

FOUNDATIONS



of the Christian Life

WELCOME TO FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Introduction

Following Christ as His disciple includes developing a spiritual foundation that we will continue to build upon throughout our earthly lives. This Foundations discipleship group is designed to intentionally build that foundation in your life. It will require the commitment of time and effort on your part. Remember, however, that your commitment will be accompanied by the encouragement of other believers and by the blessing of God who wants to see you succeed in your Christian life.

You need to bring your Bible with you to each small group meeting, and to have the assignment done before you come. You will also find it helpful to use a 3-ring binder in which to keep some of the handout materials.

Don't forget that as believers, we have an enemy who opposes everything God wants to do in our lives. Don't be surprised when you encounter difficulties that would make it easier for you to quit! Persevere and pray! Pray for yourself and for the other members of your group. No doubt, they will experience the same kind of difficulties as you.

Our belief and prayer is that by persevering and participating in this discipleship group, you will experience:

- definite spiritual growth
- greater joy and vitality in your walk with God
- a closer relationship with your fellow group members
- greater effectiveness in your service for Christ

THE WHY & HOW OF BIBLE MEMORIZATION

1. Does God want me to memorize Bible verses?

Look up the following verses and jot down what each one says about what we ought to do with God's word.

Deuteronomy 6:6

Colossians 3:16

Psalm 1:2

Psalm 119:11

In light of these verses, what do you think the answer is to question 1?

2. *How will memorizing Bible verses help me?*

The following passages show several ways in which being able to recall God's word will help us:

Matthew 4:1-7 –

Psalm 1:1-3 –

Can you think of other ways in which memorizing Bible verses will help you?

3. *How do I start memorizing Bible verses?*

A. Select the translation you will use.

Memorize all verses that you learn in the same translation. Use the translation that you will use in your daily quiet time. Recommended translations are:

- New King James Version
- King James Version
- New American Standard Version
- New International Version

- (The Living Bible is not a translation and is not recommended for your quiet time or for memorizing.)
- B. Read the entire verse aloud several times before you try to memorize it.
- C. Memorize the theme, the reference, and the first line as a unit, then continue to add the next line as you learn it. (If possible, work on the verse audibly.)
- D. When working on a verse, always say it in the following order:
- Theme
 - Reference
 - Verse
 - Reference
- E. Try writing the verse from memory once every day.
- F. Once you have memorized the verse, review it repeatedly until it becomes ingrained in your memory.

The list of Bible verses we will memorize is found on the next page. The verses listed in the center column are the ones we will be learning in this course. If you have already memorized the verse listed in the center column, then memorize the optional verse for that theme.

FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP GROUP
MEMORY VERSES

Section One
“Live The New Life”

<u>Theme</u>	<i>Required</i>	<i>Optional</i>
Christ the Center	Galatians 2:20	2 Corinthians 5:17
Obedience to Christ	Romans 12:1	John 14:21
God’s Word	Joshua 1:8	2 Timothy 3:16
Prayer	John 15:7	Philippian 4:6-7
Fellowship	Hebrews 10:24-25	Acts 2:42
Witnessing	Mark 1:17	Romans 1:16

Section Two
“Share Your Faith”

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Required</i>	<i>Optional</i>
All Have Sinned	Romans 3:23	Isaiah 53:6
Sin’s Penalty	Romans 6:23	Hebrews 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	Romans 5:8	1 Peter 3:18
Salvation Not By Works	Romans 4:5	Ephesians 2:8-9
Must Receive Christ	Romans 10:13	John 1:12
Assurance of Salvation	Romans 8:38-39	1 John 5:13

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Our goal for this coming week is to spend 5-10 minutes each day trying to memorize Galatians 2:20, and meditating on what the verse means. Each day write the theme, the reference, and as much of the verse as you can remember. Then look the verse up in your Bible and, if necessary, correct what you have written. Conclude your time by meditating on one line of the verse and answering the question(s) given.

Day One

Theme _____ Reference _____

Verse:

1. When were you “crucified with Christ”?
2. How has that affected your life?

Day Two

Theme _____ Reference _____

Verse:

3. What does the phrase, "It is no longer I who live" mean?

Day Three

Theme _____ Reference _____

Verse:

4. Think about the fact that Christ lives in you. What difference should that make in the way you live today?

Day Four

Theme _____ Reference _____

Verse:

5. What is the difference between living by faith and not living by faith?

Day Six

Theme _____ Reference _____

Verse:

6. According to this verse, what has the Son of God done for you?

Reflect on those thoughts for a few minutes, then spend time thanking God for what Jesus Christ has done for you.

DEVELOPING A DAILY QUIET TIME – Part I

Introduction

Your assignment for last week included answering questions that were designed to make you think about the memory verse. You will not always be given a set of meditation-type questions, but you should develop the habit of meditating on each memory verse that you learn. Read the verse written below (the optional verse for “Christ the Center”), and try to formulate four questions that would lead someone to meditate on the verse.

Christ the Center, 2 Corinthians 5:17
“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation;
old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.”

Question #1

Question #2

Question #3

Question #4

The 5-10 minute time segment you spent each day memorizing and meditating on Galatians 2:20 is the seed that should grow into the habit of spending a few quiet minutes with God each day. You will gradually add additional elements to your quiet time:

- worship
- Bible reading
- Bible memorization
- prayer

The amount of time you spend each day will increase, but DON'T PANIC!!! It need not become an unmanageable time burden! A 15-20 minute daily quiet time can accomplish the elements listed above.

How important is it for us to spend time with God each day? Consider the example of two sisters described in Luke 10:38-42. Read these verses, then list the actions of each sister in the box below:

MARTHA	MARY

What did Jesus say about Mary's choice?

What do you think He meant by the last part of His statement?

One of the things said about Mary was that she "heard His word". An important part of a daily quiet time is hearing what God has to say to us. The portion that we read each day doesn't need to be long, but we need to read something from the Bible. Eventually, you will need to choose what to read and how much to read each day.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Our goal for this coming week is to spend 10 minutes each day reading a few Bible verses and working on a memory verse(s). Read the verses listed and answer the questions for each day. Conclude your time by writing out your memory verse, including the theme, the reference, and as much of the verse as you can remember. Then look the verse up in your Bible and, if necessary, correct what you have written.

Day One

Read Romans 6:1-4

1. What question is asked in verse 1?

2. How is that question answered in verse 2?

Memory Verse:

Theme _____ Reference _____

Day Two

Read Romans 6:5-10

1. According to verse six, what happened to “our old man”?

2. What is the result?

Memory Verse:

Theme _____ Reference _____

Day Three

Read Romans 6:11-14

1. What are you supposed to do, according to verse 11?

2. What are you not supposed to do, according to verse 13?

Memory Verse:

Theme _____ Reference _____

Day Four

Read Romans 6:15-19

1. According to verse 16, whose slave were you?

2. According to verse 18, are you free or are you a slave?

Memory Verse:

Theme _____ Reference _____

Day Five

Read Romans 6:20-23

1. How would you answer the question asked in verse 21?

2. What fruit comes from being God's slave?

Memory Verse

Theme _____ Reference _____

DEVELOPING A DAILY QUIET TIME – Part II

Daily Bible Reading

Introduction

There were three basic objectives to the assignment you were given for today:

- To continue memorizing Galatians 2:20
- To further understand the meaning of Galatians 2:20 by studying the same doctrine taught in Romans chapter six
- To begin to develop the habit of reading a few verses from the Bible everyday and considering what they mean

Our next step is to further develop the habit of daily Bible reading and meditation.

