

Calvary Chapel Williamsburg



Discipleship Course

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How to use this study

First, thank you for being willing and surrendered to grow in Christ. There is no greater service than to serve the Lord.

This guide has a total of eight sessions. Each session has 3 lesson sections. The lesson section will have a memory verse (three memory verses per session). Take time each session to memorize the verses. Each person may have a different approach to memorizing scripture. For some, it may be to write the verse down and keep it in your pocket to read throughout the day. For others, it may be writing it repetitiously until you memorize it. Use whatever method works best for you, the important thing is that you memorize the verses.

The studies have a set of scriptures that you will be required to read through. Read each scripture carefully to find the answers in each section. As you work through the study if any questions come to mind, write them down to ask your discipling partner. Don't be afraid to ask questions as it shows your interest in growing your relationship with God and helps to grow the leadership of your discipling partner.

Set aside time for a schedule that works for you and your discipling partner. The recommended time is no less than twice a month to ensure the study is being completed and your faith and knowledge of God's word is growing. Maintain contact with your discipling partner.

Allow this study to be an introduction to discipleship that will continue beyond the use of this study.

Session 1: The Gospel

“Avoid a sugared gospel... Seek the gospel which rips up and tears and cuts and wounds and hacks and even kills, for that is the gospel that makes alive again. And when you have found it, give good heed to it. Let it enter into your inmost being. As the rain soaks into the ground, so pray the Lord to let his gospel soak into your soul.”

Charles Spurgeon

Memory Verse

“For our sake he made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

Introduction

In Mark 1:15 Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” When Jesus calls a person to follow Him, the very first command He issues is to repent and believe in the gospel. *There is not a true conversion where there is no repentance or faith in Christ Jesus.*

The ancient Greek word for believe mentioned here in Mark means more than to just know. It speaks of a relationship of trust and dependence.

The word gospel means “good news” or “glad tidings”. In the ancient world, when an army had defeated its enemies, it would send back a messenger to its homeland with the good news of victory. The job of the messenger was to herald the news to all the people in the town square. So too, Jesus has conquered our enemies (sin, Satan, and death) through His death and resurrection, and calls upon all His followers to share that news with everyone.

Study

The Bad News

1. Genesis 5:1-3

- a. What was man’s moral condition when God created him?

- b. When Adam fathered his children, whose likeness and image were they born in?

2. Genesis 3

- a. This section of scripture is commonly known as “The Fall”. What caused the fall of man?

- b. What was the Lord's response?

3. Genesis 6:5

- a. Describe the condition of man before God destroyed the earth with a flood.

- b. Do you think many are any different today than those in Genesis 6? Why or why not?

4. Isaiah 64:6

- a. Notice the word “all”. What does this word tell us? Are there any exceptions?

- b. What are his righteous deeds like?

- c. Why do you think God sees his righteous deeds like this?

5. Jeremiah 17:9-10

- a. What is the condition of the unsaved man's heart?

- b. When people say, “I'll be alright. God knows my heart”, should that be a comfort or an alarm? Why?

6. Ephesians 2:1-3

- a. Before we became Christians, what was our spiritual condition? _____

- b. How did we relate to a sinful world? _____

- c. How did we relate to Satan? _____
 - d. What did we do regarding our flesh? _____
 - e. What were we by nature? _____
7. Summarize what you have learned about man's condition.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The Good News

1. How do the following Scriptures identify the gospel?
 - a. Mark 1:1 _____
 - b. Mark 1:14 _____
 - c. Acts 20:24 _____
 - d. 2 Corinthians 4:4 _____
 - e. Ephesians 1:13 _____
 - f. Eph. 6:15 _____
 - g. 1 Tim 1:11 _____
 - h. Summarize what all these identifying phrases teach us about the Gospel.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
 - a. If we hold fast to the word, what will be the result? _____
 - b. What priority does the Gospel hold? _____
 - c. What are the primary elements of the Gospel (vv. 3-4)?

 - d. What did Christ die for? _____
3. Romans 1:1-4
 - a. What was Paul set apart for? _____
 - b. How was the gospel of God promised before Christ came into the world?

 - c. What was the Gospel concerning? _____
 - d. When Jesus became a man, He possessed both a Divine nature (still being God) and a human nature. In Verse 3 what nature is Paul referring to? _____
 - e. In verse 4, what nature is Paul referring to? _____

4. Romans 1:16-17

- a. What is Paul not ashamed of? _____
- b. Why was he not ashamed of it? _____
- c. Who can be saved by the Gospel? _____
- d. What is revealed in the Gospel? _____
- e. How does a person receive the righteousness of God? _____

5. Romans 3:19-24 and Romans 4:5

- a. When we believe in Jesus Christ, he justifies the ungodly. What is the biblical word for this transaction (Rom. 3:24)? _____
- b. According to Romans 3:24, how does God justify sinners? _____
- c. What is grace and how does God show us grace?

6. 2 Corinthians 5:21

- a. According to this verse Jesus “knew no sin.” Why is it necessary that we have a sinless Savior? What scripture can you find that supports this?

- b. What did God make Jesus to be? When did that take place and why?

In summary, what is the Gospel and why is it “good news”?

Topics/Questions to cover with your discipling partner.

Session 1: Repentance and Faith

"On Christ, and what he has done, my soul hangs for time and eternity. And if your soul also hangs there, it will be saved as surely as mine shall be. And if you are lost trusting in Christ, I will be lost with you and will go to hell with you. I must do so, for I have nothing else to rely upon but the fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived, died, was buried, rose again, went to heaven, and still lives and pleads for sinners at the right hand of God."

Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

Having seen in our last session what the Gospel is all about, let's return to Jesus' command in Mark 1:15, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." We have seen that the Gospel is glorious news because it tells of what incredible things God has done for sinners in danger of perishing. But how does a person enter the blessings promised in the Gospel? The answer is through repentance and faith. In this study, we will explore the biblical teaching on these responses to the proclamation of the Gospel.

STUDY

Repentance

1. Look up the word repent in an English dictionary, and a Bible dictionary.

<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Bible>

2. What do the following scriptures teach about the importance of repentance?

a. Luke 5:32 _____

b. Luke 24:46-47 _____

c. Luke 15:7 _____

3. What do the following scriptures teach us about what repentance includes?

a. Acts 3:19 _____

b. Acts 26:20 _____

c. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 _____

4. Read the following scriptures and explain what they teach about sin.

- a. Romans 14:23 _____

 - b. James 4:17 _____

 - c. 1 John 3:4 _____

 - d. Romans 3:23 _____

5. 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- a. Where does repentance originate from (v. 25)?

 - b. What word reveals to us that God is free to grant repentance or not (v. 25)?

 - c. What two things does repentance lead to (vv. 25-26)?

6. Act 5:31 and Acts 11:18
- a. Why do some people repent when they hear the Gospel?

 - b. What blessings stated in these verses are accompanied by repentance?

7. 2 Corinthians 7:8-10
- a. Is it possible to have a false repentance?

 - b. What does Paul say the sorrow of the world leads to?

8. Matthew 27:3-5
- a. How was Judas' remorse different from the gospel repentance that leads to life?

 - b. What would make his remorse a true repentance?

Faith

Although we speak of repentance and faith as two different responses to the gospel, they are just two different sides to the same coin. Repentance is turning from sin. Faith is turning to Christ. To turn to Christ, you must turn from sin. You cannot repent without faith, and you cannot believe without repentance.

1. Hebrews 11:1

- a. What is Faith?

2. What do the following scriptures teach about the importance of faith? What are we unable to be, do, or have if we do not have faith?

- a. Mark 16:15-16 _____
- b. John 8:24 _____
- c. Acts 15:9 _____
- d. Acts 26:18 _____
- e. Romans 4:5 _____
- f. Romans 5:1 _____
- g. Galatians 3:2,14 _____
- h. Galatians 3:26 _____
- i. Ephesians 3:12 _____
- j. Hebrews 11:6 _____
- k. 1 John 5:4 _____

3. Ephesians 2:8-9

- a. What are we saved by? _____
- b. What are we saved through? _____
- c. Why do you think God saved sinners in this way (v. 9)?

4. John 5:44, 6:65

- a. What is Jesus teaching here?

- b. If you are trusting completely in Jesus Christ, where did your faith come from?
(Acts 18:27, Romans 12:3, Philippians 1:29, Romans 10:17)

5. John 3:18

- a. Will God hold people responsible who do not believe in Jesus Christ?

6. James 2:14-26

- a. Is there a kind of faith that some people possess that will not save them? If so, what is non-saving faith characterized by?

- b. Do demons (devils) believe in God? Does their belief save them?

- c. What must our faith produce for us to consider it the kind that saves?

Steps to Take

1. If you have never repented of your sins and put your trust in Jesus Christ to save you, now is the time. In Romans 10:13 it states, "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You can do this on your own or ask your discipling partner to do it with you. The important thing is to confess and turn away from the sin, and trust in Christ to grant you his righteousness and forgive your sins because His payment for your sin was done on the cross.
2. Discuss with your discipling partner what kind of things you can begin to do this week to express your faith in Jesus Christ. When you have come up with some ideas, pray together that the Lord may lead you in showing your faith in tangible ways.
3. Recite 2 Corinthians 5:21 to your discipling partner.

Scripture Memorization

Acts 17:30-31, "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not of your own doing; it is a gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Before your next session

1. Memorize Acts 17:30-31 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Work on these until you can repeat them word for word.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so you can discuss them with your partner.

3. Spend some time each day reading scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.

Session 1: Assurance of Salvation

“There is a great difference between presumption and full assurance. Full assurance is reasonable-it is based on solid ground. Presumption takes for granted and with brazen face pronounces that to be its own to which it has no right whatever. Beware, I pray you, of presuming that you are saved. If with your heart you trust in Jesus, then you are saved. But if you merely say, “I trust in Jesus,” it does not save you. If your heart is renewed, if you shall hate the things that you did once love, and love the things that you did once hate. IF you have really repented. If there is a thorough change of mind in you. If you are born again-then you have reason to rejoice-but if there is no vital change, no inward godliness-if there is no love to God, no prayer, no work of the Holy Spirit, then you’re saying, “I am saved,” is but your own assertion. It may delude but it will not deliver you.

Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

“How can I be sure I am a Christian?” I’m sure you would agree there are a few questions that are as vital as this one. But how can someone ever be sure that they are saved? If I were to ask you to prove to me that you’re married, you can do it in one of three ways. First, you could show me your marriage licenses. The license is an objective statement, signed by witnesses, that you were married to such and such on a particular date. Second, you can introduce me to your spouse. Third, you can just smile and say, “I know that I know that I know that I’m married!”

Now, if you showed me your marriage license but never showed me your spouse, I would start to get a little suspicious. I might think to myself, “I bet he/she just forged that license!” Or, if you introduced me to your spouse, but after going down to the courthouse I couldn’t find a record of your marriage, I could probably conclude that you were not married at all, but just living together. Or, if you went around with a big silly grin on your face declaring, “I know that I know that I know that I’m married”, but no one can find a license or has seen your spouse, they’d probably say, “He/She’s crazy! Lock him/her up!” To be able to prove that you are married, you need to be able to display all three. So too, three witnesses testify when you are saved: 1) the truth of God’s Word (marriage license), 2) signs of eternal life (physical evidence of a spouse), 3) and the witness of the Holy Spirit (inner conviction).

STUDY

The Promises of God’s Word

1. John 3:16
 - a. What does God promise to the person who believes in Jesus Christ?

2. John 5:24
- a. What does God promise to the person who hears God's word and believes it?

3. Romans 10:9-10
- a. What does God promise to the person who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and believes in his heart that God raised Him from the dead?

4. Numbers 23:19
- a. What attributes of God are mentioned in these verses?

- b. According to these verses, will God keep His promises? _____

The Signs of Eternal Life

1. 1 John 5:13
- a. Why did John write the letter of 1 John?

- b. Read 1 John 1:6; 1:8; 1:10; 2:4; 2:9; and 4:20. What do these scriptures teach is not a reliable sign that a person possesses eternal life?

The first thing that a paramedic does when they approach an accident is to check the injured person for vital signs, whether he/she has a heartbeat or is breathing. Even so, we must check ourselves to see whether we possess the vital signs of eternal life.

2. Read 1 John 2:3-5
- a. How can we know that we have come to know Him and are in Him?

3. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34
- a. What covenant is being described in this passage (v.31)? _____
- _____
- b. Under the New Covenant, what will God do with His law (v.33)? _____
- _____
- c. What do you think it means for God to write His law on our hearts? How is this different from God writing His law on tablets of stone?

Definitions

Covenant: A binding contract between two parties.

Old Covenant: Between God and Israel. Israel would be God's chosen people and He would be their God. The law was given on Mt. Sinai.

New Covenant: Between God and the Christian. Jesus was sent to the world to resolve sin. The new covenant promises salvation from sin and eternal life.

4. Read 1 John 3:9

- a. What is a truly born-again person unable to do? _____
- b. What do you think it means to “practice sin?”

- c. Does this mean that a Christian life is sinless?

- d. What kind of life will a true Christian live?

5. Read 1 John 3:14

- a. What vital sign of eternal life is found in this verse? _____
- b. What does love for the brethren look like?

6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

- a. What is true about every person who is in Christ?

- b. What does this verse mean by “a new creature”?

- c. According to this verse, would you expect much to change if you were truly converted to Christ?

7. Read Ezekiel 36:26-27

- a. What happens to our hearts when God saves us?

- b. Have you experienced the affections of your heart change toward God, His word, His people, and His will? Explain.

The Witness of the Holy Spirit

1. Read Romans 8:15-16

- a. What does the Spirit bear witness with? _____
- b. What truth does the spirit bear witness to? _____

c. What does this witness of the spirit cause us to do (v.15)?

d. Has this experiential reality ever taken place in your life? Explain.

