

## Adult Bible Studies

### Current Events Supplement January 6, 2019

#### Hold Fast to God's Love 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5; 2 John 4-11

“Stacey Truman, a mom of two who works as the cafeteria manager of Kingston Elementary School in Virginia Beach, Virginia, wakes up at the crack of dawn to handwrite words of encouragement on each banana she puts out for her students.” She began writing on bananas for her own daughters. “I would do it for them so they would know how much I love them.” An example of her messages to the students include “You’re loved” because “they all need to know that they are loved.” The kids “say that it makes them a better person and a better friend.”<sup>1</sup> Truman’s kind words influence the children she is charged with serving.

The student book author writes, “In all situations, remembering we are Christ’s person—and letting that guide our speech and actions—is always the right thing to do.”<sup>2</sup> Keeping our focus on Christ and how Christ influences who we are as people will guide what we say and what we do. Then we are assured that our speech and actions line up with our relationship with Jesus Christ. We can never go wrong with sharing love.

No matter where we spend our time each day, we have an opportunity to give love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Each time we do, our lives become living witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ. Stacey Truman shows love to children through words and drawings on fruit. For some of those children, hers may be the only positive words they receive in a day. Allowing Christ to shine through us is always a good and right thing to do.

1. What in your daily routine reminds you that you are Christ’s person? What in your daily routine allows your identity as Christ’s person to guide your speech and actions?
2. What helps you to keep your focus on Christ throughout the day? In what recent experience did your words and actions line up with your relationship with Jesus Christ?
3. How is your life a living witness to the good news of Jesus Christ? How does your life show love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness?

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<sup>1</sup>From “Cafeteria Worker Pens Encouraging Messages on Bananas,” by Catherine Thorbecke, ABS News ([abcnews.go.com/GMA/Living/cafeteria-worker-pens-encouraging-messages-bananas/story?id=59718200](http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Living/cafeteria-worker-pens-encouraging-messages-bananas/story?id=59718200)).

<sup>2</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2018-2019, by Stan Purdum (Cokesbury, 2018); page 46.

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