Why should I read the Bible?

We have every reason to believe that what God told Joshua to do is what He wants every believer to do:

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,
but you shall meditate on it day and night,
that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.
For then you will make your way prosperous,
and then you will have good success.*

Joshua 1:8

Job also testified, “I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.” We should consider spending time in God’s Word each day even more important than our daily meals!

Where should I start reading?

There are several Bible reading methods that are not the best ones to follow when you are first establishing the habit of having a daily quiet time.

1. The Read-through-the-Bible-in-a-Year Method.

While it may seem to make sense to start at the beginning of the Bible and read all the way through to the end, many Christians find the effort to be overwhelming. There is a time and place for reading through the entire Bible (or the Old or New Testaments) in a year, but

that is not the place to start when you are establishing your daily quiet time! There are several problems people often face:

- the amount that needs to be read (3-5 chapters/day) is more than we can meditate on
- the amount of time required leaves no time for the other aspects of a quiet time (worship, memorizing, prayer)
- falling three or four days behind can be discouraging to the point of giving up

2. The "Poke-and-Hope" Method

People who follow this method simply blindly poke their finger into their Bible and hope they have stumbled on a passage that they will find interesting. This method leads to confused, immature Christians! It ignores the importance of understanding the context of each verse, and, in extreme cases, it can lead to dangerous doctrinal error.

A Recommended Method

When God gave His Word to man, He didn't give it to us one verse at a time--He gave it to us a book at a time. Therefore, it is best to start at the beginning of one book and read sequentially through the book. How much you read each day will be determined by several factors, such as your personality, the time you have available, which book you are reading, and the section of the book you are reading.

Since some books are easier to understand than others, you will want to start with start with certain books and save others until later. You may also find it helpful to alternate between books from the New Testament and books from the Old Testament. Remember, also, that it is not a sin to skim over tedious chapters like genealogies or detailed descriptions of the tabernacle or the boundary lines between the inheritance of the tribes!

The following is a partial suggested order in which you may want to start reading the Bible:

James
Mark
Genesis
Acts
Psalms 1-41
Philippians
Exodus
John
Joshua

How Can I Understand What I'm Reading?

Realize that God intends for His Word to be understood! The following guidelines may prove helpful:

1. Begin with prayer. Ask God to help you understand His Word.
2. Read at a time and in a place where distractions are at a minimum.
3. Try to have your quiet time at the same time each day.
4. Interpret the Bible like you would a newspaper. Don't try to "spiritualize" or read too much into things that are figures of speech. (When Jesus accused the Pharisees of devouring widows' houses, Matthew 23:14, He wasn't suggesting that they ate siding for lunch!)
5. Learn to ask questions.
6. Write down lessons that you see and that you need to apply to your life.

Remember that we are to be "doers" of God's Word, and not readers only!

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Our goal is to establish the habit having a daily quiet time.

Set your own personal goal for this coming week:

MY GOAL: to have a daily quiet time _____ days this week when I will spend 10-15 minutes each day reading a few Bible verses and working on a memory verse(s).

MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: I had a daily quiet time _____ days this week.

A suggested passage is given for each day. Read the verses and, if possible, jot down an observation or an application.

Day One

- ❑ Read James 1:1-4
- ❑ Observation/application

Memory Verse:

Theme _____ Reference _____

Day Two

- Read James 1:5-8
- Observation/application

Memory Verse:

Theme _____ Reference _____

Day Three

- Read James 1:9-11
- Observation/application

Memory Verse:

Theme _____ Reference _____

Day Four

- Read James 1:12-18
- Observation/application

Memory Verse:

Theme _____ Reference _____

Day Five

- Read James 1:19-20
- Observation/application

Memory Verse

Theme _____ Reference _____

Day Six

- Read James 1:21-25
- Observation/application

Memory Verse

Theme _____ Reference _____

Day Seven

- Read James 1:26-27
- Observation/application

Memory Verse

Theme _____ Reference _____

DEVELOPING A DAILY QUIET TIME – Part III
Understanding What You Read

Introduction

Our objectives up to this point have been to develop the practices of memorizing Bible verses and reading a portion of the Bible on a daily (or near-daily) basis. How would you answer the following questions:

- *Are you memorizing Bible verses?*
- *Are you reading the Bible in your daily quiet time?*
- ***Do you understand what you are reading?***

The third question is the one we want to focus on today. Not only do we need to read God's Word each day, we also need to strengthen our ability to understand what we are reading. The following story illustrates, in a humorous way, the problem of reading the Bible, but not understanding what we are reading. When asked to summarize what he had been reading in the Bible, a confused believer gave the following report:

Once upon a time a man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves: and the thorns grew up and choked that man. He went on and he didn't have any money, and he met the Queen of Sheba. She gave that man a thousand talents of gold and a hundred changes of clothing. He got in a chariot and drove furiously, and as he was speeding under a big sycamore tree, his hair got caught in a branch and left him hanging there. He hung there many days and nights, and ravens brought food to eat and water to drink. And one night when he was hanging there asleep, his wife Delilah, came along and cut off his hair, and the man dropped, and fell on stony ground. It began to rain and it rained 40 days and 40 nights, and the man hid in a cave until the rain stopped. And when he left the cave, he met a man who said, "Come and take supper with me." But he said, "No, I can't. I have married a wife and can't come." So the other man went into the highways and byways and compelled them to come in for supper. The first man went on and came to Jerusalem. When he got there he saw Queen Jezebel sitting high and lifted up in the window, and the man cried, "Throw her down!" So they threw her down. He cried again, "Throw her down some more!" And they threw her down some more. They threw her down 70 x 7 times, and of the fragments that were left over they picked up twelve baskets full. Now, whose wife do you think she'll be in the resurrection?

Hopefully we won't get quite as mixed up as we read the Bible!

When Jesus asked the question, "Have you not read...?", He implied that His listeners should have read **and understood** the passages to which He referred. (Matthew 12:3; 19:4;

21:16, 42; 22:31) How can we strengthen our ability to understand what we read in the Bible? Before we talk about some practical suggestions, we must first look at several keys that the Scriptures say are vital to understanding God's Word:

Scriptural Keys to Understanding the Bible

1 Corinthians 2:11-14

- *I cannot understand God's Word if*
- *I will not understand God's Word if*

Hebrews 5:12-14

What two factors are the reasons why some believers can consume only milk and others can consume solid food?

- 1.
- 2.

1 Peter 2:1-2

In addition to "desiring the pure milk of the Word", what are believers instructed to do? What bearing, if any, does this have on our ability to understand the Bible?

Questions to Ask of the Text

One of the best tools for studying the Bible is the question mark! Being armed with a set of appropriate questions and searching for the answers to those questions will help you discover for yourself what the Word of God is teaching.

