

PRESSING ON

Multiplying Followers of Christ
Until All Hear

**PRESSING ON:
Multiplying Followers of Christ Until All Hear
For Churches**

Revised Edition © 2020 by Jeff Ropp

Introduction

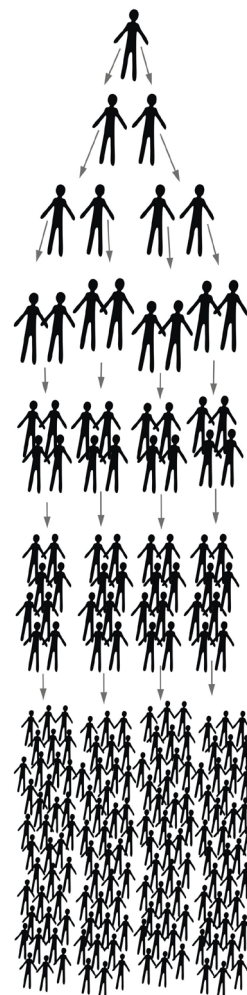
Before He ascended to Heaven, Jesus left the Church with the task of reproducing disciples whose lives were like His—full of grace and truth (Matthew 28:19-20; John 1:14). This was and is God's only plan to reach the world for Christ. **Discipleship** in its purest sense is leading an unsaved person to believe or trust in Jesus alone for eternal life and then teaching him or her to obey Christ in all things. It is a dynamic journey whereby Christ gives the Christian more and more demands after his or her conversion that goes from general to more specific.

The **goal of discipleship** is to become more like one's Master, Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:24-25). *Pressing On* offers a systematic approach to leading a non-Christian to Christ, building them up and equipping them for ministry so they can multiply other followers of Christ. The ultimate goal is that you lead people to faith in Christ and then train them to reach and train others, who will reach and train others, etc. (2 Timothy 2:2), forming the nucleus of a new grace-based church plant!

If a disciple does not have a Bible of his own, his discipler/trainer can **give a Bible** to him to keep as his own. His discipler/trainer will orient him to the Bible at their first meeting: "The Bible has been divided into sixty-six different books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Old Testament anticipates the coming of Christ; the New Testament speaks of His life, death, resurrection, final victory, and rule on earth. To find a book in the Bible, turn to the table of contents in the front of your Bible. The Bible has been divided into chapters and verses. For example, John 1:1 refers to the Book of John, chapter 1, verse 1. Your trainer will assist you in finding Bible verses that are not already printed in this lesson. ***The disciple in each lesson is to read the Bible verse(s) to the discipler/trainer.***"

This training manual is to be filled in weekly as the discipler/trainer teaches. **Answers** to the fill-in-the-blanks and questions are found at the **end of each lesson**. Lessons include:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Lesson 1: | Plan of Salvation |
| Lesson 2: | Understanding Prayer |
| Lesson 3: | Daily Time with God |
| Lesson 4: | The God Who Saved Us |
| Lesson 5: | The Church, the Community of God |
| Lesson 6: | Fighting Shame with Grace and Truth |
| Lesson 7: | God's Will for Your Life |
| Lesson 8: | Abiding in God's Word |



Before a disciple can go to the next lesson, he or she must understand and complete the current lesson. **Before completing the training**, the disciple must begin discipling/training new believers. On average, it will take about 8 weeks to complete the short-term discipleship training, depending on the pace of the disciple(s). Disciples will continue to meet with their discipler after lesson 8 to study the Gospel of John and the Book of Romans together.

Discipling can be done **one-on-one** or **as a small group**. As new souls come to Christ and disciples multiply, new grace-based **churches will start naturally!**

Much of this discipleship training is adapted from the *T4T* model developed by Steve Smith with Ying Kai (see t4tonline.org).

The **rewards of discipleship** will far outweigh the time and effort required to reproduce disciples of Jesus' grace and truth. Jesus said, "*I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work*" (Revelation 22:12). When Jesus returns, He will greatly reward those who obeyed His command to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15).

Lesson 1: PLAN OF SALVATION

God created us because He wanted a special relationship with us. He wants all of us to live with Him forever in heaven after we die. Has anyone ever taken a Bible and shown you how you can know for sure that you will go to heaven when you die? If not, may I show you? The gospel that guarantees us a home in heaven contains both bad news and good news. The bad news is about us. But the good news is about God.

