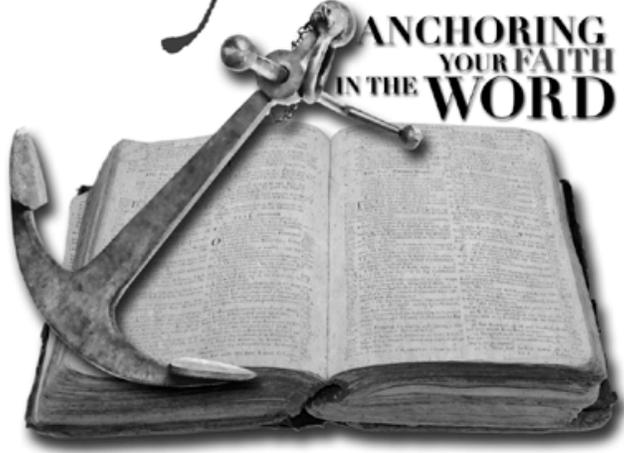


*Discipleship
By the Book*

**ANCHORING
YOUR FAITH
IN THE WORD**



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Introduction

A young college student had just professed faith in Jesus as his Savior. I was his link to the gospel and the Bible. What did I do now? How could I help him grow in his faith? I knew that if he was to become mature he would need a foundation of Biblical truth. The idea of discipleship was not very well set in my own mind, but I had the impression that's what needed to happen next. The first week, I wanted to help him understand what happened when he asked Jesus to come into his heart –why he needed Jesus, what Jesus did for him. To do that, I put together a Bible study in a simple format. There was a question and a Bible reference that gave the answer. He would look up the verse, read it, and answer the question. I would be there to make sure he got it right. Not that he needed that much help, because the study was made to be very straightforward. But sometimes someone new to the Bible has trouble with even simple concepts, so I checked his answers. The second week it seemed that he needed instruction on having assurance of salvation. So that's the subject we studied together that week, with questions that were clearly answered by the Bible references. As the weeks went on, we continued studying the basic elements of the Christian life, letting the Bible answer the questions. Eventually, the "Relationship with God" section of this discipleship Bible study took shape.

Later, I realized that there are other very important aspects to the Christian life. A relationship with God will affect a person's relationship with his family. It will affect your relationship with the church, which in God's eyes is vitally important. It will affect

your relationship with your community, and it will change the way you look at yourself. These are the subjects that this study covers.

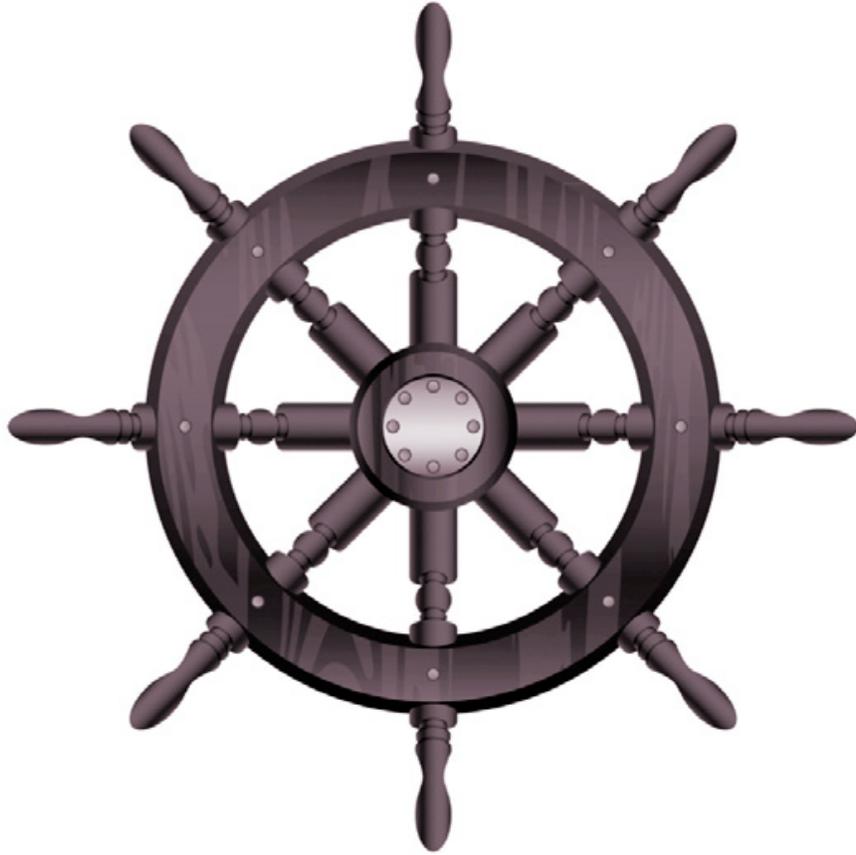
These studies can be used in a variety of settings-- for small groups, or large groups, or for just one person. I've used them with new Christians and with those who were not yet believers but who were seeking. I've also used them with mature Christians who are interested in helping others grow in their faith. Some Christians want to know what the Bible says about things they've merely assumed to be true, but they don't have a solid Biblical basis for their beliefs. These studies can help them.

The strength of these studies is that they are to be done with an open Bible. (Most translations of the Bible may be used in this series. However, this study was designed using the King James Version. Therefore, some of the questions that may seem difficult to answer from another version are easily answered by using the KJV.) This is truly discipleship by the Book. You read the question and then look up the Bible reference indicated. That is where the answer comes from. It is not difficult. The answers are there. There is also a small commentary at the end of each section that summarizes what's been covered.

Since "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God", it is important that the Bible is at the heart of how we help people grow in the Lord Jesus. These Bible studies are designed to help in the discipleship process. I believe you can use them to help others as they grow in their faith, and as they learn to walk with our Savior. And it may be that what happened to me will happen to you. I found that as I went through these Biblical truths with others, my own faith was strengthened along the way. When you help

someone else, you receive the benefit of ministry yourself. “They that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 3:13).

SECTION 1: YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



Lesson 1: Finding Personal Fellowship with God

MAN'S PROBLEM

1. Why is man separated from God?

Isa. 59:2

Man is separated from God because of

_____.

2. Which people in the world are sinners?

Rom. 3:23 _____.

3. What are the results of sin?

Isa. 48:22

Because of sin, man has no real _____.

4. What is the end of sin?

Rom. 6:23

Sin ends in _____.

Man's major problem is sin. Sin is what separates him from God. This is not merely the problem of some of the "worst" people. It is everyone's problem – all have sinned. The results are not pretty. Because of sin, man has no real peace. Like the troubled sea, the heart keeps bringing up all kinds of evil—fear, depression, a sense of unsettledness, a feeling of being lost. The end is death. That is every man's problem.

GOD'S PLAN

1. What two possibilities are there for man's destiny?

John 3:16

Man will either have _____ or

_____.

2. What is God's wish for man?

2 Peter 3:9

God doesn't will that any should _____.

Instead he wants them to _____.

3. What kind of life does God want man to live?

John 10:10 _____.

4. Where do man's own efforts at goodness get him in pleasing God?

Isaiah 64:6

Man's own goodness is like

_____.

5. How is man brought into fellowship with God?

Ephesians 2:8, 9

Man finds fellowship with God by _____

through _____.

All men will either believe in Christ and have everlasting life, or they will perish. God does not want anyone to perish. Instead, God's plan is that every man repents of (turns away from) his sin and finds abundant life. But that life does not come as a result of man's own goodness. In fact, God views man's efforts at righteousness as a pile of dirty rags. It takes much more than man's works to bring him salvation. He finds a relationship with God by God's grace. That grace is a gift of God that comes through faith.

GOD'S PROVISION FOR SALVATION

1. What is God's gift to man?

John 3:16

He gave His _____;

Eph. 2:8, 9

He gives _____;

Rom. 6:23

He gives _____.

2. What did Jesus do for us?

1 Peter 2:24

He bore _____:

Isa. 53:5

He took our _____;

3. How many ways are there to be right with God?

Acts 4:10-12

The only way is through _____.

4. Why did God make a provision for man to be saved?

Rom. 5:8

God _____ us.

5. How widespread is the acceptance of God's plan?

Matt. 7:13, 14

Only a _____ accept it.

6. What has to happen for man to be accepted by God?

John 3:5-7

Each person must be _____.

God has done a lot to bring man out of sin and to salvation. He has given His Son as a sacrifice for sin. He gives grace to us so that we can come to Him, and when we do, He gives us everlasting life.

Jesus came to earth and the cross to bear our sins. He took our punishment. God sent Christ to the cross since no one but Jesus could save us. It is a fact, though, that only a few find salvation. Man must be born from above (born again) to be saved. Otherwise, he will neither see nor enter the kingdom of heaven.

MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S PLAN

1. What must man do about his sin?

Pr. 28:13; 1 John 1:9

He must _____ and
_____.

2. What must man do about Jesus Christ?

John 1:12

He must _____;

Rev. 3:20

He must open the _____.

3. What must man do in his heart and with his words?

Rom. 10:9, 10

He must _____ in his heart and
_____ with his mouth.

4. Who can find a personal relationship with God through Jesus?

Rom. 10:13

Whoever _____.

5. What happens when man responds to God's plan?

2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 1:7

He becomes a new _____ and has
_____ with other Christians.

God has made a plan to deal with our problem of sin and bring us to salvation. We must respond to God's plan by agreeing with

God that we have sinned, and we must be willing to forsake sin. No one is able to forsake sin on his own power. Only Jesus in the heart can give the power necessary for us to change. The first step is to believe in our heart that Jesus died for us and rose from the dead. Then we must say it out loud. We have nothing to be ashamed of when we confess that Jesus is our Savior, because whoever calls on His name will be saved, will become part of the family of God, and will be a new person. It is all because of Jesus!

Lesson 2: Having Assurance of Salvation

WHAT GOD SAYS

1. Is it possible to be sure of salvation?

John 5:12, 13

You can _____ you are saved.

2. What does one need to do to be saved?

Acts 3:19; Acts 16:31

Man must _____ of his sins and _____.

3. Who can be saved?

Rom. 10:13

Whoever _____ will be saved.

4. How sure are God's promises?

Matt. 24:35

God's promises are more sure than _____.

God's inspired word makes it clear that we can know we are saved. He made it clear that to be sure of salvation we must repent of our sins and place our faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Salvation is promised for all who call on the name of the Lord. When we use the name of the Lord Jesus, we are placing ourselves under His Lordship. He is Lord over us in every part of our lives. God's promise to those who live with Christ as Lord is sure.

WHAT I'VE DONE WITH WHAT GOD SAYS

1. What two ways can I treat God's promises?

John 3:18

I can either _____ or _____.

2. What are the results of each way?

Mark 16:16

Believe and _____; don't believe and be _____.

3. Can I trust in a past profession of belief for present assurance?

Ezek. 33:12-16 _____

4. What decides my accepting or rejecting God?

Joshua 24:15; Rev. 22:17

My _____.

You can either believe what God says in His Word, the Bible, or you can refuse to believe it. If you believe God and trust in Him as your Lord and Savior you will be saved. That means you are saved from your sins and saved from destruction. However, salvation does not rest on past belief. It must be present, daily, obedient trust in God. The Bible makes it clear that you are responsible for whether or not you believe God and serve Him. You decide whether or not to follow Christ. When God talks to you, you must respond. It is your choice.

WHO IS MY MASTER?

1. Who can I serve?

Mat. 6:24

I can only serve _____.

2. What is a person who claims to be a Christian yet disobeys God?

1 John 2:4

He is a _____.

3. What promise is there for obedience to God?

John 8:51

He'll never _____.

4. How can I maintain fellowship with God?

1 John 1:7

I maintain fellowship by _____.