Some parts of the Bible tell about events that happened. Other parts aren't telling about an event, but are teaching a doctrine. Because of this, not all questions will work equally as well in all passages. The first step to take is to determine which kind of passage you are reading:

- Is this passage narrating an event that happened?
- Is this passage teaching a doctrine?
- Is this passage quoting a sermon that Jesus or someone else preached?

NARRATIVE PASSAGES:

The following is a list of questions to ask when studying a passage that tells about an historical event:

Who is involved?

- Who is speaking?
- Who is doing something?

What is happening?

- What is the big event?
- What is going on between people?
- What changes between the beginning of the story and the end?

What is said?

How do people respond?

- How do people respond to what is done?
- How do people respond to what is said?

When do these events take place?

Where do these events take place?

DOCTRINAL PASSAGES

Different questions need to be asked of a doctrinal passage.

Who is speaking (or writing)?

To whom is he speaking (or writing)?

What is the main thought?

- what subject is the passage talking about?
- what does the passage say about that subject?
- is this a declaration of a fact?
- is this a promise?
- is this a command?

- is this a warning?

What is the key word/phrase?

- look for words, phrases, ideas that are repeated in the passage

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

1. Review the “Scriptural Keys to Understanding the Bible”. Is there anything in your heart that is preventing you from understanding God’s Word?

2. Set your own personal goal for this coming week:

MY GOAL: to have a daily quiet time _____ days this week when I will spend 10-15 minutes each day reading a few Bible verses and working on a memory verse(s).

MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: I had a daily quiet time _____ days this week.

3. Use the attached pages to record your daily quiet time. Read a passage and jot down an observation or application from your reading. Use the questions to help you study.

4. If you are reading James for your quiet time, continue reading where you left off. A suggested reading schedule is given on the next page.

SUGGESTED READING SCHEDULE FOR JAMES

- ❑ James 1:1-4
- ❑ James 1:5-8
- ❑ James 1:9-11
- ❑ James 1:12-18
- ❑ James 1:19-20
- ❑ James 1:21-25
- ❑ James 1:26-27
- ❑ James 2:1-7
- ❑ James 2:8-13
- ❑ James 2:14-20
- ❑ James 2:21-26
- ❑ James 3:1-2
- ❑ James 3:3-12
- ❑ James 3:13-18
- ❑ James 4:1-3
- ❑ James 4:4-6
- ❑ James 4:7-10
- ❑ James 4:11-12
- ❑ James 4:13-17
- ❑ James 5:1-6
- ❑ James 5:7-12
- ❑ James 5:13-18
- ❑ James 5:19-20

Understanding What You Read Part II

Introduction

Psalm 19:7-11 lists the accomplishments of the Word of God:

- it converts souls
- it makes a simple man wise
- it causes the heart to rejoice
- it enlightens the eyes
- it warns God's servant of dangers
- it brings great reward to those who keep it

For these reasons and more, God's Word is more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey.

The reason this discipleship course emphasizes establishing the habit of spending time in God's Word each day is simple: we are absolutely convinced that nothing will change your Christian life for the better as much as developing a daily quiet time! Our prayer is that the Bible will make you wise, cause your heart to rejoice, enlighten your eyes, warn you about serious dangers and bring rich rewards to your life.

Because we believe so strongly in the importance of learning to read and understand God's Word, our session today will once again focus on asking questions of the Bible.

Using the questions on pages 23 & 24, try to gain a better understanding of the following passages. Select the appropriate set of questions for the passage you are studying.

Genesis 35:1-7

1 Samuel 3:1-14

Galatians 2:15-21

Galatians 5:16-26

Philippians 1:27-30

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

A. *Set your own personal goal for this coming week:*

MY GOAL: to have a daily quiet time _____ days this week when I will spend 10-15 minutes each day reading a few Bible verses and working on a memory verse(s).

MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: I had a daily quiet time _____ days this week.

B. *In addition to your quiet time, answer the following questions regarding the memory verse: "Obedience to Christ", Romans 12:1. Be prepared to discuss your answers next week.*

"I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN,..."

1. *To whom is this verse speaking?*

"...BY THE MERCIES OF GOD,..."

2. *What does the word "mercy" mean?*

3. *Can you think of an example of how God has shown mercy to you?*

"...THAT YOU PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE..."

4. *Should being a Christian make a difference in the way we treat our bodies? How?*

5. *How can you be a "living sacrifice"?*

6. *Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What does this verse say about our bodies?*

"...HOLY, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD,..."

7. *What does it mean to be "holy"?*

8. *What does it mean to be "acceptable to God"?*

"...WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE."

(The word “service” in this verse means an act of worship.)

9. Do you think God is asking too much of you in this verse?

10. How does this verse relate to the theme, “Obedience to Christ”?

HOW TO MARK YOUR BIBLE

Bible marking will help you to observe what God has said in His Word. Not only does it help in your initial study, but it will also help you find information when you look for it later.

Use a ballpoint pen or a special Bible-marking pen (available at Christian bookstores).

The following are some suggested symbols you may wish to use as you study.

1. Brackets – []
2. Short diagonal lead in - \
3. Parallel diagonal lines in the margin - //
4. Circles or rectangles – 
5. Vertical lines in the margin – 
6. Underlining – 

You may choose to use all of these markings, a few of your favorites, or you may choose to make up some of your own. However, don't make your system so complicated that it's difficult to use!

Bible marking is illustrated in the following passage from Proverbs 1:20-26:

<p><u>Wisdom</u> <u>calls aloud</u> outside; She <u>raises her voice</u> in the open squares.</p> <p>She <u>cries out</u> in the chief concourses, At the opening of the gates in the city She <u>speaks</u> her words:</p> <p>“How long, you [simple ones], will you <u>love simplicity</u>? For [scorners] <u>delight in their scorning</u>, And [fools] <u>hate knowledge</u>.</p>	<p><u>Turn at my rebuke;</u> Surely I <u>will</u> pour out my spirit on you; <u>I will make</u> my words known to you.</p> <p>Because I have called and <u>you refused</u>, I have stretched out my hand and <u>no one</u> <u>regarded</u>,</p> <p>Because <u>you disdained</u> all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke,</p> <p>I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes,</p>
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Here is another example of Bible marking from Luke 14:25-33:

25. Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them.
26. If anyone comes to Me and does not [hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also], he cannot be My disciple.
27. And whoever does not [bear his cross] and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
28. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—
29. lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,
30. saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.”
31. Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?
32. Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.
33. So likewise, whoever of you does not [forsake all that he has] cannot be My disciple.

Here are two other passages to practice with. How would you mark these verses to highlight what you learn in these passages?

James 4:7-10

7. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
8. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
9. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
10. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Exodus 33:1-11

1. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your descendants I will give it.’”
2. “And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.
3. “Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.”
4. And when the people heard this bad news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments.
5. For the Lord had said to Moses, “Say to the children of Israel, ‘You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.’”
6. So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb.
7. Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp.
8. So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle.
9. And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses.
10. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.
11. So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

A. *Set your own personal goal for this coming week:*

MY GOAL: to have a daily quiet time _____ days this week when I will spend 10-15 minutes each day reading a few Bible verses and working on a memory verse(s).

MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: I had a daily quiet time _____ days this week.

B. *Be prepared to share with the group something you gained from one of your daily quiet times this week.*

DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE PRAYER LIFE

What do the following Bible verses reveal about God's will for us regarding prayer?

