

ONE TO ONE DISCIPLESHIP

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First Discipleship Meeting

- A. The first meeting does not include a lesson, but is simply an opportunity for you to become better acquainted with the person who is discipling you, and vice versa. Begin this meeting by sharing with each other a brief history of yourself, e.g. where you grew up, how many siblings you have, significant events in your life, and a bit about your life now (married/single, kids, job, etc.). Also please share how and when you became a Christian, and your spiritual growth since that time. The discipler should share first, followed by the person being disciplined.
- B. As you begin the process of discipleship, it is important that you understand the purpose, process, and goals of discipleship. Please read together “Introduction to One-to-One Discipleship” on pages 3-4.
 1. Discuss any comments or questions you have regarding this introduction.
 2. Share with the person discipling you your goals and expectations for discipleship.
- C. Having goals in life is essential if we are to continue growing and developing. For next week, be prepared to share a few goals in each of the following areas:
 - 1. Character goals**
Examples: I want to be more disciplined. I want to be more patient.
 - 2. Spiritual goals**
Examples: I want to read the entire Bible. I want to learn to share my faith.
 - 3. Personal goals**
Examples: I want to own a home. I want to exercise regularly.
- D. Take a few minutes to quickly review the page entitled “Assignment for Chapter 1” on page 7. This page tells you what needs to be completed before your next meeting. Each lesson has a similar assignment page that will help you stay on track.
- E. Every week you will be sharing prayer requests with each other. Please take time now to share some prayer requests (there are pages provided in the very back of the manual to note these prayer requests). Pray for each other’s requests throughout the week, and check in with each other next week about any updates to those requests, and new prayer requests to be added.

Introduction to One-To-One Discipleship

There are many methods and tools God uses to help Christians grow in their spiritual life. One of these tools is one-to-one discipleship. Before beginning the process of discipleship with another person, it is important to first understand the Biblical principle of discipleship. The word “disciple” comes from a Greek word which means "apprentice" as in “one who learns by doing.” One-to-one discipleship, then, is when one Christian takes another Christian under his/her care in order to help that person become an “apprentice” of Jesus Christ and to experience spiritual growth by learning *and doing*.

We can see the importance of discipleship when we study the New Testament -- the word “disciple” occurs 269 times! Discipleship is important because it helps the person being disciplined to become established in the basics of the Christian faith (see Ephesians 4:14-16). It allows them to ask questions about their faith, and to be challenged and encouraged in areas in which they are weak. It helps them to identify their God-given spiritual gifts, and equips them to share the gospel with unbelievers. In addition, a very important aspect of discipleship is that it trains and equips a Christian to disciple other believers.

In considering the principle of discipleship the question might be asked, “What is the benefit of ‘one-to-one’ discipleship? Wouldn’t it be better and faster to teach groups of people, or at least two or three at a time?” Certainly small groups play a very important part in Christian development, and are a vital aspect of Christian life. But there are several reasons why one-to-one discipleship has a unique function that cannot easily be met in a group setting:

- *More open communication.* If an individual is meeting with another Christian by themselves, they are more willing to be honest in speaking about questions they have or struggles they might be going through. Often people are hesitant to share personal problems in front of others, but in a one-to-one relationship they would be more likely to talk about the areas in which they really need help. In this way, the discipleship can focus specifically on their particular needs.
- *Greater accountability.* In a one-to-one relationship, the person being disciplined can be held accountable in areas in which they need the most growth. This is an important aspect of Christian development.
- *Individualized attention.* One-to-one discipleship allows plenty of time to discuss issues thoroughly and make sure the person being disciplined truly understands the concept being discussed (in a group there may not be enough time to effectively meet individual needs).
- *Greater intimacy.* A more intimate relationship is much more likely to develop when just two people meet together. Deep sharing and growth is much more probable in this type of relationship.
- *Greater transferability.* A group setting may not effectively equip someone to disciple another believer. With one-to-one discipleship, individuals are trained and equipped to pass on their faith through discipleship, thereby “reproducing reproducers.”

To illustrate the importance of one-to-one discipleship, let’s suppose that you wanted to become a carpenter. One of the best ways to learn would be to find a trained carpenter who was willing to teach you one-to-one. The trained carpenter would spend a great deal of time with you, the apprentice, and you would learn the skills of carpentry by listening, watching, following and finally imitating the exact movements of the carpenter. The carpenter would be able to watch your individual progress, and spend extra time working with you in the areas that needed more help. He would be able to evaluate whether you were really learning the skills properly, and could correct you when necessary because he would recognize where you were having difficulty. He could also give you praise and encouragement as he saw the areas in which you were doing well. This sort of individualized attention would not be possible if you were part of a group of trainees, but because you were being taught one-to-one, you would be receiving the kind of teaching that was specifically right for you. Afterward, you would be well trained and qualified not only to be a carpenter, but also to teach

others how they too could become skilled carpenters. Eventually, you could reproduce yourself in many, many students over a period of years. It is this sort of “see and do” skill training which is the heart and soul of one-to-one discipleship. As Paul said, “Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us” (Philippians 3:17).

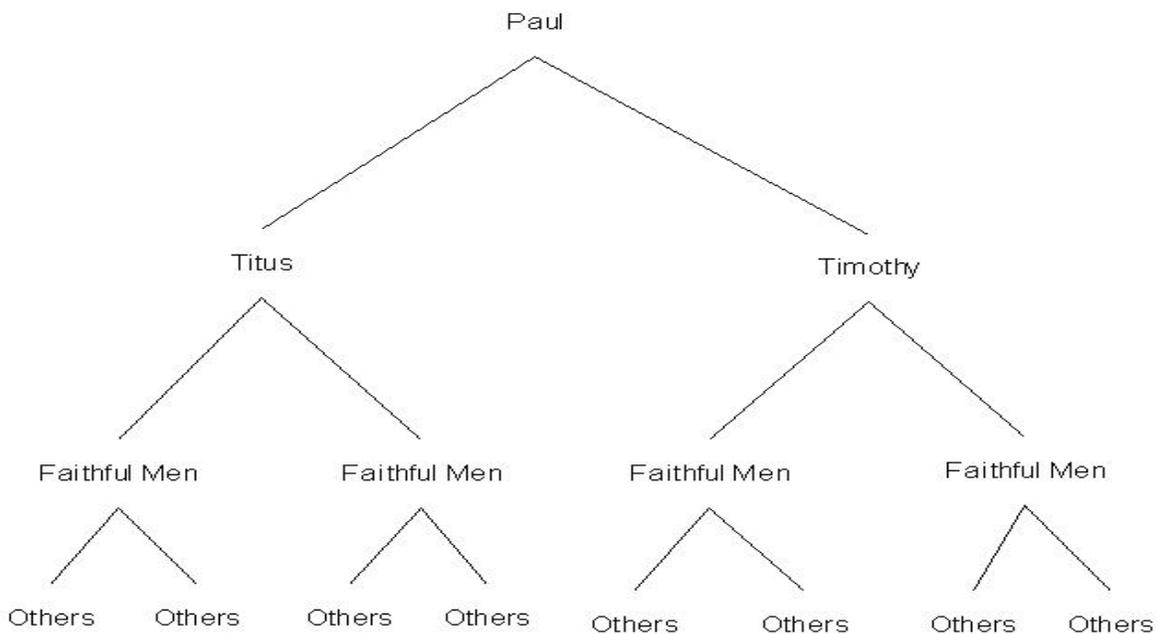
Discipleship is the primary method of teaching Jesus used in his three years of ministry here on earth. Jesus’ main focus was not on large groups of people, but rather He focused on just 12 men who were known as His “disciples.” These disciples spent a great deal of time with Jesus. The time they spent together was not in a classroom and not even in a synagogue. Rather, Jesus taught His disciples on the streets of the city and in their daily activities as they traveled about together. They learned the skills of prayer, evangelism, living in obedience, spiritual warfare, showing compassion and forgiveness, and many other things. How did they learn these skills? They learned by listening, watching, learning, and finally imitating the actions, attitudes, and teachings of Jesus, the master teacher.

Over a three year period, Jesus not only taught His disciples to understand the truths of the Christian faith, He also trained and equipped them to pass these truths on to others. Then just before Jesus left this world, He commanded them to “Go and MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations. . .” (Matthew 28:19). Jesus wanted his disciples to reproduce this principle of discipleship in other people. He wanted them to disciple other believers in the same way that He had discipled them.

We can also see the principle of discipleship practiced by others such as the Apostle Paul. Paul took two younger men, Timothy and Titus, under his care. He used the principle of discipleship as he trained and equipped them to understand and pass on the Christian faith. Paul then instructed Timothy to continue the process of discipleship, telling him:

*“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to **faithful men who will be able to teach others also**” (2 Timothy 2:2 New King James Version).*

From this verse we can see how the apostle Paul “reproduced” himself through discipleship:



As we see from the illustration above, it should be the desire of every Christian to be a “reproducing Christian,” that is, one who promotes faith in Jesus in others by his testimony and example. Discipleship is more than just teaching someone some facts about the Bible. Discipleship means encouraging, supporting, and praying daily for the person being discipled. Discipleship means spending time with the other person -- sharing meals, discussing problems, serving others, and going with them to witness to unbelievers in the neighborhood. Discipleship means nothing less than walking together side-by-side and growing together in the Lord. As the apostle Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 2:8, “*We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.*”

Just as Jesus and Paul did not use a classroom in making disciples, likewise many of the discipleship lessons in this manual will occur in the streets of your city and not necessarily in your church or a classroom. For example, you will not merely learn about evangelism but you will actually go with the person who is discipling you to witness to an unbeliever in your neighborhood. You will not merely learn about servanthood but will actually serve someone in your local church. *Christians learn best not by simply hearing but by doing* (see James 1:22-23). As John MacArthur states:

“Being discipled toward godliness isn’t accomplished in a thirteen-week class; it is accomplished by spending time with a godly individual— walking with him, feeling his heartbeat, hearing him speak, and seeing him pray.”

In closing, as we emphasize discipleship throughout this manual, let us always remind ourselves that growth comes from the inside out. Too often in Christian circles we make the mistake of getting people to “do” the right things rather than helping them change on the inside. It is our desire that this process of discipleship will cause inner change that will result in lasting outward change.

May God bless you as you take this step in following Christ’s command to “Go and make disciples.”

Guidelines for the Discipler

1. Select a person to disciple only after careful prayer and evaluation.
2. Before you begin to disciple another person, it is important to discuss with him or her why you are meeting and the commitment involved. Read the “Introduction to Discipleship” together and make certain the process of discipleship is understood. Also ask, “What are your needs and expectations regarding this discipleship process?”
3. Before your weekly meetings with the person you are discipling, always take the time to review each lesson and pray about what will be discussed. Keep in mind the spiritual maturity of the person you are discipling as you plan your discussion.
4. Be certain to do only ONE lesson at time. Make sure the person you are discipling has a complete and proper understanding of each lesson before going on to the next lesson (even if you have to spend 2-3 weeks on a difficult lesson). This is very important, as the person you are discipling will eventually be teaching someone else. Make sure that they are not simply memorizing material but that they are understanding and applying it. Seek to discover the most meaningful thing in each lesson for the person you are discipling, and help him or her to make at least one practical application.
5. Tell the person you are discipling that anything personal that is discussed will be kept completely confidential. Share prayer requests with the person you are discipling, and pray daily for him/her.
6. Be sensitive to the needs of the person you are discipling. There will be times when you need to set aside the lesson in order to pray about some personal needs or to answer some very important questions that the student is struggling with. *Remember, a person is more important than a program!*

7. Review, review, review. This is the key to learning. (The apostle Peter used this principle in 2 Peter 1:11-15.) Review material from previous chapters (including memory verses) and review progress on goals set previously.
8. Encourage the person you are discipling to complete the homework for each lesson (the homework will take about one hour each week to complete). Hold that person accountable. Emphasize the importance of this discipline. Be sure to give much praise and encouragement to the person you are discipling when he or she faithfully completes the work and when you see growth in his/her life.
9. If the person you are discipling regularly fails to complete the homework or fails to keep 3 or 4 appointments with you (even after much encouragement from you), it may be best to suggest to that person that perhaps the discipleship should be postponed until he or she is ready and able to be seriously committed to the discipleship process. This will then make you available to disciple someone who is ready to be faithful to following through on the commitment required.
10. Evaluation of the person you are discipling is very important. After the fourth lesson, spend some time asking specific questions to discover if they are growing. Also ask them about any frustrations or disappointments they may be experiencing (many people are afraid to express disappointments or frustrations unless they are specifically asked). It will also be very helpful if you ask the person you are discipling to evaluate you after the two of you complete the manual so that you can become a more effective discipler.

NOTE: This manual is NOT to be used in a classroom setting or for small groups. It is only to be used for one-to-one discipleship, that is, by one man discipling another man or by one woman discipling another woman.

Assignment for Chapter 1

Who is Jesus?

Opening Icebreaker to Lesson 1

“Where did you live when you were 12?”

“Have you ever gone back to visit?”

NOTE: In order to get to know each other a little better, take a moment to share what your dreams and goals are in each of these three areas:

1. Character goals
Examples: I want to be more disciplined. I want to be more patient.
2. Spiritual goals
Examples: I want to read the entire Bible. I want to learn to share my faith.
3. Personal goals
Examples: I want to own a home. I want to start jogging 3 times a week.

Do not go on to chapter 2 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

_____ Study and complete the material for chapter 1.

_____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 1 with the person who is discipling you.

_____ Memorize John 3:16-17, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.

Note: To help assist you, the end of this manual has a list of memory verses that you can photocopy, cut and insert into your wallet and review from time to time.

John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...”

Part One: Knowing God

Chapter 1

Who Is Jesus?

Memorize John 3:16-17

Who Is Jesus?

In order to truly understand the Christian faith, we must first clearly understand who Jesus Christ is. Many people have an incorrect understanding of Jesus. The Muslims say Jesus is merely a prophet. Jehovah Witnesses say he is not God. Mormons say Jesus became a god through good works. Others say that He was just a good teacher. This is why it is so essential to understand what does the Bible actually say about Jesus?

A. He Is Fully God

The first thing we must know about Jesus is that He is fully God. He is not just partly God, rather He is 100% God. He IS God.

- 1) Read John 1:1 and 1:14. What do these verses say about who Jesus is and how long He has existed? _____

- 2) Write in your own words what you think Jesus meant when He made the following claims about himself:

a) John 10:30-33 _____

b) John 14:8-9 _____

- 3) Write in your own words what others thought of Jesus in the verses listed:

a) Thomas, John 20:25-28 _____

b) Jesus' enemies, John 5:18 (Why did they want to kill him?) _____

4) Jesus had the ability to do things that only God can do. Look up the following verses and write what Jesus was able to do that only God can do:

a) Mark 2:1-12 _____

b) Colossians 1:15-16 _____

c) 1 Corinthians 15:1-7 _____

Jesus is the **only** religious leader who fulfilled many prophecies throughout the course of His life. The Old Testament, which was written by many individuals over a period of 1,500 years, contains **332** prophecies which were fulfilled in the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus. It is absolutely impossible that 332 prophecies would come true simply by chance -- the only way this would be possible is if Jesus is God, the promised Messiah. Following are just a few prophecies regarding the life of Jesus.

Prophecy

Isaiah 7:14 - virgin birth

Micah 5:2-3 - born in Bethlehem

Zechariah 11:12 - sold for 30 pieces of silver

Isaiah 53:12 - crucified with thieves

Psalms 34:20 - not a single broken bone

Isaiah 53:9 - buried in a rich man's tomb

Jesus' fulfillment of the prophecy

Matthew 1:18, 24-25

Matthew 2:5-6

Matthew 26:15

Matthew 27:38

John 19:33

Matthew 27:57-60

Jesus is God. The prophecies He fulfilled, the life He led, the miracles He performed, the claims He made of Himself, the words of others regarding who He was, His death, resurrection and ascent into heaven - all point to the fact that He was not just a man, He is God.

B. Jesus Is Also Fully Human

Jesus is not only fully God, He is also fully human. The Bible shows us that when He lived on earth, He possessed all the qualities that any other human being possesses. He was born to a human mother (Matthew 1:18-20) and grew in the same way as any other child (Luke 2:52). He had a human body: He experienced hunger (Mark 11:12) and thirst (John 19:28); He became tired (John 4:6); He felt physical pain, and He bled when He was injured (John 19:34). He had human emotions: He was tempted (Luke 4:1-13); He experienced anger (Mark 3:5); He wept in sorrow (John 11:35); He felt anguish at the thought of His impending death (Luke 22:44). So then, Jesus was 100% God, clothed in 100% humanity.

C. Jesus Is The Only Religious Leader Who Is Risen From The Dead

All four Gospels state that Jesus rose from the grave (see also 1 Cor. 15:1-8). Following is a comparison between Jesus and other religious leaders in the world:

Mohammed's tomb

Buddha's tomb

Confucius' tomb

Jesus' tomb

occupied

occupied

occupied

EMPTY!

Thus, we can summarize that: *JESUS IS THE GOD-MAN WHO IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD!*

Why Did Jesus Come?

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus Christ to come? Read Romans 3:23 and write your answer.

2. Because we have all sinned, we all have the need for forgiveness of our sins. What does Hebrews 9:22 say is required in order for sins to be forgiven?

In the Old Testament, the Israelites were commanded to periodically bring animals to the priest to be sacrificed for the forgiveness of their sins. These lambs had to be perfect, without spot or blemish. The priest killed the animal and sprinkled the blood on the altar as a temporary covering for the sins of the people. This practice of sacrificing lambs is a picture of the coming of Jesus. Look up these verses and write down what they say about Jesus:

a) John 1:29 _____

b) 1 Peter 1:18-19 what is Jesus called in verse 19? _____

What does His blood do for you (vs. 18)? _____

Jesus is the “Lamb of God” who died not just to cover our sins temporarily, but to wash them away forever. He gave His precious blood to redeem us (redeem means “to release from bondage, usually by means of a price paid”).

3. Jesus knew that without a relationship with Him, life is empty and meaningless. He also knew that without a relationship with God, people could not experience eternal life in heaven. Read the following verses and write out what Jesus Himself said about why He came to earth.

a) John 10:10 _____

b) John 3:16-17 _____

c) Luke 19:10 _____

Jesus came to earth because He loved us and wanted us to have eternal life and a relationship with Him. Since sinful people can't have a relationship with a holy God, Jesus sacrificed Himself so that our sins might be forgiven and we might be holy. John 15:13 says, “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” Truly, Jesus loves us!

Jesus Is Coming Back To Earth

Jesus is alive today, and is very active in the world and in the lives of Christians. However, He is not physically walking on earth as he did 2,000 years ago. But the Bible tells us that Jesus will come back physically one day in the future.

1. Look up the following verses and write down what they tell you about Jesus' return to earth:

a) John 14:1-3 _____

b) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 _____

c) 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 _____

d) Acts 1:9-11 _____

There are over 300 references to Christ's return in the New Testament! Nobody knows exactly when Jesus will return to earth, but from the context of the verses you read, it is clear that God wants us to walk in holiness and eagerly await His coming (see 1 John 3:2-3). When Christ returns, everyone will see Him and recognize that He is indeed the Lord! For Christians it will be a day of rejoicing, but for those who rejected Him, it will be a fearful day of judgment. Those who know Jesus as their Savior and Lord will enter heaven and enjoy eternal life, but those who did not put their faith in Jesus will be eternally separated from God and will be sent to a place of eternal punishment (see Revelation 20:11-15).

Knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord

In order to be a Christian, we must understand who Jesus is and why He came to earth. But understanding is not enough, we must also believe in Him. But believing in Jesus is not enough either! The Bible tells us that even the demons believe (James 2:19)! In order to be a Christian we must put our faith in Him. We must make a personal decision to repent of our sins, trust Jesus and commit our lives to Him.

The gospel of Jesus Christ can be summarized in 5 main points:

1. Heaven Is A Free Gift.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. (Eph. 2:8-9)

Heaven is not earned or deserved. Nothing we do (like church attendance, baptism, helping the poor, reading the Bible, etc.) can earn our way to heaven. This can be seen more clearly when we understand what the Bible says about man.

2. Man Is A Sinner and Separated From God.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23)

Every person who has ever lived has missed God's standard of perfection. Thus, we must admit that we are sinners and are separated from God who is Holy. The reason why sinful man cannot enter God's Holy heaven comes into sharper focus when we look at what the Bible says about God.

3. God Is Both Merciful And Just.

Because God is loving and merciful, He does not want to see us punished in hell for our sin. But because God is also just, He demands that someone has to be punished for our sins. Therefore, there must be atonement for the sinner before God will allow him into heaven. So then, how can God solve this dilemma and show both justice (i.e. punish our sin) and mercy (i.e. allow us into heaven) at the same time? The answer is that He shows His *mercy* toward us by sending Jesus to earth. As Christ takes our punishment on the cross, God's *justice* is then satisfied. Thus, we affirm that *"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

God loves you so much that He would rather die than spend eternity without you!

4. Christ Is Our Bridge To God.

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5

As we have already seen in this chapter, Jesus is the infinite God-man who is able to be the only mediator between Holy God and sinful man. We can choose to take the penalty for our sins ourselves in hell or we can choose to have Jesus Christ take the penalty for us on the cross and escape the wrath of God's judgment (Romans 5:9). If we choose Jesus, then his death on the cross acts a "bridge" to bring us into a relationship with a Holy God.

Some people try to build a bridge to God by way of good works, religion, morality and so on. The scripture teaches us that all of these attempts are futile. Only the cross of Christ is able to bring us into a relationship with God.

Someone has said that religion can be spelled with two letters, "D-O." Religion tells us to "do" this and "do" that in order to work your way to heaven. Biblical Christianity, however, is spelled with four letters, "D-O-N-E." Jesus has "done" it all for us. By His death and physical resurrection, Jesus paid for our sins and purchased a place in heaven which he offers as a gift, which you can receive as a free gift by faith.

5. The Gift Of Eternal Life Is Received Through Repentance And Faith

You must personally receive Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17 and 10:13, John 1:12). It is not enough to just KNOW facts about Jesus. You must *receive Jesus personally* in order to be a Christian and have eternal life. Here's an example: Just *believing* that aspirin will cure your headache will not make your pain go away -- you have to swallow it, to "receive" it, before the aspirin is effective. In the same way, knowing mere facts or data about Jesus alone will not save you from the penalty for your sins -- you must make a decision to put your trust in Him and receive Him as your savior and Lord.

The first step in this decision is repentance. Jesus preached in Mark 1:15 "Repent and believe the gospel." The word "repent" means two things:

- 1) To turn away from sin, to forsake your sinful choices.
- 2) To change your mind, as in having remorse over sin.

The second step is to place your faith in Christ alone. We must trust in Christ PLUS NOTHING in order to have a relationship with God and go to heaven. You can do that now by praying from your heart words such as these, "Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and do not deserve eternal life. But I believe you died and rose from the grave to purchase a place in Heaven for me. Jesus, I now repent and turn away from my sins and I turn in faith toward Jesus on the cross. Come into my life and take control of my life. I am placing my trust in You alone for my salvation, and I accept your free gift of eternal life."

Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior and committed your life to Him? Yes No

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him" (John 3:36)

Ponder these words of D. James Kennedy as he summarizes the gospel this way:

"God is holy and we are sinful - that's the problem. And if that were all there were to the problem, God would solve it very quickly. He would send us all to hell. But God is also loving. Infinitely so. And because he loves us, he sent his own son into the world. And he imputed or laid upon Jesus Christ all of our guilt and sin. And then something which confounded me as I first learned it as a father, God poured out his entire wrath for sin upon his own son. And Jesus Christ in body and soul suffered infinitely in our behalf and paid for the penalty for our sin. As I told many-- the problem for you is simple--your sins are going to be punished by God. The question is, are they going to be punished on you in hell forever or on Jesus Christ on the cross? If you would prefer the latter, you need to abandon all trust in yourself, repent of your sins. Receive him into your heart as Savior and Lord trusting in his atoning death as your only hope of salvation. And His promise is 'He who trusts in me already has everlasting life.' That's the good news."

Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

In this chapter, you have reviewed some basic facts about Jesus. In your own words, write out who you say Jesus is:

Devotional Thought

We close this lesson with a devotional thought from John 15:15. Jesus says in that verse, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, **I have called you friends**, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." There is even a hymn called "Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners" which reminds of this wonderful truth.

Remind yourself that Jesus is the God-man who died and rose from the dead, and is also a friend who will be closer to you than anyone else every day this week!

May your love for Jesus grow even deeper as you think on these things!

Prayer

Close your time together by sharing some prayer requests the both of you may have.

Assignment for Chapter 2

How can I be sure that I am going to Heaven?

NOTE: Do not go on to chapter 3 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

_____ Study and complete the material for chapter 2.

_____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 2 with the person who is discipling you.

_____ Memorize 1 John 5:12-13, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.

_____ Review the memory verses from last week.

- John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...”
- 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...”

