**First Step – Teacher’s Guide**

May the people raise you, O God. Then the earth will yield its harvests.

How Do I Have A Daily Relationship with Jesus?

**The Lord is with you!**

We have the privilege of being friends with God and let Him be our personal guide and senior partner in life.

**To Prepare:**

**Holy Communion Element**

**Introduction:**

Welcome back everyone!

First of all, I would like to congratulate and commend you for continuing in our First Step sessions.

I believe there’s great blessings when we keep hearing and hearing the Word of God.

It unlocks special keys to help thrive and not just to survive. God has called us to be fruitful and multiply.

Today’s topic is on How to have a daily relationship with Jesus.

**MAIN RULES:**

**1. Respect each other’s privacy**

**(do not ask for contact number, no business transactions)**

**2. Honor the vision of this church**

**(do not promote or invite to other church events and programs)**

**3. Humility and Order**

**(humble despite disagreements. Other questions can be discussed after the class)**

We’ve learned who is Jesus, what is the Bible, How to pray and now: how does it all fit together practically?

**Attempt:**

People have different assumptions about a relationship with God:

1. If you don’t pray, you go to hell

2. You have to have a relationship with God otherwise He will be angry

3. God just wants to control whatever we do

SUGGESTED for INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

1. Is a person only a Christian on Sunday?

2. What takes place in any relationship?

3. How do people progress from acquaintances to friends?

**Failure:**

Nothing can be further than the truth.

First of all, did you know that there is difference between knowing Jesus exists and knowing what Jesus is like? Just like there is a difference between knowing God exist and knowing what God is like.

A description of God was given in the Old Testament:

Isaiah 40:11

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young. NIV

Great description. But now to show us practically, Jesus came to show us what God the Father is like when Jesus said and demonstrated this:

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. NIV

Having a daily relationship with Jesus means KNOWING:

* + - * 1. Your sins are forgiven

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

– lost presence of God

**Argument:**

Now some may ask:

1. So what’s so great about forgiveness?

2. Does this mean God even forgive murderers if they genuinely repent?

3. What happens if I just can’t stop sinning?

**Explanation:**

Man sinned and lost the presence of God

Yet God is not taken by surprise. He had a plan:

Eph 1:7

**In Him** we have redemption through His blood, the **forgiveness of sins**, according to the **riches** of His **grace**. *NKJV*

**Redemption** : meaning a ransom paid in full. Free from debt, slavery and curse and penalty of sins

The person is considered as not having sinned. Not only that, we are justified in Christ, just as if we have never sinned.

The forgiveness is based on the riches of His grace.

Justice is fulfilled as Christ has purchased our redemption with His Blood.

God is **never** **tired** of forgiving us; the **problem** is that we are tired and ashamed to come to Him again and again

not a **thing** – be discarded – person

What sins are able to obtain forgiveness ?

All- **past** present future

God is outside of time, space and matter

Why do we confess ?

It is to take **responsibility** and receive power and **support** to overcome

James 5:16

Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be **HEALED**. *TLB*

Healed : Heal, deliverance, restore, make whole, recover. *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek NT*

Luke 7:47

Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." *NKJV*

When you see how much you have been forgiven, you become empowered to overcome

When you feel that God won’t forgive you, you become hard on yourself and others, becoming stuck in your past and unable to move on

Forgiveness releases tremendous blessings

Rom 4:7

**Blessed** are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. *NIV*

When we know we are forgiven, we will not feel stuck in the past, feeling unworthy of blessings.

What’s so great about forgiveness? Here it is:

**Illustration:**

(Teachers, please use your own illustration if you have)

This is the story of when Jack and Stacy visited their grandmother in the village. Their grandmother had a favorite pet duck. One day, Jack accidentally killed the pet duck and quickly buried it. However Stacy saw and used every opportunity to taunt him. If it was time for her to wash the dishes, she would make Jack do it. Otherwise, she would tell their grandmother what Jack did.

Finally, after many days of receiving Stacy’s threats and having to do her chores, Jack finally confesses to his grandmother. His grandmother then smiled and said, “I knew all along and I want you to know that I still forgive you. I saw it when it happened. I just wanted to see how long you would let your sister bully you. If you had just come to me earlier, you don’t have to live hiding behind those threats anymore.”

**Application:**

(Teachers, please use your own illustration if you have)

There has been many times in my life where I did something wrong and when I didn’t apologize or the other person still took offence, the weight of guilt feels very heavy. The weight of guilt can feel like a ton. But when I apologize and do all I can to make amends, I instantly feel lighter in my heart.

