

Discipleship Training Manual



“make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you”

-- Mt. 28:19-20

“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

-- Col. 2:6-7

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

-- 2 Tim. 2:2



“making disciples who make disciples”

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Introduction

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” -- *Jesus Christ* (Mt.28:18-20)

Jesus spoke the words above to His disciples just days after He had risen from the dead. We commonly call these words “The Great Commission.” In this charge, Jesus commands all His people of all time to their great task - that of making disciples. If you have turned from sin to trust Christ fully, then you are a Christian, and by definition, a follower of Jesus Christ. The goal of the person meeting with you, is to help you become a fully devoted follower of Christ.

You will notice that the process of making disciples includes “teaching them to *observe* all that I commanded you.” Becoming a Christian is more than just believing the right truths about God. It also involves a reshaping of the entire person into the image of Jesus Christ. In this Discipleship Training Manual, we will be majoring on the commands that Jesus gave us. When it is necessary to understand a particular truth from God’s Word, in order to obey one of these commands, we will take time to delve into that truth. For example, one of Jesus’ commands was to “repent and believe in the gospel.” Well, in order to obey this command, we need to first understand what the gospel is. Furthermore, having repented and believed in the gospel, assurance of salvation should naturally follow. Thus, we have devoted a session to both The Gospel and Assurance of Salvation, even though neither have to do with a command of Jesus Christ.

Making disciples was one of the things that Jesus commanded. Therefore, you will want to pour your life into someone else and pass on the things you are learning to them, just as your discipling partner is doing the same for you. In 2 Timothy 2:2 Paul wrote, “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” Did you notice the four generations of disciples in this verse? Paul - Timothy - Faithful Men - Others. Timothy was Paul’s son in the faith. The Faithful Men were his spiritual grandchildren, and the Others were his spiritual great-grandchildren. As you go through these sessions, learn them well, because you will be helping others to understand and obey these same truths! As you invest your life in others you too will have spiritual children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren! In fact, you should begin to pray now that God would lead you to

someone that you can pour your life into, who will in turn pour their life into someone else. In other words, now that you are a disciple, you are part of a Disciple-Making Movement. We are to make disciples, who make disciples, who make disciples... until Jesus Christ returns. Before you go any further, go to http://www.discipleshiplibrary.com/dawson_trotman.php and read or listen to this message by Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators. The message was recorded in 1955, just a few weeks before his death. Dawson had a great dream of seeing disciples multiplied through individual coaching. This one on one mentoring will require much sacrifice and commitment, but will reap rich spiritual benefits.

This discipleship process will require commitment from you. You will need to give time and effort to studying, meeting with your discipling partner, and putting the things you are learning into practice in your life. This Discipleship Training Process will only be completed by those who have a strong desire and commitment to please God in all things and are willing to pay whatever price is necessary. However, the blessings of knowing and obeying God far outweigh the cost required of us.

In each of the following studies there will be an Introduction, a Bible Study, some Steps To Take, and Scripture to memorize. We encourage you to read the material before you come, and memorize the passage of Scripture beforehand in order to get the most out of your time with your study partner.

May God bless your life tremendously as you take these steps of obedience to Him!

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Module 1

Pursuing Christ



1. The Gospel
2. Repentance and Faith
3. Assurance of Salvation
4. Abiding in the Word - Pt. 1
5. Abiding in the Word - Pt. 2
6. Prayer

Session 1

The Gospel

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

INTRODUCTION

In Mark 1:15 Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” When Jesus Christ calls a person to follow Him, the very first command He issues is to repent and believe in the gospel. There is no true conversion where there is no repentance and faith in Christ, who is the embodiment of the gospel.

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

BIBLE STUDY

The Bad News

In the next series of Scriptures we will examine the condition of the unsaved person.

1. Read Genesis 5:1-3.

- What was man’s moral condition when God created him? Compare Eccl. 7:29.

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

2. Read Genesis 6:5.

- Describe in your own words the condition of man before God destroyed the earth with a flood.

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

3. Read Isaiah 64:6.

- Circle the word “all” in your Bible. What does that word tell us? Are there any exceptions?

- What are all his righteous deeds like? _____
- Why do you think God sees all his righteous deeds like a filthy garment?

4. Read Jeremiah 17:9-10.

- What is the condition of the unsaved man’s heart? _____
- When lost people say, “I’ll be all right. God knows my heart”, should that fact bring comfort or alarm to them?

5. Read Ephesians 2:1-3.

- Before we became Christians, what was our spiritual condition (vs. 1)?

- How did we relate to the sinful world? _____
- How did we relate to Satan (the prince of the power of the air)?

- What did we do regarding our flesh (our corrupt fallen nature)?

- What were we by nature (by physical birth)? _____

6. Summarize what you have learned about man's condition.

The Good News

1. How do the following Scriptures identify the gospel?

Mark 1:1 _____

Mark 1:14 _____

Matt. 4:23 _____

Acts 20:24 _____

2 Cor. 4:4 _____

Eph. 1:13 _____

Eph. 6:15 _____

1 Tim. 1:11 _____

Summarize what all these identifying phrases teach us about the gospel?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

- When Paul preached the gospel to the Corinthians, how did they respond?

- If we hold fast the gospel, what will be the result?

- Paul uses the word “preached” in verse 1 and 2. What word does he switch to in verse 3 as a synonym? _____
- What priority does the gospel hold? _____
- What are the three primary elements of the gospel (vs. 3-4)?

- Why did Christ die (vs. 3)? _____

3. Read Romans 1:1-4.

- What was Paul set apart for? _____
- How was the gospel promised before Jesus came into the world?

- What is the gospel all about (vs. 3)? _____

- When Jesus Christ became a man, He possessed both a divine nature and a human nature. Which nature was Paul referring to in vs. 3?

- Which nature was Paul referring to in vs. 4? _____

4. Read Romans 1:16-17.

- What was Paul not ashamed of? _____
- Why was he not ashamed of it? _____

- Who can be saved by the gospel? _____

- What is revealed in the gospel? _____

- How does a person receive the righteousness of God? _____

5. Read Romans 3:19-24.

- Who needs the righteousness of Christ put to their account according to 3:19-20, 23? _____

- When we believe in Jesus Christ, God imputes the righteousness of God to us (Rom. 4:5). What is the Biblical word for this transaction (Rom. 3:24)?

- According to Rom. 3:24, upon what basis does God justify sinners?

- Do you view the words “gift” and “grace” in verse 24 as good news? Why or why not? _____

6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

- According to this verse, did Jesus know any sin? _____

- Why do you think it was necessary for us to have a sinless Savior?

- What did God make Jesus to be? When do you think that took place?

- Why did God do that? _____

According to this passage of Scripture, there was a Great Exchange that took place when Christ died on the cross.

- What was put to Christ’s account? _____

- What was put to our account? _____
 - Do you consider this good news? Why? _____
-
-

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take some time to pray with your discipling partner and thank God for His gospel by which you are saved.
2. The next time you fall into temptation and sin, remember that Christ has already paid for all your sins, past, present, and future. Therefore, confess and forsake your sin before the Lord, and then rejoice that you are fully and perfectly forgiven in spite of your sins and shortcomings. Refuse to try to “pay God back” for sinning, but instead rely on the fact that your sins are all forgiven through Christ.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

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

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:1-4

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 2 Cor. 5:21. Work on this verse until you can repeat it word for word. You might write this verse out on a card and keep it in your pocket, or tape it to your computer monitor. Repeat the verse out loud several times a day until you know it by heart.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Spend time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.

Session 2

Repentance and Faith

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

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

Repentance

- 1. Look up the word "repent" in an English dictionary, and a Bible dictionary and write out their definitions below.**

- 2. What do the following Scriptures teach about the importance of repentance?**

Luke 5:32 _____

Luke 24:46-47 _____

Luke 15:7 _____

Acts 3:19 _____

Acts 17:30-31 _____

2 Peter 3:9 _____

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

Acts 3:19 _____

Acts 26:20 _____

2 Cor. 7:9-10 _____

4. Read the following Scriptures and write down what they teach about what sin is.

Rom. 14:23 _____

James 4:17 _____

1 Jn. 3:4 _____

1 Jn. 5:17 _____

5. Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26.

• According to verse 25, where does repentance originate from? _____

• What word in verse 25 reveals to us that God is free to grant repentance or not? _____

• What two things does repentance lead to (vs. 25-26)? _____

6. Read Acts 5:31 and Acts 11:18.

• Why do some people repent when they hear the gospel? _____

• What blessings stated in these two verses are accompanied by repentance? _____

7. Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-10.

• Is it possible to have a false repentance? _____

• What does Paul say the sorrow of the world leads to? _____

8. Read Mt. 27:3-5.

• How was Judas' remorse different from gospel repentance that leads to life? _____

- What was missing in his repentance? _____

Faith

Although we speak of repentance and faith as two different responses to the gospel, actually they are just two different sides of the same coin. Repentance is turning from sin. Faith is turning to Christ. If I was speaking face to face with Jim, and had my back to Bob, in order to turn to Bob, I would have to turn from Jim. It's the same with faith and repentance. In order for a person to turn to Christ, he must turn from sin. You can't really repent without faith, and you can't really believe without repentance.

1. Read Hebrews 11:1.

- What is faith? _____

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

Mark 16:15-16 _____

John 8:24 _____

Acts 15:9 _____

Acts 26:18 _____

Rom. 4:5 _____

Rom. 5:1 _____

Gal. 3:2,14 _____

Gal. 3:26 _____

Eph. 3:12 _____

Hebrews 11:6 _____

1 Jn. 5:4 _____

3. Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

- What are we saved by? _____
- What are we saved through? _____
- Why do you think God saves sinners in this way (vs. 9)?