OPENING ICEBREAKER TO LESSON 2: What was the best thing and the worst thing that happened to you this past week?

Chapter 2

How can I be sure that I am going to Heaven?

Memorize 1 John 5:12-13

A governor of a state has the power to pardon a criminal and set him free. However, no governor has ever pardoned a criminal and then adopted him as a member of his family. But that is exactly what God has done with us! Not only has He pardoned us for our sins, but He has also adopted us into His forever family!

Through grace alone, God has made you His child. As J.I. Packer has written, “Adoption is a *family* idea, conceived in terms of *love*, and viewing God as *father*. In adoption, God takes us into His family and fellowship and establishes us as His children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the relationship. To be right with God the judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is even greater.” (Knowing God, InterVarsity Press, 1973).

The scriptures that will be examined in this chapter will clearly teach us that our salvation is completely secure and that we can never lose our adoption. As we shall see, from beginning to end, it is completely God’s grace that gives us this precious sonship/daughtership with the Father. In God’s family you have absolute security!

We Can Know That We Are Saved

Because our relationship is completely dependent upon God’s grace alone, we can have 100% assurance of salvation - an assurance that you are God’s child and that He will never leave you.

1. Write out John 1:12-13 and then answer the following questions: _____

a) What people are spiritually born into God’s family? _____

b) When you received Christ, what did you become? _____

2. Read 1 John 5:11-13 and answer the following questions:

a) If a person has Jesus in his life, what else does he have? _____

b) Verse 13 says, “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God in order that you may (circle the correct one) *hope that* *feel like* *try to get* *know that* you have eternal life.”

Our salvation does not depend on our emotions, but on the Bible. Even if we don’t always FEEL like we are saved, we must trust the facts in the Bible that assure us that we can KNOW we have eternal life.

Do Not Depend Upon Emotions

1. People respond differently to the experience of receiving Christ. Some people have very emotional conversions, but others do not. The Apostle Paul had a very dramatic and emotional conversion. Read Acts 22:6-10 about his conversion experience and write some of the things that he experienced:

Timothy's conversion was NOT dramatic or emotional. Read 2 Timothy 1:5 and write what his conversion was like:

Even though these two men had very different experiences, both were saved when they received Christ, and both received the gift of eternal life. Different personalities have different emotions. Since emotions vary greatly, we should not build our assurance of salvation upon them. Seeking an emotional experience has caused many to wonder if they are really saved.

2. The Bible says: "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). This means that we must not live according to what we see and feel, but according to our faith in God and in His Word.

Write Hebrews 11:6 _____

Read John 20:24-29.

- a) What did Thomas say he needed in order to believe? (see verse 25). _____

- b) What did Jesus say regarding Thomas' need for proof (see verse 29)? _____

- c) How can this example help us when we are struggling with not "feeling" like we are saved? _____

Our faith must be in God and His Word, not in our feelings.

Upon What Then Do We Base Our Assurance?

The assurance of our salvation is not based on our feelings, but rather upon the authority of God's Word. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade ministries uses a helpful diagram to illustrate the relationship between the facts of the Bible, our faith, and our feelings.



The facts of the Bible are the “engine” which pull the train forward. The train can move forward with or without the caboose (i.e. the “feelings” car). It would not be smart to pull the train by the caboose (the feelings car), because the train would stop and go depending upon what the feelings were. In the same way, we Christians should not depend upon feelings or emotions, but rather should place our trust in God and the promises of His Word.

1. Does the Bible ever change? _____
2. Do our feelings change? _____

Martin Luther was once asked the question, “Martin, do you feel like you’re saved?” He replied, “No, but I KNOW I am.” What Martin Luther was saying is what you know is more important than what you feel.

If we put our faith and trust in the Bible which does not change, then we will be strong and stable like a rock. If we put our faith in our feelings, we will be very unstable, for our faith will change whenever our feelings change. Remember that the train can go forward with or without the caboose. Likewise, we may or may not have feelings when it comes to our salvation, but our salvation is based on our faith in the facts of the Bible.

How Can I Know That I Won't Lose My Salvation?

Some people think that if you sin after you are converted then you will lose your salvation. But let's look at some key scriptures regarding this issue:

Jesus said: “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand” (John 10:28-29).

Bible scholar, Millard Erickson, writes this regarding the word “never” in verse 28, “John uses the double negative with the aorist subjunctive, which is a very emphatic way of declaring that something will not happen in the future. A literal translation of this verse from the Greek would be something like, “They shall not, repeat, shall not ever perish in the slightest” So by examining the text in the original Greek language, we find a very compelling argument for assurance of salvation. Jesus is clearly teaching that there is not the slightest chance that one of His sheep will perish. After saying this, Jesus went on to say that the no one could snatch His sheep from the Father's hand. By looking at the Greek we can see that the words Jesus spoke were a definite rejection of the idea that a true believer can fall away and lose their salvation.

If you will NEVER perish (in hell) then you are eternally saved. When you receive Jesus, God gives you the gift of eternal life, and that gift is FOREVER. Circle the correct answer to the following questions:

1. How long is eternal life? a) Until I sin b) Two days c) Forever
2. Who can snatch you out of the Father's hand? a) Satan b) Sin c) No one

John 6:37-39 also shows us that we cannot lose our salvation:

*Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And **this is the will of [the Father] who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.**"*

Does Jesus do the Father's will? Yes No

What is the Father's will? _____

This verse tells us that Jesus will always do the Father's will. The Father's will is that no believer would ever be lost.

The Bible also shows us how the Holy Spirit has a part in preventing believers from losing their salvation. The following verses tell us that a Christian is sealed by the Holy Spirit when he receives Christ, and that seal is a guarantee of our salvation:

- "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, **you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are **God's possession** -- to the praise of his glory" (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- "And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit** of God, **with whom you were sealed** for the day of redemption." (Eph. 4:30)
- "[God] set **his seal** of ownership on us, **and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come**" (2 Corinthians 1:22).

Note: The Greek word "sealed" means "to be branded with an indelible mark of ownership." Thus, the Holy Spirit "brands" you as God's eternal possession.

These verses show us that when a person believes in Christ he is sealed immediately and permanently with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's seal on the believer indicates:

1. That the person belongs to God
2. That the security of the person is permanently guaranteed (for only God can break the seal, and He has promised never to break the seal)
3. That God has authority over the person
4. That the person is guaranteed to receive the blessings that have been promised at the day of redemption (when we get to heaven)

Just as it was God's power that saved you, not your own power (Eph 2:8-9), so too it is God's power that keeps you saved. Read 1 Peter 1:4-5 and answer the following questions:

1. What is God keeping in heaven for us? (vs. 4) _____
2. What is being done for us by God's power? (vs. 5) _____

The following example will help to illustrate the promise in the verses above. Imagine that someone gave you a million dollars. The money is being kept for you in a bank on the other side of town. If you get in a taxi to go to that bank but the taxi crashes and you never arrive at the bank, then you will not receive the money. Likewise, if you arrive safely in your taxi but find that your money has been stolen by a thief, you also will not receive the money. Both you AND your inheritance must be protected and kept safe in order for you to inherit it. In 1 Peter 1:5, we see that God is protecting you and in verse 4 we see that He is protecting your inheritance. Our reward is kept safely, and we are protected by God until we arrive to receive it.

Read Romans 8:38-39 Can anything ever separate us from the love of God? Circle: Yes No

Romans 11:29 says that "The gifts and callings of God are irrevocable."

Look up the word "irrevocable" in the dictionary then write your own brief definition: _____

Since God's gift of eternal life is irrevocable, we can never lose it.

What Happens When A Christian Sins?

Just as a man may slip while riding in a bus and fall down but not fall off the bus, likewise many true believers may slip and fall into sin -- but they do not fall from God's hand. Sinning does not mean that you have lost your salvation. If you have received Jesus, God has promised to protect and keep you by His power until that final day when you enter into heaven.

If we sin as Christians, we don't lose our saving relationship with God, but our fellowship with Him can be hurt. It can be compared to a husband and wife who have an argument -- their argument doesn't nullify their marriage (they are still married to each other), but their argument can hurt their fellowship with each other. Fellowship between a husband and wife can be restored after an argument if apologies are made and forgiveness is sought. In the same way, when we sin we must quickly confess our sins to God and ask for His forgiveness.

Read 1 John 1:9 and write what God promises to do when we confess our sins to Him: _____

We must practice regularly confessing our sins to God in order to have close fellowship with Him. But we must always remember that our sins do not cause us to lose our salvation. Hebrews 13:5 says, ". . . I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." This is a promise from God! Once He has come into our life and made us new creations, we are adopted into His family forever. He will never let us go.

Remember that our salvation is sure and can never be taken from us, and that we can know this based on the facts of the Bible. If you find yourself doubting your salvation because of your feelings, STOP and remind yourself of the words of God who has promised to save those who believe in and receive Jesus, and to protect them until they arrive safely in heaven.

Read Hebrews 6:4-6.

- 1) Do you think this passage teaches that you can lose your salvation? _____
- 2) Do you think this passage is a description of a believer or an unbeliever? _____

In studying this passage, it becomes apparent that it is not speaking of people who have genuinely become born-again Christians. Rather, it is speaking about people who have been part of a Christian fellowship or church and have heard the gospel message, but have not truly been born again. In every church there are likely to be members who claim that they have received Christ but in fact not truly made a genuine commitment to Christ and have not received the gift of salvation. Please read a verse that follows this passage from Hebrews, Hebrews 6:9. This verse says that while some people will leave the church and fall away, the ones who were reading those verses who were truly Christians would not fall away but would receive the “things accompanying salvation.” And what are the things accompanying salvation? Of course these things are eternal life and the promised inheritance being kept for us in heaven!

In addition, 1 John 2:19 teaches us that a person who leaves the church or falls away was never truly a Christian in the first place: *“They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.”*

As someone has said, *“If your faith fizzles before you finish, then it was faulty from the first!”*

Likewise, Matthew 7:21-23 shows us that it is possible for a person who claims to be a Christian and who even performs miracles in the name of Jesus to actually be an unbeliever who has never become a true follower of Jesus Christ.

Perhaps the following illustration will be helpful. A man went to the market one day and saw a big, beautiful plant for sale. The plant looked very green and healthy, so he bought the plant and took it to his home. For a number of days the plant continued to look beautiful, but after about a week, the plant began to turn brown. The man watered the plant and took good care of it, but in a few more days the plant was completely dead. The man wanted to know what had happened, so he pulled the plant out of the pot. He found out that the plant had no roots. It was simply a branch that had been cut off and placed in a pot of dirt. It was not truly a growing, living plant. It was a phony!

In the same way, it is possible for people in the church to look like real Christians even if they are not. They can for a while appear to be true followers of God, even though are not actually rooted in Jesus Christ and are not really living, growing Christians. Judas Iscariot is an excellent example of a false disciple who looked like the real thing. Eventually the truth will become clear, because those who have not actually received Jesus into their lives will fall away from their appearance of faith.

Let us review the passages we have studied that are the basis of our assurance of salvation. Jesus taught us in John 6 and John 10 that we can never lose our salvation. Verses in Ephesians and 2 Corinthians teach us that Christians are permanently sealed by the Holy Spirit. In 1 Peter we are reminded that God’s power has saved us and will keep us safe until we receive the inheritance that is being kept for us in heaven. The Book of Romans tells us that we were predestined by God for eternal salvation from the beginning of time and that God’s calling is irrevocable (cannot be changed). Would the writer of Hebrews contradict all these verses (and many others)? Of course not! We can stand solidly on scripture and say by God’s grace and His promises, we have 100% assurance of salvation!

Discussion Question

If as a non-believer, I came to you and said: “You say you’re going to Heaven, how do you know that?” What would be your answer?

Devotional Thought

Spend some time in prayer this week thanking God for adopting you into His forever family. Thank Him that because of His grace, your salvation is eternally secure.

Assignment for Chapter 3

What is God Like?

NOTE: Do not go on to chapter 4 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

_____ Study and complete the material for chapter 3.

_____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 3 with the person who is discipling you.

_____ Memorize Exodus 15:11, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.

_____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks.

- John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...”
- 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...”
- Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...”

OPENING ICEBREAKER TO LESSON 3: Talk about a relative of yours that you find interesting. What attributes does this person have that you find to be positive/negative?

Chapter 3

What is God Like?

Memorize Exodus 15:11

What is God Like?

The Bible teaches us that God is ONE God, but He exists as three persons. This is called the doctrine of the Trinity.

Definition of the Trinity

God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each of these three persons is fully God. There is one God.

The doctrine of the Trinity is a difficult doctrine to understand. It is hard to fully comprehend the idea that there is only one God, but He exists in three unique persons. The following Bible verses explain a bit more about the Trinity, and about the role of each person of the Trinity. For additional verses about the Trinity, please see the appendix at the end of this manual.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4 and Isaiah 43:10. How many Gods are there? _____

Read Matthew 28:19. Who are the three persons of the Trinity? _____

All three persons of the Trinity have a part in your salvation. Read Ephesians 1:3-14 and answer the following questions:

In verses 4-6, it says that **God the Father** “predestined us to be adopted as his sons.” Look up the word “predestination” in a dictionary and then write your own brief definition:

How does it make you feel to know that God loved you so much that He chose you to be part of His “forever-family” even before the world began?

What did Jesus do regarding your salvation according to verses 7 and 8? _____

In verses 13-14, it says that **God the Holy Spirit** is like a “down-payment” which guarantees our inheritance in heaven. You may recall that in the previous chapter we discussed how the “seal” of the Holy Spirit means that the security of the believer is permanently guaranteed and the blessings that have been promised at the day of redemption are certain. (Note: More on the Holy Spirit’s role in our salvation will be discussed in Chapter 8.)

Now that we have seen that all three persons of the Trinity are intimately involved in our salvation, let us attempt to answer the question, “What is God like?” What are some of His attributes?

What Are Some Of The Attributes Of God?

What is an attribute? An attribute is a particular characteristic or quality. In order for us to better understand God, it is important that we study His attributes. The more we know about who God is, the more we will be able to trust Him with every area of our lives. God’s attributes are usually divided into two categories: transferable attributes and non-transferable attributes. Let us first study the non-transferable attributes of God:

A. Non-Transferable Attributes

Non-transferable attributes are attributes that belong to God only, and cannot be transferred to human beings. For example, humans cannot be all-knowing like God is.

1) God Is Sovereign

When we say that God is Sovereign we are saying that He controls everything that occurs. The word “sovereign” means “chief, highest or supreme.” The idea of God’s sovereignty should encourage us. It assures the Christian that nothing is out of God’s control and that His plans always triumph.

a. Read Isaiah 46:10-11. How do these verses describe God’s sovereignty? _____

An example of God’s sovereignty can be seen in the story of Joseph in the Old Testament (Genesis 37-50). His brothers were jealous of him, so they sold him as a slave and he was taken to Egypt. But God was with Joseph and after a series of events Joseph eventually became the prime minister of Egypt, a man of very great importance. When a famine came over the land, Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt to get food, not knowing that Joseph was the prime minister. When they realized who Joseph was, they were afraid that he would be angry with them for the way they treated him years before. But Joseph accepted and forgave them, and gave them all the food they needed. Joseph said these words to his brothers, “You meant evil against me, but God turned it around and used it for good.” (Gen. 50:20). Joseph recognized God’s sovereignty, and saw that God had worked even in bad situations to bring about His purposes.

b. What impact does the knowledge of God’s sovereignty have on our lives as Christians? Think about the application of this knowledge, and answer the following question: _____

The area of my life that could change by having a proper understanding and appreciation of this attribute is:

(Example: Today I choose to stop worrying about that difficult situation at work. If God is in control of everything then I should not fret about any situation in my life.)

2) God Is Eternal

There has never been a time when God did not exist. He has no beginning and He has no end. He was not created by anyone else.

- a. Read Psalm 90:2 and Revelation 1:8. What do these verses tell us about God being eternal?

Since God is eternal, He sees the past and future as clearly as He sees the present. Because of this, He has a better understanding than we do as to what is best for our lives. Knowing that He can see the past and future in a way that we cannot, we should be willing to trust Him with our lives.

- b. The area of my life that could change by having a proper understanding and appreciation of this attribute is: _____

(Example: I have been impatient with God about answering my prayer! I choose today to trust His eternal perspective. His timing is perfect, not mine.)

3) God Is Omniscient (All-Knowing)

God knows everything. He possesses all the knowledge there is to have. He does not need to attend school to gain knowledge. He does not increase His knowledge day by day. He already knows all that there is to know. He knows everything about how the universe works, and He also knows our hidden thoughts and feelings.

- a. Write Hebrews 4:13 _____

There are many things to think about as we consider the fact that God is all-knowing. For one thing, we realize that God's knowledge allows Him to know every one of our sins, yet He still loves us. For another, we must recognize that because God possesses all knowledge, we should seek Him alone -- first, through prayer and Bible Study and second, through consulting other godly Christians -- for wisdom and counseling. We should not look for advice from astrologers, fortune-tellers, psychics, non-Christian counselors or anyone who is not a true follower of Jesus Christ. Read Isaiah 8:19 and James 1:5.

- b. The area of my life that could change by having a proper understanding and appreciation of this attribute is: (Example: Because God is wiser than any human being, I will seek Him for counsel and wisdom.) _____

4) God Is Omnipresent (Everywhere)

God is everywhere at the same time. There is no place in the universe where God is not present. God does not have physical dimensions, but He is present everywhere as a spirit.

- a. Read Psalm 139:7-12 and Jeremiah 23:24. What do these verses tell us about God being everywhere? _____

It is foolish to think that we can hide from God. Jonah tried to run and hide from God but God knew where he was. At every moment, God knows just where we are and what we are doing. Likewise, we are never lost to God. He is always watching over us and caring for us. When we feel lonely or frightened, we can be sure that God is with us.

- b. The area of my life that could change by having a proper understanding and appreciation of this attribute is: _____

(Example: God knows my deepest, darkest sin. Because He is everywhere, I cannot hide from. Yet, despite all this, He still forgives me and unconditionally loves me! Today I choose to be completely open and honest with Him regarding confession of sin. Confession is not letting God in on a little secret, it is agreeing with God that what I have done is wrong.)

5) God Is Omnipotent (All Powerful)

God has infinite power, more than enough strength to do all things. He does not need anything or anybody to give Him power or help. He has so much power that He created the universe with only His words (see Genesis chapter 1). He gave us salvation not by our own power, but by His, because the gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). Likewise, because God is all-powerful, nothing can take a believer out of His care -- the Christian is kept safe and secure in his salvation. Another wonderful benefit of being a Christian is that God's infinite power is at work within us, to help us throughout our lives

(Ephesians 3:20). Because of this, we have a source of strength when we are weak, and we can be assured that His power can triumph over any circumstance that we face.

- a. Read Jeremiah 32:17, 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, and Ephesians 3:20. What do these verses say about God's power? _____

- b. The area of my life that could change by having a proper understanding and appreciation of this attribute is: _____

(Example: I will spend more time in prayer and Bible study, so I can be “plugged in” to that power source.)

6) God Is Immutable (Unchanging)

- a. God does not change. He is the same every day. Although He has existed from the beginning of time, His character and abilities and attributes remain unchanged. The God that we see throughout the pages of the Old Testament and later the New Testament is just the same today.

Read these three verses that tell us about the unchanging nature of God: Malachi 3:6, James 1:17 and Hebrews 13:8.

Knowing that God does not change is a comforting thing for a Christian. Everything else in this world and life changes--our families, friends, jobs, societies, even our governments change--but our God does not change. Because God does not change, His Word does not change, but remains true and trustworthy. The Bible contains over 7000 thousand promises for those who are Christians, and God can be trusted to keep those promises. In addition to God's promises remaining unchanged, all the blessings and curses written in the Bible also still apply.

- b. The area of my life that could change by having a proper understanding and appreciation of this attribute is: _____

(Example: The Bible contains thousands of promises that God has made to His people. I choose today to trust Him for His reliability and faithfulness. I've been meaning to memorize His promise in Lamentations 3:22-25. I'll start today.)

B. Transferable Attributes

Unlike non-transferable attributes, transferable attributes are not found exclusively in God. Although He is the source and embodiment and perfection of these attributes, they can also be transferred (given) to us by God.

1) God Is Holy

- a. Read Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8. What do these two verses tell us about God? _____

The word “holy” means to be set apart or separated. God is holy because He is separated/set apart from everything that is unclean or unholy. God’s holiness means that He is perfect, spotless, without blemish. He is completely without sin, and it is impossible for Him to do anything that is wrong.

Because God is holy, He demands holiness from His children. We cannot enter heaven unless we are holy and without sin. This holiness is impossible for us to achieve on our own -- the high standard God has set for us shows us that salvation is only possible through faith in God.

- b. Read Colossians 1:22. Because of Jesus’ death, what is our position in God’s eyes (three things)?

Jesus’ death on our behalf has made us holy. In the New Testament, Christians are called “saints” 45 times (e.g. Colossians 1:2; Romans 1:7). The Greek word for “saint” means “holy one.” If you are a believer in Jesus, then you are a saint because you have been made holy by the blood of Jesus.

Because we are called holy, we must live according to what we are called. We need to be separated and set apart from sin in this impure world. Ephesians 5:3 says that we should stay away from “any kind of impurity . . . because these are improper for God’s holy people.” While it is impossible in this world for us to be completely without sin as God is, we should do our best to avoid sin and to live holy lives.

- c. The area of my life that could change by having a proper understanding and appreciation of this attribute is: _____

(Example: Each day I will ask God to help me keep my mind on pure and holy thoughts (Philippians 4:8), since I have been called out and set apart by Him).

2) God Is Love

God is perfect, infinite love. A beautiful passage in the Bible that speaks of the love of God is 1 John 4:8-10. Read this passage and answer the following question:

- a. What do verses 8 and 10 tell us that God is? _____

- b. What does Romans 8:38-39 tell us about God's love for us? _____

As a Christian, you can rest secure in the deep love of God. There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more. There is nothing you can do to make God love you any less. Even though we do not deserve it, God's love is given to us freely and abundantly.

It is important to note that love is not simply a "feeling." Rather, the Bible makes it clear that love is an ACTION. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, we find 16 verbs telling us that love is always an action. John 3:16 says that "God so loved the world that He GAVE..." Love always gives.

Because we have experienced God's self-sacrificing love, we have the capacity to demonstrate this love to others. We must not only love those whom we feel deserve our love, but remembering that God loves us even though we do not deserve it, we should love others even when they don't deserve it (see Luke 6:27-36).

- c. The area of my life that could change by having a proper understanding and appreciation of this attribute is: _____

(Example: I will "preach the gospel to myself" each day and remind myself that by virtue of the blood of Christ, I am loved and forgiven more than I could ever imagine. Knowing that I have been forgiven much and am loved much, I will also forgive and love others, even those who are the most difficult to love.)

3) God Is Just

God is absolutely just. It is impossible for Him to do anything that is unfair. He never shows partiality, but is fair in all His judgments.

- a. What is God called in 2 Timothy 4:8? _____
 - b. What does Psalm 89:14 say is the foundation of God's throne? _____
-

God's justice is most applicable in the area of judgment. When people stand before God to be judged, they will receive full and fair justice. This is a comfort to those who have experienced wrong in life, since God will punish the wrong-doers. It is also a warning for those who have been doing evil, because their deeds will be judged. As believers in Jesus, we can be assured that although our deeds on earth will be judged impartially (1 Peter 1:17), we ourselves will escape the wrath of God's judgment because we have been made holy through the blood of Jesus.

- c. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 and answer the following questions about God's judgment:
 - i. What will God do when He judges those who have caused you trouble? (vs. 6) _____
 - ii. What will God do for those who have been troubled? (vs. 7) _____
 - iii. What will be the result of God's judgment for those who have not put their faith in Jesus? (vs. 8-9) _____
-

Since our desire is to imitate God, we should be careful not to show unfair favoritism or partiality in our relationships with others. We should treat people in a just manner. We should also remember that it is not our responsibility to avenge the wrongs done to us, but instead we must forgive and leave justice to God (Deut. 32:35).

- d. The area of my life that could change by having a proper understanding and appreciation of this attribute is: _____
-

(Example: Today, I will start trusting God's justice and stop depending upon my understanding when things seem unfair.)

4) God Is Truth

It is impossible for God to lie (see Titus 1:2), because God is absolute truth. Man is constantly searching for truth, but sadly man usually looks for truth in sources other than God. In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the Truth." It is only in God and His Word that truth can be found.

- a. What does Jesus tell us about truth in John 8:32? _____

When a person comes to Jesus Christ his search for truth ends, and true freedom begins. If we have Jesus in our life, we have the Truth in our life. Because God is truth, we can also be assured that His Word, the Bible, is truthful and completely trustworthy. Since we have the Truth in our lives and the Bible to direct us, we must always do our best to be truthful in all things. When we tell a lie, it is like scraping our fingernails on a blackboard before the holy ears of God. He disdains it!

