



# ***EXAMINING OUR FAITH***



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OUR FAITH***



## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

1. The opening prayer  
2. The reading of the lesson  
3. The singing of the hymn  
4. The offering  
5. The benediction  
6. The closing prayer

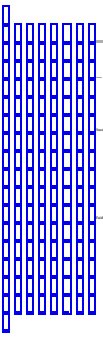
## THE LESSON

1. The opening prayer  
2. The reading of the lesson  
3. The singing of the hymn  
4. The offering  
5. The benediction  
6. The closing prayer

## THE CLOSING

1. The opening prayer  
2. The reading of the lesson  
3. The singing of the hymn  
4. The offering  
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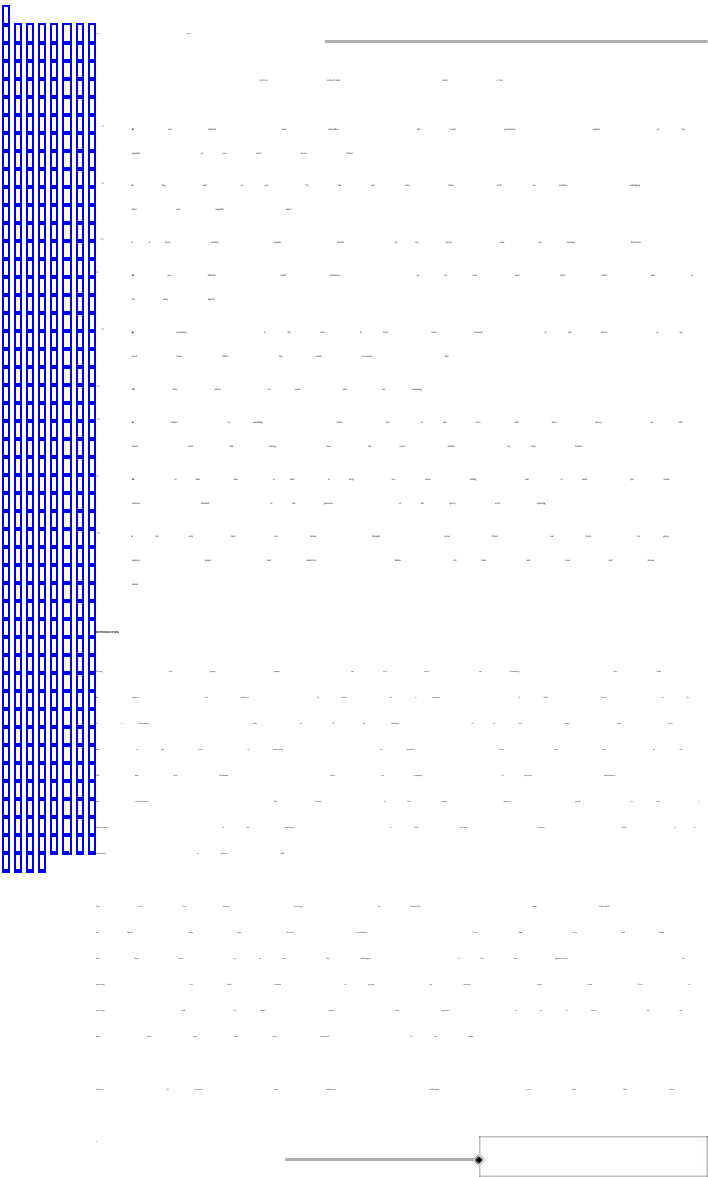
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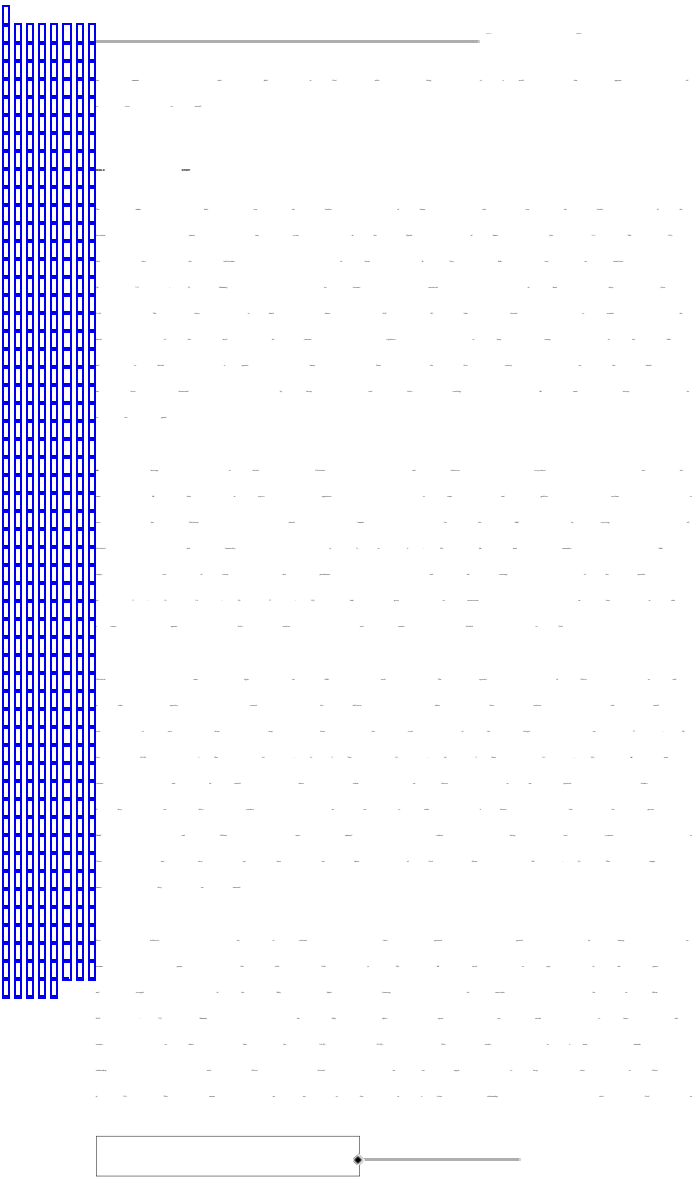
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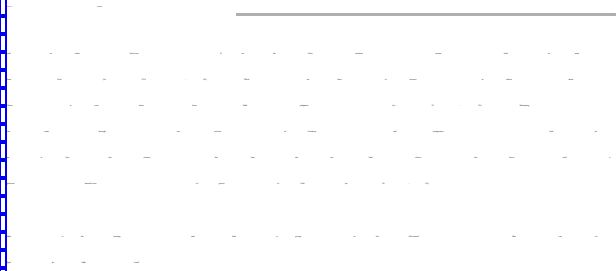
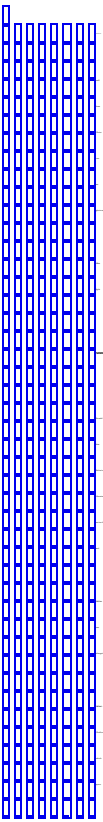
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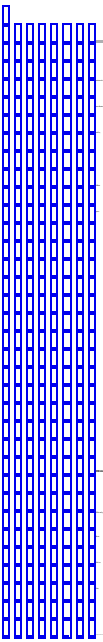
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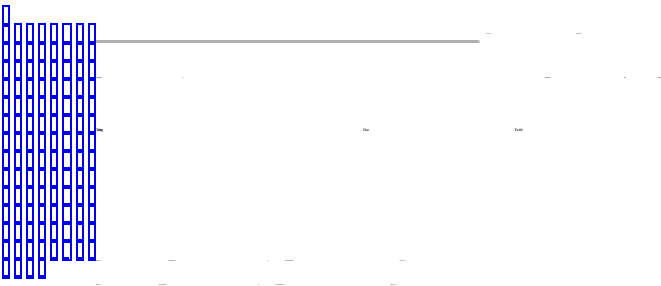