Steps to Take

1. Take the time with your discipling partner to discuss the three forms of assurance:
 - a. 1) The promise of the Word, 2) The signs of eternal life, and 3) The witness of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Seek to discover if you possess these three forms of assurance.
 - c. Acknowledge to your discipling partner if you are unsure whether you possess the signs of eternal life or the witness of the Spirit. Perhaps he/she will be able to bring some objectivity that you lack.
2. If you find that you possess these forms of assurance, thank God with your discipling partner for assuring you that you are indeed saved. Resolve to stay close to Jesus so that your assurance does not diminish over time.
3. If through examination, you realize you are not a Christian
 - a. Repent of your sins and call on God for mercy.
 - b. Continue to seek the Lord until these forms of assurance are yours.
4. Recite Acts 17:30-31 and Ephesians 2:8-9
5. Continue to review the memory verses so you do not forget them.

Scripture Memorization

1 John 5:13, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Before your next session

1. Memorize 1 John 5:13.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so you can discuss them with your partner.
3. Spend some time each day reading scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.

Session 2: Abiding in the Word – Part 1

This Book 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 object; our good is its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is given you in life and will be opened in the judgment and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

-Unknown Author

INTRODUCTION

Jesus said in John 8:31, "If you abide in my Word, you are truly my disciple." To abide in the Word is to continue to hear it for the purpose of obeying it. As a new Christian, you must cultivate the godly habit of taking in God's Word on a regular and consistent basis.

1 Peter 1:23 states, "since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God." Again 1 Peter 2:2 says, "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow into salvation." Not only does God use His Word to cause us to be born again, but He also uses it to cause us to grow in respect to our salvation. In our session on abiding in the Word, we are going to examine five different ways we can receive God's Word: hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating.

STUDY

Hearing God's Word

1. Read the following scriptures and record the result of hearing God's word.
 - a. Luke 8:21 _____
 - b. Luke 11:28 _____
 - c. Romans 10:17 _____
 - d. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 _____
2. In reading this scripture, do you think a Christian should just stay home from church and just read the bible privately? _____

Reading God's Word

1. What does Jesus expect His disciples and us to do with God's Word? (Matthew 12:3,5; 19:4; 22:31; Mark 12:26) _____
2. Read Matthew 4:4. How much of God's Word did Jesus assume we would read and live on? _____
3. What is promised to those who read the book of Revelation (Revelation 1:3)?

"I want to know one thing, the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. Give me that book! At any price give me the Book of God!"

-John Wesley

4. Read Job 23:12.
 - a. How valuable did Job esteem God's Word to be in his life?

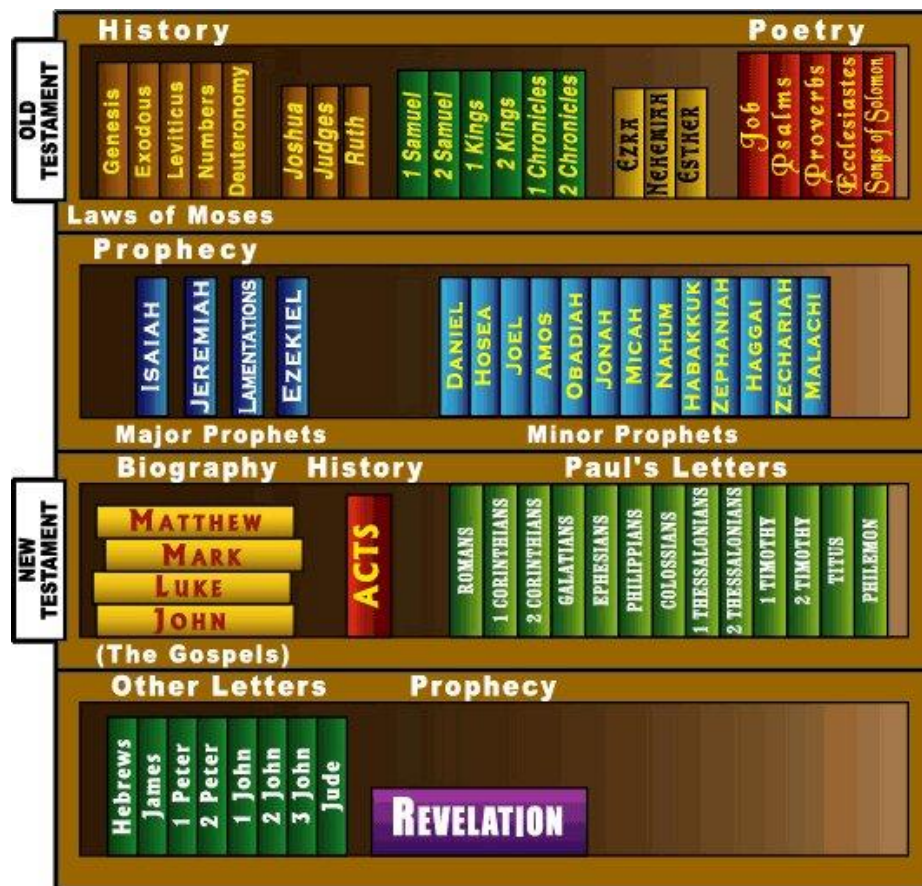
 - b. Are you willing to esteem God's Word as Job did? Yes or No
5. Reflection: Do you take time each day to read a portion of God's Word? Yes or No.
If not, will you commit today? Yes or No.
**Be honest with your discipling partner. They can help you design a daily reading plan and help you stay accountable to your plan.*

Studying God's Word

1. Read Ezra 7:10
 - a. Why did Ezra study God's law?

2. Read 2 Timothy 2:15.
 - a. What kind of character must we have to present ourselves approved by God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed? _____
 - b. What must we do with the Word to not be ashamed before the Lord?

- Study the image below and get acquainted with the books of the bible and what kind of literature they are. If you have any questions, ask your discipling partner.



STEPS TO TAKE

- Commit to being present at a local church where the Word of God is being taught.
- Form a plan for your reading of God's Word. Your discipling partner can help you design your plan and hold you accountable for your daily reading.
 - What time of the day will you commit to reading your bible? _____
 - What book will you begin with? _____
 - Where will you study God's Word? Choose a location where you will not be interrupted. _____

**Studying the Bible is a daily routine and discipline you will have to get used to. Do not get discouraged if you miss a day or cannot read for as long as you like. Pick up where you left off and build the routine to where it will become a natural part of your day. Pray for God to help you adhere to your plan and give you an understanding of His Word as you enter each day.*
- Recite 1 John 5:13.
- Begin to memorize the order of the books of the Bible.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth..”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:15
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so you can discuss them with your partner.
3. Make sure you are present when your church meets this week so that you can hear God’s word being preached. Do not just listen to the message but study it. Take notes on the sermon and study the scripture being shared in church.

5 Bible Reading Devotional Questions & The Character & Nature of the Trinity

By Jeanne Hallman

Here are the questions I use to lead me closer to the Lord and help lead my way in all aspects of my life.

It really helps meto focus on knowing God, who He is... on knowing what is true verses lies and false ways of the world... also it helps me keep my thoughts, priorities and emotions in check, and then I use it to make specific application to what I am facing in my life ... and then I pray the scripture and what was just read. Praying the word is powerful.

Do this with a book of the bible. Read chapter by chapter and let the fullness unfold.

Let me know what the Lord is saying to You!

I will be praying for you and for hearing, rest, insight and growth in your walk with Jesus!

5 BIBLE QUESTIONS FOR MY DAILY BIBLE READING

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me" John 14.6

1. What did I learn about God today in my reading today?

(This provides the WAY. The way to the Father through Jesus with leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit)

Who is God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit? What is His character and/or His nature being shown?

How does this portion of scripture that I am reading show me the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit?

How does the Father point to the Son and/or to the Holy Spirit? How does the Son point to the Father and/or

Holy Spirit?

2. What did I learn as lessons about life from today's reading?

(This looks at the truth: What is true? What is His truth verses the lies of Satan and the lies of the world?)

3. What did I learn about myself, my attitudes, priorities, fears, failures and desires?

(This is a time of reflection and self-examination.)

4. Is there a lesson that I can apply today?

(Application of the word gives you the newness of life Jesus came to give you. Apply the word now to your life, to all that you are facing, each and every circumstance and situation.)

5. What can I take from my reading in the scripture and pray back to God?
(Make this your personal prayer. Take a portion of the scripture you've just read and make it your prayer, literally.)

In all this.... you will see wondrous things from His word and you will know God! Psalm 119.18.

Session 2: Abiding in the Word – Part 2

“My mind being now more open and enlarged, I began to read the Holy Scriptures upon my knees, laying aside all other books and praying over, if possible, every line and Word. This proved food indeed and drink indeed to my soul. I daily received fresh life, light and power from above. I got more true knowledge from reading the Book of God in one month--than I could ever have acquired from all the writings of men!”

George Whitefield

INTRODUCTION

In our last session, we explored the ideas of hearing, reading, and studying God’s Word. In this session, we are going to continue to discuss how we can enrich our lives with God’s Word by memorizing it and meditating on it.

STUDY

Memorizing God’s Word

By now you have memorized several verses of scripture and have learned by first-hand experience how valuable it is to be able to recall God’s Word to your mind at any time.

1. Read the following scriptures, and record the benefits that accompany memorizing scripture:

- a. 2 Corinthians 3:18 _____
- b. Psalm 119:9,11 _____
- c. Psalm 119:97-98 _____
- d. Proverbs 22:17-19 _____
- e. What other scripture can you find to support the benefits of memorizing scripture:

Many people complain that they are just unable to memorize God’s Word. They feel that their minds do not have the capacity. However, have they memorized an address, phone number, names of family members, birth dates, social security number, or their route to and from work or school? The truth is that if we apply ourselves, we can all commit God’s Word to memory. Let’s say a wealthy billionaire agreed to pay you \$1,000 for every verse you memorize this week. How do you think you’d respond? Do you think your ability to memorize scripture may have

improved a little with that motivation? If money can motivate us, the spiritual good of our souls and others should motivate us even more!

So, how can we memorize God's Word? Here are some practical suggestions.

1. Write out the verse on a piece of paper or an index card. Read the verse out loud several times until you can repeat it without looking at it. Type out the verse and see if you can type it out perfectly. Pull out your card when you exercise, go for a walk, in line at the bank and review your verse. It could take up to 100 repetitions before you can commit the verse to memory.
2. Create a wallpaper on your phone or computer or print out the verse and place where you commonly go like a bathroom mirror or kitchen sink. As you brush your teeth or do the dishes you will have the opportunity to study the verse.
3. Create a song to memorize the verse. We all have memories of a jingle we've heard on radio or television. The reason they use it is because it is a way to help people remember the name of their company and what they do. You can apply the same to memorizing scripture.

Several approaches may make it easier for you to memorize scripture that is not listed here. In all your memorizing, remember the goal is not to see how many verses you can memorize as that can only lead to spiritual pride. The goal is to store God's Word in your heart so that you can commune with God and serve Him throughout the day.

Meditating on God's Word

The Scriptures advocate for meditating on Scripture. Biblical meditation is thinking deeply about the meaning of God's word and its application in your life. Meditation can be like a craftsman who takes a good look at a dazzling jewel, turning it from angle to angle, and polishing the diamond to view all its beauty. When drinking tea, reading the bible is like one dip of a tea bag in hot water. Meditation is when you let the tea bag soak in the water until all the rich flavor is extracted.

1. Read Joshua 1:8
 - a. What was Joshua not to let depart from his mouth? _____
 - b. How often was Joshua to meditate on it? _____
 - c. Why was Joshua called to meditate on it? _____
 - d. What would the result be of his meditation? _____
2. Read Psalm 1:1-3
 - a. How does the blessed man regard God's Law? _____
 - b. What does he do with it? _____
 - c. What will meditation produce in his life? _____

"Oftentimes in reading [the Bible], every word seemed to touch my heart. I felt a harmony between something in my heart, and those sweet and powerful words. I seemed often to see so much light exhibited in every sentence, and such refreshing food communicated, that I could not get along in reading; often dwelling long on one sentence, to see the wonders contained in it; yet almost every sentence seemed to be full of wonders."

Jonathan Edwards

To meditate on God's Word, you can utilize the vowels in the alphabet (AEIOU).

- **A**sk questions about the passage.
- **E**mphasize various words.
- **I**n your own words (paraphrase)
- **O**ther passages (cross-references)
- **U**se the passage (application)

Using John 3:16 as an example

Ask questions about the passage: Who does God Love? How did God show His love? What will those who believe in Christ receive?

Emphasize various words. Read the verse over and over emphasizing a different word each time. The first time you might emphasize, "For **God** so loved the world." The next time, "For God **so** loved the world." And the next time, "For God so **loved** the world."

In your own words. You might paraphrase this: "God so loved the world that He gave us the greatest gift imaginable, Jesus Christ, so those who believe will not go to hell, but instead live with God forever in heaven."

Other passages: Look for cross-references in the margin of your bible. For example, Romans 5:8 sheds additional light onto the passage, "but God shows his love for us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Use the passage. Determine how the passage applies to your life. Here is another acronym to use when looking at how to apply the Scripture in your life. This is the **SPECK** method.

1. Is there a **SIN** for me to avoid?
2. Is there a **PROMISE** for me to claim?
3. Is there an **EXAMPLE** for me to follow? Or not to follow?
4. Is there a **COMMAND** for me to obey?
5. Is there any **KNOWLEDGE** I should pursue?

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take time to meditate on Joshua 1:8 with your discipling partner by following the guidelines mentioned.
2. Make a conscious commitment to continue to memorize Scripture regularly for the good of your soul and the benefit of others.
3. Recite 2 Timothy 2:15 to your discipling partner.
4. Recite the books of the New Testament with your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Joshua 1:8, This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Joshua 1:8
2. Memorize the books of the Old Testament from Genesis to Job in order.
3. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so you can discuss them with your partner.
4. Make sure you are present when your church meets this week so that you can hear God's word being preached. Do not just listen to the message but study it. Take notes on the sermon and study the scripture being shared in church.
5. After you read the Bible, spend some time meditating on it, and jotting down your reflections in a journal. Share your thoughts with your discipling partner when you meet next.

Session 2: Prayer

"It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business in the morning and the last in the evening. Guard yourself against such false and deceitful thoughts that keep whispering, 'Wait a while. In an hour or so I will pray. I must first finish this or that.' Thinking such thoughts we get away from prayer into other things that will hold us and involve us till the prayer of the day comes to naught."

