



Fresno Kids

A BEGINNER DISCIPLESHP
CURRICULUM FOR OUR CHILDREN

Parents,

We understand that no one has more influence in children's lives than their parents. So, it is our goal as a church to partner with you in engaging your children in their relationships with God. To help you in shaping your children's spiritual direction, we are providing the following lessons for you to disciple your own children. These lessons are meant to serve as a guide for you to teach your children some of the basic truths of the Bible. What your children will learn in these lessons will support their understanding of God and His word for the rest of their lives! These lessons are relatively short and are designed to help your children get a grasp on some of the main doctrines of scripture. Take the freedom to modify, cut-out or add-to any of these lessons in a way that you believe will better help your child apply these truths to their own lives. We will be praying for you and your child as you learn and grow together.

The main objective is not to get through the lessons, but to get the lessons through your child.

Sincerely,

The FBC Discipleship Ministry

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Lesson 1

The Word of God



Fresno Kids

OBJECTIVE: Acquaint kids with how the Bible relates to their everyday lives.

MAIN POINT: God wants to talk to us, and we can know Him through His Word!

VERSE: 2 Timothy 3:16
Psalm 119:160

LESSON 1: What is the Bible?

INTRODUCTION

What if no one ever talked to you? What if I (mom or dad) never said anything to you? What if I never read you books or taught you to tie your shoes? How would you know what to do? If no one ever talked to you, you would be stuck. You wouldn't know what to do or how to live. But, I do talk to you. I take care of you and help you when you need it. Now imagine if God never said anything. What if God never spoke? What if God never wrote the Bible or sent his Son Jesus to the earth? How would we know anything about him? How would we know how to live or how to get to heaven? Thankfully, God did speak to us! The Creator of the entire universe wants to talk to us, and He wants us to talk to him. We CAN know how to live. We CAN know what is right and what is wrong because God spoke to us through his Word, the Bible!

What separates Christianity from any “religion” in the world is its claim to have an absolute written authority from God. Having the Word of God is essential to a Christian's growth in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. The standard by which a Christian is to govern his life in every detail is found in the pages of the Word of God.

I. Bible Facts

- A. The Bible is one book made up of 66 different books.
 - 39 in the Old Testament
 - 27 in the New Testament
- B. The Bible had over 40 different writers that wrote the books of the Bible.
- C. It was written over a span of 1,500 years.
- D. The Bible was written in 3 different languages.
 - Hebrew
 - Aramaic
 - Greek

E. The first words in the Bible are:

“In the beginning” found in Genesis 1:1

F. The Bible was first translated into English in 1382 AD.

- It has since been translated into over 2,000 languages.

G. The Bible is the best-selling book in the world!

H. The Bible Effect:

No other book in the world has had the impact that the Bible has had. It has shaped the laws of nations. It has inspired great works of art. It has helped people through hard times, anywhere from world leaders to small children. It was written by the God of the Universe, the Creator of all, the King of kings & Lord of lords, but it speaks to individual people on a personal level.

II. The Word of God is active in salvation.

A. 1 Peter 1:23 ... says a man is born again “by the Word of God.”
The Bible is the agent which brings about the new birth.

B. Ephesians 2:8-9 ... “For by grace are you saved through faith...”
Romans 10:17 ... says “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

C. James 1:21 ... says the Word of God is “ ... able to save your souls.”

D. Paul’s summary of the gospel contains four parts in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:

1. Jesus died for your sins.
2. He was buried.
3. He rose from the grave.

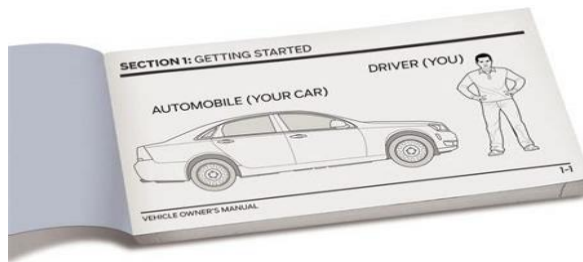
4. ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

- E. You must believe what the Bible says about sin, your condition, and God's plan of salvation in order to be saved ... not part of it, but **ALL** of it.

III. The Word of God must be your absolute, infallible guide to tell you how to live.

Example

- A. Every major purchase (car, video games, etc.) is accompanied by an owner's manual which tells you how to operate it. If you do not go by the book, you will have a hard time understanding that item.



- B. A recipe ... If you do not have one item for the recipe you are making, it will not turn out the way it should.
- C. The Bible is God's "owner's manual" for your life. God would not save you and call you to service without clear, exact directions.



D. A Road Map. The Bible is like a map to God's Main Points! If you ever step back and take a look at a world map, you can see a ton of information –continents, countries, states, and even some major cities, but you can't see every little town or every single road. You would have to dive in deeper to see all the details that could be found on a map. This is kind of like God's Word. When we step back, we can see some major ideas and key truths that God wants us to get. It's not until we dive deeper into his Word that we can begin to see all that the Bible has to teach us –and there is a lot!