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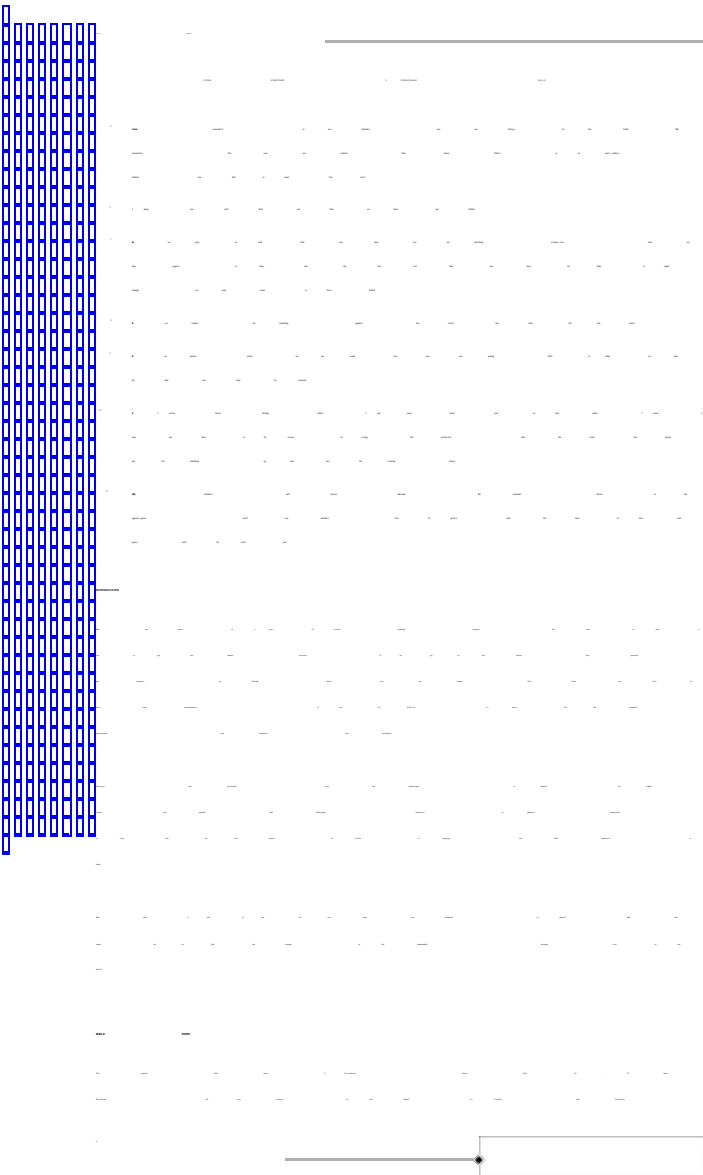
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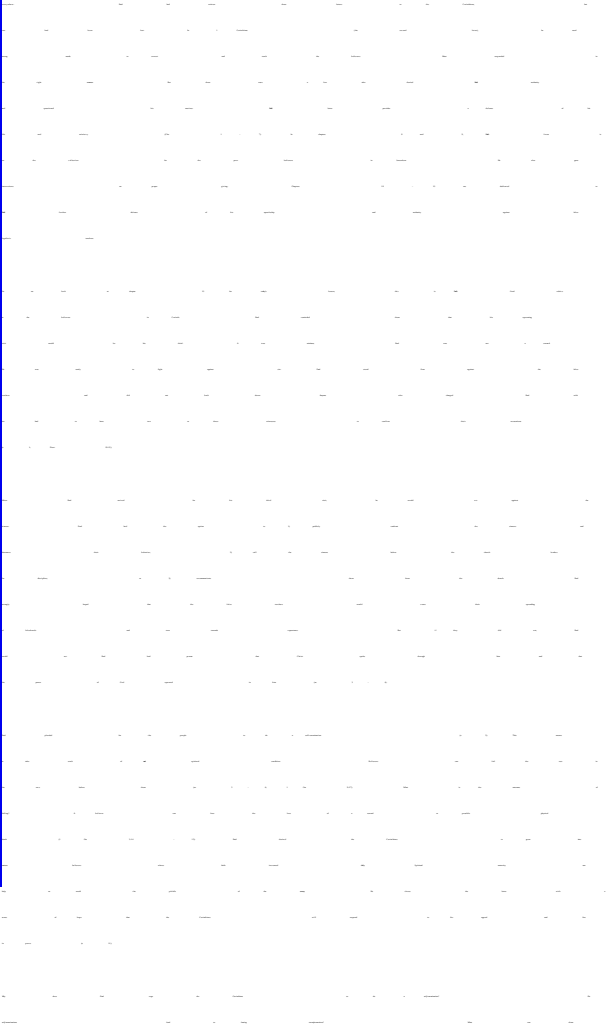
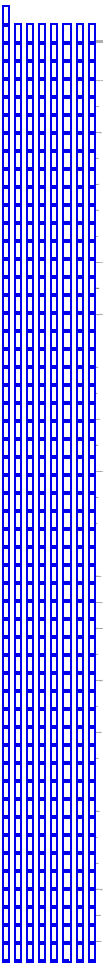
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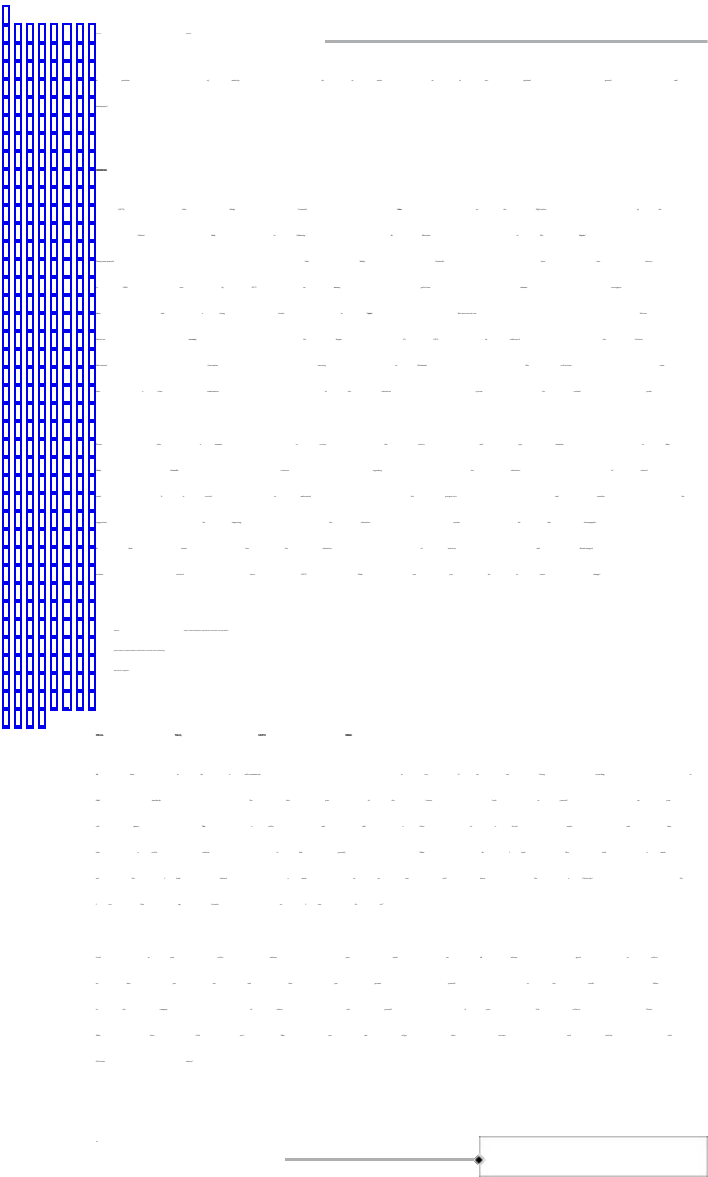
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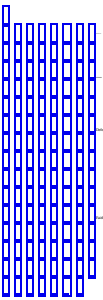












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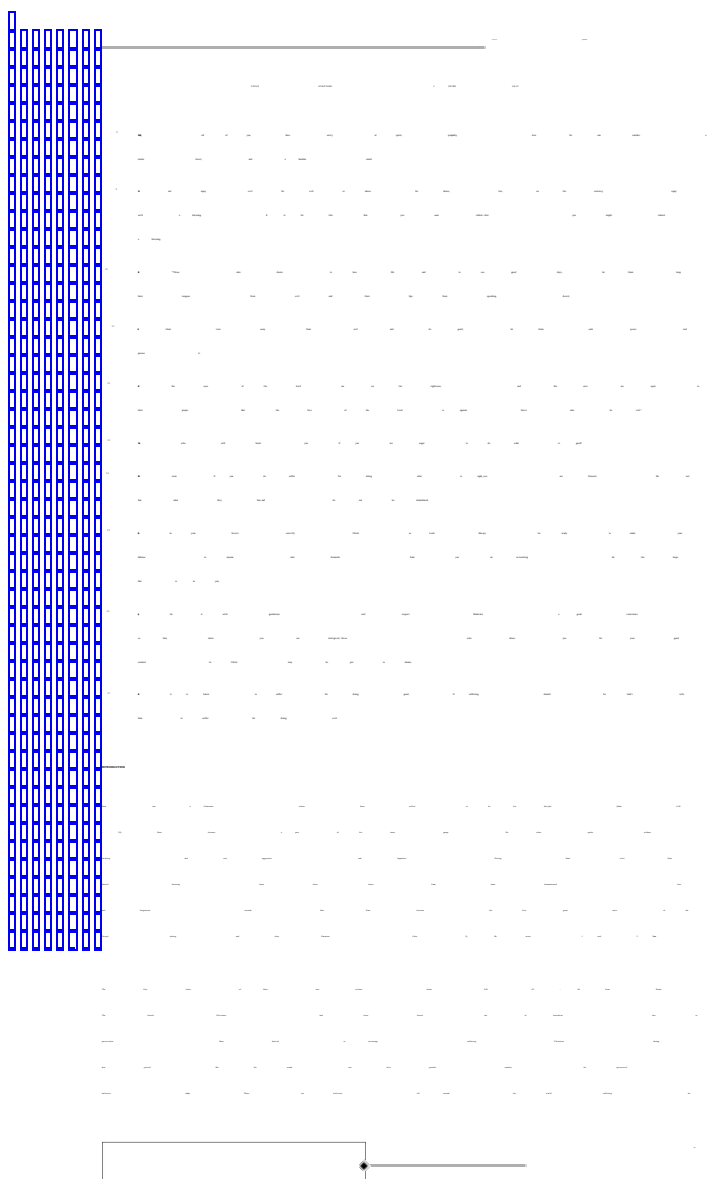
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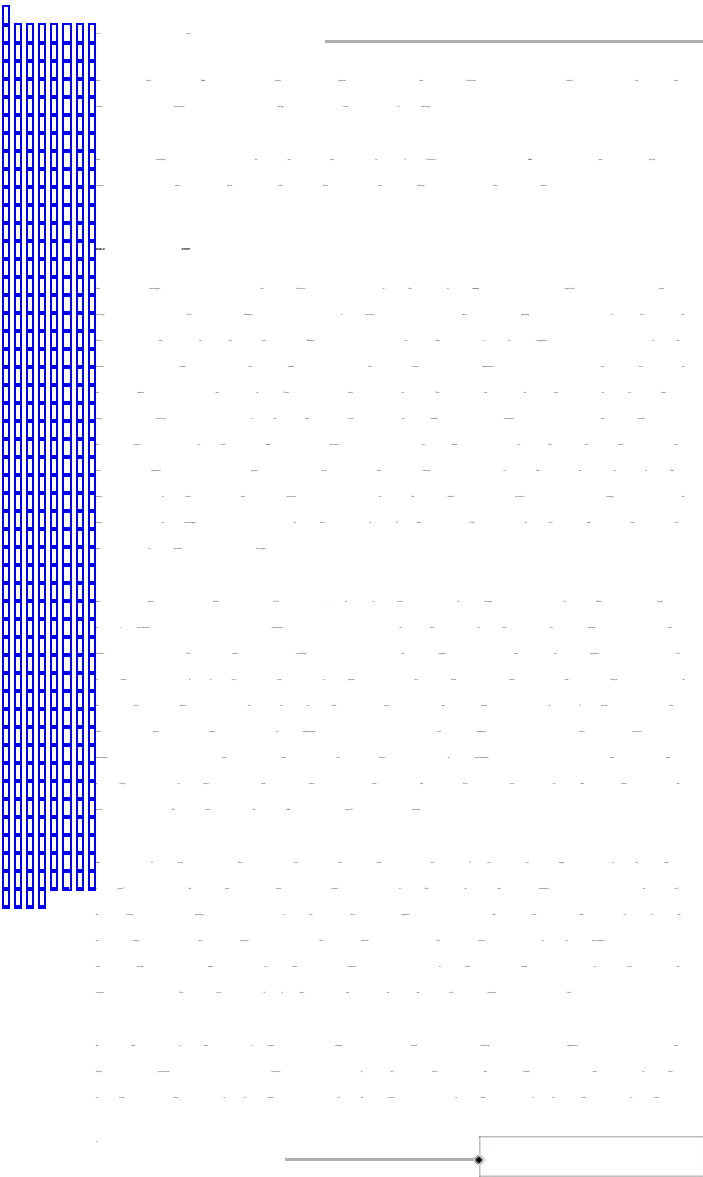
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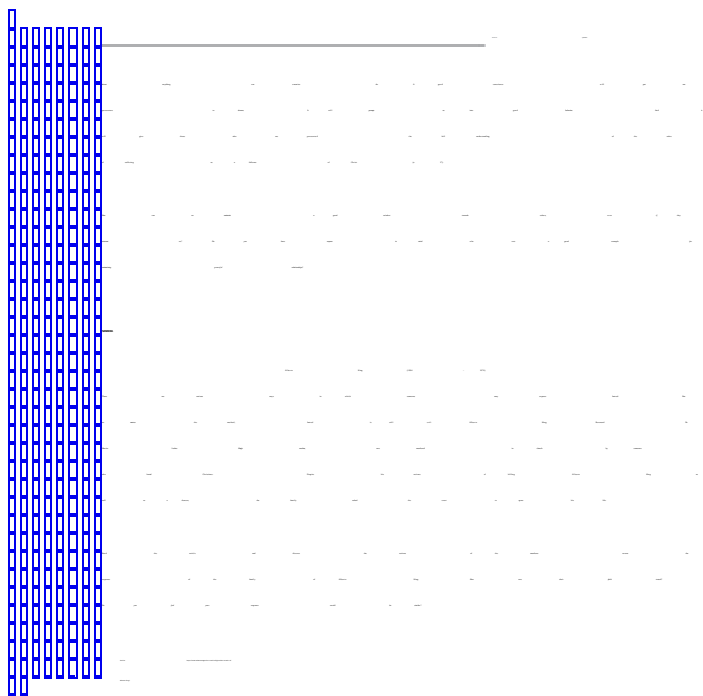
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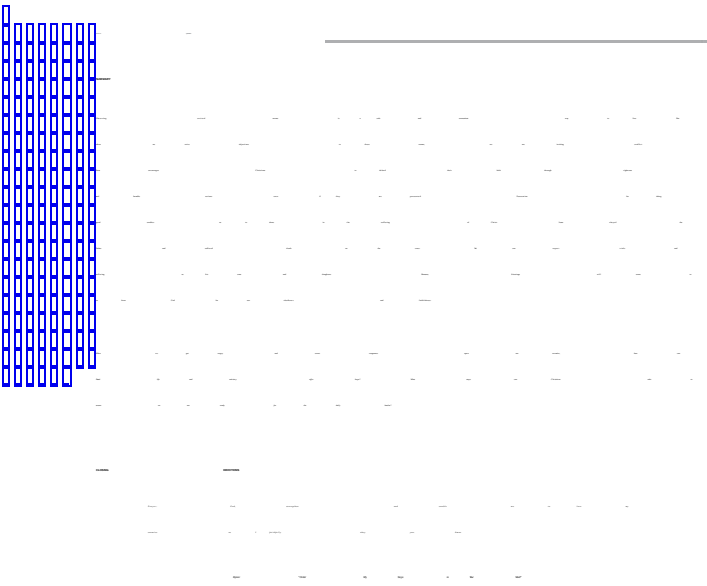
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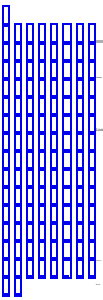