Martin Luther

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness."

Martin Luther

"The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity...if we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, 'Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.'"

Hudson Taylor

"You may as soon find a living man that does not breathe, as a living Christian that does not pray."

Matthew Henry

INTRODUCTION

Without a doubt, the two most vital practices for every Christian to maintain communion with God are the Word of God and prayer. Having discussed abiding in God's Word, let's turn our attention to the power of prayer. Prayer is one of the most vital and precious aspects of the Christian life. For by it, mountains are thrown into the sea, and the vilest of men are made strong and mighty. The goal of this section is for you to discover what the Scriptures teach about how we should pray, and why we should pray, and then encourage you in the joy and blessings of prayer.

For those in Christ, prayer is something you must learn to do. Our entire lives up until our new birth have been in rebellion to God. We were not able to have, nor did we desire any saving relationship with Him. But now we have been brought near and reconciled with our majestic and holy God through Jesus Christ. As a result, we now have access to Him in Prayer. Prayer is the most wonderful and blessed privilege that every Christian should joyfully participate in regularly. Prayer in its most basic form is communing with God.

STUDY

1. Read Matthew 6:9. The Lord's prayer is often called the "model prayer." This is because Jesus tells us to "pray this way." If we take our Lord's advice, we should take the principles of this prayer and apply them to our own prayer lives.
 - a. What title does Jesus use when addressing God (compare Matthew 7:11 and Romans 1:7)? _____
 - b. What does this say about our relationship with Him and how we can approach Him in prayer (compare Ephesians 3:12)?

 - c. Using a dictionary, look up the word "hallowed". What importance is Jesus giving to the Father's name?

2. Read Matthew 6:10
 - a. What is the first thing Jesus teaches us to pray for? _____
 - b. What do you think it would look like for God's kingdom to come on the earth?

 - c. From this verse should we conclude that the point of prayer is to get our will done (compare 1 John 5:14-15 and Luke 22:42)? _____
 - d. Knowing that God is good, what can we expect from His will (compare Romans 8:28)? _____
 - e. If we are putting God's will before our own, how might this affect what we are praying for? _____
3. Read Matthew 6:11
 - a. What does asking God for "today's bread" and not tomorrow's teach you?

 - b. What does this simple petition say about our dependence upon God? How should this view affect our prayers?

 - c. God does not promise us riches or great prosperity in this life. What does this petition suggest we should pray for?

4. Read Matthew 6:12

- a. What does Jesus teach us to pray for in this verse? _____
- b. Why do you think a believer would continue to ask for forgiveness of sins?

- c. What does 1 John 1:9 teach us God will do when we confess our sins to Him?

5. Read Matthew 6:13

- a. What does this verse teach about our dependence on God?

- b. What does it teach about human weakness?

Notice how the prayer is divided, the first half of the prayer is a prayer to God and Him to be glorified, while the second half is about us and our needs before Him. What does this suggest about our priority in prayer?

6. What do the following scriptures teach us about how we should pray?

- a. James 1:6-7 _____
- b. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 _____
- c. Colossians 4:2 _____
- d. Colossians 4:12 _____
- e. Luke 11:2-4 _____
- f. Hebrews 4:16 _____
- g. Philippians 4:6 _____
- h. 1 John 5:14-15 _____
- i. How do these verses challenge you regarding your own prayer life?

7. What attributes of God do the following Scriptures reveal we should know and plead for in prayer?

- a. Genesis 18:22-26 _____
- b. Exodus 32:11-14 _____
- c. Matthew 7:7-11 _____

8. Read Luke 5:16; 6:12 and Matthew 14:23. If we look to Jesus as our example in prayer, how will it shape our own prayer lives?

9. What do the following Scriptures teach us about who we should pray for?
- a. Ephesians 6:18 _____
 - b. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 _____
 - c. James 5:16 _____
10. What do the following Scriptures teach us about why God may not answer prayer?
- a. 1 Peter 3:7 _____
 - b. James 1:6 _____
 - c. James 4:2-3 _____
 - d. Psalm 66:18 _____
 - e. Proverbs 15:29 _____
11. What do the following Scriptures teach about how we should not pray?
- a. Matthew 6:5-9 _____
 - b. Matthew 6:7 _____

Praying through the Scriptures

Praying through Scripture is a very helpful tool to fuel and inspire prayer. The idea is to read over a passage of scripture and pray over the truths presented in it. For example, The Lord's prayer begins with "Our Father." One could contemplate how wonderful it is that we know God as our Father and how compassionate and gracious He is to us. This then could turn into a prayer of praise and thanksgiving that we have such a loving and caring God for our Father.

The Psalms are bursting forth with emotive petitions to God. The Prophets thunder forth attributes like justice, wisdom, mercy, and wrath that should elicit our praise. The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) ring forth with truths about Jesus and His shed blood upon the cross. The epistles (letters to the churches) declare the truths and doctrines of our salvation and our mighty Redeemer. All these texts are ready for you to meditate upon and turn into prayer with a heart hungry for God.

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Discuss with your discipling partner what your prayer life is like right now, and how you would like it to change. Ask him/her for ideas and suggestions.
2. Take time today with your discipling partners to pray through some Scripture. Even if it seems a bit awkward at first, try to follow your partner's example, and take a turn praying through Scripture with him/her.
3. Discuss with your discipling partner how your Scripture memorization and meditation went last week.
4. Recite Joshua 1:8 to your discipling partner.
5. Recite the books of the Old Testament from Genesis to Job to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Matthew 6:9-13, “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Matthew 6:9-13
2. Memorize the books of the Old Testament in order from Psalms to Malachi.
3. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so you can discuss them with your partner.
4. Jot down in your prayer journal any insight from your time of praying through the Scripture. Add to your journal this week the people and situations you would like to pray for.

Session 3: The Attributes of God – Part 1&2

“God must speak to us before we have any liberty to speak to Him. He must disclose to us who He is before we can offer Him what we are in acceptable worship. The worship of God is always a response to the Word of God. Scripture wonderfully directs and enriches our worship.”

John Stott

Part 1

INTRODUCTION

Jesus said in John 4:23-24, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” Jesus emphasized that worship of God must be in spirit and truth, in the heart and the head, with affection and intellect. In other words, if we are to worship God, we must know Him and love Him.

In this session, we will focus our attention on knowing God by exploring His attributes. In one sense we will never be able to know God fully in this life, because He is an infinite being and unfathomable in His ways. In Romans 11:33 Paul states, “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!” Yet, by diligently searching the Scriptures, we can know Him more and more. The Christian must grow in his knowledge of God through diligent study for the rest of his life.

STUDY

God is One

1. Read Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 43:10 and 1 Timothy 2:5
 - a. What do these Scriptures teach us about the being of God?

God is Triune

1. Read 1 Corinthians 8:6, John 6:27, 1 Peter 1:2.
 - a. According to these verses, who is the Father?

2. How do each of the following Scriptures identify Jesus?

- a. John 1:1 _____
- b. John 1:18 _____
- c. John 20:28 _____
- d. Romans 9:5 _____
- e. Philippians 2:6 _____
- f. Colossians 1:15 _____
- g. Colossians 2:9 _____
- h. Titus 2:13 _____
- i. Hebrews 1:3 _____
- j. Hebrews 1:8 _____

3. How do each of the following scriptures identify the Holy Spirit?

- a. Acts 5:3-4

- b. 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 6:19

4. Read 2 Corinthians 13:14

- a. Which person is mentioned first in this verse?

- b. Would it be right to mention the Son and the Spirit in a benediction to the church like this with the Father if they were not equal with Him?

Definition

Benediction – A short invocation for divine help, blessing and guidance.

5. Read Mark 1:9-11

- a. Record the unique activity the Father, Son, and Spirit are doing in this passage. _____

There are several errors we must avoid in understanding the nature of God.

1. God is not one person who reveals Himself under different names or forms, but three distinct persons. Sometimes this error is found by saying that God is like the same man who is known as Sweetheart to his wife, daddy to his children, and boss to his employees. This error is called Modalism.
2. God is not three Gods but one. This error is called Polytheism.
3. Jesus is not a created being, and the Holy Spirit is not an inanimate force. This error is called Arianism. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are God.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct persons who are distinguishable from one another, and yet they share the same divine essence and attributes.

God is Creator and Sustainer

1. Read Genesis 1:1 and Isaiah 40:28. Since God is the Creator of all things, what implication does that have for your life?

2. What do the following scriptures reveal about God's activity?

- a. Colossians 1:17 _____
- b. Hebrews 1:3 _____
- c. Acts 17:25,28 _____

3. What are the implications for you that God sustains His creation every moment?

God is Eternal, Self-Existing and Unchanging

1. Read Psalms 90:2. What does this verse teach us about God?

2. Read Exodus 3:14.

- a. What is God's name revealed here? _____
- b. What does that name teach us? _____

3. Read Acts 17:24-25. What does this verse teach us about God?

4. Read Malachi 3:6. What do we learn about God here?

5. What are the practical implications for your life that you can draw from God's eternity, self-existence, and unchanging character?

God is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient

1. Read Genesis 17:1 and Jeremiah 32:17. How much power does God possess?

2. Read 1 Kings 8:27 and Psalm 139:7-10. What do they teach us about God?

Definition

Omnipotent – having unlimited power; able to do anything.

Omnipresent – present everywhere simultaneously.

Omniscient – having total knowledge; knowing everything.

3. Read Psalm 147:5, Isaiah 40:28, Isaiah 46:9-10 and 1 John 3:20. What do they reveal about God?

4. What are the practical implications for your life that you can draw from God's omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience?

God is Holy

The root meaning of the word holy is "to be set apart." When we say that God is holy, we are saying that He is utterly set apart from everything in His creation. God is essentially different from everything He has made. There is a greater difference between God and the most magnificent archangel that stands in His presence, than between the archangel and a cockroach. God is truly incomparable! Further, God does not decide to be holy. He is holy. It is part of His essential nature. For God to be unholy, He would have to cease to be God. Not only is God unique among all His creation, He is also separate from everything sinful.

1. Read Isaiah 6:1-5.
 - a. Describe what Isaiah saw in vs. 1-2.

b. What attribute of God were the angels calling out to one another?

c. Why do you think they repeated it three times?

d. What was Isaiah's response to this vision (vs. 5)?

2. Read Isaiah 57:15.

a. What is true about God's name?

b. How is God described in the first part of this verse?

c. What does this description communicate to you about the holiness of God?

3. What does God's holy nature cause Him to do?

a. Psalms 5:4-6 _____

b. Psalms 11:5 _____

c. Proverbs 6:16-19 _____

d. Hebrews 1:9 _____

4. How do you think you should respond to God's holiness?

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take time right now to praise God with your discipling partner for those attributes of God that appear most precious to you currently. Respond to who God is in prayer together.
2. Recite Matthew 6:9-13 with your discipling partner.
3. Recite all the books of the Old Testament with your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Deuteronomy 6:4-5, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-5.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so you can discuss them with your partner.
3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.
4. Review the attributes of God and recall what each attribute reveals to you about Him.

Part 2

“God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean.”

Jonathan Edwards

INTRODUCTION

In the last discipling section, we studied God as the One who is Creator, Sustainer, Self-existent, Eternal, Unchanging, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Holy. This week we are going to explore some more of His attributes to find our delight and satisfaction in Him alone.

STUDY

God is Just

The wrath of God is His righteous anger provoked by sin. There are more references in Scripture to God’s wrath, fury, and anger than to His love and tenderness. Since God is infinitely holy and righteous, everything opposed to His righteousness, must necessarily provoke His wrath.

1. What do the following scriptures teach about God’s wrath?
 - a. John 3:36 _____
 - b. Romans 2:5-8 _____

- c. Romans 5:9 _____
- d. Ephesians 5:5-6 _____
- e. Revelation 14:9-11 _____

The justice of God is that attribute of God whereby He gives to every man exactly what he deserves and punishes all transgression, wherever He finds it. God never has or ever will do any wrong to His creatures. Thomas Watson stated, *"The wicked will drink an ocean of wrath, but not sip one drop of injustice."*

2. What do you learn about God's justice from the following Scriptures?

- a. Exodus 34:7 _____
- b. Deuteronomy 32:3-4 _____
- c. Psalms 89:14 _____
- d. Matthew 13:41-42 _____
- e. Hebrews 10:26-27; 30-31 _____
- f. Revelation 20:11-15 _____

God is Love

The love of God is that divine attribute that moves Him to freely give himself to others for their good.

1. Read 1 John 4:8-16

- a. According to these verses, who is God?

- b. How is this truth different from saying that God possesses love?

2. What do the following scriptures teach regarding God's goodness to all His creatures?

- a. Psalm 145:9,15-16 _____
- b. Matthew 5:44-45 _____
- c. Acts 14:16-17 _____

3. Read John 3:16, Romans 5:8 and 1 John 4:10.

- a. What is the greatest expression of God's love for sinners?

- b. If a person is looking for evidence of God's love for him/her, where should they look?

4. What does God's love prompt Him to do for believers?

- a. Jeremiah 31:3 _____
- b. Romans 8:35-39 _____
- c. Ephesians 1:4-5 _____

- d. Ephesians 2:4-5 _____
- e. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 _____
- f. 1 John 3:1 _____
- g. Revelation 3:19 _____

God is Merciful and Gracious

God's mercy and grace have much in common, but they are not the same thing. You might explain the difference like this: "Mercy is not getting what you deserve; grace is getting what you don't deserve." Mercy is the ready inclination of God to relieve the misery of His fallen creatures.

1. What do the following scriptures teach about God's mercy?

- a. Romans 9:15-18 _____
- b. Titus 3:5 _____
- c. 1 Peter 1:3 _____
- d. 1 Peter 2:9-10 _____

The grace of God has been defined as "the eternal and absolute free favor of God manifested in the bestowal of spiritual and eternal blessings to the guilty and unworthy." A helpful acrostic for **GRACE** is "**G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense."