4. Read John 6:44,65.

- What is Jesus teaching here? _____

- If you are trusting completely in Jesus Christ, where did your faith come from? (compare Acts 18:27; Phil. 1:29; Rom.10:17)
-
-

5. Read John 3:18.

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

6. Read James 2:14-26.

- Is there a kind of faith that some people possess that will not save them (vs.14-17)? Compare 1 Cor. 15:1-2. _____
 - If so, what is non-saving faith characterized by? _____
 - Do demons believe in God? Does their faith save them? _____
What must our faith produce in order for us to consider it the kind that saves?
-

STEPS TO TAKE

1. If you have never repented of your sins and put your whole trust in Jesus Christ to save you, do it now. The Bible says “whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom. 10:13). You may want to call on the Lord with your discipling partner, or do it when you can be alone with Him. The important thing is to confess and forsake the sinful life you have been living, and trust in Christ to grant you His righteousness and forgive your sins because of His payment for sin on the cross.
2. Discuss with your discipling partner what kinds of things you can begin to do this week to express your faith in Jesus Christ. When you have come up with some ideas, pray together for the Lord to lead you in showing your faith in tangible ways.
3. Recite 2 Cor. 5:21 to your discipling partner. Make sure you can quote the reference as well as the verse.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Acts 17:30-31, “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in

which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Acts 17:30-31 and Eph. 2:8-9. Work on these verses until you can repeat them word for word.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.

Session 3

Assurance of Salvation

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

INTRODUCTION

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

Now if you showed me your marriage license but never showed me your wife and kids, I would start to get a bit suspicious. I might think to myself, “I bet he just forged that license!” Or, if you introduced me to your wife and kids, but after going down to the courthouse I couldn’t find any marriage license on record, I would probably conclude that you weren’t married at all, but just living together. Or, if you went around with a big silly grin on your face declaring “I know that I know that I know that I’m married”, but no one could find your license or wife and kids, they’d probably say, “He’s crazy! Lock him up!” To be able to prove that are married, you need to be able to display all three witnesses. So too, there are three witnesses that testify whether we are saved: the truth of God’s Word (corresponding to the marriage license), the signs of eternal life (corresponding to the wife and kids), and the witness of the Holy Spirit (corresponding to the inner conviction).

BIBLE STUDY

The Promises of God's Word

1. Read John 3:16.

- What does God promise to the person who believes in Jesus Christ?
-

2. Read John 5:24.

- What does God promise to the person who hears God's Word and believes it?
-

3. Read Romans 10:9-10.

- What does God promise to the person who confesses Jesus as Lord and believes in his heart that God raised Him from the dead?
-

4. Read Numbers 23:19.

- What attributes of God are mentioned in this text? _____
- According to this passage, will God keep His promises? _____

If you meet a person that tells you that they are a Christian, and are constantly quoting John 3:16, but lives in sin with no fruit of the Holy Spirit being produced in their life, you have probably met a lost person who has deceived himself into thinking that he is saved. We need more than simply the objective promises of God's Word to grant us assurance. We also need to see the signs of eternal life.

The Signs of Eternal Life

1. Read 1 John 5:13.

- Why did John write the letter of 1 John? _____
-

2. Read 1 John 1:6; 1:8; 1:10; 2:4; 2:9; and 4:20.

- What do these Scriptures teach is *not* a reliable sign that a person possesses eternal life?
-

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

3. Read 1 John 2:3-5.

- How can we *know* that we have come to know Him and are in Him?

4. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.

- What covenant is being described in this passage (vs. 31)? _____

- Under the New Covenant, what will God do with His law (vs. 33)?

- What do you think it means for God to write His law on our heart? How is this different from God writing His law on tablets of stone?

5. Read 1 John 3:9.

- What is a truly born again person unable to do? _____

- What do you think it means to “practice sin”? _____

- Does this mean that a Christian is sinless (1:8,10; 2:1)? _____

- What kind of a life will a true Christian live? _____

6. Read 1 John 3:14.

- What vital sign of eternal life is found in this verse? _____

- What does love for the brethren look like (1 Jn. 3:16-18)?

7. Read 2 Cor. 5:17.

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

- What do you think this verse means by “a new creature”?

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

8. Read Ezekiel 36:26-27.

- What happens to our hearts when God saves us? _____

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

The Witness of the Spirit

1. Read Romans 8:15-16.

- What does the Spirit bear witness with? _____
- What truth does the Spirit bear witness to? _____
- What does this witness of the Spirit cause us to do (vs. 15)? _____

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

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take time right now to discuss with your discipling partner these three forms of assurance: The Promises of the Word, The Signs of Eternal Life, and The Witness of the Spirit. Seek to discover whether you possess these three forms of assurance. Acknowledge to your discipling partner if you are unsure whether you possess the signs of eternal life or the witness of the Spirit. Perhaps he/she will be able to bring some objectivity that you might lack.
2. One caution: too much self-examination can be dangerous, by leading to excessive doubts and fears. A true believer is painfully aware of his shortcomings. The true Christian is the most sensitive of his lack of obedience, opposition to sin, love of the brethren, overcoming the world, and love for God. Therefore, be sure to balance the assurance that comes from the signs of eternal life, with the promises of the Word, and the witness of the Spirit.

3. If you find that you possess these forms of assurance, stop and thank God with your discipling partner for giving you assurance that you are indeed saved. Resolve to stay close to Jesus so that your assurance does not diminish over time.
4. If through examining your life, you realize that you are not a Christian at all, set about repenting of your sins in earnest, and call on God for mercy. Continue to seek the Lord until these three forms of assurance are yours.
5. Recite Acts 17:30-31 and Eph. 2:8-9 to your discipling partner.
6. Continue to review the verses you have already memorized so that you don't forget them.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

1 John 5:13, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Rom. 8:15-16, 1 Jn. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:17.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 1 John 5:13. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.
4. Memorize the New Testament books in order, and be prepared to recite them to your discipling partner.

Session 4

Abiding in the Word - Pt. 1

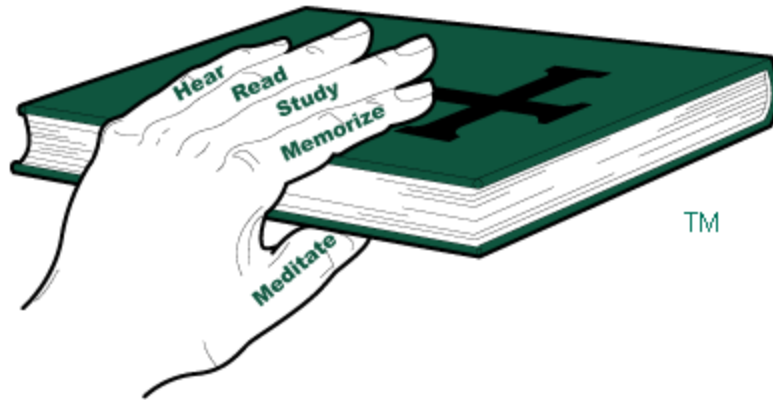
“The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveller's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good is its design and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgement, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labour, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.”

-- Author unknown

INTRODUCTION

Jesus said in John 8:31, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.” To “abide in Jesus’ word” is to continue to hear it for the purpose of obeying it. As a new Christian it is essential that you cultivate the godly habit of taking in God’s Word on a regular and consistent basis.

1 Peter 1:23 tells us, “for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.” Then again, 1 Peter 2:2 says, “like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.” Not only does God use His Word to cause us to be born again, but He also uses it to cause us to grow in respect to our salvation. In our sessions on abiding in the Word, we are going to examine five different ways we can receive God’s Word: hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating.



BIBLE STUDY

Hearing God's Word

1. Read the following Scriptures and record the result of hearing God's Word.

- Luke 8:21 _____
- Luke 11:28 _____
- Romans 10:17 _____
- 1 Thess. 2:13 _____

2. From the above Scriptures, do you think a Christian should stay home from church and just read the Bible privately? _____

Reading God's Word

1. Read the following references: Matthew 12:3,5; 19:4; 22:31; Mk. 12:26. What did Jesus expect them to do with God's Word?

2. Read Mt. 4:4. How much of God's Word did Jesus assume we would read and live on? _____

3. What is promised to those who read the words of the book of Revelation?

“I want to know one thing, the way to heaven: how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end he came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price give me the Book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be a man of one book.” -- John Wesley

- 4. Read Job 23:12. How valuable did Job esteem God’s Word to be in his life? _____ . Are you willing to begin today to esteem God’s Word as Job did? _____**
- 5. Do you take time each day to read a portion of God’s Word? _____ If not, will you commit to begin today? _____**

Studying God’s Word

1. Read Ezra 7:10.

- Why did Ezra study God’s Law? _____

2. Read 2 Timothy 2:15.

- What kind of character must we have in order to present ourselves approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed? _____
- What must we do with the Word in order to not be ashamed before the Lord? _____

3. Read carefully the chart below and become acquainted with the books of the Bible and what kind of literature they are. If you have questions, ask your discipling partner.