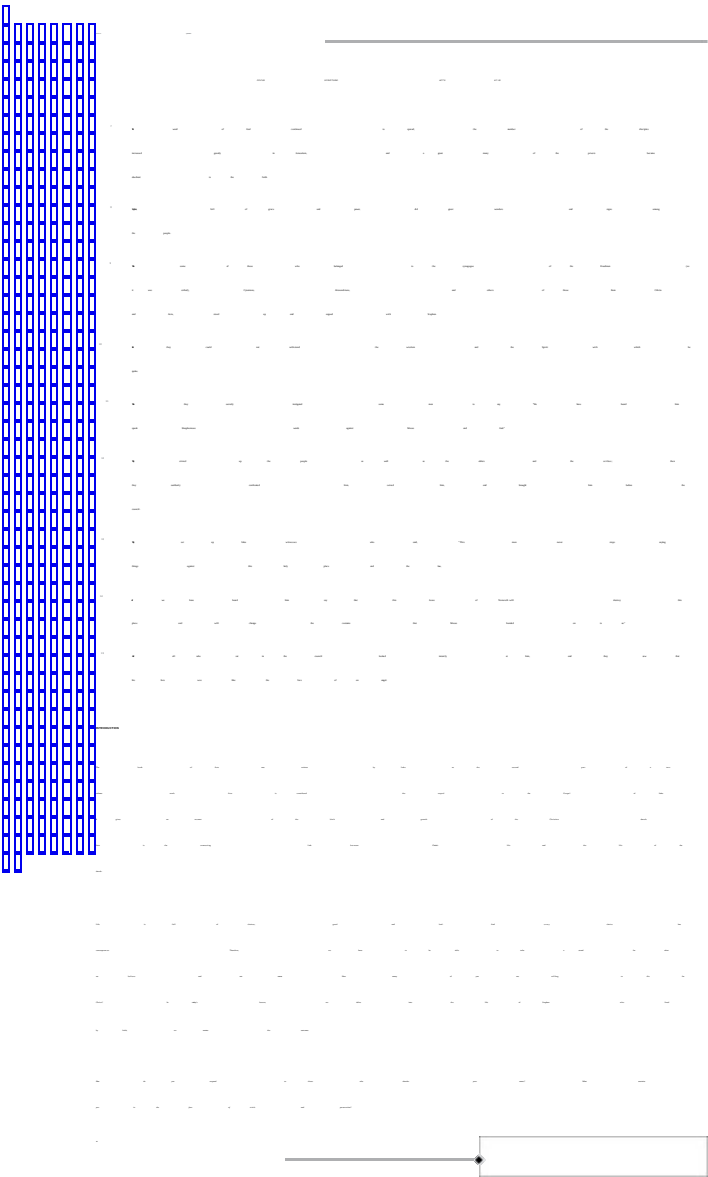


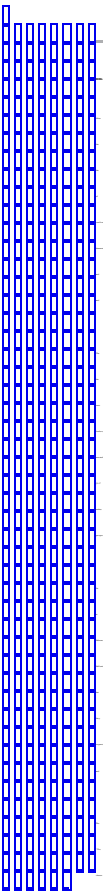








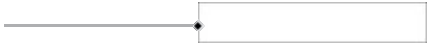
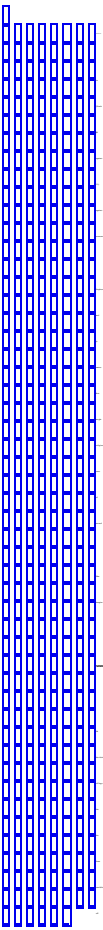