It is a mistake to try to be a Christian and also have your heart set on other things (like money, fame, possessions). Jesus said you can only have one master. If you claim to be a Christian, yet do not follow Christ and His Word, you are really lying. However, if you trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior and follow Him, you will never see the death and destruction of the unbeliever. To be a Christian is to be a follower of Jesus Christ. As you follow Him, living as He has shown us to live in His Word, you maintain fellowship with God.

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. What Spirit is in the true believer?

Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:9

A believer has the _____.

2. How does one receive the Spirit?

Gal. 3:14

We receive the Spirit _____.

3. What evidence is there that one has the Holy Spirit?

1 John 3:14

An evidence of the Holy Spirit is love of

_____.

4. What do we know when we have the Spirit?

Rom. 8:16

We know we are _____.

A true follower of Jesus has the Spirit of God's Son. The Spirit of Christ is also referred to as the Holy Spirit. There is one Spirit,

whom we receive when we place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. When the Spirit of Christ is in us, we have the same Spirit as other Christians. Because of that, we have a love for Christians. A new believer will realize that he wants to be with other people who also love the Lord. When you have the Holy Spirit living in you, you know that you are one of God's children. That is the witness of the Spirit.

Lesson 3: Hearing His Voice Through His Word

THE ENDURANCE OF THE WORD

1. How long will God's Word stand?

Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25

It will stand _____.

2. Does God's Word change with time? Matthew 5:18 It will last longer than _____.

3. What are the dangers of tampering with God's Word? Revelation 22:18-19 Adding brings _____. Subtracting takes away _____.

4. How is a Christian to treat someone who changes God's Word?

Romans 16:17; Titus 3:9-11

He is to be _____.

God's word will last forever. It is unchanging. It will outlast heaven and earth. There are warnings about tampering with the Word of God. If man tries to change God's eternal word, that man is in great danger. When we see that someone is tampering with God's word, we are to turn from that person. The person is perverted.

THE PURPOSES OF THE WORD

1. What relevance do ancient scriptures have for us today?

Romans 15:4

They can _____.

2. How can we apply the very old lessons from the Word?

1 Cor. 10:11

They give us _____.

3. Why were the Gospels given?

John 20:31

They were given so that we would _____
and have _____.

4. What is a major purpose of the Bible?

1 John 5:13

It is to give believers _____.

The Bible, even parts written in ancient times, still gives us comfort and hope. The Old Testament gives us examples of how God deals with man. The New Testament gives us the reasons for believing in Jesus as the Son of God, and believing results in our having eternal life. God has given us His written word so that we can have assurance.

THE BENEFITS OF MEDITATING ON THE WORD

1. What can a man expect who sincerely meditates on God's Word?

Joshua 1:8

He will _____ and have good
_____.

2. What does meditation do regarding personal holiness?

Psalm 119:9, 11

It brings _____ and
_____ from sin.

3. How does meditation improve a person's life?

Psalm 119:97-100

It brings exceptional _____.

4. How does meditation improve a person's mind?

Psalm 119:130

It brings _____ and
_____.

5. How does meditation help a person's inner spirit?

Isaiah 26:3; Jeremiah 15:16

It brings _____ and
_____.

THE WORKING OF THE WORD

1. How does the Word give us direction?

Psalm 119:105

It gives _____ to our
_____.

2. What does the Word do when people hear it?

Romans 10:17

It brings _____.

3. What power is behind the Word?

Ephesians 6:17

It is the _____.

4. What does the Word do in a person's heart?

Hebrews 4:12

It discerns _____ and
_____.

The Word of God is of great benefit to the believer. It gives victory over sin, wisdom for living, direction for decision making. It brings peace in the heart and joy to the soul. It is a great sword in the hand of a Christian to challenge unbelievers to come to faith, and to convince them of their need of a Savior.

Lesson 4: Communicating with Him Through Prayer

THE COMMAND TO PRAY

1. How are we to come to God?

1 Chronicles 16:11

We are to come _____ the Lord.

2. What are some benefits of prayer?

Matthew 26:41;

Prayer helps keep us from _____.

Luke 18:1 Prayer keeps us from _____.

3. When should we pray?

Ephesians 6:18

We should pray _____.

Prayer is seeking the grace and help of the Lord. We don't pray to change God, but we pray to ask Him to change us. Prayer helps keep us from discouragement. It also gives us strength in times of temptation. We need God's help all the time, so we should have a constant attitude of prayer. "Pray without ceasing."

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

1. How are we to approach God?

Chronicles 7:14

We should be _____.

Jeremiah 29:13

We should be _____.

Hebrews 11:6

We should come in _____.

2. What kind of relationship with God must we have?

James 5:16

We must be _____.

1 John 3:22

We must _____.

John 15:7

We must be _____.

3. What could cause prayer to be unanswered?

Psalm 66:18

There could be _____ in the heart.

Proverbs 28:9

There could be _____.

Zechariah 7:11-13

There could be _____.

James 4:3

You could be asking _____.

1 Peter 3:7

A husband could be _____ his wife.

Since God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble, prayer must come from a humble heart which is seeking for God in faith. To be effective, prayer must be earnest and from a position of obedience and trust in the Lord Jesus. Not all prayer is answered. God will not answer the prayer of the proud sinner, nor of the selfish person, nor of a husband who is not giving value to his wife.

4. Why are some requests of righteous people not granted?

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

God may be using their _____ to show His strength.

Sometimes it seems that God does not answer the prayer of a person who is sincerely seeking Him. The Psalmist, wondering why God delayed His answer, cried, "How long, O Lord, how long?" It is important to keep in mind that God's ways are higher than our ways. We do know that sometimes God allows us to stay in difficult circumstances even when we've prayed for relief. Sometimes God uses our weakness to show His strength.

SUBJECTS OF PRAYER

1. For whom are we to pray?

1 Timothy 2:1-2

We are to pray for _____.

Matthew 5:44-45

We are to pray for _____.

James 5:16

We are to pray for _____.

2. What did Jesus tell us to pray for?

Matthew 26:41

Jesus told us to pray to avoid _____.

Matthew 9:38

Jesus said pray for _____.

We never run out of things for which to pray. We are to pray for all men. We are to pray for those who persecute us and do not like us. We are to pray for the sick. Jesus told us to pray that we would avoid temptation. We are also to pray that God would send

laborers into His harvest field. God instructs us to pray for things that are important to Him and His kingdom.

Lesson 5: Walking By Faith

THE BASIS FOR FAITH

1. What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1

Faith is _____.

2. Who is the author of our faith?

Hebrews 12:2

_____ is the author of our faith.

3. How do we receive faith?

Romans 10:17

Faith comes by _____.

4. What is our faith based on?

John 20:30-31; 1 John 5:9-11

Our faith is based on _____.

Faith is believing things we do not see. However, faith is not believing what is not true. Many things are true that are not visible. Love, courage, and hope are examples of things we cannot see, but they are real. Our faith is begun by Jesus Christ, and it comes when we hear the word of God. It is based on the facts of who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

THE NECESSITY OF FAITH

1. What is the means whereby communication with God is opened?

Ephesians 2:8

It is opened through _____.

2. What happens if the channel of faith is blocked?

Hebrews 11:6

Without _____ one cannot

_____ God.

3. How is a man counted righteous before God?

Romans 4:3-8,23-24

We are counted righteous when we _____.

4. How do we keep our righteous standing with God?

Romans 1:17

We live by _____.

5. What happens if we lose faith?

1 Timothy 4:1

We are subject to _____.

Romans 11:20-22

We will be _____.

We communicate with God by faith. Without faith we cannot please God. God counts us righteous because we have faith. We keep our righteous standing with God by faith. If we lose faith, we will be subject to deception and in danger of being cut off.

FAITH AND FEELINGS

1. How should we respond to an inner feeling of condemnation?

John 3:18-23

We should affirm our faith in _____ and
our love for _____.

2. What should a Christian do when he has troubles?

Corinthians 4:15-18

In affliction, focus on _____.

3. What may be happening when a Christian can't seem to sense God?

Job 23:8-10

God may be testing our _____.

Feelings and faith are not the same thing. Sometimes you have good inner feelings. Other times you lack feelings, or worse, have negative inner feelings. That is when faith is very important. You should reaffirm your faith in God, even when you don't feel anything. As long as you don't have sin in your heart, you can have confidence in God. Focus on eternal things. God may be testing your faith when you don't have feelings.

FAITH AND ACTIONS

1. What shows that our faith is alive?

James 2:14-17

Our _____ show that our faith is alive.

2. What motivates our faith to work?

Galatians 5:6

Our faith works because _____.

3. How can faith be used as a spiritual weapon?

Ephesians 6:16

It can be used as _____.

Hebrews 11:33-35

It can be used as _____.

4. What are the results of faith that is working?

1 John 5:4-5

Faith _____.

When you act on your beliefs, you show that your faith is alive. Faith produces works because of God's love in your heart. Faith can be used as a shield against the enemy. It can also be used as an offensive weapon to defeat the enemy. When you live by faith, you overcome the world.

Lesson 6: Appropriating His Promises

Promises for Believers

1. To whom does God give His promises?

Galatians 3:22

God gives promises to those who _____.

2. Who can receive God's promises?

2 Corinthians 6:17-18, 7:1

Those who _____ themselves unto
_____ have His promises.

3. What does God promise to those who love Him?

Romans 8:28

He promises that _____.

The promises of God are for those who believe and who separate themselves unto God and His holy way. Those who love God have His promise that He will work all things together for their good. Everything that comes our way is not good, but God is bigger than our circumstances. He works everything together for the good of those who love Him.

PROMISES IN TEMPTATION

1. How does God promise to help us in temptation?

1 Corinthians 10:13

He promises _____.

2. What good comes from going through temptation?

James 1:2-4

It _____.

3. What does God promise to the one who endures temptation?

James 1:12

He promises them _____.

4. What should you do when you are tempted?

James 4:6-8 Submit _____ and resist
_____.

Temptation comes to every believer, so it is a great comfort to know that God has promised to help us through temptation. He promises a way of escape for every temptation. He promises that our faith will grow as we go through temptation, and He promises the crown of life for those who endure temptation. Temptation is strong because Satan knows our weaknesses. Submit to God in temptation, and He has promised that Satan will flee when we resist him.

PROMISES ARE TO BE APPROPRIATED

1. What are we to do about promises that we have not seen fulfilled?

Acts 1:4

We are to _____.

2. How are we to approach a promise of God?

Hebrews 6:12

We are to exercise both _____
_____.

3. What promise has God made to His children?

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

He promised to _____.

4. Can you appropriate that promise by faith?

2 Corinthians 1:19-20 _____.

God does not always fulfill His promise immediately. Sometimes we must wait for the fulfillment of the promise. It takes both faith and patience to be in the place where we can appropriate a promise for ourselves. One promise God has given is that He will

wholly sanctify His children. That means that He will cleanse us and make us completely His. God will keep all of His promises for all of His people, even the promise to sanctify us.

PROMISES ARE BASED ON THE CHARACTER OF GOD

1. How sure are we that what God promises will happen?

Titus 1:1, 2; Hebrews 6:18

God cannot _____.

2. How do we know God cares about us?

Deut. 5:29

God has our _____ at heart.

3. Compared to God's compassion for us when He saved us, how does

God say He shows compassion to us now that we are saved?

Romans 5:8-10

God cares for us much _____.

God has emphasized that He cannot lie. What He says will happen. What He promises He will accomplish. It is in His character to have our best interest at heart. He wants us to have a good and long life. If God cared for us while we were sinners enough to send Jesus to the cross for us, He cares for us much more since we have come to Him as His children. We can take His promises for ourselves and be assured that they will come to pass. Trust Him!

Lesson 7: Following His Directions

FOLLOWING HIS CALL

1. What did Jesus ask of those He called?

Matthew 4:18-22

Jesus asked that they _____
_____.

