Where is God?
Proverbs 3:5-7

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Some folks think God is _______ in our world today; others say that God is _______. Is God _______ and active in the world today and working for our ________? We want to know all we can about God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; and the way to know God is through a _______ of His Word, the Bible. So, we go again and again to Scripture.

How we view God matters greatly in how we view _______ and how we understand our purpose and role in this world. An atheist does not believe God _______ at all. An agnostic says he doesn’t know whether God exists, because he thinks God is unknowable. Some believe God got the world going and then abandoned it. Others hold that belief in God was relevant in ancient times, but God is now dead. We no longer _______ God in our lives today according to them.

Several years ago in graduate school, I spent a couple of semesters studying skeptics and atheists. One thing I found was that skepticism and atheism grew more out of an _______ than it did out of evidence. Atheists and skeptics tended to _______ on the disorder and the ugly in life. They seemed to _______ the order, the beauty, the grandeur, and the wisdom so evident in our universe. They were intelligent people, but they missed the intelligent _______ that’s all around us. I’m amazed at how easily people can _______ into a very narrow view of life and of God. Some folks close their eyes and their minds to the _______ of God and see only the evil and the ugly. God is good and actively _______ us every day. Thankfully, we can know Him and what He’s done for us to bless us and give us _______ life.

Our reading today comes from the book of Proverbs 3:5-7.

Paul said, “I pray that the _______ of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe” (Ephesians 1:18-19). God wants our hearts to be open to His _______. God’s power towards us who believe is _______ than we think!

Have you ever experienced an "aha!" moment—awakening to something that’s a great _______ that had eluded you? That’s what Paul wanted for the Ephesians. He wanted them to understand what God causes to happen—God is at _______! God has great power—and His power works in the _______ of His people.

You might ask how God is at work. He’s working in a variety of ways. First, God works in the _______. As a prophet, King David said, “The heavens are telling of the _______ of God; and their expanse is declaring the _______ of His hands” (Psalm 19:1). One can hardly _______ at the beauty, the order, and the wisdom of the universe and not see how wise and
how powerful God is. The God who makes the sun shine and flowers bloom, the God who regulations times and seasons has such great power and wisdom that it’s truly ________ our understanding. Paul proclaimed: “And in the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; and yet He did not leave Himself without ________, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:16-17). All that we have, all our blessings _______ from God!

Jesus is not only our Creator, He’s also the one who keeps this world together. Colossians 1:15-17 says, “And He (speaking of Jesus) is the ________ of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were __________, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things _______ together.” God’s power and wisdom cause our seasons, cause the earth to rotate every 24 hours making night and day, cause the moon to revolve around the earth every 28 days and control the tides of the ocean, and cause the earth to go around the sun every 365 and one fourth days determining our year and our seasons. This could not just happen on its own; God has been in ________.

The Lord Jesus taught us to pray, “Give us this _______ our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). We’re blessed to have food to eat each day, food that God _________. Have you ever thought about the _______ of one seed planted in the ground? One kernel of corn planted in the ground, watered, and fertilized can produce an ear of corn with sixteen rows and 800 kernels. Many cornstalks will have more than one ear! God created that kernel of corn with the information and the ability to reproduce itself that way. God is indeed powerful! Read what the Lord Jesus said in Mark 4:27-29. God has been taking _______ of us in marvelous ways for a very long time.

Second, God is at work in your _______. God sent His Son to die upon the cross; God through the Holy Spirit inspired men to _______ the Bible including the gospel, which has the power to save; and Christ built His ________, who are the saved. From the very beginning, God has been __________ toward your salvation and mine. Read what the apostle Paul said by inspiration in Ephesians 2:4-9.

The salvation that we _______ through Christ was not easy. It’s the _______ of God, and for that we are thankful. But great gifts are not cheap, and our redemption came at a _______ greater than silver or gold. God sacrificed his Son Jesus, and Jesus sacrificed His _______ on the cross for you and me. We must not take our salvation for granted or treat it ________ as if it were trivial. People who mock the Lord, people who ignore the cross, or criticize the church are usually unthankful for what God has done to _______ them. They don’t realize what He sacrificed to give them ________ life. The Bible is the message of that life. Without the message of the Bible, we would all be in great peril—without hope and without God in this present world.