STEPS TO TAKE

1. Commit to being present when your local church gathers to hear the preaching of the Word of God.
2. Form a plan for your own reading of God's Word. Choose a book of the Bible, and read straight through from beginning to end. You might choose to read a chapter or more a day, or just read as much as you can with your available time. Avoid playing Bible Roulette (this is where you just open the Bible at random, and read wherever your eyes fall on the page). Choose a time and a place when you will not be interrupted or distracted. It is often a good idea to read the Word early in your day before you start tackling other duties that must be accomplished. Discuss your ideas with your discipling partner.
3. Recite 1 John 5:13 to your discipling partner. Recite the other verses you have memorized as well.
4. Recite the books of the New Testament in order to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

2 Timothy 2:15, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Rom. 10:17; Job 23:12; 2 Tim. 3:16.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:15. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Make sure you are present when your church meets this week so that you can hear God’s Word preached and take notes of the sermon. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.
4. On one or more days this coming week, choose a passage of the Bible you would like to study. It might be best to limit yourself initially to just a paragraph. With a pen and notebook, begin to record your findings from this passage of Scripture. When you study the Bible you will be focusing on three types of questions: Observation, Interpretation, and Application.

Observation: “What does it say?”

- Who are the people involved? What happened? Where does this take place? When did it take place? How are things accomplished?
- Are there any key words in the passage? Trace how they are used in the concordance in the back of your Bible, or do a search in a Bible software program.
- What images (pictures) are in the passage?
- Who is writing? Who is he writing to?
- What is the central idea of the passage?
- Write down the connecting words like “for, therefore, nevertheless, but, as, like, so that.”
- Write down the repeated words or phrases or circle them in your Bible with different colored ink or pencils.
- Write down questions that come to your mind as you are reading the text.

- You may want to try to outline this paragraph. Write down what you believe the central idea of the paragraph is. Underneath that, write down how various parts of the text relate to that central idea.

Here is one example from 2 Timothy 1:9-10

Central Idea: The Gospel of God's Salvation

- 1. The Application of our Salvation:** "called us with a holy calling"
- 2. The Basis of our Salvation:** "not according to our works, but according to His own grace"
- 3. The Sovereignty of our Salvation:** "His own purpose... which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity."
- 4. The Accomplishment of our Salvation:** "but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus."
- 5. The Results of our Salvation:** "who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

Interpretation: "*What does it mean?*"

- Write out questions about what you don't understand in the passage.
- What do you think this passage meant to the original audience that received it?
- Are there any words you need to better understand?
- Try to find out the answers to these questions by consulting a Bible Dictionary or Encyclopedia. If you are still stumped, discuss your questions with your discipling partner.

Application: "*What should I do about it?*"

- Seek to identify the timeless truths found in the passage you are studying.
- Identify some relevant contemporary ways you might apply those timeless truths to your life. We will discuss application of Scripture more in our next Session.

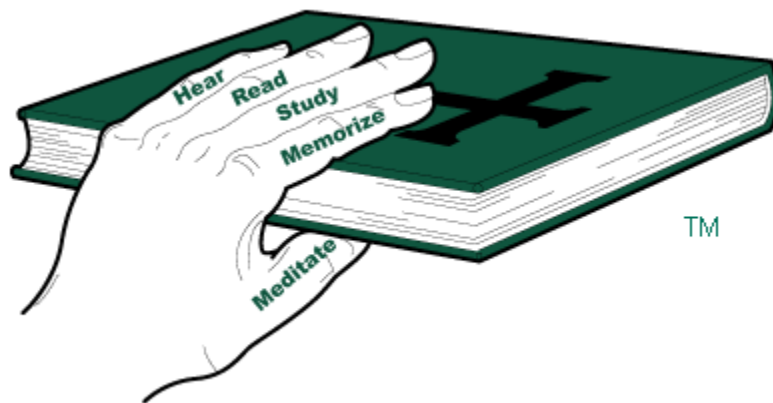
Don't worry if you are not able to find all of these answers. Right now you are just exploring the passage of Scripture slowly. Take time to enjoy discovering the riches of God's Word. Don't become overwhelmed with all of this - just look at it as an opportunity to enjoy getting to know God. If you just don't have enough time to do all of the above, do what you can. The point is not to check off a list of things you have completed, but to actually commune with the living God.

Session 5

Abiding in the Word - Pt. 2

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

INTRODUCTION



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

BIBLE STUDY

Memorizing God’s Word

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

1. Read the following Scriptures, and record the benefits that accompany memorizing Scripture:

- 2 Cor. 3:18 _____
- Ps. 119:9,11 _____
- Ps. 119:97 _____
- Prov. 22:17-19 _____
- Record any additional benefits you can think of: _____

Many people complain that they are just not able to memorize God's Word. They feel their minds just do not have that capacity. However, have they memorized their address, phone number, names of family members, birth date, social security number, route to take to work, etc.? Of course! The truth is that if we apply ourselves, we can all commit God's Word to memory. Let's suppose a wealthy billionaire agreed to pay you \$1,000 for every verse you memorized in the next week. How do you think you would do? Do you suppose your ability to memorize Scripture might just improve a little with that motivation? Well, surely if money can motivate us, the spiritual good of our souls and others should motivate us even more!

So, how do we memorize God's Word? Let me give some practical suggestions.

1. Choose a text. As you are working through this Discipleship Training Manual with your partner, you will have assigned verses of Scripture taken from various places in the Bible. Later, you may want to memorize a paragraph, chapter, or whole book of the Bible straight through. Both approaches have wonderful benefits.
2. Write out the verse on a piece of paper or an index card. Read the verse out loud several times until you can repeat it without looking at it. Type out the verse and see if you can type it out perfectly. Pull out your card when you exercise, go for a walk, are in a line at the bank or post office and review your verse. It usually takes about 100 repetitions before we really get a verse down solid.
3. You might type up your verse and use it as the wallpaper on your computer or smart phone. You might write your verse on your bathroom mirror, or write down the first letter of each word of the verse on a card. You could also pin up your verse in a place where you know you will be each day, like the kitchen sink, so that you can memorize while you do the dishes. You might make up a little song with the words of the verse you are memorizing. There are also many great free bible memory apps for phones available today.

In all your memorizing, remember that the goal is not to see how many verses you can memorize. That will lead only to spiritual pride. The goal is store God's Word in your heart so that you can commune with God and serve Him throughout the day.

Meditating on God's Word

There are many forms of meditation being utilized today. In some forms, the objective is to empty the mind, or to chant a word or mantra. However, the Scriptures advocate meditating on Scripture. Biblical meditation is thinking deeply about the meaning of God's Word and its application to your life. It is like what a cow does when it chews its cud. The cow brings up previously digested food from one of its four stomachs, to more chewing. Meditation can be likened to a craftsman who takes a good, long look at a dazzling jewel, turning it from angle to angle, and polishing the diamond to view all its beauty. Reading the Bible is like one dip of a tea bag in hot water. Meditation is like letting that tea bag soak into the water until all the rich flavor is extracted.

1. Read Joshua 1:8.

- What was Joshua not to let depart from his mouth? _____
- How often was Joshua to meditate on it? _____
- Why was Joshua to meditate on the Law? _____
- What would be the result of his meditation? _____

2. Read Psalm 1:1-3.

- How does the blessed man regard God's law (vs. 2)? _____
- What does he do with it? _____
- What will meditation produce in his life? _____

3. Read Psalm 39:3.

- When did the fire burn within his heart? _____

Soon after his conversion, Jonathan Edwards wrote the following:

“I seemed often to see so much light exhibited by every sentence, and such a refreshing food communicated, that I could not get along in reading; often dwelling long on one sentence to see the wonders contained in it, and yet almost every sentence seemed to be full of wonders.” -- Jonathan Edwards

So, how do you meditate? Let me offer some practical suggestions from the vowels of the alphabet AEIOU.

Ask questions about the passage:
Emphasize various words:
In your own words (paraphrase).
Other passages (cross-references).
Use the passage (application).

For example, let's say we are meditating on John 3:16.

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

Emphasize: Read the verse over and over emphasizing a different word each time. The first time you might emphasize, "For **God** so loved the world." The next time, "For God **so** loved the world." The next time it would be "For God so **loved** the world."

In your own words: You might paraphrase this verse like this: "God loves this world so much that He gave the greatest gift imaginable - Jesus Christ - so that those who believe won't perish in hell, but instead live with God forever in heaven."

Other passages: Look up cross-references in the margin of your Bible. For example, you might look up Romans 5:8 as a cross-reference for "God so loved the world" in order to throw additional light on the passage you are meditating on.

Use the passage: Determine how this passage applies to your life. You might ask, "what does this passage mean for me?"

In order to do this you can use the **SPECK** method -

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

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take time right now to meditate on Joshua 1:8 with your discipling partner by following the guidelines mentioned above.
2. Make a conscious commitment to continue to memorize Scripture regularly for the good of your soul and the benefit of others.

3. Recite 2 Timothy 2:15 to your discipling partner. Recite the other verses you have memorized as well.
4. Recite the books of the New Testament in order to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Joshua 1:8, *“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”*

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Psalm 119:9,11; Ps. 1:1-3.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Joshua 1:8. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly.
2. Memorize the books of the Old Testament from Genesis to Job in order.
3. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
4. Make sure you are present when your church meets this week so that you can hear God’s Word preached and take notes of the sermon. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.
5. After you have read a passage in the Bible, spend some time meditating on it, and jotting down your reflections in a journal. Share your thoughts with your discipling partner when you meet next.

Session 6

Prayer

"It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last at night. Guard yourself carefully against those false, deluding ideas which tell you, "Wait a little while. I will pray in an hour; first I must attend to this or that." Such thoughts get you away from prayer into other affairs which so hold our attention and involve you that nothing comes of prayer for that day."

-- Martin Luther

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

-- Martin Luther.