Proverbs 12:22 says that lying is an “abomination.”

b. The area of my life that could change by having a proper understanding and appreciation of this attribute is: _____

(Example: I will try to be a truth-teller in all situations. By God's grace, I will stop excusing my habit of exaggeration, and telling “little white lies.” I will start calling it exactly what it is: sin.)

Other transferable attributes include righteousness, faithfulness, mercy, patience plus others. So then to review:

Non-Transferable Attributes

Sovereign
Eternal / Self-Existent
Omniscient (all-knowing)
Omni-Present (everywhere at once)
All-Powerful
Unchanging

Transferable Attributes*

Holy
Perfect Love
Just
Truth
Righteous
Faithful
Merciful
Patient

(*only in the sense that we can attain some measure of God's character.)

C. The Names of God

Proverbs 18:10 says, “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” In order to be able to fully understand the “strong tower” of the name of the Lord, it is important to know His names.

God has many names which are revealed to us in the Bible. Each of these names tells us something about who He is and describes some of His attributes. Some of His names are given by God Himself to reveal who He is. Other names are given by the saints of the Old Testament. Studying God's names helps us to know Him better and trust Him more completely. Following are some of the names of God in the original Hebrew of the Old Testament.

1) Elohim

This name means “Creator God” (see Exodus 3:6). It is given by God Himself and used many times throughout the Old Testament. This name reminds us that God is the powerful creator of the universe.

2) Jehovah

This name means “I Am Who I Am” or “The Self-Existent One” (see Exodus 3:14 and 6:2-4), and is used 6,823 times in the Old Testament. This name reminds us that God exists by His own power. He was not created, but has existed from the beginning of time. This name was considered to be SO HOLY that scribes who made copies of the Old Testament scriptures would treat the name “Jehovah” in a very special manner. They would stop writing, wash their hands, and then pick up a writing instrument *used only to write the name “Jehovah.”* After writing the name, they would then pick up their other writing instrument and continue to copy the scriptures.

3) Jehovah Jireh

This name means “The Lord Will Provide” (see Genesis 22:14). It reminds us that God will provide for our needs.

4) **Jehovah Nissi**

This name means “The Lord is My Banner” (see Exodus 17:15), and reminds us that God is our banner of victory in the battle. His name is the banner we hold before us as we fight against our enemy, Satan.

5) **Jehovah Tsidkenu**

This name means “The Lord is My Righteousness” (see Jeremiah 23:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Romans 3:22). It reminds us that it is only through God the Son, Jesus, that we can be righteous.

6) **Jehovah Raah**

This name means “The Lord Is My Shepherd” (see Psalm 23:1 and John 10:14). It reminds us of God’s gentle care and guidance.

7) **Jehovah Shalom**

This name means “The Lord Is My Peace” (see Judges 6:24 and Ephesians 2:14). It reminds us that God can give us peace and quiet the storms in our life.

8) **Jehovah Rapha**

This name means “The Lord is My Healer” (see Exodus 15:26). It reminds us that it is through the death of Jesus that we are spiritually healed from the stain of our sins. It also reminds us that God has the power to heal our physical illnesses when it is within His plan for our life.

9) **Jehovah Mekoddishkem**

This name means “The Lord is My Sanctifier” (see Exodus 31:13). The word “sanctify” means to set apart or make holy, so this name reminds us that God makes us holy in His sight.

10) **Jehovah Shammah**

This name means “The Lord Is There” (see Ezekiel 48:35). It reminds us that even when we feel all alone in times of pain or difficulty, we are never really alone because God is always there with us.

11) **El Elyon**

This name means “The God Most High” (see Genesis 14:20 and Psalm 78:35), and reminds us that God is higher than Satan, angels and all creation. He is the most high ruler over everybody and everything.

12) **El Roi**

This name means “The God Who Sees” (see Genesis 16:13). It reminds us that God sees everything that happens to us, and even sees and knows our thoughts and worries.

13) **El Shaddai**

This name means “The Mighty God” (see Genesis 17:1), and reminds us that God is powerful and “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Eph. 3:20). Because the word “Shad” means “breast” in Hebrew, El Shaddai could also refer to the God who feeds and nurtures and comforts us.

14) **Adonai**

This name means “My Lord” (see Genesis 15:2), and reminds us that all areas of our lives need to be submitted to God’s lordship.

Devotional Thought: Take 15 minutes and pray together with the person who is discipling you. Give praise to God for some of God’s attributes that you studied in this chapter, naming them one by one. Bring any prayer requests you have before Him, using the names that remind you of His ability to handle your requests. (For example: If you are experiencing anxiety/ worry -- call upon the name of Jehovah Shalom.) Practice using God’s names in your own prayer times this week.

Assignment for Chapter 4

How Should I Study The Bible?

NOTE: Do not go on to chapter 5 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

_____ Study and complete the material for chapter 4.

_____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 4 with the person who is discipling you.

_____ Make sure you have completed the chart on page 40 with your Bible study plan, and have discussed this with the person who is discipling you.

_____ Memorize the hand illustration on page 36 and tell it to the person who is discipling you.

_____ Memorize Psalm 119:9-11, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.

_____ Memorize the names of the first 14 books of the New Testament (Matthew through 2 Thessalonians), and tell them to the person who is discipling you.

_____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks.

- John 3:16-17 "For God so loved..."
- 1 John 5:12-13 "He who has the Son..."
- Exodus 15:11 "Who among the Gods..."
- Psalm 119:9-11 "How can a young man..."

OPENING ICEBREAKER TO LESSON 4: When you pick up the newspaper, which section do you tend to read first?

Part Two: The Disciplines of a Christian

Chapter 4

How Should I Study The Bible?

Memorize Psalm 119:9-11

A. The Importance Of The Bible

The Bible is the foundational element of the Christian life. In no other way does God reveal as much of Himself as He does through the Bible, and it is from the Bible that we learn all of the basics for living as a Christian. As God speaks to us through His Word, we come to know Him and to understand and obey His principles for life and ministry. The Bible is not an ordinary book, but is “living and active” (Hebrews 4:12). In a very special way the Bible is a supernatural book, and reading and interacting with it changes us for the good. A thorough knowledge of the Bible is vital as we strive to follow after God.

B. What Makes The Bible So Unique?

The Bible is unique -- it is not like any other book. As we study its uniqueness, we come to the conclusion that it is not an ordinary book written by men, but that it must be truly the Word of God. Let us look at some of the ways in which it is unique:

1) It is different in its nature from all other books

Most books are written within one or two years by just one author, but the Bible is vastly different from all other books. It consists of sixty-six different books, written by 44 different writers, in three different languages, written on 3 continents (Africa, Asia and Europe) under different circumstances. The writers were from almost every social rank -- statesmen, peasants, kings, herdsmen, fishermen, priests, tax-collectors, and tentmakers; educated and uneducated, Jews and Gentiles. Most of the writers were unknown to each other, and they wrote at various periods over the span of about 1600 years. This is amazing in itself, but the most incredible thing is that despite the tremendous variety of writers and the time span over which the Bible was written, it is one unified book dealing with one main subject, the subject of man’s redemption by God.

2) It is the only book that is “God-breathed”

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does this verse say about where scripture came from? _____

Since the New Testament was originally written in Greek, it can be helpful to look up the meaning of the original Greek words in order to better understand the meaning of a verse. The word “inspired” in Greek literally means “God-breathed.” This indicates that the Bible has been BREAthed OUT by the breath of God. As God breathed out the words, man wrote them down. God is the source and ultimate author of Scripture.

Read 2 Peter 1:20-21. Where does this verse say that the prophecies of scripture came from?

The word for “moved” means to “be driven or carried by the wind,” like wind moving a sail boat (cf. Acts 27:15,17). The writers of scripture were carried along/driven as the Holy Spirit breathed on them.

3) It is the only book that teaches complete forgiveness of sin

Other religious books, such as the Koran and others, DO NOT teach that man can be completely forgiven by God. The Bible is the only book that teaches that we can be completely forgiven by God.

4) It is the only book with fulfilled prophecy

Another thing that sets the Bible apart from all other religious books is that it has fulfilled prophecy. Hundreds of prophecies given in the Bible have already been fulfilled. An example of a fulfilled prophecy is given below:

Read Ezekiel 26:4-14. Written about 586 B.C. It says:

- 1) Tyre would be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (vs. 4 and 7)
- 2) It would be leveled into a slab of rock as the buildings are torn down and thrown into the sea (vs. 14).
- 3) Fishing nets would be spread across the slabs of rock (vs. 14).
- 4) It would never be rebuilt (vs. 14).

Now look up the word “Tyre” in an encyclopedia. There you’ll read:

- 1) Tyre was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in a 13 year siege (585 to 572 B.C.)
- 2) Alexander the Great leveled it in 332 B.C. and threw all the debris into the sea.
- 3) Some encyclopedias even show a picture of the great slabs of stones where the fisherman spread out their fishing nets.
- 4) Never rebuilt: It was "reduced almost to ashes--a blow from which it has never fully recovered." Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. 27, page 331.

Ezekiel’s prophecy was completely accurate!

This is just one example, but there are hundreds of others. There are 332 prophecies in the Old Testament about the coming Messiah and all of these were fulfilled by Jesus (see page 9 for some of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled).

Read Deuteronomy 18:21-22. How do we know that God has spoken? _____

We know that God has spoken because His words come true! There is no possible way that the prophecies written in the Bible could have come true by chance or coincidence alone. The reason the prophecies came true is because the Bible is the Word of God, who knew the future long before it happened.

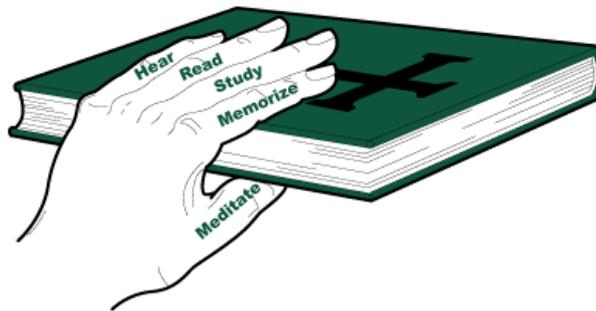
No other religious book has fulfilled prophecy like the Bible. If a person really wants to know which book is God’s word, then he must set aside ALL books which do not have fulfilled prophecy. Thus, the ONLY book which qualifies as the word of God is the BIBLE.

5) It is supported by archaeological evidence

In addition to the above reasons, we can believe the Bible because archaeology (the science of finding and studying what is left of ancient cities and cultures) has agreed with what the Bible says. For example, in 1936 an archeologist named Dr. John Garstang, from Britain, was doing some research on the remains of the ancient city of Jericho. He concluded that the walls did “fall down flat” as it says in Joshua 6:20. In addition, the city was clearly destroyed by fire (Joshua 6:24). Finally, he concluded that the date of this destruction was about 1400 B.C. Every one of his unbiased scientific conclusions coincided exactly with what the Bible says in Joshua 6.

C. How Can I Know The Bible Better?

Since the Bible is God’s Word, it is important that we know it well. There are 5 different methods for knowing the Bible -- hearing, reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on the scriptures. The following diagram, which is used with permission from the Navigators, compares these five methods of learning the Bible to the five fingers of your hand. If you hold the Bible with only one or two fingers, it is easy to lose your grip. But as you use more fingers, your grasp of the Bible becomes stronger. Likewise, when we hear, read, study, memorize and meditate on the Word of God, our grasp of the Bible becomes stronger so we can more effectively apply it to our lives.



1) Hear the Bible

It is important to hear the Word of God preached on a regular basis. It is also important to pay attention to what we hear, and to remember it. Most Christians hear the Word of God preached, but only a few remember what they hear. To help remember what we hear, we should take notes on the sermons we hear on Sundays.

Write Romans 10:17: _____

Read Luke 8:15. What kind of heart does God want you to have when you hear the Word of God?

Read Luke 11:28. Whom did Jesus say would be blessed? _____

2) Read the Bible

It is important to spend some time every day reading the Bible. Read Deut. 17:19 and list the reasons why we should read the Bible daily: _____

Write out Revelation 1:3 in your own words. _____

3) Study the Bible

Studying is more than just careful reading. Studying involves spending the time to try to learn more about the verses we are reading, writing down what we discover as we read, and applying what we have learned to our lives. It is a good idea to have a special notebook to write the things you learn as you study the Word of God.

What should be our goal in studying the Bible? See 2 Timothy 2:15 _____

When you are studying a passage of scripture, you should always begin with prayer, asking God to help you to understand what you are studying. Following that, you should do three main things:

1. **Observe** - At first just read through the passage, making general observations on what it is about. Ask questions like, "Who, What, Where, When and Why?"
2. **Interpret** - Read the passage again slowly, verse by verse, thinking about the meaning. If you have other books available (like commentaries, Bible dictionaries, etc.), you can use those to help you learn more about the passage.
3. **Apply** - Think about how this passage might apply to your own life. Ask yourself:
Is there any . . . Example to follow? Lesson to learn? Command to obey? Sin to forsake? Error to avoid? Wrong to heal? Promise to claim? Prayer to pray? Reason to give thanks or praise? Thought about God for me to understand? Pray that God would help you to follow what the Word of God has said.

Using the method outlined above, spend 10 or 15 minutes studying Jeremiah 17:5-8.

1. **Observe: What is this passage about?** _____

2. **Interpret: What is the meaning of this passage?** _____

3. **Apply: How can I apply** this passage to my life? _____

(If you are having difficulty applying the passage, you can ask yourself the following questions: Am I worried/anxious about something, indicating that I am not really trusting God? Do I go to others for help before I go to God? Does my trust in God fail when I experience difficult situations? Am I like a bush in the desert, or a tree by a stream? Have I been remembering to praise God that He is trustworthy?)

To further help you in your Bible study, the following books are strongly recommended for your long-term investment:

- The Reformation Study Bible* or the *MacArthur Study Bible* (both by Nelson Publishers)
- The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible* (AMG Publishers, edited by Spiros Zodhiates)
- Halley's Bible Handbook* (Zondervan Press)
- Unger's Bible Dictionary* (Moody Press)
- Strong's Concordance* (Royal Publishers)

In addition, many excellent Bible study tools can be found on the internet.

4) **Memorize the Bible**

Read Psalm 119:11. What does it say we should do with the Word of God? _____

Read Matthew 4:1-11. How did Jesus overcome Satan's three temptations? _____

How can memorizing scripture help you during temptation? _____

After 24 hours you only remember:

5% of what you hear

15% of what you read

35% of what you study

57% of what you see and hear

BUT you remember **100%** of what you memorize.

One of the best ways to memorize is to write the scripture on a piece of paper and keep it in your wallet or pocket. Look at it many times throughout the day. Try to say it out loud without looking at the paper.

5) **Meditating On The Bible**

Note how the thumb is the most important finger for grasping an object. Without a thumb, you cannot hold the object tightly. Likewise, meditating on the Bible is necessary in order to have a good grasp of the Bible.

What is meditation? The Hebrew word for “meditation” is related to the word “rumination” which means “to chew repeatedly for an extended period of time.” Thus, one definition of biblical meditation is “constantly chewing over the Word of God until we can digest all of the good things it contains.” It is prayerful reflection with the goal of understanding and applying what we have read and studied. Meditation involves thinking about what we are learning from God’s Word, and praying that God would conform our lives to be obedient to what His Word teaches. Read the following verses and write what blessings come to a person who meditates on God’s Word:

Psalm 1:1-3

Joshua 1:8

Someone has said, "If you know how to worry, then you know how to meditate!" Worry is simply *negative* meditation! Instead of thinking over and over again about something negative, why not meditate on the positive promises of God's word? Let THAT go over and over in your head instead. Here are just a few ways to meditate on scripture:

- 1) Spend time praying about how to apply what you read to your life.
- 2) Personalize the passage by putting your own name into it (for example John 3:16: “God so loved ME that he gave his only Son, so that if I believe in him I will not perish but have everlasting life.”)
- 3) Sing a song with words from the Bible, thinking about the meaning of the words and making your song a prayer.

D. Making A Bible Study Plan

Have you ever had a broken finger? It's hard to hold onto anything. Likewise, if just one area of your "spiritual fingers" is "broken", your understanding and growth are compromised. Of the five fingers (Hearing, Reading, Studying, Memorizing, and Meditating), which is your weakest finger? Which is your strongest? How do you plan to increase your strength in the area(s) where you are weak? In order to improve in your weak areas, it is good to set goals for yourself. Use the chart below to analyze your current habits and to set new goals.

Method	What I am doing now	My plans to improve
Hearing the Word		
Reading the Word		
Studying the Word		
Memorizing the Word		
Meditating on the Word		

Assignment for Chapter 5

How Should I Pray?

NOTE: Do not go on to chapter 6 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

_____ Study and complete the material for chapter 5.

_____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 5 with the person who is discipling you.

_____ Memorize 1 John 5:14, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.

_____ Memorize the names of the last 13 books of the New Testament (1 Timothy through Revelation), and tell them to the person who is discipling you.

_____ Review the goals for Bible study you established at the end of chapter 4 on page 40.
How did you do this past week in meeting your goals?

_____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks, and review the names of the first 14 books of the New Testament.

- John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...”
- 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...”
- Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...”
- Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man...”
- 1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence...”

OPENING ICEBREAKER TO LESSON 5: Describe a time in your life when God gave you a very clear answer to your prayer.

Chapter 5

How Should I Pray?

Memorize 1 John 5:14

Prayer is intimate fellowship with God. It is essential to our worship, growth, and maturity. Just as earthly relationships need communication in order to grow and mature, your relationship with God grows and matures through the discipline of prayer.

"The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer." F.B. Meyer

A. Why Do We Pray?

1. Prayer glorifies God (John 14:13).
2. God commands us to pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
3. Prayer allows us to communicate with God and have fellowship with Him (Proverbs 15:8).
4. Jesus Christ made prayer a priority in His life (Matthew 14:23 and 26:36).
5. Prayer achieves results for the glory of God (Luke 18:1).
6. Prayer helps us achieve spiritual growth (Jude verse 20).
7. Prayer is the tangible expression of our complete dependence upon God. (Mat. 6:11)
8. Prayer replaces our anxiety with God's peace (Philippians 4:6-7).

Jerry Bridges has written these words, "We may assent to the fact that we are dependent on Christ, but if our prayer life is meager or perfunctory, we thereby deny it." (The Discipline of Grace, InterVarsity Press, p.137).

B. To Whom Do We Pray?

Because of the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf, we are able to have a personal relationship with God. This personal relationship allows us to pray **directly to God**. Through the blood of Jesus we are His children (John 1:12-13; Hebrews 4:14-16) and we are holy in His eyes (Colossians 1:22), and because of this we have the privilege of directly communicating with Him. We do not have to go through Mary, an angel, or one of the saints in order to talk to God.

There are many churches that teach that we can pray to God through one of the saints, an angel, or through Mary. These churches teach that the saints or Mary or angels can "intercede" for us by taking our prayer to God the Father on our behalf. Is this idea biblical? To answer that question, we must look at the word "intercede."

First of all, the word "intercession" or "intercede" (which means "to ask or plead on behalf of another person") occurs only eleven times in the Bible. Of those eleven verses:

- ~ Four speak about Jesus making intercession for us (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 4:14-16 and 7:25; Isaiah. 53:12)
- ~ Two speak about the Holy Spirit making intercession on our behalf (Romans 8:26 and 27).
- ~ Five speak about a human making intercession to God on behalf of another human.
(However, every example in the Bible where a human intercedes for another human occurs while the person is **ALIVE** here on earth. For example: Gen. 23:8, 1 Sam. 7:5, 1 Kings. 13:6, 1 Sam.

12:23, 1 Tim. 2:1. In the entire Bible, there is not ONE example of someone who is dead making intercession for someone here on earth.)

It is clear that there is no example in the Bible of prayers being made through a person who has died. Rather, the Bible says time and time again that God is the one who personally hears and answers our prayers.

Many people believe that since Mary was the mother of Jesus, she has a special relationship with Him in heaven, and can therefore bring our prayers before Him. But there is no place in the Bible where we are told to pray to Mary. Jesus himself did not give His mother any special status over any other obedient Christian. Read Matthew 12:46-50. Who does Jesus say is his mother (and brother and sister)?

It is certainly true that Mary was a very godly woman who was blessed with the very special privilege and honor of being the human mother of the Son of God. However, Mary was not God, she had no special powers, and she was not given the position of mediator between God and humans.

Who is the only mediator that we have? Look up the following verse and give your answer:

1 Timothy 2:5 _____

The Bible makes it clear that we should pray **directly to God**. When Jesus was asked by His disciples, “Teach us to pray,” He told them to pray to God the Father (Matthew 6:9). There are also examples in the Bible of praying directly to Jesus (Acts 7:59, 2 Corinthians 12:8-9). Generally speaking, a Christian prays TO the Father, THROUGH Jesus Christ, BY the power of the Holy Spirit. Attempting to pray to God through any other mediator is **not biblical**.

C. What Are The Four Parts Of Prayer?

There are four main elements that should be included in our prayers in order to have a balanced prayer life. You can easily remember these four elements from the acrostic “A-C-T-S” which stands for adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication.

- 1) **Adoration:** Praise God not for what He has done for you, but simply for who He is. A good way to practice adoration is by praising God using His various names and attributes (see chapter 3).

Read the following verses to see why God is worthy of our adoration:

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 _____

Psalm 145:1-6 _____

Note: A good way to pray with adoration is to read a psalm such as 145, pausing after each verse to personally praise God for what you just read.

- 2) **Confession:** The Greek word for “confess” means “to say the same thing.” God calls our sins an abomination. We need to say the same thing about our sins as we confess them one by one before God; that is, we need to agree with God that our sins are terrible. We also need to ask Him

to forgive us for the sins we cannot remember or are not aware of. Remember that God knows all of our sins.

Why is confession important?

Psalm 32:3-5

Psalm 66:18

1 John 1:9

3) Thanksgiving: Express thanks for everything which God has given you. Give thanks even in the painful experiences and ask God to help you see the purposes for it (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Read Psalm 107:1 and 8. What are some ways that you have seen God's loving kindness in your life?

4) Supplication: Present your requests to God. This part of prayer asks God to provide for your needs and the needs of others. What are some things we should ask God for?

- ~ Pray for worries that you may have (Philippians 4:6-7)
- ~ Pray for yourself and your family to be lined up with God's will (Matthew 6:10)
- ~ Pray for friends and relatives to come to know Jesus (Romans 10:1)
- ~ Pray for your church leaders and your political leaders (1 Tim 2:1-2)
- ~ Pray for the missionaries in your church (Col. 4:2-4 and Matt. 9:37-38)
- ~ Pray for yourself. Pray as specifically as possible. (Heb. 4:16 and Matt. 7:7-8)

It is a good idea to write out what you want to pray for before you begin, so that you will not forget something or lose your focus while you are praying. Another reason for writing down your prayer requests is so that you will be able to look back later and see how God has answered your prayers.

D. Does God Always Answer My Prayers?

God always answers our prayers. However, God doesn't always answer our prayers in the way we hope or expect. His answers to our prayers will vary according to His plan for our lives:

- 1) **Sometimes the answer is "NO."** God does not always say yes. Even when we pray with a clean heart and right motives and unwavering faith, God will sometimes say "No." Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9. What was God's answer to Paul's request?
-

Read Luke 22:41-42. What was God the Father's answer to Jesus' prayer? _____

We can see from the above verses (and other examples in the Bible) that God sometimes says "No" to the requests of His children, even if His children are solid Christians who are praying in faith. Why does God say "No" to some prayers? We can't always know the answer to that question, but some possible reasons are given below:

- a) *Unrepentant, unconfessed sin*
God wants us to confess our sins and repent so that we are in good fellowship with Him before we bring requests before Him. It is important that we regularly confess sin in our life so that we can come before God in prayer with a clean heart (see Psalm 32:3-5, Psalm 66:18, and 1 John 3:22).
- b) *We ask wrongly*
James 4:3 says, "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." Our motives must be correct when we request something from God.
- c) *Opposing prayers*
Sometimes our prayers are in opposition to the prayers of another Christian. For example, let's suppose that one Christian man is praying for his son's football team to win while at the same time another Christian is praying for the opposing team to win! Whose prayer should God answer? God cannot always say yes to everyone's request.
- d) *We are asking for something that is not God's will*
1 John 5:14 says, ". . . if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." If what we ask for is not in God's will for our lives, He will not give us what we request.
- e) *God understands more than we do about the situation*
We must realize that God is all-knowing and that He can see the future. Because of this, He understands much more than we do about our life (and the lives of others around us) and can know what is best for us. We must trust His knowledge and His wisdom and His love. For more on this, see page 129 "Perspectives on Pain and Suffering."
- f) *God has granted humans free will (Genesis 2:16-17).*
Because God has chosen to give us the freedom to choose our own actions, God may say, "No" to a prayer request in order to allow man's free will, which in this sinful world will sometimes result in innocent people suffering.