Luke 18:1

Ephesians 6:18

Philippians 4:6-7

Colossians 4:2

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer is another essential part of our daily quiet time! But how do we pray? What should our prayers include?

Praying was something that Jesus trained His disciples to do. May He train us to pray as well, as we examine what He has said about this subject in His Word.

1. Ingredients of Effective Prayer

Luke 11:1-4

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." | Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. |
| 2. So He said to them, "When you pray, say:
Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. | 3. Give us day by day our daily bread. |
| | 4. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." |

1. What was Jesus doing at the beginning of this passage?
2. What request did the disciples make?
3. Circle the word “Your” every time it is used.
4. Draw a rectangle around the word “us” every time it is used.
5. Single underline the things we are to ask God to do for Himself.
6. Double underline the things we are to ask God to do for us.

Jesus’ pattern prayer included the following elements:

- ❑ Adoration - *talking to God about who He is*
- ❑ Thanksgiving – *thanking God for what He has done*
- ❑ Supplication - *asking God to supply physical and spiritual needs*
- ❑ Confession - *acknowledging sin and asking for God’s forgiveness*
- ❑ Intercession – *praying for the needs of others*

Which of these elements do we emphasize the most?

Which one(s) do we tend to neglect?

II. Hindrances to Effective Prayer

Why is it that sometimes when we pray, our prayers seem to go unanswered? In some cases, we don’t recognize God’s answer. When Paul prayed for God to remove his “thorn in the flesh”, God’s answer was “no”. (2 Corinthians 12:8-9)

Sometimes God’s answer is “wait”. In Luke 1:13, the angel told old Zacharias that his prayer had been heard and that his wife would have a baby. It had probably been a long time

since Zacharias had prayed that prayer! In this case, God had delayed granting the prayer request until it was His perfect time.

At other times, however, our prayers go unanswered because of spiritual obstacles in our hearts. According to the following verses, what obstacles might hinder our prayer life?

Psalm 66:18 –

John 15:7 –

James 1:5-7 –

James 4:3 –

1 John 5:14-15 –

Making It Personal

1. Do you have a consistent prayer life?
2. Do your prayers follow the pattern Jesus teaches His disciples?
3. Are there obstacles in your heart that hinder your praying?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

1. Using your own words, complete the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, You are ...

I want Your kingdom to come more than I want...

I want Your will to be done regarding...

Please supply my need for...

Forgive me for...

Help me to overcome the temptation to...

...so that Satan does not have victory over me. Amen.

2. Begin including a time of prayer in your quiet time, if you are not already. Keep a list of requests and mark the date when God answers those prayers (or the date when you learn of the answer).

WORSHIPING GOD IN PRAYER

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He taught them to begin with worship (adoration); talking to God about who He is. This is perhaps the element of prayer with which we struggle the most. We begin every prayer with the same phrase, like “Dear Heavenly Father...”, then quickly begin presenting a list of requests.

Look up the prayer recorded in Acts 4:24-30.

How did the apostles begin their prayer?

What was their main request?

How much of their prayer was spent in adoration? How much was spent presenting their requests to God?

How do I develop worship as part of my quiet time?

1. Have a list of names of God, attributes of God, and descriptions of God, and works of God. *(One such list has been included with this material for you to use in your quiet time.)*
2. Select one item from the list each day, and spend several minutes meditating on that item, then spend time praising God for that item.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

1. Begin using the “Focus For Worship” list in your quiet time.
2. Prepare to discuss intercession in prayer by studying Ephesians 1:15-19. List the things Paul said he was praying for on behalf of the Christians in Ephesus:

INTERCESSION: PRAYING FOR OTHERS

*“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
being watchful to this end
with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”
Ephesians 6:18*

Intercession is the kind of prayer when we are talking to God, not about our own needs, but about the needs of someone else. God’s Word commands us to pray for others.

What kinds of things do we usually ask God to do for others?

How could our prayers for others be more effective?

One way we can improve our prayers for others is by studying the examples of intercessory prayers found in the Bible. Look up the passages given below, and list the requests found in each prayer.

Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 6:18-20

Philippians 1:9-11

Colossians 1:9-12

Colossians 4:3-4

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Hebrews 13:20-21

1 Peter 5:10-11

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Do the following prayer exercise during at least one of your quiet times this week:

- Select one of the passages listed above
- Pray for the members of your small group, using the passage you selected as a guide.

Be prepared to share with the group which passage you used, and whether or not it helped you pray for others.

DEVELOPING BASIC CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

The purpose of this discipleship course is to help us develop the basic habits of the Christian life:

- Scripture memory
- Bible reading & study
- Prayer

It is very important that you continue the effort to build these habits into your life!

It is also the purpose of this course to help us develop basic Christian character in the areas of:

- integrity
- anger management
- financial stewardship
- communication
- sexual purity
- marriage & family relationships
- work ethic

Ephesians 4:17-6:9 forms the basic text that we will be following as we allow God's Word to address these issues in our lives. The first study lays a foundation that each of the following studies will be built upon. We'll do the first study together. Then each week you will need to do the Bible study in preparation for the next small group meeting.

WALKING THE WALK

Ephesians 4:17-24

1. What does the phrase, "*no longer walk*" imply?
 2. What does the phrase, "*as the rest of the Gentiles*" tell us?
 - God expects my conduct to be different from...
- God expects my conduct to be different from...

6. What observation is made about the “new man” in verse 24?

Making It Personal

Think back over your life this past week.

Was your “old man” evident in things you thought or said or did? In what ways?

Was the “new man” evident in your life? In what ways?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Do the following Bible study on “Integrity”, and be prepared to discuss it at the next small group meeting. *(Also continue to have your daily quiet time.)*

INTEGRITY

Ephesians 4:25

1. According to Ephesians 4:25, what are you supposed to put off?
2. What are you supposed to put in its place?
3. What reason is given in this verse?

In order to build integrity into our lives, let's consider what God's Word has to say about truthfulness in other passages.

4. Read Titus 1:2. What do you learn about God's nature from this verse?

5. Now read Jeremiah 17:9. What are you told about the heart?

6. In light of these two facts, what can you expect regarding your effort to live honestly?

7. Dishonesty takes on many different forms in our lives. Read the following passages and match the reference with the form of dishonesty involved.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| ___ 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 9, 13 | A. Deliberately creating a false impression |
| ___ Proverbs 6:19 | B. Telling a "half-truth" |
| ___ Acts 5:1-4 | C. Cheating |
| ___ Genesis 3:4 | D. Spreading false information about others |
| ___ Proverbs 11:1 | E. A direct lie |

8. In John 8:44, what did Jesus say about lying?

9. Look up the following references, and describe God's standard of honesty.

Leviticus 19:11-12 –

Psalm 15:2 –

Psalm 15:4 (*last line of the verse*) –

Psalm 51:6 –

2 Corinthians 8:21 –

Making It Personal

Are any of the following items a problem area for you?

- exaggerating
- telling “white lies”
- cheating
- failing to keep promises
- allowing people to believe false impressions
- gossiping

In what areas of your life do you need to work on integrity?

(Read and meditate on Psalm 139:23-24 as you answer this question.)

What will you do to make changes in these areas?