2. When did Jesus expect the disciples to follow Him?

Matthew 8:19-23

They were to follow when _____
_____.

3. How did Matthew respond to the call?

Matthew 9:9

Matthew followed _____.

4. What does it cost to follow Jesus?

Matthew 16:24-26

It costs _____.

Jesus asks people to follow Him. We are not asked to follow at our convenience, but when He calls. Matthew was at his work when Jesus called him. He followed Jesus immediately. It doesn't cost a lot to follow Jesus; it costs everything.

FOLLOWING HIS LIGHT

1. What does it mean to walk in the light?

John 8:12

It means to follow _____.

2. When we follow God, how will we walk?

Ephesians 5:1-2

We will walk in _____.

3. What do we walk away from when we walk with Jesus?

Ephesians 5:3-8

We avoid _____.

4. What promise is there if we walk in the light?

1 John 1:5-7

We have _____ one with
_____ and _____ blood
_____ us from all sin.

Walking in the light simply means following Jesus. Following Him means walking in love. The controlling issue in walking with Christ is that we love God and others. When we walk with Jesus, we walk away from that which is immoral, unclean, and idolatrous. When by faith we follow the light of Jesus, we have cleansing from sin and fellowship with other Christians.

FOLLOWING HIS LEADING

1. What does the Holy Spirit do for Christians?

John 14:26

He _____ and reminds them of what Jesus
_____.

2. Where does following the Holy Spirit lead a Christian?

John 16:13

The Holy Spirit leads them into all _____.

3. If you have God's Word in your heart, how does that cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 6:17

The Holy Spirit uses the Word as a _____
to help you win your personal battles.

4. Why is it important to keep learning from the Word of God?

Hosea 4:6

One will keep from being _____.

5. What must we avoid doing to keep following the Holy Spirit?

1 Thessalonians 5:19

We must not _____ the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is our teacher. He brings to our minds the things that Jesus taught. The Holy Spirit leads us to truth. He will not contradict anything that God has said. When we hide God's word in our hearts, we give the Holy Spirit that which He uses to help us in our personal battles. When we learn more and more from God's word, we keep from destruction, and the Holy Spirit uses the Word to bless us. Don't quench the Spirit.

FOLLOWING HIM IN THE SPIRIT'S FULLNESS

1. What brings wisdom to know how to follow God's will?

Ephesians 5:17-19

To know God's will, it is important to

_____.

2. How can we be filled with all of God's fullness?

Ephesians 3:17-19

We are filled when Christ _____ in our hearts by _____.

3. What is our part in preparing ourselves for the fullness of the Spirit?

Romans 12:1-2

We must present ourselves as a living

_____.

4. What does God do in us when we come to Him in faith for His fullness?

Acts 15:8, 9

God _____ our hearts when we believe.

To follow Jesus, you must be filled with the Holy Spirit. Trust Him to indwell you. Make yourself a living sacrifice to Him. He will purify your heart as you believe Him.

Lesson 8: Following His Lordship Over Us

DENYING SELF

1. What did Jesus tell his disciples they must do to follow him?

Matthew 16:24

If we follow Jesus, we must _____.

2. What will happen if we try to protect our self interest instead of yielding it to God?

Matthew 16:25

We will _____ what we try to _____.

3. How wise is it to hold our own interests in the world above God's will?

Matthew 16:26

It is _____.

If any one will follow Jesus, he must deny himself and take up the cross. If you try to save something from God and reserve it for yourself, you will lose it. Even if it were possible to gain the whole world for yourself, it would be a sad exchange for losing your soul.

YIELDING OUR RIGHTS TO GOD

1. How can we use Jesus' example to yield our rights to God?

Philippians 2:5-7

Jesus did not _____ what was rightfully his.

2. What qualities were at the heart of Jesus yielding his rights?

Philippians 2:8

Jesus was _____ and _____.

3. What did Jesus trust when He yielded to His Father's control?

Philippians 2:9-11

He trusted that His Father would _____.

4. As we humbly obey, what can we expect God to do?

Philippians 2:12-13

We can expect God to _____
_____.

Jesus came to earth to do the Father's will. He did not grasp what was rightfully His. Jesus brought Himself down to our level. He embraced the cross to please the Father. He trusted that the Father would justly reward Him. Therefore, God highly exalted Him. We can expect God to do that which is best for us as we yield our rights to Him.

TRUSTING GOD WITH THE WHOLE PERSON

1. How much of you does God want to cleanse?

1 Thessalonians 5:23

God wishes to sanctify your whole _____
_____.

2. Will God do this for you?

1 Thessalonians 5:24

God will faithfully _____.

3. Once we are completely His, how do we live out the holy life?

2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1

We continually _____ ourselves
from defilement of both _____ and
_____.

4. Is the great work of sanctification completed when we are totally yielded to God?

Hebrews 12:14-15

We must _____ holiness, and we must always be _____.

God has a plan for your spirit, your soul, and your body. When you yield your whole self to Him, He will cleanse every aspect of you. God promised to be faithful to cleanse you. The prayer of Paul that God would “sanctify you wholly” is answered by the promise, “Faithful is he who calleth you, who also will do it.” Once we yield our rights to God, we must continually be yielded. God will enable us to be clean from the defilement of the flesh and the spirit. Following holiness is not a once and done experience, but is a diligent, continuous walk with our Lord Jesus Christ, yielding to Him, and following Him.

Lesson 9: Important Elements of the Gospel

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LAW

1. What does the law do?

Psalm 19:7

The law _____.

2. What do people need to know before they will see their need of a Savior?

Romans 3:20

They need to _____.

3. How does the law bring a person to see his need?

Romans 7:8-9

The law shows a person that he is really _____.

4. What does the law do to help someone toward Jesus?

Galatians 3:24

The law is _____.

Someone said that before one sees his need of being saved, he must realize he is lost. The law brings the knowledge that one is not right with

God. It converts the soul from being self satisfied to being convicted that it is wrong. The law shows man that he is a sinner. In fact, it shows him that he is really dead in his sins. The law then becomes a teacher that points to man's need for Christ.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE

1. With what did Jesus begin his ministry?

Mark 1:14-15

He told people that they should _____ and _____.

2. How did the inspired Paul emphasize repentance?

Acts 20:20-21

Man needs to _____ before God and have faith in _____.

Acts 26:19-20

He emphasized repentance to both _____ and _____.

3. What is God's will for everyone?

2 Peter 3:9

God wills that all _____.

When Jesus began preaching, He told people that they needed to repent. When Paul preached, he emphasized the need for repentance. He preached repentance to both Jews and Gentiles. God does not want people to perish in their sins; instead, He wants them to repent.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOSPEL

1. What is the Gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

The Gospel is that Christ _____, that He was _____, and that He _____.

2. Why is it important to share the specific message of the Gospel to the unsaved?

Romans 1:16

It is by _____ the Gospel that God's _____ comes to the lost.

3. What must people do with the Gospel to be saved?

Romans 10:9-10

They must _____ in the heart and
_____ with the mouth.

4. For whom is the Gospel message, and who can be saved?

Mark 16:15

The Gospel is to be preached to _____;

Romans 10:11-13

Whosoever _____ shall be saved.

The gospel is the truth of Christ's death on our behalf, of His burial, and His resurrection. That is the "good news." Christ died for us and rose again. It is by trusting in Christ's sacrifice that repentant sinners are saved. The gospel message is for all people, and whosoever calls on the Lord will be saved.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

1. What is the balance between God's work of salvation and man's response?

John 3:16

God _____ the world and gave
_____, so that whosoever would
_____ would _____.

Ephesians 2:8-9

God gives _____ which man receives by
_____.

2. How do people come to salvation?

2 Timothy 3:15

People are saved through _____ in
_____.

3. What is meant by “receiving” Jesus?

John 1:12

It means someone _____.

4. Is it possible to be sure of salvation?

1 John 5:11-13

One can know he is saved when he _____.

God has done the work of salvation by having Jesus be the sin sacrifice for all men. You must humbly receive that forgiveness by faith. When you believe God’s word, it will bring you to salvation through faith in Christ. Receiving Christ is believing on Him. You can know you are saved when you believe on the name of the Son of God.

Lesson 10: Preparing Your Personal Testimony

A TESTIMONY FROM THE BIBLE

Read Acts 26:9-20

1. What does Paul say about himself before he came to faith in Jesus?

2. How does Paul describe how he came to Jesus?

3. What does Paul say were results in his life after he came to Jesus?

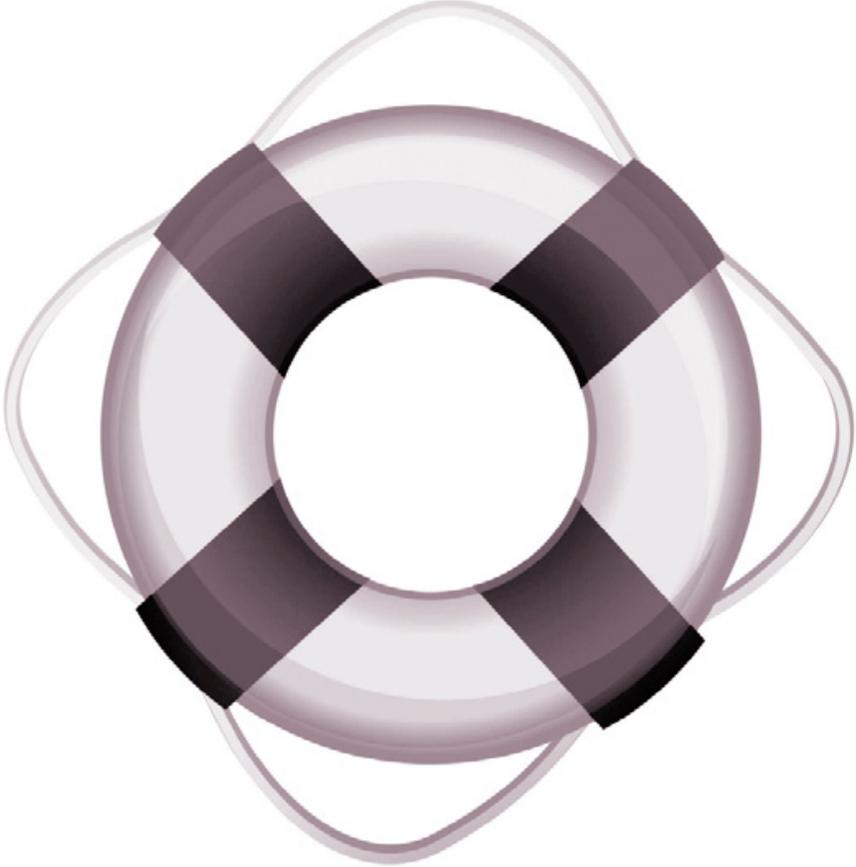
YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

1. Describe your life before you came to faith in Jesus.

2. Describe how you came to faith in Jesus.

3. What are some results in your life after you came to Jesus?

SECTION 2: YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FAMILY



Lesson 1: Christian Marriage

THE IDEA OF MARRIAGE

1. When God created humans, what distinction did He immediately make?

Genesis. 1:27

He made them _____ and _____.

2. What was “not good” in the early creation?

Genesis 2:18

It was not good that _____.

3. What did God see that Adam needed?

Genesis 2:20

Adam needed a _____.

4. How did God make the woman?

Genesis 2:21, 22

He made her from _____.

5. What three directions for marriage did God establish at creation?

Genesis 2:24

1. The man should _____.

2. The man should _____.

3. The man and woman should be _____.

6. The man and woman were not _____.

Genesis 2:25

God created humans distinctly male and female. God first created the male, Adam, and then saw that it was not good that man should be alone. God saw that man needed a companion, so he took a rib from Adam’s side and formed the woman. For the man and woman to be together, they were to leave father and mother.