A good verse to remember when God says "No" to our requests is 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." Even when God's answer to our prayer is "No," we can know that everything that happens in our life will work together for our good. This promise is not for unbelievers, but only for those who have been called by God and love God. What a comfort this promise is to a Christian! For more on this subject, see the Appendix at the end of this booklet.

- 2) **Sometimes the answer is "NOT YET."** Sometimes God wants us to be patient and wait for the thing we have requested. A verse which helps us trust God's timing is Psalm 37:4, 7: "Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart...Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him."
- 3) **Sometimes the answer is "YES."** When God says "yes" to our request, we need to recognize His answer to our prayer, and to give Him the thanks and glory for what He has done. James 1:17 says: "Every good and perfect gift is from above . . ."

What is a prayer request of yours that God has answered with "No" or "Not yet" (either in the past or currently)? _____

E. Avoid Meaningless Repetition In Your Prayers

Imagine having a conversation with a friend who just kept repeating something he had memorized, or kept telling you exactly the same thing over and over. That conversation would not really be meaningful to you, would it? We want our friends to talk to us in a personal way, a real conversation of their thoughts and feelings. In the same way, God wants our prayers to be a real conversation with Him, not just phrases we repeat over and over.

Read Matt. 6:7. What does Jesus say about meaningless repetition? _____

Is it pleasing to God when all of your prayers sound the same? _____

When you pray, be sure that your prayers are genuine. Tell God your own thoughts and feelings, not simply some standard words you are repeating.

F. What Does It Mean To Pray In Jesus Name?

Some Christians wrongly believe that if you end your prayer with the words "In Jesus name" (see John 14:13), God is required to do whatever we ask. The Bible teaches us that to pray in the name of Jesus means that that we are praying in the authority of Christ. For example, when a policeman says, "Stop in the name of the law!" he is invoking the authority that the law has. Likewise, when we pray in Jesus' name, we are invoking the authority that Christ Himself has. To pray in Christ's name means that we identify with the purpose of Christ to the extent that our will is submitted to the will of God (see 1 John 5:14). We must remind ourselves that God will only say "Yes" to those prayers that are in line with His will (see James 4:3). Those who do not obtain what they specifically request are often surprised by a different but better answer. And "No" is sometimes the best answer. We must remember that God answers our prayers according to what He sees as our needs.

Assignment: Schedule a time to meet somewhere quiet where the two of you can pray (e.g. the beach, a park, etc.) Have no agenda other than to pray. Be sure to include the four elements of Prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

Date/Time: _____ Location: _____

A suggested way to pray is “conversational” prayer, in which each person prays briefly about the prayer request, taking turns with each other until the request is thoroughly covered. For example, Tom may pray, “Father, I pray for the conversion of my friend, Bob, that he might receive Jesus Christ.” And then Mike may pray, “Yes, Lord. I agree with Tom’s prayer and ask you to show us how we can approach Bob with the Gospel.” Tom and Mike will each pray several times back and forth about the subject of Bob’s salvation before moving on to the next issue of prayer.

Another good way to pray is to pray through a Psalm. Choose a Psalm and personalize the words, making it your own prayer to God. (Example: for confession of sin, Psalm 51 is a very good psalm to pray to God. For praise and adoration, Psalm 145 is excellent.)

As you spend time in prayer together, be sure to pray for yourselves that you would walk in obedience to God. Pray for your family. As time permits, pray for your church leaders, the leaders of your nation, missionaries you know, and world issues.

Assignment for chapter 6 – Week 1

How Can I be a Witness to Others?

NOTE: THIS CHAPTER SHOULD BE DONE IN TWO SECTIONS, OVER THE COURSE OF TWO WEEKS.

Week One

- _____ Study and complete the material for chapter 6.
 - _____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 6 with the person who is discipling you.
 - _____ Memorize Matthew 28:18-20, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.
 - _____ Write out your personal testimony, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.
 - _____ Mark the verses for “Roman’s Road” in your Bible.
 - _____ Schedule an appointment to go with the person who is discipling you to witness to someone who is not a Christian.
 - _____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks, and review the names of the books of the New Testament.
-
- John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...”
 - 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...”
 - Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...”
 - Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man...”
 - 1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence...”
 - Mathew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them...”

OPENING ICEBREAKER TO LESSON 6: What is an incident in your life that you tend to tell others? Example: How you met your spouse; an embarrassing moment, etc.

Assignment for chapter 6 – Week 2

How Can I be a Witness to Others?

Week Two

- _____ If the person who is discipling you has suggested any changes in the way you present your personal testimony, re-write your testimony to include those changes.
- _____ Tell your testimony again to the person who is discipling you, pretending that he/she is not a Christian.
- _____ Present the gospel to the person who is discipling you, pretending that he/she is not a Christian. Use the “Roman’s Road” method to present the gospel.
- _____ Tell your testimony to three Christian friends and two non-Christian friends.
- _____ Go on two evangelistic visits with the person who is discipling you to two unbelievers. Write the results of your visits on page 57.
- _____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks, and review the names of the books of the New Testament.

- John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...”
- 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...”
- Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...”
- Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man...”
- 1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence...”
- Mathew 28:18-20 “The Jesus came to them...”
- Names of New Testament books

Chapter 6

How Can I be a Witness to Others?

Memorize Matthew 28:18-20

(Note to discipler: This lesson is fairly long and has quite a bit of homework for the student, including two evangelistic visits the disciple will do with you. **BE SURE TO TAKE TWO WEEKS TO COMPLETE THIS LESSON.**)

Why Witness?

Christ's first instructions to His new followers were "Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). His last instructions on this earth to His disciples were, "And you will be my witnesses . . . to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Christ thus began and ended His ministry with the command to be witnesses!

As Christians, we have experienced God's grace and forgiveness. We understand that without Jesus people are lost in sin and will never enter heaven. It should be our deep desire to share this message with people around us. Telling others about salvation through Christ is known as "witnessing." We are witnesses of the power, grace, and love of Jesus.

If a Christian is not a witness for Christ, then he is disobedient. Although some Christians are given a special gift of evangelism, it is not only those with the gift of evangelism who are told to be witnesses. Rather, every Christian is commanded to tell others about Jesus.

Why should a Christian be active in witnessing? The basic motive is simply love for Jesus Christ. As servants of Christ, we must not overlook any of His commandments. Obedience is the fruit and proof of our love for Christ -- Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15).

Another reason for being an active witness is loving concern for others. To love someone else is to seek and to serve their highest good. Do you truly love others? Do you love your unsaved friends, relatives, neighbors, and acquaintances? If you are not telling them about Jesus, then you are not showing them true love. We cannot claim to love others if we leave them alone to die without Christ.

Why is it important that we present Jesus Christ to people who are lost?

- a. John 14: 6

- b. Acts 4: 12

What Does A Witness Do?

A witness in a courtroom is expected to tell what he knows about a given situation. For example, if someone witnessed an auto accident, he or she might be called into the courtroom to testify. He *shouldn't* say, "Well I'm not a lawyer. I never studied law and so I can't possibly be a witness!" Instead, what he *should* do is testify

about what he saw and what he heard regarding the accident. The Apostle John uses those exact words when he writes in 1 John 1:1-3:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched --this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus, every Christian should be able to tell others how they witnessed a change in their life after Jesus Christ became their Lord and Savior. We don't have to be an expert and know everything before we tell others about Jesus -- we must simply be faithful to tell them what we do know. Read the following verses about people who were witnesses of Jesus and answer the questions:

1. What was the first thing Andrew did after he met Jesus? (John 1:40-42) _____

2. What did Peter say about speaking of Jesus Christ? (Acts 4: 20) Circle the correct answer.
 - a. He didn't speak unless asked.
 - b. He was compelled (could not resist) to speak.
 - c. He found it difficult to speak of such a personal matter.
3. What was Paul to tell people? (Acts 22:15) _____
4. Of what did Paul say he was not ashamed? Why? (Romans 1:16) _____

How Should We Witness?

- 1) Read John 9:1-34. The blind man whom Jesus healed in this passage had little or no theological training, but he could give a simple and effective testimony. What facts did he tell? (John 9:25)

- 2) What did John say that he was proclaiming? (1 John 1:3) _____

- 3) What was the subject of Paul's witness?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 _____

 - b. Ephesians 3:8 _____

4) In 1 Peter 3:15-16

a. What two things should come before telling others about Christ?

b. What is the hope that is in you?

c. What should be your attitude when witnessing?

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Since He lives within us, we can simply ask Him to give us the courage to speak for Him. We can also ask Him to help us know the words to say when we witness to others. Read Matthew 10:19-20 and Luke 12:11-12. Who will help us tell others about Jesus?

It is important that we always pray before and after we witness to someone, asking God to help us know the words to say and to be at work in the heart of the person with whom we are speaking.

When Should We Witness?

When should we witness to others about Jesus? We should continually be looking for opportunities to tell others about Christ. Whenever you are alone with a person for a few minutes you should assume that you are there by divine appointment to share the good news of God's love and forgiveness. Example: One woman was asked, "What is it that you do?" The woman answered, "I am a disciple of Jesus Christ cleverly disguised as a secretary!" Likewise, we should always look for opportunities to tell others about our relationship with the Lord.

Remember that Satan does not want you to tell others about Jesus. Witnessing about Jesus is an area that involves a great deal of spiritual warfare. Our enemy will use whatever method he can to keep you from witnessing to others. He will tell you lies to discourage you from sharing the good news of Jesus. It is important for us to recognize the lies and discouragement of Satan, so that we can fight against him with prayer and scripture. Here are some common ways that Satan might try to prevent you from witnessing:

~ *He will tell you that people may become angry with you for speaking about Jesus.*

There is no question that this is true -- some people will become angry and reject the words you say. But regardless of the response we get from people, we must obey God's command to be His witnesses. We must fear God more than we fear man (read Exodus 1:15-17 for an example of this).

~ *He will tell you that you do not know enough (don't have enough training/experience) to be a witness.*

Remember the example in John 9 of the blind man who was healed. Although he knew almost nothing about Jesus, he told others what Jesus had done. Every Christian can at least tell what Jesus has done in his/her life. If a person asks you a question for which you do not have an answer, you can tell them that you will find out and give them the answer later.

~ *He will tell you that you might destroy your friendship with someone if you talk to them about Jesus.*

Remember that if you truly care about and love someone, you must tell them about Jesus. Without Jesus, your friend will be lost forever. You must risk your friendship for the sake of their soul, and trust God to handle the situation.

- ~ *He will tell you that people are not interested in hearing about Jesus.*
Although it is true that some people may not be interested in hearing the gospel, many people are interested. People all around us are living empty, lonely lives, and are seeking meaning and purpose. Many people are longing to hear about the God who loves them.

- ~ *He will tell you that your life is not a good example of a Christian, so you should not witness.*
The idea that we should not witness until we are perfect is a LIE. The truth is that NO Christian is perfect. God wants us to be holy (1 Peter 1:15-16), and we should try to live holy lives, but we will never be perfect in this life. The Apostle Paul struggled with sin in his life (see Rom 7:15). The Apostle Peter denied Christ 3 times, but God still used him as a powerful evangelist. Even if you are struggling with areas of sin in your life, you can tell people about Jesus and tell them how He died for you and for them. You can tell people that you are not perfect, but that you have been forgiven by the blood of Jesus and that you are learning every day how to be a better person.

- ~ *He will tell you that your efforts at witnessing will not be successful -- that the people you talk to will not believe.*
You should not feel discouraged when some refuse to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord. It is not your responsibility to make someone believe in Jesus. That is God's responsibility. Your responsibility is simply to tell them the good news with love and genuine concern.

What is a way (or ways) that Satan often discourages YOU from witnessing? _____

What is a verse that can help you when Satan discourages you in this way? _____

Present Jesus Christ

How should we present Christ to those who don't know Him? To answer this question, let us look at the way Paul told others about how he met Christ. Read Acts 26:1-23. You will notice in Paul's story of how he met Christ (his testimony), he included the following:

- a. What life was like before he met Christ (Acts 26:1-11).
- b. How he met Him (Acts 26:12-18).
- c. What life was like after he met Christ - how it changed his life (Acts 26:19-23).

Using these three points, write out your own brief (no more than three-minutes) testimony below:

What my life was like before I received Jesus Christ. I lived and thought this way: _____

How I received Christ (be specific and use at least one Bible verse): _____

After I received Christ, these positive changes took place: _____

When you are presenting Christ to someone, it is a good idea to start by giving your own testimony. Practice telling your testimony as you have outlined it above, until you can tell it smoothly and without hesitation. This week, tell your brief testimony to others at least 5 times. Start by telling it to three Christian friends. Then tell your testimony to two non-Christian friends. To whom will you tell your testimony?

The names of three Christian friends: _____

The names of two non-Christian friends: _____

Explain God’s Way of Salvation

After telling someone how you met Christ, it is important that you explain to them their own need for Jesus. You should use verses from the Bible to support what you are saying. One good method of explaining the gospel is called the “Romans Road”, and uses seven verses from Romans:

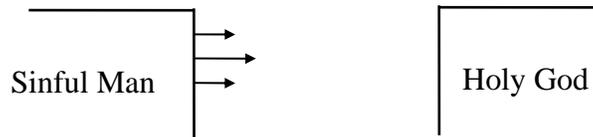
- 1) Romans 3:10 2) Romans 3:23 3) Romans 5:12 4) Romans 5:8
- 5) Romans 6:23 6) Romans 10:13 7) Romans 10:9-10

So that you always remember where to begin, write “ROMANS ROAD BEGINS AT ROMANS 3:10” in the front of your Bible. Then turn to Romans 3:10 and have the person to whom you are witnessing read the verse. It may help him if you have the verse underlined in your Bible.

On that same page that you have Romans 3:10 in your Bible, write the words “GO TO ROMANS 3:23.” Again, have your friend read Romans 3:23 out loud. Ask him, “What has destroyed our relationship with God?”

On that same page that you have Rom. 3:23, write the words “GO TO ROMANS 5:12.” Have your friend read Rom 5:12.

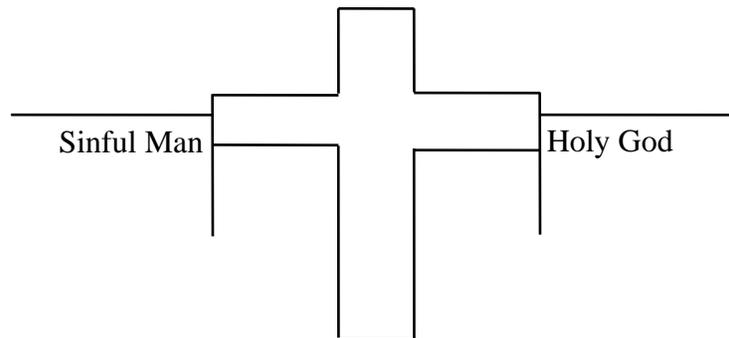
Then say, “Those three verses clearly say that every one is a sinner. No one is righteous. We are separated from God because of our sin.” It may be helpful to show your friend an illustration of how we are separated from God:



The arrows show man’s attempt to reach God by good works, religion, etc. All of these attempts fall short.

On that same page that you have Rom. 5:12, write the words “GO TO ROMANS 5:8.” Have your friend read Rom. 5:8.

Explain to your friend that Jesus is 100% man and 100% God, and tell them that He died on the cross for our sins so that we can be forgiven and have a relationship with God. He is the only one who can bridge the gap between a Holy God and sinful man. The following illustration shows how Jesus brings us to God:



On that same page that you have Rom. 5:8, write the words “GO TO ROMANS 6:23.” Have your friend read Rom. 6:23.

Explain to your friend that sin leads to spiritual death and judgment, but if we receive Jesus we will be saved. Explain that eternal life is a gift and that it cannot be earned by doing good works. We can only enter heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. (You could have your friend read Ephesians 2:9-10 if they do not understand that salvation is simply a gift because of God’s grace -- not because of anything we do ourselves.) Be sure to emphasize that conversion involves two key elements: repentance and faith. Jesus said in Mark 1:15, “Repent and believe the gospel” (see also Luke 13:2-5). To repent means to make a spiritual U-turn. We turn **away** from sin and turn in faith **towards** the cross.

On that same page that you have Rom 6:23, write the words “GO TO ROMANS 10:13.” Have your friend read Rom 10:13.

On that same page that you have Romans 10:13 in your Bible, write the words “GO TO ROMANS 10:9-10.” Have your friend read Romans 10:9-10. You may also have your friend read John 1:12.

Tell your friend that receiving eternal life and having a relationship with God is simply a matter of admitting that they are a sinner, believing the words of the Bible and asking Jesus into their life. Ask your friend, “Is there any reason you can think of why you would not want to receive Jesus Christ right now?”

If your friend indicates that they would like to receive Jesus, you can help them ask Jesus into their life by praying with them a simple prayer like this (they can repeat the words after you):

“Oh Jesus, I realize that I am a sinner. I have done many things wrong that displease you. I now repent of my sins, in other words, I now make a spiritual U-turn from my sins and I turn to the cross of Jesus Christ. I now accept your blood atonement for my sin. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins and for allowing me to have a relationship with you. Please come into my heart, and take control of my life. I want to obey you and follow you. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”

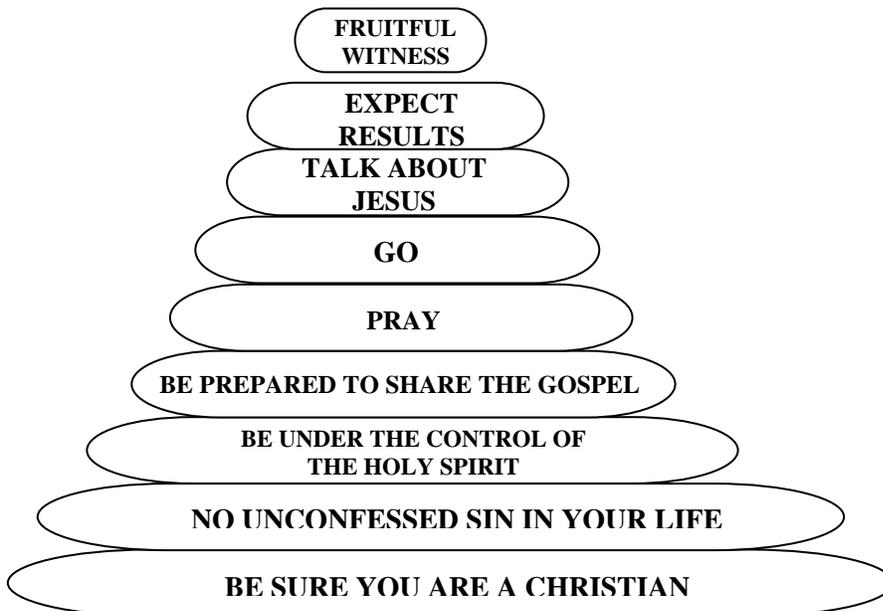
There is nothing in life quite as exciting as praying that prayer with someone! After you lead someone to Christ, it is important that you tell them that they must now follow Christ and live their lives according to the guidelines of the Bible. Make sure they have the opportunity to grow in their understanding of God and the Bible. If you are unable to spend regular time with them yourself, introduce them to another Christian who can help them grow. Also try to get them established in a good church that can help them to mature as a Christian.

Helpful Suggestions When Witnessing To Someone

- 1) Learn how to turn the topic of a conversation around so that you can talk about Jesus. Practice doing this with the person who is discipling you. One woman when asked, “What is it that you do?” energetically answered, “I am a disciple of Jesus Christ cleverly disguised as a secretary!”
- 2) Keep the conversation focused on Jesus Christ. Many times people will have questions or comments on subjects that are not directly related to Jesus. It is important that you continue to direct the conversation back to Jesus.
- 3) If you are asked a question that you don’t know the answer to, don’t “fake it.” Simply say you don’t know, then seek the counsel of another Christian who can guide you to the correct answer.

Being a Fruitful Witness

The following chart can help you remember the basic steps to being a faithful and fruitful witness for Christ. Review each step with the person who is discipling you.



As we close this chapter on evangelism, it is wise to remember the words of St. Augustine who said:

“Without God, we cannot (convert anyone); without us, God will not.”

Will you be that faithful person whom God uses to share your testimony and the gospel? ____ Yes ____ No

Homework:

- 1) Think of two people you know who are not Christians, and pray that they will become believers. Try to arrange an opportunity to witness to them.
- 2) Prepare your testimony and present it to the person who is discipling you. Also present Romans Road to your discipler.
- 3) Make two visits with your discipler and give your testimony to two unbelievers. Also present the gospel to them using Romans Road if possible. After your evangelistic visits, write the answers to the following questions:

a.) What are the names of the people to whom you presented the gospel?

b.) What was their response to your testimony?

c.) What was their response to the gospel presentation?

d.) What did you learn from this experience?

Assignment for chapter 7

What is my Relationship to Others in the Church?

NOTE: Do not go on to chapter 8 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

- _____ Study and complete the material for chapter 7.
- _____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 7 with the person who is discipling you.
- _____ Memorize Colossians 3:12-14, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.
- _____ Memorize the names of the first 14 books of the Old Testament (Genesis through 2 Chronicles), and tell them to the person who is discipling you.
- _____ Make an appointment to go with the person who is discipling you to serve someone in your church (see page 58).
- _____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks, and review the names of the books of the New Testament.

- John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...”
- 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...”
- Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...”
- Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man...”
- 1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence...”
- Mathew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them...”
- Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God’s chosen people...”

OPENING ICEBREAKER TO LESSON 7: When you were a kid, who was one of your closest friends? What made that person so special to you?

Part Three: My Relationship to the Church

Chapter 7

What is my Relationship to Others in the Church?

Memorize Colossians 3:12-14

As children of God, we have the privilege of being a part of God's family. This family includes all the people throughout the world who have Christ as their Lord and Savior. This family is called the "Body of Christ," or the "Church." Christ Himself is the Head of the body, and we are all members of the body.

God desires that every believer be a functioning member of a local church. We can not grow to maturity all by ourselves -- God's plan is that we will mature as we remain in regular fellowship with Him **and** with other Christians.

A. Christians Are Members Of One Another

The New Testament states that Christians are "members of one another." Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27, and then write what example Paul uses to illustrate the idea that we are all members of one another:

Write Romans 12:5 _____

One of the most important things in the Christian life is showing love to others. In John 13:35 Jesus said that the way the world will know we are His disciples is by our love for one another. How are you in this area? Can the people around you see that you are a Christ-follower by watching the way you treat others?

How are we to treat others? In the New Testament, the "one another" commandments appear 59 times. Each time, God gives a command (not a suggestion) to do a particular action to "one another." Read the following verses and CIRCLE the "one another" commandment that is given:

- ❖ Mark 9:50 Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.
- ❖ John 13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.
- ❖ John 13:34 A new commandment I give you: Love one another.
- ❖ Romans 14:13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another.
- ❖ Romans 15:7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.
- ❖ Romans 15:14 I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are . . .competent to instruct one another.

- ❖ Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
- ❖ Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- ❖ Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.
- ❖ Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.
- ❖ Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
- ❖ Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
- ❖ James 4:11 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.
- ❖ James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
- ❖ 1 Peter 4:9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
- ❖ 1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

B. How Should We Treat One Another?

Let's study a few of these "one another" commandments more closely:

1) Encourage one another

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thess. 5:11)

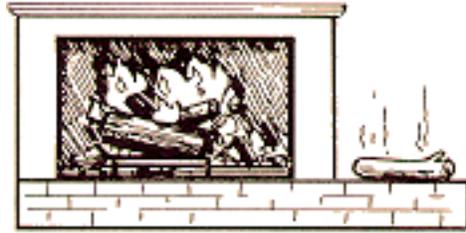
Christians are to build up, edify and encourage one another. No one pastor can build up every single person in the church. God's design is that we all build each other up.

We must recognize the importance of the Word of God in encouraging and building each other up (see 1 Thess. 4:18). We should be ready to share scriptures with others who are in special need of encouragement. In order to encourage others with scripture, we must study the Word of God on a regular basis -- not only for our own growth, but also to assist others in their growth.

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What should we encourage others (spur one another on) to do? _____

What is one important way we encourage others (verse 25)? (What should we not give up doing?)

Thus, it is important to meet together for worship and fellowship on a frequent basis. No individual Christian can function effectively all alone. For example, look at the picture of the fire below:



The logs that are together are all glowing brightly. But put one log off to the side and it quickly burns out. Likewise, we must be with other Christians in fellowship in order to “burn” brightly for the Lord Jesus Christ and have our Christianity be “hot.” We all need the encouragement of meeting together on a regular basis in order to remain strong in our Christian lives. This is why regular attendance and involvement in a church is vital.

Another reason why it is important to be in close fellowship with other Christians is that we are less vulnerable to the attacks of Satan when we are with other believers. An illustration of this principle can be seen in Africa. If a herd of antelopes all stick together, the lion will not attack any one of them. However, if one leaves the herd, the lion will eat that antelope for dinner! Likewise, the Bible tells us that “your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (see 1 Peter 5:8). If one of us wanders away from the fellowship of other believers, we are more likely to be devoured, but if we all stick together we are much less vulnerable to our enemy.