INTEGRITY

Bible Study Discussion

Since you have completed the assigned Bible study on “Integrity”, discuss the following questions:

1. Why do you think that honesty is the first issue mentioned after we are told to “put off the old man/put on the new man”?
2. How would you describe God’s standard of honesty?
3. In what circumstances do you find it hardest to be honest?
4. What are some things that motivate us to be dishonest?
5. Why is it important for a Christian to be honest?
6. What are some practical steps you can take to develop and strengthen the habit of always speaking the truth?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

ANGER

Ephesians 4:26-27

Objective

Learn to control your anger instead of allowing it to control you!

1. In the box below, list the four commands given in these two verses.

<i>One Positive Command</i>	<i>Three Negative Commands</i>
●	● ● ●

2. Read Psalm 97:10a. What are those who love the Lord commanded to do?

3. Do you think this relates in any way to the positive command given in Ephesians 4:26?

4. Find an occasion in the Bible when Jesus became angry.

a. Why did Jesus become angry?

- b. What did His anger motivate Him to do?

5. What does James 1:20 say about our anger?

6. Read Galatians 5:16-26
 - a. Verses 19-21 list the works of the flesh. What items on that list describe some form of anger?

 - b. Verses 22-23 list the fruit of the Spirit. What items on that list are the opposite of sinful anger?

7. What are commanded to not do in Romans 12:19?

8. Based on what you have studied so far...
 - a. Do you think all anger is sinful?

 - b. Why or why not?

 - c. If not, what is the difference between righteous anger and sinful anger?

9. List the steps we are instructed to follow in James 1:19

10. Using Ephesians 4:26-27 and James 1:19, write down a Biblical plan of action for dealing with anger:

Making It Personal

The next time you are tempted to become angry, ask yourself the following questions. (Or use these questions as you think about the last time you became angry.)

1. What am I angry about?
2. Am I sure of my facts?
(Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, . . . meditate on these things”. If your thoughts are focused on things you only imagine, or if in your mind you are exaggerating the offense you think you have suffered, you are committing a sin in your thought life!)
3. What actions am I tempted to take?
4. Are these actions godly or sinful?
5. Does God know about the event(s) that ignited your anger?
6. Is He able to deal with that person or those circumstances?
7. What area of your character might He be trying to shape?
8. What outcome do you most want to see?
9. Does this outcome agree with what you know to be the will of God?

ANGER

Bible Study Discussion

- *Has God challenged you in the area of honesty/integrity this past week? If so, how?*
- *Discuss the questions in the assigned Bible study on “Anger”.*

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

MONEY & POSSESSIONS

Ephesians 4:28

Objective

To allow the Word of God to establish how I view and how I handle my finances and possessions.

1. To whom is Ephesians 4:28 speaking?
2. What is this person commanded to do?
 -
 -
 -
3. Why is he commanded to do these things?

In the culture in which New Testament believers lived, stealing was a common practice, especially among slaves (Titus2:9-10). Many Christians had come from that kind of background. If they learned to live as Christ had lived, He would change how they handled money and possessions.

4. How would you describe the attitude of our society toward finances and possessions?

5. Spend some time this week studying and meditating on Matthew 6:19-34. Below, make a list of the principles that Jesus taught about the kind of attitude and actions we should have toward money and possessions.

MONEY & POSSESSIONS

Bible Study Discussion

1. From previous studies:

- Has God challenged you in the area of honesty/integrity this past week? If so, how?
- Have you followed the Biblical plan for controlling anger this week?

2. Discuss the assigned Bible study on “Money & Possessions”.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

BASIC BIBLE PRINCIPLES REGARDING MONEY & POSSESSIONS

1. God has given to me everything that I have. Therefore, I am a steward.

1 Corinthians 4:7

Deuteronomy 8:11-18

2. As a steward, I am accountable to God for how I use what He has entrusted to me, including money and possessions.

Luke 19:11-27

3. God commands me to work to provide for my needs.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-11

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

4. God commands me to provide for the needs of my dependants.

1 Timothy 5:8

5. I have a financial obligation to God and to His work.

Proverbs 3:9

Genesis 14:18-20

Hebrews 6:19-7:2, 14-17

Genesis 28:20-22

Malachi 3:8-10

COMMUNICATION

Ephesians 4:29-32

Objective

To communicate with others in a Christ-like way

1. Read Ephesians 4:29-32. Fill in the chart below, listing the words/phrases that describe ungodly communication and godly communication.

<i>Ungodly Communication</i>	<i>Godly Communication</i>

Read James 3:1-12

2. To what is the tongue compared in verses 3 & 4, and how are these things like the tongue?
3. According to verses 5-8, how destructive can the tongue be?

4. Give an example from your own personal experience of the damage that can be done by the tongue.

5. What inconsistency is described in verses 9-12?

6. Read the following verses found in the book of Proverbs. Note what each verse teaches about communication.

Proverbs 10:12

Proverbs 10:14

Proverbs 10:17

Proverbs 10:18

Proverbs 10:19

Proverbs 10:32

Proverbs 11:9

Proverbs 12:6

Proverbs 12:16

Proverbs 12:18

Proverbs 13:3

Proverbs 14:17

Proverbs 14:29

Proverbs 15:1

Proverbs 15:4

Proverbs 15:18

Proverbs 15:28

Proverbs 16:27-28

Proverbs 16:32

Proverbs 17:9

Proverbs 17:14

Proverbs 17:27-28

Proverbs 18:6-8

Proverbs 18:13, 17, 21

Proverbs 18:27

Proverbs 19:11

Proverbs 19:19

Proverbs 20:3

Proverbs 21:23

Proverbs 22:24-25

Proverbs 24:28, 29

Proverbs 25:8

Proverbs 25:21-23

Proverbs 25:28

Proverbs 26:17

Proverbs 28:25

Proverbs 29:11

Proverbs 29:20

Proverbs 29:22

Proverbs 30:33

Making It Personal

Has this study shown you ways in which your communication habits need to change? List the changes that you need to make, based on the Word of God. Make a commitment to God to make these changes, and ask for His help to do so.

<i>HINDRANCES TO GOOD COMMUNICATION</i>	<i>HELPS FOR GOOD COMMUNICATION</i>

STEPS TO IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

Reviewing a past conversation

This past week I spoke to:

I spoke to him/her on _____ day when I was at:
(work, home, church, etc.)

I spoke to him/her about:

I would rate the effectiveness of my communication with him/her as:

- excellent
- good
- fair
- poor

Planning to improve my communication

I need to take the following steps to improve my communication:

COMMUNICATION LOG

For the next week, keep a daily log of whom you communicate with, when you communicate (at work, home, church, etc.), what you communicated about, and your evaluation of the effectiveness of your communication effort—excellent, good, fair, poor.

	WHOM	WHEN	WHAT	EFFECTIVE NESS
Sunday				
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				

SEXUAL PURITY

Ephesians 5:1-7

Objective

To establish and maintain sexual purity in my life

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-7:

What is the main subject of these verses? _____

2. What commands are given in verses 1 & 2?

a. Command #1:

Description #1:

b. Command #2:

Description #2:

3. Six sinful behaviors are listed in verses 3 & 4 (in two groups of three):

Group One

a.

b.

c.