The new family had its own new authority structure under God. In this new family, there was to be unity and intimacy. God's creation of marriage is to be defended and admired.

BEGINNING OF MARITAL CONFLICTS

1. What did Adam and Eve do that harmed marriage?

Genesis 3:6

Eve led her husband in _____.

Adam followed his wife in _____.

2. What was the immediate result of their action?

Genesis 3:7

They knew that they were _____.

3. How did they relate to God after their disobedience?

Genesis 3:8 They _____.

4. What consequence for marriage came?

Genesis 3:16, Pr. 19:13

The woman would have _____ and there would be _____ in marriage.

Eve listened to Satan's temptation, and Adam followed. Marriage has been marred since then. Shame came into the relationship. Away from God's ideal, man lived shamefully and hid from God. Trouble resulted, with women having pain in childbirth, and men and women struggling for dominance in marriage.

THE PROTECTION OF MARRIAGE

1. What Commandment was given to specifically protect marriage?

Exodus 20:14

Thou shalt not _____.

2. What was the penalty for violating marriage?

Leviticus 20:10

Those who committed adultery were

_____.

3. In what way is a person damaged who violates marriage?

Proverbs 6:32, 33

He destroys his _____, he tarnishes his _____, and the damage _____ goes away.

4. How does God view divorce?

Malachi 2:13-16 God _____.

5. How did Jesus' teaching protect marriage?

Matthew 5:31, 32

Jesus equated marriage after a divorce (unless it was for _____) with _____.

6. How did Paul's writing protect marriage?

Romans 7:1-3

A marriage is to last until _____; otherwise, remarriage is _____.

God was so protective of marriage that He made it a part of the Ten Commandments. In ancient Jewish law, the penalty for adultery was death. Proverbs indicates that the violation of marriage greatly damages the person by harming his health and destroying his reputation with results that never go away. God hates divorce. Jesus offered extra protection to marriage by equating divorce with adultery, and Paul the Apostle received the inspired word that marriage is to last until death.

THE BLESSING OF MARRIAGE

1. In what way is marriage blessed?

Proverbs 18:22

Marriage is receiving God's _____.

2. What is a character quality that makes marriage a blessing?

Proverbs 19:14

A _____ wife makes marriage a blessing.

3. How does God view marriage?

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is _____.

Marriage is God's idea and His ideal for a man and a woman. Marriage is an indication of God's favor. It is especially a blessing when the woman is prudent, or wise. God views marriage between a man and a woman as honorable . Marriage is worthy to be revered and protected.

Lesson 2: Structure of the Christian Family

RELATIONSHIP OF WIFE TO HUSBAND

1. What is in the power of a wife?

Proverbs 14:1

A wise wife has power to _____ her house, a foolish wife to _____ it.

2. How is a wife to respect her husband?

Ephesians 5:22-24

A wife is to _____ to her husband as unto the _____.

3. What negative influence can a woman have on her husband?

Job 2:7-10

A foolish woman could sway her husband to _____.

4. What is the character quality that puts the wife in the best position to build her house?

I Peter 3:1-5

A wise woman will demonstrate a _____ spirit.

5. What needs of a man did God create a woman to fulfill?

Gen. 2:18

Woman was created to be a _____ and a _____.

A woman has a great influence and, therefore, great responsibility in the home. She can either build or destroy the home. Part of building the home is when the wife shows respect to her husband. A man who is respected by his wife can be greatly motivated. However, a woman can influence her husband for evil. A

wise woman, endeavoring to build her house, will work on having a meek and quiet spirit. She is the best companion and helper for a man.

RELATIONSHIP OF HUSBAND TO WIFE

1. What is the major duty of the husband to his wife?

A husband is to _____ his wife.

2. In what way is the husband to love his wife?

Ephesians 5:25-29

A husband is to love his wife as _____ loved the church.

He is to _____ her and _____ her.

3. What consequence follows when a man does not honor his wife?

1 Peter 3:7

His _____ will be hindered.

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP

1. Against what does the sexual relationship in marriage give protection?

1 Corinthians 7:1, 2

It helps both husband and wife to avoid

_____.

2. How are both husband and wife to respond to each other sexually?

1 Corinthians 7:3-5

A husband is to meet his wife's _____ and

a wife is to meet her husband's _____.

Abstinence in marriage is for a _____ time

and is to be mutually _____ upon.

One aspect of marital intimacy is the sexual relationship. God has given this, at least in part, to keep the man and wife faithful to each other. Proverbs says "drink water from your own cistern."

God has planned for the sexual relationship to be a vital part of keeping couples together. Therefore, God has directed that both husband and wife meet the other's sexual needs. It is wrong to use the withholding of sexual intimacy as a weapon in marriage. It is to be the opposite. It is wrong for one spouse to reject this part of marriage. God's plan to protect marriage includes a healthy sexual relationship between husband and wife.

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

1. What is the character quality that is to be first in a child's life?

Ephesians 6:1

A child is to demonstrate _____.

2. What attitude are children to display toward their parents?

Ephesians 6:2

Children are to _____ them.

What promise does God give to children who honor and obey their parents?

Ephesians 6:3

God promises them a _____ and _____ life.

4. How is a mother to relate to her children?

Titus 2:3-4

She is to _____ her children.

5. What is the father's role in raising the children?

1 Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 6:4

He is to _____ for them and _____ them .

6. What is a father to avoid doing in raising his family?

Col. 3:21

He is not to _____ them lest they be _____.

When children are obedient and respectful to their parents, God has promised to bless them with a long and good life. Mothers help instill proper qualities in children when they love them. Fathers are to provide a safe, loving atmosphere in the home, avoiding unnecessary sternness, but being kind.

SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS

1. How are brothers and sisters to get along?

1 Timothy 5:1-2

They are to always be _____.

2. What is important to keep family relationships smooth?

Ephesians 4:31-32

Put away _____ and be _____ one another.

There is a natural understanding in us that brothers and sisters are to be mutually loving and respectful. God uses the sibling relationship model as an encouragement to church people to get along with one another. It is very important to keep those natural relationships healthy. To do so, we must be careful to put off negative actions and evil tempers and, instead, cultivate forgiveness and kindness.

Lesson 3: Christian Family Education

FAMILY TRAINING

1. What is the first duty of parents in a Christian home?

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

Parents are to _____ God and keep God's
_____ in their _____.

2. How are parents to pass on God's words to children?

Deuteronomy 6:7

They are to _____ them diligent-
ly, when they are in the _____,
when they _____, when
they go to _____, and when they
_____.

3. How can parents keep their relationship with God vital, so their family is not harmed by lukewarmness?

Deuteronomy 6:8-9

They are to keep reminders of _____ in
their minds and hearts all around them.

The foundation of family training is for parents to love God and His word. They are to take care to teach God's word in all times of life, including at home and when away from home. Parents should look for teachable moments. Also, parents are to keep reminders of God's word in prominence. Family devotions are important in child training and in keeping God's ways central to the home.

WHAT PARENTS ARE TO TEACH

1. How do parents give training to their children?

Proverbs 1:8,9

Fathers are to _____ them, and mothers are to reaffirm God's _____ for the home.

2. What benefits of wise learning should parents emphasize to children?

Proverbs 3:1, 2

Learning God's ways will bring a _____ and _____ life.

3. What results from earnestly following Godly character qualities?

Proverbs 3:3, 4

Living by precepts of mercy and truth will bring _____ and good _____ in both God's and man's eyes.

4. What should parents emphasize in their teaching?

Proverbs 4:1, 7

Parents are to emphasize _____ and _____.

It is the father's duty to set a godly direction for the home by consistent example and instruction. Children need to be constantly reminded that learning God's ways is best for them and will bring rewards in this life as well as in the life to come.

THE SCOPE OF PARENTAL TEACHING RESPONSIBILITY

1. Who is responsible for the training of children?

Galatians 4:1, 2

_____ are to oversee the education of children.

2. What is the father's own responsibility in children's education?

Ephesians 6:4

The father is to see that the child receives

_____ instruction. ("nurture" comes from the Gk. paideia, meaning "whole training and education of children" –*Strong's*)

3. What are the results of a father's education of children?

Exodus 20:5, 6

The failure of a father follows to the _____ and _____ generation. The blessing of a father reaches _____.

4. When a father correctly instructs his children, who is the real teacher?

Isaiah 54:13

The _____ teaches the children of the godly.

5. What role does a mother have in teaching in the home?

Proverbs 1:8

The child is to listen to the mother's _____.
(law, towrah means "direction, instruction")

6. Who taught the king important life lessons?

Proverbs 31:1-2

The king's _____ taught him life lessons.

(The structure of Pr. 31 can indicate that the whole lesson on the virtuous woman was taught by the king's mother.)

7. What warning does God give regarding educating children?

Jeremiah 10:2

Children are not to learn from _____
teachers.

8. What blessing comes from proper education of children?

Proverbs 22:6

The child will not _____ from it when he
is old.

Contrary to popular understanding, it is not the state's duty to oversee the education of children. It is the father's duty. He is to oversee the whole training of the child. A father who properly guides the upbringing of his children will have a positive influence with God's blessing for generations following. That is because it is ultimately God who works through the godly man. Mothers are to confirm the godly training of children. Solomon's mother had a great impact on his life. Children who have godly parents should not squander their opportunity. They ignore good advice to their own peril. Parents also should take care to keep ungodly influences from their children. The effort is well worth it, for it is seen in children who grow up following godly paths.

THE CHRISTIAN FATHER AS A MAN OF PRAYER

1. What was Job's concern when he prayed for his family?

Job 1:5

Job interceded because of the possibility they could
_____ against God.

2. What is the first duty of a godly man?

1 Timothy 2:1

A godly man must be first a man who
_____ for others.

3. What is the demeanor of a man who prays in sincerity?

1 Timothy 2:8

He must not be _____ and he must have
_____.

4. What qualifies a man to be able to pray effectively?

James 5:16

A man must live a _____ life.

All children are vulnerable to temptation and sin. A wise father will pray for God's protection on his family. It is God's will that a man prays for others, including his family. For prayer to be effective, the man must not be angry. Instead, he must be a man of faith, trusting God to bless his family. A righteous man has standing to have his prayers answered.

THE CHRISTIAN MOTHER AS A GODLY KEEPER OF THE HOME

1. Who is to train young mothers to be godly influences in their homes?

Titus 2:3, 4

Older women should teach who are characterized by personal
_____.

2. List seven character qualities young women are to learn from their mentors.

Titus 2:4-5

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

3. What does God not value in a woman's appearance?

1 Peter 3:3

God's word disallows the focus on _____
adornment.

4. What does God highly value in a woman?

1 Peter 3:4

God values a _____ and
_____ spirit.

God has directed that older, godly women teach the younger women in ways that will bless the home. The spirit of a woman greatly influences the home along with her example of modesty and diligence. God is more interested in her character than her appearance. He highly values a meek and quiet spirit.

THE WHOLE FAMILY, ALL FOR GOD

1. What kind of legacy does God desire of families?

Malachi 2:15

He wants godly parents to have godly _____.

2. What is important to keep a godly atmosphere in the home?

Ephesians 3:19

It is important to be _____ with all the _____ of God.

3. What result does God want when He fills a person?

1 Thessalonians 3:13

God desires to establish the _____ unblameable in _____.

4. What did Jesus pray for all those who were His disciples?

John 17:17

Jesus prayed that they would be _____.

God has a plan for future generations of families. He is interested in godly seed (this is a figure of speech for children). To perpetuate godliness, the atmosphere in the home must be godly, “filled with all the fullness of God.” Also, the heart is to be a holy place. If the hearts of the family members are holy, the home will be holy.

THE WHOLE PERSON, ALL FOR GOD

1. How much of a person will God make holy?

1 Thessalonians 5:23

God will sanctify the _____ person.

