

# CHRISTIAN DIGEST

Official Newsletter of Christ Circle Community

## Deeper Devotion

### The Obstructions to Unity

Our world is filled with chaos and division. Humanity is split along lines of ethnicity, religion, geography, language, skin colour, and socio-economic status. It leads me to wonder, is genuine unity possible? Over the past two decades, we have witnessed a few initiatives aimed at fostering unity within our community. However, despite these efforts, we have not yet reached a point where we can unequivocally label ourselves as a united and cohesive community. In this article, I hope to shed light on some of the barriers hindering unity in our community.

In John 17:20–22, Jesus prayed for believers to become one, mirroring the unity within the Godhead. He achieved this unity by breaking the dividing wall of hostility between the Jews and the Gentiles in his flesh through his sacrifice on the cross (Ephesians 2:13–15). Jesus has made this unity a reality! However, let's admit that practically speaking, achieving such unity in our human nature is extremely challenging. Why is this the case?

I want to address two obstacles that hinder our unity. The first can be found in the story of the twelve spies sent by Moses to scout Canaan. The division among the twelve spies led to the entire congregation rebelling against Moses and God (Numbers 14:1-4). Two spies, Joshua and Caleb, saw things from "God's perspective," while the other ten spies viewed things from a "human perspective" (Numbers 14:1-4). This behavior was a manifestation of sins like selfishness, self-seeking, and a refusal to accept God's plans for their lives.

## About Newsletter

“Christian Digest” is a communication platform for the vibrant Gujarati Christians living in the diaspora. This platform is a community newsletter that connects you with the rest of the community, provides a common space to share your news, opinions, and prayer concerns, and reflects Christian love. We aim to foster spiritual, social, and practical growth to help you understand what it truly means to be a part of the community.

### CONTACT US

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Do similar conflicting perspectives and sins bring division in our community?

The second obstacle is reflected in the account of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5. They deceitfully kept a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their property, presenting only a part while pretending generosity (Acts 5:3, 9). This was undeniably an act of hypocrisy. They wanted to show the Church that they were sacrificing their property as Barnabas and others had done. But in reality, they kept some for themselves. Their action was meant to portray themselves as good and godly, but their hearts were far from true goodness and godliness and even from God! I believe that hypocrisy, or showing off, is a prominent sin in our community that hinders the unity that comes from the Holy Spirit.

It is my hope and prayer that God will grant us forgiveness of our sins of selfishness, rejection of His plans, and the hypocrisy that disrupts the unity we ought to maintain in the community of Christ.



PARIMAL CHRISTIAN, PH.D.

## Community News and Views

### This is your space...

1. You are invited and encouraged to share your personal/family news, prayer requests, and practical and/or spiritual help you need. Please use the contact details given on the first page for prompt communication.
2. We have great people in our community having brilliant opinions on various matters. We invite one and all to convey your views and use your creative talents, we will reflect your voice. Please answer the question for August and send your views/opinions with your name and city/town of residence to us.
3. Young people are a great asset to any community. We value one and all young people, YOU ARE PRECIOUS! As you strive to achieve the best for your future, we want to come alongside you to help and support you. Please send us an email or a WA message for any help you need. We will connect with you to get you going.

**But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." -**

**Max Lucado**

## Prayer Connect

Community that prays together stands together! We have started a monthly community online prayer meeting called "Prayer Connect" every second Saturday at 8:30 pm EST. Next prayer meeting is on Sept. 14th at 8:30 pm EST.

Please join us on Zoom.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78583460701>

Meetings ID: 785 8346 0701

Password: 416320

## Your Voice

**Question for Sept. 2024:**

**How can we maintain the Unity in the Spirit?**

**Please Email or WhatsApp your opinions.**





## Your Voice

We are thankful for those who have responded to three questions we have asked in our previous three issues of the Newsletter.

We invite all our readers to participate by sending your opinions/views on the question for September.

### Question 4 What motivates/Demotivates you for Christian fellowship?

Dr. Joel Macwan from Georgetown opines, “I appreciate the efforts to communicate for Christian growth. Right from young age Christian fellowship became my hobby, because I wanted to learn how to unlearn the things from mature brothers and their lifestyles. They could overcome certain obstacles by God's grace. My greatest motivation is Lord's will as per Mark 3:14.”