What is said about these behaviors?

Group Two

d.

e.

f.

What is said about these behaviors?

4. How would you compare these two groups of behavior?

5. What warnings are given in verses 5 & 6 about these things?

6. What are we commanded to do in verse 7?

Making It Personal

1. How would you describe God's standard of purity?
2. How does God's standard compare to society's standard?
3. What are the major sources of sexual temptation in our society?

Before completing the following section, please do the Bible study found on the following pages.

4. In your own words, please write out your commitment to God to maintain sexual purity, and sign and date it.
5. What strategy do you have in place to help you establish and maintain God's standard of sexual purity in your daily life?

CLEAN HANDS, PURE HEART
Sexual Purity for Men

1. Read Matthew 5:27-30

a. What command is Jesus talking about?

b. According to Jesus, how might this command be broken?

c. What measures did Jesus recommend that a man take to avoid violating this command?

d. Do you think Jesus meant these steps should literally be taken? (*Would plucking out your eye or cutting off your hand cause you to stop sinning?*) If not, what did He mean by them?

2. Read Job 31:1-12

a. What step had Job taken to maintain purity of heart and mind?

b. What truth(s) does Job mention in verses 3-4, 11-12?

3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

a. What, according to verse 3, is God's will for you?

- b. What, according to verse 4, do you need to know?
 - c. To what did God call you? (see verse 7)
 - d. What are you rejecting if you ignore these instructions?
4. Read 2 Timothy 2:22
- a. What are youthful lusts?
 - b. How are you to deal with them?
5. Study Proverbs 7:6-27
- a. List the steps that you see that led this young man to moral failure:
 - b. What consequences did this young man experience?
 - c. How does verse 26 describe other victims of this woman?

As you consider this subject, keep the following thoughts in mind:

- The battle to maintain sexual purity is primarily a battle for the heart and mind, and secondarily a battle for the body.
- “Paths lead to places!”—(*Pat Nemmers*) If the path you are following leads someplace you shouldn’t be, **GET OFF THE PATH!!!**

*“No temptation has overtaken you
except such as is common to man;
but God is faithful,
who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,
but with the temptation will also make a way of escape,
that you may be able to bear it.”*

1 Corinthians 10:13

**HOLY & HONORABLE
Sexual Purity for Women**

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
 - a. What, according to verse 3, is God's will for you?
 - b. What, according to verse 4, do you need to know?
 - c. What are some practical steps you can take to fulfill verse 4?
(See also 1 Timothy 2:9-10)
 - d. To what did God call you? (see verse 7)
 - e. What are you rejecting if you ignore these instructions? (verse 8)

2. Read Titus 2:1, 3-5
 - a. List the positive qualities that a Christian woman should demonstrate:

 - b. How are these qualities described in verse 1?

3. Study Proverbs 7:6-27

a. List the actions of the woman described in these verses:

b. What resulted from her conduct?

c. How does verse 26 describe her victims?

As you consider this subject, keep the following thoughts in mind:

- The battle to maintain sexual purity is primarily a battle for the heart and mind, and secondarily a battle for the body.
- “Paths lead to places!”—(*Pat Nemmers*) If the path you are following leads someplace you shouldn’t be, **GET OFF THE PATH!!!**

*“No temptation has overtaken you
except such as is common to man;
but God is faithful,
who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,
but with the temptation will also make a way of escape,
that you may be able to bear it.”*

1 Corinthians 10:13

MARRIAGE & FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Ephesians 5:18-6:4

Objective

To honor Christ in my marriage and other family relationships

Being disciplined (trained) by the Lord Jesus Christ will change your marriage and other family relationships! In Psalm 101:2, David declared, “I will walk within my house with a perfect [upright] heart.” Just as it was his desire to honor God in his home, so it should be our desire. What takes place in our homes can either help or hinder service for Christ in many other areas.

To help us better understand God’s design for marriage, we will be viewing a video presentation by Gary Ezzo, titled “Right Beginnings”. (This message is part of the Growing Kids God’s Way curriculum.) Please fill in the following outline as you listen to Gary’s message.

“Right Beginnings”

Introduction

Two related evils that threaten successful parenting and lead to the demise of the family are:

1. Not understanding the _____ of the husband/wife relationship in the parenting process.
2. _____ - _____ parenting.

I. Understanding the Husband/Wife Relationship

The Biblical Foundation of the Family (Genesis 2:18-23)

A. Two central questions need to be asked:

- 1.
- 2.

- “alone” -
- “helper” -

B. The answers to the questions:

1. Why did God create the woman? *Because man was _____ and needed someone to _____ him.*
2. Why did God establish marriage? *Because through marriage , partners may _____ and, through their lives, _____.*

Four Biblical Principles

Principle #1 – “By God’s design, the husband-wife relationship is the first _____ relationship established in the Scripture.”

Principle #2 – “By God’s design, the husband-wife relationship is the first in a system of _____ relationships.”

Principle #3 – “The husband-wife relationship must be viewed as the _____ relationship in the family.”

Principle #4 – Since it is the priority relationship, all other relationships function _____ to that of the husband and wife.”

II. Understanding the Danger of Child-Centered Parenting

A. Child-centered parenting too often produces a “_____” attitude.

B. Child-centered parenting produces _____.

Every child needs to know:

1.

2.

3.

Making It Personal- Men

Study Ephesians 5:25-33, and answer the following question: *“How can I love my wife as Christ loved the Church?”*

<i>How Christ loved the Church</i>	<i>How I can love my wife</i>

**HOW CAN I LOVE MY WIFE
LIKE CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH?**

Ephesians 5:25-33

I. By Giving Myself to Her

- by saying “I love you” often
- by sacrificing something for her
- by spending time with her
- by sharing a life with her
- by understanding her (*an intelligent recognition of the marriage relationship*)

II. By Teaching Her

- moral, ethical, theological purity is the goal

III. By Taking Care of Her

- “nourish” – bring to maturity
- “cherish” – soften, keep warm
 - provide a safe, secure environment
 - (*She doesn’t feel secure with a bitter husband*)

IV. By Honoring Her

1 Peter 3:7

“honor” – timao – to regard as precious, of great value

When you know what something is worth, you treat it with great care!

Making It Personal- Women

1. Study Ephesians 5:22-24 and answer the following question:

“How can I submit to my husband, as the Church submits to Christ?”

<i>How the Church submits to Christ</i>	<i>How I can submit to my husband</i>

Read 1 Peter 3:1-6.

2. List the words and phrases that describe a submissive spirit:

3. How would you evaluate the influence of this woman?

4. What role does her speech have in her influence?

5. What role does her appearance have in her influence?

6. What changes do you need to make to become the woman God wants you to be?

5. Of what truth are masters reminded in verse 9?

Important background information

Slavery was very common in the Roman Empire during the days of the New Testament. Many of the people who were won to Christ were slaves at the time of their salvation. However, slavery in that era was very different from slavery as it existed in American history. Consider the following description of slavery in the days of the Bible:

Under Roman, Greek, and Jewish laws, those in slavery could own property, including other slaves! Some well-educated slaves bought children, raised and educated them, and recovered the tuition costs when selling them to families needing tutors. A slave's property was entirely under the control of the slave, who could seek to increase it for use in purchasing legal freedom and in establishing a comfortable life as a freed person.