2) Be devoted to one another; honor one another above yourselves

Romans 12:10 tells us to “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” This command can often be hard to obey, because our natural tendency is to think of ourselves before thinking of anyone else, and to be devoted to our own needs and wants. But God is very clear about how He wants us to behave. Read Philippians 2:3-11 and answer the following questions:

What should we not do? (verse 3) _____

How should we view the interests of others? (verses 3, 4) _____

Whose attitude should we copy? (verse 5) _____

What did Jesus do to place the need of others above Himself? (verses 7-8) _____

We must take seriously what the Bible says about being devoted to and honoring one another. Evaluate your attitudes and actions toward fellow Christians:

- a. Do I spend most of my time thinking about myself rather than others?

- b. Do I spend time praying for myself or others?
- c. Am I forgiving toward others? Or am I basically angry and resentful?
- d. When I am hurt, do I withdraw or do I continue to be involved with other people?
- e. Do I fear rejection, or do I reach out to others? How do I show others my love and interest in them?
- f. Do I humbly consider the interests of others before my own interests?

3) Admonish one another

The Greek word for “admonish” means to “warn and instruct.” Some have said that to admonish means to “compassionately confront” someone. An example of this may be, “Tom, I love you as a friend and your best interest is my concern. The Bible is very clear that you must turn from your sin of adultery and return to your family. If you repent and obey, God promises to forgive you and will begin putting the pieces back together again. And I care about you too much to see you destroy your life with this sin.”

To confront a Christian about their sin is a difficult thing to do. Nevertheless, part of our responsibility in our relationships with other Christians is to love them enough to be willing to speak to them about areas of sin in their lives. Proverbs 27:6 says “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.” A true friend will be painfully honest when it comes to sin. Admonishing one another is not simply a suggestion - - rather, we are commanded to do this, and we are told to do it in the spirit of love. As Paul says, we must strive to “speak the truth in love” (see Ephesians 4:15).

The Bible gives us instruction about the way we should admonish a fellow believer. Read the following verses and answer the questions:

- a. Read 1 Cor. 4:14. What is to be the motive for admonishing someone? Also, what should NOT be a motive? _____

- b. What must we evaluate in ourselves before we admonish someone? (Matthew 7:2-5)

- c. What is the manner in which we should admonish someone? (Galatians 6:1 and Acts 20:31)

- d. What steps should be taken in the process of admonishing someone? (Matthew 18:15-17)

Note that the first step spoken of in Matthew 18:15 is to admonish another believer “just between the two of you.” In other words, we are to admonish each other privately. A good principle to remember is to praise people in public and admonish them in private.

When we are admonished by someone else, we should take care to have the proper attitude. It is often difficult not to become angry or defensive when someone corrects us, but we must learn to listen carefully to the correction in order to hear what God might be wanting to say to us through the person who is admonishing us (even if they are not admonishing us in the best way). What do Proverbs 9:8-9 and Proverbs 12:1 tell us about the right attitude toward correction?

4) Accept one another

Romans 15:7 tells us to “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” Accepting one another brings praise to God because it shows the world around us that relationships in the Christian family are based on love and acceptance of each other, despite our differences.

What did Jesus say would show all men that we are His disciples? (John 13:35)_____

If we love someone, we will accept them without being critical or judgmental. Read the following verses and answer the questions:

What are we told to do in Romans 14:1? _____

Notice that the verse says not to pass judgment on “disputable matters.” Areas that are not specified as sin should not become a source of disagreement and judgment among Christian brothers and sisters. How are we to handle differences in areas that are not clearly sin? (Romans 14:3)_____

When the world sees division and arguments among God’s people, they cannot understand the love of God. 1 Corinthians 1:10 says, “I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.” Let us accept one another and not allow divisions among us.”

Accepting others also means that we should not show partiality by treating some people better than others. In Romans 12:16, how are we told to act?_____

The Lord is grieved when He sees Christians arguing with each other and not accepting each other. Read Galatians 3:28. What does this verse tell us about division among the people of God? _____

When we judge others in areas that should not divide us or when we treat certain people better than others, we are not accepting each other. Are there people in your life whom you have not been accepting? If so, ask God to forgive you and to help you to show true acceptance of your Christian brothers and sisters, so that you can “bring praise to God.”

5) Bear with one another; forgive one another

Colossians 3:13 tells us to “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Bearing with each other means to be patient and tolerant toward the habits and weaknesses of others, and to forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.

It is often hard to be patient with other people. Our tendency is to be angry and irritable with what we see as the shortcomings of another person. When we are tempted to be impatient with one another, we need to think about God’s attitude toward us.

What does Nehemiah 9:16-17 tell us about God’s attitude toward us? _____

Not only must we be patient, we must also be quick to forgive others when someone sins against us. Sadly, some Christians remain bitter for many years toward a person who has hurt them. This is nothing less than sin, and causes harm to us spiritually and emotionally. We must make a deliberate decision to forgive those who do things that hurt us. Romans 12:18 says, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” This means that even if the other person is in the wrong, we must forgive them and do all we can to live at peace with them. We cannot be responsible for another person’s sinful behavior, but we can make certain that our response to their behavior is Christ-like.

What does Matthew 18:21-22 say about how often we are to forgive? _____

What about when someone is angry with us? What is our responsibility in that situation? See Matt 5:23-24.

The Bible tells us that we must “seek peace and pursue it” (1 Peter 3:11 and Romans 14:19). That means we need to do everything on our part to be at peace with the other person, *even when we believe that the conflict is the other person’s fault*. We must humbly approach the other person and leave the response to God. God is primarily concerned with your obedience to the command “seek peace and pursue it” as this is how you develop Christ-like character.

Read John 17:21. What did Jesus pray for regarding our unity? _____

Maintaining the “bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3) demonstrates to the world that we have unity through the Spirit of God. Are you showing the world the unity of the Spirit of God, or are there people in your life with whom you are not at peace? Is there someone whom you feel bitter towards, or who is angry with you? Think about who you might need to reconcile with, and write their name(s) below.

This week forgive the person/people you have named, or ask them to forgive you. Make a plan now to contact them and be reconciled to them. What is your plan? _____

6) Serve one another

In Galatians 5:13, we are commanded to “serve one another.” Jesus was a living example of Christian servitude as he “took on the very nature of a servant” (Phil 2:7). Jesus did not only serve in ways that were easy or convenient -- He served when He was tired and weary, He served when people did not show gratitude, He served in ways that many would consider shameful or demeaning (for example, washing his disciples’ feet).

Jesus’ teaching on serving others was contrary to what the world teaches. Read Mark 10:41-46 and answer the following questions:

Look again at verses 42-44. How did the teachings of Jesus on greatness differ from the world’s idea?

What did Jesus say was the purpose of His coming? (verse 45) _____

Jesus wants us to follow His example in serving one another. He wants us to not only serve when it is easy or convenient, but also when it is difficult or inconvenient. We should not only serve by doing the things we enjoy, but we should also be willing to do the things we don’t enjoy. We should serve not only when we will receive praise for our service, but also when our service will go unnoticed. And we should serve cheerfully, without grumbling or complaining (Phil 2:14). We must remember that “whatever you do, work

at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, and not for men . . . it is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Colossians 3:23-24).

C. Where Do You Need To Improve?

We have seen the importance of maintaining fellowship with other Christians by obeying the “one another” commandments in the Bible. When we do this, we fulfill the request of Jesus who prayed in John 17:20-23, “May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

Which “one another” commandment(s) is the Holy Spirit convicting you of right now? _____

What are some practical things you can do to improve in that area? _____

Spend some time with the person who is discipling you in prayer. Pray that you will demonstrate the love of God by fulfilling the “one another” commandments and maintaining true fellowship with other believers.

Assignment: Choose someone in your church whom you and your discipler can serve. Some examples of service may include:

- Bring a meal to someone who is sick.
- Visit an elderly person and comfort them in some way.
- Baby-sit for someone in your church.
- Write a letter of encouragement to a missionary.
- Ask your church staff if there is a way you can serve in the church.

Our plan to serve somebody in the next week or two is:

Assignment for chapter 8

Who is the Holy Spirit, and what Spiritual Gifts does He Give?

Note: Do not go on to chapter 9 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

_____ Study and complete the material for chapter 8.

_____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 8 with the person who is discipling you.

_____ Review with your discipler the list of spiritual gifts, and try to determine what your spiritual gift(s) might be and how you can use this gift to strengthen your church.

_____ Memorize Galatians 5:22-23, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.

_____ Memorize the names of the next 12 books of the Old Testament (Ezra through Ezekiel), and tell them to the person who is discipling you.

EXTRA REVIEW: Review with the person who is discipling you how you are doing in the various areas of Christian discipline that you have studied so far (prayer, Bible study, relationships with others, etc.)

Review the memory verses from previous weeks, and review the names of the books of the New Testament and Old Testament.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 5:22-23 “But the Fruit of the Spirit...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...” | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...” | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man...” | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence...” | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mathew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them...” | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 3:12-14 “Therefore, as God’s chosen people...” | |

Chapter 8

Who is the Holy Spirit, and what Spiritual Gifts does He Give?

Memorize Galatians 5:22-23

The Holy Spirit has given every Christian at least one gift which He wants you to share with everybody in the church. Before we talk about the special gift the Holy Spirit has given you, let's first examine some Bible teaching on the Holy Spirit.

A. Who Is The Holy Spirit?

- 1) The Holy Spirit is a person.

In Scripture, the Holy Spirit is a person in the same sense that God the Father is a person and Jesus Christ is a person. This does not mean a human person, but it means that the Holy Spirit is not simply "wind" or "air" or a "ghost" or a "force." The Holy Spirit is a real individual. Throughout scripture, the Holy Spirit is referred to as "He" (e.g. John 15:26; 16:13-14); and is shown to have personality characteristics (e.g. He can be lied to, He can be grieved, etc.).

- 2) The Holy Spirit is God.

a) Read Acts 5:3-4. Who did Peter believe the Holy Spirit to be? _____

b) His works affirm that He is God (more will be said on this in Section B below.)

Note: See the Doctrine of the Trinity sheet in the appendix for more verses about the deity and works of the Spirit.

- 3) The Holy Spirit is sent to us by the Father (John 14:16) and by Jesus (John 16:7). Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "another Counselor to be with you forever" (John 14:16). Let us look at this important verse more closely.

First let's examine the word "another." There are two words for "another" in Greek -- "heteros" and "allos." "Heteros" means "another of different quality." "Allos" means "another of equal quality." The word used here in the Gospel of John is "allos," which indicates that the Holy Spirit was of equal quality to Jesus.

Now let us look at the word "Counselor," which in the original Greek is the word "parakletos." Parakletos refers to one who has been called on to provide help by comforting, advising, advocating, empowering, assuring, guiding, etc. Jesus was telling his disciples that God the Father would send the Holy Spirit to help believers in many different ways.

B. What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

All throughout the Bible we can see the various works of the Holy Spirit. Some of these are listed below. If possible, please read the scripture references.

1. The Holy Spirit participated in the creation of the world (read Gen. 1:1-2; Psalm 33:6; Psalm 104:30; Job 33:4).
2. The Holy Spirit moved in men in order that the Word of God would be written (read 2 Peter 1:21, Acts 28:25; see lesson 4 of this manual for more detail).
3. The Holy Spirit was involved in the life of Jesus, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35); anointed by the Spirit (Luke 4:18); filled with the Spirit (Luke 4:1); led by the Spirit (Luke 4:1); and empowered by the Spirit (Matt 12:28). See lesson 1 of this manual for more detail.
4. The Holy Spirit is involved with the salvation of people by convicting them of their sins and the truth of the gospel (John 16:8-11) regenerating (i.e. making new again) their hearts of those who receive Christ (Titus 3:5) indwelling them (living inside of all true believers) (1 Cor 6:19) sealing all believers (Eph 1:13 and 4:30), which means they have eternal security (see lesson 2 of this manual) assuring believers that they are truly God's children (Romans 8:16)
5. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray and also makes intercession for us (Romans 8:26-27).
6. The Holy Spirit helps believers to understand what they read in the Bible (1 Corinthians 2:10-14; John 14:26).
7. The Holy Spirit gives us "the fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22-23).
8. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to Christians (1 Cor 12:7).

C. Do I Have A Spiritual Gift?

Let's start by defining the term "spiritual gift." A spiritual gift is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to enable the Christian to minister and to serve others in the church. The main purpose of spiritual gifts is to build and strengthen the church. Read the verses below and answer the questions:

1. Is every Christian given at least one spiritual gift from the Holy Spirit? (1 Peter 4:10 and 1 Cor. 12:7)
Circle: **Yes** **No**
2. Can one person have ALL of the gifts? Read 1 Cor. 12:7-10. Circle: **Yes** **No**
3. Is there any one gift that is given to everybody? Read 1 Cor. 12:28-30. Circle: **Yes** **No**
4. Who decides who will get a particular gift? Read 1 Cor. 12:11 Circle: **The Holy Spirit** **Us**
5. According to Eph. 1:13, when does the Holy Spirit come into the believer?
Circle: **At the moment of conversion** **3 weeks later** **6 months later**

You can see from the verses you have read that the Holy Spirit enters the believer at the moment of conversion and distributes a gift of His own choosing (or sometimes more than one gift) to every Christian.

No one person will possess every gift, and there is no gift that will be given to every person. The Holy Spirit gives a **variety** of gifts to the different people in the church, so that the people will work **together** to build up the church. In order to illustrate this, God gives us an example we can clearly understand. Read 1 Cor. 12:7-27 and answer the following questions:

What example did God use to illustrate the way members of the church should use their spiritual gifts to help each other? _____

Are certain spiritual gifts more important than others? _____

What is the purpose of the spiritual gifts God gives? (Eph 4:7-8, 12-13) _____

God gave each of us a spiritual gift (or gifts), to be used in cooperation with others to build up the church. The gifts we have are not for our own enjoyment, but to encourage and strengthen the whole church. If we are using our gift just to encourage or please ourselves, we are not making the proper use of our gift.

D. What Are The Spiritual Gifts That The Holy Spirit Gives?

The Bible mentions more than 20 spiritual gifts, primarily in the following passages: Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:9-11. Below you will find a list of the spiritual gifts mentioned in these passages:

Helps - This gift enables a person to help with the needs of the church family (e.g. vacuuming the church, setting up chairs and tables, helping people in the church that have physical needs, etc.).

Teaching - This gift is an ability to make clear the teaching of scripture (e.g. teaching a children's class or a Bible study in a home).

Encouragement - This gift is an ability to encourage others in the church (e.g. writing a letter of encouragement to the elders or someone in the church who is discouraged.) It may also involve giving encouragement through counseling.

Giving - This gift is an ability to cheerfully give beyond your tithe to people in the church who have financial need (see Acts 4:36-37).

Leadership - This gift enables a person to have the characteristics and qualities of a godly leader, so that people in the church are willing to follow that person as a leader.

Knowledge and Wisdom - These two spiritual gifts often go together. This gift enables a person to study in order to have a very good knowledge of the Bible and then be able to wisely apply the scriptures to people's problems (e.g. counseling someone who is depressed).

Faith - This gift enables a person to believe and trust that God will do great things even when he or she cannot see the final result (see Hebrews 11:1-2).

Mercy - This gift is the ability to show mercy to those in need (e.g. bringing food to someone who is sick, helping the elderly in the church, etc.).

Administration - This gift is the ability to organize projects of the church -- to oversee them from start to finish, while at the same time treating the people who are involved with love and giving them the vision to keep pursuing the goal.

Evangelism - This gift enables someone to be especially effective in giving the gospel to people, either in large crowds or just one person at a time.

Pastor - This gift is the special ability to shepherd those who are in the church.

Hospitality - This gift enables a person to cheerfully open their home to missionaries and others in need (see 1 Peter 4:9). Another e.g. of this gift may be opening up your home for a small group Bible study.

Apostle - The Greek word for this gift means "sent one." Our word "missionary" is derived from this word. An apostle had to have seen the risen Christ (see Acts 1:22). This included Paul (see 1 Cor. 9:1). Since no one has seen the risen Christ today, no one can claim to be an apostle.

Tongues - In Acts 2:8ff we see a supernatural ability to speak in a foreign language. Many times there is "pressure" from others in the church and people are "forced" to speak in tongues in order to prove that they are Christians. Scripture does not agree with this. In the first place, the Bible clearly teaches that NOT everyone has this gift (1 Cor. 12:30). In addition, those that do speak in tongues are FORBIDDEN to do so unless they strictly follow Paul's words in 1 Cor. 14:27-28. According to this passage, the elders of the church should forbid tongues unless it is done one at a time and with an interpreter. Also, as the purpose of spiritual gifts is to build up others, the use of tongues in a personal prayer-time does not have biblical support (1 Cor. 14:4). Many Christians throughout the world believe that this gift ceased when the New Testament was completed.

Prophecy - A prophet is one who speaks the Word of God and leads the people to repentance. An e.g. of this is Nathan the prophet who convicted David of his sin of adultery (2 Sam. 12:7). The Old Testament Hebrew word for "prophet" meant "announcing the declaration of God." The New Testament Greek word for prophet means "one who speaks for God." In the Bible, the words of the prophet had to come true (see Deut. 18:21-22). If a prophecy did not come true, then that prophet would be put to death. Throughout the world many Christians believe that this gift stopped when the Bible was completed. Those that believe it continues today must be sure to obey 1 Thess. 5:20-21 and 1 John 4:1 because Satan disguises himself through many false revelations (see 2 Thess. 2:9-12).

Working of miracles - The purpose of miracles is to glorify God. Jesus performed miracles because of deep compassion on those who were suffering with illnesses such as blindness, leprosy, etc. He never performed miracles for the selfish purpose of putting on a display. Jesus used miracles to inspire faith (Matt. 8:23-27), but He also refused to do a miracle when the people wanted to see something “sensational” (Mark 8:11-13).

Healing - Biblical healings were immediate and complete (Acts 3:1-8). A true healing that occurs today must be complete and continuous. Today, we see many incomplete healings and false claims by people who are not true healers but rather are “fakes.” Throughout the world many Christians believe that this gift stopped when the Bible was completed. Everyone agrees however, that any sick person in the church should have the elders anoint him with oil and pray for him (see James 5:14-16).

Discernment - This gift enables a person to develop much spiritual wisdom as they study the Bible so that one is able to discern if the spiritual gifts manifested in the church are from God or from Satan.

E. How Do I Discover My Spiritual Gift?

1. **Educate:** The first step to identifying your spiritual gift is to be informed and educated about the various spiritual gifts from the Bible. Read again Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Peter 4:9-11. Study each of the gifts listed above and ask God to help you to discover your spiritual gift(s).
2. **Examine:** The second step is to examine your heart and abilities. What is it that you enjoy doing - opening your home to others? Serving those who are needy? Teaching Bible classes? Counseling those who are discouraged? Read through the list of gifts and consider which ones you think you might be able to do well in a way that would strengthen the church.
3. **Experiment:** The third step is to experiment with what you think your gift is. Try a variety of spiritual gifts and see if any one gift especially fits you (i.e. you enjoy it and do it well). Ask yourself, “Am I able to build up/strengthen the church by using this gift?”
4. **Evaluate:** The fourth step is to have someone in the church evaluate your gift and calling. For example, if you think you have the gift of evangelism but no one is getting saved, then you probably do not have the gift! If you think you have the gift of leadership but no one is following you, then you do not have the gift of leadership. Be sensitive and open to the comments made by the leaders of your church as they evaluate your gift.

It is important that you identify your spiritual gift(s) and begin to use it in your local church to help with the work of ministry. Imagine the leader of your church trying to lift a 1,000 pound load by himself. It would be impossible. But if 100 people helped him, his load would be light. Likewise, when we use our spiritual gifts, we help the leadership of the church to accomplish the work of the ministry, and we are obedient to God.

F. The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit

Before we end this chapter, we should also briefly study the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is something that is developed in our lives as we study God's Word and apply it to our attitudes and behavior. The following true story will help us understand a little more about this fruit of the Holy Spirit.

In Alaska there was a certain fisherman who came to town every Saturday afternoon. He always brought his two dogs with him. One was white and the other was black. He had taught them to fight on command. Every Saturday afternoon in the town square the people would gather and these two dogs would fight. The fisherman would take bets on which dog would win the fight. The fisherman would always predict which dog would win, and he was always correct in his prediction. On some Saturdays the black dog would win, on other Saturdays the white dog would win. One day his friends asked him how he knew which dog would win the fight. He said, "The answer is simple: the one I feed the most! The one I feed always wins because he is stronger."

This story can be an analogy of our own lives. We have a sinful side of us that wants to do things that are wrong. We also have a side that wants to be obedient to God and do things that please Him. The side of our life that will be victorious is the side that we "feed" the most.

Read Galatians 5:17-21. What are the characteristics of the "sinful nature"? _____

The characteristics listed in the verses above are like the black dog that we SHOULD NOT feed. We feed the black dog by giving in to sinful desires (Col. 3:5-9). Every time we allow temptation to win, we are "feeding the black dog," and allowing the sinful nature in us to have control.

Now read Galatians 5:22-23. List the "Fruit of the Spirit"? _____

These verses are like the white dog that we SHOULD feed. We feed the white dog by spending time in the Word and in prayer, thereby "feeding" your spiritual side and developing more of the Fruit of the Spirit. Someone has said that this fruit which is produced when we are filled with the Holy Spirit is a perfect picture of Christ-likeness.

Discussion Question:

Looking at the list of spiritual gifts, which spiritual gift(s) do you think you have? _____

How are you using this gift to strengthen your church? _____

If you are NOT using your gift adequately, what steps can you take to begin appropriately exercising your spiritual gifts?

Assignment for chapter 9

What do I Need to Know about Spiritual Warfare?

NOTE: Do not go on to chapter 10 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

- _____ Study and complete the material for chapter 9.
- _____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 9 with the person who is discipling you.
- _____ Memorize Luke 10:19 and 1 John 4:4, and tell these verses to the person who is discipling you.
- _____ Review how your Bible study plan from lesson 4 is going.
- _____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks, and review the names of all the books of the New Testament and Old Testament.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 5:22 “But the Fruit of the Spirit...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10:19 “I have given you authority...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...” | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:4 “You, dear children...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man...” | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence...” | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mathew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them...” | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 3:12-14 “Therefore, as God’s chosen people...” | |

Chapter 9

What do I Need to Know about Spiritual Warfare?

Memorize Luke 10:19 and 1 John 4:4

Introduction

Spiritual warfare is not always easy to see, but it is very real. There is an ongoing battle between God and Satan that affects the lives of both believers and non-believers.

Before Satan's rebellion, he was a very beautiful, powerful angel who had a position of honor before God (read Ezek. 28:12-17). But after his fall, he became the enemy of both God and God's people. Read about his rebellion against God in Isaiah 14:12-15, and underline in that passage all 5 times that Satan says "I will."

Satan's rebellion was due to the sin of pride (see 1 Timothy 3:6 and Ezekiel 28:12-19). He wanted to glorify himself instead of glorifying God, and because of this he was punished by being thrown out of heaven. Scripture indicates that in his fall he took 1/3 of the angels with him (read Rev. 12:4).

1. Satan's names describe what he is like. Some of his names are:
 - a. Satan (this Hebrew word means "adversary" or "enemy"; Matthew 4:10)
 - b. Destroyer (Rev 9:11)
 - c. Tempter (Matt 4:3, 1 Thess 3:5)
 - d. Accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10)
 - e. Deceiver (Rev 12:9, 20:3)
 - f. Father of lies (John 8:44)
 - g. Disguised as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14)
 - h. Prince of this world (John 12:31)
 - i. Devil (which means "slanderer," Matthew 4:1)

2. What does Satan do?
 - a. Tempts (2 Cor. 11:3)
 - b. Steals, kills and destroys (John 10:10)
 - c. Tries to distract people from the Gospel (Matt. 13:19)
 - d. Accuses believers (Rev. 12:10)
 - e. Hinders missionaries (1 Thess. 2:18)
 - f. Causes persecution against believers (Rev. 2:10)
 - g. Blinds the minds of unbelievers (2 Cor 4:4) and snatches the Word from their hearts (Luke 8:12).
 - h. Prowls like a lion, seeking to devour you (1 Peter 5:8)

How Does Satan Influence Christians?

While Christians cannot be demon possessed (demon possession is discussed later in this lesson), they can be influenced and tempted by Satan. One of Satan's main goals is to try to get Christians to be disobedient to God in various ways.

One of the biggest ways that Satan works in the lives of Christians is by preventing them from studying their Bible and praying. If Satan can prevent a Christian from spending time with God in Bible study and prayer, he can prevent them from having power in their lives, so this is an area of real spiritual warfare. Satan works in ways that are usually not obvious to us. He may try to prevent you from praying by keeping you

busy with other “important” things, or by convincing you that you are too tired or that it is not really necessary. How does Satan try to keep you from praying and studying the Bible?