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

-- Hudson Taylor

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

INTRODUCTION

Without a doubt, the two most vital practices for every Christian to maintain communion with God are the Word of God and prayer. Having discussed abiding in God's Word in the last 2 sessions, let's turn our attention now to prayer. Prayer is one of the most vital and precious aspects of the Christian life. For by it, mountains are thrown into the sea, the vilest of men are made right with a Holy God and the weakest and smallest of men are made strong and mighty. The goal of this session is for you to discover what the Scriptures teach about how we should pray, why we should pray, and then encourage you in the joy and blessings of prayer.

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

should joyfully participate in regularly. Prayer in its most basic form is communing with God.

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Mt. 6:9. The Lords' Prayer is often called the "model prayer." This is because Jesus tells us "to pray in this way." If we take our Lord's advice, we should take the principles of this prayer and apply them to our own prayer lives.

- What title does Jesus use in addressing God (compare Mt. 7:11 and Rom. 1:7)?

- What does this say about our relationship with Him and how we can approach Him in prayer (compare Eph. 3:12)? _____
- Using a dictionary, look up the word "hallowed". What importance is Jesus giving to the Father's name? _____

2. Read Mt. 6:10.

- What is the first thing Jesus teaches us to pray for? _____
- What do you think it would look like for God's kingdom to come on the earth?

- From this verse should we conclude that the point of prayer is to get our will done (compare 1 John 5:14-15 and Luke 22:42)?

- Knowing that God is good, what can we expect from His will (compare Rom. 8:28)? _____
- If we are putting God's will before our own, how might this affect what we pray for? _____

3. Read Mt. 6:11

- What does asking God for "today's bread" and not tomorrow's teach you?

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

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

4. Read Mt. 6:12

- What did Jesus teach us to pray for in this verse? _____

- Why do you think a believer would continue to ask for forgiveness of sins?

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

5. Read Mt. 6:13.

- What does this verse teach about our dependence upon God? _____

- What does it teach about human weakness? _____

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

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

- James 1:6-7; Mk. 11:24 _____
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 _____
- Colossians 4:2; Rom.12:12 _____
- Colossians 4:12 _____
- Luke 11:5-8 _____
- Hebrews 4:16 _____
- Philippians 4:6 _____
- 1 John 5:14-15 _____
- How do these verses challenge you regarding your own prayer life?

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

- Genesis 18:22-26 _____
- Exodus 32:11-14 _____
- Matthew 7:7-11 _____

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

9. What do the following Scriptures teach us about who we should pray for?

- Ephesians 6:18 _____
- 1 Timothy 2:1-2 _____
- James 5:16 _____

10. What do the following Scriptures teach us about why God may not answer our prayers?

- 1 Peter 3:7 _____
- James 1:6 _____
- James 4:2-3 _____
- Psalm 66:18 _____
- Proverbs 15:29 _____

11. What do the following Scriptures teach about how we should not pray?

- Matthew 6:5-6 _____
- Matthew 6:7 _____

Praying Through Scripture

John Piper has written, “in the Christian life ... prayer and the Word are connected in such a way that if you disconnect them, both die. The Word of God inspires prayer, it informs prayer and it incarnates prayer.”

Praying through Scripture is a very helpful tool to fuel and inspire prayer. The idea is to read over a passage of Scripture and pray over the truths presented in it. For example, the Lord’s Prayer begins with “Our Father.” One could contemplate how wonderful it is that we know God as our Father and how compassionate and gracious He is to us. This then could turn into a prayer of praise and thanksgiving that we have such a loving and caring God for our Father. We could continue through the Lord’s Prayer and pray accordingly. However, we don’t need to limit ourselves to just the Lord’s Prayer. The Psalms are bursting forth with emotive petitions to God. The Prophets thunder forth His attributes like justice, wisdom, mercy and wrath that should elicit our praise. The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) ring forth with truth about Jesus and His shed

blood upon the cross. The epistles (letters to churches) declare the truths and doctrines of our salvation and our mighty Redeemer. All of these texts are ready for you to meditate upon and turn into prayer with a heart hungry for God.

One simple plan is for every day of the month, to pray through five different psalms. For example, on the 1st day of a month, you could pray through Psalm 1, 31, 61, 91, or 121. On the 23rd day of a month, you could pray through Psalm 23, 53, 83, 113, or 143.

For a free online booklet of hundreds of scriptures to pray through see:

<http://www.challies.com/sites/all/files/attachments/take-words-with-you.pdf>

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Mt. 6:9-13 *“Pray, then, in this way: `Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. `Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. `Give us this day our daily bread. `And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. `And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’”*

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:18.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Mt. 6:9-13. Although this is a longer section than usual, it should not be too tough because it is so familiar. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly.
2. Memorize the books of the Old Testament in order from Psalms to Malachi.
3. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
4. Spend some time this week praying through various psalms, using the day of the month as your guide.
5. Jot down in a prayer journal any insights from your time of praying through Scripture. Also jot down people and situations you want to be praying about.

Module 2

Loving God



7. The Attributes of God - Pt. 1
8. The Attributes of God - Pt. 2
9. Delighting in God
10. Obeying Jesus
11. Overcoming Temptation
12. Walking By The Spirit

Session 7

The Attributes of God - Pt. 1

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

BIBLE STUDY

God is One

1. Read Deut. 6:4; Is. 43:10; 1 Tim. 2:5.

- What do all these Scriptures teach about the being of God?
-

God is a Trinity

1. Read 1 Cor. 8:6; John 6:27; 1 Peter 1:2. According to these verses, who is the Father? _____

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

- John 1:1 _____
- John 1:18 _____
- John 20:28 _____
- Rom. 9:5 _____
- Phil. 2:6 _____
- Col. 1:15 _____
- Col. 2:9 _____
- Titus 2:13 _____
- Heb. 1:3 _____
- Heb. 1:8 _____

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

- Acts 5:3-4 _____
- 1 Cor. 3:16 and 1 Cor. 6:19 _____

4. Read Mt. 28:19.

- How many persons are we to be baptized into? _____
- How many names are we to be baptized into? _____

5. Read 2 Cor. 13:14.

- Which person is mentioned first in this verse? _____
- Would it be right to mention the Son and the Spirit in a benediction to the church like this with God the Father if they were not equal with Him?

6. Read Mark 1:9-11.

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

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

1. God is not one person who reveals Himself under different names or forms, but three different persons. Sometimes this error is found by saying that God is like the same man who is known by Sweetheart to his wife, Daddy to his children, and boss to his employees. This error is called Modalism.
2. God is not three gods but one. This error is called Polytheism.

3. Jesus Christ is not a created being and the Holy Spirit is not an inanimate force. This error is called Arianism. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are God.

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

God is Creator and Sustainer

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

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

- **Col. 1:17** _____
- **Heb. 1:3** _____
- **Acts 17:25,28** _____

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

God is Eternal, Self-Existent and Unchanging

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

2. **Read Ex. 3:14.**

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

3. **Read Acts 17:24-25. What do these verses teach us about God?**

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

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

God Is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient

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

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

3. **Read Ps. 147:5, Is. 40:28, and Is. 46:9-10. What do they reveal about God?**

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

God is Holy

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

1. **Read Isaiah 6:1-5.**

- Describe what Isaiah saw in vs. 1-2 _____

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

- Why do you think they repeated it three times? _____

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

2. Read Isaiah 57:15.

- What is true about God's name? _____
- How is God described in the first part of this verse? _____

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

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

- Ps. 5:4-6 _____
- Ps. 11:5 _____
- Prov. 6:16-19 _____
- Heb. 1:9 _____

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

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take time right now to praise God with your discipling partner for those attributes of God that appear most precious to you at this time. If you are in a private place, sing a song of praise that extols some of these qualities of God. Respond to who God is in prayer together.
2. Recite Mt. 6:9-13 to your discipling partner.
3. Continue to review the verses you have already memorized so that you don't forget them.
4. Recite all the books of the Old Testament to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

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

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: John 4:23-24; Psalm 139.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Deut. 6:4-5. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.
4. Review the attributes of God you learned from this study, recalling what each attribute reveals to you about Him.

Session 8

The Attributes of God - Pt. 2

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

-- Jonathan Edwards

INTRODUCTION

In our last discipling session we studied God as the One who is Creator, Sustainer, Self-Existent, Eternal, Unchanging, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient and Holy. Now, we are going to explore some more of His attributes for the purpose of finding our delight and satisfaction in Him alone.

BIBLE STUDY

God is Wrathful and Just

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

1. What do the following Scriptures teach about God’s wrath?

- John 3:36 _____
- Rom. 2:5-8 _____
- Rom. 5:9 _____
- Eph. 5:5-6 _____
- Rev. 14:10-11 _____

The justice of God is that attribute of God whereby He gives to every man exactly what

he deserves and punishes all transgression, wherever He finds it. God never has or ever will do any wrong to His creatures. Thomas Watson: *“The wicked will drink an ocean of wrath, but not sip one drop of injustice.”*

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

- Ex. 34:7 _____
- Deut. 32:3-4 _____
- Ps. 89:14 _____
- Mt. 13:41-42 _____
- Heb. 10:26-27; 30-31 _____
- Rev. 20:11-15 _____

God is Love

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

1. Read 1 John 4:8,16.

- According to these verses, who is God? _____
- How is this truth different from saying that God possesses love?

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

- Ps. 145:9,15-16 _____
- Mt. 5:44-45 _____
- Acts 14:16-17 _____

3. Read Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8 and 1 Jn. 4:10. What is the greatest expression of God’s love for sinners? _____

- If a person is looking for evidence of God’s love for him, where should he look?