(The International Bible Encyclopedia, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, gen. ed., vol. IV, page 544)

The New Testament neither condones slavery nor advocates overthrowing slavery by violence. History has shown, however, that as New Testament principles are faithfully applied, slavery will eventually cease to exist.

Making It Personal

1. Do you believe that God intends for Christians to apply these principles to the workplace today?
2. Who is the person directly over you in your place of employment? What kind of person is he or she?
3. How would you describe your attitude and actions toward him or her?
4. If you have people working under you, how would you describe your attitude and actions toward them?

5. Can the people for whom you work and the people with whom you work (or the people who work under you) tell that Jesus Christ is your Master by the way you work?

6. Which of these principles do you most need to work on?

BASIC CHRISTIAN CHARACTER REVIEW

Ephesians 4:17-6:9

Following Jesus Christ will transform our lives in a number of ways. In recent weeks we have studied seven areas of basic Christian character that are addressed in Ephesians 4:17-6:9. Those seven areas are:

1. Integrity
2. Anger
3. Material Possessions
4. Communication
5. Sexual Purity
6. Marriage & Family Relationships
7. Work Ethic

If we are “learning Christ”, He will train us to reflect His character in these venues.

Please take time this week to examine your life in these areas!

Day One

1. Read Ephesians 4:25
2. Review question #9 on page 44—God’s standard of honesty.
3. Review the “Making It Personal” section on page 45.

Day Two

1. Read Ephesians 4:26-27
2. Review question #10 on page 49. Are you continuing to follow your Biblical plan of action for dealing with anger?

Day Three

1. Read Ephesians 4:28

2. Review the “Basic Bible Principles Regarding Money & Possessions” on page 52-53.

Day Four

1. Read Ephesians 4:29-32
2. Review the chart on page 58—“Hindrances/Helps to Good Communication”.
3. Review the last item on page 59—“I need to take the following steps to improve my communication”. Are you still following those steps?

Day Five

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-13
2. Review your commitment to God (#4 on page 63), and your strategy for establishing and maintaining sexual purity (#5 on page 63). Are you following through?

Day Six

Men:

1. Read Ephesians 5:25-33
2. Review the chart on page 71. Are you loving your wife as Christ loved the Church?

Women:

1. Read Ephesians 5:22-24
2. Review the chart on page 73. Are you submitting to your husband as the Church submits to Christ?

Day Seven

1. Read Ephesians 6:5-9
2. Review questions #2-6 on pages 75-76.

FISHING FOR MEN

Objective

To be used by God to lead others to trust Christ as Savior

Study the following passages and answer the questions for each passage:

Matthew 28:16-20

1. To whom is Jesus speaking in these verses?
2. What is the main command He gives?
3. Does He give a promise, also? If, so, what is the promise?
4. What other information does Jesus give?

Mark 16:14-16

5. To whom is Jesus speaking in these verses?
6. What is the main command He gives?
7. Does He give a promise, also? If, so, what is the promise?
8. What other information does Jesus give?

Luke 24:44-49

9. To whom is Jesus speaking in these verses?
10. What is the main command He gives?
11. Does He give a promise, also? If, so, what is the promise?
12. What other information does Jesus give?

John 20:19-21

13. To whom is Jesus speaking in these verses?
14. What is the main command He gives?
15. Does He give a promise, also? If, so, what is the promise?
16. What other information does Jesus give?

Acts 1:4-8

17. To whom is Jesus speaking in these verses?
18. What is the main command He gives?
19. Does He give a promise, also? If, so, what is the promise?
20. What other information does Jesus give?
21. *In these five passages, what responsibility has Jesus Christ given to you?*
22. *In these five passages, what resources has Jesus Christ given to you?*

PRESENTING THE GOSPEL

*“Then Philip opened his mouth,
and beginning at this Scripture,
preached Jesus to him.”*

Acts 8:35

Objective

To plan how to present God’s message of salvation to an unsaved person

The five “great commission” passages in the previous study contain Christ’s command to the eleven to “make disciples”. The book of Acts is the record of their obedience to that command. What did they say to unsaved people? The following passages contain the words they said when talking to lost people on various occasions.

Day One

Read Acts 2:22-40

1. Who is presenting the gospel?
2. To whom is the gospel being presented?
3. What does the speaker tell his listeners about Jesus?
4. What does the speaker tell his listeners about themselves?

5. What Scripture verses (if any) does the speaker use? What point do these verses make?

Day Two

Read Acts 3:12-26 & 4:10-12

6. Who is presenting the gospel?
7. To whom is the gospel being presented?
8. What does the speaker tell his listeners about Jesus?
9. What does the speaker tell his listeners about themselves?
10. What Scripture verses (if any) does the speaker use? What point do these verses make?

Day Three

Read Acts 10:34-43

11. Who is presenting the gospel?
12. To whom is the gospel being presented?
13. What does the speaker tell his listeners about Jesus?
14. What does the speaker tell his listeners about themselves?
15. What Scripture verses (if any) does the speaker use? What point do these verses make?

Day Four

Read Acts 13:16-41

16. Who is presenting the gospel?

17. To whom is the gospel being presented?

18. What does the speaker tell his listeners about Jesus?

19. What does the speaker tell his listeners about themselves?

20. What Scripture verses (if any) does the speaker use? What point do these verses make?

Day Five

Read Acts 17:22-31

21. Who is presenting the gospel?

22. To whom is the gospel being presented?

23. What does the speaker tell his listeners about Jesus?

24. What does the speaker tell his listeners about themselves?

25. What Scripture verses (if any) does the speaker use? What point do these verses make?

THE GOSPEL PLAN

Objective

To effectively communicate God's message of salvation to an unsaved person

Consider these thoughts:

- *We are responsible to present the gospel to the individual.*
- *That individual is accountable for his response to the gospel.*
- *We ought to be prepared with a plan for sharing the gospel.*

Do you have a plan for sharing the gospel? It is important to have a clear plan for sharing God's message of salvation. This study is designed to equip you with that plan.

Two good questions that may help you move into a presentation of the gospel are:

1. *Has anyone ever shown you from the Bible how you can know that your sins are forgiven and that you have a home in heaven?*
2. *May I show you?*

You are asking for the unsaved person's permission to share with them, and you are indicating that the Bible is the authority, not your opinion.

Memorize the following outline and the first Scripture verse given with each point. An optional verse is given with point. Find a third Bible verse that teaches the same point, and write down the reference.

1. ALL HAVE SINNED

Romans 3:23

Optional verse: Isaiah 53:6

Optional verse: _____

2. SIN'S PENALTY

Romans 6:23

Optional verse: Hebrews 9:27

Optional verse: _____

3. CHRIST PAID THE PENALTY

Romans 5:8

Optional verse: 1 Peter 3:18

Optional verse: _____

4. SALVATION NOT BY WORKS

Romans 4:5

Optional verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

Optional verse: _____

5. MUST RECEIVE CHRIST

Romans 10:13

Optional verse: *John 1:12*

Optional verse: _____

6. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Romans 8:38-39

Optional verse: *1 John 5:13*

Optional verse: _____

Important Points to Remember

- Ask for permission to share with them.