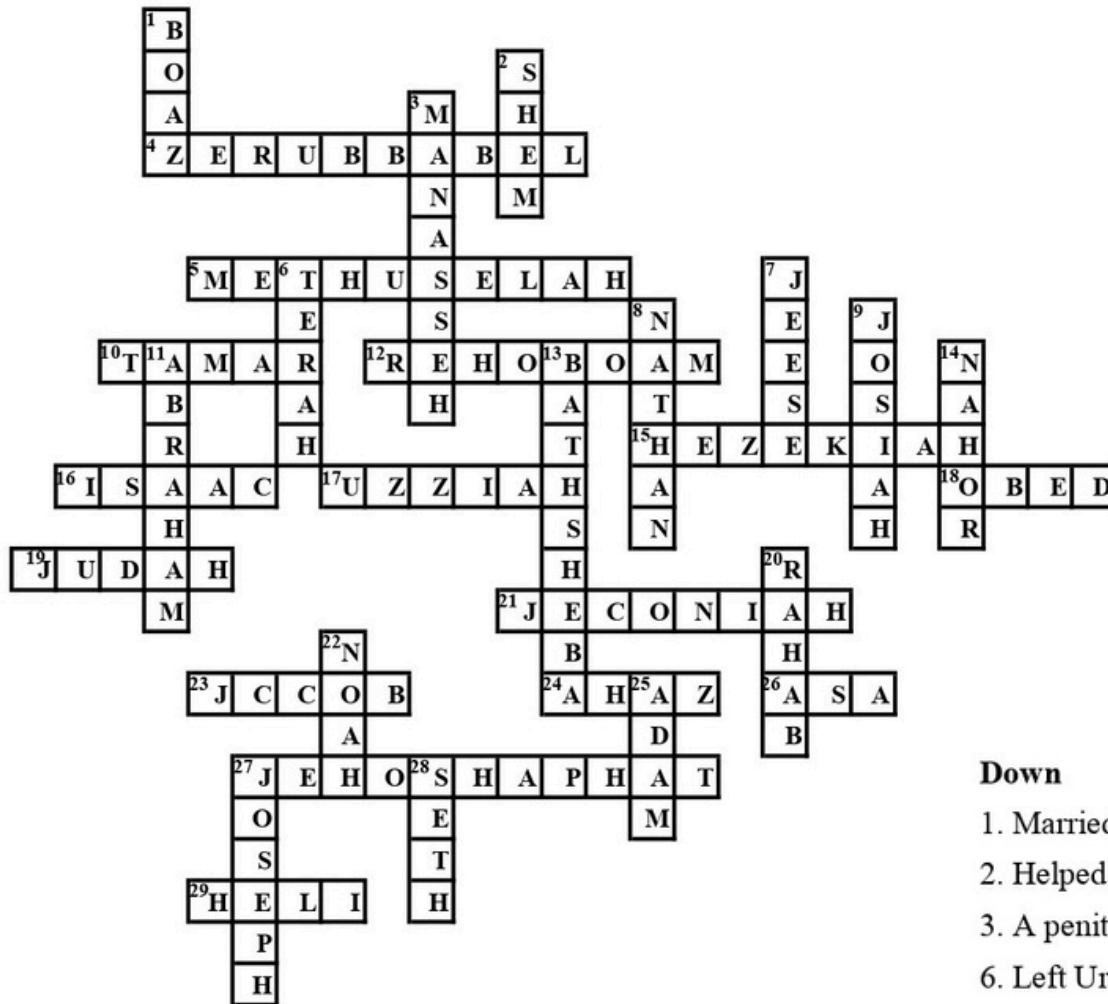
Ms. Mona Satvedi from Hamilton expresses her view on fellowship, “Through fellowship, we are spiritually uplifting one another with the presence of the fellow believers. If we are not in the company of the believers who are not rooted in their faith, it brings discomfort. We feel as if we are grieving the Holy Spirit.”

**Satan always hates Christian Fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians apart. Anything that divides saints from one another he delights in. He attaches far more importance to godly intercourse than we do. Since union is strength, he does his best to promote separation.**  
**Charles Spurgeon.**



# Answers for the Bible Crossword Puzzle 2

## The Genealogy of Jesus



### Across

4. Rubuilt the Temple
5. The oldest man ever
10. A great grandmother of Jesus who was a prostitute
12. He divided Israel
15. Saw time move backward
16. Sacrificed at Moriah
17. Became a leper
18. David's grandfather
19. Father of the kings of Israel
21. The childless king of Israel (Jer. 22:30)
23. Named 'the heel grabber'
24. Didn't believe Isaiah (Is. 7:11-12)
26. Took away the sodomites out of Judah (1 Kg. 15:12)
27. King who placed Choir ahead of Army (2 Chron. 20)
29. Father of Mary the mother of Jesus

### Down

1. Married Ruth
2. Helped to build the Ark
3. A penitent king who ruled the longest.
6. Left Ur but decided to settle down in Haran
7. Father of David the king
8. Solomon's brother (1 Chron. 3:5)
9. Destroyed altar at Bethel.
11. Father of the Jewish nation.
13. Uriah's wife
14. Abraham's grandfather
20. Boaz's mother
22. Saw the first rainbow
25. the son of God
27. Jesus' foster father
28. Third born son of Adam.