The Bible teaches us how to come to Christ, and how the _______ of Christ cleanses us, and how we can have _______ life with Christ. Read what the Bible says in Colossians 2:12-13. You may not realize it, but it is God who is “at work” in __________.
In baptism, God ________ us with Christ; God washes away our sins; God takes away that old man of sin; God ________ us with Christ; and God ________ us up from spiritual death to newness of life. In baptism, God adds us to the ________ and God makes us His children. Oh, God is very busy working on us in _________. For this reason, I cannot quite understand why anybody would say baptism is unnecessary for our salvation. Baptism is when God works on us.

God doesn’t ________ us once we’re saved. Every Christian ________, and that’s unfortunate. Christians wish they could keep from sinning, because they love God and they ________ it when they sin and they want to stop it afterward. God knows that we’re ________, but He’s also provided for our weaknesses. The Bible says, “Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw ________ to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25). That’s what Jesus is ________ right now for us. He’s interceding with the Father on our behalf, asking the Father to ________ us and to continue blessing us, even when we have sinned. Oh, I am so thankful for the Lord who loves me enough to pray for me.

Third, God is at work answering ________. The Bible says, “It will also come to pass that before they call, I will ________; and while they are still speaking, I will ________” (Isaiah 65:24). God wants to hear your prayers. In fact, He ________ you to pray to Him. The Bible says, “Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from ________, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow” (James 1:17). God loves us enough to hear our prayers and to help us when we ________ Him. The apostle Paul reminds us, “Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Fourth, God is busy shaping our ________. He works in us. The Bible says, “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good ________ in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6). Yes, God prepares His people to do His work, so that we may ________ for an eternity in heaven with Him. What God is doing in us now ________ us for the life to come. The Bible says, “So then, my beloved, just as you’ve always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13). God is shaping our hearts, our attitudes, our will, and our lives to conform to His ________, so that we might live with Him always.

God also saved us so that we might be His ________, doing good works and impacting the world for love and righteousness. The Bible says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should ________ in them” (Ephesians 2:10). So much ________ is being done in the world because of the love of God and the teaching of the Bible: Christians feed the hungry, they take care of widows and orphans, they help unwed mothers; they provide help to the lonely and homeless; and they point sinners to righteousness.
I saw a book written by a skeptic, called *The God Problem*. His subtitle suggested that God never addresses the problem of _______ in the Bible. I wondered which Bible he was reading from because it’s not the Bible that I’ve spent my life studying. God knows all about our __________, and the cross of Christ demonstrates God’s willingness to suffer for us. Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that God causes all things to work together for _______ to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” God doesn’t stop every event of suffering, but God does use even suffering to work for our _______. We don’t always understand what God is doing or why; but we know that God ______ us and will use every circumstance in our lives, pleasing or painful, to work for good in some way. We can trust God!

**Read what David, who was inspired of God, said in Psalm 103:1-5.**

God has been working in our lives a very ______ time. He isn’t hidden, but we do get distracted by life and sometimes we’re unable to _____ what He’s doing. The Bible reminds us of all the good that God is doing _____ us and _____ us. Paul said, “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32). Oh, God’s Word is far from being __________. It’s the source of love and life and good and righteousness. Oh, we need the Bible every day to help us grow and to live as God intended.

I join Paul in His prayer in Ephesians 1:18-19: “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.” God can work in your ________, IF you let Him. He won’t twist your arm; He won’t make you do anything. But if you out of love put your life into His hands, God can do __________ things.

It’s not the _______ of God that is lacking. It’s not the willingness of God to _______ in our lives that is lacking. What is lacking is our willingness to _______ God into our hearts and our lives.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the L ORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” You’ve got to _______ Him and let Him work in you. God desires that we _______ in Jesus Christ enough to obey Him and to trust His promises.

That starts by trusting Him enough to _______ of your sins and _______ the name of Christ before others. Christ doesn’t want a _______ disciple. He wants you to confess with your mouth that He is your Lord and that you believe He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. After you’ve repented and made that confession, God wants you to be _______ into Christ, where God cleanses you with the blood of Jesus and makes you into one of His own children. Won’t you do that today? Won’t you obey the gospel and put the Lord first? Will you let God work in your life?