariot Missions. Machona is himself a great example of productive partnerships. He came to Christ through WBS and the Gospel Chariot. He studied at Harding University and earned NationsUniversity's online master's degree. He is well-qualified to know the tools at hand and where each fits for effective evangelism.



Machona Monyamane

Tex Williams' 90th Birthday!

Tex Williams served as President of World Bible School from 1987 to 2006. Before that, he was Assistant Director, with Reuel Lemmons as President. On July 24, 2018, Tex reached another landmark, his 90th birthday. We are grateful for his missions leadership, and especially some 20 years leading WBS. The next issue of *Action!* will highlight further ways to thank and honor Tex and Mary Jane.



Beth and John Reese congratulating Tex and Mary Jane on their retirement in 2006

Power Tools: WBS Publishes New Courses!

New studies supplement the Master Series to let students learn more.

Prayer, as one of the Christian's most powerful tools, deserves an in-depth Bible course. Designed for World Bible School students and for Bible study groups, this course is entitled *Lord, Teach Us To Pray*. On the other hand, some who claim exceptional powers lead others astray, and WBS students need a cautionary course called *Test The Spirits*. These two brand-new courses have now been printed by WBS, and are offered at 50 cents apiece, like similarly-sized Master Series courses. Both soon will also be available as supplements on-line.

Over the years, WBS teachers have needed, and frequently requested, courses beyond the main series. When eager, responsive students complete what WBS offers, what comes next? Until now, and for too long, the answer was that WBS could not offer more, for lack of development funding.



Your growing generosity is improving WBS' capacity, resulting now in *Lord, Teach Us To Pray* and *Test The Spirits*. With the Lord's blessing, more supplemental courses will follow, also written with the same biblical care and clarity you have appreciated in the Master Series.

Lord, Teach Us To Pray, based on Luke 11, follows the example and teaching of Jesus Himself. Its thirteen lessons match the American quarterly system, a reminder that the same course serves small groups and adult and teen classes. Faith-filled prayer is vital for Christian maturing and for mission effectiveness. This is your invitation to learn from the Lord Himself the awesome power of prayer.

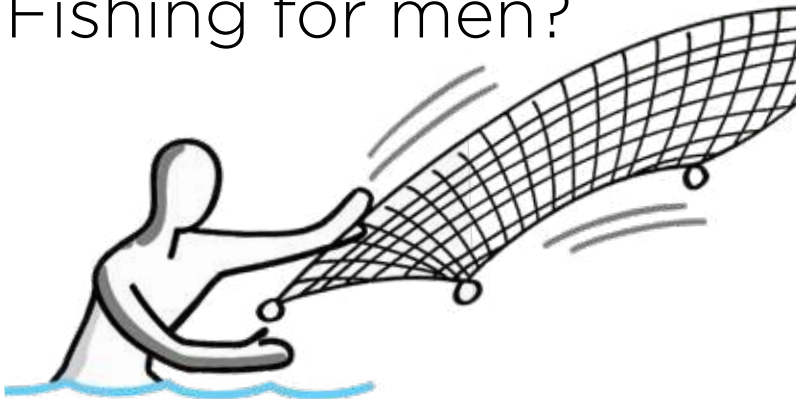
Test The Spirits takes its title from 1 John 4:1, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God,

for many false prophets have gone out into the world." This course helps the student to obey this command by comparing biblical miracles with modern claims. As with all future WBS supplements, its structure serves both correspondence and congregational needs.

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