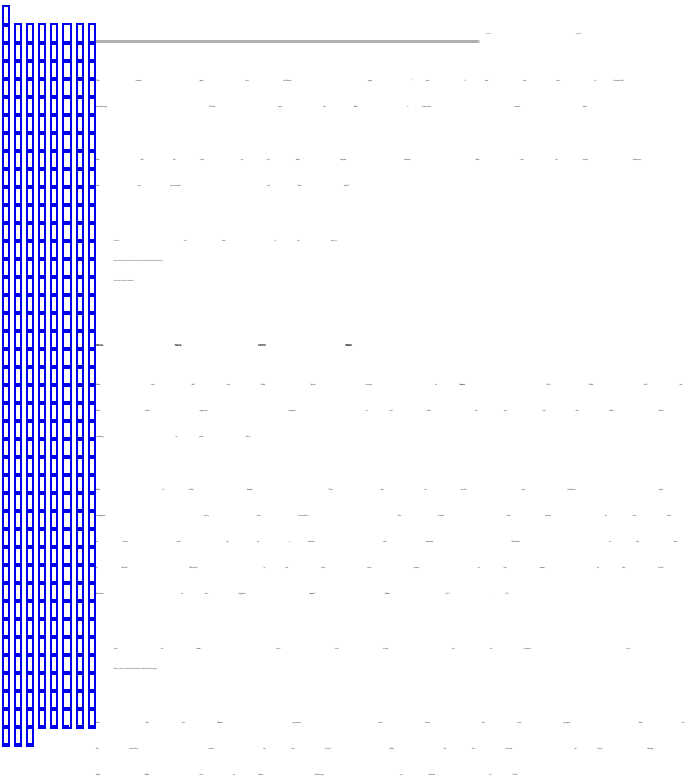


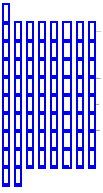
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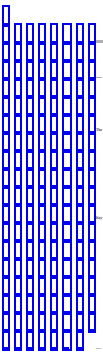
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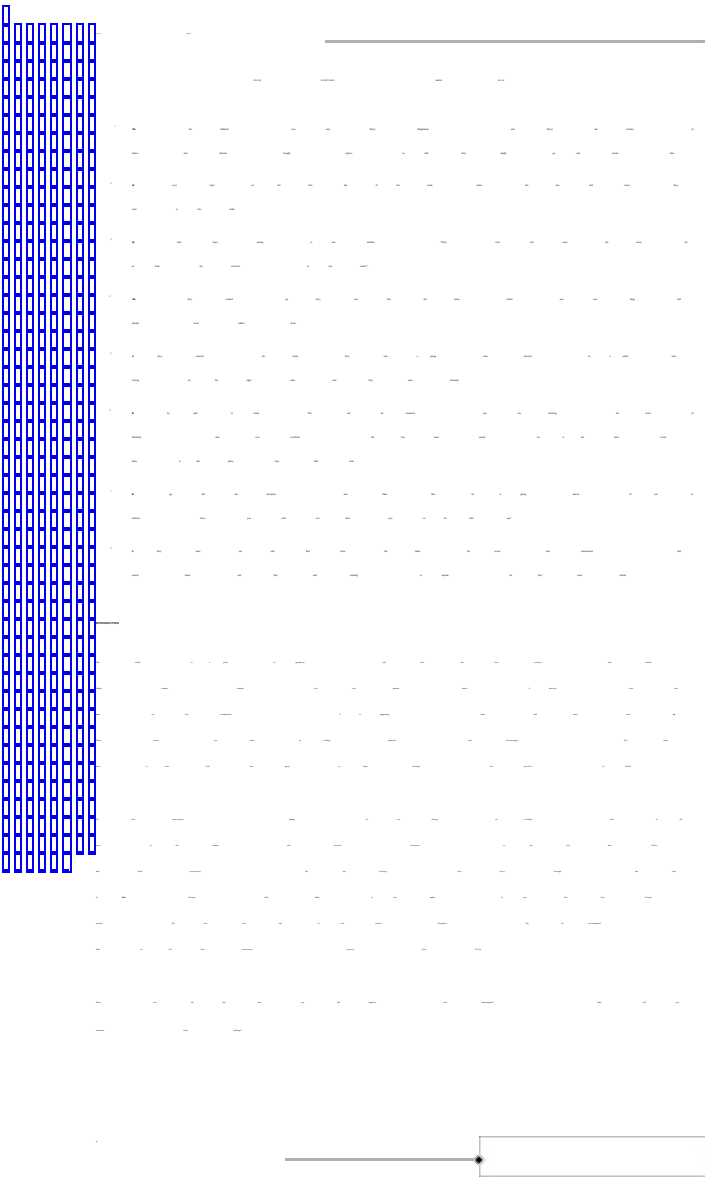
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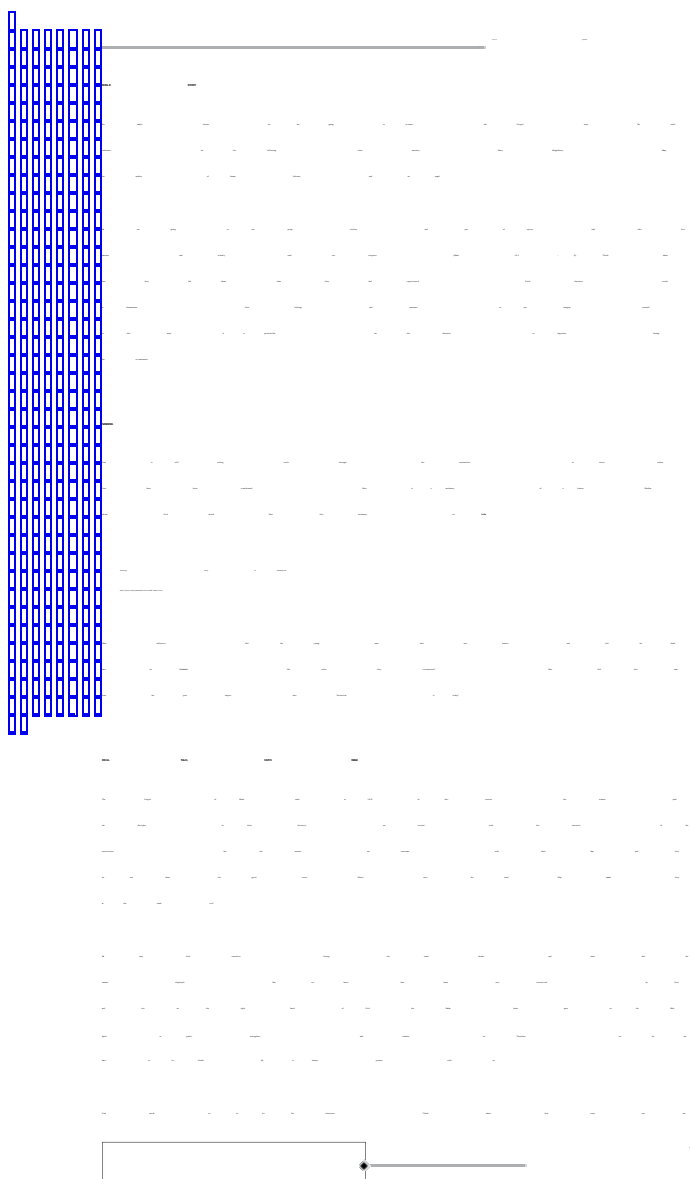
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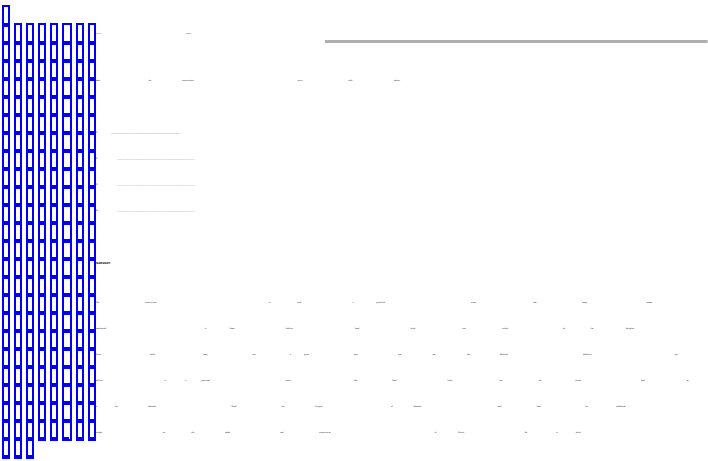
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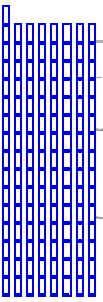