Satan also is constantly trying to tempt Christians to sin in their actions. He tempts us to sin in various ways, such as stealing, lying, sexual immorality, gossiping, etc.

What is an area of temptation that is difficult for you? _____

In addition to tempting us to sin by our actions, Satan also tempts us to sin in our attitude. He tries to focus our minds on things that will make us bitter or critical or depressed or angry or unforgiving. He tries to keep us from being thankful and rejoicing. How does Satan tempt you to sin in your attitude?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What is true about every temptation we face? _____

Who will help you when you are tempted? _____

Does God always remove the temptation? _____

List the two things God does to help you when you are tempted. _____

It is a great comfort to Christians to know that God will help them to resist temptation and will provide a “way of escape.” The Bible tells us about four different “ways of escape” when dealing with temptation:

1. Know the truths of scripture

The best way to defend against Satan’s temptations and lies is by knowing and memorizing scripture. This is the way Christ dealt with Satan when Satan tempted Him in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). Every time Satan tempted Him, Jesus responded by saying, “It is written . . .” “It is written . . .” Jesus used scripture to defeat the devil.

In order to effectively handle spiritual warfare, you must know your Bible. In the spiritual armor of a Christian, the Bible is referred to as “the sword” (Ephesians 6:17) and a person who does not know this “sword” very well is not prepared for spiritual warfare. Knowing scripture is very important because Satan’s lies cannot stand up to the truth of scripture. For example, if Satan tries to make a new convert doubt that he is saved, the best thing for that person to do is to have a scripture memorized that clearly says that anyone who has received Jesus Christ will have everlasting life. Declaring a verse like John 5:24 in Satan’s face will defeat his lies that can lead to doubt and discouragement and sin.

2. Maintain a regular devotional life

When a Christian has a deep and regular devotional life, he is much less likely to give in to the temptations of Satan. The more you love God and the more you are aware of His presence and submitted to Him -- the easier it will be to resist temptation. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” When you submit to God you are able to resist the devil and cause him to flee.

3. Pray for strength to resist temptation

At the moment when you are being tempted, it is important to pray and ask God to give you victory over the temptation. In Luke 22:40 Jesus said to His disciples, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." When we pray, God will give us strength to resist. In 2 Thessalonians 3:3 we read, “But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”

4. Flee temptation

Sometimes the best way to resist temptation is to flee -- to get away from the source of temptation. This is especially true with the temptation of lust. Joseph is a good example of this in Genesis 39. When Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce him, did Joseph sit down beside her and pray for God to help him resist temptation? No! He ran away! 1 Corinthians 6:18 tells us to flee from the temptation of sexual sin. Fleeing sexual temptation means being careful not to get into a situation that might cause you to lust. And if you unexpectedly find yourself in a situation where you are tempted to sin, leave as quickly as you can. This also true of any situation in which there is a struggle with addictive behavior—flee the temptation!

What are some ways you can fight against Satan when he tempts you in the following areas:

- a. Not reading your Bible or praying. _____
-
-

- b. Your behavior/actions (Pick a specific sinful behavior and write a specific way to fight it. Example: If the sin is gossip, then avoid people who gossip, change the subject, memorize scripture such as Psalm 141:3.) _____

- c. Your attitude (Think of a particular temptation you struggle with, and write a specific way to fight it. Example: If the sin is always being critical, then pray for God to help you see the positives, memorize scripture such as Ephesians 4:29, etc.) _____

What Is Demon Possession?

The term “demon possession” is used to describe what happens when Satan or one of his demons enters a person and takes control of him or her.

What Does Demonic Possession Look Like?

A. Violent Examples

Demon possession can be obvious and violent. Describe what the people saw in these passages:

Mark 5:1-20 _____

Mark 1:26 _____

Mark 9:17-26 _____

Acts 8:7 _____

B. Non-Violent Examples

Demon possession can also look very sophisticated and non-violent. In Luke 22:3 and John 13:27 we are told that “Satan entered Judas.” Judas was in a position of leadership and was trusted as the

treasurer for the disciples. There was no outward sign that Satan had entered Judas. Satan did not do this in a dramatic, obvious way.

Another example is found in Acts 16:16-18, where we are told of a woman who was possessed by a spirit of divination. Although she was demon possessed, it was not outwardly obvious -- in fact, she followed the disciples saying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." It is important to remember that Satan can appear innocent and harmless, or even as an "angel of light" (something beautiful such as false religions).

What Can We Do When Confronted With Demonic Powers?

Read Eph. 6:12. Our weapons against Satan are spiritual weapons. As was mentioned earlier, one of the most important weapons against Satan is the Word of God (see Eph. 6:17). It is VERY IMPORTANT for you to memorize scripture and use scripture against the devil, just as Jesus did in Matthew 4:1-10. Knowing and memorizing scripture is the single most important thing you can do to defend yourself against the attacks and temptations of Satan. How are you doing in the area of memorizing scripture? Are you in the habit of memorizing new scriptures on a regular basis, and reviewing scriptures you have memorized in the past? _____

In addition to knowing scripture, here are some other important things to remember when you are dealing with demonic powers:

1) Know the authority you have been given

Read Luke 10:17- 20. What authority has been given to those who are Christians?

Read Acts 8:6-8 and Acts 16:18. The ability to expel demons is not related to any spiritual gift, but has to do with the believer's position in Christ and His authority over the powers of darkness (Ephesians 1:19-21; 2:4-6). At the cross, Jesus "disarmed the powers and authorities," (Colossians 2:15) which means that those who believe in Christ can have the victory over Satan and his demons.

An illustration of the authority we have over Satan can be seen in the example of a policeman who tells a truck driver to stop. The truck has a great deal of power, but the policeman has authority to tell it to stop, so the truck driver must obey. Likewise, Satan is a powerful adversary, but we have authority over him in Jesus' name (Luke 10:19).

2) Do not fear

Read 2 Tim. 1:7. What spirit has God **not** given us, and what spirit has He given us?

Read 1 John 4:4. What does this verse tell us about the power of God and the power of Satan?

Because God does not give us a spirit of fear and because of the promise that God who is in us is greater than Satan, we should have no fear of Satan or demons.

3) Put on the armor of God

The Bible tells us that we have protection from the schemes of Satan, namely, the "armor of God". Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and answer the following questions:

Who is our struggle against? Who is it not against? (vs. 12) _____

What does the armor of God give us the strength to do? (vs. 11, 13) _____

Below is a list of the different parts of the armor of God, along with what they can protect us from:

- Belt of Truth —————> counteracts the lies of Satan
- Breastplate of Righteousness —————> counteracts Satan's impurity.
- Shoes of the Gospel of Peace —————> counteracts Satan's deception of the nations
- Shield of Faith —————> counteracts Satan's fiery arrows of doubt
- Helmet of Salvation —————> counteracts Satan's false religions
- Sword of the Word —————> counteracts Satan's false teachings

Key Question: All of the armor is DEFENSIVE except for which one? The Bible is the sword in our hand that we use to conquer enemy territory. The fully equipped Christian needs both defensive AND offensive armor.

Remember to use the armor of God when you encounter spiritual warfare by speaking the truth, claiming the righteousness of God, proclaiming the gospel of peace, holding firm to your faith in God, standing on the knowledge of your salvation, and fighting back with the powerful sword of the Word of God.

4) Two are usually better than one

When confronting Satan/demons, it is better not to go alone but to go with another Christian. In Luke 10, Jesus sent His disciples out two by two so that they could offer support, encouragement, and accountability to each other. As Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up."

5) Be humble

Remember that one of the key elements of spiritual warfare is humility. Humility is something that Satan does not have. Lack of humility (pride) was the cause of his fall. Our humility is the exact opposite of Satan's pride. We need to always keep in mind that the power and authority we have over Satan comes not by anything we do or by any goodness or greatness on our part, but only because of the power of God. In all things we must seek to glorify God and be humble in ourselves. In what ways have you been guilty of the sin of pride?

Can A Christian Be Demon-Possessed?

The Bible teaches that if a person is a Christian, he is free from demonic possession because 1 Cor. 6:19-20 says that a Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit. It is impossible for Satan or his demons to live in the temple of the Holy Spirit. In addition, there are many scriptures which teach us that God protects His children from the evil one. Look up the verses and write what they tell us about God's protection.

Col. 1:13 _____

Acts 26:18 _____

John 17:15 _____

2 Thess. 3:3 _____

1 John 4:4 _____

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: Have you ever experienced the “TLC” of Satan? First, he **T**empts you, then he **L**ies to you, saying “If you do this sin you will be so happy and satisfied.” Then, after you’ve committed the sin, he **C**ondemns you (see Rev. 12:10) and says “What kind of rotten Christian would do what you just did?” Discuss your experiences in these areas. How does Romans 8:1 counteract Satan’s condemnation?

THIS WEEK: Work on putting into practice the action steps you wrote on page 78 to deal with temptations you face. Next week, tell the person who is discipling you how you did in those areas. Don’t get discouraged if it takes a while to conquer those areas of sin—just keep pressing on and you will know God’s blessing!

Assignment for Chapter 10

What do I Need to Know about Stewardship?

NOTE: Do not go on to chapter 11 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

- _____ Study and complete the material for chapter 10.
 - _____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 10 with the person who is discipling you.
 - _____ Memorize Malachi 3:10, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.
 - _____ Review your actions steps regarding temptation (page 78). How are you doing in these areas?
 - _____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks, and review the names of the books of the New Testament and Old Testament.
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 5:22 “But the Fruit of the Spirit...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10:19 “I have given you authority...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...” | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:4 “You, dear children...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence...” | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mathew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them...” | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God’s chosen people...” | |

Chapter 10

What do I Need to Know about Stewardship?

Memorize Malachi 3:10

Note to the discipler: Because this particular lesson is short, try to go on an evangelistic visit with the person you are discipling this week. Have them share their testimony and present the Romans Road (or another gospel presentation) to an unbeliever.

What Is Stewardship?

A steward is someone who takes care of something for someone else. Stewardship is taking care of what God has given us and using it in a way that is obedient to Him.

Read Deut. 8:18 and 1 Chronicles 29:14. What things do we own that have been given to us by God? What things do we own that do NOT come from God? _____

From the verses above we can see that there is nothing we possess that was not given to us by God. The ability to work and earn money comes from Him, and everything we own is a gift from Him. It is important to recognize that we do not actually own our possessions, because everything in the world belongs to God. We are simply stewards (i.e. caretakers) of the things God has allowed us to have.

Sometimes Christians see some of their possessions as coming from God, but see other of their possessions as coming from their own hard work. If a stranger came up to you on the street and gave you a CD player, it would be easy to believe that this was a gift from God. If someone in the church needed to use it for a church program, you might cheerfully loan it, because it was “God’s CD player.” But if you worked hard for months and saved up your money little by little until you finally had enough to buy a new CD player, would you recognize this as “God’s CD player”? Would you be just as willing to cheerfully loan it to the church, or would you see this CD player as “yours”?

The verses that you looked up earlier show that in God’s eyes both of the CD players belong to Him, and were gifts to you. No matter how you got the things you possess, they are God’s, and He has given them to you to take care of in a manner that pleases Him. Taking proper care of the gifts God has given you is “good stewardship.”

What Are The Right Attitudes Toward Money?

A very important part of being a good steward is being wise in the way you handle your money. The Bible makes over 700 direct references to money and over 300 indirect references to money -- 1,000 references in all! It is also interesting that 12 of the 38 parables that Jesus told dealt with the issue of money.

It is clear that the way we spend our money and our attitude toward wealth is important to God. What does the Bible say about the proper attitudes and spending habits of a Christian? Let us begin with looking at what our attitude toward wealth should be. We have already seen that all of our wealth comes from God. Another verse that supports this is Haggai 2:8 which says, “‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares

the LORD Almighty.” In our attitude toward our money, we need to always be aware that our money is truly God’s money.

How should we not feel about our money? (Heb 13:5, 1 Tim 6:10) _____

The verses above do not say that *having* money is sinful -- but they do say that *loving* money is sinful. A person loves money when he or she spends a lot of time thinking and worrying about how much money one has and how one can become wealthier and buy more things. If having a lot of money is very important to you, and if you are not generous, but struggle with giving away your money, then you need to examine your heart as you may be guilty of the sin of loving money.

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says a very powerful statement regarding our treasure and our hearts. In the Greek, it is future tense and so we should translate the verse as, “For where your treasure is, there your heart WILL BE also.” (The New International Version rightly translates it this way). This is an extremely important principle in that it is the key that unlocks the door to cheerful giving. Rather than wait until we feel cheerful (for our hearts to be in it), Jesus is teaching us the principle of feelings follow actions. If we want our hearts to be in it, we don’t wait until we feel like it, we do it, and then we’ll feel like it. A simply way to phrase it would be “emotion follows motion.”

Read Matthew 6:19-21. Where does God say we should store up treasure? How do you think we can do that? _____

Three Aspects of Stewardship

As was said earlier, there are over 1,000 references to money in the Bible. All of those references could be summarized in these three words: Work, Save and Give.

1) Work

Work itself is to be seen as a gift from God. Adam and Eve worked in the garden even *before* the curse! God will not drop what we need from heaven into our lap while we sit and do nothing; rather, He expects us to work diligently in order to earn money to supply the needs of ourselves and our families. Then as we are diligent in our work, God will bless our efforts. Look up the following verses and write out what they say about the importance of working:

Prov. 6:6-11 _____

Prov. 13:4 _____

Prov 14:23 _____

Prov. 20:4 _____

Col. 3:23-24 _____

2 Thess 3:10 _____

The Bible teaches that money is made through hard work. Proverbs 31 tells us about a woman who “sets about her work vigorously,” who “rises while it is still dark,” whose “lamp does not go out at night” and who “does not eat the bread of idleness.” We are told that this woman “shall be praised” (Prov 31:30). God wants us to be hard working and industrious like this woman. This is part of being a good steward.

There is a story about a maid who was asked to sweep the house. In one of the rooms there was a large bed in the corner. She moved the entire bed and swept the area no one could see. A friend asked her, “Why do you sweep the areas that no one sees?” The young girl answered, “Because Jesus can see this area. I am sweeping this area not for anyone else -- just for Jesus.” She was cleaning under the bed not for the praise of other people, but just because she wanted to be a diligent worker in the eyes of Jesus. When was the last time you did something *just for Jesus*?

Even if we do not have a job, we should diligently work at trying to find a job, and at doing such things as we are able in order to meet our needs. We should not simply sit idle. Some people refuse to work rather than take a job that they feel is “beneath their dignity.” This is not right. Some people think that they can get money by buying lottery tickets, but this is NOT a legitimate way to make money. In order to practice good stewardship, we must first be willing to work hard for the things we need.

2) Save

Another important aspect of being a good steward is saving wisely for the future. In Proverbs 6:6-11 and in Proverbs 30:25, God uses the simple ant as an example for us. Read these verses and write down the principles that can be learned about saving:

God says that the ant that saves is “wise” (Prov 30:24). God wants us to also be wise and develop good saving habits. We shouldn’t spend all that we have as soon as we get it, without thinking of the future. While God does not want us to hoard our wealth, He does want us to be wise and to save what we need for the future. Consider Joseph, who advised Pharaoh to set aside some of the harvest in good years in preparation for the coming famine. If we never save any money, we will be less likely to have the opportunity to improve our situation in life. In addition, if we do not save we will not be prepared if difficult times come, such as loss of work or health problems. It is good stewardship to save money each month so that you can be prepared for the future.

Another reason to save money is so that we can help our children. Proverbs 13:22 says, “A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children.” Yet another important reason to save is so that we can help the poor. Deuteronomy 15:11 says, “There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.” If we don’t save our money, we will not have extra money to help those in need.

Remember that saving does *not* mean hoarding. Saving means wisely putting aside a certain amount so that you will have it for future needs. Hoarding is saving more than you need because of a love for possessions and money. Ecclesiastes 5:13 says, “I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner.” Hoarding money with the wrong attitude is harmful, but saving money with the right attitude is wise.

How are you in the area of saving? Do you have a saving plan -- do you faithfully save at least a small amount of money each month? It is wise to try to save at least 5-10% of your income every month. Write out below what your current method of saving is, and any new goals you feel the Lord is leading you to set.

3) Give to God through His Church

God wants us to have the right attitude about money. Our desire to have money and possessions should never be greater than our desire to please God and live in obedience to Him. God wants us to work for our money, to save it wisely, and then use our money not simply to make our own life better, but to enable the church to help physically needy and spiritually needy people in this world. An important part of living the Christian life and practicing good stewardship is giving faithfully to the Lord's work. God's Word gives us some principles to follow as we give to the Lord's work:

- a. We need to give God our best.

When we give to God, He doesn't want us to give offerings that are not our best. We should always give God the best of what we have. Read Malachi 1:6-14. What kind of lambs were the people bringing for their sacrifice? _____

What was God's response to their offering? _____

If you had an important guest come to your house for dinner, would you give him the very best meal you could make, or would you give him the leftover food you were going to give the dog? Of course you would not want to dishonor him by giving him the leftover scraps. In the same way, we must not dishonor God by giving only our leftover, unneeded portion of an offering to Him. We must show our love and worship by giving God our best, not our leftover spare change.

- b. We need to give God our full tithe:

Read Malachi 3:7-10 and answer the following questions. How do we rob God?

What amazing blessing does God promise if we give Him our full tithe? _____

We must understand that God's blessings may not necessarily be financial. For example, His blessing might be that your children grow up to marry very godly spouses who deeply love Christ.

In addition, many of the blessings that God promises for our obedience may not be received in this world. Many of His blessings will be reserved for that wonderful time when we are in heaven in the presence of God. Although we do not know when and how God will bless us, we can be certain that He will bless us richly according to the promises in His Word. These verses in Malachi (and a number of other verses in the Bible) give us God's promise that if we faithfully give Him our full tithe, He will faithfully bless us.

What is a "tithe"? It comes from a Hebrew word which means "one-tenth." See Leviticus 27:32 where every tenth possession was given to the Lord. Thus, a tithe is 10 percent of our income, given to the church in which we are worshiping and serving.

Giving a tenth to God was recognized as a duty, and was an important part of the Jewish religious worship. Jacob vowed to give his tithe to the Lord when he said, "Of all that you shall give me I will surely give the tenth unto you" (Gen. 28:22). In the days of Hezekiah one of the first results of the reformation of religion was the eagerness with which the people brought in their tithes (2 Chronicles 31:5, 6). The neglect of this duty was sternly rebuked by the prophets (Amos 4:4; Malachi 3:8-10).

The Old Testament clearly taught the giving of three tithes:

- 1) The first 10% was to be given to support the religious leaders and the local place of worship (see Lev. 27:30-33, Numbers 18:21 and Deut. 12:5-18).
- 2) The second 10% was like a tax (see Deut. 14:22-27).
- 3) The third 10% was given every third year to help the poor of the land (Deut. 14:28-29). Thus, this third tithe equaled 3.3% a year.

These tithes averaged 23.3% a year. After giving those 3 tithes, every person was to say before the Lord, "I have removed from my house the sacred portion and have given it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, according to all you commanded. I have not turned aside from your commands nor have I forgotten any of them" (Deut. 26:13-14). Could you or I say that? Have we robbed God? Are we thieves? Or have we been faithful in giving our full tithe to the Lord?

In considering what a New Testament Christian should give, perhaps the following guidelines will be helpful:

Old Testament

First tithe - 10% goes to place of worship

Second tithe - goes to government

Third tithe - goes to help the poor

New Testament

Our tithe - 10% goes to our place of worship.

Christians should pay taxes (Romans 13:7-8).

Christians should give to the poor (Romans 15:26).

When you read through Deuteronomy 28, it is clear that God blesses those who are faithful in giving their full tithes to Him, and God curses those who are not faithful in this area. As mentioned earlier, it is important to keep in mind that God's blessings are not always in this world -- very often God's blessings are in the world to come (in heaven).

- c. We need to have the right attitude as we give to God.

In addition to instructing us to give our tithe to God, the Bible also tells us what our attitude toward giving should be. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, we are told that we should “not give reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a *cheerful* giver.” God wants us to give willingly and with gladness, not resentfully.

Along with having a cheerful attitude, God wants us to be willing to give sacrificially -- to give beyond what we think we can afford. He wants us to be willing to make sacrifices in our own lives so that we can help others and further God’s kingdom on earth.

In 2 Cor. 8:1-9 we see a very good example of giving sacrificially. Read the verses and answer these questions:

How did the church of Macedonia give? (vs. 3) _____

What are we told to excel in? (vs. 7) _____

Are You Pleasing God In Your Giving?

How are you doing in the area of giving? In the space below, write down your income for each month. Then write down how much you give to your church each month. Be careful to be accurate. Now figure out what percentage of your income you are giving to God. Is it 10% (or more)? If so, then you are being obedient to God, and will receive His promised blessings (either in this world or in heaven). If not, you are disobeying God’s commands. Ask God to forgive you and begin this week to be obedient to the Word of God in the area of tithing and stewardship.

Your monthly income: _____ Your monthly giving to your church: _____

Percentage of your income that you are giving to God’s church:

Note: Any giving that goes to other Christian causes such as missionary support, special ministries, etc. should be after you have given 10% to your local church.

Are you giving sacrificially? _____ Are you giving cheerfully? _____

What changes (if any) do you need to make in your life? _____

Write out Luke 6:38: _____

Devotional Thought:

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 says, “You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant.”

Spend some time right now in prayer thanking God for the ability to go to work and gain a paycheck. Ask Him for His wisdom in practicing good stewardship. Ask Him to search your heart and make sure that you have the right attitude toward money, that you are working hard, saving wisely, sharing generously, and that you are cheerfully, sacrificially and consistently giving God your full tithe.

Assignment for Chapter 11

Why is Obedience Important? What Should I Know About Baptism and Lord's Supper?

NOTE: Do not go on to chapter 12 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

_____ Study and complete the material for chapter 11.

_____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 11 with the person who is discipling you.

_____ Memorize Ephesians 5:8-10, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.

_____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks, and review the names of all the books of the New Testament and Old Testament.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16-17 "For God so loved..." | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 5:22 "But the Fruit of the Spirit..." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:12-13 "He who has the Son..." | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10:19 "I have given you authority..." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 15:11 "Who among the Gods..." | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:4 "You, dear children..." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9-11 "How can a young man..." | <input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe..." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:14 "This is the confidence..." | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 5:8-10 "For you were once..." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mathew 28:18-20 "Then Jesus came to them..." | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 3:12-14 "Therefore, as God's chosen people..." | |

Chapter 11

Why is Obedience Important? What Should I Know About Baptism and Lord's Supper?

Memorize Ephesians 5:8-10

Do You Truly Love Jesus?

As we begin this lesson on obedience, there is a question you must consider: *Do you love Jesus?* Jesus died a horrible death to pay the price for your sins, and through His blood He provided the way for you to have a relationship with God. Jesus loves you deeply, prays daily for you, comforts and strengthens you, understands your hurts, helps you when you are tempted, and provides for your needs. Do you love Jesus? Your actions will show if you truly love Jesus.

Read John 14:15 and also verse 21. What will you do if you truly love Jesus? _____

Obedience to God's commands is a very important part of the Christian life. A true follower of Christ will strive to be a person of integrity and holiness, making a daily decision to live an obedient and Christ-like life.

Read 1 John 2:3-4.

a. What does obeying the Word of God prove? _____

b. What does disobeying the Word of God prove? _____

The Nature of a Christian

When you became a Christian, a wonderful thing happened. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and write what that was:

When you became a Christian, you were made into a new creation. The old has gone, and the new has come! Read Ephesians 4:22-24 and write the difference between the old self and the new self:

Old self: _____

New self: _____

The Bible also tells us that when we became Christians we moved from “darkness into light.” Read 1 Peter 2:9 and write (1) all the things that this verse tells us about who we are as Christians, and (2) what God did for us:

1) _____

2) _____

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:5 and Ephesians 5:8. What are Christians called in these verses? _____

The verses you just read are exciting verses! We are new creations! We have a new nature! We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, children of the light!

Why Should I Obey?

Why should Christians obey the instructions in the Word of God? Do we obey so that we will be loved and accepted by God? The answer to that question is “No!” Do we obey so that we can go to heaven? Again, the answer to that question is “No!”

It is *very important* that we understand that our obedience is not what allows us to go to heaven or makes us acceptable to God. We are not saved by what we do. Our salvation is based simply upon God’s grace to us in the gift of His Son, Jesus, who died to pay the price for our sins. We will go to heaven only if we have put our faith in Jesus, and have received Him into our lives. It is because of Jesus Christ that we are accepted and loved by God. Nothing we do can make God love us any more or any less. We are His precious children, and we are holy in His sight, simply because of the blood of Jesus which has cleansed us. There are two main reasons that we should obey God:

1) Since we are new creations and are children of a King, we should live according to who we are.