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

- Jer. 31:3 _____
- Rom. 8:35-39 _____
- Eph. 1:4-5 _____
- Eph. 2:4-5 _____
- 2 Thess. 2:13 _____

- 1 John 3:1 _____
- Rev. 3:19 _____

God is Merciful and Gracious

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

1. What do the following Scriptures teach about God’s mercy?

- Rom. 9:15-18 _____
- Titus 3:5 _____
- 1 Pet. 1:3 _____
- 1 Pet. 2:9-10 _____

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

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

- Acts 20:24 _____
- Rom. 6:14 _____
- Rom. 11:6 _____
- 2 Tim. 1:9 _____
- James 4:6 _____

3. Now read the following Scriptures and record what you learn about the effects of God’s grace.

- Acts 15:11 _____
- Gal. 1:6 _____
- Rom. 3:24 _____
- Acts 18:27 _____
- 2 Cor. 4:15 _____
- Eph. 3:7-8 _____
- Rom. 12:6-8 _____
- 2 Cor. 8:1-4 _____
- Heb. 13:9 _____
- 2 Thess. 2:16 _____

God is Truthful and Faithful

1. **Read Num. 23:19; Ps. 86:15; Ps. 119:160; Jn. 17:17; and Heb. 6:18. Summarize below what you have discovered about God's truth.**

2. **Read the following Scriptures and summarize what you learn about God's faithfulness: Ps. 119:75; 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Thess. 5:23-24.**

God is Sovereign

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

1. **Read Ps. 103:19, Dan. 4:35 and Eph. 1:11. How extensive is God's sovereignty?** _____

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

- Is. 40:26 _____
- Job 1:12; Luke 22:31 _____
- Prov. 21:1 _____
- Prov. 21:31 _____
- Gen. 29:31; 1 Sam. 1:4-5 _____
- Prov. 16:33 _____
- Ps. 75:6-7 _____
- 1 Cor. 12:7 _____
- Ps. 139:16 _____
- Phil. 2:13; Heb. 13:20-21 _____
- Gen. 50:20 _____
- Acts 13:48; Rom. 9:22-24; 2 Thess. 2:13-14 _____

Next to each attribute, write one application that you can make for your life:

- Just: _____

- Wrathful: _____
- Love: _____
- Merciful _____
- Gracious: _____
- Truthful: _____
- Faithful: _____
- Sovereign: _____

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take time right now to praise and worship God for who He has revealed Himself to be in all His perfections. If possible, include a song of praise.
2. Recite Deut. 6:4-5 to your discipling partner. See if you can recite some of your previously learned verses to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Exodus 34:6-7, “And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Is. 6:1-5; Ps. 103:19.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Ex. 34:6-7. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly.
2. Continue to review the verses you have already memorized so that you don't forget them.
3. Memorize the books of the Old Testament in order.
4. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
5. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you

have read.

6. Review the attributes of God you learned from this study, recalling what each attribute reveals to you about Him.

Session 9

Delighting In God

God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.

-- John Piper

“Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savoring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It's a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don't want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel.”

-- John Piper

INTRODUCTION

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

All of the things we do in the Christian life - reading and studying Scripture, prayer, fasting, being involved in a local church, spreading the gospel - are never to be done as some kind of distasteful duty which we must do because we are supposed to. No, a thousand times no! God wants us to experience Him in all these things as the delight and satisfier of our souls. When a person is saved, God grants him/her spiritual taste buds which love to feed on Christ.

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read the following Scriptures, and record what you learn about how Jesus related to His Father?

- Luke 5:16 _____

- Luke 10:21 _____

- John 4:34 _____

- John 17:24-26 _____

- Ps. 40:7-8; compare Heb.10:5-7 _____

2. Do you think God would have us follow Christ's example in how He related to His Father? Why? _____

3. Read the following Scriptures and record what God has done in the New Birth to enable us to delight in God.

- Jeremiah 31:33 _____
- Ezekiel 36:26 _____
- 2 Cor. 4:3-6 _____

4. Read Psalm 16:11

- Where is fulness of joy to be found? _____
- What will we discover at God's right hand? _____
- Have you ever experienced this? Please explain. _____

5. Read Psalm 37:4

- What command do we find in this verse? _____
- What promise is connected to this command? _____

- What kind of heart desires do you think a person would have who delights himself in the Lord? _____

6. Read Psalm 100.

- How should we relate to God (vs.1-2)? _____
- How can we express our joy in God (vs.4)? _____

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

7. Read the following Scriptures and record what God's people delight in.

- Nehemiah 1:11 _____

- Psalm 16:3 _____
- Psalm 94:19 _____
- Psalm 111:2 _____
- Psalm 119:35 _____
- Isaiah 58:2 _____
- Jeremiah 15:16 _____

8. Read Mt. 13:44.

- What does Jesus say the treasure represents in this parable? _____

- What must the man in the parable do to obtain the treasure? _____

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

9. Read Philippians 3:7-8.

- What change took place in Paul's heart since he was converted?

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

10. Read Philippians 4:4.

- What are we commanded to do in this verse? _____
- How often are we to do it? _____
- What is our rejoicing to be in? _____

11. Read 1 Peter 1:8.

- Even though believers can't see God, what three things are true of them?

- How does Peter describe our joy? _____
- Have you ever experienced this? _____

12. Read 1 Peter 2:1-2.

- What does God want us to long for? _____
- What does the word "long" mean? _____

- Why should we long for it? _____

- What must we be willing to do in order to long for it (vs. 1)? _____

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Discuss with your discipling partner how little or how much you delight in, take pleasure in, rejoice in, and value Jesus Christ. When do you find yourself delighting in Him most? When do you find yourself delighting in Him less?
2. Discuss with your discipling partner what steps you want to take this week to increase your joy in God.
3. Recite Ex. 34:6-7 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received while memorizing it.
4. Recite some of the other verses you have memorized to your discipling partner.
5. Recite the books of the Bible from beginning to end to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Psalm 16:11, “You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fulness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.”

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

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Psalm 100:1-5; Phil. 4:4; 2 Pet. 1:8

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Psalm 16:11 and Psalm 37:4. Work on these verses until you can repeat them perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.

2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read.
4. Seek your joy in God this week. Do not be content with heartless duty. Seek to find your delight in Him.

Session 10

Obeying Jesus

“Radical obedience to Christ is not easy... It's not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us.”

-- David Platt

INTRODUCTION

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

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Luke 6:46-49.

- What contradiction is Jesus pointing out in vs. 46? _____

- If someone calls Christ Lord, does it follow that He is His Lord? _____
- What do you think the great storm mentioned in vs.48 & 49 refers to?

- What do you think the house represents in these verses? _____

- What is true of all those who survive this Great Storm? _____

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

2. Read Mt. 7:21-23.

- What does Jesus say is not a guarantee that we will enter the kingdom of heaven?

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

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

- What will those whom Christ casts away be putting their confidence in on that great Judgment Day? _____
- Instead of doing the will of the Father in vs. 21, what will characterize those who are lost (vs.23)? _____

3. Read Luke 8:19-21.

- Who are those Jesus considered His mother and brothers? _____
- According to Jesus, is it sufficient to merely hear God's Word? _____

4. Read John 14:15,21.

- What causes a disciple to obey Jesus? _____
- What promise does Jesus give those who keeps His commandments?

5. Read John 3:36.

- What does true belief in the Son include? _____

6. Read 1 John 2:3-6.

- How can someone know that he has come to know Jesus? _____
- What is true about the person who claims to know Jesus, but doesn't keep His commandments? _____
- What is true of the person who keeps Christ's Word (vs.5)? _____
- How should a disciple of Jesus live (vs.6)? _____

7. Read 1 John 3:9.

- What is true of a person who has been born of God? _____

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

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

8. Read Rom. 10:9.

- According to this verse, what must a person do in order to be saved?

- What do you think it would look like for a person to live as though Jesus were his/her Lord? _____

9. According to the Scripture that we have studied, can a person be saved who is not willing for Jesus to be Lord of his life? _____

10. Do you think we will ever perfectly obey Christ in this life? Why or why not? _____

11. Is Jesus Christ your Lord? Have you surrendered your life to Him and are actively seeking to do His will? _____

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Discuss with your discipling partner any areas of your life that you have difficulty surrendering to Christ. What has He told you to do that you are resisting? Pray with your discipling partner for the help and power of the Holy Spirit to obey Christ in those difficult areas.
2. Since obedience flows from love to Jesus, discuss with your discipling partner what you can do this week to increase your love for Him.
3. Recite Ps. 16:11 and 37:4 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received while memorizing it.
4. Recite some of the other verses you have memorized to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Mt. 7:21-23, ““Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Luke 6:45; John 14:15,21

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

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

Session 11

Overcoming Temptation

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

-- Matthew Henry

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

-- John Owen

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read James 1:13-14.

- Where does temptation come from? _____
- Can we ever hold God responsible for our sin? _____

2. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.

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

- What will God not allow to happen to us? _____

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

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

3. Read Romans 6:1-14.

- What is a Christian's relationship to sin? Why is it that we are not to continue in sin now that we have been born again (6:1-2)? _____

- What is the word Paul uses in verse 5 to describe our baptism into Christ?

- Therefore, is Paul speaking about water baptism in vs.3-4? _____
- What kind of baptism is he talking about? See 1 Cor. 12:13. _____

- What happened to our "old self" (6:6)? What was the result of this (6:6-7)?

- What are we commanded to do in vs. 11? What is this command based on?