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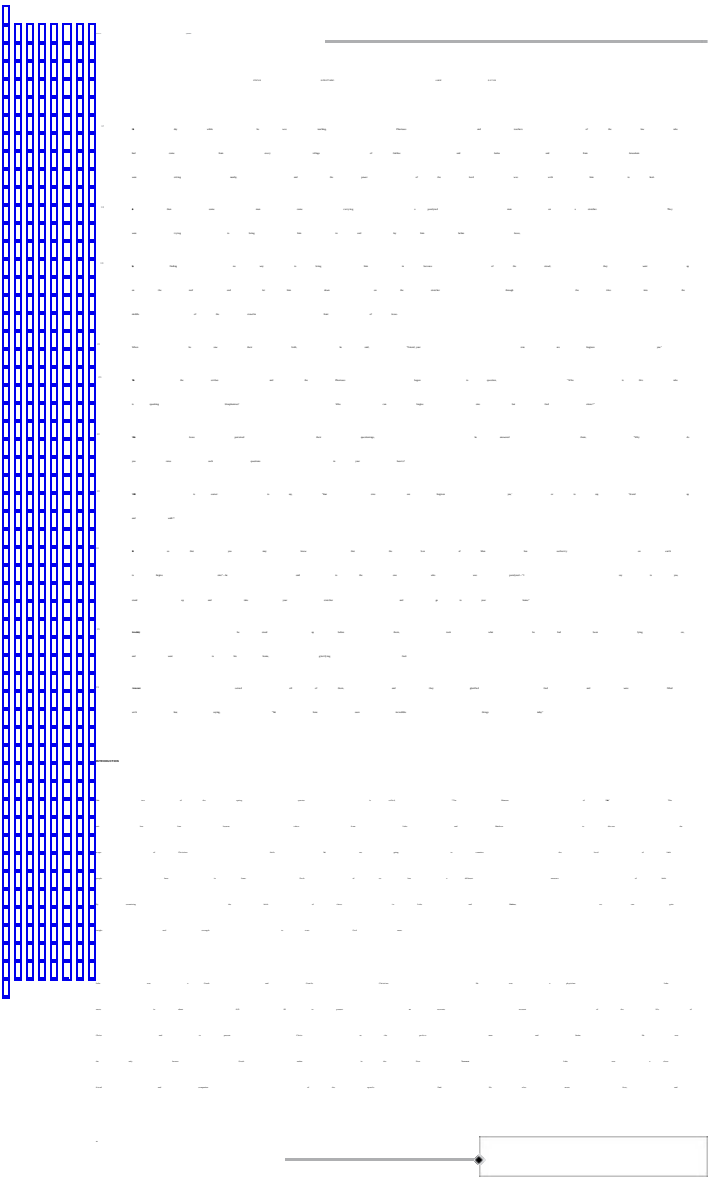
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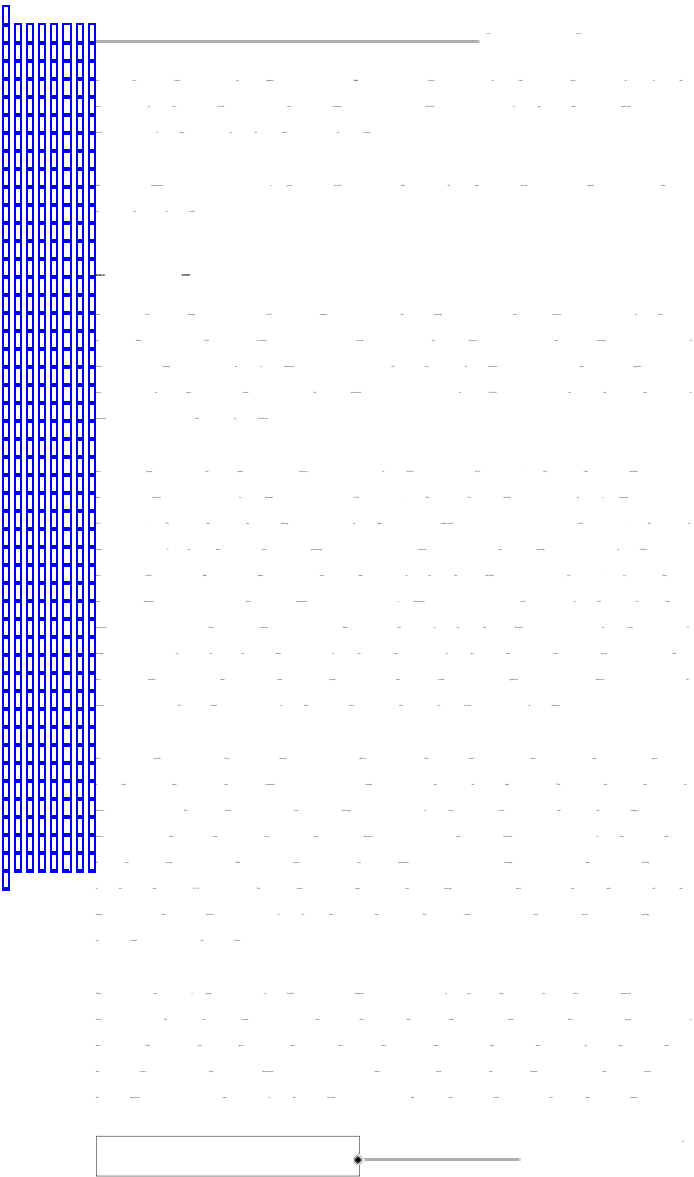
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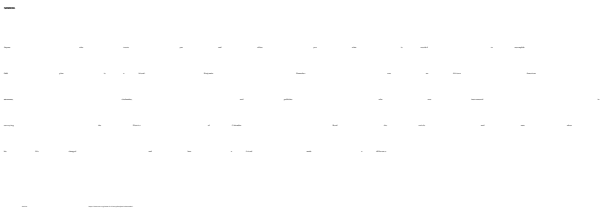
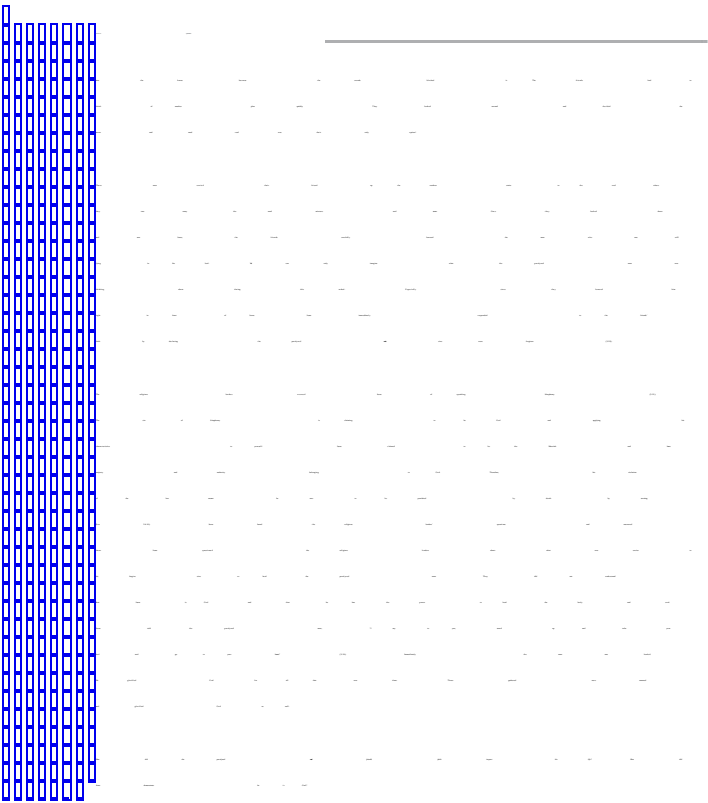
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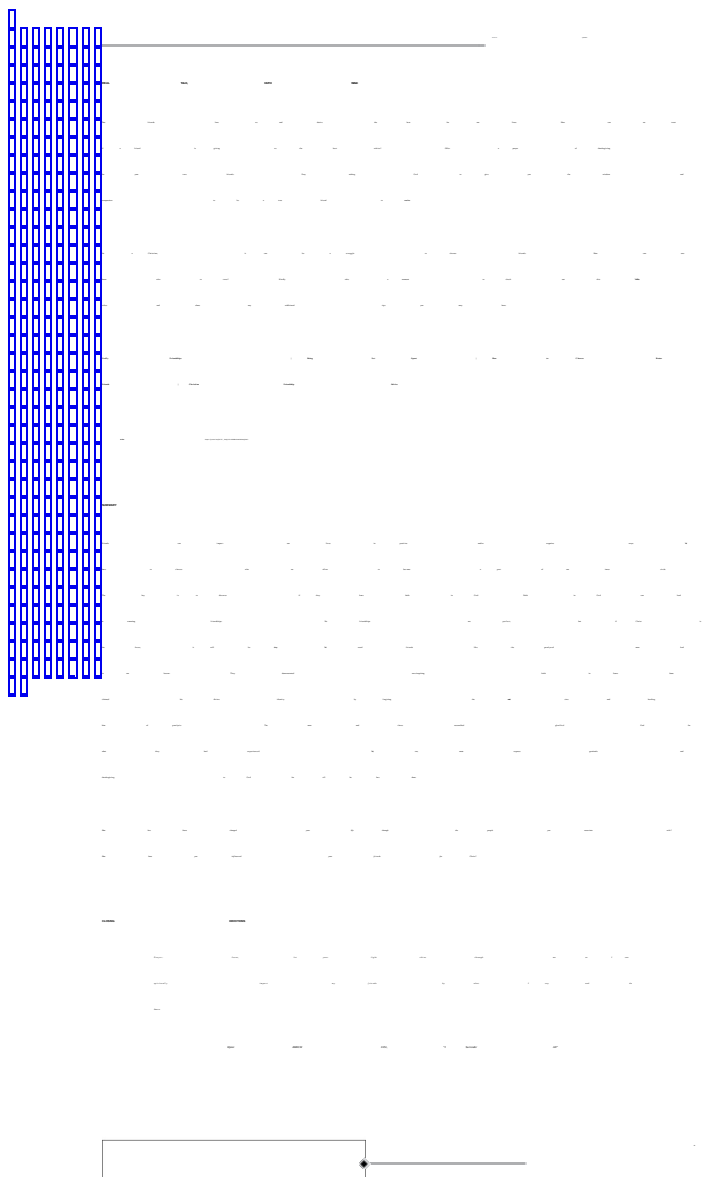
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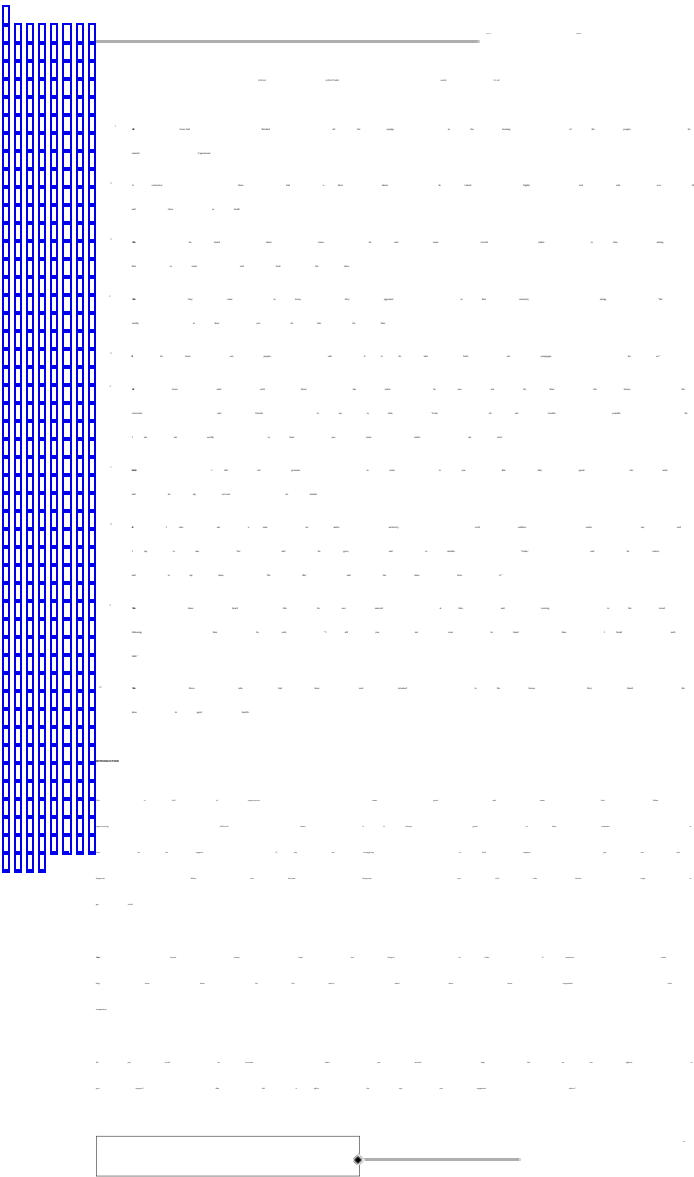


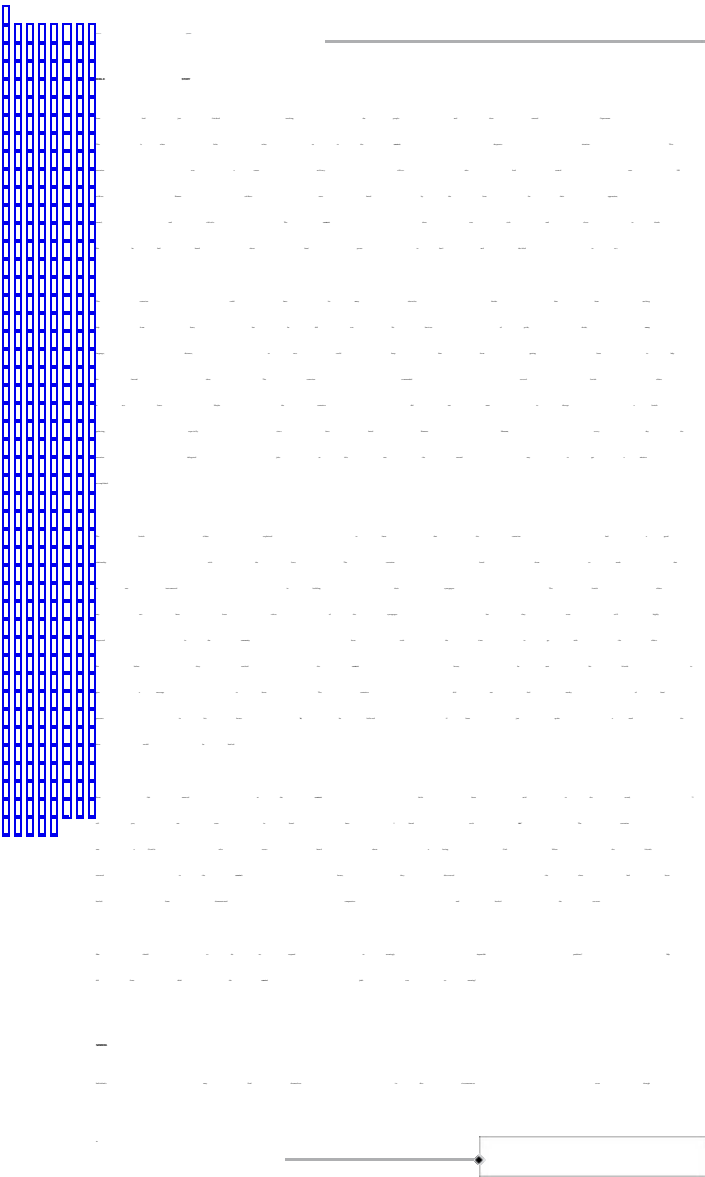


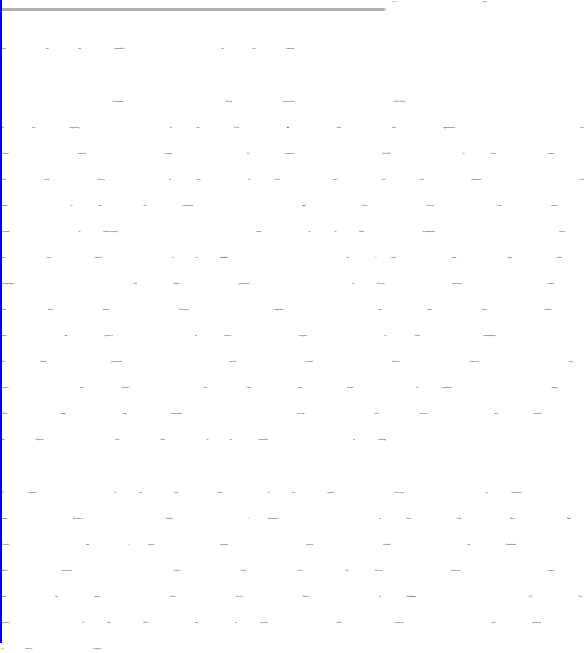
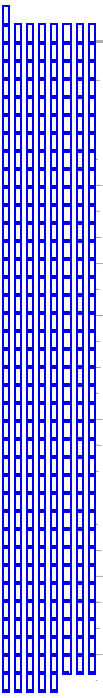