I. We have a Problem that Separates Us from God. [BAD NEWS]

A. Our problem is called _____.

The Bible says in Romans 3:23, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

Sin is when we _____ God's laws (1 John 3:4).

Examples:

You tell a lie to your friend.

You steal from a *sari-sari store*.

You have evil thoughts toward those who have hurt you.

B. The penalty for our sin is _____ in Hell.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

"Death" in the Bible means _____ from God. Sin separates us from God because He is holy, righteous, and perfect. He cannot be around sin.

Do you ever feel lonely? _____. People all over the world feel lonely. The reason you feel lonely is because you are separated from God. Even if you have many family or friends and do drugs, you still feel lonely inside because only God can satisfy your deepest needs.

The Bible says the final punishment for your sin is _____. Hell is where the fire never stops burning and worms never stop eating your flesh (Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:15).

You might say, "Well, I am not as bad as him," or "I have not sinned as much as her." But even if you have committed _____ sin, you are separated from God and deserve to go to Hell. This is _____ NEWS!

II. God Provided the Solution to Our Problem. [GOOD NEWS]

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16a).

God _____ you so much He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth. Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus was born on earth. When He lived on earth, He was a lot like you and me. He had family and _____ (Mark 3:31-32; John 15:14-15). He even had a job as a carpenter (Mark 6:3). But there's one thing about Jesus that makes Him much different from you and me. Jesus never _____ because He was and is _____ (John 1:1, 14, 17; 5:17-18; 10:30; 12:44-45; 14:7-11; 20:28; Romans 1:3-4; 9:5; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 5:20).

A. Jesus Christ, the God-Man, _____ for our sins on the Cross and, three days later, He _____ from the dead (John 1:1, 14, 17; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8).

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved... For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once...”

1 Corinthians 15:1-6a

In summary, the gospel by which we are saved is that Christ _____ for our sins and _____ from the dead.

If Jesus was still dead, could He help you? _____. Would you go to a dead man’s grave and say, “Would you please give me some food?” _____. In the same way, if Jesus was still dead, He could not help you. But Jesus is not dead. He is alive which proves He is God (Romans 1:3-4). Because Jesus is alive, He has the power to save you from Hell and give you eternal life so you can live with God forever in Heaven. All you need to do is _____ Him. The Bible says that eternal life is a free gift (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9).

When someone gives you a Christmas gift, do you have to pay for it? _____, or it would not be a gift. In the same way, there is nothing you can do to earn eternal life. No amount of good works will get you to Heaven. The good things we do, say, and think cannot take away our sins. Only Jesus can take away our sins, because only Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for all of our sins and rose again. If you are trying to be good enough to go to Heaven, you are trying to save yourself. You are telling Jesus that you do not need Him. But we cannot save ourselves. We need a Savior. We need Jesus Christ.

B. God now invites you to believe in Jesus Christ alone to give you eternal life and forgive all of your sins. What book of the Bible was written to tell non-Christians how to get to Heaven?

_____ times John uses the word “believe” in his gospel.

- **John 3:16: (Jesus said)** *“Whoever **believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*
- **John 6:47: (Jesus said)** *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who **believes** in Me has everlasting life.”*
- **Acts 10:43: (Peter said)** *“All who **believe** in Jesus will be forgiven of their sins through Jesus’ name.”*

The word “believe” means to trust. Trusting in Jesus is like riding a tricycle. When you ride a tricycle, do you have to push the tricycle to get it to go? _____. Do you have to flap your arms up and down to help the tricycle? _____. You must simply trust the driver to take you to your destination. Likewise, there is nothing you can do to help Jesus bring you to Heaven. The ONLY thing you can do is believe or trust in Him as the only One who can give you eternal life. But you may say, “I’m religious... I go to church... I’m a good person... I help the poor... I don’t do anything that’s really bad.” These are all good, but good living, going to church, helping the poor, or any other good thing you might do cannot get you to Heaven.

- **Isaiah 64:6: “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.”**

God looks at the good things we do, such as attending church, being baptized, confessing our sins, and persevering in good works, and sees they are all _____ with sin. None of these “good things” can take away our sins. You must believe in Jesus alone, and God will forgive _____ of your sins and give you everlasting life.