- Because we have died with Christ to sin, and have risen with Him to God, what must we now do (12-13)? _____

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

4. Read Mt. 4:1-11.

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

- Do you think Jesus had a bunch of Old Testament scrolls that He was reading to Satan? If not, how was He able to quote Scripture? How can this help you in your fight against temptation? (Ps.119:9,11)

5. Read Luke 22:39-46.

- According to Jesus, what can we do to avoid entering into temptation (vs.40,46)?

6. Read Mt. 26:41.

- What two things are we told to do that we might not enter into temptation?

- Why is it so important for us to do this (vs. 41b)? _____

7. Read Eph. 6:10-18.

- What is our shield in our battle against Satan? _____

- What is our sword? _____

- How must we wield our shield and sword in the battle (vs.18)?
-

8. What are the 3 primary weapons God has given us to battle against temptation? _____

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

1 Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Mt. 26:41.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.

3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read. If you are having a difficult time deciding what portion of Scripture to read, study, and meditate on, get some ideas from your discipling partner.
4. Practice using the weapons of faith, the Word and prayer in your fight against temptation this week. When you meet with your discipling partner next week, share with him/her how it went.

Session 12

Walking By The Spirit

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

-- William Law

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

-- Kenneth Wuest

“Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.”

-- Augustine

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

-- Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Galatians 5:16-24.

- What do we need to do in order to avoid carrying out the desire of the flesh (16)?

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

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

- What does the Spirit produce in our lives (22-23)?

- What do you think it means to “live by the Spirit” (25)?

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

2. Read Galatians 6:8.

- What will happen if we “sow to our own flesh”? _____
- What will happen if we “sow to the Spirit”? _____
- What do you think it means to “sow to the Spirit?”

3. Read Romans 8:3-9.

- What will walking by the Spirit enable the Christian to do (3-4)?

- What do you think Paul means by “those who are according to the flesh” (5)?

- What do you think he means by “those who are according to the Spirit” (5)?

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

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

- Is a Christian “in the flesh” (9)? _____

- How can a Christian put to death the deeds of the body (13)?

- What does the Holy Spirit lead Christians to do (14)? Hint: Notice the word “for” which begins vs. 14. _____

4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.

- Where does the Holy Spirit dwell (19)? _____
- What practical significance does this have for our lives (19-20)?

5. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18.

- Who does the transforming work in a Christian’s life?

- What is the believer’s responsibility in order to be transformed?

6. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8.

- What is the will of God (3)? _____
- What aspect of sanctification is Paul thinking of specifically (3)?

- For what purpose does give His Spirit to us (8)? _____

7. Read Ephesians 5:18-20.

- What is the negative command (18)? _____
- What is the positive command (18)? _____
- Can you think of any ways in which drunkenness is like being filled with the Spirit (18)? _____
- A literal rendering of Eph. 5:18 would be “be being kept filled with the Spirit.” It speaks of an ongoing continuous reality. What kinds of things do you think we might do that would prevent this from happening in our lives?

- What kinds of things are likely to take place in our lives when we are filled with the Spirit (19-21)? _____

8. Read Colossians 3:16-17.

- Notice the close parallel between this passage of Scripture and Ephesians 5:18-21. What has Paul substituted here for “be filled with the Spirit”?
-
- What does that teach you about how you can be filled with the Spirit?
-

To be filled with the Spirit, basically means to be controlled by the Spirit, in much the same way that a drunk man is controlled by alcohol. In fact, we even refer to alcohol sometimes as “spirits”. As Christians we must make a conscious decision to yield to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to control our life. If all of a sudden your cat started barking and chasing cars, you might conclude that the spirit of a dog has somehow gotten into your cat! Likewise, when a sinner begins to pursue holiness from the heart, and desires to glorify Christ, you know that the Holy Spirit is at work within him. In Ephesians 4:28-32 we discover that the Holy Spirit can be grieved, by things like stealing, unwholesome speech, and ungodly attitudes toward others. Therefore, in order to keep being filled with the Spirit, we must confess and repent of sin, and yield to Christ as Lord each moment.

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

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

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

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Rom. 8:13; 2 Cor. 3:18.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

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

Module 3

Cultivating Godliness



13. Practicing the One-Anothers
14. Committing to the Local Church
15. The Use of Time
16. Money and Possessions
17. Humility
18. Forgiveness

Session 13

Practicing The One-Anothers

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

-- Charles Spurgeon

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

-- Charles Spurgeon

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

-- Oswald Chambers

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. What is our responsibility toward others within the church? Give a short example of how you might live this “one-another” out in your life.

- Romans 12:10a _____

- Romans 12:10b _____

- Romans 12:16 _____

- Romans 13:8 _____

- Romans 14:19 _____

- Romans 15:7 _____

- Romans 15:14 _____

- Romans 16:16 _____

- 1 Cor. 12:25 _____

- Gal. 5:13 _____

- Eph. 4:2 _____

- Eph. 4:32 _____

- Eph. 5:21 _____

- Phil. 2:3 _____

- Col. 3:13 _____

- 1 Thess. 4:18 _____

- 1 Thess. 5:11 _____

- 1 Thess. 5:13 _____

- 1 Thess. 5:15 _____

- Hebrews 10:24 _____

- James 5:16 _____

- 1 Peter 4:9 _____

- 1 Peter 4:10 _____

- 1 Peter 5:5 _____

2. What must your involvement in the local church be like in order for you to obey these commands? Will it require just a casual relationship or a strong commitment? _____

3. What does each of the following Scriptures teach as to how we must *not* relate to one another?

- Romans 14:13 _____
- Galatians 5:26 _____
- Col. 3:9 _____
- James 4:11 _____
- James 5:9 _____

What do all of these Scriptures teach us about the reality of what relating to one another in the body of Christ will be like? _____

4. Analyze the various New Testament commands you listed under Question #1 above. Which of these commands are you actively pursuing obedience to?

5. Which of those commands are you currently ignoring or neglecting in your life?

6. What decision will you make today to begin to actively these commands?

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Discuss with your discipling partner any steps you need to take to be fully committed to the local church and obey the one-anothers.
2. Recite Galatians 5:16 and Ephesians 5:18 to your discipling partner.
3. Recite some of the other verses you have memorized to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

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

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Heb. 3:13; Gal. 5:13.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

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

Session 14

Committing To The Local Church

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

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

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

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

-- Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

Submitting To Spiritual Leaders

1. Read 1 Thess. 5:12-13.

- What are the responsibilities of the leaders of the church mentioned in this passage?

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

2. Read Hebrews 13:7,17

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

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

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

Restoring Believers Who Have Fallen Into Sin

1. Read Matthew 18:15-17.

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

- What is the first step to restoring them? _____

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

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

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

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

- What must the church do? _____

- If he/she does not listen to the church, what must the church do?

- In the 1st century, how would a Jew treat a Gentile and a tax collector?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.

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

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

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

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

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

3. Read Romans 16:17 and Titus 3:10.

- How must the church respond to a person who causes divisions in the church and will not repent? _____

Supporting The Mission Of The Church

1. Read Mt. 28:18-20.

- According to Jesus Christ, what is the mission of the church?

- How should you be involved in accomplishing that mission?

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Hebrews 13:17, “Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Mt. 18:15-17.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Heb. 13:17. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Practice the spiritual disciplines of reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture, as well as prayer.

4. If you have not done so, contact the Pastor(s) of your local church this week to find out how you can make a commitment to your local church.

Session 15

The Use Of Time

“Time is precious because:

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

-- Jonathan Edwards

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

-- John Wesley

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

-- Richard Baxter

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

--Thomas Brooks

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Ephesians 5:15-17.

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

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

- What is making the most of our time equated with in verse 17?

2. Read James 4:14.

- What does James compare our lives to?

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

3. Read 1 Peter 1:17

- How does Peter describe the length of our lives?

- How are we to live out the length of our lives?

- Jonathan Edwards wrote, "Time is precious because a happy or miserable eternity depends on the improvement of it." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?

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

- _____

5. Read Psalm 90:10-12.

- How does the Psalmist describe the length of our lives (vs.10)?

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

- What should we do in light of the brevity of life (vs.12)?

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

- How then should we value the time we have upon this earth?
-

6. Read 1 Cor. 6:19-20.

- Who do we belong to? Why?
-
- Therefore, how must we live in light of that truth?
-
- What does this passage have to say about how we should use our time?
-

7. Read John 9:4-5.

- What did Jesus mean by “as long as it is day”? What did He mean by “night is coming”? Compare vs.5.
-
-
- What did Jesus say He and His disciples must do in light of the fact that night is coming when no one can work?
-
- What significance does the word “must” have in this sentence?
-

8. Read 1 Cor. 15:58.

- In light of the fact that we are hastening toward eternity (1 Cor.15:51-57), how then should we spend our time (vs.58)?
-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Judging by the way you spend your time, how valuable do you really believe your time on earth is?
-

2. If you were planning a trip through the desert on a camel, and only had a limited amount of water you could take on the trip, and didn't know if it would run out before you made it to your destination, how would you value that water? How does that illustration apply to how we should value and invest our time?
-

3. What would you think of someone who every morning took a \$20 bill out of his wallet, struck a match, and burned it up? What should we think of ourselves when we deliberately squander away precious time that God has given us?
-
-

4. How do you think people now in hell consider the time they squandered on earth? How much would they be willing to give to get that time back?
-
-

5. Read 2 Cor. 5:10. Do you believe we will have to give an account to God for how we used our time? Why or why not? Compare Mt. 12:36-37.
-
-

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

1 Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Ephesians 5:15-17.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 1 Cor. 15:58. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Practice the spiritual disciplines of reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture, as well as prayer.
4. Each day jot down on a piece of paper the most important things you need to do for that day and place each of them in their true order of importance. Then set about accomplishing each one in order. Resist the temptation to do something else, until these things are completed. If you don't complete all of them, just transfer the uncompleted tasks to tomorrow's list. Try this for the next week.