ILLUSTRATION:

Parents, pull up the Maps app on your phone. Zoom out far enough that you can see only the states or countries (the Main Points). Then zoom in to your state, town, and neighborhood all the way to your house so that you can see all the details.

IV. What is the purpose for the Word of God for a Christian?

A. The Word of God equips you for service.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Ephesians 6:10-18

B. The Word of God sustains you.

This is illustrated in the Bible as spiritual food. It is a complete diet.

Job 23:12

Jeremiah 15:16

1. Milk ... 1 Peter 2:2
2. Honey ... Psalm 119:103, Proverbs 16:24
3. Bread ... Luke 4:4
4. Water ... Isaiah 55:10-11, Ephesians 5:26
5. Meat ... Hebrews 5:12-14, 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

V. How do I learn the Bible?

A. The Holy Spirit of God will lead and guide you into all truth. God may use other instruments to aid in teaching (books, pastors, etc.) but ultimately, truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26

John 16:13-15

B. The Bible is learned by comparing scripture with scripture, relying on God's spirit to teach you and not your own natural intellect.

1 Corinthians 2:16

VI. A Brief History of the Bible.

A. A total of 66 books.

B. Written by more than 40 authors from all different walks of life.

1. Shepherds
2. Kings
3. Fishermen
4. A tax collector

- C. Written over a span of about 2,000 years.
- D. Totally accurate in matters of history and prophecy.
- E. Not one contradiction.
- F. Fits together as if it was written by one man.
- G. The middle of the Bible is

Psalm 118:8 ... *It is better to trust in **the LORD** than to put confidence in man.*

The middle two words in that verse are “the Lord”. The Lord is the center of the Bible.

VII. A Quote About the Bible.

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and His glory its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you in life, will be opened at the judgment and remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy content.

SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKING:

Q: Where should I start reading?

A: As a young reader, a couple of good places to start reading might be the Gospel of John or the book of Psalms. Psalm 119 is all about a person's love for the Word of God. (Parents, have a suggestion ready to give your child or pick a book of the Bible with your child and read along with them!)

Q: How do I make Bible reading a pattern in my life?

A: Pick a time and a place that you can read every day. Like in your bed each morning or night. Or at the dinner table when you get home from school. It is also a good idea to get a notebook where you can write down the things that you learned from reading God's Word, like a diary or journal.

Q: What if I read something I don't understand?

A: You will never fully understand everything you read in the Bible. If you come across something that is confusing, just ask me (one of your parents) or Sunday school teachers. They will be glad to help you. What is most important is that you live out the things that you read and do understand.

There is so much that we can learn from the Bible. You could study the Bible your entire life and still not know everything there is to know about God and His Word. But during these lessons, we are going to make our way through God's Word to get an overview of some of the key things that God wants us to know about. How incredible! The Creator of the Universe has something that he wants you and me to know!

You can trust the Bible because the Bible is true! So, learn and obey everything you can about what God has written for you in his book, and it will change your life!

Lesson 2

Salvation



Fresno Kids

OBJECTIVE: Show kids how they get saved and how that decision affects their lives.

MAIN POINT: Jesus died for me and for everybody!

VERSE: Romans 6:23

LESSON 2: How am I saved?

What happened when I got saved? What is my new relationship to God?

I. There are only two spiritual families in the world.

A. The devil's family.

1. John 8:44 ... speaks of a group of people who are "of their father the devil."

See also John 8:38.

2. You enter the family by birth through your physical father, who is ultimately a descendant of Adam. Genesis 5:3 shows that descendants of Adam are born in Adam's image and likeness, which is that of a fallen sinner.
3. You inherited your sin nature from your father Adam.

Romans 5:12

4. Romans 5:12 also states that as a result of your sin you were sentenced to die.
 - a. Romans 6:23 ... The wages of sin is death
 - b. 1 Corinthians 15:22 ... In Adam all die

B. God's family

1. John 1:12-13... But to all who did receive him (that is your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your Savior), he gave the right to become children of God (your entrance into God's family), who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man (it is not a physical birth), but of God (it is a spiritual birth).

2. You also enter God's family by a birth, but it is a spiritual birth by your Heavenly Father.

John 3:3

3. This new birth puts you into God's family in the exact same way your physical birth puts you into your father's family. You are now a son of God by birth.
4. As a result of your new birth, you have inherited God's divine nature, and you now have eternal life.

John 6:47

John 3:36

1 John 5:12

II. Being in God's family separates you from the devil's family.

- A. Your body is now the temple of the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit lives inside you.

1 Corinthians 6:19

- B. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 commands the believer to maintain a difference between himself and the unsaved.

- C. The new life is perfectly summarized for you in 2 Corinthians 5:17-18:

1. At the moment of your salvation, your old nature died and was buried with Christ. What arose “out of the grave” was something completely different from what went into the grave. You became a new creature with a new nature!

Colossians 2:12, 3:3

2. Upon your salvation, however, you did not receive a new body or a new mind. That will be our future glory.

Colossians 3:4

3. Because our bodies (flesh) and our minds remember what we used to do, and how we used to think, they constantly seek to pull us toward sin.