When you believe or trust in Jesus, He will give you eternal life, save you from Hell, give you a home in Heaven, and place you in God's family forever. Jesus will also come to live inside of you. He promises never to leave you: *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5).

Think carefully. There is no decision greater than believing or trusting Christ to take you to Heaven.

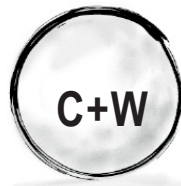
If you died right now, where would you go? Why? Because of your good works or because you have believed in Jesus?

(The following **3-circle tool** was developed by **EvanTell, Inc.**, and is used with their permission.)

Ask yourself, what am I trusting to get me to Heaven?



My works?



Christ plus my works?



Christ alone?

After believing in Christ alone as your only hope to Heaven, you can tell God what you have done by praying this simple prayer (*Remember*. Praying a prayer does not take you to Heaven. Only believing in Jesus takes you to Heaven.):

"Dear God, I come to you as a sinner. I cannot save myself. I believe You died on the cross for all of my sins and rose from the dead. I am now trusting You alone, Jesus (not my baptism, church attendance, or good life), to forgive all my sins and give me the free gift of eternal life. Thank You for the forgiveness and everlasting life that I now have. In Jesus' name. Amen."

When you believed in Jesus, He gave you everlasting life starting right now (John 6:47). How long does everlasting life last? _____ Does eternal life ever end? _____
So if you sin tomorrow, next month, or next year, do you still have everlasting life?

The Bible says that when you believe in Jesus for eternal life, you become a member of God's family forever. **John 1:12** says, *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."* God is now your Father and you are His child forever. If God is your Father and He is my Father, what does that make you and me?

When you believed in Jesus, He came to live inside of you (Galatians 2:20) and He promises never to leave you (Hebrews 13:5). So if Jesus always lives inside of you, do you ever have to feel lonely?

The Bible also says that when you believed in Jesus, you now have a home in Heaven (John 3:16; Revelation 21-22). Because you now have a home in Heaven, do you have to be afraid of death?

C. What does God promise to those who believe in Jesus for eternal life?

John 5:24

John 6:37-39

John 10:28-29

Ephesians 1:13-14

1 John 5:13

- D. The Bible says that when you believe in Jesus for eternal life, you are _____ forever (John 3:16; 5:24; 6:35-40; 10:28-29; 11:25-26; Romans 8:31-39; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 13:5). Once you are eternally saved through faith alone in Christ alone (Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9), you can never _____ that salvation no matter what happens after your conversion.

Some students of the Bible, however, refer to many Bible verses that they believe teaches you can lose your salvation. But when these verses are interpreted within the _____ of the passage and in a way that harmonizes with the clear teaching of salvation by grace through faith alone in Christ alone apart from any good works or any other merit, those passages are understood to refer to:

1. The loss of _____ (Matthew 8:11-12; 10:32-42; 22:1-14; 24:45-51; 25:1-46; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23-26; 12:42-48; 19:20-26; 1 Corinthians 3:14-15; 6:9-10; 9:24-27; 15:1-2, 58; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:5; Philippians 3:11, 14; Colossians 1:22-23, 28-29; 3:24; 2 Timothy 2:12; Hebrews 3:6, 12-14; 4:1-13; 1 Peter 1:3-12; 2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:17; 2 John 1:7-9; Revelation 2:10-11; 3:5; et al.)
 2. The loss of _____ with God (Matthew 6:14-15; Luke 8:13; John 2:23-25; Acts 8:9-24; 20:17-32; Romans 11:13-23; Galatians 5:4; 1 Timothy 4:1; 5:8; 6:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; 1 John 2:3-5; 3:4-15; 4:7-8; Revelation 2:4-5)
 3. God's _____ (Matthew 3:1-12; John 15:6; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 10:1-12; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; Hebrews 6:4-8; 10:26-39; James 5:13-20; 2 Peter 2:20-22; 1 John 5:16-17; Revelation 2:16; 3:1-3; 15-19)
 4. Those who were _____ saved to begin with since they never believed in Christ alone for salvation (Matthew 7:21-23; John 17:12; 2 Peter 2:12-17; Jude 1:4-13; Revelation 21:8).
- E. Someone may ask, "Since eternal life is free and cannot be lost, why should I live for the Lord?" There are several incentives for living a godly life after believing in Jesus for the gift of eternal life.
1. _____ (1 John 4:19). When you are convinced God loves you no matter what and that His arms of grace are always open for you no matter how badly you fail or fall, you will want to do what He tells you to do out of gratitude and because you know He wants the best for you (2 Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 2:20).
 2. God's _____ (Hebrews 12:5-11). Just as an earthly father disciplines his wayward children, so God will discipline His disobedient child. It is possible for a believer to be more miserable living outside of God's will than it would have been to remain a non-Christian. Knowing the price of sin in a Christian's life ought to be a strong motivation for godly living (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 6:4-8; 10:26-39).
 3. Eternal _____ at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:8-15; 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:9-11; Revelation 22:12). Knowing that we can earn eternal rewards can greatly motivate believers to live for Christ now.