Session 16

Money and Possessions

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

-- John Wesley

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

-- R. Kent Hughes

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

-- Hudson Taylor

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

-- Randy Alcorn

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

-- Jim Elliott

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Luke 19:1-10.

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

2. Read Luke 18:18-25.

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

3. Read Luke 3:9-14.

- What does Jesus say we must bring forth in order to escape judgment (vs.9)?

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

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

4. Read Mt. 25:14-30.

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

- Whose possessions were they to use? What ramifications does that have for our lives? _____
- What does the Master do when he comes back (vs.19)? How does that apply to us? _____

5. Read Mt. 6:19-21.

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

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

-
-
-
- What does Jesus command us to do in vs.20?
 - What significance does the little phrase “for yourselves” in vs.20 have?
-

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

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between an owner and a steward? Consult a dictionary.

2. When you make spending decisions, do you think like an owner, or like God's money manager?

3. Before making spending decisions, do you remind yourself that it is God's money, and ask Him if this is how He wants His money spent?

4. He who lays up treasures in heaven looks forward to eternity; he's moving daily toward his treasures. To him death is gain. He who spends his life moving away from his treasures has reason to despair. He who spends his life moving toward his

treasures has reason to rejoice. Are you despairing or rejoicing?

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Matthew 6:19-21, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: 2 Cor. 9:6-7.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

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

Some of the material for this session was adapted from *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn, 2001, Multnomah Publishers.

Session 17

Humility

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself. It is thinking of yourself less.”

-- Anonymous

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

-- Charles Simeon

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

-- Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

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

2. Read Mt. 20:20-28.

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

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

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

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

3. Read Phil. 2:3-11.

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

- How did Jesus manifest humility (vs.5-8)? _____
- How did God respond to Jesus’ amazing display of humility (vs.9-11)?

4. Read James 4:6-10.

- What is God’s response to the proud? _____
- What is God’s response to the humble? _____
- How should we manifest humility in relation to God (vs.7)?

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

5. Read James 1:21.

- According to this verse, how are we to exercise humility?

- What do you think that looks like?

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

- Rom.12:3 _____
- Ps. 115:1 _____
- John 13:1-5; 12-17 _____
- Romans 7:18 _____

Humility is a beautiful character quality. It is wrought in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus was humble in heart (Mt. 11:29), so too are all of His followers. This humility manifests itself in unselfishness, considering the needs of others, giving up our personal “rights”, serving others, submitting to God and His Word, and ascribing all the good in our lives to God. However, our problem is that we are naturally proud and selfish. We may want to be humble, but all too often find that we are really proud. How can we change from being proud and selfish to being humble and unselfish?

7. Read the following Scriptures and jot down how we can begin to manifest humility in our lives.

- Is. 6:1-5 _____
- Luke 18:9-14 _____
- Prov. 28:13 _____
- 2 Cor. 3:18 _____

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take some time to consider your life and pinpoint one or two areas of pride. Confess these to your discipling partner. Commit to pray for one another in this area.
2. Memorize Phil. 2:3-5. This week when you find yourself slipping back into responding in pride instead of humility, recite that verse to yourself, and turn it into prayer to God.

3. Seek to discover a situation in which you can serve others and put them before yourself. Discuss this with your discipling partner. Commit to implementing that idea this week.
2. Recite Mt. 6:19-21 to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Philippians 2:3-5, “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: James 4:10.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

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

Session 18

Forgiveness

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

-- C. S. Lewis

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

-- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

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

-- J. C. Ryle

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

-- Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Matthew 6:9-15.

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

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

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

2. Read Matthew 18:21-35.

- How often must we forgive someone who sins against us? What did Jesus mean by saying “up to seventy times seven”?

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

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

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

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

3. Read Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2.

- According to vs. 32, what should you consider when you know you need to forgive someone?

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

- What will a spirit of unforgiveness in your life do to the Holy Spirit who dwells in you (vs.30)?

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Do you think that we are only obligated to forgive those who apologize to us or repent, because God only forgives those who repent (Rom.2:5)? Or do you believe we

should forgive all who wrong us? Why do you believe the way you do?

2. Does God’s command for us to forgive us mean we must forget that it ever happened, or trust the person to the same extent in the future? For example, if a family relative had been sexually abusing your small child, though you must forgive him, would you trust that family member to be alone with your child? Give reasons for why you believe as you do.

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Take some time to think and pray about whether there is anyone that has done harm to you that you have not forgiven. If so, confess these situations to your discipling partner. Pray together, releasing that person from any debt to you before God.
2. Memorize Eph. 4:32.
3. Recite Phil. 2:3-5 to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Matthew 6:14-15.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Eph. 4:32. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.

2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Continue to cultivate the spiritual disciplines of reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture, as well as prayer. Seek to do these disciplines as a means to enjoy and delight in God, not as raw duties to be endured. Look at these studies as a way for you to develop your loving, obedient relationship with God.

Module 4

Making Disciples



19. Fasting
20. Spiritual Gifts
21. Evangelism
22. The Cost of Discipleship
23. Disciples Making Disciples
24. Catching A World Vision

Session 19

Fasting

“Do you have a hunger for God? If we don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because we have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because we have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Our soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great. If we are full of what the world offers, then perhaps a fast might express, or even increase, our soul's appetite for God. Between the dangers of self-denial and self-indulgence is the path of pleasant pain called fasting. . . That's what I think fasting is at heart. It's an intensification of prayer. It's a physical explanation point at the end of the sentence, "We hunger for you to come in power." It's a cry with your body, "I really mean it, Lord! This much, I hunger for you." . . . The absence of fasting is the measure of our contentment with the absence of Christ.”

-- John Piper

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

-- D. L. Moody

INTRODUCTION

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

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

BIBLE STUDY

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

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

- Mt. 6:16-18 (compare 6:2 and 6:5) _____
- Mt. 9:14-15 _____

3. In order to get a comprehensive Biblical view of fasting, we are going to survey the major portions of God's Word on fasting from beginning to end. Read the following Scriptures and record 1) who is fasting; 2) what he was fasting from; 3) what he was fasting for; and 4) how long he fasted. If the information is not in the text, just say, "Not stated".

- Deut. 9:9

- Judges 20:24-28

- 1 Sam. 7:1-6

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

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

- Ezra 10:1-6

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

- Is. 58:1-7

- Daniel 10:1-14 (esp. vs.3)

- Joel 2:12-17

- Jonah 3:5-9 (if you are unaware of this story, read 1:1 - 3:4 as context)

- Mt. 4:1-11

- Acts 2:36-38

- Acts 13:1-3

- Acts 9:1-9

- Acts 14:19-23

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

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

6. Summarize what the Bible teaches about the purpose(s) of fasting.

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

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

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Set a day, with the help of your discipling partner, on which you will fast and pray for something definite. If you have a medical condition, consult your doctor about whether you may fast. Determine on the day you fast, to dedicate this day especially to God and spend more time with Him in prayer than you usually do. You might want to meet with your discipling partner for prayer together on this day. You might also decide to fast every so often, perhaps once a month. Discuss this with your discipling partner.
2. Recite Psalm 16:11 and 37:4 to your discipling partner. Share with him/her any insights you received while memorizing it.
3. Recite some of the other verses you have memorized to your discipling partner.
4. Recite the books of the Bible in order to your discipling partner.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Mt. 6:16-18, “And whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance in order to be seen fasting by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face so that you may not be seen fasting by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.”

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Mt. 6:16-18. Work on these verses until you can repeat them perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session. Seek to find delight and joy in your studies as you learn of God and His will for you, rather than simply do it so that you can check it off your To Do list.

3. Spend some time each day reading the Scriptures and talking to God about what you have read. Strive to make this a habit of your life. Usually, it is best to do this in the morning, before your other responsibilities.

Session 20

Spiritual Gifts

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

-- Wayne Grudem

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

-- Charles Spurgeon

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.

- How many believers have been given one or more spiritual gifts?

- What are we supposed to do with our spiritual gifts?

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

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

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

2. Read 1 Cor. 12:1-11.

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

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

3. Read Rom. 12:3-8.

- What kind of an attitude should believers have towards one another (vs.3)?
-

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

- What must we do with our spiritual gifts (vs.6)?
-

4. Read 1 Cor. 14:1-5.

- What is different about prophecy from the other spiritual gifts (vs.1)?
-

- Who is the one who prophesies speaking to? Who is the one who is speaking in tongues speaking to (Vs. 2-3)?
-

- Will the interpretation of a tongue be directed to men or God?
-

- What are the three results we can expect from a prophecy?
-

- Is the gift of tongues or prophecy more important when the church gathers (Vs.5,18-19)? Where and when should we primarily use the gift of tongues?
-
-

Spiritual Gifts Defined

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

Romans 12:6-8.

Prophecy: “reporting something that God has spontaneously brought to mind.” Prophecy differs from teaching in that teaching necessitates study and preparation while prophecy comes spontaneously from God.

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

Teaching: “the ability to explain Scripture and apply it to people’s lives.”

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

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

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

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

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

1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

The word of wisdom: “the ability to give wisdom so that a godly decision can be made.” Example: Acts 15:1-29.

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

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

Gifts of Healing: “the ability to pray for the sick so that they recover.” Example: Mark 2:32-34

Effecting of Miracles: “the ability to manifest God’s mighty power to accomplish His will.” Example: Luke 8:22-25; 9:12-17.