*“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him
who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.
Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” 1 Peter 2:9-10*

2) Because we love God, and are grateful to Him for what He has done, we should do the things that please Him. Although nothing we do will make God accept us (remember, we are accepted simply because of what Jesus has done), we can do things which please or displease God. (For verses that show that it is possible for Christians to please or displease God, see 1 Kings 3:10, 1 Chronicles 29:17, Psalm 19:14, Ephesians 5:8-10, Colossians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 4:1, Hebrews 13:16, and others.)

If a child does something wrong, her parents may be displeased with her, but they don’t stop loving her. Her disobedience does not mean that she is no longer their child. In the same way, we can please or displease God by our actions, but we are still His children and we are still loved and accepted by God.

Living According To Who We Are

No one can consistently live in a manner that is inconsistent with how he perceives himself. If we perceive ourselves as new creations in Christ, then our obedience will be an overflow of that perception. We need to live our Christian lives according to who we are -- according to our new nature. If we claim to have a relationship with God through Jesus, we must demonstrate that through our obedience to Him.

Read 1 John 2:6. If we claim to be Christians, what must we do? _____

Read 1 Peter 1:14-16. According to verses 15-16, if we are obedient children, what should we do?

According to verse 14, what should we not do? _____

Read Ephesians 5:8-11. How should “children of the light” walk and live? _____

Obedying God doesn't just mean that we should go to church and try to avoid big sins like murder, stealing, and adultery. Rather, obeying God means that in every choice we are faced with, big or small, we must choose to follow the guidelines given in God's Word. Every time we experience temptation - even in a small thing - we need to choose to live and act according to our new nature.

The story is told of a group of Christians who one day made a commitment to each other that from that moment on, every time they were faced with a decision they would ask themselves, "What would Jesus do?" Each of these Christians found that as they kept their commitment, their lives changed dramatically. Every time they were tempted to gossip or say something unkind, they would ask themselves, "What would Jesus do?" Every time they had to make a business decision, they would ask themselves, "What would Jesus do?" Every time they were struggling with relationships with other people they would ask, "What would Jesus do?" Every time they didn't feel like working hard, they would ask, "What would Jesus do?" Every time they were faced with an opportunity to help someone, they would ask, "What would Jesus do?"

As Christians, this is the way we should all live. Obedience means living as Jesus lived, and walking as Jesus walked. Obedience means living day by day, moment by moment, as "children of the light." Obedience means regularly asking ourselves throughout each day, "What would Jesus do?"

Obedience means that we must submit ourselves to the will of God in every area of our life. Are you doing this? Think about the different areas of your life, and ask yourself if you are truly living as a child of the light in each area. Discuss each of these areas with the person who is discipling you. Circle any areas of disobedience where you need to make changes.

OK Needs work

- _____ _____ Is there anybody with whom you are angry (or who are angry at you)?
- _____ _____ If you are married, do you treat your spouse in a loving and respectful way?
- _____ _____ If you have a boyfriend/girlfriend, is your relationship with them pure?
- _____ _____ Are there any people whom you have offended?
- _____ _____ Are you a faithful and reliable employee at your work?
- _____ _____ Do you say angry words to others (or about others)? Do you gossip?
- _____ _____ Do you have impure thoughts? Do you look at impure websites?
- _____ _____ Are the books you read or the music you listen to impure?
- _____ _____ Are the television programs you watch impure?
- _____ _____ Are you humbly serving other people?
- _____ _____ Are you showing genuine love to others by being thoughtful and kind and taking an interest in them?
- _____ _____ Are you dishonest with money? Do you tithe to the church?
- _____ _____ Are you truthful and honest in all things?
- _____ _____ Are you careful to make decisions according to what God wants you to do?
- _____ _____ Other areas (specify) _____

Remember that for God, there is no such thing as a "small" or "insignificant" sin. There is no sin that "doesn't really matter." Every sin we commit grieves the heart of God. And remember too, that if we allow

Satan to win in what may seem to be a small area, it can lead to big problems in our life. Ephesians 4:27 says, “Do not give the devil a foothold.”

What kinds of “small” areas of disobedience in your life might give the devil a foothold? _____

Ask God’s forgiveness for these “small” sins, and ask Him to help you be obedient in even these seemingly “small” things. For the areas you checked above that needed work, please revisit page 78 on dealing with temptation, and work with your discipler to come up with some action plans to deal with those areas. For example, if you’ve sinned by looking at impure websites, an action step might be to install the product “Be Safe On Line” or some other safeguard.

Be sure not to make excuses for sin by rationalizing them.

Remember: *When people rationalize their sin, they make up “rational lies”!*

Devotional Thought

Suppose that somehow you sinned only 3 times a day. Imagine that only 3 times a day you failed to love God with all your heart and failed to love your neighbor as yourself. Even if you were this good, you would still have over 1,000 sins a year! Multiply that by your age and you will 20, 30, 40, 50 thousand violations of the Law of God on your record! Think what would happen to a habitual offender in a criminal court with that many violations!

This is why we should “preach the Gospel to ourselves” everyday. What is the Gospel? The gospel teaches us that we are more sinful than we could ever imagine, and yet at the same time, we can be more accepted and loved than we could ever imagine because Jesus Christ has lived and died in our place. Take a moment now to thank God for His forgiveness and grace and ask for help in loving Him and others the way we should.

Others Are Watching Our Obedience

The Bible reminds us that people around us are watching to see how we act, what we say, how we think, etc. Unbelievers watch us to see if our behavior really matches up to our beliefs. Read the following verses and answer the questions:

How should we appear in the middle of this evil world? (Philippians 2:15) _____

How should we live in order that nothing bad can be said about us? (Titus 2:7-8) _____

What will be the result among unbelievers if we are obedient to God? (1 Peter 2:12) _____

Remember that you may be the only message from God that others see. Live as a child of the light, so that those who do not know Jesus may see His light through you. Acts 26:17-18 says, "I am sending you to unbelievers to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God."

It is also important to remember that other Christians are watching our example of obedience to Christ. If we disobey God, we might cause another believer to follow our example of disobedience. Read Matthew 18:6. What did Jesus say about the person who causes another believer to disobey?

Are there areas of your life where you may be causing (or may have caused) other believers to disobey God?

What Should I Do When I Disobey?

God desires that we do not sin, but He knows that we are not yet capable of being completely holy and perfect. What does 1 John 2:1-2 teach us about God's provision when we disobey?

What does 1 John 1:9 tell us to do when we sin? _____

What does 1 John 1:9 say that God will do? _____

Two Important Areas In Which We Must Obey God

The rest of this lesson will discuss two important areas in our Christian lives in which we must be obedient to God - baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both baptism and the Lord's Supper were introduced when Jesus came to earth, and Jesus has commanded that all believers should participate in them.

What Is Baptism?

Before we discuss what baptism is, we need to discuss what baptism is not. Some churches teach that baptism takes away sin, and that a person is not saved until they have been baptized. This teaching is not biblical. Baptism does not give a person salvation, and does not take away sins. We are saved simply by putting our faith in Jesus alone and receiving Him into our lives (see chapters 1 and 2 of this manual). It is by the grace of God and the actions of Jesus that we are saved, not by anything that we do. The Bible does not teach that baptism takes away sin or is necessary for salvation.

Baptism is a symbol that a person has become a Christian. An example that illustrates the symbolic nature of baptism is a wedding ring. When a man and a woman marry, it is the custom in many cultures for them to give rings to each other as a sign that they are married. The ring is not what causes them to be married to each other, but is simply a sign that they are married. The ring symbolizes that they have committed themselves to another person in marriage. In the same way baptism is not what causes a person to become a Christian, but is simply a sign that the person has already become a Christian and has committed their life to Christ.

- 1) Baptism is a public declaration that the person being baptized is a follower of Jesus Christ. It is an outward sign that symbolizes an inner spiritual experience. It is a visible demonstration that the person being baptized has put their faith in Jesus alone for their salvation.

- 2) Baptism is a picture of our union with Jesus Christ. We are united to Him in His death, burial and resurrection.

Write Col. 2:12 _____

Write Romans 6:3-4 _____

Who Should Be Baptized?

Anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord should be baptized. All believers are commanded to be baptized (see Acts 2:38), so baptism is a sign of our obedience to God. In being baptized, Christians declare to the world that they are followers of Jesus Christ and that they have had the inner spiritual experience of being born again.

Write Matthew 28:19 _____

Some Christian churches believe that adult believers AND their children should be baptized. They believe this because in the Old Testament both believers and their children were circumcised. God instructed that infant boys should be circumcised eight days after they had been born to show that they were included in God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Christians who baptize infants believe that Colossians 2:11-12 teaches that baptism replaces Old Testament circumcision.

Other Christian churches believe that a person should not be baptized until he or she is old enough to understand salvation, and have made a genuine decision to receive Jesus Christ into his or her life. In these churches, only older children and adults are baptized, not infants. You should ask your church leaders which view they teach.

How Is Baptism Done?

Christians have three different views on how baptism should be done. Christians baptize by one of three ways: Sprinkling, pouring and immersion.

Christians use the following reasons to support their view of sprinkling or pouring water over the person:

- The Bible talks about being “sprinkled with blood” 19 times. Thus, baptism by sprinkling with water symbolizes the Christian being sprinkled with the blood of Jesus (read Isaiah 52:15 and Ezek. 36:25-27).
- Seven times the Bible says “I will pour out my spirit on you.” Thus, baptism through the pouring of water symbolizes the Holy Spirit being poured out on us in regeneration (read Isaiah 44:3 and Ezekiel 39:29).
- Immersion was impossible or unlikely in some of the baptisms in the New Testament (Acts 2:41, Acts 8:38, 10:47, and 16:33).
- 75% of the Christian churches in the world today use sprinkling or pouring.

Other Christians use the following reasons to support their view of immersing the person in water:

- According to Greek dictionaries, the Greek word for baptism means “to immerse or plunge under water.”

Those who practice baptism by immersion say that it is a picture of being buried with Christ (as they go under the water) and being raised with him (as they come up from the water). Read Rom. 6:3-4 and Col. 2:12.

All three ways of baptism (sprinkling, pouring and immersion) have Biblical support and all three have been practiced by Christians since the time of Christ. Please speak to the leaders of your church and ask them which method your church uses.

Have You Been Baptized? Circle: Yes No

If you have not been baptized yet, you should schedule an appointment with the leaders of your church and inform them of your desire to be baptized. Remember, you must understand that:

Baptism DOES NOT save you. Only the blood of Jesus can save you. Someone has said, "You can be baptized in the Jordan River until the fish know you by first name--but that won't save you." Baptism is simply a symbol of your salvation through Jesus, and is something Christians do out of obedience to the commands of Christ.

Baptism is NOT something you do just because your friends are getting baptized.

Baptism DOES NOT make you pure and holy. Only the Holy Spirit can do that.

The Lord’s Supper

Another area in which we should obey God is in the taking of the Lord’s Supper. The Bible tells us that Christians should regularly take the Lord’s Supper, which Jesus demonstrated with His disciples just before His arrest and crucifixion (Matthew 26, Mark 14, and Luke 22). It is important to understand that just as baptism does not give us salvation, likewise the Lord’s Supper does not cause us to be converted. What is the meaning of the Lord’s Supper?

- 1) It is a reminder for us that Jesus gave His body and blood for us (Luke 22:19).
- 2) It tells the world of Christ’s death (1 Cor. 11:26).
- 3) It shows our unity with other Christians (1 Cor. 10:16-17).

The Bible tells us that the Lord’s Supper is a very special and sacred ceremony. It is not to be taken lightly or with the wrong attitude. In fact, the Bible gives us a specific warning about taking the Lord’s Supper in a way that is inappropriate.

Read 1 Cor. 11:27-32. What is the warning that the apostle Paul gives? _____

What does it mean to “examine yourself” (vs. 28)? Firstly, it means that you must be sure that you are a Christian - that you have put your faith in Jesus alone and have received Him into your life (the Bible warns that unbelievers who participate in the Lord’s Supper will be punished). Secondly, you must recognize that the Lord’s Supper is truly symbolizing the death of Jesus. It is not simply juice (or wine) and bread, but it is a holy symbol of the precious body and blood of Jesus. Thirdly, you should be sure that you have no unconfessed sin in your life, so that you can come to the Lord’s Table with pure hands and hearts.

How should I prepare to take the Lord’s Supper?

On the day before the Lord’s Supper is given at your church (or in the morning before church), it is wise to spend some time reading the Bible and meditating on what Jesus has done for you. You might want to read something from the Psalms, or read Isaiah 53 which prophesies the death of Jesus. Spend some time confessing any sins in your life, and then worship and thank Jesus as you remember that He gave His body and blood to take the punishment for your sins so that you could have a relationship with God and receive eternal life.

Do you now make a practice of preparing yourself before taking the Lord’s Supper? What do you do?

If you haven’t been in the habit of preparing yourself to take the Lord’s Supper, what is your plan now?

How many times should a Christian take the Lord’s Supper?

The Bible does not give us clear instruction as to how often we should take the Lord’s Supper. Jesus simply said to take it “often” (see 1 Cor. 11:26). The early church took the Lord’s Supper daily (see Acts 2:46), and other times they took it weekly (see Acts 20:7). Many churches today take the Lord’s Supper once a month, and others take it weekly.

The Most Important Thing

Before we end this chapter on obedience, we must look at the most important aspect of obedience -- in fact, the most important aspect of the Christian life. When Jesus was asked what the most important commandment in the Bible was, His reply was very clear.

Read Matt 22:36-40, and write Jesus’ answer to this question: _____

Read 1 Corinthians 13. Now read it again, slowly and thoughtfully, considering the meaning of the words.

What does this chapter say is the most important part of the Christian life? _____

What are some things that love is? (verses 4-7) _____

Note: In the Greek, these verses give us 14 *verbs* which teach us that *love is an action*. NOT a feeling!

According to verse 2, if you do not have love, what does this passage say you are? _____

Love is absolutely essential in the Christian life. 1 Corinthians 13 tells us that if we are perfectly obedient in all of our actions but do not love, we are nothing more than a “clanging cymbal.” In fact, as you just read, the Bible tells us that without love we are NOTHING! Obedience without a loving character is worthless and meaningless.

Do you have a loving character? Do others sense the love of God in your life? Do people know that they will always receive words and deeds of kindness and love from you? Remember: Obedience without love is NOTHING.

Look again at what love is according to 1 Corinthians 13.

- ~ Are you showing love?
- ~ Are you patient, or do you have a “short-fuse”?
- ~ Are you kind? Remember: For every criticism, give 10 compliments!
- ~ Are you not jealous or envious?

- ~ Are you not proud or boastful?
- ~ Do you correct people in a rude manner when they are wrong?
- ~ Do you look out for the needs of others before your own needs (see also Phil. 2:3)?
- ~ Are you quick to forgive and let it go when someone wrongs you (see also Matt. 5:23-24)? Do you keep a filing cabinet in the back of your head which says "Rotten things this person has done to me?"
- ~ Do you rejoice in goodness and truth? Are there books and videos that should not be in your home?
- ~ Do you always protect, trust, hope, and persevere?

If you struggle with being loving toward others, take a moment now to pray that God will help you to be loving. Ask Him to develop within you the qualities of love that are spoken of in 1 Corinthians 13. This is the most important aspect of living the obedient Christian life -- that in all that we do, we show love to God and others.

God is the only one who can change you into the kind of person you should be. As Zech. 4:6 says, "Not by power, nor by might, but by my Spirit." No matter how hard we try, God is the only One who can develop within you the loving character you need. Remember, "The One who called you is faithful, and He will do it." (1 Thess. 5:24).

Key Closing Character Questions:

- 1) What words would your spouse or best friend use to describe your character (or lack thereof)? What steps are you taking to change your character for the better?

- 2) If we are forgiven our sins in Christ, and eternally sealed to redemption by the Holy Spirit, what difference does it make if we sin or don't sin? If we obey or don't obey? The Bible says if we confess, God will forgive. So why not just do whatever we want? All we need to do is confess afterwards. Why should we focus on obedience?

- 3) Read 1 John 2:3 -6. This passage says that obedience is evidence (fruit) of our relationship with Christ. Conversely, it says that disobedience is indication that the "truth is not in him." Can a Christian then be disobedient? For if you are a true believer in Christ, and have become a new creation in Him, can you then be disobedient? Or if you are disobedient, does that indicate that you are not a believer?

Assignment for chapter 12

What do I Need to Know about The Great Commission?

NOTE: Do not go on to chapter 13 until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

- _____ Study and complete the material for chapter 12.
- _____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 12 with the person who is discipling you.
- _____ Discuss your progress on goals set in the previous lessons such as prayer life, obedience, temptation, loving others, etc.
- _____ Memorize Acts 1:8, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.
- _____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks, and review the names of all the books of the New Testament and Old Testament.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 5:22 “But the Fruit of the Spirit...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10:19 “I have given you authority...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...” | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:4 “You, dear children...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 5:8 “For you were once...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mathew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 3:12-14 “Therefore, as God’s chosen people...” | |

Part Four: Reproducing Disciples

Chapter 12

What do I Need to Know about The Great Commission?

Memorize Acts 1:8

What Is The Great Commission?

The last words that Jesus said before He left earth and ascended into heaven are found in Matthew 28:18-20, and are known as “The Great Commission.” Jesus was speaking to His disciples as He said these words, giving them His final instructions. These instructions were not only meant for the men who were with Him on that day -- they were also meant for every person who is a follower of Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus, it is important that we know and understand these instructions, and that we obey them. Look up Matthew 28:18-20 and write it below:

These final instructions from Jesus show us that God loves all the nations of the world, and that He wants people from every nation to be told of His love for them.

God’s Love for the Nations is Woven throughout the Entire Bible

The idea of telling all nations about the true God is not only found in the New Testament. Rather, God’s desire for all nations to know Him is seen in every book of the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation. Over and over we see that God wants everyone throughout the earth to know about Him. When we look closely at many of the familiar Old Testament stories, we see that God used the events that occurred to make His name known. Look up the following passages and answer the questions:

God’s Covenant with Abraham, Gen. 12:1-3 and Gen. 22:15-18 (also mentioned in Acts 3:25)

In these passages God is telling Abraham not only that he will have a son, but that through Abraham’s seed, great blessings would come in the future (remember that Jesus came through the seed of Abraham). Who did God say would be blessed through Abraham? (see 12:3 and 22:18)

God parts the Jordan river, Joshua 3:14-17

What did Joshua give as the reason God parted the Jordan river and the Red Sea? See Josh. 4:23-24.

David defeats Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:45-47

In verse 46, what did David say was the reason that he was fighting Goliath? _____

Solomon dedicates the temple, 1 Kings 8

What did Solomon pray that the “foreigner” (those who were not Israelites) and “all the people of the earth” would know? See verses 41-43 and 60. _____

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are delivered from fire, Daniel 3

When King Nebuchadnezzar saw that God protected these three faithful men, he wrote a decree about the God they worshipped. To whom was this decree written? See verse 29. _____

Daniel is thrown to the lions, Daniel 6

After God delivered Daniel from the lions, King Darius made a decree. To whom was the decree written? What were they told to do? See verses 25-27.

By looking at these events in the Old Testament (and many others not listed here), we can see that God wants His name to be known among all the nations of the earth. He continually put the nation of Israel into direct contact with many other nations, and then used various circumstances to allow these other nations to see that He alone is God.

God’s desire is that all nations would worship Him. One book in the Bible that speaks a great deal about the nations worshipping God is Psalms. Read the following verses and write what they say about the nations:

Psalm 67:1-7 _____

Psalm 72:8-11 _____

Psalm 86:9 _____

Psalm 96:1-3, 9-10 _____

From studying these Old Testament passages (both the ones in Psalms and the ones you looked up earlier), what can we say about God’s desire for all nations? _____

Understanding the Great Commission

Let us look again at The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. In order to better understand Jesus’ command, it is helpful to examine His words in the original Greek. The Bible uses a special Greek word for “Go” in this passage. The word can mean “to cross over boundaries.” The Lord wants us to cross over ethnic boundaries, cultural boundaries and geographical boundaries as we tell others about Him.

If we examine the original Greek still further, we find that the main verb in verse 19 is actually not “Go” but rather “make disciples.” The Greek literally says, “As you go, make disciples of all nations.”

What are two things that should be done in order to “make disciples?”

1. (vs. 19) _____
2. (vs. 20) _____

The way we make disciples is not simply to preach the gospel and then baptize those who believe. There is more to making disciples than that. In order to make disciples, Jesus says that we must preach the gospel, baptize new believers **and** teach new converts “to obey everything that I have commanded you.” We must make certain that we take the time to *teach new converts to obey*. New converts must grow in their understanding of the Word of God and how to apply it to their lives. This can only be accomplished by God’s power and presence, and by our willingness to be used as His tools.

What promise does Jesus make in verse 20? _____

What Is My Part In Fulfilling The Great Commission?

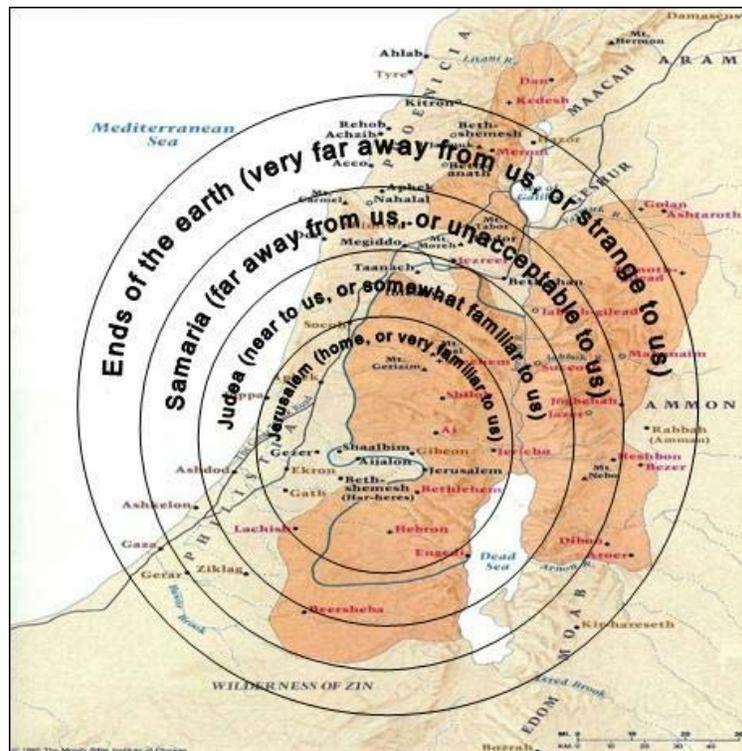
Christ has commissioned every Christian (including you) to “go and make disciples of all nations,” and He promises to be with us. But how is this to be accomplished? The answer to that question is found in Acts 1:8. Write that verse out: _____

According to this verse, from where will we get the power to be witnesses? _____

Where were the disciples to go to tell others about Jesus? _____

Jesus told His disciples that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit so that they could be His witnesses. He also told them where to witness: “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The disciples were living in Jerusalem at that time, which was a major city in the area of Judea. To the north of Judea was an area called Samaria. Samaritans were despised by the Jews because Samaritans were “half-breeds” (one parent was a Jew and the other parent was a Gentile).

Jesus told his disciples to make disciples of all of these people. He did not want them to only make disciples of the people of their own race and in their own area -- they were also to go beyond their racial boundaries, cultural boundaries, geographic boundaries and social boundaries. Acts 1:8 can be diagrammed as follows:



Jesus was not telling each of us literally to go to Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria to be His witnesses. In order to understand what is meant for us, we need to look at the principle Jesus was teaching, and apply it to our lives.

Jesus did not want His disciples to only witness in their home town among people with whom they were very comfortable. He wanted them to witness to people they were less familiar with (Judea), people that were “unacceptable” in the eyes of the world (Samaria), and people whose customs were very strange to them (ends of the earth). He wanted them to be willing to travel short distances (Judea, Samaria) and long distances (ends of the earth) in order to tell people the good news of Jesus Christ. And He wants us to do the same thing.

Your Jerusalem

What is your home town where you currently live? _____

Who are the people you are most comfortable with? _____

Your Judea

Who are the people in your neighboring areas? _____

Who are the people you are less familiar with? _____

Your Samaria

Who are the unreached people in your country? _____

Who are the people that are viewed as “foreign” or “unacceptable”? _____

The Ends of the Earth

Can you name some unreached people group in other countries? _____

Who are the people that seem very different from yourself? _____

Obeying the Great Commission

Approximately one fourth of the people living in the world today have never heard the gospel! The billions of people who are Muslims, Hindus or Chinese have only 2% of the world’s missionaries. There are still 10,000 people groups that do not have even one church. Of the 6,800 languages in the world, 2,529 (37%) of them do not have a Bible available to them in their own language. In addition, an estimated 80,000 people die every day without ever having heard the Gospel. *That means 55 people every minute die without having heard about the God who loves them and gave His life for them. That’s almost one person per second!*

Meditate on the following verses. See if you think God is saying something to you through these scriptures.

