

[the christian life, A to Z]

In our small group for teenagers, we've adopted a mission statement: "Practice the Presence of God." In an effort to define and make practical what our mission statement might ask of us, we sat down as a group and went through the alphabet to come up with a phrase that starts with each letter. The process was more than lively—the results, most satisfying. Two weeks later almost everyone could rattle off the phrases, A to Z.

Achieve the attitude—*You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had (Philippians 2:5).*

Become the beatitude—*My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).*

Cultivate the consciousness of Christ—*Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10).*

Develop the discipline—*If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up*

your cross daily, and follow me (Luke 9:23).

Emulate the eternal; eschew the evil—*You must be holy because I am holy (1 Peter 1:16).*

Fight the flow—*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world (Romans 12:2).*

Grasp the grace—*O Lord, who are we that you should notice us, mere mortals that you should care for us (Psalm 144:3)?*

Harbor the hope—*Await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life (Jude 21).*

Imitate the I Am—*Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God (Ephesians 5:1-2).*

Jump-start the jubilation—*Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice (Philippians 4:4).*

Kindle the kindness—*Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).*

Live the life—*But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught (2 Timothy 3:14).*

Mimic the Maker—*Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was (Romans 6:5).*

Nullify the naughty—*Don't sin by letting anger control you. Think about it overnight and remain silent (Psalm 4:4).*

Ostracize the outward—*[They] pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be severely punished (Luke 20:47).*

Practice the presence—*Genesis through Revelation.*

Question the quest—*Preach the Word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching (2 Timothy 4:2).*

Rouse the righteous to redeem the ragamuffins—*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works (Hebrews 10:24).*

Stomp Satan—*The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet (Romans 16:20).*

Taste the truth and try the trail—*Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) and I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).*

Uphold the understanding to utilize the umbrella—*Hide me in the shadow of your wings (Psalm 17:8).*

Voice the victory—*Shout joyful praises to God, all the earth (Psalm 66:1).*

Walk with the Word—*In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).*

Xalt the Xrist—*Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness (Psalm 34:3).*

Yearn for Yahweh—*As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God (Psalm 42:1).*

Zoom like Zechariah—*The Lord gave this message to the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 1:1).* ■