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### 25 Bible Verses to Connect Faith and Mathematics using Weekly Devotionals, Written Reflections, and Memory Verses

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*25 Bible Verses to Connect Faith and Mathematics  
using Weekly Devotionals,  
Written Reflections, and Memory Verses*



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What Bible Verses come to mind when you think about connecting Faith and Mathematics?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Weekly Devotionals & Memory Verses**

- For Monday, I pick a verse that relates to the week’s topics (often from the list below).
- Write the verse on the board before students arrive, along with a discussion question.
- Show a YouTube video related to the verse.
- Have students briefly discuss the question in groups.
- They can memorize the verses for bonus points on quizzes.
- Assign a one-page paper for further reflection, to be turned in with homework.

**Reflection Paper Topics:**

1. Value of Working in Groups (Eccles. 4:12)
2. Debt & Credit & Exponential Growth (Prov. 22:7)
3. Saving & Compound Interest (Prov. 13:11)
4. The Fourth Dimension (Acts 17:27)
5. Numbers and Life in Perspective (James 4:14)
6. Things we should Max or Minimize (Lev. 23:22)
7. Why we study Mathematics (Phil. 4:8)
8. Gambling (Prov. 11:18)
9. Beauty in Mathematics (Eccles. 3:11)
10. How much we Know (Romans 11:33)
11. Infinity and the Nature of God (Psalm 147:5)
12. Other possibilities below: Coincidences, Misleading Statistics, Studying as Worship, The Growth Mindset, Exponential growth in the Kingdom of God, Volume and Dimensions, Butterfly Effect, and Proof and Reason.

**Format of Reflection Assignments:**

- \* Bible Verse
- \* Short Reading
- \* YouTube video
- \* Discussion questions
- \* Personal experience reflection

**Student Comments:**

- “I never thought I could learn so much about God or think about it so much in a math class!”
- “Writing reflections and memorizing Scripture really helped me to connect the math with issues of my faith...Wow! Who would’ve thought I could learn so much other than math from a calculus course!”

## Math Devotionals, Reflections, and Memory Verses

### 1. Advantages of Working in Groups

**Ecclesiastes 4:12** “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken (NIV).”

\* Read the short article to get you thinking about the benefits of group work:

<http://teachingcenter.wustl.edu/resources/teaching-methods/group-work-in-class/benefits-of-group-work>.

\* Watch the video about teamwork <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm1gh5GAmWc>. What is your favorite quote about teamwork?

A. What is the main point of this verse?

B. Reflect on your own positive and negative experiences of working in groups. What have been the advantages and disadvantages, and what has caused it to work or not work?

C. What are you hoping to learn from working in groups this semester? How can working in groups help you develop your skills in your major?

### 2. Debt and Credit

**Proverbs 22:7** “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender (NIV).”

\* Reflect on the US debt clock: <http://www.usdebtclock.org>. What numbers surprise you?

\* Read the short article from Dave Ramsey about the challenges of debt and credit: <https://www.daveramsey.com/blog/debt-is-killing-the-american-dream>.

\* Watch the video about an engaged couple in Chicago who learned how to manage debt together: <https://www.daveramsey.com/blog/15k-of-sneakers-debt-free-journey>.

\* Watch the Dave Ramsey video on car payments. Do you think you could save for a car without borrowing? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKyV8CTHeJ0>.

A. What is the main point of this verse?

B. After graduation you decide to buy a small house that costs 120,000. You have 3 options for financing the house at 5% with:

1) monthly payments for 30 years at \$644.19 per month, or

2) monthly payments for 20 years at \$791.95 per month, or

3) monthly payments for 15 years at \$948.95 per month.

Decide which option you would choose and why.

C. What are your thoughts about debt and credit as you reflect on this article and your personal experiences with money?

### 3. Wisdom of Saving and Compound Interest

**Proverbs 13:11** “Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow (NIV).”

\* Read the short article from Dave Ramsey to get you thinking about the issues involved with making wise financial decisions: <https://www.daveramsey.com/blog/how-teens-can-become-millionaires>.

\* Watch the Dave Ramsey video on compound interest about the importance of time: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIOUGZcmauo>.

A. What is the main point of this verse?

B. Reflect on your own experiences with saving money.

C. Do an Internet search for ways to save money, and describe at least 3 creative ways to save that you find helpful.

D. How do you think we should balance the ideas of Proverbs 13:11, Proverbs 6:6-8, and Matthew 6:19-21 when we make financial decisions?