- Talk with them, not at them.
Use questions like:
 - *“What does this verse teach?”*
 - *“How does this verse relate to the previous verse?”*
 - *How does it apply to you?”*

- If they don’t understand, don’t go further, but leave the door open to talk again.

TELLING YOUR STORY

Objective

To be able to clearly and concisely tell the story of how God saved me

In reaching others for Christ, there are some basic tools that will help us:

- *A plan for sharing the gospel*
- *A basic Bible study to use with an unsaved person who is interested*
- *A well thought-out account of how I came to Christ*

There are several passages in the Bible where we can read Paul tell his story about how he came to trust in Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Read Acts 21:37-22:21

3. *What did Paul tell about his life before he was saved? (22:3-5)*

4. *What did Paul tell about how he came to trust in Jesus as his Savior? (22:6-10)*

5. *What did Paul tell about his life after he was saved? (22:11-21)*

Read Acts 26:1-29

6. *What did Paul tell about his life before he was saved? (22:3-5)*

7. *What did Paul tell about how he came to trust in Jesus as his Savior? (22:6-10)*

8. *What did Paul tell about his life after he was saved? (22:11-21)*

YOUR STORY

Write out your story, using the following outline:

I. MY LIFE BEFORE I WAS SAVED

II. HOW I HEARD THE GOSPEL & TRUSTED JESUS CHRIST AS MY SAVIOR
(include one verse that tells you that you are saved)

III. MY LIFE SINCE I HAVE BEEN SAVED

FINDING YOUR PLACE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Objective

To identify and exercise the spiritual gift(s) God has given me to serve Jesus Christ by serving others

Five passages in the New Testament list some of the spiritual gifts.

- Read the passages listed in the table below
- List the spiritual gifts mentioned in that passage
- Circle the spiritual gifts (if any) that you think you might have

Romans 12:3-8	1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28-30	Ephesians 4:11- 12	1 Peter 4:9-11

For discussion

- *What are some responsibilities that all Christians have?*

- *What are some responsibilities that not all Christians have?*

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

1. According to verse 12, what are the individuals listed in verse 11 supposed to do?
2. Also according to verse 12, what are the saints supposed to do?
3. Verses 13 & 15 describe the positive results when this process is carried out, while verse 14 describes the negative results when the process isn't carried out. Use the chart below to list and compare the positive and negative affects.

<i>Positive Results</i>	<i>Negative Results</i>

4. According to verse 16, what causes the Body of Christ to be edified (strengthened)?

When you consider becoming involved in any type of ministry, the following are important questions to ask/answer:

- Has God given me the ability to perform this ministry task?*
- Do I possess the spiritual maturity and meet the qualifications needed to serve in this ministry?*
- Have I been trained/am I willing to be trained for this ministry?*
- Am I willing to serve in a way that is consistent with the doctrine and philosophy of ministry of my church?*
- Am I willing to accept direction from the spiritual leaders of my church?*

Question #1: “Has God given me the ability to perform this ministry task?”

Using the chart on page 92, list the spiritual gifts you identified in the first four columns of that chart in the chart below, arranging them in the categories of speaking gifts, serving gifts, and sign gifts. (You do not need to use the gifts listed in 1 Peter 4, since those verses speak of categories of gifts.)

SPEAKING GIFTS	SERVING GIFTS	SIGN GIFTS

Next, cross off the gifts that are no longer being given today. Of the remaining items on the lists, which gift(s) do you think you might have? List them in the left-hand column in the table below:

Spiritual Gifts I Think I Might Have	Spiritual Gifts Others Think I Might Have

Fill out a spiritual gift form for each member of your group. Identify on each form the spiritual gift(s) you think that person might have. As you receive these forms from the others in your group, list their answers in the right-hand column, and make a hash-mark

by the spiritual gift each time it is listed on a form. *(Their opinion doesn't prove that you have that spiritual gift, but it can be helpful to learn what others see in us.)*

Another tool to help you discover your spiritual gifts is a spiritual gift analysis. Your small group leader may have your group complete this kind of analysis. If so, try to answer the questions as accurately and honestly as you can. *(As with the opinions of your fellow group members, the results of the spiritual gift analysis are not absolute proof that you have a particular gift, nor are they proof that you don't have another gift.)*

Question #2: “Do I possess the spiritual maturity and meet the qualifications needed to serve in this ministry?”

Before your next small group meeting complete the following Bible study on the spiritual maturity and the qualifications needed for certain areas of ministry.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-8. What did Paul say about the giftedness of the believers in Corinth? (see verse 7)

2. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. What did Paul say about the spiritual maturity of the believers in Corinth?

3. What things characterized their behavior? (see verse 3)

4. In your opinion, why were the Corinthians characterized by these things?
(Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5 may give you some clues.)

5. Based on what you have studied so far, how would you compare the importance of giftedness and the importance of spiritual maturity?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. While spiritual gifts are not listed specifically in these verses, several are alluded to. List the ones you find.

7. What do these verses teach about those spiritual gifts?

8. Read Hebrews 5:12-14. Why weren't the believers addressed in these verses able to be teachers?
9. What does the phrase, "by this time" indicate?
10. What two categories of believers are described in these verses? List the characteristics of each:

<i>Category 1:</i>	<i>Category 2:</i>

11. Which category best describes you?
12. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:6. Of whom had the Thessalonian believers become followers?
13. What responsibility do you think that placed upon Paul and other leaders?

14. Read 1 Timothy 4:12. What challenge was Timothy given?

15. How would you rate your example in those areas?

16. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7. List the qualifications of a bishop:

17. Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13. List the qualifications of a deacon:

18. List some of the things that you think should be qualifications for the following ministry positions:

Teacher of an Adult Bible Fellowship

Outreach leader of an Adult Bible Fellowship

Youth Group leader

JOY Club leader

JOY Club helper

Usher

Nursery worker

Choir member

Church janitor

Question #4: “Am I willing to serve in a way that is consistent with the doctrine and philosophy of ministry of my church?”

7. According to 1 Timothy 1:3, what was Timothy supposed to do in Ephesus?

8. Why was that important?

Question #5: “Am I willing to accept direction from the spiritual leaders of my church?”

9. According to Hebrews 13:7 & 17, what should our response be toward spiritual leaders?

10. Why?

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have reached a milestone along the pathway of discipleship! You have completed the *Foundations for Christian Living* discipleship course!

Our objective at the beginning of this course was to help you build a solid foundation the Christian life by:

- Developing the basic habits of the Christian life:
 - having a daily quiet time that includes...
 - Scripture memorization
 - Bible reading & study
 - Prayer
 - Worship
 - Sharing your faith
 - Serving Christ in the area where He has gifted you and called you

- Developing basic Christian character in the areas of:
 - Integrity
 - Controlling anger
 - Attitude toward material things
 - Communication
 - Purity of life
 - Marriage & family relationships
 - Work ethic

How well have these objectives been reached in your life? No doubt we need to be continually challenged and strengthened in these areas, even as we reach toward new steps of spiritual growth. Hopefully you can rejoice in the progress you have seen in your own life and in the lives of your fellow group members.

However—don't plan to retire! Purpose in your heart to **FOLLOW ON** as a disciple of Jesus Christ!