4. That is why Paul tells us...

Colossians 3:5 ... we must put to death the deeds of our body

Colossians 3:8-9 we must put off the sins of the mind.

III. What is my relationship with God now?

- A. He is your Heavenly Father, and you are His child.

1 John 2:1

- B. Now that you are saved, God no longer deals with you as a sinner. He deals with you as a son.

- C. That relationship is pictured as the earthly relationship between a father and son.

1. A good father loves and cares for his son.

1 Peter 5:7

2. A good father protects his son.

Matthew 18:6

3. A good father provides for his son.

Philippians 4:19

4. A good father guides and teaches his son.

John 14:26

5. A good father helps his son.

Psalms 46:1

6. A good father encourages his son.

Philippians 4:13

7. A good father disciplines his son.

Hebrews 12:5-11

8. A good father feeds his son.

Matthew 4:4

9. A good father has a plan for his son.

Romans 8:28-19

D. A good father will never do anything to purposely hurt his son. He will only do those things that will help him grow and mature into the young man he wants him to be. Your Heavenly Father operates in the same way; only His ways are perfect. Unlike earthly fathers who sometimes make mistakes, God never makes a mistake in dealing with His sons.

SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKING:

Q: Will I sin after I am saved?

A: Yes, you still have a body of the flesh.

Romans 7:18

Q: How does sin affect my relationship with my Father?

A: God does not kick you out of his family. When you sin, He disciplines you as a son.

Hebrews 12:5-11

Q: What should I do when I sin?

Confess it, repent, and trust the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse you.

1 John 1:6-10

Proverbs 28:13

Gospel Presentation

Salvation Starting from Adam

- Genesis 1:26-27 – Man created in God’s image.
- Genesis 2:16-17 – God’s instructions to Adam and his Bride.
- Genesis 3:6-8 – Man dies spiritually.
- Genesis 5:3 – Man’s sinful nature.
- Romans 3:10, 23 – Result of man’s sinful nature.
- Romans 5:12 – Result of man’s sinful nature.
- 1 Peter 2:24 – God’s payment for man’s sin.
- John 3:3,5 – Man’s opportunity to accept Christ.
- John 17:3 – Eternal life defined.
- Matthew 16:24-26 – The call to Christ.
- Romans 10:9-11 – Making Jesus Lord.
- 2 Corinthians 6:19 – We are not our own.

The Romans Road

- 3:23... All men are sinful.
- 5:12... Why all men are sinful.
- 6:23... The penalty for man’s sin.
- 5:8... Jesus’ payment for man’s sin.
- 10:9,13... Our opportunity to accept Christ.



THE FOUR

God loves you! And He wants to have a relationship with you. The Bible says that God loves the world of people, which includes you, and He wants you to experience His love and discover the purpose for your life through a relationship with Him.

But your sins have divided you from Him! He is altogether sinless, but we are sinful. So do the math. There is a great division between us and God. And rather than going God's way and living for Him, we have gone our own way, separated from the love of God.

Yet sin doesn't stop God from loving you! He made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins, and enter a relationship with Him through Jesus. Because of God's great love for you, He became a human being in Jesus, who gave His life for you. At the cross, Jesus took your place and paid the penalty of death you deserve for your sins. So through faith in Jesus, you can experience God's love daily, discover His purpose for you, and have eternal life after you die.

So you are faced with a question! Are you going to live for yourself and continue to do life your way, forever separated from God? Or are you going to place your faith in Jesus, trusting Him to forgive you, and to live forever in a vital relationship with Him? That's the great question, and we must all choose for ourselves. Saved or lost? Forgiven or continue to live in the consequences of our sins?

Lesson 3

Baptism



Fresno Kids

OBJECTIVE: Give clear biblical teaching of baptism and encourage kids to follow God in obedience.

MAIN POINT: Baptism is my first step of obedience AFTER I am saved.

VERSE: 1 John 1:7

LESSON 3: What does the Bible say about baptism, and why is it important to me?

After you get saved the first thing that God asks us to do is to be baptized. Baptism is the first step of obedience in your walk with God after you get saved.

Almost every religious denomination in existence teaches some form of baptism as part of their doctrine, and the diversities in their teachings are wide.

I. Why does God instruct us to be baptized?

A. Baptism is the first act of obedience in service to the Lord. Anyone can be baptized. It takes no special talent or effort.

B. Jesus set the example Himself by submitting to baptism before he began His public ministry.

Matthew 3:13-17

Mark 1:9-11

Luke 3:21-22

C. In Matthew 3:13-15, it is clear that Jesus was baptized in obedience to God's plan. This point of submission and obedience is the single most important thing to realize regarding baptism.

D. Other bible characters who submitted to baptism after salvation ...

1. The Ethiopian Eunuch ... Acts 8:36-39

2. The Apostle Paul ... Acts 9:18

3. The Philippian jailer and his family ... Acts 16:25-33

II. What is the purpose of Baptism?

A. Several types of baptism are mentioned in the Bible. In each case, physical baptism is a picture of a spiritual birth. The important point to consider is the picture portrayed by baptism.