#### 4. The Fourth Dimension

**Acts 17:27** “God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us (NIV).”

**Ephesians 4:4-6** “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (NIV).”

**Isaiah 55:9** “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (NIV).”

**Psalms 139:5-7** “You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? (NIV)”

\* Read the first 2 pages of the article on “Higher Dimensions in the Writings of C.S. Lewis” by David Neuhouser (former Taylor University math professor) to get you thinking about the fourth dimension: <https://www.scribd.com/document/323307377/David-L-Neuhouser-Higher-Dimensions-in-the-Writings-of-C-S-Lewis>.

\* Watch the Flatland Cartoon 2D to 3D video to better understand what it would be like to go from 3D to 4D: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnPt4YB8fA>.

A. In reference to Acts 17:27 and Ephesians 4:4-6, how could God be near all of us at the same time, or how could God be “over all and through all and in all”? Also, consider how Isaiah 55:9 and Psalm 139:5-7 might relate to higher dimensions.

B. Describe at least one event in the Bible that you think might be related to higher dimensions.

C. What do you think about the fourth dimension? While we will never know if there are higher dimensions, how does thinking about them help us understand how God is bigger than we are?

#### 5. Numbers and Number Lines help put Life in Perspective

**James 4:14-15** “Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that (NIV).”

\* Read the short article on living with true contentment:

<https://www.crown.org/blog/what-true-contentment-means>.

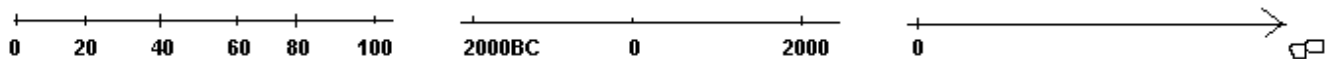
\* Watch the video on the number of days you have left in jelly beans:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOksW\\_NabEk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOksW_NabEk).

A. Consider James 4:13-15. You may also want to look at Psalm 90:12. What is the main point of these verses?

B. Describe an experience where you have made your own plans and things haven’t turned out very well, or describe a time when you sought the Lord’s direction and things turned out well.

C. On the first number line (of your life), plot today. On the second two number lines, plot your whole life. Which of the 3 number lines gives you the most insight into life and why?



#### 6. What should we maximize or minimize in our lives?

**Leviticus 23:22** “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God (NIV).”

\* Read the article about Biblical principles of giving:

<https://www.crown.org/blog/what-does-the-bible-say-about-giving-6-lessons-from-the-old-testament>.

\* Watch the video that shows the blessing of being able to give:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yt\\_xO\\_j1e-E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yt_xO_j1e-E).

A. What is the main point of this verse? How might it relate to maximizing or minimizing things in our lives?

B. Describe an experience where you benefited from maximizing or minimizing something, and what in your life do you think you might be better off to not always maximize or minimize?

C. Consider the matrix showing what we should and should not minimize and maximize. List at least one thing that you think should be in each quadrant:

	Should	Should Not
Maximize		
Minimize		

## 7. Why I Should Study Math?

**Philippians 4:8** “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things (NIV).”

\*Read the short articles from Dr. Math at the Math Forum about why we study math:

<http://mathforum.org/library/drmath/view/70650.html>.

<http://mathforum.org/library/drmath/view/67253.html>.

\* Watch the video that shows the beauty of mathematics through various applications:

<https://vimeo.com/77330591>.

A. What is the main point of this verse? How might it relate to studying math or other subjects?

B. Do you think we can change our ways of thinking over time?

C. Why do you think we should study mathematics?

D. Go to YouTube and type in “Vi Hart videos.” Watch one or two of her short (but fast) math videos. What do her videos say about the nature of mathematics?

## 8. Gambling

**Proverbs 11:18** “The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward (NIV).”

\* Read the short article by Chuck Bentley from Crown Financial Ministries on the difference between investing and gambling: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/is-investing-an-unbiblical-form-of-gambling-160486>.

\* Reflect on the 60-minutes video concerning the controversy over new casinos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLD17r0U2D0>.

\* Check out this website showing the probability of winning the lottery:

<http://graphics.wsj.com/lottery-odds>.

A. What is the main point of this verse? How might it relate to gambling or playing the lottery?

B. What are some of the dangers of gambling?

C. How do you think we should respond to gambling?

## 9. Beauty in Mathematics

**Ecclesiastes 3:11** “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end (NIV).”

\* Reflect on the activities we did in class related to Fibonacci numbers and the Golden Ratio to get you thinking about discovering the beauty in mathematics.