Romans 10:14-15

Romans 15:20-21

Matthew 9:36-38

Isaiah 6:8

Remember that the supreme task of the church is the evangelization of the world. Only as the church fulfills her missionary obligation does she justify her existence. Oswald J. Smith said it so well, "*Jesus commands us to go and make disciples-- you must go--or send a substitute. No one deserves to hear the gospel twice when there are people who have not heard it once.*"

What Should I Do?

God wants us to tell the world about Him. We shouldn't assume that God is not calling us to be a missionary - His Word makes it clear that He is calling us to be a missionary! We are to witness to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. God wants each of us to be willing to go wherever He sends us, and to witness to whomever He desires.

It is important to remember that Satan does not want us to be witnesses for Jesus. He does not want light to come to the people who are sitting in darkness (Acts 26:18). Satan will try to convince you that God is not calling you to be a missionary. Satan will try to put up obstacles, to convince you that it is too hard or too uncomfortable or too dangerous. Satan will tell you that you are not really under obligation to tell the world -- he will tell you that the obligation is only for full-time missionaries in your church. Satan will do anything he can to keep the gospel from spreading throughout the world. If you think that God is not calling you to be a missionary, make certain that you are not listening to the lies of Satan instead of the voice of God. Tell God that you are willing to go where He sends you, and ask Him to show you clearly His will for your life.

Have you considered going on a short-term (2-3 week) mission trip? Yes No

What obstacles do you see to going on a short-term mission trip? _____

Is it possible that those "obstacles" are the enemy's plan to keep you from stepping forward in faith to make an impact for God's Kingdom? _____

If we are to truly be obedient to God's call to share the gospel with all the people of the world, we must:

1. Humbly tell the Lord that you understand your obligation to take the gospel to the world.
2. Sincerely tell God that you are willing to go wherever He might send you.
3. Trust God to give you the strength to overcome obstacles in your way.

If you have sincerely done the things listed above and you feel certain that the Lord is not leading you at this time to leave your home, you must become a person who supports others as they go. You should do this in several ways:

1. Pray for missionaries and traveling evangelists who have left their homes to witness to others (read Col. 4:3 and Rom. 15:30-33). Name a missionary that you could possibly pray for. _____
2. Support missionaries financially (read 2 Cor. 8:1-4). How much might God be leading you to give to missions on a monthly basis right now? \$
3. When missionaries visit your church, look for ways to serve them (invite them to your home for dinner, offer to loan them your extra car, give them a gift of food or clothing to help in their work, etc. See 3 John 7-8).
4. If your church is not sending out many missionaries, help the leadership to understand the obligation the church has to take the gospel to the ends of the earth (see Acts 1:8, 13:2-4 and Rom 10:14-15, 15:20-21). How is my church doing in sending and supporting missionaries?

As we close this chapter, please think of these three key words regarding the Great Commission: Pray, Give, Go!

Pray - Consider setting aside some time once a week to pray for various missionaries (read Col. 4:3).

Give - Consider giving some financial resources (above and beyond your tithe) to help missionaries (read 2 Cor. 8:1-4).

Go - Consider spending one 2-3 week vacation in your lifetime doing a short-term missions trip.

Spend some time praying about missions with the person who is discipling you. Pray about how God would have you become more involved in praying, giving and perhaps even going on a short-term mission trip.

Assignment for chapter 13

How Can I Effectively Disciple Others?

NOTE: Do not conclude your discipleship until you have completed and checked each of the following assignments:

- _____ Study and complete the material for chapter 13.
- _____ Discuss your answers to the questions in chapter 13 with the person who is discipling you.
- _____ Discuss with your discipler whether you are ready to begin discipling another person.
- _____ Discuss and pray with your discipler about the person you should select to disciple.
- _____ Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2, and tell it to the person who is discipling you.
- _____ Review the memory verses from previous weeks, and review the names of all the books of the Old Testament and New Testament.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 5:22-23 “But the Fruit of the Spirit...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10:19 “I have given you authority...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...” | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:4 “You, dear children...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 5:8 “For you were once...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mathew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them...” | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God’s chosen people...” | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2:2 “And the things...” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Old Testament Books | <input type="checkbox"/> New Testament Books |

Chapter 13

How Can I Effectively Disciple Others?

Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2

The chapters in this discipleship manual have been designed to help us understand, trust, and obey God and His Word so as to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. But in order to have an ongoing effect for the Kingdom of God, discipleship must also result in disciple-making. We who are students must now become the teachers. We have learned about being a disciple and have grown spiritually in our own lives, and now we must share these concepts with others.

As stated in the introduction of this manual, discipleship is not a new idea -- in fact, it is modeled after the ministry of Jesus Christ. Although Jesus preached to large crowds of people on some occasions, He spent the majority of His time teaching, training, and equipping 12 men. For a period of three years Jesus spent many, many hours with just these 12 men, discipling them to be His followers. This was Jesus' strategy for reaching the world -- rather than spending most of His time teaching large crowds, He instead chose to focus on discipling 12 men who would take His message to the world. Today the name of Jesus is praised by over 1 billion Christians throughout the world because of the faithfulness of those 12 disciples who reproduced.

Focusing on discipling individuals who would multiply was Jesus' method -- but is this really the best way? Wouldn't we reach the world for Christ much more quickly if we taught large groups of people instead of teaching people one by one? Which method has more potential for success? To determine the answer to this question, let us look at the following example:

Suppose an evangelist establishes a successful ministry and leads ten people a night to faith in Jesus Christ. He does not establish nor build them up, he just leads them to Christ. Now let us suppose that he can do this for five nights a week for 50 weeks a year (because even an evangelist needs a two week vacation!). After one year, he will have led 2,500 people to the Lord. That is quite impressive!

Now, let us suppose another man, the disciple-maker, leads 2 people a year to the Lord. Let us also suppose that he establishes these 2 people and builds them up in the faith so that, each following year, these 2 people go and find 2 others and build them up, and they find 2 others and do likewise (this is the model found in verses such as 2 Timothy 2:2). After 20 years, who will have had the biggest impact for Jesus Christ in the world? The evangelist or the disciple-maker?

The Evangelist

1st year	2,500
2nd year	5,000
3rd year	7,500
4th year	10,000
5th year	12,500
6th year	15,000
7th year	17,500
8th year	20,000
9th year	22,500
10th year	25,000
11th year	27,500
12th year	30,000
13th year	32,500
14th year	35,000
15th year	37,500
16th year	40,000
17th year	42,500
18th year	45,000
19th year	47,500
20th year	50,000

The Disciple-Maker

3
9
27
81
243
729
2,187
6,561
19,683
59,049
177,147
531,441
1,594,323
4,782,969
14,348,907
43,046,721
129,140,163
387,420,489
1,162,261,467
3,486,784,401

This is why Jesus Christ calls His people to be disciple-makers!

If we focus on discipling individual people, and the people we disciple in turn disciple other individuals, then the end result will be the spread of the gospel to millions of people. It is a much more effective way of reaching the world than simply evangelizing large groups of people.

Jesus did not ignore large groups -- in fact we can see from the Bible that He often taught big crowds of people. But the main focus of His time and attention was on discipling individuals. If we are to follow the model of Jesus, we too will focus on discipling individuals.

Let us look more closely at the concept of discipleship as modeled by Jesus, and consider how we can best follow His model.

1. Jesus Carefully Selected Only A Few People

It all started with Jesus focusing on a few men to follow Him. This was His evangelistic strategy. During His first year of ministry, Jesus selected twelve men to be His disciples. His selection process actually took many months (John, Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathaniel were chosen in John 1:35-51; then several months later, James and John were chosen in Matthew 4:21; Matthew is later called in Matthew 9:9). Jesus did not select His disciples in just one night by simply choosing 12 available men -- rather it took months of prayer before Jesus carefully selected the men He would disciple.

How can we follow the example of Jesus? It is important that we select the person we will disciple carefully and prayerfully. We should evaluate a potential candidate for discipleship by asking these questions about them:

- ~ Is this person faithful - Will this person meet regularly with me? Will he/she complete the homework and take the process of discipleship seriously?

- ~ Is this person available - Does this person have time to commit to discipleship, or is his/her schedule too busy?
- ~ Is this person teachable - Is this person eager to learn and willing to change, or does he think he already knows everything?

An easy way to remember the above is to ask yourself, “Is this person ‘F.A.T.’ (i.e. faithful, available, and teachable)?”

Another important thing to remember when selecting a person to disciple is that *men should disciple only men and women should disciple only women*. This is a Biblical principle (Titus 2:3-4 and 2 Timothy 2:2) and will also avoid potential problems that might occur. It is also preferable that the person you disciple be younger than you (see Titus 2:1-7), although this is not necessary.

Before you talk to a person about discipling them, you should spend time praying about your decision and ask the Lord to direct you to the best person to disciple.

2. Jesus Spent Many Hours With Those He Selected

Looking at the three year ministry of Jesus, we notice that He actually spent more time with His disciples than with anybody else. Look up the following verses and write some of the activities Jesus did with His disciples:

Matt 9:10 _____

Mark 6:31-32, John 11:54 _____

John 1:38-39 _____

Luke 9:18, Matt. 26:36 _____

Luke 8:1, John 3:22 _____

Jesus spent many, many hours with His disciples. He ate with them, slept with them, and talked with them. He brought them to His home. They walked together along the roads. They visited cities together. They sailed and fished together on the Sea of Galilee. They prayed together in the deserts and in the mountains. They worshipped together in the synagogues and in the temple.

How can we follow the example of Jesus? In addition to meeting with the person we are discipling in order to study the lessons, we must also spend time doing other activities with him or her. It is important to spend time just enjoying each other’s friendship, and building a genuine relationship with each other. Here are some suggestions of things that you and the person you are discipling can do together:

- 1) Eat a meal together/invite his/her family to your home
- 2) Share a time of prayer together
- 3) Do a sporting activity together
- 4) Share the gospel together
- 5) Attend a church event together
- 6) Go shopping together
- 7) Serve the person you are discipling by doing some work that is needed at his/her house

It is important to develop a close, personal friendship with the person you are discipling, so that you can demonstrate the love of God to them and can “spur one another on toward love and good deeds” (Heb 10:24). Let us follow the example of Jesus in this way.

3. Jesus Modeled The Christian Life For His Disciples

Jesus didn't just tell His disciple how to live a Christian life -- He modeled it for them. How did Jesus model the following things for His disciples?

Prayer (Matthew 6:5-14) _____

Love for children (Matthew 19:13-15) _____

Love and acceptance of those considered unacceptable (John 4:7-42) _____

Love for sinners (Luke 5:27-32, Luke 7:37-50) _____

Humble servitude of others (John 13:3-15) _____

How to accept suffering/submit to God's will (Luke 22:41-42) _____

How to forgive your persecutors (Luke 23:34) _____

Jesus truly modeled the Christian life for His disciples. In addition to the things listed above, He showed them the importance of studying and memorizing scripture (He quoted from the Old Testament 66 times), He showed them how to witness to others, how to trust God's purposes, how to be willing to live a simple life, and many other things. His disciples did not only learn from the words He spoke, they also learned by watching Him live. Jesus showed them how to live a holy life.

Likewise, you are the exhibit for the person you are discipling. Philippians 3:17 tells us to "join with others in following my example.... and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you," and 2 Corinthians 3:2 reminds us that Christians are like a letter, ". . .known and read by everybody." We should model the Christian life for the person we are discipling -- but we do not have to pretend to be perfect. We must be willing to be honest with our disciple and to admit our weaknesses and shortcomings, so that he/she can pray for and encourage us.

4. Jesus Gave Assignments To His Disciples

It is interesting to observe that for the first year of Jesus' ministry, He did not give His disciples much to do other than to simply watch Him as He ministered and taught. Then during His second and third year of ministry, Jesus began to assign tasks for His disciples to do. In Mark 6:7 we read that Jesus sent His disciples out two by two to do the work of the ministry. He explained what He wanted them to do, and warned them that they would undoubtedly encounter some hardship. He gave them instructions and encouragement, and reminded them not to be afraid because God would be with them and would help them (Matthew 10, Luke 9).

A mother eagle teaches her babies to fly by pushing them out of the nest. In a similar way, Jesus pushed His disciples out into the world to give them an opportunity to experience the work of ministry. Following this example, it is a valuable learning experience for the person you are discipling to be given assignments/tasks and then be supervised on those assignments. Here are some examples of tasks you can assign:

- a. Lead a prayer meeting.
- b. Teach a short Bible lesson.
- c. Serve an elderly person in the church.
- d. Share his or her testimony or present the gospel to someone.

Once the person you are discipling successfully completes an assignment, you can give them another assignment which has more responsibility.

5. Jesus Supervised The Work Of His Disciples

We also see in the Bible that after assigning tasks to the disciples, Jesus supervised their work by discussing with them later what they had accomplished (Mark 6:30, Luke 9:10). He praised them for what they had done (Luke 10:20-24), and also admonished them when He felt they were in need of correction (Mark 8:14-21).

In Mark 9:17-29, the disciples of Jesus failed in their efforts to cast out an evil spirit from a young boy. Jesus used their failure as an opportunity to teach them something about casting out evil spirits (Mark 9:28-29). In Luke 9:50-56, Jesus was traveling with His disciples and sent them ahead to arrange a place for Him to stay in a village, but the people of the village refused to allow Jesus to stay there. The disciples became angry and wanted to “call fire down from heaven to destroy them,” but Jesus “rebuked” His disciples and taught them the importance of being long-suffering and forgiving by simply continuing on this progress with them to another village.

Asking the person you are discipling to report to you his/her progress on assigned tasks and reviewing his/her work can be an important teaching/learning experience. When we take the time to review the work of the person we are discipling, we can encourage them as they develop new skills and are faithful in what they were asked to do, and we can also gently correct and assist them if they fail in their assignment.

6. Reproduction

Jesus expected His disciples to reproduce. One of the main purposes in training and equipping His disciples was so that they would be able to reproduce in other people what they had learned from Him, and in this way the world would hear the gospel.

We see examples in scripture of faithful Christians discipling others. In Acts 16 we read about Paul meeting Timothy and wanting to train and disciple him. Paul took Timothy along with him as he traveled about witnessing to unbelievers and encouraging Christians, and as Timothy watched Paul and ministered with him, he learned a great deal. As they spent time together, Paul and Timothy developed a very close relationship -- Paul later referred to Timothy as the “son I love” (1 Cor 4:17) and in a letter to Timothy Paul wrote, “My dear son . . . I remember you constantly in my prayers . . . I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy (2 Timothy 1:1-4). Paul and Timothy’s relationship clearly was not simply teacher/student but a deep, personal friendship.

In his final recorded letter to Timothy, Paul urged him to continue the process of discipleship by reproducing in others what he had learned. Write out Paul’s instruction to Timothy from 2 Timothy 2:2:

Note the ongoing process of discipleship shown in 2 Timothy 2:2:

- a. Paul discipled Timothy
- b. Timothy was to disciple reliable men
- c. The men Timothy discipled were to disciple others

Timothy was to be careful about whom he selected to disciple -- Paul instructed him to teach “*reliable* men who will *also be qualified to teach others.*” We need to encourage the person we are discipling to take the time to really pray about whom he/she will disciple, and to evaluate whether that person will be reliable and will eventually be able to disciple others. This is very important if the process of discipleship is to continue from person to person and generation to generation.

The Importance of Accountability

Being accountable to someone means being willing to tell someone else your actions, and to allow another person to know your progress or failures so they can help you grow. When a person is a member of a church

but does not have any close, personal relationships with other Christians, it is difficult to really know if that person is growing as a Christian. It is not possible to know if that person is reading their Bible, praying daily, fleeing from temptation, witnessing to others, living a holy life, etc. A person can be a member of a church for years without really growing as a Christian.

Discipleship brings a person into an accountable relationship with another Christian. In the process of discipleship, the person being disciplined will be asked to speak honestly about his/her weaknesses and shortcomings so that the discipler can pray for and encourage him/her. The discipler will help the person they are discipling to set goals to change behavior and attitudes in order to become more Christ-like. It is within this type of caring relationship that real change can occur in the Christian.

Being accountable also helps a person who lacks the courage and confidence to witness, teach, serve, and use their various spiritual gifts. The discipler can pray for and support the person being disciplined as he/she gain the needed confidence to do the work of ministry to which God is calling them.

Ongoing Discipleship

We have seen that discipling individuals is a scriptural principle practiced by Jesus Himself. We have discussed the effectiveness of this strategy and seen how discipling individuals (rather than teaching large groups) eventually produces a great number of disciples, and allows the accountability which is needed to ensure that the disciples are genuine and obedient followers of Jesus. What must be remembered is that discipleship is not simply a 13-lesson class. Discipleship is a relationship between two people, and this relationship should be personal and genuine. Your relationship with the person you are discipling should not end after the 13 lessons are completed. You should continue to meet with him/her occasionally and pray together. You should offer encouragement and advice as he/she begins to disciple another person. You should continue to care about him/her and offer continued support as they grow in their Christian life.

It is strongly encouraged that the two of you read and discuss Robert Coleman's excellent book: The Master Plan of Evangelism which is published by Spire books. Many Christian leaders have considered this book as mandatory reading for anyone involved in discipleship.

Are You Ready?

Do you feel that you are able to multiply your life into someone else through the process of discipleship? Why or why not? _____

Remember that God will honor your steps of faith. If you feel inadequate, pray that God will give you the wisdom and ability to minister to others by discipling them. Review the guidelines below with the person who is discipling you, and take the time to discuss each one.

Guidelines For The Discipler

- 1) As explained earlier in this lesson, select a person to disciple after careful prayer and evaluation.

- 2) Before you begin to disciple another person, it is important to discuss with him or her why you are meeting and the commitment involved. Read the “Introduction to Discipleship” with him/her, and make certain the process of discipleship is understood. Also ask, “What are your needs and expectations regarding this discipleship process?”
- 3) Before your weekly meetings with the person you are discipling, always take the time to review each lesson and pray about what will be discussed. Keep in mind the spiritual maturity of the person you are discipling as you plan your discussion.
- 4) Be certain to do only ONE lesson at time. Make sure the person you are discipling has a complete and proper understanding of each lesson before going on to the next lesson. This is very important, as the person you are discipling will eventually be teaching someone else. Make sure that they are not simply memorizing material, but that they are understanding and applying it. Seek to discover what is the most meaningful thing for the person you are discipling in each lesson, and help him or her to make at least one practical application.
- 5) Tell the person you are discipling that anything personal that is discussed will be kept completely confidential.
- 6) Share prayer requests with the person you are discipling, and pray daily for him or her.
- 7) Be sensitive to the needs of the person you are discipling. There will be times when you need to set aside the lesson in order to discuss and pray about some personal needs or to answer some important questions that the student is struggling with. *Remember: A person is more important than a program!*
- 8) Review, review, review. This is the key to learning. (The apostle Peter used this principle in 2 Peter 1:11-15.) Review material from previous chapters (including memory verses) and review progress on goals set previously.
- 9) Encourage the person you are discipling to complete the homework for each lesson (the homework will take about one hour each week to complete). Hold him/her accountable. Emphasize the importance of this discipline. Be sure to give much praise and encouragement to the person you are discipling when he or she faithfully completes the work and when you see growth in his/her life.
- 10) If the person you are discipling regularly fails to complete the homework or fails to keep three or four appointments with you (even after much encouragement from you), it may be best to suggest to that person that perhaps the discipleship should be postponed until he or she is ready and able to be seriously committed to the discipleship process. This will then make you available to disciple someone who is ready to be faithful in following through on commitments.
- 11) Evaluation of the person you are discipling is very important. After the fourth lesson, spend some time asking specific questions to discover if they are growing. Also ask them about any frustrations or disappointments they may be experiencing (many people are afraid to express disappointments or frustrations unless they are specifically asked). It will also be very helpful if you ask the person you are discipling to evaluate you after the two of you complete the manual so that you can become a more effective discipler.

Special Note: Do not be discouraged if a few of the people you are discipling quit. This is unavoidable. Trust God and take encouragement in those people who faithfully continued with discipleship and are now reproducing by discipling others.

Remember: Success Is A Successor!

Note to the discipler. Since this is the last and final lesson, please make sure the person you are discipling can answer “Yes” to all of the following questions:

1. Is he/she able to tell you 3 verses that teach that Jesus is God? Yes No
2. Does he/she have assurance of salvation? Yes No
3. Can he/she mention at least 5 attributes of God and two of His names? Yes No
4. Has he/she memorized all of the required verses for the lessons (see below)? Yes No
5. Does he/she daily spend time in prayer and Bible study? Yes No
6. Is he/she able to explain the gospel properly (using Romans Road or another method)? Yes No
7. Has the person you are discipling given his/her testimony to at least 2 unbelievers? Yes No
8. Has he/she presented the gospel to at least 2 unbelievers? Yes No
9. Is he/she a member of a local church and using his/her spiritual gifts to serve the church? Yes No
10. Does he/she know what his/her spiritual gift is? Yes No
11. Is he/she tithing to the local church? Yes No
12. Has he/she been baptized? Yes No
13. Has he/she selected someone to disciple? Yes No

- John 3:16-17 “For God so loved...”
- 1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son...”
- Exodus 15:11 “Who among the Gods...”
- Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man...”
- 1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence...”
- Mathew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them...”
- Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God’s chosen people...”

- Galatians 5:22 “But the Fruit of the Spirit...”
- Luke 10:19 “I have given you authority...”
- 1 John 4:4 “You, dear children...”
- Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe...”
- Ephesians 5:8 “For you were once...”
- Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power...”
- 2 Timothy 2:2 “And the things...”

Appendix: Eight Perspectives on Why There Is Pain, Suffering And Death

- 1) There is suffering, pain and death because of **the effect of Adam's sin**. In Genesis 3, Adam disobeyed God, and we now live in a fallen world. The result is that spiritual and physical death came into the world, along with a wide variety of disease and sickness. God has given man free will, so He doesn't interfere every time someone decides to sin.
- 2) Some things in life are a **mystery**. We do not have all of the information needed to answer some questions that arise in this life. But they will be answered when we personally meet the Lord. 1 Corinthians 13:12 says, "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." God is sovereign and is in control of everything. He never says, "Uh-oh, I made a mistake!" There is a reason for everything that occurs even if for the moment we lack that information. Read Isaiah 55:8-9.
- 3) The reason of **humanitarianism**. "I was naked and you clothed me, hungry and you fed me.." Matthew 25:34-46. Tragedies such as hurricanes, earthquakes, the homeless, etc. offer Christians the opportunity to fulfill Christ's commands to minister to those who are hurting (Galatians 6:2). God uses suffering to open the door for the gospel to come in. For example, in America, many, many conversions have come through Christians witnessing and ministering to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. People are most open to the Gospel when suffering diminishes their self-sufficiency (2 Corinthians 1:9).
- 4) **To bring about unity**. Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau, that strongly disliked each other. But when the tragedy of Isaac's death came, these two sons came together in unity (Genesis 35:29). Persecution offers the opportunity for people to come together shoulder to shoulder.
- 5) **Tragedy offers God the opportunity to comfort the afflicted**. He who suffers speaks many languages (i.e. understands people). (2 Corinthians 1:3-7). God comforts us in our sorrow so that we can later comfort others in theirs.
- 6) **Suffering allows the Christian the privilege of being a testimony** and witness to the fact God gives "peace that passes all understanding." The spirit-filled Christian does not fall apart in times of trouble but stands strong. (Philippians 4:7)

1 Pet. 1:6 In this you greatly **rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.** 7 **These have come so that your faith** --of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire --**may be proved genuine** and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Example: A real diamond and a fake diamond both glitter in the sunshine. However, submerge them both in the water and the real diamond retains its brilliance while the fake diamond loses its entire luster. Likewise, many may profess Christ, but the genuineness of their faith is shown when they are submerged in the waters of tribulation. If their faith is real, then it will continue to shine. If not, then they will show that their faith is artificial and not genuine. Sometimes suffering is a testing of our faith.

- 7) Suffering gives us the privilege of **the Fellowship of Christ's sufferings**. (Philippians 3:10).
- 8) Suffering tests our faith and refines us, shaping our character to be more and more like Christ.

Scripture Memory Verses

LESSON 1

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

LESSON 2

1 John 5:12

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

LESSON 3

Exodus 15:11

"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you-- majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"

LESSON 4

Psalms 119:9

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. 10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

LESSON 5

1 John 5:14

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

LESSON 6

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

LESSON 7

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have

against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

LESSON 8

Galatians 5:22-23

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

LESSON 9

Luke 10:19

"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."

1 John 4:4

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

LESSON 10

Malachi 3:10

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

LESSON 11

Ephesians 5:8-10

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord."

LESSON 12

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

LESSON 13

2 Timothy 2:2

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

Discipleship Prayer and Praise Report

Date	Person	Prayer Request	Praise Report