III. Your Response

- A. Do you know you have been saved from Hell? _____ Yes _____ No
- B. Do you know you have received eternal life? _____ Yes _____ No

C. Conclusion: ____ I have been saved from Hell forever ____ I have not been saved from Hell forever
____ I still don't know

IV. If anyone is in Christ, he is a _____, _____ have passed away; behold, all things have become _____ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Here are some of the changes you can expect to experience in your new life.

____ a new motivation (2 Corinthians 5:14-15) ____ a new _____ (2 Corinthians 5:16)
____ a new _____ (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) ____ a new _____ (2 Corinthians 5:20;
cf. Ephesians 1:1, 20-21; 2:6, 10, 21-22)

What new name did Jesus give to Simon (John 1:42b)?

What does this name mean?

Why do you think Jesus gave Simon Peter this new name?

During this first stage of discipleship when a person becomes a believer, he needs to receive a vision of what he can become in Christ. This is what Jesus did with Peter. During this stage, the Lord gives us a vision of what we can _____ by His grace working in and through us. We need someone who can look beyond our faults and weaknesses and not only love us but also expect the best from us; someone who will believe in us; someone who will give us another chance; someone who will call us by another name. That Someone is Jesus Christ. Only He has the power to forgive all our sins and turn our weaknesses into strengths. That is what Jesus did with Peter and that is what He wants to do with you and me.

V. When you sin in the future, what should you do (1 John 1:9)?

The Bible teaches that there are two types of forgiveness. The chart below explains the difference between these two kinds of forgiveness.

Positional Forgiveness	Practical (Fellowship) Forgiveness
Condition: Believe in Jesus (Acts 10:43)	Confess Your Sin (1 John 1:9)
Result: Permanent or Unrepeatable Forgiveness (Colossians 2:13-14)	Temporary or Repeatable Forgiveness (Matthew 6:12a, 14-15)
Extent: All Sin—Past, Present, Future	Current or Confessed Sin
Necessary for Salvation	Necessary for Fellowship or Closeness with Christ

VI. Please joyfully fill in your spiritual “birth certificate.”

On _____ (month) _____ (day), _____ (year) I trusted Jesus Christ to forgive all my sins and give me the free gift of eternal life. Now I have become a child of God and a new creation. I have begun a new life. Signature: _____

VII. Memorize Bible verse.

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

VIII. When you trusted in Jesus He gave you eternal life. Eternal life means more than just living forever with God. It also means that God's Spirit now lives _____ us—teaching us about Him and enabling us to live a life that pleases God (Romans 8:11; Galatians 5:22-23).

A. What has God saved you for (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15)?

Go, not come
Everybody, not just some
Make trainers, not just church members

The first thing that you should do is to share this good news with those you care most about (John 1:40-42; 4:39; Acts 10:24; 16:14-15, 27-34; 18:8). God has saved you so you can share your story with others who do not know Jesus.

Write down the names of people in your life who do not know Jesus—family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, people you meet on a regular basis in various circles—work, school, market, club, organization, etc. Ask God, “*Lord, bring to my mind people in my life who do not know Jesus.*” Once you have a list, then ask God to show you five people on your list with whom you can share all that you have learned today. Circle their names. Pray for God to open the hearts of these people as you go to witness to them this week (John 16:7-11).