- \* Read the article on why math is beautiful and why it matters:  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-h-bailey/why-mathematics-matters\\_b\\_4794617.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-h-bailey/why-mathematics-matters_b_4794617.html).
- \* Watch at least one of the 3-part video series by Vi Hart on the Fibonacci numbers:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahXIMUKSXX0>.
- \* Watch the short video that shows the beauty of mathematics through various applications:  
<https://vimeo.com/77330591>.

- A. Which of the 3 statements in the verse do you find most meaningful and why?
- B. How do you think mathematics in nature may point us toward God? You may want to consider Psalm 19:1.
- C. Do an Internet search on "Fibonacci" and share at least one interesting thing you find that we did not discuss in class.
- D. What do you think makes something beautiful? Include at least one picture that helps illustrate your idea of the beautiful or lovely.
- E. How can beauty be seen in mathematics? Include at least one quote from the textbook or another source that talks about beauty in mathematics.

10. How much do we know? (There are many unsolved problems in mathematics.)

**Romans 11:33 “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!”**

- \* Read the short commentary on Romans 11:33 from John Piper:  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-deep-riches-and-wisdom-and-knowledge-of-god>.
- \* Watch the video about how much we know about science:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgA56AFPI48>.

- A. What is the main point of this verse?
- B. Which quote do you find most insightful about how much we know?
  - \* "Everything that can be invented has been invented."  
Charles H. Duell, Commissioner U.S. patent Office, 1899
  - \* "We don't know a millionth of one percent about anything." Thomas Edison
  - \* "We can't know, because we don't know how much we don't know."  
Janelle Eastman (MAT 120 student)
  - \* "The more you learn the less you know." The Hogan Family TV theme song
- C. Describe how you think God reveals himself to us, and yet there is always more to learn.

11. Infinity and the Nature of God

**Psalm 147:5 “Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit (NIV).”**

- \* Read part of the article “God and Mathematical Infinity”:  
<https://www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/1998/PSCF3-98Kneale.html>.  
You may find “A proposed answer” and “Pascal’s Wager” interesting.
- \* Watch the video that explores, how big is infinity?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPA3bwVVzGI>.

- A. What is the main point of this verse?
- B. Read pages 137, 162-163 of the textbook about infinity and how Georg Cantor was treated when he introduced a new idea about infinity. How should we approach new ideas?
- C. How does the study of infinity help you better understand the nature of God? Use at least one other Bible verse to illustrate your thinking.
- D. Cantor, Galileo, and the man who spoke about the existence of irrational numbers were all treated harshly for their new ideas. Discuss the importance of being open to new ideas and yet holding fast to Biblical principles.

## 12. Coincidences, Chance, and Surprising Probability

**Matthew 10:29-31** “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows (NIV).”

**Ecclesiastes 9:11** “I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all (NIV).”

**Romans 8:28** “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (NIV).”

\* Read the short article about finding meaning in coincidences:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/connecting-coincidence/201607/there-are-no-coincidences>.

\* Reflect on the video about weird coincidences: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yk\\_2iqxxLU4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yk_2iqxxLU4).

A. Pick one of the three verses that you think best describes how chance is a part of our world and why.

B. Reflect on how probability can be surprising, or on how coincidences have occurred in your life.

C. How do you think God may or may not work through coincidences?

## 13. Misleading Statistics

**Ephesians 4:25** “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body (NIV).”

\* Read the short article about how statistics can feed fake news:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kalevleataru/2017/02/02/lies-damned-lies-and-statistics-how-bad-statistics-are-feeding-fake-news/#135d29f350ca>.

\* Watch the TED video about misleading graphs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E91bGT9BjYk>

A. What does this verse say about our speech and how it is related to loving people?

B. Give an example from the media you have seen (TV, magazines, websites, etc.) that demonstrates misleading statistics.

C. Describe how relying on your own life experience is "poor sampling technique."

## 14. Studying as Worship

**Colossians 3:23** “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters (NIV).”

\* Read the short article “Sayers: Why Beauty and Excellence Matter in Our Work”:

<https://tifwe.org/sayers-excellence-in-our-work>.

\* Watch at least the first 6 minutes of the video about how Dorothy Sayers viewed work:

<https://vimeo.com/centerfaithwork/2016summitplenarypioneers/video/216051501>.

\* Read the last 3 paragraphs of the article “C.S. Lewis, George MacDonald, and Mathematics” by David Neuhauser (former Taylor University math professor) that talks about working hard, studying, and enjoying God in geometry:

<http://library.taylor.edu/cslewis/mathematics.shtml>.