Romans 6:1-7 ... (specifically verses 3-4) shows the two purposes of baptism

1. It pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. It is a public testimony of the new convert's identification with Jesus Christ through the death, burial, and resurrection, which is how he was saved. It identifies him with the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Who should be baptized?

- A. The clearest case of an individual's baptism in the Bible is the Ethiopian eunuch.

Acts 8:36-39

- B. The only requirements for baptism are the requirements for salvation found in Romans 10:9-10:

1. Heart belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
2. Confession that He is Lord and Savior.

And Matthew 28:19:

3. Commitment to be a disciple, that is, a Jesus follower

There are no cases of baptism in the Bible of anyone but believers. Some other instances of baptism immediately after salvation include:

Acts 8:12

Acts 18:8

IV. What is the method of baptism?

A. Immersion is the method. Again Acts 8:26-39 gives us the clearest example. In verses 38-39 BOTH Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch went down into the water and came up out of the water.

B. In Matthew 3:16, Jesus was baptized in the same manner.

C. As seen previously, baptism is a picture of death, burial, and resurrection. The only way to bury someone is to put them completely underground. The biblical method of baptism is complete immersion. No one in the Bible was ever sprinkled because no one can be buried by sprinkling dirt on them.

V. How important is it to be baptized?

A. It is **NOT** essential for salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9

B. It **IS** essential for service and spiritual growth.

Matthew 28:19-20

C. Once a person decides to follow Jesus Christ as a disciple, he or she must be willing to submit to the first act of obedience. If a person refuses to obey the Lord in the first point, he will not obey in future points.

Matthew 3:13-15

VI. Where should I be baptized?

A. Since baptism is a public confession of your faith in Jesus Christ, most often it will be publicly, in front of the local church. Many times people will be baptized in creeks or rivers, which is fine. The Lord Jesus Christ was baptized in the Jordan River. The actual place of baptism is not important. The act of public testimony of your identification with the Lord Jesus Christ is the important point.

SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKING:

Q: Who should be baptized?

A: Every person who is saved and understands what it means to be baptized.

Q: Why should we be baptized?

A: To obey Christ's command and example. To publicly show that we are in God's family and a follower of Jesus as Lord of our lives.

Q: What does baptism picture?

A: The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. After baptism, we are now raised to walk in the newness of life.

Q: When should we be baptized?

A: After salvation as a Jesus follower.

Q: How should we be baptized?

A: Only by immersion.

Q: Where should I be baptized?

The location doesn't matter, but it should be through your church.

CONCLUSION

Baptism is the first step of obedience AFTER you are saved because it is just an outward picture of what ALREADY happened to you on the inside when you got saved. Baptism does not wash away any sin; it simply pictures what God has already done in your life.

If you have not already been baptized, talk it over with your parents and get with one of the pastors and let them know you want to be baptized.

Lesson 4

The Local Church



Fresno Kids

OBJECTIVE: Show kids that everyone plays an important role in the Church, also known as the body of Christ.

MAIN POINT: I am a member of the body of Christ!

VERSE: 1 Corinthians 12:27

LESSON 4: How do I fit in to the church?

God has established three major institutions on this earth: the family, civil government, and the church. It is the church that has been commissioned by God to carry out His purposes in reaching the lost and helping Christians grow. Therefore, God's plan for a Christian will always be best when connected with the local church.

I. What is the Church?

A. The local Church is not a physical building; it is an organized gathering of God's people.

1. The local church refers to a specific group of God's people that meet together on a Sunday morning – like Fresno Bible Church. Fresno Bible Church is the local church to everyone that attends – like you.

B. The Universal Church

1. The Church (with a capital C) or the Universal church is made up of every Christian that has ever lived since Christ was on the earth. It includes people from all over the world, both people that are still alive and those that have already died! Different nations, different languages, different backgrounds.

C. A local church is a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in a specific area. The Universal Church is the body of Christ, the saved multitudes from every nation.

1. In 1 Corinthians 12:27, Paul, writing to saved people, states clearly, "you are the body of Christ."
2. Ephesians 4:15-16 states that Christ is the head of the body.

3. Paul compares the church body to the human body in this passage.

a. Each member has a different function.

vs. 14-20

b. No one member can function alone.

vs. 21

c. Each member's contribution is important.

vs. 22-24

d. A properly functioning body operates as a single unit.

vs 25-27

II. What is the function of the local church?

A. The first local church was organized in Jerusalem (Acts 2:41-47). The believers there organized their church for the following purposes.

1. The teaching of the Word of God.

vs. 42

2. Fellowship with other believers

vs. 42

3. Prayer.

vs. 42

4. The observance of the two ordinances of the church:

a. Baptism ... vs. 41

b. The Lord's supper ... vs. 42

5. To be a testimony of God's grace and power.

vs. 43

6. For mutual assistance and ministry.

vs. 44-45

7. To reach out into the community.

vs. 46-47

8. To glorify and praise God.

vs. 47

B. The single most important priority of the local church is to glorify God. He is glorified as His body (the Church) is built up, taught, and strengthened.