B. Now you will learn how to share the good news of Jesus with the unsaved. First you will learn a **bridge** which is a simple way to transition a conversation to spiritual matters, especially the gospel. The bridge you will learn is sharing your personal testimony or your faith story. Write your story (keep it 1-3 minutes in length). Your story should consist of the following parts:

What my life was like before Christ (Ex. “I was lonely, empty, getting into a lot of trouble...”)

How I came to place my trust in Christ for eternal life (Tell when, how, why, with whom, and where you trusted Christ alone for salvation. Include **a Bible verse** that helped you place your trust in Christ alone.).

How my life has changed since trusting in Christ (Include new goals, new desires, new friends, new attitudes, resolved problems, or how Jesus has helped you change for the better, etc.).

C. Practice telling your story.

Read your story aloud five times.

Pair up and practice telling your story to each other. Remove words that sound too “churchy” or concepts that would not make sense to a non-Christian. Give feedback to each other about how moving the testimony is and how to make it better.

D. Practice sharing Lesson 1 with each other.

Talk with the non-Christian about three things they are familiar with:

1. Family
2. Job/School
3. Background

Transition: “Has anyone ever taken a Bible and shown you how you can know for sure you will go to heaven when you die? If not, may I show you?”

I. Bad News: We have a problem that separates us from God.

- A. Our problem is called sin (Romans 3:23)
- B. The penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23)

II. Good News: God provided the solution to our problem.

- A. Jesus Christ, the God-Man, died for our sins and rose from the dead (1 Cor. 15:1-6a).
- B. God now invites you to place your trust in Jesus Christ alone to give you eternal life and forgive all of your sins (John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:40, 47; et al.).

III. When the apostle Paul instructed the Colossian believers to pray for his preaching of the gospel, he said, **“that I may make it _____ in the way I ought to speak”** (Colossians 4:4; NASB). God wants Christians to be clear in the way they communicate the gospel of Christ to non-Christians.

God uses the words **“believe”** and **“faith”** more than any other words as conditions for salvation from hell in the New Testament (e.g. Matthew 9:22; Mark 1:15; 5:34; 10:52; Luke 8:12, 48; 17:19; 18:42; John 1:12; 3:15, 16, 18, 36; 4:10-14, 25-28; 5:24, 39-40; 6:35, 37, 39-40, 47; 7:38-39; 10:24-30; 11:25, 26; 12:36, 46-47; 20:31; Acts 10:43; 11:14; 11:17; 13:39; 15:9, 11; 16:31; 26:18. Romans 3:22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30; 4:3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 16, 22, 24; 5:1; 9:30, 33; 10:4, 10; 1 Corinthians 1:21; 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, 8; Galatians 3:2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 22, 24, 26; Ephesians 1:13; 2:8-9; Philippians 3:9; 1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:12; 3:15; 1 John 5:1, 13; et. al). But instead of using the words that God uses the most in the New Testament to tell non-Christians how to respond to the gospel, many Christians have inserted other words or clichés to communicate the most important message given to humanity.

When inviting a non-Christian to respond to the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-6), **avoid _____ invitations that do more to confuse a lost person than clarify what he or she must do to get to heaven.** We will evaluate some common gospel invitations according to what the Bible teaches.

1. _____ Christ.

- a. The one verse that alludes to this possible invitation is John 1:12: *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”* This verse makes it clear that the way to receive or accept Christ is to **“believe in His name.”** Receiving Christ is the _____ of believing in Him.
- b. The danger in asking people to accept Christ is that they may accept Christ as a _____ (just as we may accept one another as a person) and still depend on their good works to get them to heaven without ever trusting in Jesus alone as their only hope of heaven.

- c. This invitation can be very confusing especially for Roman Catholics who are more inclined to think of accepting or receiving Christ by partaking of the Eucharist. If you invite a Roman Catholic to receive Christ, he or she may think you are referring to receiving His body (bread) and blood (cup) in the Eucharist instead of believing in Jesus. In their minds, receiving or accepting Christ is done repeatedly.

2. _____ from or be _____ for your sins.