2. Read the following Scriptures and record what you learn about the characteristics of God's grace.

- a. Acts 20:24 _____
- b. Romans 6:14 _____
- c. Romans 11:6 _____
- d. 2 Timothy 1:9 _____
- e. James 4:6 _____

3. Read the following scriptures and record what you learn as the effects of God's grace.

- a. Acts 15:11 _____
- b. Galatians 1:6 _____
- c. Romans 3:24 _____
- d. Acts 18:27 _____
- e. 2 Corinthians 4:15 _____
- f. Ephesians 3:7-8 _____
- g. Romans 12:6-8 _____
- h. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 _____
- i. Hebrews 13:9 _____
- j. 2 Thessalonians 2:16 _____

God is Faithful and Truthful

1. Read Psalm 119:75, 1 Corinthians 10:13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24. What do these Scriptures tell us about God's faithfulness?

2. Read Numbers 23:19, Psalm 86:15, Psalm 119:160, John 17:17, and Hebrews 6:18. Summarize what you have discovered about God's Truth.

God is Sovereign

The sovereignty of God is His absolute freedom to do as He pleases, and His absolute control over the actions of all His creatures.

1. How extensive is God's sovereignty (Psalm 103:19, Daniel 4:35 and Ephesians 1:11)?

2. From the following Scriptures, what areas is God sovereign over?

- a. Isaiah 40:26 _____
- b. Job 1:12 _____
- c. Proverbs 21:1 _____
- d. Genesis 29:31; 1 Samuel 1:4-5 _____
- e. Proverbs 16:33 _____
- f. Psalm 75:6-7 _____
- g. 1 Corinthians 12:7 _____
- h. Psalm 139:16 _____
- i. Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 13:20-21 _____
- j. Genesis 50:20 _____
- k. Acts 13:48, Romans 9:22-24, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 _____

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take time right now to praise and worship God for who He has revealed Himself to be in all His perfection.
2. Recite Deuteronomy 6:4-5 to your discipling partner. See if you can recite any previously memorized verses.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Exodus 34:6-7, “The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Exodus 34:6-7
2. Memorize the books of the Old Testament in order.
3. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so you can discuss them with your partner.
4. Spend time each day reading through Scripture and spend time with God talking about what you have read.

Session 3: Delighting in God

"It is one thing to have a lot of information about God, but it is another thing to bask in the warmth and reality of His presence."

A.W. Tozer

INTRODUCTION

Having studied the attributes of God, we could easily make the mistake of thinking that our pursuit of God is merely intellectual, devoid of the affections of the heart. Nothing could be further from the truth! The truth is that God wants us to find Him to be our greatest treasure and the supreme satisfaction of our souls.

All the things we do in the Christian life: reading and studying Scripture, prayer, fasting, being involved in the local church, and spreading the gospel are never to be done as some kind of distasteful duty which we must do because we are supposed to. God wants us to experience Him in all these things as the delight and satisfier of our souls. When a person is saved, God grants him/her spiritual taste buds which love to feed on Christ.

STUDY

1. As you study the following Scripture record what you learn about Jesus' relationship with the Father.
 - a. Luke 5:16 _____
 - b. Luke 10:21 _____
 - c. John 4:34 _____
 - d. John 17: 24-26 _____
 - e. Psalm 40:7-8 _____
2. Do you think God would have us follow Christ's example in how He related to His Father? Why?

3. What has God done in the New Birth to enable us to delight in God? (see Ephesians 1:18-19, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Titus 3:4-7)

4. Read Psalm 16:11 and answer the following questions.
 - a. Where is the fullness of joy to be found?

[illegible]

b. What will we discover at God's right hand?

[illegible]

c. Have you ever experienced this? Explain

5. Read Psalm 37:4 and answer the following questions.

a. What command do we find in this verse?

What promise is connected to this command?

b. What promise is connected to this command?

If you delight in the Lord, what do you think your heart will desire?

c. If you delight in the Lord, what do you think your heart will desire?

6. Read Psalm 100 and answer the following questions.

a. How should we relate to God (vv.1-2)?

How can we express our joy in God (v.4)?

b. How can we express our joy in God (v.4)?

What 3 truths about God should cause our joy and praise?

c. What 3 truths about God should cause our joy and praise?

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

7. Read the following Scriptures and record what believers delight in.

a. Nehemiah 1:11 _____

b. Psalm 16:3

c. Psalm 94:19

d. Psalm 111:2

e. Psalm 119:35_____

f. Isaiah 58:2

g. Jeremiah 15:16 _____

8. Read Matthew 13:44 and answer the following questions.

a. What does Jesus say the treasure represents in this parable?

b. What must the man in the parable do to obtain the treasure?

c. Does the man consider it a great sacrifice to sell all he has to buy the treasure? What is his attitude? Why does he feel this way?

9. Read Philippians 3:7-8 and answer the following questions.

a. What change had taken place in Paul's heart since he was converted?

b. What words does Paul use to describe how he views knowing Christ?

10. Read Philippians 4:4 and answer the following questions.

a. What are we commanded to do in this verse?

b. How often are we to do it?

c. What is our rejoicing to be in?

11. Read 1 Peter 1:8 and answer the following questions.

a. Even though believers can't see God, what three things are true to them?

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

b. How does Peter describe our joy?

c. Have you ever experienced this?

12. Read 1 Peter 2:1-2 and answer the following questions.

a. What does God want us to long for?

b. Why should we long for it?

c. What must we be willing to do (v.1)?

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Discuss with your discipling partner how little or how much you delight in, take pleasure in, rejoice in, and value Jesus Christ. When do you find yourself delighting in Him most? When do you find yourself delighting in Him less?

2. Discuss with your discipling partner what steps you want to take this week to increase your joy in God.
3. Recite Exodus 34:6-7 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received while memorizing it.
4. Recite some of the other verses you have memorized to your discipling partner.
5. Recite the books of the Bible from beginning to end to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Psalm 37:4, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Psalm 37:4. Work on these verses until you can repeat them perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.
4. Seek your joy in God this week. Do not be content with heartless duty. Seek to find your delight in Him.

Session 4: Obeying Jesus

INTRODUCTION

“The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are at opposite sides of the same coin.”

A.W. Tozer

In this Session we are going to focus on the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and how each disciple of Christ must respond to Him. The title "Lord" means Master. A disciple's relationship to his Lord is like a slave's relationship to his master. Because Jesus Christ is Lord, He must be obeyed in every area of life. Christ has made His will known in the Scriptures, and it is as we obey the Word of God that we obey Christ. Jesus commanded His people to teach every disciple to obey everything that He had commanded them (Matthew 28:19).

It is important to remember that our obedience to Christ is not the root of our salvation, but rather the fruit of our salvation. We cannot earn or deserve salvation by obeying Christ. We cannot ever truly obey Christ from the heart until He has first saved us and given us new life. However, obedience to Christ is evidence that He has saved us by His grace.

STUDY

1. Luke 6:46-49.

a. What contradiction is Jesus pointing out in vs. 46?

b. If someone calls Christ Lord, does it really mean that it is his Lord? Why or why not?

c. What do you think the great storm mentioned in vs.48 & 49 refers to?

d. What do you think the house represents in these verses?

e. What is true of all those who survive this Great Storm?

f. What is true of all those whose house is destroyed in this Great Storm?

2. Matthew 7:21-23.

a. What does Jesus say is not a guarantee that we will enter the kingdom?

b. According to Jesus, who will enter the kingdom of heaven?

- c. Will there be only a few who are fooled into thinking they will enter the kingdom of heaven when they are instead cast out of His presence?

- d. What will those whom Christ casts away be putting their confidence in on the great Judgment Day? _____
- e. Instead of doing the will of the Father in vs. 21, what will characterize those who are lost (vs.23)? _____
- 3. Luke 8:19-21.
 - a. Who are those Jesus considered His mother and brothers?

 - b. According to Jesus, is it sufficient to merely hear God's Word?

- 4. John 14:15,21.
 - a. What causes a disciple to obey Jesus? _____
 - b. What promise does Jesus give those who keep His commandments?

- 5. John 3:36.
 - a. What does true belief in the Son include?

- 6. 1 John 2:3-6.
 - a. How can someone know that he has come to know Jesus?

 - b. What is true about the person who claims to know Jesus, but doesn't keep His commandments?

 - c. What is true of the person who keeps Christ's Word (v.5)?

 - d. How should a disciple of Jesus live (v.6)?

- 7. 1 John 3:9.
 - a. What is true of a person who has been born of God?

 - b. Why can't a born-again believer practice sin?

 - c. What do you think "God's seed" refers to?

- 8. Romans 10:9.
 - a. According to this verse, what must a person do to be saved?

-
-
- b. What do you think it would look like for a person to live as though Jesus were his/her Lord?
-
-
9. According to the Scripture that we have studied, can a person be saved who is not willing for Jesus to be Lord of his life? *Yes/No*
10. Do you think we will ever perfectly obey Christ in this life? Why or why not?
-
-
-
11. Is Jesus Christ your Lord? Have you surrendered your life to Him and are actively seeking to do His will?
-
-
-
-

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Discuss with your discipling partner any areas of your life that you have difficulty surrendering to Christ. What has He told you to do that you are resisting? Pray with your discipling partner for the help and power of the Holy Spirit to obey Christ in those difficult areas.
2. Since obedience flows from love to Jesus, discuss with your discipling partner what you can do this week to increase your love for Him.
3. Recite Psalm 37:4 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received while memorizing it.
4. Recite some of the other verses you have memorized to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Matthew 7:21-23. Work on these verses until you can repeat them perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read. Continue to cultivate the disciplines of bible study and meditation.
4. Focus on obedience to Christ's commands, this week especially those you find difficult. If you find yourself struggling during the week, call your discipleship partner and pray together.

Session 4: Overcoming Temptation

"We have no sufficient strength of our own. All our sufficiency is of God. We should stir up ourselves to resist temptations in a reliance upon God's all-sufficiency and the omnipotence of his might."

Matthew Henry

"Let our hearts admit, 'I am poor and weak. Satan is too subtle, too cunning, too powerful; he watches constantly for advantages over my soul. The world presses in upon me with all sorts of pressures, pleas, and pretenses. My own corruption is violent, tumultuous, enticing, and entangling. As it conceives sin, it wars within me and against me. Occasions and opportunities for temptation are innumerable. No wonder I do not know how deeply involved I have been with sin. Therefore, on God alone will I rely for my keeping. I will continually look to Him.'"

John Owen

INTRODUCTION

Even though we may have surrendered our lives to Jesus as Lord and are sincere and earnest about walking in a way that is pleasing to Him, we will still face many temptations in life. Unless we are careful, we can succumb to these temptations and fall into sin. In this session, we are going to look at the subject of sinful temptations, and how to overcome them by God's grace. There are several weapons God has given us to enable us to overcome temptation. In this section we will focus on the weapons of faith, the Word of God, and prayer.

STUDY

1. James 1:13-14

- a. Where does temptation come from?

- b. Can we ever hold God responsible for sin?

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13

- a. According to this verse, are we unique in the temptations we face?

- b. What will God not allow to happen to us?

- c. What will God provide for us when we are tempted?
-

For sin to take place, there must be both desire and opportunity. If a man lives in a home where their cabinets are filled with alcohol but has no desire to drink, he will not commit sin. Likewise, if he wants to drink, but can't get any alcohol, he will not commit the sin. One way to escape from temptation is to make sure we do not have the opportunity to commit a particular sin. Therefore, the person who has a problem with drinking might make sure no alcohol is brought into his home, as well as avoid spending time with friends who will offer him a drink. A young couple might decide not to spend time alone where they may be tempted to compromise their sexual purity. On the other hand, the Lord, in some cases, removes the desire for sinful activity. Some new Christians are sometimes completely delivered from the desire for drugs and alcohol as soon as they are born again, even though they were addicted to these substances beforehand. However, there will probably be many situations in your life where you will have to choose another way of escape because the desire and opportunity are still present. What are some weapons at our disposal for us to use against temptation?

3. Romans 6:1-14

- a. What is a Christian's relationship to sin? Why is it that we are not to continue in sin now that we have been born again?
-
-
- b. What is the word Paul uses in verse 5 to describe our baptism into Christ?
-
- c. Therefore, is Paul, speaking about water baptism in verses 3-4?
-
-
- d. What kind of baptism is he talking about? (See 1 Corinthians 12:13)
-
- e. What happened to our old self? What was the result of this?
-
-
- f. What are we commanded to do in verse 11? What is the command based on?
-
-
- g. Because we have died with Christ to sin, and have risen with him to God, what must we do now?
-
-

One of the chief weapons in our arsenal against temptation and sin is faith in what God has done for us in Christ. The word of God declares plainly that we have died to sin and risen to newness of life in Christ. We must consider this. This means we must reckon it to be true, even if it doesn't feel true in our experience. In Romans 6:1-14 it tells us that our relationship to sin has forever changed. We used to be like a private in the army under a cruel and demanding drill Sergeant. We were under his authority and had to do everything he told us to do. However, if you were discharged from the army, but if you happened to see the same Sergeant in civilian life, you would be under no obligation to do anything he told you to do. Likewise, although we were slaves to sin, before we came to know, Christ, now we have been delivered from sin's dominion and no longer must obey its lust. If we sin now, it is because we choose to. To successfully resist temptation, we must believe what God has said about us, and reckon it to be true in our daily lives.

4. Matthew 4:1–11

- a. How did Jesus respond to Satan every time he tempted Him to sin?

- b. Do you think Jesus had a bunch of Old Testament scrolls that he was reading to Satan? If not, how was he able to quote scripture? How can this help you in your fight against temptation?

5. Luke 22:39–46

- a. According to Jesus, what can we do to avoid entering temptation?

6. Matthew 26:41

- a. What two things are we told to do so that we might not enter temptation?

i. _____

ii. _____

- b. Why is it so important for us to do this?

7. Ephesians 6:10–18

- a. What is our shield in our battle against Satan?

- b. What is our sword?

- c. How must we wield our shield and sword in battle?