III. How do I function in the church body?

A. During your Christian life, you should grow through three broad, general stages.

1. Observe and Learn ... Your first priority should be to submit to the teaching of the Word of God to learn to be the man or woman God wants you to be

Matthew 11:28-30

2. Participate ... In time you will naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve and take on some basic functions through the already established ministries of your church.

Matthew 4:19

James 1:22-25

3. Lead ... As your growth continues, you should reach the point where you can begin to minister to others in the same way you have been ministered to.

2 Timothy 2:2

B. These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of growth physically:

1. Childhood
2. Youth
3. Adult

C. Be Patient! This process takes time. Just be sure to remain faithful to God's established institution, the local church.

IV. Conclusion

- A. When everyone has different gifts, it can be easy to be jealous of someone else's gift. You might think that you're not important because you don't teach or play an instrument. Remember everyone has a purpose, and every purpose is important. If you don't fulfill your purpose in the church body, then the rest of the church body will be missing out on what only you can offer.

SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKING:

Q: How do I find the particular local church that God wants me to serve?

A: Pray about it

James 1:5

B: Observe the qualities of a particular church and compare them with the biblical requirements of a proper church.

A. Is there evidence of people coming to Christ?

Matthew 7:20

Acts 2:47

B. Do they believe and teach the Bible as the Word of God and the infallible standard for life?

Titus 1:9

C. Is the membership encouraged to read and study the Bible as much as the leadership?

Acts 17:10-12

D. Do they minister to the needs of the people?

Acts 6:1

E. Do they send out and support missionaries?

Acts 13:1-3

ASK THE KIDS

Help them think of ways to support other members of the church.

- ✓ When someone in the church body is hurting (sick, someone in their family has died, etc.) what can you do to help care for them?

Some possible answers: Pray for them, visit them, write them an encouraging letter, bring them a meal, etc.

- ✓ When someone in the church body is celebrating, what can you do to rejoice with them?

Some possible answers: Give them a hug or high five, tell them congrats, send them an encouraging card, etc.

Help them appreciate the ways others serve, and help them identify ways they can serve.

- ✓ What are some ways that you can see people serve the church?
- ✓ What are some ways that you can serve the church the way God made you?

Lesson 5

Prayer



Fresno Kids

OBJECTIVE: Acquaint kids with the basics of a proper prayer life.

MAIN POINT: I can talk to God anytime and anywhere about anything!

VERSE: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

LESSON 5: What is prayer, and how do I do it?

How important is prayer in my life?

Someone once said that a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. There is a great deal of truth in this because prayer is simply your direct communication to God. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you. When you pray, you speak to God. You get to know people by talking to them and listening to them. That's how you get to know Jesus. Your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without proper communication. You are able to talk to God anytime and anywhere about anything.

I. What is the purpose of prayer?

A. It is NOT to move God to do what you want, or for you to change His mind. It is for Him to change your mind, and you to be conformed to His will.

B. A proper prayer life results in peace of heart and mind.

Philippians 4:6-7

C. To draw you close to God so He can prove His sufficiency (that He is enough) for every need.

1. God is active in every detail of your life, and He knows exactly what you need even before you ask.

Philippians 4:6-7

2. God allows a need to come into your life so He can draw you to Him to meet with Him.

Psalms 50:15

3. The most dangerous time in your life is when it seems your every single need is met, and you believe you have need of nothing ... including God.

Revelation 3:16-17

4. God uses the needs of your life to draw you to a place where He can bless you and reveal to you that your only real need is simply the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace. The classic example of this tremendously important principle is Paul's thorn in the flesh, meaning his physical problem.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

5. That is also why it is absolutely essential to develop a consistent prayer attitude where your first reaction in a difficult moment is to go to God in prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

II. How do I pray?

- A. Romans 8:26-27 makes it clear that we don't always know how to pray, or what to pray for. That is why the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you intercedes for you in prayer.

- B. There are some Basic guidelines.

1. Develop a lifestyle of prayer. (Pray always...)

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Luke 18:1

2. Don't repeat the same words over and over.

Matthew 6:7

3. Talk to the Lord as a friend, because He is your friend.

John 15:13-14
Exodus 33:11
Proverbs 18:24

4. Realize that you have DIRECT access to God personally.
You do not need to go through any man to talk to God.

1 Timothy 2:5
Ephesians 2:18

- C. Be sure to maintain a good relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. There are some things in your life that will hinder your prayers.

1. Unconfessed sin.

Isaiah 59:1-2
Psalm 66:18

2. An unforgiving spirit.

Matthew 6:14-15

3. A bitterness toward others.

1 Peter 3:7

4. Not asking.

James 4:2

5. Asking with selfish or with the wrong motives.

James 4:3
Proverbs 21:13

- D. Prayer should not just be a Christian wish list of things you need from God that you are always asking Him for. If someone only talked to you when they needed you to do something, he or she would not be a good friend. We shouldn't do this with God either.

As we said before, prayer is talking to God. You can talk to God anytime and anywhere about anything! Here is a simple reminder to lead you in prayer.

THE PATH OF PRAYER

PRAISE

Prayer is not just about asking God for things, but it is about telling God about the things you love about Him. He is worthy of our praise. Open your prayer time by praising God and letting Him know what you appreciate about Him.