- a. No human being, Christian or non-Christian, can _____ sinning (1 John 1:8, 10).
- b. The word “_____” refers to a change of mind about whatever is keeping an unbeliever from believing in Jesus, and then believing in Him for everlasting life (Mark 1:15). The non-Christian may need to change his mind about the Person of Christ (Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38), God (Acts 20:21), idols (Revelation 9:20), sin (Revelation 9:21), or his works (Revelation 16:11; Hebrews 6:1) before he can believe in Christ for the gift of salvation.
- c. Repentance cannot refer to sorrow for sin or turning from sin because in the Old Testament _____ repents (e.g. Genesis 6:6-7; Exodus 32:14; Jeremiah 26:19; Jonah 3:9-10; et. al.). If repentance meant sorrow for sin, God would be a sinner.
- d. The gospel of John which was written to tell non-Christians how to get to heaven (John 20:31), _____ uses the words “repent” or “repentance” as a condition for everlasting life because when one changes from unbelief to belief, he or she has repented. Another possible reason for the absence of these words is they are easily misunderstood to mean something like “turning from sins” or “penance” which involve works. The word “believe,” however, communicates such simplicity that it is less likely to be misconstrued to include a works-oriented response.
- e. The issue is not how you feel about sin; it is how _____ feels about sin. God is completely holy and perfect (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; 15:4). The Lord hates sin and demands that it be punished (Genesis 6:5-7; Deuteronomy 25:16; Proverbs 6:16-19; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 1:9). Are you willing to agree with God that you are a _____ in His sight, who deserves to be separated from Him forever in a terrible place of suffering called the Lake of Fire (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Revelation 20:15)?
- f. This invitation can confuse people into _____ in their own efforts (turning from sin) or feelings (sorrow for sin) instead of the finished work of Christ on the cross (John 19:30).

3. _____ your sins.

- a. Jesus never invited an unbeliever to do this (cf. John 3:15-16; 4:10-14; 6:35-40; 11:25-27).
- b. This is what we do after we believe in Christ to restore _____ or closeness with God after we sin (1 John 1:3, 9).
- c. The reference to people “*confessing their sins*” when they were baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:6) is referring to the self-righteous people of Israel recognizing their sin so they would see their need to _____ in Christ. Acts 19:4 says, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” (cf. John 1:6-7; 3:23, 36).

4. _____ the _____ prayer.

- a. Nowhere in the _____ is anyone told to pray a prayer to be saved from eternal condemnation. Jesus never invited an unbeliever to do this nor did the apostles. For example, when the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved from sin's penalty, they did not say, "Pray this prayer" or "Pray after me." They simply said, **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved"** (Acts 16:31).
- b. The danger of using this invitation is that people may end up trusting in a _____ instead of trusting in the _____ of Christ alone.
- c. Often times, people get saved _____ they ever pray the sinner's prayer because they have already trusted in Christ's promise of eternal life.
- d. Before leading someone in a prayer, explain to them that praying this prayer does not get them to heaven; only _____ in Christ alone will get them to Heaven. This prayer is a way of telling God they are now trusting in His Son.

5. _____ your life or your heart to Jesus.

- a. This is not what the Bible teaches.
- b. The issue in salvation is not what we give to God, but what _____ gives to us. *"And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son"* (1 John 5:11).
- c. If we give God our life or heart to get to heaven, we will be very _____ because our life stops at the grave. We need life that lasts beyond the grave. We need God's everlasting life which we receive by believing in Jesus (John 11:25-26).
- d. This invitation is disturbing to _____ who think in more literal terms.

6. _____ Jesus into your heart.

- a. Nowhere does _____ or the apostles tell non-Christians to ask Christ into their hearts to possess eternal life.
- b. When a person believes in Christ alone for eternal life, Christ comes to live inside of him as a _____ (John 1:12; Romans 8:9; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 1:13-14; Colossians 1:27), so there is no need to ask Christ into his or her heart.
- c. Some will use Revelation 3:20 to invite unbelievers to "open the door of their heart." But in the context of this passage we see that the Lord is speaking to believers who are in need of _____ with Christ (Revelation 3:14-22).
 - The word "heart" is not mentioned in Revelation 3:14-22.
 - The word "church" in Revelation is always used of _____ (1:4, 11, 20; 2:1, 7-8, 11-12, 17-18, 23, 29; 3:1, 6-7, 13-14, 22; 22:16).
 - Jesus is standing outside of the "church" at Laodicea which had grown lukewarm or half-hearted in their service to Christ due to self-sufficiency and deceit (Revelation 3:14-18). Christ spoke of "**chastening**" (paideuō) them (Revelation 3:19a). The word "chasten" literally means "child-training" and is therefore an activity of God toward His _____ (cf. Hebrews 12:5-11).
 - Jesus also called them to repentance (3:19b). Then He says in verse 20, *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will*