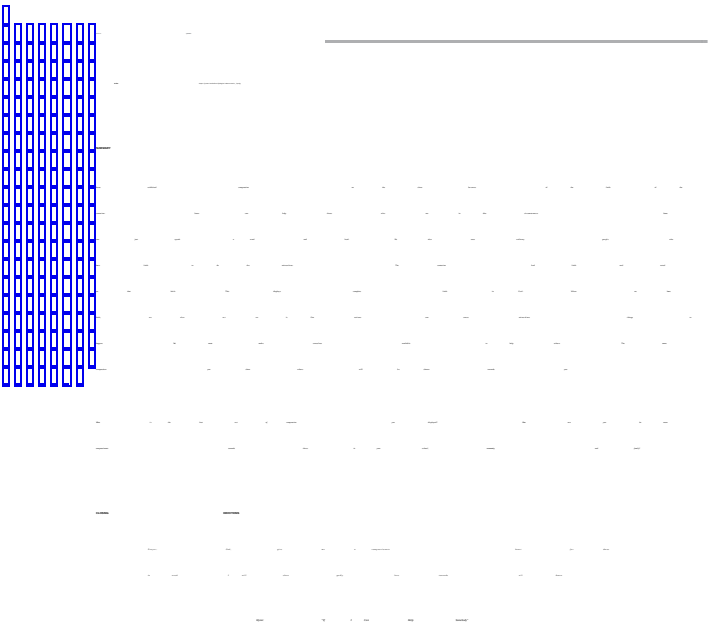












Lesson 8 April 21, 2024

Faith of a Woman Who Loved Jesus

Lesson Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

Focus Scripture: Luke 7:36-39, 44-50

Key Verse: “Hence she has shown great love.” Luke 7:47

### WORDS TO KNOW

Alabaster jar – a pink-colored soft mineral made into cups or boxes for holding expensive perfume

Anoint – to pour oil upon one in appointing him or her to a particular office

Forgiven – to be pardoned of sins

Peace – a state of security and tranquility

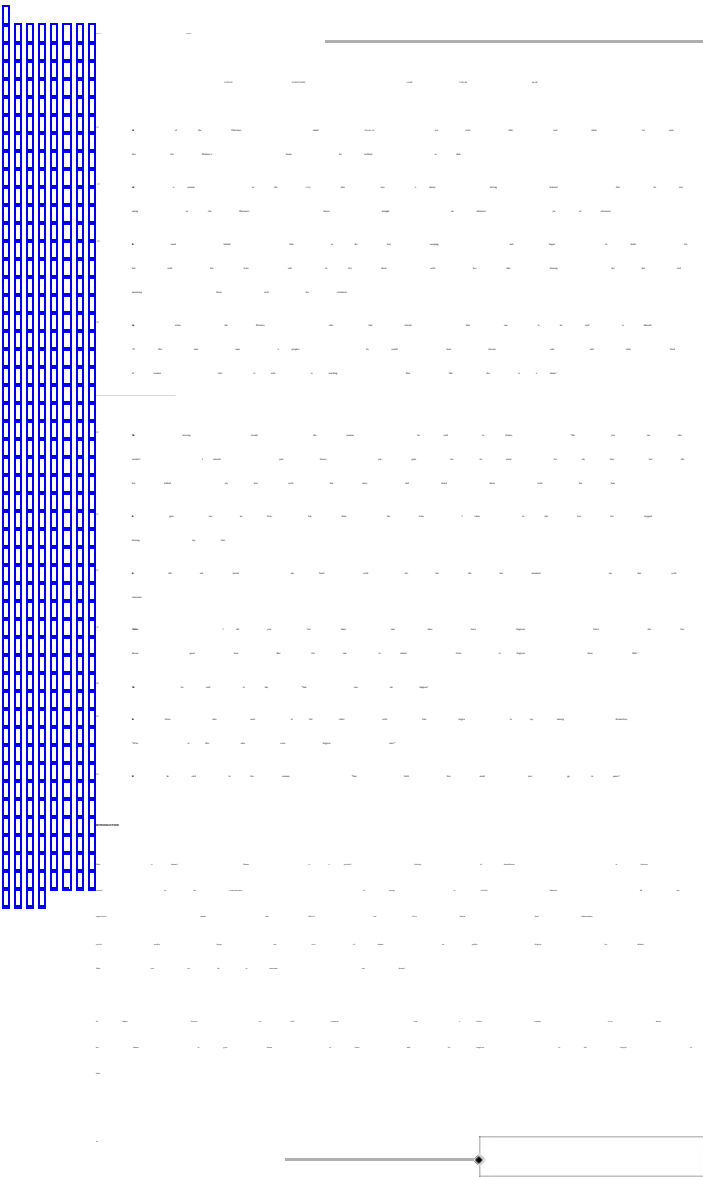
Pharisees – pronounced: FEHR – ih – seez

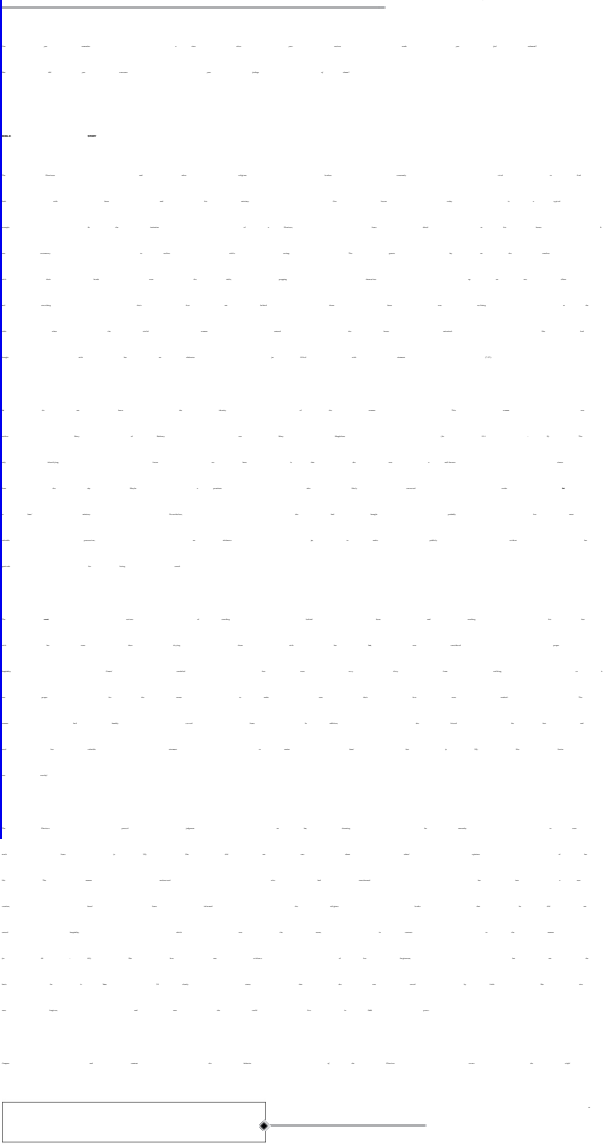
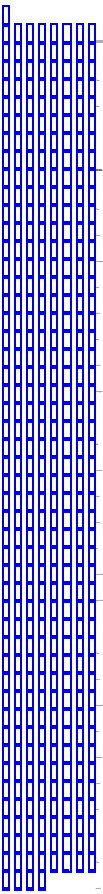
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woman. Who do you identify with the most? Why?

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### Marie-Joseph Dite Angelique (1700-1734)

Marie-Joseph Dite Angelique was born in Portugal and enslaved. Angelique was sold twice after leaving Portugal. She asked for her freedom but was denied that right. Angelique became very rebellious and often threatened to burn down her master's house. She and her lover escaped but were caught and returned to Montreal. Angelique continued to threaten to burn down her master's house.

In April 1734, a large fire broke out in Montreal destroying many buildings. Rumors started and Angelique was accused of starting the fire. There was no evidence of her guilt. She was tortured into confessing. Before they set her on fire, she was told to beg for forgiveness. Angelique did not do it. She was burned alive. Her ashes were tossed into the wind.

If Angelique had asked them to forgive her, would the outcome have been different? What happens when we pre-judge others? Who can release us from the bondage of our sins?

Source: Nielsen, E. (2020, June 03). Marie-Joseph Dite Angelique (1700-1734). BlackPast.org. <https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/people-global-african-history/marie-joseph-dite-angelique-1700-1734/>

## REAL TALK, FAITH WALK

The class will be performing two role-plays. The first act is composed of three characters: a pastor; a teenager (17 years old); and a police officer. The teenager was caught breaking into the church at night and stealing food as well as a flat screen television. The police officer wants to put the teenager in jail. The pastor agrees even after the teenager shares why he/she committed burglary. The second act is composed of the same three characters and scenarios. However, this time the pastor and police officer agree to forgive the teenager. They see regret and sorrow within the

teenager. So, the pastor does not press charges and agrees to help the teenager receive his/her diploma, counseling, and job training.

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Compare and contrast the outcomes from the first versus the second act. How does extending love and forgiveness toward those who have sinned create an opportunity for transformation?

## SUMMARY

The woman in today's lesson is no different from us. She had sinned and the community knew all about it. They judged her based on her sins. But her actions demonstrated humility and gratefulness toward Jesus. He had given her a new life by extending love and forgiveness. Jesus did not desire for her to live in shame for her past. Jesus is offering us the same opportunity to live free from our past sins and not feel ashamed. Salvation comes from faith in him. Faith, love, and forgiveness are the keys to peace. Not only for us but for all who sin. We can show gratitude to God for our new lives by extending love and forgiveness to others.

Why is forgiveness sometimes difficult? How can we extend hospitality towards those who sin against us?

## CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Prayer: Jesus, thanks to your love and forgiveness all my shame is gone. I will live in peace and be grateful all my life. Amen.