Psalm 29:2

ADMIT

Even after you are saved you will continue to sin. When you spend time in prayer, admit to God the things you know you've done wrong. Some things may be obvious to you that you know you've done, like disobeying your parents or telling a lie. The Holy Spirit may remind you of other things. Confess those things for which you need forgiveness.

Psalm 32:5

I John 1:9

THANK

When you pray, take time to thank God for all that He is and all that He has done for you. If you really think about it, you could spend your entire time in prayer thanking God for all the big and small things He has done for you.

Psalm 100:4

HELP

This is the time you ask God for His help, and bring your request to Him. Pray for the needs of others and yourself.

Philippians 4:6

III. There are four basic types of prayer.

A. Adoration ... giving the Lord the glory He deserves.

B. Confession ... confession means to agree with God about your sin, or to say something about your sin that God says about it.

Psalm 29:2

C. Thanksgiving ... the expression of the gratefulness in your heart to God for His wonderful works.

Psalm 26:7

Psalm 100:4

D. Supplication ... specific requests. Too many prayers are wasted because they are so general. (For example: "God please give me a blessing." "Which one? How do you want Him to bless you?")

Philippians 4:6

IV. Keep track of your prayer requests.

A. Making a list will help you remember what to pray for. Otherwise, your prayer life may not be consistent.

B. Keeping a list of answered prayers is tremendously important to reinforce your faith in God's ability to answer prayer.

V. Conclusion

Prayer doesn't need to be long or filled with big fancy words. Prayer is simply talking to God with honesty from your heart. The Bible says that God is a lot of things to us, like a friend and father (John 15:14, Ephesians 4:6, Matthew 23:9). How do you talk to your friends or Dad? It would sound weird if you talked to your Dad like, "Our Father who art thou in our home, hallowed be your name ...". Or to your friends like, "Hello, my dearest friend. I come before thee today to ask if you would like to play with me. It be thy will?" When we talk to God, we should definitely talk to Him with respect, honor and worship, but it doesn't need to be as hard as we make it out to be.

Think about it! We get to talk to the God of the universe, the Creator of everything, the Lord of lords and the King of kings! What an incredible thing prayer is.

Remember, God is always available, and He knows everything! That means you can talk to God anytime and anywhere about anything.

SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKING:

Q: Does God answer all my prayers?

A: Yes, but not always the way you may want Him to, or at the time you want Him to. There will be a time when in His infinite wisdom, the best answer to our prayer will be "NO" or "NOT YET." In those times, simply trust Him.

Q: How important is it to pray for others?

A: Paul prayed for others continually and requested prayer on many occasions.

An example of effectual prayer for others is how a preacher from England named George Mueller prayed for the salvation of several people for up to 60 years. When he died, some were not saved yet. However, there were some saved at his funeral, and many others were saved within the next year.

Keep at it. The results of your prayers will never be known completely in this life.

Q: If God knows everything, why do I need to pray?

A: We do not pray to inform God of something He doesn't already know. We talk to God because he is our friend and our Father, and He wants to hear from us. You cannot have a good relationship with someone unless you communicate with him.

Lesson 6

Dealing With Sin



Fresno Kids

OBJECTIVE: Teach kids how to deal with sin in their lives.

MAIN POINT: God has equipped you with the right tools to overcome sin.

VERSE: 1 John 1:8-9

LESSON 6: How can I overcome sin?

Someone once said that when a saved person begins to battle sin in his own life, he enters a combat so intense it makes World War II look like a Sunday School picnic. This truth is not evident to a young Christian; but as you grow, you will realize further the intensity of the struggle.

As we learned in Lesson 2, though your salvation was a total transformation of your spiritual self (2 Cor. 5:17), because you still live in an earthly, physical body, you will constantly feel the pull of the sins of the flesh and of the mind (Ephesians 2:3). The flesh is the human nature that easily and naturally sins. This lesson is to help you combat the flesh as it wars against the Spirit (Galatians 5:17).

I. What is sin?

A. Sin is breaking God's law.

1 John 3:4

B. Sin is any unrighteousness.

1 John 5:17

C. Sin is anything done apart from faith.

Romans 14:23

D. Sin is an issue of the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

Matthew 12:34-35

II. Why do I sin?

A. You sin because though you received a new nature at your salvation, you did not receive a new body or a new mind.

Romans 6:6-13

Ephesians 4:21-24

Colossians 3:1a, 5, 8-9

B. You sin because your sinful nature draws you into sin.

James 1:13-15

Romans 7:14-25

Galatians 5:16-17

C. You sin as a result of temptation in three major areas, which are outlined in 1 John 2:15-16. Jesus was also tempted in these three areas, yet without sin as stated in Hebrews 4:15.

1. THE LUST OF THE FLESH (the desires of the sin nature)
Eve was tempted in this point in Genesis 3:6 when she saw that the tree was "good for food." Jesus was tempted in this point in Matthew 4:3 when the devil tried to get Him to turn stones into bread.
2. THE LUST OF THE EYES (the desires you see)... Eve was tempted here when she saw the tree was "pleasant to the eyes." Jesus was tempted when the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship.
3. THE PRIDE OF LIFE ... Eve fell to the temptation that disobeying God would make her wise like God. Jesus overcame the temptation to cast Himself down to prove the angels would take care of Him.