come in [eiserchomai] to [pros] him and dine with him, and he with Me.” The Greek verb (eiserchomai) accompanied by the preposition translated “to” (pros) means “to come or go to someone.” The verse is speaking of entrance into a building toward a person, not entrance into a _____. Jesus is saying that He will come in the church toward the person who repents (hears His voice and opens the door of the church) and eat dinner with him i.e. have intimate _____ with him.

- d. Why would Christians turn to the book of Revelation which was written to Christians to help them prepare for future events, when God has given us so many evangelistic verses in the gospel of _____ which was written to tell non-Christians how to get to heaven (John 20:31)?
- e. This invitation can be very confusing for children who tend to think in more literal terms and are easily confused or disturbed by the prospect of asking a _____ Jesus to take up residence in their blood-pumping organ.
- f. This invitation also gives people a false sense of _____. They have sincerely asked Jesus into their heart, but they do not have assurance from the Holy Spirit that they have eternal life because they have missed the only requirement for it which is to _____ in Christ (1 John 5:9-13).

7. _____ **Jesus is Lord.**

- a. One passage that alludes to this possible invitation is Romans 10:9-10, *“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* But these verses are talking about being delivered from God’s _____ wrath (displeasure) which is expressed in sinners being given over to the downward spiral of their own sinfulness (1:16-32; 5:9-10). To be delivered from God’s present-day wrath requires both believing in Christ resulting in _____ (10:9b, 10a; cf. 1:20-5:9a) followed by confessing Jesus as Lord or *“calling on the name of the Lord”* (10:13) resulting in _____ Christian living (10:9a, 10b; cf. 5:9b-8:39). This sequence is confirmed by Romans 10:14-15a when the verbs in these verses are reversed – “sent . . . preach . . . hear . . . believe . . . call on Him.” We see that calling on the name of the Lord is done _____ believing in Christ and is therefore something Christians do after their conversion to obtain divine assistance in living the victorious Christian life (Romans 5:9-8:39; cf. Acts 9:21; 1 Cor. 1:2).
- b. _____ involves effort and possible persecution (cf. Matthew 10:32).
- c. When false prophets (Matthew 7:15) stand before Christ on Judgment Day (Matthew 7:21-23), they will confess the _____ of Jesus and appeal to the good works they have done in Jesus’ name for His glory (*“Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?”*) as the basis of their entrance into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:22). But Jesus will say to them, *“I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness”* (Matthew 7:23). Why does He say this? Because they had failed to do *“the will of the Father in heaven”* as it relates to entering the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21b). Jesus said, *“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day”* (John 6:40; cf. 3:5, 15-16). Until a person is rightly related to Jesus by believing in Him for everlasting life, all their good works and words, including confessing Jesus is Lord, are “_____” before a holy God (Matthew 7:23; cf. Isaiah 64:6).

- d. The Scriptures give examples of _____ believers who refuse to confess Christ openly with their words and lifestyle for fear of persecution (John 7:13; 9:22; 12:42; 19:38). They still have eternal life, but they will lose _____ for not identifying with Christ openly because of their fear of persecution (cf. Matthew 10:32-42).

8. _____ or obey Jesus.

- a. Some use John 10:27-28 to defend this invitation for salvation: *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”* But in this passage the word “follow” is a figure of speech referring to _____. In the context, Jesus addresses the unbelief of His Jewish audience, who questioned if He was the Messiah (10: 24). Jesus replied to them, *“I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you”* (10:25- 26). People who are not of His sheep do not believe (10:26). What then do His sheep do? They believe He is the Christ—the One who gives eternal life to those who believe in Him; they hear His voice and respond in faith like sheep follow a shepherd. They _____ Him.
- b. Throughout the Gospel of John, figures of speech are used to illustrate _____ faith: receiving (1:12), looking (3:14-15), asking (4:10), drinking (4:14), hearing (5:24; 10:16, 27), coming (6:35, 37), eating bread (6:54), entering (10:9) and following (10:27).
- c. Following Christ through obedience is necessary to be a _____ of Christ (Mark 1:17-18; Luke 5:10-11; 9:23), not a possessor of Christ. For example, when you examine all four gospels, it becomes clear that the disciples whom Jesus called to follow Him in Mark 1:14-18 had already believed in Christ for about a year (John 1:35-4:35).