God doesn’t want the shame, guilt and condemnation to burden and bury you. He wants you to have life, and have it more abundantly.

We may think we don’t deserve it. But that’s the beauty of it: we really don’t!

Discussion:

Q: Why do you think Jesus is described as the Good Shepherd?

Q: Why do we have to be reminded of the blood of Jesus shed for us?

Q: How do you feel about forgiving someone who doesn’t deserve it?

SUGGESTED for INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

1. What do you think about forgiveness especially of someone who doesn’t deserve it?

2. Why do you think God would forgive you?

3. How would you feel if a person is forgiven but continues to do the wrong things?

Secondly, having a daily relationship with Jesus:

* + - * 1. You can trust Him with what you have

Malachi 3:10-11

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes … NKJV

**Explanation:**

Our tithe goes to the local church where God places you - “the storehouse”. This also ensures that there will be food in His house (v10): food that feeds us (the Word) and food for distribution (provision) all over the world in missions.

It is the **practical application** of giving to the God who first provided and first gave us.

We use the term “sowing”: like a seed planted in the soil.

Through sowing, we receive

i. supernatural positioning,

ii. supernatural protection,

iii. supernatural harvest

**Illustration:**

When we invest, we demand that it must grow dividends and profits for us

When we sow, we are waiting expectantly for the Lord of the Harvest to cause blessings and growth to take place

So like a seed planted in the ground, we are like the farmers waiting for the plant to grow.

**Application:**

John D. Rockefeller was one of the world’s richest man. If you were to count all his assets put together in 2006, it would be worth 226Bn today.

His first income he gave to his mother, who in turn insisted that he tithe it instead.

He said this: “I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was $1.50 per week.” -John Rockefeller-

God gave him wisdom to buy oil fields in a time when nobody else thought much to it.

Questions:

Q: Why does God even need our tithes and offerings?

Q: How are tithes and firstfruits different?

Q: How does God use the tithes to build His kingdom?

Thirdly, having a daily relationship with Jesus means:

* + - * 1. You partake Holy Communion

Before Jesus was arrested and thereafter crucified, he had a meal with them called The Last Supper.

Through Holy Communion, we proclaim His death. Jesus took our curses and in place, we receive His blessings.

Matthew 26:26

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” NIV

**Explanation:**

This would mean that the bread and wine are not mere symbols, tokens or metaphors. When we have Holy Communion, we believe it is His very body and blood.

It is by faith, as we hear the Word proclaimed.

1 Cor 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim** the Lord's death till He comes. *NKJV*

We receive His blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

We receive Christ’s very Body for our healing and health.

With His blood comes healing, refreshing and energizing power. It refreshes us from our exhaustion and low moments.

**Application:**

Holy Communion refreshes us from our exhaustion and low moments and helps us overcome temptations.

Discussion:

Q: What is the purpose of Holy Communion?

SUGGESTED for INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

1. Have you seen anyone partake in Holy Communion before? In real life or in movies?

2. What did you think Holy Communion was for?

Practical:

Have Holy Communion Together

* 1. Article I

How To Give Holy Communion

**i. Time of worship and praise**

Choose one or two worship hymns or chorus.

**ii. Give a word of encouragement**

You can quote some verses (eg. Psalms 103:1-5 or 1 Corinthians 11:23-26) or give a reminder of one of the purposes of the Holy Communion.

Or say this prayer:

We thank you Heavenly Father for giving your Son, Jesus Christ to die for us on the Cross, giving us the very Bread of Life, the fullness of Life. As we partake of this bread and wine, help us to receive the Body and Blood of Christ with faith and to discern His Body and receive the Covenantal Blessings and record-breaking favor You promised. Through Christ’s offering of Himself made once for all, You have made us a people for Your own possession and Your own special treasure. Deut7:6

**iii. Distribute the bread and wine**

Give the bread and say:

“The Lord Jesus says, take and eat, this is My body broken for you.”

As you partake, believe it is the very Body of Christ.

Give the wine and say:

“The Lord Jesus says, take and drink, this is the blood of the covenant poured out for you for the forgiveness of your sins.”

As you partake it believe it is the very Blood of Christ.

**iv. Have a short time of prayer**

Each person will take turns to pray short prayers

**v. Releasing blessings**

Declare Numbers 6:24-26: “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace.” NIV

* 1. Benediction

Num 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord cause his face to smile on you and be gracious to you;

the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.’

Chose