How much of a person’s spirit will God cleanse and set apart for

Himself? God will sanctify the _____

spirit. (spirit – Gk. pneuma – vital principle, power by which man thinks, feels, decides)

How much of a person’s soul will God make holy? God will sanc-

tify the _____ soul. (soul – Gk. psuche – seat of desires, feelings – personality)

How much of a person's body will God sanctify? God will sanctify the _____ body.

2. What is a person to do in response to God's work of sanctification?

2 Corinthians 7:1

The godly person is to _____ himself from all _____.

3. Is this work of God's grace a possibility or a promise?

1 Thessalonians 5:24

God has _____ to do it.

For a family to be holy, each person must follow holiness. God's will is that the whole person is sanctified, or made holy. Each one is to cleanse himself from anything that is defiled. God has promised to set apart and cleanse those who trust Him. Godliness in the home begins with each person seeking to be filled with the spirit of Christ and to be made in His likeness.

SECTION 3: YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CHURCH



Lesson 1: Being Part of the Body of Christ

LOCAL AND UNIVERSAL CHURCH

1. To whom does the church belong?

Matthew 16:18

The church belongs to _____.

2. Who became part of the church?

Acts 2:47

The church was made up of those who were
_____.

3. Where were churches located?

1 Corinthians 1:2

They were located in _____ and in
_____ places where people called on the
Lord. (Think: What does that say about a local church and the
universal church?)

4. What was another word used for the church?

Colossians 1:18

The church is also called the _____.

5. How many bodies of Christ are there?

1 Corinthians 12:13

There is _____.

6. Is there only one church?

1 Corinthians 7:17

There are _____ churches.

Jesus took ownership of the church. He called it “my church.” His church is made up of those who are saved. No church belongs to a church board or a pastor or a denomination. All true churches belong to Christ. Some church buildings which have meetings

may not be part of the church. If the people are not born again, then they are not really the church. There is one universal church but many local churches. The church is called the body of Christ. There is only one body of Christ, though there are many local churches.

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

1. How did the new believers become active in the early church?

Acts 2:41, 42

They _____ in the apostles' doctrine, _____, breaking of bread, and _____.

2. What is an important reason for proclaiming the truth of Christ?

1 John 1:3

The truth is proclaimed so that believers will be in _____. (koinonia – association, community, communion)

3. How do believers keep in fellowship with one another?

1 John 1:7

When believers _____, they stay in fellowship with each other.

A major part of the early church was fellowship. They spent time together. Preaching the gospel has more than forgiveness of sin as its object. It is preached so that those who believe will come together and be in fellowship. Disunity among God's people is wrong. When people walk in the light, they continue in fellowship with one another.

INITIATION INTO THE CHURCH: BAPTISM

1. When Jesus sent out His disciples to the world, what did He commission them to do when people believed?

Matthew 28:19

Jesus told his disciples to teach, and to

_____.

2. When men and women believed the preaching about the kingdom of God, what did they do?

Acts 8:12

The believers were _____.

3. What were people to do before they were baptized?

Acts 2:38, Acts 18:8

Before baptism, people were to _____ and

_____.

4. What happened to people who had been baptized, but later came into true understanding of salvation through faith in Christ?

Acts 19:1-5

People who were baptized without true understanding of salvation, were _____ again.

Baptism is a significant part of the fellowship of believers. Jesus commissioned his disciples to baptize new believers. When those who heard the gospel believed, they were baptized. The New Testament teaches that people are to be baptized who have repented and who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. [This baptism is not the same as infant baptism, better called infant dedication.] Some people were baptized without proper knowledge of salvation. When they heard about Jesus and His sacrifice for them, they were baptized in His name.

WHAT BAPTISM MEANS

1. How are we brought into the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 12:13

We are baptized into the body of Christ by the

_____.

2. What are we identifying with when we are baptized?

Romans 6:1-6

When we are baptized, we show that we are identifying with

Christ's _____.

3. What is the inner condition of a person who is being baptized in the New Testament pattern?

1 Peter 3:21

Because he trusts in Christ's death as atonement for sin, he

has a _____ conscience.

4. Water baptism is "an outward symbol of an inner work." What is the inner work that baptism symbolizes?

Galatians 3:26-27

Baptism symbolizes that by _____ we have put on _____.

Water baptism is important, but it is not what brings us into the church. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ. That is when we are born again, when Jesus comes into our hearts by faith. Because of Christ's forgiveness, we have a clear conscience. Water baptism indicates that we are identified with the death of Christ and that we trust in Christ's substitution in death (atonement) for our sins. Water baptism shows that we have, by faith, put on Christ.

REASONS WHY A CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE BAPTIZED

1. Who did Jesus say would be saved?

Mark 16:16

Jesus said those who _____ and were
_____ would be saved.

2. What example did Jesus give us about baptism?

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus was _____ to “fulfill all righteousness.”

3. What did Jesus tell his followers to do with disciples?

Matthew 28:18-19

Jesus gave instructions to _____ them in
the _____ of the Father, Son, and Holy
Ghost.

4. What was an outward sign that people were becoming part of the early church?

Acts 2:41

Those that became part of the church were
_____.

There are four good reasons that Christians should be baptized. Jesus indicated that when a person believed, he would be baptized. Jesus himself gave us an example by being baptized in water. Jesus told the early Christians to make disciples and baptize them. It was part of the general understanding of the early church to baptize those who believed. The Bible makes it clear that when a person believes in Jesus as Savior, he should be baptized.

Lesson 2: Church as a Means of Grace

CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

1. How are we to come to worship?

1 Chronicles 16:29

We are to come away from the world to worship in the _____ of holiness.

2. What are we to give to the Lord when we come together to worship?

Psalm 35:18

We are to worship with _____ and _____.

3. What kind of praise is appropriate for worship?

Psalm 66:4

We should _____ praise to God in worship.

4. What two attributes does God look for from a true worshipper?

John 4:23,24

God is looking for those who worship in _____ and in _____.

5. Why should we have a humble attitude when we worship? Matthew

18:20

When we gather in Christ's name, _____ is present.

6. What is the proper decorum in worship?

I Corinthians 14:40

Things should be done _____ and in an
_____ way.

Ecclesiastes 5:1, 2

Great care should be taken regarding _____
spoken before God.

Worship is to help us recognize the awesome majesty of God. We are told to worship in the beauty of holiness. We are to be thankful to God, and we are to praise Him. We are to sing praise in worship. God is looking for people who worship him in spirit (from a heart alive to God), and in truth (in accordance to what is revealed by God as truth). We should also be humble, because Christ is present when we gather in His name. That indicates that we should be decent and orderly and take great care how we speak. When we worship, we are in God's presence.

THE ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS

1. What is the goal of a church assembling together?

1 Corinthians 14:26

Christians come together to _____ one
another. (edify- *oikodome* – the act of building up -*Strong's*)

2. Why are Christians to assemble together?

Hebrews 10:24,25

Christians are to assemble so they can
_____ one another. (exhort – *parakaleo* –
to encourage and strengthen by consolation -*Strong's*)

3. What is an important focus of the Church when it gathers together?

1 Timothy 4:13 There is to be _____
the Word, _____ from the Word, and
_____.

4. What special help is available from the church?

James 5:14 The church is a resource for
_____ when a person is sick, and for
_____ of sins in response to the prayer of
_____.

Coming together to worship is not mainly for ourselves, but to praise God and be a help to others. Christians encourage one another by being together. At the assembly, there is to be reading from the Word (the Bible), encouragement along the Christian way, and instruction in proper doctrine. The church gathering is a great opportunity for healing to the sick and forgiveness for the sinner, as Christians pray in faith.

COMMUNION: THE BOND OF BELIEVERS IN TAKING THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. What are we to remember when we eat the communion bread?

1 Corinthians 11:23-24
We are taking the bread in remembrance of Christ's
_____ body.

2. What are we to remember when we drink the communion cup?

1 Corinthians 11:25
We are drinking the cup in remembrance of Christ's
_____.

3. When we take communion, what are we proclaiming?

1 Corinthians 11:26

We are proclaiming Christ's substitutionary

_____ for us.

4. Why should people who are not humbly repentant not take communion?

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Those who are unworthy drink _____ to themselves.

5. What is the significance of the cup and the bread?

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Taking the Lord's supper indicates _____ of Christians. (communion: koinonia- fellowship, community)

It is important not to put too much emphasis on the Lord's supper, and also not to put too little on it. We take the broken bread to remember that Jesus' body was broken for us. We drink the cup to remember that His blood was shed for us. We are proclaiming that we have accepted Christ's death on our behalf, and that we are living for Christ. If one is not humbly following Christ daily, that person should not take communion. He will come into judgment. Taking communion indicates that we are all following Jesus together.

Lesson 3: Discovering My Spiritual Gift

THE UNIVERSALITY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE CHURCH

1. How many Christians have spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:7

_____ Christian has a spiritual gift.

2. Do non-Christians have spiritual gifts?

Romans 8:9

People without the Spirit do not belong to

_____ or his church.

3. What is each Christian to do with his spiritual gift?

1 Peter 4:10

Each Christian is to _____ with his gift.

4. What is the goal for using our spiritual gifts?

1 Peter 4:11

Ministering to others with our gift is for the glory of

_____.

Every Christian has been given a spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit. Nonbelievers have natural talents, but they do not have spiritual gifts. Each Christian is to serve others by using his spiritual gift. When Christians minister God's grace one to another, God is glorified.

PURPOSES OF THE GIFTS

1. Who is to be blessed by spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:7

Gifts are given for the profit of _____ in the church.

2. Are gifts given to be used independently of the church?

1 Corinthians 12:25

Gifts are given so there would be no _____,
but mutual _____.

3. Are gifts for personal spiritual enjoyment?

1 Corinthians 14:12

No, gifts are given to _____ the church as a
whole.

Spiritual gifts are not for self-fulfillment but are given for the benefit of everyone in the church. One function of gifts is to prevent divisions in the body of Christ. Instead, there is mutual care. Gifts are not given for personal enjoyment but are to build up the whole church. However, there is great fulfillment in using the gift God has given, particularly when others are benefited. If using gifts causes conflict or division, God's pattern is not being followed. Some have overemphasized or misapplied the gift of tongues, which is a sign to unbelievers, as it was at Pentecost. It is not to be seen as something for personal fulfillment. Our joy should result from the indwelling Holy Spirit, not in a gift He has given.

IDENTIFYING THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. What gifts are listed in Ephesians 4:11?

_____, _____,
_____, _____, and
_____.

2. Why are these specific gifts given?

Ephesians 4:12

They were given to _____ the saints for
_____.

3. What gifts are listed in Romans 12? vs. 6, 7

_____, _____,
_____, vs. 8 _____,
_____, _____,

4. What gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12? vs. 8, 9

_____, _____,
_____, _____ v.
10 _____,
_____, _____,

Ray Stedman, in his book *Body Life*, has noted a difference between what he calls support gifts and service gifts. Support gifts are those gifts, as in Ephesians 4, which equip other Christians to use their service gifts. Service gifts are those that Christians are to exercise in their work of ministry. Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to be used in ministry. Among other things, the church is a training center for Christians. They are to be trained to use the gifts God has given them.

HELPS FOR DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

1. After reviewing the lists of gifts, identify several which you are most inclined toward? _____,

_____.

2. What kinds of needs do you tend to notice?

_____. What gifts would best equip you for meeting those needs?

_____.

3. What have other Christians noticed about you that has blessed them? _____, _____.

What gift would you have been exercising?

_____.

4. Pray for wisdom as to how you can best serve the church. You can be a blessing by serving with the gift that God has given you.