# Answers for the Bible Crossword Puzzle 3

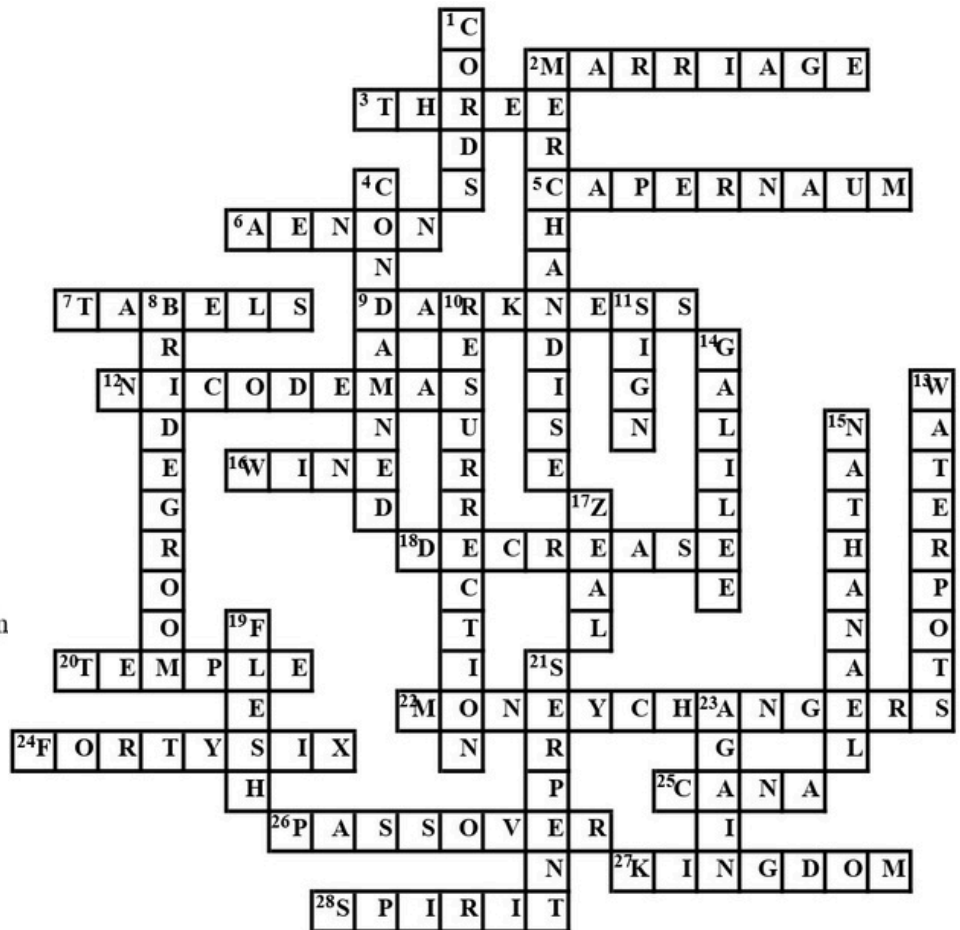
## The Begining of Jesus' Ministry

### Across

2. Occasion of first miracle
3. Number of days to raise up Christ
5. Became Jesus's hometown (Mt. 4:23)
6. John Baptized here too
7. Jesus overturned \_\_\_\_\_
9. People love this because of their evil deeds
12. He came to Jesus by night
16. Water became \_\_\_\_\_
18. John must \_\_\_\_\_ in front of the Messiah
20. Jesus called his body this
22. Jesus drove these from the temple
24. Number of years Temple was under construction
25. Place of first miracle
26. The Festival Jesus went to Jerusalem
27. What the born-again see
28. Spirit gives birth to \_\_\_\_\_