A. What is the main point of this verse?

B. What is the main point that Dorothy Sayers made about our work?

C. What did Lewis and MacDonald say about studying math?

D. How might we apply these principles about work to our study of math?

## 15. The Growth Mindset

**Romans 12:2** “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will (NIV).”

\* Read this introduction to the growth mindset:

<http://goalsinfinite.com/detailed-introduction-growth-mindset>.

\* Watch at least the first 5 minutes of the video on a growth vs. fixed mindset:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN34FNbOKXc>.

\* Watch the short video from the Khan Academy on the one thing you need to know:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JC82II2cjqA>.

- A. What is the main point of this verse? How could it be applied to how we think about learning?
- B. What are some differences between people who have a fixed mindset and those with a growth mindset?
- C. How would a person with a growth mindset view learning new mathematics?

## 16. Exponential growth in the Kingdom of God

**Luke 13:19** “(The kingdom of God) is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches (NIV).”

\* Watch the video that demonstrates exponential growth using ping pong balls:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjIEJNfsOKc>.

\* Watch the video that demonstrates exponential growth using dominoes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y97rBdSYbkg>.

- A. What is the main point of the verse? How does the kingdom of God grow?
- B. Assuming equally likely outcomes, when you have 3 children, what is the probability of having all 3 girls? Draw a tree diagram that shows the eight different outcomes for ways to have boys and girls in various orders: BBB, BBG, BGB, BGG, GBB, GBG, GGB, and GGG. What would happen if the kingdom of God grew like this? What kind of growth is it?
- C. What can we do to help the kingdom grow? How could we help our family tree grow? Why did the birds perch in its branches?

## 17. Volume and Dimensions

**Ephesians 3:17** “I pray that you... may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ (NIV).”

- A. What is the main point of the verse? Why does Paul use the 4 descriptions of wide and long and high and deep?
- B. How do we usually pray for people? What does Paul pray for the Ephesians?
- C. What is Paul saying about the love of Christ?

## 18. Butterfly Effect and Predetermined Chaos

**Ephesians 5:15-16** “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil (NIV).”

\* Read the short article that discusses chaos theory:

<http://discovermagazine.com/2007/apr/whatever-happened-to-chaos-theory>.

\* Watch the video about the Butterfly Effect and how everything we do matters:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOQOkgm1szc>.



- A. What is the main point of these verses?
- B. What is the Butterfly Effect? Describe a time in your life when a small event ended up making a big difference in your life.
- C. Given the eventual chaotic nature of the world when left to run on its own, how might Colossians 1:17 apply?
- D. How should we live if everything we do matters?

## 19. Proof, Faith, and Reason

**Acts 17:11** “Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true (NIV).”

**James 3:17** “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere (ESV).”

**Romans 12:2** “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will (NIV).”

- \* Watch the short video showing 7 quotes from C.S. Lewis about faith:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCe1uaTkGpo>. Which one do you find most helpful?
- \* Read the short article about what constitutes a mathematical proof:  
<https://www.livescience.com/46254-proof-theorem-axiom.html>.
- \* Read the short article by C.S. Lewis on “Faith and Reason vs. Emotion and Imagination:”  
<http://orthodoxnet.com/blog/2017/06/faith-and-reason-vs-emotion-and-imagination-c-s-lewis>.
- \* Several proofs of the Pythagorean Theorem are shown visually at:  
<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-many-ways-are-there-to-prove-the-pythagorean-theorem-betty-fei>.

- A. What is the main point of these verses? What role does study and reason play in our faith?
- B. How does Lewis define faith? What does he suggest we do to stay strong in our faith?
- C. In doing mathematics, we are “making our assumptions clear and using those assumptions, together with definitions and facts previously proven from the assumptions, to provide a logical argument for any new claims we make.” In a similar way, as Christians, we build our lives on the words of Jesus and also trust the faith of those who have gone before us. (Mathematics Through the Eyes of Faith, p. 134). How do you see similarities between how we reason in mathematics and how we reason in our faith?
- D. Just as we can develop our mathematical intuition and insight for doing proofs through practice and study, how does Paul suggest in Romans 12:2 that we can develop our spiritual insight for making good decisions? (Mathematics Through the Eyes of Faith, p. 200.)

### Resources:

J. Bradley and R. Howell, *Mathematics through the Eyes of Faith*. HarperCollins Publishers, New York NY, 2011.

S. Robbert, *The Christian Mathematician* website available at <http://christianmathematician.com/TOC.php> and <https://acmsonline.org/resources>.

Math verses found at: <https://www.openbible.info/topics/math>