Lesson 4: Uniqueness of Our Local Church

UNIQUE IN RELATING TO THE WORLD

1. How does God ask His people to relate to the lifestyles and practices of the unbelieving world?

Corinthians 6:14-18

God asks us to _____ from among them and be _____.

2. When we are separated unto God, against what are we to guard our affections?

1 John 2:15, 16

We are to avoid loving worldly desires of

_____, of _____, and the _____ of life.

3. What did Jesus say about our relationship with the world?

John 17:14-15

Jesus said that we are not of the _____,

and prayed that we should be kept from the

_____ that is in the world.

God calls Christians out of the world and unto Himself. We are not to look to the uncleanness of the world for our example of how to live. Instead, we are to take care not to indulge sinful lusts of the eye or the flesh, nor to pander to pride. We are not part of the world system of ideas or lifestyle, and we are to be kept from them.

UNIQUE IN PERSONAL LIFESTYLE

1. What kind of life are we to live in this world?

2 Corinthians 1:12

We are to live our lives in _____ and godly

_____.

2. What word picture did Jesus give us about how to clothe ourselves?

Matthew 6:28, 29

Jesus commented on the elegant simplicity of the

_____ which are more well-dressed than
_____.

3. What principles should guide our choice of clothes to wear?

1 Timothy 2:9,10

We should always wear _____ clothing.

(What other principle does that help to guard? See 1 Thessalonians 4:6 and Matthew 5:28)

Deuteronomy 22:5

We should be careful to maintain distinction of

_____ and _____ clothing.

4. What does the Bible say regarding maintaining the difference between men's and women's hair length?

1 Corinthians 11:14;15

Men are to have _____ and women are to have _____.

5. What guidance is there for the use of alcohol and drug abuse?

Proverbs 20:1

Wine is a _____.

Habakkuk 2:15

Alcoholic drink is connected in a negative way with a desire to look on _____ (which is a form of _____) – Matthew 5:28

6. What does the Bible say about over indulgence?

Deuteronomy 21:18-21

_____ and _____ are indications of a rebellious spirit.

7. What is the controlling principle for lifestyle decisions?

2 Corinthians 7:1

We are to cleanse ourselves from

_____, and perfect _____.

8. When did the disciples gather together for fellowship?

Acts 20:7

They met on the _____ day of the week, also called the _____ day (Revelation 1:10).

9. What was their mode of supporting the church financially?

1 Corinthians 16:1,2

They were to bring their offerings on the _____ day of the week.

If we truly fear the Lord, all of our lives will be under His control, including our daily activities. Every day we rise from our sleep and prepare for the day ahead. Daily activities such as how we dress, how we act, how we eat, what we do, are all to be done to God's glory. There is a lesson about clothing in the flowers; they are elegantly simple and attractive. So should we be in dress. To begin our day, we are to dress modestly with care to keep the God-given distinction of the male and female. This is also supported by the difference in length of hair, with men having short and women having long hair. How we eat and drink is also under God's control. He has given us all things to enjoy, yet He

knows that overindulgence is harmful. Alcohol is singled out as an overindulgence that is to be avoided. When one in eight people who ever take a drink become alcoholics, it is highly dangerous to excuse social drinking or drinking in moderation. The safest course is not to drink. Also, it is healthful to keep all eating in moderation. Care of the body is a Christian endeavor that indicates our understanding that the physical body is the dwelling place of God's Spirit. In fact, all of our activities should follow the principle of cleansing ourselves from the filthiness of the flesh and of the Spirit. Christ dwells within. Grace His dwelling place with self-control. Another way we acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ is by bringing regular offerings to His work. From the Biblical example, these tithes and offerings are brought on the first day of the week during the normal assembly of the believers.

Lesson 5: Church as a Community of Love and Service

DEVELOPING A SERVANT SPIRIT

1. What is the mark of Christ-likeness among believers?

Luke 22:25-27

The greatest one in the kingdom of God is the one who

_____.

2. How did Paul the Apostle win people?

1 Cor. 9:19

Paul became a _____ to others to win them to Christ.

3. What kind of servant spirit is best suited to gain our adversaries?

2 Timothy 2:24

We should convince others in the spirit of

_____.

4. How are we to keep from having a self-serving attitude?

Romans 12:10

We are to give _____ to others, and prefer others over _____.

Just as God loves humility in His people, so He also values a servant spirit. Paul the Apostle won others by his servant spirit. All of God's servants are to be gentle. It is important that we always minister with others in view. To do so, we are to show affection to others and show them deference (that is preferring them above ourselves).

PRACTICING LOVE

1. When we are born again of the Spirit, what results in our relating to others?

1 Peter 1:22-23

We will fervently _____ one
_____.

2. What is a check on our spiritual condition?

1 John 3:14

We can see if we are alive spiritually by whether we
_____ one _____. If we
don't, we are spiritually _____.

3. How do people know that we as a church are truly followers of Jesus?

John 13:34, 35

They will know we are Christ's disciples when they see our
_____.

4. How important is it that we love other Christians?

John 15:17

Jesus _____ us to love one another.

Love is a decision to treat others as God directs. The alive Christian will love other Christians. One of the greatest testimonies to the world that we are really followers of Christ is that we love one another. Love is not an option. It is a commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LOVE CONTROLS ATTITUDES

1. If we follow God's example, how should we treat others who may not be our closest friends?

Luke 6:35

We should be _____ even to our enemies.

2. Does God work through us when we become angry, even in a good cause?

James 1:19, 20

No. Our anger does not work God's _____.

3. What is revealed about someone who allows himself to vent in anger when under pressure, disappointment, or disagreement?

James 1:26 An unbridled tongue reveals a _____ heart and _____ religion.

4. List five attitudes laid aside in a Christian's relationship as he follows Christ.

1 Peter 2:1-2

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Christian attitude is a loving attitude. Christians are even to love their enemies. It is difficult to love people when we are angry with them. Anger is not a positive Christian attitude or response. In fact, God does not use anger to further His cause. Outbursts of anger reveal a problem in the heart. Christians are to put aside the evil tempers that are natural responses of the human condition.

LOVE MEANS ACCEPTANCE OF OTHERS

1. How are we to relate to a Christian who disagrees over how to apply scripture?

Romans 14:1

We are to _____ those of differing opinions on disputable matters.

2. Why is it wrong to have a bad attitude towards those of differing opinions?

Romans 14:3

It is wrong to despise or judge another because _____ has _____ him.

3. Who is to bring a person to accountability about disputable matters?

Romans 14:10-12

Each Christian is personally _____ to _____.

4. What should guide us personally in how we handle disputable matters?

Romans 14:19-21

We should be careful to not do what would make a brother _____.

5. How should we make personal decisions about disputable matters?

Romans 14:22

We should do what does not bring us personal _____.

Disagreement about issues is not a reason for Christians to act like the world and cease to fellowship with one another. In fact,

we are instructed to accept one another despite disputable issues. We are certainly not to despise others. Rather, we must realize that God accepts people that we may not agree with. God is the one to whom another person is accountable. Whatever we do, we should be careful not to cause another Christian to stumble. It is important that we live in such a way that we don't bring condemnation on ourselves.

Lesson 6: Biblical Church Leadership Requirements

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OVERSEERS

1. Is church leadership for everyone?

James 3:1

Not _____ are to be overseers because they must give stricter _____. (“masters” – Gk. didaskalos – one who teaches about the things of God and the duties of man.)

2. Who is to take the primary role of teaching in the church?

1 Timothy 3:2

The _____ is to be apt to _____ . (bishop – Gk. episkopos – overseer, elder, duty is to see things are done correctly)

3. What gifts do the qualified teaching overseers have?

Ephesians 4:11, 12

The _____, _____, _____, _____ / _____ are to _____ the saints for service.

4. What are the character qualities that control one who leads in the church?

2 Timothy 2:24,25

God’s servant must be _____ to all men, must be _____, and teach with the spirit of _____.

Not every Christian is to have a position of leadership. Those who lead will be judged more strictly than others. It is natural for people to look at Christian leaders and hold them to a high stan-

dard. The primary teaching roles are to be held by church overseers (elders). Those who are apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor/teachers are to equip God's people for service. The teacher is to be gentle, patient, and to instruct with meekness.

THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR OVERSEERS

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9

1. List 7 qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:2

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

2. List 6 qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:3

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

3. List 3 qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:4-7.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. List at least 5 other descriptive qualities in Titus 1:5-9.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

1. What teaching role is assigned for women in the New Testament description of the local church?

Titus 2:3-5

Older women are to teach _____. This role is important because it keeps God's word from being _____.

God has particularly designated that older women teach the younger women. The main influence in society is the home, and the health of the home is in great part in the hands of women. While a woman is not to take an authoritative position over the man, godly women have been invaluable in shaping nations as they have shaped their homes by example and teaching.

SECTION 4: YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR COMMUNITY



Lesson 1: Cultivating a Character of Good Report

ETHICS IN BUSINESS AND FRIENDSHIPS

1. To what did Paul give close attention in his life as a Christian?

Acts 24:16

Paul took great pains to make sure his _____
was clear both with God and with _____.

2. What does the Bible say we should do regarding all men?

Romans 12:17

We are to be _____ in the sight of all men.

3. How should a Christian view his financial obligations to others?

Romans 13:8

A Christian is not to be in _____ to others.

4. A Christian's life is a message to unbelievers. What example is a Christian to be when unbelievers look on?

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

A Christian is to be an example of _____ to
all who see him.

Having a clear conscience is the Christian basis for living in this world. We must be clear before God and man. Everyone we know must see us as honest. That means that we should not be in debt to others. Payments are to be made in a timely manner, with no opportunity for question. Everyone who sees a Christian should see an example of honesty.

HONEST WORK, HONEST PAY

1. How should a man do his job?

Romans 12:11

Work should not be done _____ but with a
_____ spirit.

2. What is a man who does his work with a slack hand?

Proverbs 18:9

A man who is lazy in his work is like one who is

_____.

3. How does God view someone who does not give honest wages to workers?

Jeremiah 22:13

God pronounces _____ to the one who doesn't pay his workers honestly.

4. How should an employer pay his workers?

Colossians 4:1

Employers should pay a _____ and

_____ wage.

5. How should both workers and employers consider their positions and responsibilities?

Ephesians 6:5-9

Both workers and employers are working for

_____.

Christians must not be seen as lazy, or slothful, but should be fervent in their work. The slacker is actually a wasteful person. Not only is it wrong to waste the time of an employer, it is also wrong for an employer to cheat his employees by not paying a fair wage. In fact God pronounces a woe on him. Employees are to receive a just and equitable wage for their work. Both Christian employees and employers are working for Christ and will give account for how they discharge their duties.

DILIGENCE PAYS OFF

1. What lessons about being diligent can we learn from the ant?

Proverbs 6:6-11

Considering the diligence of the ant can make one

_____ . An ant does not wait for

_____ before it starts to work. An ant

works hard during the time for _____ and

_____ .

2. How does a diligent man value what he gains?

Proverbs 12:27

The diligent considers everything that comes into his care as

_____ .

3. What is the difference between the mind-set of a diligent person and a slothful person?

Proverbs 21:5

A diligent person thinks about how to reach his goals of having _____, whereas a slothful person thinks

about how to get rich _____ .

4. What kind of honor comes to a man who is diligent in business?

Proverbs 22:29

A diligent man will be honored by “_____.”

Diligence is a virtue that the Christian must cultivate. God uses the example of an ant to help us understand the wisdom of diligence. The ant works well in advance of winter to lay up food, working during planting season and also harvest time. A man who is diligent places value on everything he has. He works hard to have enough for his needs. The slothful, on the other hand, hopes

to get rich quick. The end results are visible to all. The diligent is honored by kings, while the slothful is known for his lazy ways.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD NAME

1. Precious ointment was highly valued in the middle eastern world.

What was considered to be even more valuable?