III. How does God look at my sin?

A. Your sin was judged by God on the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21

B. If you continue to sin, God will discipline you as a father disciplines his son.

Hebrews 12:5-11

- C. God will allow you to reap according to what you have sown, meaning there are painful results (consequences) to choosing to sin.

Galatians 6:7-9

IV. What can I do to overcome sin?

- A. Your sin was your own fault, not anyone else's. You must accept responsibility for your sin. You will never correct anything until you face up to your responsibility.

Proverbs 28:13

- B. Don't allow sinful thoughts to control your mind.

2 Corinthians 10:5

- C. Don't make provisions for the sin nature.

Romans 13:14

- D. Kill your sin nature.

- E. Realize that you are dead to sin in Jesus Christ. Dead people cannot sin.

Romans 6:6-13

Colossians 3:1-10

- F. Judge your sin. Agree with God that it is sin.

1 Corinthians 11:31

- G. Confess your sin to God.

1 John 1:9

H. Store up (memorize) God's Word in your heart to battle sin.

Psalm 119:11

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says that God made a way of escape from temptation.
2. That way of escape is found in Psalm 119:9-11. It is the Word of God.
3. Jesus Christ overcame His temptation by quoting Scripture.
4. The only sure way of overcoming sin in your life is through the power of the Word of God as you hide it in your heart and apply it to your life.
5. The Bible is supernatural in its defense against sin.

Psalm 119:97-99, 104

Hebrews 5:14

I. Trust God's promises to make you clean and to fight your battles for you.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Hebrews 5:14

Hebrews 4:12

SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKING:

Q: How do I keep the influences of a sinful world from affecting me?

A: Don't involve yourself with sinful activities. You must associate with unsaved people in order to reach them for Christ, but don't get involved in their sin.

Ephesians 5:5-12

Separate yourself from the ways of the world, and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

James 4:4

Q: How will God continue to lead me to deal with sin in my life?

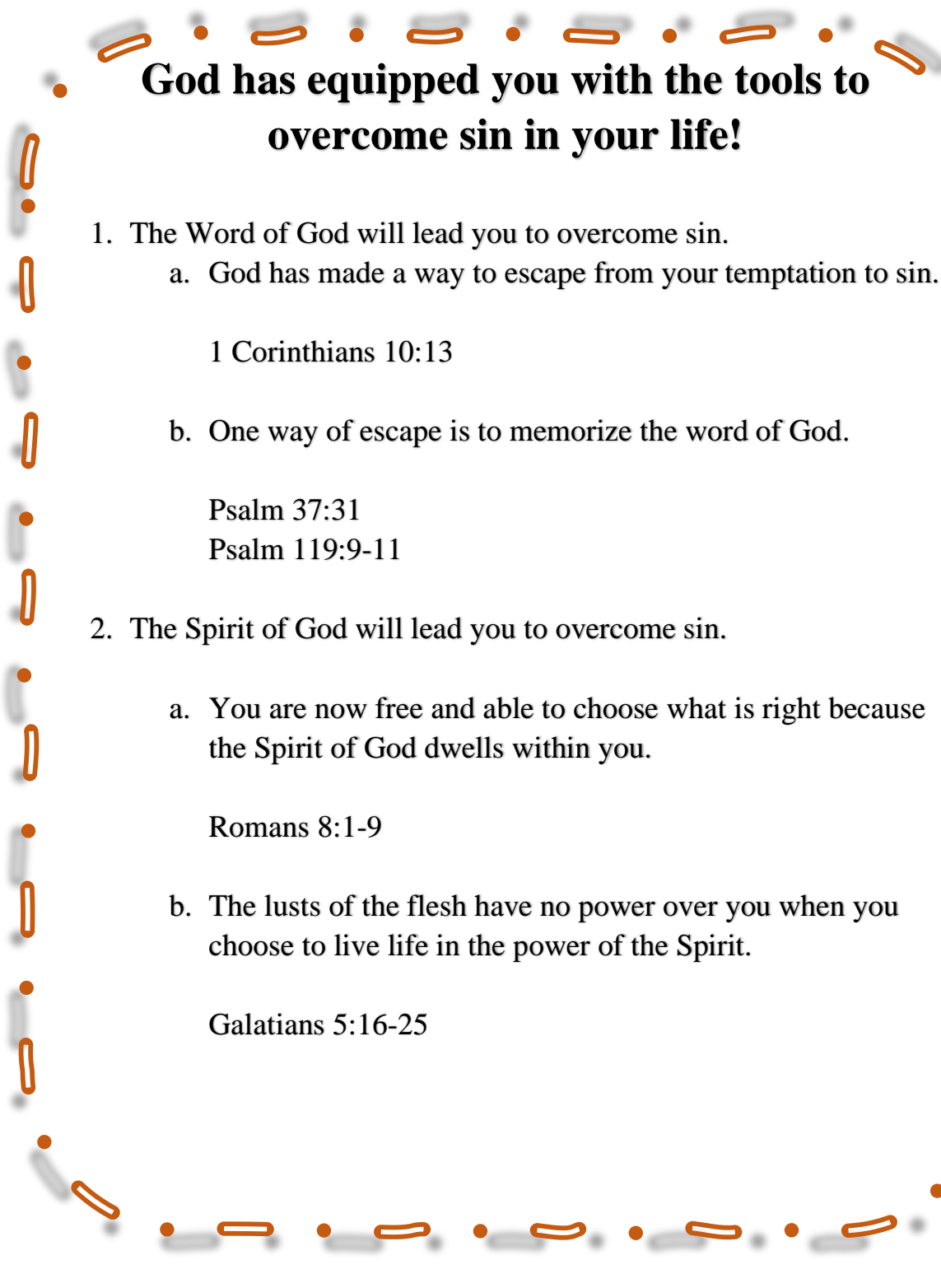
A: The Holy Spirit will convict you of sin in your life.