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

Tongues: “the ability to pray to or praise God in syllables not understood by the speaker.”

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

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

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

1 Peter 4:10, “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: 1 Cor. 12:7, 11.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

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

Session 21

Evangelism

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

-- Leon Morris

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

-- John Blanchard

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

-- Roland Allen

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

-- John Wesley

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

-- Robert Coleman

“Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell.”

-- David Platt

INTRODUCTION

A maturing disciple will pray and labor to bring others to Christ. Having become the recipient of matchless grace, he longs that others would experience it as well. He longs

that Christ will be glorified by others bowing at His feet and worshipping Him as Lord. The desire for others to come to Christ is a spiritual instinct found within the heart of every born again child of God. However, personal evangelism must be cultivated as a discipline because we often find it very difficult to do.

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Mark 1:17.

- What did Jesus call Simon and Andrew to do?

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

2. Read Mark 16:15-16.

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

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

3. Read Mt. 28:18-20.

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

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

4. Read Acts 1:8.

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

- What would happen as a result?

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

5. Read Col. 4:5-6.

- Who are the “outsiders” in vs. 5?
-

- How should we relate to them?
-

6. Read 2 Thess.1:6-9.

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

Practical Ways To Engage In Evangelism

There are many practical ways to evangelize.

- 1) Tract Evangelism:** one easy way is to carry Biblical evangelistic tracts and pamphlets with you at all times. Wherever you go, distribute them to others. You can give them to the employee at the check-out counter at the grocery store or the gas station. You can leave them at restaurants or in public restrooms. You can even use them to start discussions about God and Christ.
- 2) Friendship Evangelism:** another way to reach out to lost people is to show an interest in people, getting to know them, so that you will have the opportunity to share Christ with them. Invite friends, or neighbors, or family over to your home for dinner or dessert. In conversation, share openly and candidly with them about what God has done for you in Christ, as various topics naturally arise. You might also organize an open house, or a block party, or have a pancake breakfast, and invite your neighbors over for the purpose of seeing them come to Christ.
- 3) Contact Evangelism:** another way to bring the gospel to lost people is to simply go out to a public place where people naturally congregate (parks, bus stations, laundromats, school campuses, etc.) for the purpose of speaking to them about Christ. Bring tracts with you. You might use a spiritual belief survey as a way of starting your conversation. Seek to share the gospel with those you speak to.
- 4) Bible Study Evangelism:** invite non-Christians to attend an Investigative Bible Study, in which they can read and examine what the Bible says for themselves. You can have individual lessons on the Bible, God, Man, Jesus, and Our Response. The beauty of this kind of evangelism is that you can develop a relationship with the people you are reaching out to over time, so that trust is developed by the end of your study. It also gives the non-Christian more time to

be exposed to the Word of God.

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

A Simple Method to Share The Gospel

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

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

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

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

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

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

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Mark 16:15-16, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Mark 1:17; Acts 1:8.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Mark 16:15-16. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Pray and ask God to show you how you can spread the gospel to others. Then obey Him.
4. Continue to develop the spiritual disciplines you have learned in this training manual. However, seek to cultivate these disciplines in your life, not merely as a duty to be performed, but as fellowship with God to be enjoyed!

Session 22

The Cost of Discipleship

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

-- Anonymous Author

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

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Radical obedience to Christ is not easy... It's not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us."

-- David Platt

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Luke 14:25-26.

- Who is Jesus speaking to here? Was He speaking to those who were already converted, in order to bring them up to a second level of Christian experience? Or was He speaking to unbelievers who needed to be saved?
-

- What are the 3 things someone must be willing to do in order to be one of Jesus' disciples (9:26,27,33)?
-

- What do you think Jesus meant by "hating" our father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters? Compare Mt. 10:37
-

- Was Jesus content with followers who were not committed to Him?
-

- What is the principle Jesus is teaching in verse 26?
-

2. Read Luke 14:27.

- What did it mean to carry your cross in Jesus' day?
-
- How would you apply Jesus' teaching in verse 27 to your life? What is He requiring you to do in order to be His disciple?
-

3. Read Luke 14:28-32.

- In these two stories about a man building a tower or a king going out to battle, what is Jesus teaching?
-
- How would you apply His teaching in our evangelism today?
-

4. Read Luke 14:33.

- What do you think Jesus meant by "giving all your own possessions"? Do we find in the rest of the New Testament the requirement to literally give away all our money and possessions when we become Christians?
-
-
-

5. Read Luke 9:23-24.

- What three things must a person do who wants to come after Jesus?
-

- Are these requirements for everyone or just those radically committed Christians who want to follow Him all the way?

- How does Jesus rephrase denying yourself and taking up your cross in verse 24?

6. Read Luke 9:57-62. In this passage Jesus address 3 Would-Be Disciples. In each case, Jesus sees something in their life that is hindering them from fully following the Master.

- What mistake was this first would-be disciple making (9:57-58)? How would you apply this lesson to your life?

- What mistake was the second would-be disciple making (9:59-60)? How would you apply this lesson to your life? (Note: this would-be disciple's father may not have even been dead yet. He may be saying that He would follow Christ once His father had died, and He had shown His last respects to Him. Jesus' response probably amounts to something like this: "Allow the spiritually dead to bury the physically dead. As for you, be indispensable. Give your life to doing what only a truly saved man can do. Go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom and salvation of God through His Son.")

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

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

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Luke 9:23, "And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Luke 14:26-27; Luke 14:33.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize Luke 9:23. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.
3. Pray and ask God to help you submit yourself fully to Christ as Lord, no matter how difficult it is or how costly it becomes.
4. Continue to develop the spiritual disciplines you have learned in this training manual. However, seek to cultivate these disciplines in your life, not merely as a duty to be performed, but as fellowship with God to be enjoyed!

Session 23

Disciples Making Disciples

“Discipling men and women is the priority around which our lives should be oriented.”
-- Robert Coleman

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

- 1. Read Matthew 28:18-20. The words “Go”, “baptizing”, and “teaching”**

are participles. The main driving verb of the Great Commission is “make disciples.”

- What is the primary mission that Jesus Christ has given His church until the end of the age?

- What are we supposed to be teaching new converts?

- Since Jesus commanded the eleven to “make disciples”, does teaching new converts to “observe all that I commanded you” include the duty for them to make disciples?

- Can we be an obedient follower of Christ, without giving our life to making disciples?

2. Read 2 Timothy 2:2.

- Identify the four generations in this verse through which God’s truth is passed down?

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

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

Spiritual Multiplication

If Eve were to bear a child every year from the time she was 20 years old until the time she was 920 years old, she could conceivably bear 900 children. But if Eve had many children who each had many children, in 900 years there could be several million people born on the earth. Let’s say you and your spouse are able to bear 10 children. Now, that’s a lot of children by today’s standards. But if every one of your children were born sterile, those 10 children would be an example of addition. If, however, every one of your children had more children, who had more children, this would be an example of multiplication. The very first command God gave man in Genesis 1:28 was to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” God’s will is that we do the same thing in the spiritual realm.

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

3. Read Mark 3:13-15.

- What does Jesus do in verse 13?

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

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

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

4. Read Mark 6:7-13.

- What did Jesus send the twelve out to do? How does that correspond with what they had been watching Jesus doing?

5. Read Mark 6:30.

- After the twelve had gathered with Jesus after their mission, what did they do?

- How do you suppose Jesus responded?

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

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

2 Timothy 2:2, “And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Mark 3:13-15.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2. Work on this verse until you can repeat it perfectly. Remember to recite the reference as well as the content of the verse.
2. Read through your next study and answer the questions. If you have questions or become confused, write your questions down so that you can discuss them with your discipling partner at your next session.

3. Pray and ask God to help you find someone to pour your life into, and when He does, begin to meet with him/her regularly.
4. Continue to develop the spiritual disciplines you have learned in this training manual. However, seek to cultivate these disciplines in your life, not merely as a duty to be performed, but as fellowship with God to be enjoyed!

Session 24

Catching A World Vision

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

-- Henry Martyn, Missionary to India and Persia

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

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

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

-- David Livingstone, Missionary to Africa

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

-- Oswald J. Smith

"God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His, and, for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose."

-- John Piper

"Go, send, or disobey."

-- John Piper

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

-- Carl F. H. Henry

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read the following Scriptures and identify where God has called His people to go and seek to reach with the gospel:

Mt. 28:18-20 _____
Mk. 16:15-16 _____
Lk. 24:46-47 _____
Acts 1:8 _____

2. Read Romans 15:20-21.

- Where did Paul aspire to preach the gospel?

- Why did he want to preach the gospel there?

3. Read Romans 15:22-28.

- Where does Paul intend to go after he visits the saints in Rome?

• What does that tell you about Paul's heart?

4. Read Romans 10:12-15.

- There are 5 steps in the salvation of the heathen given in this passage. Outline those steps in reverse order.

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- According to this passage, would you argue that the heathen who die without ever hearing the gospel will be saved or lost? Explain your reasoning.
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5. Read Revelation 5:9-10.

- According to this new song sung in heaven, why is Christ worthy to take the book and break its seals?

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- How were these people saved and brought into Christ's church?
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Are Those Who Have Never Heard The Gospel Saved Or Lost?

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

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

So, what can we do to bring the gospel to the rest of the world?

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

Thought Questions:

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

STEPS TO TAKE

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

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Romans 10:13-15, “for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”

Additional Scripture you may want to memorize: Revelation 5:9-10

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

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

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” - (Jude 24-25)