### Down

1. Jesus made whip out of \_\_\_\_\_
2. In business doves, sheep, oxen, money changing, etc, are called.
4. One who does not believe is already...
8. The master of the banquet complained to him
10. One word for raised from the dead
11. The Jews demanded this from Jesus to prove his authority
13. There were six of these used in the miracle
14. Cana was a town in this
15. A disciple from Cana (John 21)
17. The Messiah is consumed by this...
19. Flesh gives birth to \_\_\_\_\_
21. Moses lifted up in the wilderness
23. Nicodemus was surprised by this (the clue is the second word)

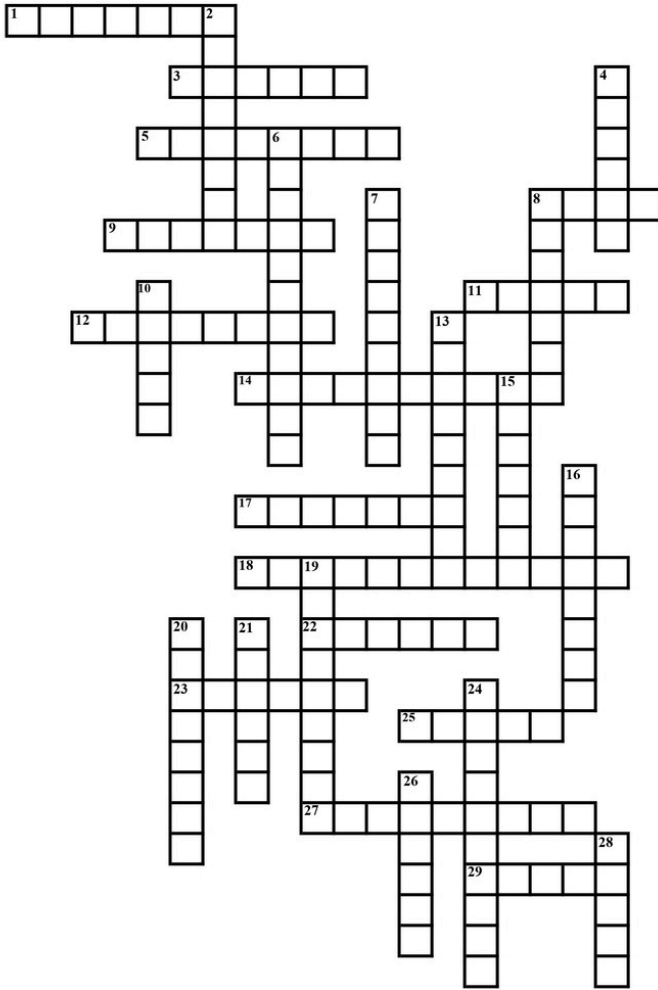




# Bible Crossword Puzzle-4

## Jesus Meets Nicodemus\*

Read John 3



Jesus Christ was born to a virgin named Mary. Here is an interesting puzzle regarding his Genealogies found in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. Try it out! You can refer to the answer keys provided below.

Please fill this and email or WhatsApp us your entry

### Across

1. Cannot enter without "new birth"
3. Where John would be sent
5. John said Jesus must \_\_\_\_\_
8. What everyone born of the Spirit is like
9. Jesus gives the Spirit without \_\_\_\_\_
11. Place near Salim where John baptized
12. What people loved because their deeds were evil?
14. Where Moses led Israel
17. Nicodemus was one of these in Israel
18. Those who do not believe have received \_\_\_\_\_
22. The Son of Man descended from \_\_\_\_\_
23. The one who believes in him will not 'be lost' (synonym)
25. God loved this so much
27. A leader of Israel who came to Jesus by night
29. Jesus is addressed as this by Nicodemus

### Down

2. What Nicodemus saw that convinced him Jesus has come from God
4. John was this to Jesus the bridegroom
6. Another word for the 'eternal life' God gives to those who believe in the Son
7. Sect to which Nicodemus belonged
8. John bore this concerning Jesus
10. The unbelievers will endure God's \_\_\_\_\_
13. Jewish council of which Nicodemus was a member of (John 7:50)
15. Moses lifted this up in the wilderness
16. God gave his only \_\_\_\_\_ Son
19. The bronze serpent is called (2 Kings 18:4)
20. In Judah, Jesus spent time with disciples and he did this.
21. John denied that he is not this.
24. He who has a bride is \_\_\_\_\_
26. Name of the river where John baptized
28. Those who do what is true come to this.

## Join Christ Circle



[www.facebook.com/groups/christcircle](https://www.facebook.com/groups/christcircle)



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LpAaz1J5N442P9DxVPypmM>

**Check September Newsletter for the answers for Puzzle 4**

\* Prepared by Ankit Harry, source: Bible Puzzle for Everyone.