John 16:7-11

Psalms 139:23-24

As you read the Word of God it will speak into the thoughts and activities of your life.

Hebrews 4:12-13



God has equipped you with the tools to overcome sin in your life!

1. The Word of God will lead you to overcome sin.
 - a. God has made a way to escape from your temptation to sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13

- b. One way of escape is to memorize the word of God.

Psalm 37:31

Psalm 119:9-11

2. The Spirit of God will lead you to overcome sin.

- a. You are now free and able to choose what is right because the Spirit of God dwells within you.

Romans 8:1-9

- b. The lusts of the flesh have no power over you when you choose to live life in the power of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25

Lesson 7

Our Mission



Fresno Kids

OBJECTIVE: Show kids what it means to be an ambassador to reach the world.

MAIN POINT: We are missionaries to the world!

VERSE: Matthew 5:14-16
2 Corinthians 5:20

LESSON 7: What is our mission?

If you have been saved and are a member of God's family, He has a special mission (or job) for you. The Bible says that we are to be separate from the world (avoid sin, don't chase after bad things, etc.) but at the same time, we are supposed to try to reach all the people in the world who don't know about God. Since you have received the grace and forgiveness of God, you now have a special responsibility to go and tell others about the grace and forgiveness that he offers them.

The Bible says that we used to be in darkness but now walk in the light (Ephesians 5:8). The rest of the world that doesn't know Jesus as their Savior still walk in darkness. It is your job to shine your light, so that they might come to know God too. You are a light for Jesus!

Matthew 5:14-16

God put His light in you, so that you will shine it to all the world! You don't turn on a light just to cover up its glow. You turn on a light, so that those around you can see. You are a light for Jesus, and your job is to shine to those around you, so that they can find their way to Jesus.

I. You are an ambassador for Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20

- A. Ambassador = a person sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country.
- B. Just like an ambassador in the government is a representative of a nation, king, or president to another country, you represent the King of Heaven to the entire world!
- C. As an ambassador, you don't want to misrepresent Jesus. That is why it is important that we live our lives the way He would want us to live. We can't say that we represent Christ, and then go lie, cheat, and steal. That would make us poor ambassadors.

II. If you live for Jesus, you will be opposed by the world.

- A. You have to understand that if you shine your light for Jesus, not everyone is going to like it. You will be opposed by the world because the world hated Jesus before you came along.

John 15:18-21

- B. Once you were saved, you were no longer a part of the world, but you became a part of God's family. Because you are no longer a part of the world, the world will hate you.

- C. How do I overcome opposition?

1. Give a soft answer (avoid fights whenever possible).

Proverbs 15:1

Romans 12:18

2. Please God with your life.

Proverbs 16:7

3. Have faith in God.

1 John 5:4-5

4. Pray for them.

Matthew 5:44

5. Love your enemies and help them. Jesus Christ loved His enemies enough to die for them. The world cannot understand this type of love, and those who are seeking the truth will be drawn by it.

Romans 12:14, 20-21

III. How should the unsaved world view me as a Christian?

- A. They should know you love God not by what you say, as much as with your life.

1 Corinthians 8:3

- B. They should see a living testimony of the grace of God.

Philippians 2:14-15

IV. How should I view the world?

- A. Your home is in heaven.

1 Peter 2:11

Ephesians 2:6

Philippians 3:20

- B. This world is a “mission” field to reach the lost for Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:8

Matthew 28:18-20

V. Conclusion

Being a light for Jesus will not always be easy. Sometimes you will be opposed by the world. Sometimes you will mess up and misrepresent Jesus because of sin in your own life. But, you must keep shining your light. The mission God gave us was to reach the whole world with the Gospel.

Matthew 20:18-20

Acts 1:8

Living a life that shines the light of Christ is the reason we are still on this earth. God has us here to tell the world about Him, and you don't need to be a pastor or missionary to do it. It is the mission of every Christian to reach the world with the gospel, and you can start this week with the friends around you.

If you have any questions about the content of this curriculum, please contact us at the email address below. Additionally, we would love to hear how your family has used and benefited from using these materials.

Email: contact@fresnobiblechurch.org