Hymn: AMECH #448, "It Is Well With My Soul"

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Lesson 9 April 28, 2024

Faith of a Canaanite Woman

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 15:21-28

Focus Scripture: Matthew 15:21-28

Key Verse: Jesus answered [the Canaanite woman], “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment. Matthew 15:28

### WORDS TO KNOW

Mercy – compassion or forgiveness shown by God toward someone within God’s power to punish or harm

Tormented – experiencing or characterized by severe physical or mental suffering

Faith – complete trust in God

Tyre – pronounced: TAI – er

Sidon – pronounced: SAI – duhn

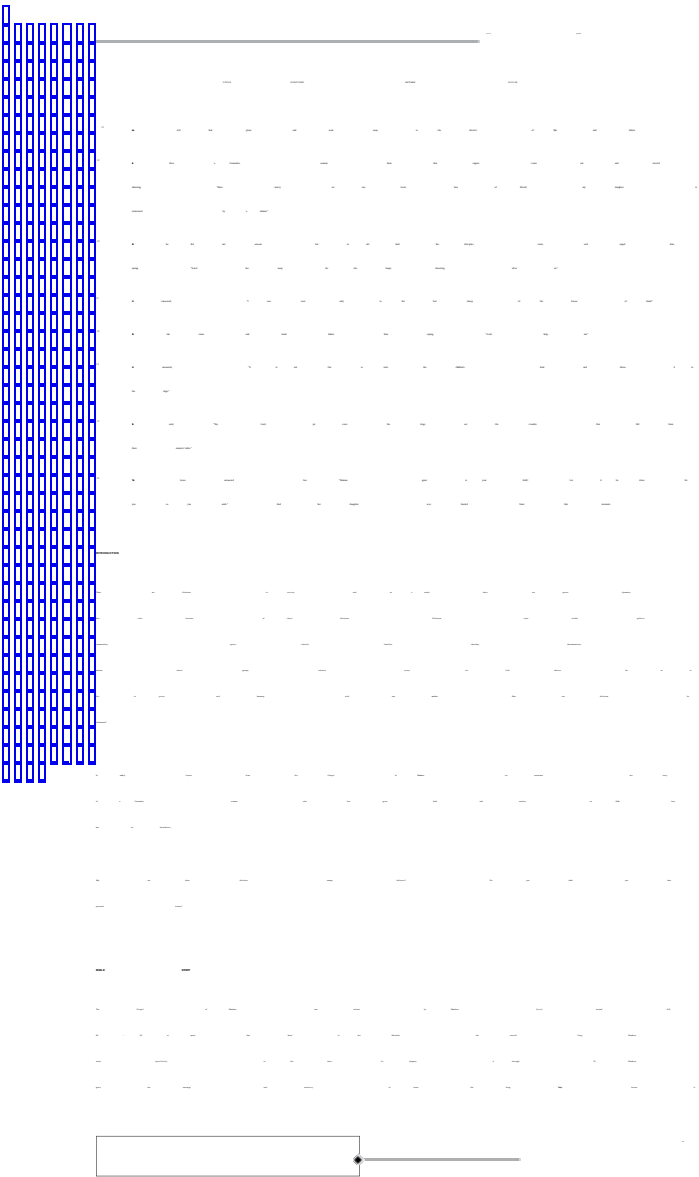
Canaanite – pronounced: KAY – nuh – nait

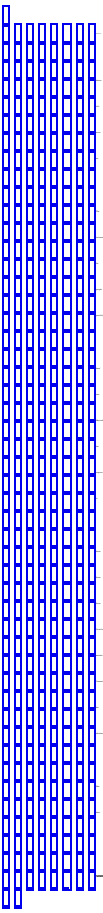
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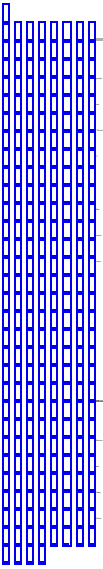
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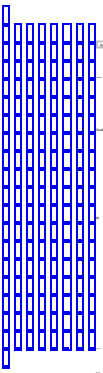
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Focus Scripture: Romans 3:21-30

21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets,

22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction,

23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;

24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed;

26 it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith.

28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of gentiles also? Yes, of gentiles also,

30 since God is one, and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

## INTRODUCTION

In school, there is a feeling of competitiveness amongst the students and staff. Students try to attain the highest grades, be the star on the sports team, wear the most expensive clothing and newest sneakers, date the most

popular person, etc. Staff compete to win special awards for best attendance, highest number of books read by class, highest test scores, etc. The same competitiveness flows over into our families, churches, colleges, communities, friendships, and so much more. Why? It offers bragging rights. “Look at what I did!”

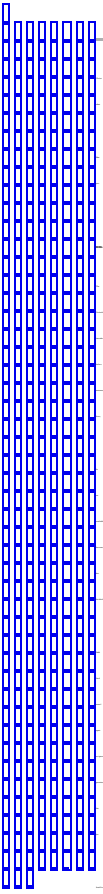
The third unit of the spring quarter is “Standing in the Faith.” It has four lessons taken from Paul’s Letter to the Romans that encourage believers to continue standing in the faith. The lesson for today indicates that the righteousness of God comes through faith in Jesus

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through justification by grace through faith.

What did God do to ensure our justification? How can we be saved?

## SANKOFA

Faith in Christ can and will change your life. All because of what God did on our behalf.

Listen to this salvation by faith testimony. Discuss the impact Christ made in her life.

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/shorts/aklDSKagqJk?si=-sjSIexAARHvG2Og>

## REAL TALK, FAITH WALK

Divide into three groups. Discuss how to commit to spiritual practices that can be done in gratitude to God regularly. The spiritual practices can be observed individually and/or in groups.

Spiritual Practices:

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## SUMMARY

No one can take credit for what God has done through the sacrifice of Christ. It does not matter how many trophies you have won or the places you volunteer. We are justified by faith through grace. Faith alone is the key to salvation. Do not get caught up in competitions to earn favor with God. It will not work. Just believe and seek a closer relationship with God through spiritual practices.

What is a factor that hinders people from having faith in God? How can you show appreciation for God's unconditional love?

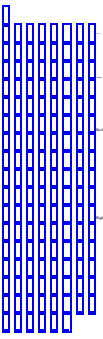
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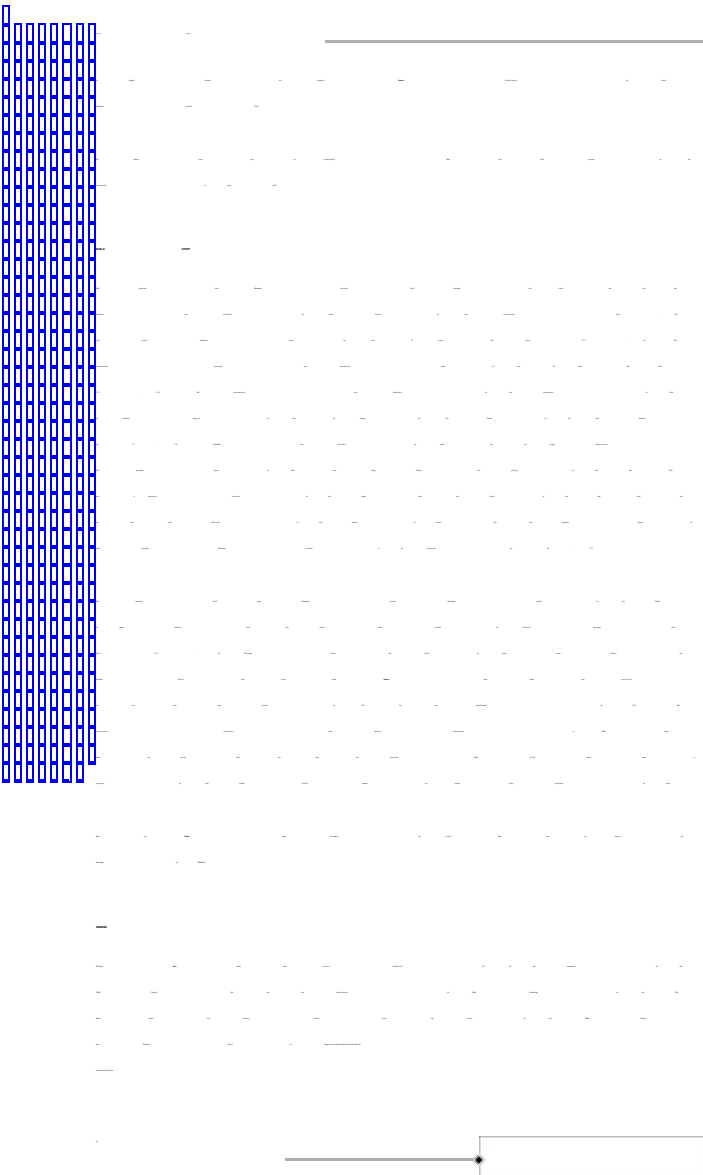
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Discuss the blessings we inherited because of Richard Allen's faith and obedience.

## REAL TALK, FAITH WALK

Do you know much about Abraham's life story? We can gain valuable insights by revisiting the lives of others. Look at this five-minute video to learn more about Abraham:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/torah-genesis-2/>

How do you explain Abraham's faith? Do you think Abraham's faith was always strong, or did he waver sometimes? When does your faith seem to waver? How do you strengthen your faith? What blessings can we expect from God for remaining faithful?

Create a psalm of praise to God. If you need inspiration, look in the book of Psalms. This is a personal psalm that you will write on posterboard and keep with you. Use the space below to write a rough draft in pencil before transcribing it on the posterboard with markers.

## SUMMARY

Abraham was justified by faith, not works. He believed in God and it was "reckoned to him as righteousness." It happened before he was circumcised. God's promise given to Abraham and his descendants to inherit the world came through faith. He committed his share of mistakes and sins, but Abraham also demonstrated wisdom in completely trusting God. Do you completely trust God? God fulfilled his promise to Abraham and made him "a father of many nations." We are heirs to the Abrahamic



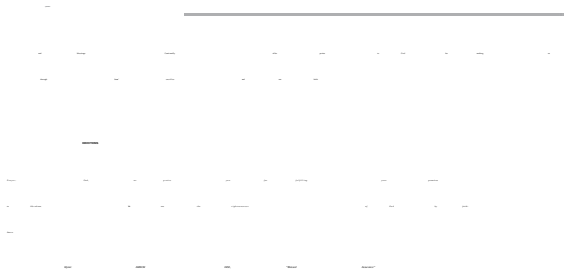
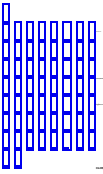
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## Lesson 12 (Pentecost Sunday) May 19, 2024

Reconciled to God

Lesson Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

Focus Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

Key Verse: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

### WORDS TO KNOW

Righteous – to act morally and by God’s commands

Justified – to be just in God’s sight by receiving mercy and forgiveness of sins by having faith in Christ

Grace – the kindness by which God bestows favors and blessings upon the ill-deserving, and grants to sinners the pardon of their sins

Wrath – violent anger

Reconciled – to restore good relations between two people or groups

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Focus Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

3 And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,

4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

9 Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

INTRODUCTION

Being successful in all we strive to do is a great accomplishment. However, life has a way of throwing stumbling blocks on our road to success. It is how we handle our challenges that can be the determining factor to our success or failure. What is the greatest roadblock you are currently facing in your life?