Ecclesiastes 7:1

Great value was placed on having a _____.

2. What is it that gives a person a good name?

1 Samuel 18:30

A good name comes when one behaves himself

_____.

3. What kinds of men were to look after the affairs of others?

Acts 6:3

Men of _____ are to be chosen for responsible positions.

4. Sometimes it is possible to make a lot of money by compromising godly standards of ethics. What is more important than making a lot of money?

Proverbs 22:1

A good _____ is always to be chosen over

_____.

A good name is a valuable treasure. It is more valuable than things like perfume or gold. A good name comes from a life of following wisdom. In the church, men of wisdom who have a good name are to be in charge. A good name can be compromised by trying to get rich quick, or being involved in a compromise of what is right. Always choose to keep a good name. You can make

money later, but it may take years to recover a good name once it has been damaged.

Lesson 2: Being Salt and Light in the World

PRESERVING THE WORLD FROM DECAY

What did Jesus say that his followers are?

Matthew 5:13

Jesus said his disciples are the _____ of the earth. (Salt does two things: it makes things taste better, and it keeps things from spoiling.) What did Jesus say would happen if his followers lost their _____ flavor?

Matthew 5:13

They would be _____ but to be _____.

3. In what way do Christians help make the world better?

Colossians 4:5, 6

Christians have _____ “flavored with salt,” that gives _____ to men.

4. What are Christians to do to have answers for the world?

1 Peter 3:15

Christians are to _____ the Lord in their hearts, and _____ to give an answer for the reason of their hope in Christ.

5. What can Christians do to prepare themselves to be salt?

2 Timothy 2:15

We are to _____ to be approved to God as His workman, correctly handling the word of _____.

Christians are to do more than merely sit in a church on Sunday. They are to be a preservative influence in society and to make things better. Christians have wisdom from God. When they use it

wisely it brings grace. Christians are to be careful to have God at the center of their hearts, and from that sanctified position always be ready to give an answer for why they trust in Christ. A Christian is to study God's word to be able to find answers for himself, and to give to others the answers they need.

LIGHTING THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WAY

1. What did Jesus say his followers served as in the world?

Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus said his disciples were _____ of the world. How would the world give glory to God through the disciples? They would see the _____ of the disciples.

2. What is the source of the Christian's light that shines in the world?

2 Corinthians 4:5, 6

_____ is the source of the Christian's light.

3. What does the Christian do that shows the world where they are wrong?

Ephesians 5:11-13

A Christian, with the light of Christ in him,
_____ the world.

4. What is the message to those sleeping in darkness?

Ephesians 5:14

People in darkness are to _____ and begin following Christ.

The world does not know the truth. Christians are the ones to bring enlightenment. They do it not so much by argument as by good works. Jesus is the source of light for the Christian. It is because of Christ in us that we can be a good example to the world.

That example reproves the world. When they compare themselves with Christians, it brings shame to them. Some of them will wake up from their sleep and follow Jesus also.

ENGAGING THE CULTURE

1. How is a Christian to relate to government?

Mark 12:14-17

A Christian is to give God what belongs to God, and give to _____ what belongs to _____.

2. What is the watchman to do when evil is a threat to a people?

Ezekiel 33:1-7

A watchman is to _____ people when God's truth is violated.

3. What kinds of efforts should Christians be involved with in their community?

Psalm 82:3, 4

Christians should be active in defense of the _____ and fatherless, the cause of justice for the _____ and needy, to rid them of the influence or control of the _____.

4. What characterizes people who are wicked, whose agendas must be stopped?

Psalm 50:16-20

The wicked reject God's _____, consent to _____, take part in _____, speak words of _____, and are _____.

5. Some people claim to be working for justice, but their actions are wicked. Does God accept their work?

Proverbs 15:8, 21:27

The _____ of the wicked person is hateful to God.

6. What did Jesus tell us to engage in?

Matthew 25:34-36

Jesus' followers are those who meet the _____ of others.

7. What is the commission for Christ's disciples?

Matthew 28:18-20

We are to _____ the nations to _____ all that Jesus commanded.

8. What is the first duty of Christians to their community leaders?

1 Timothy 2:1, 2

The first duty of Christians to their leaders is to _____.

Christians are not to be completely disengaged from their culture. Jesus told his followers to give Caesar what was his. That means we are to give our share to the government. We are not to expect the government to take care of us, but instead are to take care that the government does what it is instituted to do. It is part of the Christian duty to give warnings when God's truths are violated. The Christian is to care for the plight of the poor and the fatherless, the afflicted and needy, and to work to free them from wicked people. It is important to identify the wicked. Some have mistakenly identified every well-to-do person with oppressors and robbers. But that is not true. A hard-working person who advances

himself and his position may be respected. In contrast, it may be a mark of slothfulness that some people are poor. However, some people in power have used the poor to their wicked advantages. People who are immoral, who will lie, who are haughty, who will defend the shedding of innocent blood, who use divisiveness to advance personal or political agendas, are wicked and must be opposed. Even their prayers are hypocritical and will not be answered. Jesus told his followers to meet the needs of others, not use them as opportunities for political advancement. Jesus also told us to teach all nations to observe everything He commanded. Our first duty in our community is to pray for everyone, starting with our leaders.

Lesson 3: Overcoming Evil with Good

LIGHTING A CANDLE IN THE DARKNESS

1. How should a Christian deal with the evils of the world? Or how can a Christian refrain from merely “cursing the darkness”?

Romans 12:21

A Christian is to _____ evil with _____ . On what basis can a Christian overcome evil?

Romans 12:1,2

A Christian should be personally _____ by renewing his _____ and thus experience the perfect _____ of God.

2. What did Jesus show us are the greatest needs of people?

Luke 4:18

The poor need to hear the _____ .

The brokenhearted need to be _____ .

The captives need to be _____ .

The blind need to be given _____ .

The oppressed need to be given _____ .

Christians are in a battle with evil. But Christians are not to use the same tactics in the struggle as their opposition. Christians are not to use anger or other evil tempers in the fight. They are instead to use good. Instead of compromising with evil, a Christian is to be changed into a loving, caring adversary of those who are on the side of evil. The way of Christ is to find the way to do good in overcoming evil. How does God want us to respond? The poor need the gospel. Captives need to know freedom. Blind people

need sight. Oppressed people need liberty. We must look for ways to do good when evil threatens.

GIVING THE GOOD NEWS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. When Jesus sent his disciples to the communities of Israel, what did they preach?

Mark 6:7-13

The disciples preached that people should

_____.

2. When the disciples found a household (oikos) that was open to them, what were they to do?

Luke 10:5-7

The disciples were to _____ with a household that was open to them.

3. As we are in this world and meet people, what are we to be?

2 Corinthians 5:20

We are _____ for Christ.

4. What is the message we are to give people?

2 Corinthians 5:20

We are to tell people to be _____ to God.

The good news of the gospel must be presented in the right context. People need to know they are sinners before they see their need of the Savior. Jesus told his disciples to preach repentance. When the disciples found a household that was open to them, they were to stay with them. Becoming friends of one family and showing them Jesus is a powerful method of evangelism. Many people are touched when a household comes in contact with the gospel. We are to be Christ's ambassadors, telling them to be reconciled to God.

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

1. How did Jesus feel about lost people?

Matthew 9:3

Jesus had _____ on lost people.

2. How are we to feel toward people who are lost?

Jude 1:22, 23

We are to have _____ and try to
_____ them.

3. Where are we to go to find people who need help?

Luke 14:23

We are to go to the _____ and
_____ to get people to come to the Lord.

4. Are we to separate ourselves from interaction with non-Christians?

John 17:15

We are to be in the _____ but by God's grace
be kept from the _____ in the world.

When Jesus saw lost people, he had compassion on them. Instead of being angry at sinners or treating them with contempt, we are to have compassion on the lost and try to save them. It is not enough to hope they come to us. We are to go out to the "highways and the hedges" and find them. We must show them that we love them and that Christ loves them. That means we are to be in the world, not to become like worldly people (for we are to be kept from the evil in the world), but to become their link to God.

SECTION 5: YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOURSELF



Lesson 1: My Identity

WHERE I CAME FROM

1. Who superintended my development from conception?

Psalm 139:13

I was watched over in _____ by
_____.

2. Was I an accident of development, a product of time and chance?

Psalm 139:14 No.

When He made me, God made something
_____.

3. What did God consider me when He made me in the womb?

Psalm 139:15

God worked on me like a work of _____.
(“curiously wrought” from Hb. *raqam* –to mix colors, skill-
fully woven)

4. Was God surprised by how I turned out?

Psalm 139:16

No. God planned what I would be like before my
_____ were made.

Your life began at conception. God watched over you when you were a tiny cell in your mother’s womb. God began working on you as a special work of art. He knew details of what you would be like (your hair, your eyes, your skin color, your personality) before you were formed.

WHAT I HAVE INHERITED

1. What did I inherit from Adam?

Romans 5:12

I inherited _____ by _____,
and am included with all _____.

2. What negative predispositions may I have inherited from my family?

Exodus 20:4, 5

I may be suffering consequences from three or four
_____ back.

3. Do I get punished for the sins of my fathers?

Ezekiel 18:20

I am only responsible for _____ sins.

4. What blessings may I have because of my family?

Exodus 20:6

_____ follows those who love God.

Along with all other sons or daughters of Adam, you inherited death by sin. The world is a fallen place. You are part of that. You may have inherited some negative things from your natural parents. In fact, certain weaknesses or negative tendencies can go on for generations. However, you are an individual, and you are not responsible for the sins of your parents or grandparents. You are only responsible for your own sins. On the other hand, you may be experiencing blessings from your family. Mercy follows the families of those who love God.

HOW I HAVE REACTED TO MY INHERITANCE

How am I to view my earthly parents?

Exodus 20:12

I am to _____ my _____
and my _____.

What if I don't like how I am made or the family I come from?

Isaiah 45:9-10

It is unwise to react against your _____
and _____ because you are really reacting
against _____.

3. What consequence is there for bitterness or anger over my inherited negative family tendencies?

Ephesians 4:26, 27

Anger that continues gives _____ to the
_____. ("place" – Gk. *topos* – portion or
space marked off)

4. What is the reason I may have inner anger and resentment that turns to bitterness?

Proverbs 13:10

Contention and strife come from _____.

5. What hinders me from getting God's help over bitterness and anger?

James 4:6

These come from pride, and God _____ the
proud.

Regardless of what kind of family history you have, you are still to honor your father and your mother. Without them, you would not be alive. You may be angry at one or both of your

parents for various reasons. Don't allow yourself to react against them, because you may be reacting against God. He watched over your birth and knows your parents. If you allow bitterness to stay inside you, it allows a place for the devil to work.

All kinds of negative things result, as the devil has a place inside you from which he produces a variety of evil. Strife and contention in your heart and in your home come from pride. Pride is the workshop of the devil, and God resists the proud. As long as you harbor these things in your heart, you will have difficulty finding God's grace to help you.

VICTORY OVER ANGER AND BITTERNESS

1. Any place (or surrendered ground) given to Satan will offer him a position to affect us with wrong ideas (strongholds – for example, “I am worthless.” “I am ugly.” “I can never be righteous.” “God couldn't love me.”). How do I get rid of strongholds that cause me to think wrong thoughts?

2 Corinthians 10:4-6

I can bring every _____ into the
_____ of Christ.

2. What powerful action can I take to counteract feelings of anger and bitterness over harmful things in my past or tendencies I have inherited from my father or grandfathers?

Mark 11:25

God's grace comes unhindered when I _____
those who have harmed me.

[What you may need to forgive:

- sins against you (physical, verbal, emotional abuse, family dysfunction)
- predispositions in past generations
- poor judgment of others that has affected you]

3. In what way should I forgive those who have offended me?

Colossians 3:13

I should forgive others just as _____ has forgiven me.