What are the three primary weapons God has given us to battle against temptation?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Discuss with your discipling partner the areas of your life in which you face the strongest temptations and what you can do when those temptations arise next.
2. Discuss with your discipling partner what specific verses of scripture would be best to apply to your Temptations. Begin to memorize choice verses of scripture that can aid you in your battle with sin.
3. Recite Matthew 7:21–23 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you receive while memorizing it.
4. Recite some other verses you have memorized to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

1 Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your disciple partner at your next session.
3. Spend some time each day, reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read. If you have a difficult time deciding what portion of scripture to read, study, and meditate on, get some ideas from your discipling partner.
4. Practice, using the weapons of faith, the Word and prayer in your fight against temptation this week. When you meet with your discipling partner next week, share with him/her how it went.

Session 4: Walking by the Spirit

"Read whatever chapter of scripture you will, and be ever so delighted with it - yet it will leave you as poor, as empty and unchanged as it found you unless it has turned you wholly and solely to the Spirit of God, and brought you into full union with and dependence upon him."

William Law

"...the mechanics of a Spirit filled life do not provide for a spasmodic filling that is, the Christian is not filled only when doing service such as preaching or teaching, but the Christian who is living a normal life of moment by moment yieldedness to God experiences a moment by moment fullness of the Spirit. No Christian can do with less and at the same time Live a victorious life."

Kenneth Wuest

"Without the Spirit of God we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind or chariots without steeds. Like branches without sap, we are withered. Like coals without fire, we are useless. As an offering without the sacrificial flame, we are unaccepted."

Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

Having discussed how we can successfully deal with temptation in our last session, we still need to study the part the Holy Spirit plays in our growth in holiness. Truly, apart from His ongoing empowering, we will never make progress in our Christian lives. Therefore, we must learn to walk by the Spirit.

STUDY

1. Galatians 5:16-24.
 - a. What do we need to do to avoid carrying out the desire of the flesh (16)?

 - b. Does our flesh desire the same thing as the Holy Spirit (17)?

 - c. Summarize in your own words what the flesh produces in our life (19-21).

 - d. What does the Spirit produce in our lives (22-23)? What does it mean to "live by the Spirit" (25)?

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- e. What do those who have been made alive spiritually by the work of the Spirit need to do (25)?

- 2. Galatians 6:8.
 - a. What will happen if we "sow to our own flesh"?

 - b. What will happen if we "sow to the Spirit"?

 - c. What does it mean to "sow to the Spirit"?

- 3. Romans 8:3-9.
 - a. What will walking by the Spirit enable the Christian to do?

 - b. What does Paul mean by "those who are according to the flesh" (5)?

 - c. What does he mean by "those who are according to the Spirit" (5)?

 - d. What is the difference between those who are according to the flesh and those who are according to the Spirit (5-8)?

 - e. Can a person be a Christian and not have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside him (9)?

 - f. Is a Christian "in the flesh"? Yes or No
- 4. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.
 - a. Where does the Holy Spirit dwell (19)?

 - b. What practical significance does this have for our lives (19-20)?

- 5. 2 Corinthians 3:18.
 - a. Who does the transforming work in a Christian's life?

- b. What is the believer's part of being transformed?
-
-
6. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8.
- a. What is the will of God (3)?
-
-
- b. What aspect of sanctification is Paul thinking of specifically (3)?
-
- c. For what purpose does God give His Spirit to us (7-8)?
-
-
7. Ephesians 5:18-20.
- a. What is the negative command (18)?
-
- b. What is the positive command (18)?
-
- c. A literal rendering of Eph. 5:18 would be "be being kept filled with the Spirit." It speaks of an ongoing continuous reality. What kinds of things do you think we might do that would prevent this from happening in our lives?
-
-
-
- d. What kinds of things are likely to take place in our lives when we are filled with the Spirit (19-21)?
-
-
8. Colossians 3:16-17.
- a. Notice the close parallel between this passage of Scripture and Ephesians 5:18-21. What has Paul substituted here for "be filled with the Spirit"?
-
- b. What does that teach you about how you can be filled with the Spirit?
-
-

To be filled with the Spirit means to be controlled by the Spirit, in much the same way that a drunk man is controlled by alcohol. We even refer to alcohol sometimes as "spirits". As Christians, we must make a conscious decision to yield to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to control our lives. If suddenly, your cat started barking and chasing cars, you might conclude that the spirit of a dog has somehow gotten into your cat! Likewise, when a sinner begins to pursue

holiness from the heart and desires to glorify Christ, you know that the Holy Spirit is at work within him. In Ephesians 4:28-32 we discover that the Holy Spirit can be grieved by things like stealing, unwholesome speech, and ungodly attitudes toward others. Therefore, to keep being filled with the Spirit, we must confess and repent of sin, and yield to Christ as Lord each moment.

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Discuss with your discipling partner how you can be filled with the Spirit throughout the day, especially when your flesh naturally rises to take control.
2. Determine that if you find yourself acting out of the flesh this week, you will confess and repent of your sin, and ask your Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). Also determine that you will let the word of Christ dwell richly within you so that you may be kept filled with the Spirit.
3. Recite 1 Corinthians 10:13 to your discipling partner.
4. Recite some of the other verses you have memorized to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Galatians 5:16, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

Ephesians 5:18, “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Galatians 5:16 and Ephesians 5:18. Work on these verses until you can repeat them perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read. If you are having a difficult time deciding what portion of Scripture to read, study, and meditate on, get some ideas from your discipling partner.
4. Try to develop the habit of turning immediately to the Spirit of God when you realize your flesh is manifesting itself in ugly, sinful ways.

Session 5: Practicing the One-Another's

"Now no man is a Christian who does not love Christians. He, who being in the church, is not of its heart and soul, is but an intruder in the family."

Charles Spurgeon

"Christians, you are to love one another, not because of the gain which you get from one another, but rather because of the good which you can do to one another."

Charles Spurgeon

"The real test of a saint is not one's willingness to preach the gospel, but one's willingness to do something like washing the disciple's feet - that is, being willing to do those things that seem unimportant in human estimation but count as everything to God."

Oswald Chambers

INTRODUCTION

One of the vital aspects of the Christian life is living out our mutual ministry to one another within the body of Christ. The Reformers referred to this doctrine as "The Priesthood of All Believers." They meant by this, that ministry to others is not the sole responsibility only of the "ordained clergy." Rather, every Christian is responsible for ministering to others the grace he/she has been given by Christ.

STUDY

1. What is our responsibility toward others within the church? Give a short example of how you might live this "one-another" out in your life.
 - a. Romans 12:10a _____
 - b. Romans 12:10b _____
 - c. Romans 12:16 _____
 - d. Romans 13:8 _____
 - e. Romans 14:19 _____
 - f. Romans 15:7 _____
 - g. Romans 16:16 _____
 - h. 1 Corinthians 12:25 _____
 - i. Galatians 5:13 _____
 - j. Ephesians 4:2 _____
 - k. Ephesians 4:32 _____
 - l. Ephesians 5:21 _____
 - m. Philippians 2:3 _____

- n. Colossians 3:13 _____
 - o. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 _____
 - p. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 _____
 - q. 1 Thessalonians 5:13 _____
 - r. Hebrews 10:24 _____
 - s. James 5:16 _____
 - t. 1 Peter 4:9 _____
 - u. 1 Peter 4:10 _____
 - v. 1 Peter 5:5 _____
2. What must your involvement in the local church be like for you to obey these commands? Will it require just a casual relationship or a strong commitment?
- _____
- _____
- _____
3. What does each of the following Scriptures teach as to how we must not relate to one another?
- a. Romans 14:13 _____
 - b. Galatians 5:26 _____
 - c. Colossians 3:9 _____
 - d. James 4:11 _____
 - e. James 5:9 _____
 - f. What do all these Scriptures teach us about the reality of what relating to one another in the body of Christ will be like?
- _____
- _____
- _____
4. Analyze the various New Testament commands you listed under question #1 above.
- a. Which of these commands are you actively pursuing obedience to?
 - _____
 - b. Which of those commands are you currently ignoring or neglecting?
 - _____
 - c. What decision will you make today to begin to actively live out these commands?
 - _____
 - _____

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Discuss with your discipling partner any steps you need to take to be fully committed to the local church and obey the “one-anothers.”
2. Recite Galatians 5:16 and Ephesians 5:18 to your discipling partner.

3. Recite some of the other verses you have memorized to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize John 13:34-35. Work on these verses until you can repeat them perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read. Also, seek to study a portion of the Scriptures each week. If you are having a difficult time deciding what portion of Scripture to read, study, and meditate on, get some ideas from your discipling partner.
4. Decide today to make serving the brothers and sisters in your local church a priority in your life and then seek to implement that commitment in some specific way this week.

Session 5: Committing to the Local Church

"You are no lover of Christ if you do not love His children. As soon as ever the heart is given to the Master of the house, it is given to the children of the house. Love Christ and you will soon love all that love Him..."

I am told that Christians do not love each other. I am very sorry if that be true, but I rather doubt it, for I suspect that those who do not love each other are not Christians...

Will you follow the wicked policy of separating your own personal interests from those of your Redeemer and his church? If so your ship is wrecked before it leaves the harbour. You are no child of God if this principle holds the mastery over you. Your salvation lies not in your separation from Christ and his church, but in your union with them. Over the sea of life there is no passing in safety but in the vessel which carries your Lord and his disciples...

If I had never joined a church till I had found one that was perfect, I should never have joined one at all; and the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us.

Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

In this session, we are going to examine the Biblical teaching on commitment to a local church that God has called you to. Although it is common for believers to "float" around between various churches and never make a serious commitment to any of them, this is not what we find in Scripture. Obedience to the Biblical teaching about commitment to a local church includes submitting to spiritual leaders, restoring those who fall into sin, and supporting the mission of the church.

STUDY

Submitting To Spiritual Leaders

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.
 - a. What are the responsibilities of the leaders of the church mentioned in this passage?

 - b. What are the responsibilities of the members of the church mentioned in this passage?

2. Hebrews 13:7,17

- a. What are the responsibilities of the leaders of the church mentioned in these verses?

- b. What are the responsibilities of the members of the church mentioned in these verses?

- c. Why are the members of the church to obey and submit to their leaders?

Restoring Believers Who Have Fallen into Sin

1. Read Matthew 18:15-20.

- a. When are we to get involved in restoring a believer who has fallen into sin?
(Compare Galatians 6:1)

- b. What is the first step to restoring them?

- c. If he/she listens to you, what happens?

- d. If he/she does not listen to you, what is the next step?

- e. Why is it important to have two or three witnesses at this step?

- f. If he/she does not listen to the two or three witnesses, what is to happen?

- g. What must the church do (vs. 18-20)?

- h. If he/she does not listen to the church, what must the church do (v18-20)?

2. 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.

- a. What was the problem in the church at Corinth that needed to be dealt with
(v.1)?

- b. How had the church responded to this problem (v. 2)?

 - c. What will happen if the open practice of sin is not dealt with in the church (vs.6)?

 - d. What are some sins that a professing Christian must be disciplined for (v.11)?

 - e. What was Paul's solution to the problem (vv. 9-13)?

3. Read Romans 16:17 and Titus 3:10.
- a. How must the church respond to a person who causes divisions in the church and will not repent?

Supporting The Mission of The Church

- 1. Read Matthew 28:18-20.
 - a. According to Jesus Christ, what is the mission of the church?

 - b. How should you be involved in accomplishing that mission?

STEPS TO TAKE

- 1. Have you made a commitment to a specific local church where you can live out the New Testament commands to submit to spiritual leaders, restore fallen believers, and support the mission of the church by becoming a member of that church? If not, discuss with your discipling partner how you can make that commitment.
- 2. Discuss with your discipling partner how you can submit to and support the leader(s) of your local church, even when you disagree with a decision they have made.
- 3. Is there a professing Christian in your church that is living in unrepentant sin? If so, discuss with your discipling partner how you should respond.
- 4. Discuss with your discipling partner how you are doing at supporting the mission of your local church financially and at being involved in its evangelistic outreaches.
- 5. Recite John 13:34-35 to your discipling partner. Recite a few of your other verses.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Hebrews 13:17, “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. **Memorize Hebrews 13:17. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.**
2. **Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.**
3. **Practice the spiritual disciplines of reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture, as well as prayer.**
4. **If you have not done so, contact the Pastor(s) of your local church this week to find out how you can commit to your local church.**

Session 5: The Use of Time

"Time is precious because:

- 1) A happy or miserable eternity depends on the good or ill improvement of it;*
- 2) It is very short. The scarcity of any commodity occasions men to set a higher value upon it. Time is so short, and the work which we have to do in it is so great, that we have none of it to spare. The work which we have to do to prepare for eternity, must be done in time, or it never can be done.*
- 3) We are uncertain of its continuance;*
- 4) When it is past, it can't be recovered."*

Jonathan Edwards

"I desire to have both heaven and hell ever in my eye, while I stand on this isthmus of life, between two boundless oceans.

John Wesley

"Heaven will pay for any loss we may suffer to gain it; but nothing can pay for the loss of heaven."

Richard Baxter

"The great weight of eternity hangs upon the small wire of time."

Thomas Brooks

INTRODUCTION

There are few things more important for someone who wants his life to count for eternity than a disciplined use of his time. Jonathan Edwards was right, "Time is so short, and the work we have to do in it is so great, that we have none of it to spare." If you are going to mature into a godly and faithful disciple, you must learn to discipline your use of time for the glory of God.

STUDY

1. Read Ephesians 5:15-17.

- a. What does God call us to do with our time (v.16)?

- b. What will we be characterized by if we do this (v.15)?

- c. What is making the most of our time equated within verse 17?

2. Read James 4:14.

- a. What does James compare our lives to?

- b. When we are unsure how long we will have something (our spouse, job, home, etc.) how do we value it?

3. There are many things that, if we lose, we may still get back (house, job, fortune, etc.). Is that true with our time? How should that affect our estimation of time?

4. Read Psalm 90:10-12.

a. How does the Psalmist describe the length of our lives (v.10)?

b. Does the Psalmist view this as a long or short time? What in the text leads you to that conclusion?

c. What should we do considering the brevity of life (v.12)?

d. When a commodity of something is scarce (rubies, gold, diamonds, food, etc.) how does our valuation of it change?

e. How then should we value the time we have on this earth?

5. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

a. Who do we belong to? Why?

b. Therefore, how must we live considering that truth?

c. In understanding who we belong to, what does that say about how we should use our time?

6. Read John 9:4-5.

a. What did Jesus mean by "as long as it is day"? What did He mean by "night is coming"?

b. What did Jesus say He and His disciples must do since night is coming when no one can work?

c. What significance does the word "must" have in this sentence?

7. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

- a. Because we are hastening toward eternity (1 Cor. 15:51-57), how then should we spend our time (v.58)?
-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Judging by the way you spend your time; how valuable do you believe your time on earth is?
2. If you were planning a trip through the desert on a camel, and only had a limited amount of water you could take on the trip, and didn't know if it would run out before you made it to your destination, how would you value that water? How does that illustration apply to how we should value and invest our time?
3. What would you think of someone who every morning took a \$20 bill out of his wallet, struck a match, and burned it up? What should we think of ourselves when we deliberately squander away precious time that God has given us?
4. How do you think people now in hell consider the time they squandered on earth?
5. How much would they be willing to give to get that time back?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10. Do you believe we will have to give an account to God for how we used our time? Why or why not? Compare Matthew 12:36-37.

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Identify the biggest time wasters in your life. Discuss with your discipling partner how you can begin to use your time in a way that glorifies God. Ask your discipling partner to ask you how you are doing with this next week.
2. If you resist the temptation to waste your time on unimportant and inconsequential things, you will find that you have a lot more time in your day. Discuss with your discipling partner what kinds of things you can spend your time on that will glorify God.
3. Recite Hebrews 13:17 to your discipling partner. Recite a few of your other verses.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:58. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Practice the spiritual disciplines of reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture, as well as prayer.

4. Each day jot down on a piece of paper the most important things you need to do for that day and place each of them in their true order of importance. Then set about accomplishing each one in order. Resist the temptation to do something else, until these things are completed. If you don't complete all of them, just transfer the uncompleted tasks to tomorrow's list. Try this for next week.

Session 6: Money and Possessions

"Money never stays with me. It would burn me if it did. I throw it out of my hands as soon as possible, lest it should find its way into my heart."

John Wesley

"God can have our money and not have our hearts, but He cannot have our hearts without having our money."

R. Kent Hughes

"The less I spent on myself and the more I gave to others, the fuller of happiness and blessing did my soul become."

Hudson Taylor

"God prospers us, not to raise our standard of living, but our standard of giving."

Randy Alcorn

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."

Jim Elliott

INTRODUCTION

Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables of Jesus deal with money. One out of ten verses in the New Testament deals with that subject. Scripture offers about five hundred verses on prayer, fewer than five hundred on faith, and over two thousand on money. 15% of everything Jesus said relates to the topic of money and possessions - more than His teaching on heaven and hell combined! Obedience to Jesus Christ demands that we learn to use our money and possessions according to His will in a way that glorifies Him.

STUDY

1. Luke 19:1-10.

- a. What did Jesus see in Zacchaeus' life that made him say "Today salvation has come to this house" (vs.8-9)? In other words, what was the outward observable evidence of Zacchaeus' salvation?

2. Luke 18:18-25.

- a. Did this rich young ruler obey Jesus' command to sell all and follow him? Do you think he was saved? What was the outward evidence that he was not saved?

3. Read Luke 3:9-14.

- a. What does Jesus say we must bring forth to escape judgment (v.9)?

- b. What three groups of people does Jesus address in vv. 10-14?

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

- c. What do all His instructions about the fruit they must bring forth have in common?

4. Read Matthew 25:14-30.

- a. Jesus speaks about three different slaves. Who do they represent?

- b. Whose possessions were they to use? What ramifications does that have for our lives?

- c. What does the Master do when he comes back (v.19)? How does that apply to us?

5. Matthew 6:19-21.

- a. According to Jesus, why shouldn't we store up for ourselves treasures on earth?

- b. Imagine you are living at the end of the Civil War and are living in the South, even though you are a Northerner. You plan to move home as soon as the war is over. While in the South you have accumulated lots of Confederate currency. However, you know for a fact that the North is going to win the war and the end is imminent. What would you do with your Confederate money? Why? Would it be smart or stupid to store up Confederate money? How does that apply to our lives?

- c. What does Jesus command us to do in verse 20?

6. What significance does the little phrase "for yourselves" in verse 20 have?

According to Jesus Christ, we can't take our wealth with us, but we can send it on ahead. Anything we try to hang on to here will be lost, but all that we put into God's hands will be ours for eternity. If we give instead of keep, if we invest in the eternal instead of in the temporal, we store up treasures in heaven that will never stop paying dividends. Whatever treasures we store up on earth will be left behind when we leave. Whatever treasures we store up in heaven will be waiting for us when we arrive.

Suppose I offered you one thousand dollars today to spend however you wanted or offered you ten million dollars one year from now and that amount every year after that, what would you choose? Only a fool would take the thousand dollars today. When we grab onto something that will last only a moment, forgoing something far more valuable that we could enjoy later for much longer, we are not just making the wrong decision. We are making a foolish decision. (Adapted from The Treasure Principle, Randy Alcorn).

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between an owner and a steward?
2. When you make spending decisions, do you think like an owner, or like God's money manager?
3. Before making spending decisions, do you remind yourself that it is God's money, and ask Him if this is how He wants His money spent?
4. He who lays up treasures in heaven looks forward to eternity; he's moving daily toward his treasures. To him death is gain. He who spends his life moving away from his treasures has reason to despair. He who spends his life moving toward his treasures has reason to rejoice. Are you despairing or rejoicing?

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Talk with your discipling partner about how you are currently using your money and possessions, and how much you are currently giving to others and for the work of God. Discuss how you can be a more faithful steward, lay up more treasures for yourself in heaven, and experience more joy from giving.
2. Recite 1 Corinthians 15:58 to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,

where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Matthew 6:19-21. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Continue to develop the spiritual disciplines of reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture, as well as prayer.
4. Come up with a written plan on how you will faithfully use your money and possessions for God's glory.

Session 6: Humility

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself. It is thinking of yourself less."

Anonymous

"There are but two objects that I have ever desired for these forty years to behold; the one is my own vileness; and the other is, the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ: and I have always thought that they should be viewed together; just as Aaron confessed all the sins of all Israel whilst he put them on the head of the scapegoat... Repentance is in every view so desirable, so necessary, so suited to honor God, that I seek that above all. The tender heart, the broken and contrite spirit, are to me far above all the joys that I could ever hope for in this vale of tears. I long to be in my proper place, my hand on my mouth, and my mouth in the dust.... I feel this to be safe ground. Here I cannot err. ... I am sure that whatever God may despise... He will not despise the broken and contrite heart".

Charles Simeon

"The best definition of humility I ever heard was this: to think rightly of ourselves. When you are half an inch above the ground, you are that half-inch too high. Your place is to be nothing."

Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

Of all the graces, humility is one of the most attractive. A proud, arrogant person drives people away, while a humble servant of Christ attracts others. As you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ, it is imperative that you also grow in humility. Having a spirit of humility is the opposite of having a spirit of self-importance. Humility enables a disciple to have a teachable spirit. If you are going to follow Christ, you must be humble. Otherwise, your pride will make you unteachable, and you will never learn from Christ and others.

STUDY

1. Look up the definition of "humility" in a dictionary. What does it mean?

2. Matthew 20:20-28.

- a. Why were the 10 indignant with James and John (20:24)?

- b. What did Jesus say was the usual way the world operates regarding authority?

- c. In contrast to that, how is the church supposed to function?

- d. What kind of example did Jesus Christ set for us (20:28)? How did He demonstrate humility?

3. Read Philippians 2:3-11.

- a. What is humility the opposite of (v.3)? _____
b. What does humility look like when it is exercised in the church (vv.3-4)?

- c. How did Jesus manifest humility (vv.5-8)?

- d. How did God respond to Jesus' amazing display of humility (vv.9-11)?

4. James 4:6-10.

- a. What is God's response to the proud?

- b. What is God's response to the humble?

- c. How should we manifest humility in relation to God (v.7)?

- d. What will God do if we humble ourselves before Him? (v.10)

5. Read James 1:21.

- a. According to this verse, how are we to exercise humility? What do you think that looks like?

6. Read the following passages and jot down what you learn about how we are to exercise humility:

- a. Romans 12:3 _____
b. Psalm 115:1 _____
c. John 13:1-5; 12-17 _____
d. Romans 7:18 _____

Humility is a beautiful character quality. It is wrought in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus was humble in heart (Matthew 11:29), so too are all His followers. This humility manifests itself in unselfishness, considering the needs of others, giving up our personal

"rights", serving others, submitting to God and His Word, and ascribing all the good in our lives to God. However, our problem is that we are naturally proud and selfish. We may want to be humble, but all too often find that we are proud. How can we change from being proud and selfish to being humble and unselfish?

7. Read the following Scriptures and jot down how we can begin to manifest humility in our lives.
 - a. Isaiah 6:1-5 _____

 - b. Luke 18:9-14 _____

 - c. Proverbs 28:13 _____

 - d. 2 Corinthians 3:18 _____

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take some time to consider your life and pinpoint one or two areas of pride. Confess these with your discipling partner. Commit to pray for one another in this area.
2. Memorize Philippians 2:3-5. This week when you find yourself slipping back into responding in pride instead of humility, recite that verse to yourself, and turn it into prayer to God.
3. Seek to discover a situation in which you can serve others and put them before yourself. Discuss this with your discipling partner. Commit to implementing that idea this week.
4. Recite Matthew 6:19-21 to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Philippians 2:3-5, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus."

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Philippians 2:3-5. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Continue to develop the spiritual disciplines of reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture, as well as prayer.

Session 6: Forgiveness

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

C. S. Lewis

"Whenever I see myself before God and realize something of what my blessed Lord has done for me at Calvary, I am ready to forgive anybody anything. I cannot withhold it. I do not even want to withhold it."

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

"No prayers can be heard which do not come from a forgiving heart."

J. C. Ryle

"You are nothing better than deceitful hypocrites if you harbor in your minds a single unforgiving thought. There are some sins which may be in the heart, and yet you may be saved. But you cannot be saved unless you are forgiving. If we do not choose to forgive, we choose to be damned."

Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

Followers of Christ must forgive those who sin against them. The basic idea of forgiveness is "to release a debt." In other words, if we consider all the evil actions of those who wrong us as a debt they owe us, to forgive them is to cancel that debt, so they are released from ever having to pay us back.

STUDY

1. Read Matthew 6:9-15.

a. How does Jesus teach us we are to pray for our own forgiveness (v.12)?

b. What does Jesus mean in verses 14-15? Is Jesus teaching that a person will obtain salvation if they forgive others? Consult Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:4-7.

c. How important is it for us to forgive others, according to Jesus?

2. Read Matthew 18:21-35.

a. How often must we forgive someone who sins against us? What did Jesus mean by saying "up to seventy times seven"?

- b. Who does the servant who owed 10,000 talents represent in this parable (v.24)?

 - c. Who does the slave who owed the servant 100 denarii represent?

 - d. What is the point of this parable (vv.32-35)?

 - e. What should you meditate on the next time you need to forgive someone?

3. Read Ephesians 4:30-5:2.
 - a. According to verse 32, what should you consider when you know you need to forgive someone?

 - b. What evil fruits are likely to be in your life, if you refuse to forgive others (v.31)?

 - c. What will unforgiveness in your life do to the Holy Spirit who dwells in you (v.30)?

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Do you think that we are only obligated to forgive those who apologize to us or repent because God only forgives those who repent (Romans 2:5)? Or do you believe we should forgive all who wrong us? Why do you believe the way you do?
2. Does God's command for us to forgive us mean we must forget that it ever happened, or trust the person to the same extent in the future?

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take some time to think and pray about whether there is anyone who has harmed you that you have not forgiven. If so, confess these situations to your discipling partner. Pray together, releasing that person from any debt to you before God.
2. Recite Philippians 2:3-5 to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Ephesians 4:32. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Continue to cultivate the spiritual disciplines of reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture, as well as prayer. Seek to do these disciplines to enjoy and delight in God, not as raw duties to be endured. Look at these studies as a way for you to develop your loving, obedient relationship with God.

Session 7: Fasting

"If you say 'I will fast when God lays it on my heart,' you never will. You are too cold and indifferent to take the yoke upon you."

D.L. Moody

INTRODUCTION

By far, fasting is the most difficult and neglected Biblical practice in most believers' lives, at least here in the United States. That is truly amazing, considering that the Bible mentions fasting more often than something as important as baptism (fasting is mentioned 77 times, while baptism is mentioned 75 times). No doubt, the reason we dislike fasting and don't practice it very much is because it cuts against the grain of our fleshly, self-indulgent lifestyles.

In this session, we want to explore the reasons for and benefits of fasting. Arthur Wallis, author of *God's Chosen Fast* has written, "In giving us the privilege of fasting as well as praying, God has added a powerful weapon to our spiritual armory. In her folly and ignorance, the Church has largely looked upon it as obsolete. She has thrown it down in some dark corner to rust, and there it has lain forgotten for centuries. An hour of impending crisis for the Church and the world demands its recovery." Let's not neglect any weapon that our Lord has given us to fight the good fight of faith.