For today's lesson, we continue in Romans and examine Paul's faith as he endured weaknesses, challenges, and failures.

## BIBLE STORY

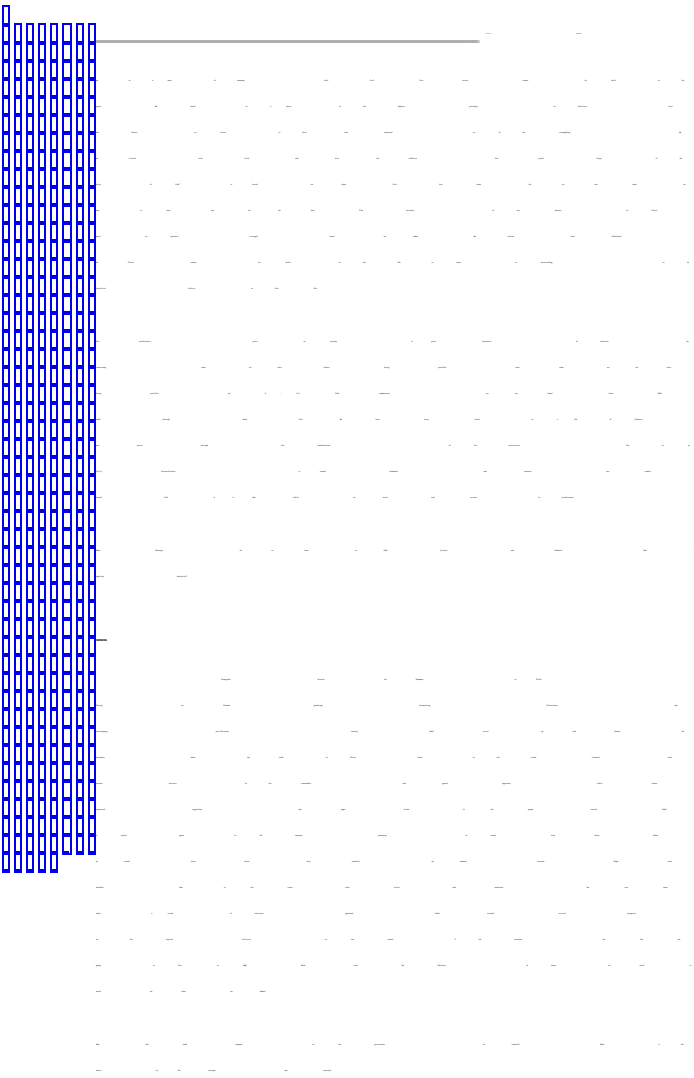
We have been justified by faith and now have peace with God. We

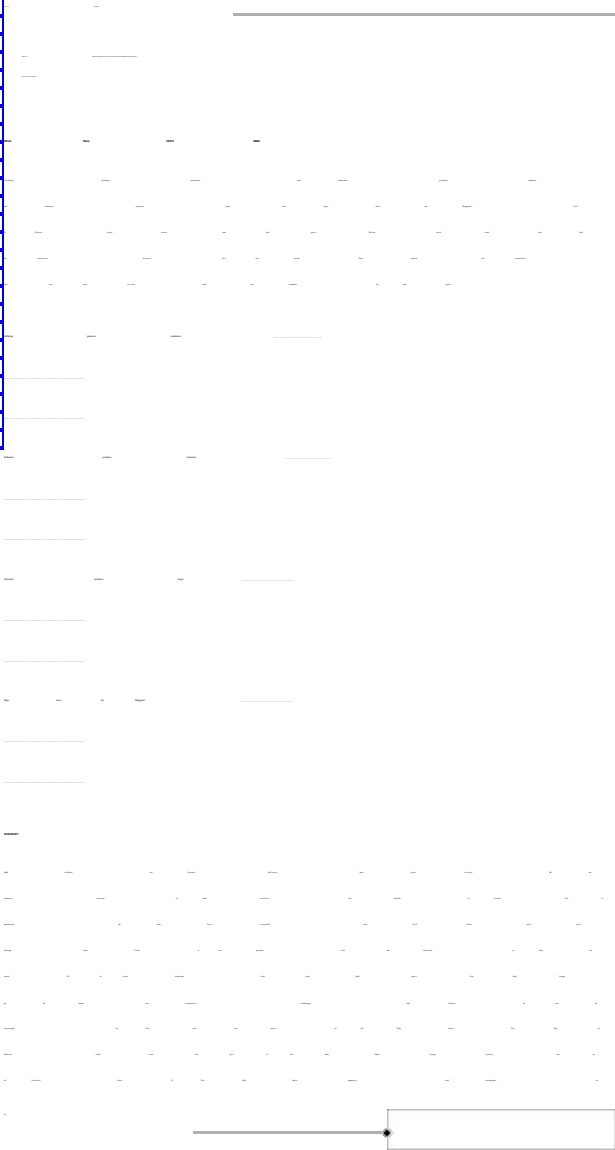
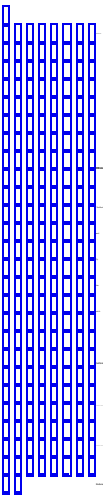
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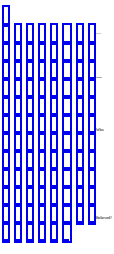
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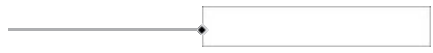




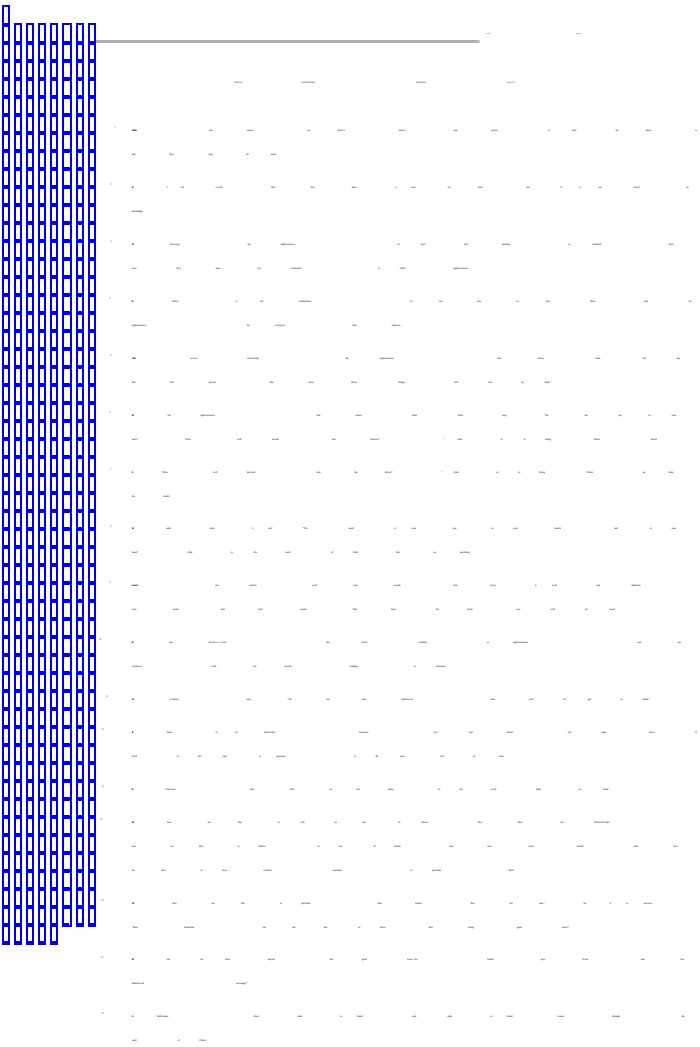
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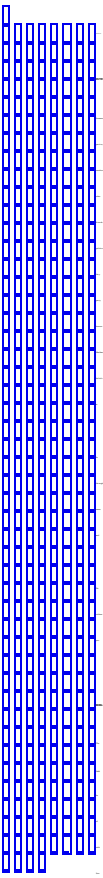
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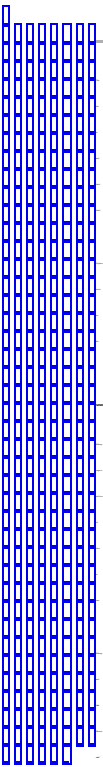
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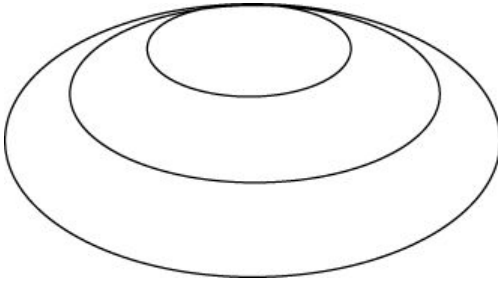
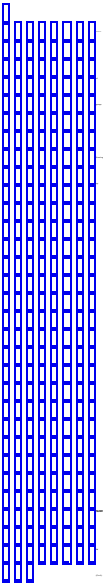
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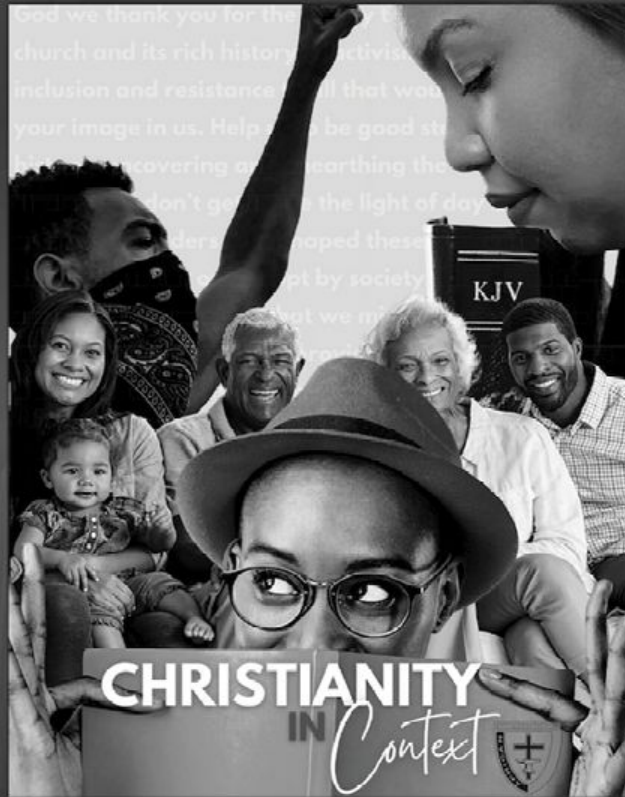
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