Even if you have struggled with negative emotions like anger, bitterness, or self-pity, there is a way out. Strongholds in your mind can be destroyed. When you bring every thought into Christ's captivity, you can be free. A very powerful inner action you can take is to forgive. Forgiveness sets you free from the ongoing inner bondage of hatred and anger. By forgiving, you can release those who have wronged you into God's hands, and you can experience God's forgiveness yourself. We have a great example. Jesus forgave us while we were yet sinners, when from the cross He said, "Father, forgive them..." You can follow His example and release the powerful force of forgiveness in your heart.

ESTABLISHING A GRACE LEGACY

1. What did God know about Abraham that would bring blessing to generations to follow?

Genesis 18:19

God knew that Abraham would train his children to keep the _____ of the _____, so that God would bring his blessings on them.

2. What was promised to the Philippian jailor if he would trust in Jesus to save him?

Acts 16:27-31

If he would believe, his whole _____ would be saved.

3. What kind of legacy can I leave to those who follow me if I walk with Jesus?

Isaiah 58:11, 12

I can raise up the _____ of many _____.

Abraham is known as the father of faith. God saw that Abraham believed Him and that Abraham would train his children to keep God's laws and believe Him. God promised blessings through Abraham because of his faith. The story of Abraham shows how future generations can receive a grace legacy. The story of the Philippian jailor shows the same truth.

Because he believed, so did his whole family. You can begin a grace legacy. Even if past generations have not sent you blessings, you may begin having God's blessings now, which will be a blessing to the generations that follow you.

Lesson 2: My Identity in Christ

IN CHRIST, I AM NEW

1. Do I bring the moral damage of my past with me when I am in Christ?

1 Corinthians 1:2

No. I am _____ in Christ.

2. In Christ, am I the same person I always was?

2 Corinthians 5:17

I am a _____ in Christ Jesus.

3. In Christ, do I need to feel down because of a bad past?

Ephesians 2:6

I am raised _____ in Christ and am seated in _____ places.

4. In Christ, do I need to continue to do the same old things I used to?

Ephesians 2:10

In Christ, I am made to do _____.

When you come to Jesus Christ and trust Him to save you, some very powerful things happen in your life. You are sanctified (cleansed and set apart) in Him. You have become a new creation. The old things are passed away. Any moral damage from your past is removed from you. God gives you a new record in heaven. While before you were dead in sins, now you are alive in Christ. Instead of being a sinful person, controlled by the past slavery, you are now free to follow Jesus. You don't need to do the old things. The old is past; the new has come.

IN CHRIST, I HAVE A NEW INNER MAKEUP

1. Am I inferior to others in Christ?

Galatians 3:28 I am equally _____ in Christ with all other Christians.

2. Am I a winner or loser in Christ?

2 Corinthians 2:14 In Christ I am always _____.

3. In Christ, must I continue in depression?

Philippians 4:4

In Christ I can _____. (See Isaiah 61:3. I can overcome a heavy spirit by putting on the garment of _____.)

4. Am I in bondage being in Christ?

Galatians 2:4

In Christ I am at _____.

As a believer, you are equal to all others in Christ. Someone said “The ground is level at the foot of the cross.” In Christ, you can always triumph. Even if in the past you have been overcome by depression, you can rejoice in Christ Jesus. You can put on praise when you feel a heaviness in your spirit. Say words of praise, sing words of praise, and think words of praise. It will be like a garment, keeping the cold wind of depression from you. In Christ you are at liberty. You are free.

IN CHRIST, I BELONG

1. When I am in Christ, how does that change my standing with God?

Romans 8:1 In

Christ, I am no longer under _____.

2. Yo what do I belong since I am in Christ?

Romans 12:5

In Christ, I am part of His _____.

3. What blessings do I have in Christ?

1 Corinthians 1:30

Jesus is my _____, _____,
_____ and _____.

4. In Christ, how close am I to God?

Ephesians 2:13

I am _____ to God in Christ.

When you are in Christ, you are no longer under condemnation. The weight of the guilt from your past sins is gone. You are really free. You now belong to Him and are considered as part of the body of Christ. In Christ you have wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. In Christ you are near to God and have access to Him. You belong to God and to God's family.

IN CHRIST, I HAVE HOPE AND A FUTURE

1. What can those in Christ expect on earth?

2 Timothy 3:12

They that live godly in Christ will suffer

_____.

2. What can result from living a godly lifestyle in Christ?

1 Peter 3:16

Those who are contrary will be _____.

3. What blessing comes to those in Christ?

1 Peter 5:14

Those in Christ are blessed by _____.

4. What hope is there for those who have died in Christ?

1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

The dead in Christ shall _____ first.

The world we live in is not a friend to God or God's people. If you live a godly life in Christ, you will be persecuted. However, as you continue to follow Jesus, even your enemies may end up being ashamed because you are a consistent Christian. When you are in Christ, regardless of what happens to you, you are blessed by peace. Ultimately, even for those who have died, there is the hope of the resurrection.

Lesson 3: My Purpose

I BELONG TO GOD

1. Do I belong to myself?

1 Corinthians 6:19

No, I am not my _____.

2. Why should I glorify God in my body?

1 Corinthians 6:20

I should glorify God because He _____ with
a _____.

3. What was the price paid for me?

Romans 8:32

God spared not His own _____ for me.

4. To whom do I belong?

Romans 14:8

I am the _____.

You do not belong to yourself; you belong to God. God not only created you, but He also bought you with the price of His Son who went to the cross to purchase your redemption. You belong to the Lord who made you and who bought you with a price.

MY POSSESSIONS BELONG TO GOD

1. What all does the Lord own?

Psalm 89:11

God owns the _____ and the
_____ and the fullness thereof. (fullness –
entire contents)

2. What tends to happen to earthly riches?

Proverbs 23:4, 5

Riches are like eagles that _____ away.

3. What could God do to riches if I set my heart on them?

Haggai 1:9

God can _____ on them and cause them to come to little.

4. Since I belong to God, how should I view my possessions?

Hebrews 13:5

I should be _____ with what I have.

The Bible clearly teaches that God owns the heavens and the earth and every thing in them. All of your possessions belong to God. If God sees that riches are not good for you, he can blow on them and cause them to decrease. In the proper view, you do not own anything but are God's steward over things He has allowed you to be responsible for. Be thankful for what you have.

GOD HAS A GOAL FOR ME

1. What major duties am I made for?

Ecclesiastes 12:13

I am to _____ God and keep His _____.

2. What should I seek in life?

Matthew 6:33

I am to seek the _____ of _____ and His _____.

3. What promise comes with this?

Matthew 6:33

_____ I need will be added to me.

4. How am I to think about myself?

Romans 12:3

I am not to think more _____ than I ought to.

5. How can I have peace about myself and how God made me?

Colossians 3:15

Allowing God's peace to _____ in my heart is related to being _____.

6. What characteristic do I need to have to find grace to be what God wants me to be?

James 4:6

I must be _____ to receive God's grace.

7. What am I specifically made for?

Romans 8:29

I am made to be like _____.

Why are you here on earth? Your first duty is to fear God and keep His commandments. Therefore, before anything else, seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness. When you do that, God will provide your needs. Since pride gets in the way of doing God's will, do not think too highly of yourself. Instead, humbly allow God's peace to rule your heart and be thankful. Humility is the position from which you can best receive God's provisions. God's plan for you is that you are the reflection of Jesus to others as only you can be.

GOD IS WORKING FOR MY GOOD

1. How does God look at me with all my issues?

Ephesians 2:10

I am God's _____, created for doing
_____ works.

2. How should I think about myself when I see imperfections that need to be changed?

Philippians 1:6

God is doing a _____ in me and will
_____ until the day Christ comes.

3. What is God doing when I am going through difficulties?

Romans 8:28

He is working _____ for my good.

4. How should I respond to the process of God working on me?

James 1:4

I should be _____ while God is working on
me.

God looks at you as His workmanship, His creative work. He sees not just what you were in the past, nor what you are now, but what He has in mind for you to become. He is working in you so that you will do good things. It is important to see that you are not a finished product but a continuing work. The instruments of His ongoing work include difficulties. When God uses the hardships of life to change you, patiently endure the work He is doing. It is for your good and His glory.

Lesson 4: My Destiny

SUFFERING IS PART OF WHAT GOD ALLOWS ON EARTH

1. What can cause heaviness of spirit in a Christian?

1 Peter 1:6

Various kinds of _____ can cause heart heaviness.

2. What is being proven (tried) by going through difficulties?

1 Peter 1:7

Difficulties are a trial of our _____.

3. How should I respond when I suffer wrongfully?

1 Peter 2:20

God is pleased if I am _____ when I suffer.

4. What example of suffering am I to follow?

1 Peter 2:21

_____ left us an example for suffering.

5. What can I rely on when I suffer?

2 Corinthians 12:9

God's _____ is _____ for me.

While our ultimate destiny is heaven, the journey to that eventual eternal home often includes suffering. Some suffering is emotional, accompanied by heaviness of spirit, or depression. A sense of heaviness can come as a result of temptations. God has not abandoned you when you have a heavy spirit. Your faith is being tested. Even if you suffer wrongfully, you should endure it with patience, for that pleases God. Just as He worked through Christ's suffering, so can He work through yours. He has enough grace to bring you through your suffering.

THIS WORLD IS NOT A FRIEND TO GRACE

1. Why does the world hate Christians?

John 15:18, 19

The world hates them because they have been
_____ out of the world.

2. What can a person who lives a godly life expect in this world?

2 Timothy 3:12

All who live godly lives will _____.

3. What kind of deception may persecutors of Christians be under?

John 16:2

Some who kill Christians think they are
_____ God.

4. How should a Christian react when he/she is persecuted?

Matthew 5:11, 12

Jesus told us to _____ when we are persecuted for His sake.

The world is the totality of that on earth which opposes God. When a person leaves the world and becomes a Christian, the world hates that person.

As a Christian whom God has chosen as His own, you can expect to be persecuted. Some will go so far as to think that they please God when they kill Christians. Since persecution is one mark of a Christian, Jesus told us to rejoice when we are mistreated for His sake.

SERVING CHRIST IS MY PRIVILEGE WHILE ON EARTH

1. When I live my life, whom should I live to please?

Colossians 3:23

I should do everything with all my _____ as
to the _____.

2. Who is watching my life?

Colossians 3:24

The _____ is watching my service and will
give me a _____.

3. How does God view me as I live for Him?

1 John 3:1

God views me as a _____ who He
_____.

4. What is going to happen to me when Christ comes?

1 John 3:2

I will see _____ and be like
_____.

Whatever you are doing in your life, you should do it wholeheartedly, as to the Lord. He is the one who is watching you and will give you a reward for your service. God is not looking at you as a stern taskmaster, but as a father who loves his child. When Jesus comes back for His people, you will see Him and be like Him.

HEAVEN IS MY ULTIMATE END

1. What positive possibilities are there for my life?

Philippians 1:21

To live is _____, to die is
_____.

2. What do the troubles on earth do for me?

2 Corinthians 4:16, 17

Present troubles are _____ and produce an
_____ weight of glory.

3. What am I looking forward to?

1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 I am looking for the

_____ of Lord, so I can be with Him
_____.

4. What will be the best part of my eternity?

Revelation 21:3, 4

_____ himself will be with me, and all the
former _____ will pass away.

You are going to win. As you live here on earth, your life is in Christ. When you die, you gain heaven. Troubles here on earth are only momentary, but they work to bring greater glory in heaven. Keep your eyes open for the return of the Lord. When He comes, you will be with Him forever. The best part of eternity is that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself will be with you, and all the former troubles and trials will be gone. Your destiny, along with all of God's people, is to enjoy the blessings of Jesus in heaven forever.