STUDY

1. What does it mean to fast? If you are unsure, look up its meaning in a dictionary.

2. What do the following Scriptures reveal about whether Jesus envisioned fasting as part of a disciple's life?

- a. Matthew 6:16-18 (compare 6:2 and 6:5)

- b. Matthew 9:14-15

3. To get a comprehensive Biblical view of fasting, we are going to survey the major portions of God's Word on fasting from beginning to end. Read the following Scriptures

and record: 1) who is fasting; 2) what he was fasting from; 3) what he was fasting for; and 4) how long he fasted. If the information is not in the text, just say, "Not stated".

a. Deuteronomy 9:9

- i. Who: _____
- ii. Fasting From: _____
- iii. Fasting For: _____
- iv. How Long: _____

b. Judges 20:24-28

- i. Who: _____
- ii. Fasting From: _____
- iii. Fasting For: _____
- iv. How Long: _____

c. 1 Samuel 7:1-6

- i. Who: _____
- ii. Fasting From: _____
- iii. Fasting For: _____
- iv. How Long: _____

d. 2 Samuel 12:15-20 (read 2 Samuel 11:1-12:14 for the context of the story)

- i. Who: _____
- ii. Fasting From: _____
- iii. Fasting For: _____
- iv. How Long: _____

e. 2 Chronicles 20:1-4 (also read 20:5-25 to see how the story ends)

- i. Who: _____
- ii. Fasting From: _____
- iii. Fasting For: _____
- iv. How Long: _____

f. Ezra 10:1-6

- i. Who: _____
- ii. Fasting From: _____
- iii. Fasting For: _____
- iv. How Long: _____

g. Esther 4:16 (if you are unfamiliar with this story, read 1:1 - 4:15 to gain context)

- i. Who: _____
- ii. Fasting From: _____
- iii. Fasting For: _____
- iv. How Long: _____

h. Isaiah 58:1-7

- i. Who: _____
- ii. Fasting From: _____
- iii. Fasting For: _____

- iv. How Long: _____
- i. Daniel 10:1-14
 - i. Who: _____
 - ii. Fasting From: _____
 - iii. Fasting For: _____
 - iv. How Long: _____
- j. Joel 2:12-17
 - i. Who: _____
 - ii. Fasting From: _____
 - iii. Fasting For: _____
 - iv. How Long: _____
- k. Jonah 3:5-9 (if you are unaware of this story, read 1:1 - 3:4 as context)
 - i. Who: _____
 - ii. Fasting From: _____
 - iii. Fasting For: _____
 - iv. How Long: _____
- l. Matthew 4:1-11
 - i. Who: _____
 - ii. Fasting From: _____
 - iii. Fasting For: _____
 - iv. How Long: _____
- m. Acts 13:1-3
 - i. Who: _____
 - ii. Fasting From: _____
 - iii. Fasting For: _____
 - iv. How Long: _____
- n. Acts 9:1-9
 - i. Who: _____
 - ii. Fasting From: _____
 - iii. Fasting For: _____
 - iv. How Long: _____
- o. Acts 14:19-23
 - i. Who: _____
 - ii. Fasting From: _____
 - iii. Fasting For: _____
 - iv. How Long: _____

4. Summarize what the Bible says about the person (s) who fasted.

5. Summarize what the Bible teaches about what various people fasted from.

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-
-
6. Summarize what the Bible teaches about the purposes) of fasting.

-
-
-
7. Summarize what the Bible teaches about the length of fasts.

-
-
-
8. What should accompany fasting? (See Matthew 17:21; Luke 2:37; Luke 5:33; Acts 13:3; Acts 14:23)
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-
-

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Set a day, with the help of your discipling partner, on which you will fast and pray for something definite. If you have a medical condition, consult your doctor about whether you may fast. Determine on the day you fast to dedicate this day to God and spend more time with Him in prayer than you usually do. You might want to meet with your discipling partner for prayer together on this day. You might also decide to fast every so often, perhaps once a month. Discuss this with your discipling partner.
2. Recite Ephesians 4:32 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received while memorizing it.
3. Recite some of the other verses you have memorized to your discipling partner.
4. Recite the books of the Bible to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Matthew 6:16-18, “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Matthew 6:16-18. Work on these verses until you can repeat them perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session. Seek to find delight and joy in your studies as you learn of God and His will for you, rather than simply do it so that you can check it off your To-do list.
3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read. Strive to make this a habit of your life. Usually, it is best to do this in the morning, before your other responsibilities.

Session 7: Spiritual Gifts

"A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church."

Wayne Grudem

"Whatever spiritual gifts we have, they are not our own to use as we please; they are only entrusted to us that we may employ them to help our fellow-Christians."

Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

Spiritual gifts are God's enablement to help believers serve others and bring Him glory. They can be looked at as divine tools to help us do the will of the Father. Some believers are cessationists - that is, they believe that some of the more supernatural gifts like healing, tongues, and prophecy have ceased after the death of the apostles. Other Christians are continuationists, believing that all the spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12-14 are still available to the church today. At CCW, we take the continuationist position and encourage the disciple to trust and expect God to grant him whatever spiritual gifts will enable him to accomplish God's will.

STUDY

1. 1 Peter 4:10-11.

- a. How many believers have been given one or more spiritual gifts? What are we supposed to do with our spiritual gifts?

- b. What title does Peter give Christians in v.10? What does that title mean?

- c. Peter divides spiritual gifts into two categories. What are those categories?

i. _____

ii. _____

- d. What should be our main, overarching concern in the use of spiritual gifts?

2. 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

- a. Why does God give various manifestations of the Spirit (v.7)?

- b. Upon what basis do believers receive their spiritual gifts (v. 11)?

3. Romans 12:3-8.
- a. What kind of an attitude should believers have towards one another (v.3)?

- b. What truths about the body of Christ do you see in verses 4 & 5?

- c. What must we do with our spiritual gifts (v.6)? _____

Spiritual Gifts Defined

Below is a short and simple definition of each spiritual gift. Read each of them with your discipling partner and discuss whether the Lord may have given you that particular gift or not.

Romans 12:6-8.

Prophecy: "Insight given from the Lord to proclaim that must be in accordance to scripture."

Service: "the Spirit-prompted desire and ability to give oneself to the service of others."

Teaching: "the ability to explain Scripture and apply it to people's lives."

Exhortation: "the ability to urge others to a godly course of action."

Giving: "the ability and desire to generate and distribute wealth to support the poor, missions, and the various ministries of the local church."

Leading: "the ability to provide leadership and vision to the local church."

Mercy: "the ability to provide emotional and practical help to the suffering."

As you read through the simple definition of those gifts, did you identify any of them that you think you may have? These gifts are sometimes called motivational gifts because the person who has them is motivated by a strong desire to use them to strengthen others.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

The word of wisdom: "the ability to give wisdom so that a godly decision can be made."

Example: Acts 15:1-29.

The word of knowledge: "the ability to receive divine knowledge of some fact that would be impossible otherwise." Example: Matthew 17:27.

Faith: "the supernatural ability to believe God to do miraculous works." Example: John 11:38-44

Gifts of Healing: "the ability to pray for the sick so that they recover." Example: Acts 5:12-16

Working of Miracles: "the ability to manifest God's mighty power to accomplish His will." Example: Luke 8:22-25; 9:12-17.

The Distinguishing of Spirits: "the ability to recognize the influence of the Holy Spirit or demonic spirits in a person." It may also refer to "the ability to discern whether a prophecy is from God or not." Example: Acts 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 14:29.

Tongues: "The ability to pray to or praise God in syllables not understood by the speaker (may or may not be understood by the speaker but an interpreter is ALWAYS required when spoken in a group setting – SEE 1 Corinthians 14:26-28)

The Interpretation of Tongues: "the ability to interpret and report a message given to the church in tongues. Since tongues are addressed to God, the interpretation of tongues will also be addressed to God, not to men."

The gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12 are sometimes referred to as the ***miraculous gifts of the Spirit***. Discuss with your discipling partner these gifts and whether the Lord may have given you any of them.

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Having taken time to discuss with your discipling partner what gifts) the Lord may have given you, seek to determine how He would desire you to use them for His glory. In what context or settings can you best use your Spirit-empowered gifts? Decide what you will do to be faithful in the stewardship of the gifts) the Lord has given you.
2. Confess to your discipling partner if you have been unfaithful in the exercise of your spiritual gifts). Memorize Philippians 2:3-5. This week when you find yourself slipping back into responding in pride instead of humility, recite that verse to yourself, and turn it into prayer to God.
3. Recite Matthew 6:16-18 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received as you committed that passage to memory.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

1 Peter 4:10, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:"

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 1 Peter 4:10. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Continue to develop the spiritual disciplines you have learned in this training manual. However, seek to cultivate these disciplines in your life, not merely as a duty to be performed, but as fellowship with God to be enjoyed!

Session 7: Evangelism

"When Christians evangelize, they are not engaging in some harmless and pleasant pastime. They are engaging in a fearful struggle, the issues of which are eternal."

Leon Morris

"To refuse to evangelize is as sinful as to commit adultery or murder."

John Blanchard

"Evangelism in the New Testament sense is the vocation of every believer and there is therefore something radically wrong when we imply that personal evangelism is the province of those who have the time and/or inclination to take special courses and learn special techniques."

Roland Allen

"The church has nothing to do but to save souls; therefore spend and be spent in this work. It is not your business to speak so many times, but to save souls as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance."

John Wesley

"Evangelism is not an optional accessory to our life. It is the heartbeat of all that we are called to be and do."

Robert Coleman

INTRODUCTION

A maturing disciple will pray and labor to bring others to Christ. Having become the recipient of matchless grace, he longs that others will experience it as well. He longs that Christ will be glorified by others bowing at His feet and worshipping Him as Lord. The desire for others to come to Christ is a spiritual instinct found within the heart of every born-again child of God. However, personal evangelism must be cultivated as a discipline because we often find it very difficult to do.

STUDY

1. Mark 1:17.

- a. What did Jesus call Simon and Andrew to do?

- b. What did Jesus promise to do for them? How does that make you feel?

2. Mark 16:15-16.

- a. When Jesus commissioned His eleven apostles, who did He command them to preach to?

- b. What was to be the subject matter of their preaching?

3. Matthew 28:18-20

- a. Do you think that bringing lost sinners to faith in Christ was included in the Great Commission given here, or is Jesus merely calling them to help believers mature in their faith? Why do you answer that way (v. 19)?

- b. Do you think this commission is only for the original eleven apostles? Look closely at verse 20 and find two different reasons this cannot be.

4. Acts 1:8.

- a. What did Jesus say would happen when the Holy Spirit came on His disciples?

- b. What would happen as a result?

- c. What can we conclude will be the result of a Spirit-filled life?

5. Read Colossians 4:5-6.

- a. Who are the "outsiders" in v. 5?

- b. How should we relate to them?

6. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.

- a. What will happen to those friends, family, or neighbors that we know do not obey the gospel (vv.8-9)?

Practical Ways to Engage in Evangelism

There are many practical ways to evangelize.

1. **Tract Evangelism:** one easy way is to always carry Biblical evangelistic tracts and pamphlets with you. Wherever you go, distribute them to others. You can give them to the employee at the check-out counter at the grocery store or the gas station. You can leave them at restaurants or in public restrooms. You can even use them to start discussions about God and Christ.

2. **Friendship Evangelism:** another way to reach out to lost people is to show an interest in people, getting to know them, so that you will have the opportunity to share Christ with them. Invite friends, neighbors, or family over to your home for dinner or dessert. In conversation, share openly and candidly with them about what God has done for you in Christ, as various topics naturally arise. You might also organize an open house, a block party, or have a pancake breakfast, and invite your neighbors over to see them come to Christ.

3) **Contact Evangelism:** another way to bring the gospel to lost people is to simply go out to a public place where people naturally congregate (parks, bus stations, laundromats, school campuses, etc.) to speak to them about Christ. Bring tracts with you. You might use a spiritual belief survey as a way of starting your conversation. Seek to share the gospel with those you speak to.

4) **Bible Study Evangelism:** invite non-Christians to attend an Investigative Bible Study, in which they can read and examine what the Bible says for themselves. You can have individual lessons on the Bible, God, Man, Jesus, and Our Response. The beauty of this kind of evangelism is that you can develop a relationship with the people you are reaching out to over time, so that trust is developed by the end of your study. It also gives the non-Christian more time to be exposed to the Word of God.

5) **Invitational Evangelism:** this is probably the easiest method of evangelism, but is important, nonetheless. In this kind of evangelism, we simply invite our friend or neighbor to come to church or a special event. If they agree, make sure you either drive with them, or meet them at the door, and sit next to them. When the event is over, look for opportunities to ask them their thoughts on the message given. Continue to pray for them, that the seed of the gospel would be planted in their hearts and bring forth fruit.

A Simple Method to Share the Gospel

Many Christians want to share their faith but feel inept. When the time comes to proclaim Christ, they can't remember where to start or what to say. If you can simply remember 4 words: God - Man - Jesus - Response, you can share the gospel with others. If you only have five or ten minutes, you can use this outline to explain the good news briefly but clearly to others.

God: Explain that God is holy, just, and sovereign. Because He is holy, He hates sin. Because He is just, He must punish sin. Because He is sovereign, He can do whatever He wants and is answerable to no one. (Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:1-5; Romans 12:19; Psalm 115:3)

Man: Explain that man is fallen and corrupt, and hopelessly and helplessly lost. He does not possess a righteousness by which He can stand before God. He is undone and will perish eternally in hell unless he is saved. (Romans 3:9-20; Ephesians 2:1-3; Matthew 13:47-50)

Jesus: Explain that Jesus Christ is God and Man in one person. He was sent by His Father to provide free salvation for a perishing world. He accomplished this salvation by living a perfectly righteous life, which He will credit to all who trust Him, and then dying to pay the penalty for sin. Further, three days later, He rose from the dead, proving that God had accepted His sacrifice for sin. (John. 1:1,14; 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 4:26)

Response: Explain that this gift of salvation can only be received by a person who sees his lost and undone sinful condition, repents (forsakes) his sin, and trusts fully in Christ alone to save him. (Proverbs 28:13; Mark 1:15; Philippians 3:9; Ephesians 2:8-9)

Review this outline until you have mastered it and commit to memory several different Scriptures, so that you can share the gospel wherever you are.

STEPS TO TAKE

1. We have seen in Scripture that evangelism is something that every Christian should be involved in, in one way or another. Make plans with your discipling partner to reach out to lost people in one of the ways outlined above. If possible, do this together with your discipling partner. Pray before and after this event. Then discuss with each other what took place, and how you can be more effective at proclaiming Christ in the future.
2. Talk to your discipling partner about coming up with a plan so that you will regularly be involved in evangelism, instead of just occasionally.
3. Recite 1 Peter 4:10 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received as you committed that passage to memory.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Mark 16:15-16, “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Mark 16:15-16. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.

2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Pray and ask God to show you how you can spread the gospel to others. Then obey Him.
4. Continue to develop the spiritual disciplines you have learned in this training manual. However, seek to cultivate these disciplines in your life, not merely as a duty to be performed, but as fellowship with God to be enjoyed!

Session 8: The Cost of Discipleship

"It costs to follow Jesus Christ, but it costs more not to."

Anonymous Author

"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

INTRODUCTION

Although Christ and His salvation are offered to sinners freely, the moment we put our faith in Christ we are vitally united to Him, and His Spirit permanently indwells us. That means that He will begin the work of conforming us to Christ. This work begins the instant we are justified by grace through faith, and it will continue for the rest of our lives. Therefore, we can say "Salvation is free, but a life of discipleship will cost you everything you've got."

STUDY

1. Read Luke 14:25-26.
 - a. Who is Jesus speaking to here? Was He speaking to those who were already converted, to bring them up to a second level of Christian experience? Or was He speaking to unbelievers who needed to be saved?

 - b. What are the 3 things someone must be willing to do to be one of Jesus' disciples (Luke 9:26,27,33)?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - c. Was Jesus content with followers who were not committed to Him? **Yes or No**
 - d. What is the principle Jesus is teaching in verse 26?

2. Read Luke 14:27.
 - a. What did it mean to carry your cross in Jesus' day?

- b. How would you apply Jesus' teaching in verse 27 to your life? What is He requiring you to do to be His disciple?
-
-
3. Read Luke 14:28-32.
- a. In these two stories about a man building a tower or a king going out to battle, what is Jesus' teaching?
-
-
- b. How would you apply His teaching in our evangelism today?
-
-
4. Read Luke 14:33.
- a. What do you think Jesus meant by "giving all your own possessions"? Do we find in the rest of the New Testament the requirement to literally give away all our money and possessions when we become Christians?
-
-
5. Read Luke 14:23-24.
- a. What three things must a person do who wants to come after Jesus?
- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____
- b. Are these requirements for everyone or just those radically committed Christians who want to follow Him all the way?
-
- c. How does Jesus rephrase denying yourself and taking up your cross in verse 24?
-
6. Read Luke 9:57-62. In this passage, Jesus addresses three Would-Be Disciples. In each case, Jesus sees something in their life that is hindering them from fully following the Master.
- a. What mistake was this first would-be disciple making (9:57-58)? How would you apply this lesson to your life?
-
-
- b. What mistake was the second would-be disciple making (9:59-60)? How would you apply this lesson to your life? (Note: this would-be disciple's father may not have even been dead yet. He may be saying that he would follow Christ once his father had died, and he had shown his last respects to him. Jesus' response

probably amounts to something like this: "Allow the spiritually dead to bury the physically dead. As for you, be indispensable. Give your life to doing what only a truly saved man can do. Go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom and salvation of God through His Son.")

- c. What mistake was the third would-be disciple making (9:61-62)? Had any of these three guys submitted their lives to Christ as Lord? What is the Holy Spirit teaching us through this situation?

7. How would you summarize what is required of a disciple of Jesus Christ? What areas in your life do you need to labor to bring into submission to the will of Christ?

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Jesus taught that a potential disciple needs to count the cost of following Him. Discuss with your discipling partner the cost of following Jesus, and how willing you are to embrace the life of discipleship.
2. Talk to your discipling partner about those areas of your life in which you find it especially difficult to submit to Christ's will. Commit to pray for one another in these areas.
3. Recite Mark 16:15-16 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received as you committed that passage to memory.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Luke 9:23, "And he said to all, "If anyone would come" after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Luke 9:23. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.

2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Pray and ask God to help you submit yourself fully to Christ as Lord, no matter how difficult it is or how costly it becomes.
4. Continue to develop the spiritual disciplines you have learned in this training manual. However, seek to cultivate these disciplines in your life, not merely as a duty to be performed, but as fellowship with God to be enjoyed!

Session 8: Disciples Making Disciples

"Discipling men and women is the priority around which our lives should be oriented."

Robert Coleman

"Having called his men, Jesus made a practice of being with them. This was the essence of his training program -just letting his disciples follow him."

Robert Coleman

"We must decide where we want our ministry to count - in the momentary applause of popular recognition or in the reproduction of our lives in a few chosen people who will carry on our work after we have gone."

Robert Coleman

"If we will invest in the lives of a few at a time with the intent to reproduce and multiply, we will make ripples that will extend beyond our line of sight."

Karl Johnson

INTRODUCTION

If you have diligently pursued the lessons in this Discipleship Training Manual and sought to apply them to your life, you are being shaped into a true disciple of Jesus Christ. However, the purpose of your life is not simply to become a disciple. It is also for you to make disciples. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He left this message ringing in the eleven apostles' ears, "Go and make disciples of all the nations." The purpose of this lesson is to inspire and train you to give your life to making disciples. It is the most important thing you can do with your life!

STUDY

1. Read Matthew 28:18-20. The words "Go", "baptizing", and "teaching" are participles. The main driving verb of the Great Commission is "make disciples."
 - a. What is the primary mission that Jesus Christ has given His church until the end of the age? _____
 - b. What are we supposed to be teaching new converts? _____
 - c. Since Jesus commanded the eleven to "make disciples", does teaching new converts to "observe all that I commanded you" include the duty for them to make disciples? _____
 - d. Can we be an obedient follower of Christ, without giving our life to making disciples? Yes or No

2. 2 Timothy 2:2.

- a. Identify the four generations of believers in this verse through which God's truth is passed down.

- b. Was Paul's discipleship strategy to disciple as many individuals as he could, or to make disciples who would make disciples?

- c. Does God want you to be content with merely learning the truth, or does He want you also to be passing that truth on to others?

Spiritual Multiplication

If Eve were to bear a child every year from the time she was 20 years old until the time she was 920 years old, she could conceivably bear 900 children. But if Eve had many children who each had many children, in 900 years there could be several million people born on the earth. The very first command God gave to man in Genesis 1:28 was to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." God's will is that we do the same thing in the spiritual realm.

When a baby is born into the world, God's normal plan is for it to grow to maturity, be joined to another in marriage, and then reproduce by bringing other babies into the world. Likewise, it is God's plan and desire for every person who is born again into His family to reproduce and multiply. Spiritual reproduction and multiplication are not just for Pastors and Church Leaders to be involved in. It is something every child of God should give himself/herself to.

3. Mark 3:13-15.

- a. What does Jesus do in verse 13?

- b. What are the two reasons that Jesus appointed the 12?

i. _____

ii. _____

- c. What were the twelve supposed to do before they went out and preached and cast out demons?

- d. How would the twelve benefit from simply being with Jesus?

4. Mark 6:7-13.
 - a. What did Jesus send the twelve out to do? How does that correspond with what they had been watching Jesus doing?

5. Mark 6:30.
 - a. After the twelve had gathered with Jesus after their mission, what did they do?

 - b. How do you suppose Jesus responded?

6. How would you identify the steps that Jesus took as He made disciples?

STEPS TO TAKE

1. The very first thing that Jesus did in the disciple-making process was prayer. He spent the whole night in prayer to God before He chose the twelve (Luke 6:12). Commit to begin praying by yourself and with your discipling partner so that God would show you who you can begin pouring your life into. You should look for people who have a strong interest and desire either to become a Christian or to grow in their Christian life.
2. When God directs you to one or more people that you believe He wants you to work with, begin to spend time with them as Jesus did with the twelve. This may be a weekly extended lunch time, or it may be an evening together at your home. The important thing is to begin spending time together to model the Christian life and spiritual values. You may take them through this Discipleship Training Manual and become their discipling partner. As you begin to work with another person, check in with your discipling partner from time to time for advice, counsel, and encouragement. Your goal will be to raise another disciple to the point where they are discipling someone else.
3. Recite Luke 9:23 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received as you committed that passage to memory.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

2 Timothy 2:2, “and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Pray and ask God to help you find someone to pour your life into, and when He does, begin to meet with him/her regularly.
4. Continue to develop the spiritual disciplines you have learned in this training manual. However, seek to cultivate these disciplines in your life, not merely as a duty to be performed, but as fellowship with God to be enjoyed!

Session 8: Catching a World Vision

"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become."

Henry Martyn, Missionary to India and Persia

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

Jim Elliot, Missionary martyr, and Missionary to the Auca Indians of Ecuador

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered a honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?"

David Livingstone, Missionary to Africa

"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once."

Oswald J. Smith

"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time."

Carl F.H. Henry

INTRODUCTION

In this final lesson, we are going to look at the responsibility of every disciple to further the cause of the kingdom of Jesus Christ around the world. There are approximately 16,500 different people groups in the world. The latest estimates suggest that approximately 6,900 people groups are considered unreached. That means over 41% of the world's people groups have no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize the rest of their people group. It is estimated that 2.9 billion people make up these 6,900 people groups. Most unreached people groups are in the 10/40 window (located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator) and less than 10% of all missionary work is done among them.

So, what do we mean by a "people group"? A people group is an ethno-linguistic group with a common self-identity that is shared by the various members. For strategic purposes, it is the largest group within which the Gospel can spread without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance.

Ultimately, this means believers who know the Gospel have a moral responsibility to do what they can to reach those who don't. The purpose of this study is to awaken you to the great need to get the Gospel to every people group of the world and motivate you to either go yourself or send someone in your place.

STUDY

1. Read the following Scriptures and identify where God has called His people to go and seek to reach with the gospel:
 - a. Matthew 28:18-20 _____
 - b. Mark 16:15-16 _____
 - c. Luke 24:46-47 _____
 - d. Acts 1:8. _____
2. Romans 15:20-21.
 - a. Where did Paul aspire to preach the gospel? _____
 - b. Why did he want to preach the gospel there?

3. Romans 15:22-28.
 - a. Where does Paul intend to go after he visits the saints in Rome?

 - b. What does that tell you about Paul's heart?

4. Romans 10:12-15.
 - a. There are 5 steps in the salvation of the heathen given in this passage. Outline those steps in reverse order.

 - b. According to this passage, would you argue that the heathen who dies without ever hearing the gospel will be saved or lost? Explain your reasoning.

5. Revelation 5:9-10.
 - a. According to this new song sung in heaven, why is Christ worthy to take the book and break its seals?

 - b. How were these people saved and brought into Christ's church?

Are Those Who Have Never Heard the Gospel Saved or Lost?

This has been a point of controversy that Christians have differed on for many centuries.

It must be admitted that if the heathen who have never heard the gospel will be saved, it would be cruel for God to send missionaries to them. When a missionary comes to a foreign people, usually some, if not most of that people reject the gospel. According to the reasoning that those who have never heard the gospel are saved if God had never sent missionaries among these people, they would have all been saved. But now, having heard the gospel, and rejected it, many will be damned for all eternity. Was Christ's intent in sending His church to the ends of the earth with the gospel to damn some people who would have been saved? Surely not! Surely, He intended to save some who would have been damned. If the heathen will be saved without the gospel, why would Jesus Christ send His people to them, at great personal sacrifice, some to pay with their own lives, spending millions of dollars, to people who don't need to be saved?!

Surely, the reason Christ has given the church orders to get the gospel into every people group of the world is that all mankind are sinners and in danger of eternal damnation, and the gospel is the only message that can bring about their recovery from eternal ruin.

What can we do to bring the gospel to the rest of the world?

1. Become a missionary. God may be calling you to give your life to bringing the gospel to a different people group than your own. If you think that might be the case, seriously consider seeking to reach an unreached people group.
2. If you don't believe God has called you to go to the mission field yourself, at the very least you need to be involved in supporting those who are there. This means that you regularly pray for the work of missionaries around the world, and you regularly give financially to support the work that they are doing. Another option, considering that there are so many Christians here in the United States, and so few in other parts of the world. is to relocate to a different part of the world where you can use your witness for Christ to impact people who may never hear the gospel. In this scenario, you may not technically be a missionary since you would have a full-time secular job, but you would still be seeking to bring the gospel to the people around you.

Thought Questions:

1. Has God ever given you a strong desire to bring the gospel to people of a different culture and language? If so, perhaps He is calling you into mission's work. If that is the case, begin to learn more about missionary work to prepare for the future. You might talk to your Pastor to get counsel and advice on how you can best prepare for the life of a missionary.
2. Are you currently praying for any specific missionaries around the world? Are you currently financially supporting any mission work? If not, begin this week. Many fine mission agencies are doing wonderful work in bringing the gospel to the lost.

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Discuss with your discipling partner your thoughts about how you should become involved in getting the gospel to unreached people groups around the world. Come up with a plan together that you can begin to implement this week.
2. Recite 2 Timothy 2:2 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received as you committed that passage to memory.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Romans 10:13-15, “For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Congratulations! You have completed these 8 Sessions of 24 lessons on becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. However, don't allow the things you have learned to become mere head knowledge. The things you have learned in this course will only benefit you if you continue to apply them to your life! So, continue to implement and grow in the things you have learned. Continue to commit to the spiritual disciplines of prayer, bible reading, meditation, and memorization. Continue to practice fasting. Continue to evangelize, disciple others, give to the work of God, and do your part in seeing the gospel go to the ends of the earth.

Remember, this course of studies was intended to help you get to the point where you are making disciples. So, pray that God will send you someone that you can pour your life into. Let that person know at the outset that you expect them to pour their life into someone else who will pour their life into someone else who will... you get the point! May God richly bless you as you continue to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

Jude 24-25

The CCW Mission

Connect - ENCOUNTERING GOD: ACTS 2

Bringing people into an Encounter with God through Salvation and experiencing His grace and goodness and love.

Thrive - EMPOWERING PEOPLE: PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Bringing people into apprehending the Power of the Holy Spirit for their lives and daily walks with Jesus.

Go - ENGAGING OUR WORLD: ACTS 1:8

Bringing the lost & unchurched into relationship with Jesus and reaching out to those who don't go to church.

- The Mission is: to lead others into a growing relationship with Jesus!
- Our Passion is: reaching others who don't know Jesus.

At CalvaryCW, people will find a purpose, grow in faith, and learn biblical principles that will "re-shape" their world!

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