9. _____ your life to Christ.

- a. Jesus never invited non-Christians to commit their life to Him to obtain the free gift of everlasting life. Many people have pledged to serve God in the hope that their commitment would persuade God to take them to heaven.
- b. Promising to commit your life to Christ can actually become a stumbling block, for to be saved from the Lake of Fire one must believe in Christ alone, not Christ plus your commitment (Acts 16:31). Making promises is a form of _____-salvation and is foreign to God’s way of salvation (Titus 3:5).
- c. This cliché may be an appropriate challenge for _____ to follow Christ and to serve and suffer for Him as His disciple (Matthew 16:24-27; Luke 9:23).

10. _____ to Jesus as your Lord and Master.

- a. Submitting to the Lordship of Christ does not take anyone to Heaven because it misses the object of saving faith—_____ in Jesus alone for eternal life.
- b. The term “Lord” in the name “Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 16:31) refers to Christ’s _____ and unique role in our salvation, not His control over every area of an individual’s life. Only Christ has the ability and authority to punish sin or pardon sinners.
- c. Submitting to Christ’s Lordship is a challenge that Jesus gives to people _____ they are saved, who then have the supernatural resources to enable them to surrender to Christ’s control as a part of the life-long process of discipleship (Luke 14:25-35; cf. Colossians 3:23-24).

Conclusion: We are not suggesting that no one has been born again when these clichés are included in a gospel presentation. Evangelist Larry Moyer has said, “*God can still use a crooked arrow to hit a target.*” God can still use our unclear gospel presentations to help people come to Christ by believing in Him. But why use an unclear phrase or cliché which will do more to _____ a lost person than clarify what he must do to obtain eternal life? Would it not be better to use the clearest presentation possible so that the unsaved person has the best opportunity to respond to the gospel the way God wants him to respond? Let’s keep the gospel clear by using the words God uses the most - “_____” and “_____” - when inviting non-Christians to respond to the gospel!

E. Your final assignment for this week is to go share the gospel with five persons who do not know Jesus. With those who indicate they believe the gospel, you can schedule a time to go over “Lesson 1—Plan of Salvation.” So far you have simplified and practiced the story of your life before Jesus, how you met Jesus, and your life since Jesus. You have also prayerfully asked the Holy Spirit to show you which five persons from your list of family and friends that He wants you to share the gospel with this week.

Now it is time to take a step of faith, trusting God to impact the lives of others through you (Romans 10:14-15, 17). As you seek to carry out this assignment, keep in mind the following recommendations:

- 1. Pray**—Begin by asking God to create an opportunity for you to share with your five friends and family members this week. Start praying for them individually, that they will respond positively to the good news that God has for them.
- 2. Believe**—Remember that Christ promises us that His Spirit is already at work even before we get there, so expect your friend or family member to be responsive to the gospel that you share (John 16:7-11).
- 3. Ask**—Even if your friend or family member does not initially express an interest in having “Jesus in their life, too” ask them if you can share with them the lesson that you are currently working on. Then use this opportunity to go through the gospel with them. You just might find out that they are ready to respond once they have heard the message presented in a different way.

Lesson 1 Answer Sheet

- I. A. Sin
Disobey
B. Death
Separation
Yes
Hell
One
Bad

- II. Loved
Friends
Sinned
God

- A. Died
Rose
Died
Rose
No
No
Trust
No

- B. Gospel of John (John 20:31)
99
No
No
Stained
All

Utilize the three circles: Point to the first circle with a “W” and say, “Some people trust in their works to get them to Heaven.” Then point to the circle with “C + W” and say, “Some people trust in Christ plus their works to get them to Heaven.” Point to “C” circle and say, “Some people trust in Christ alone to get them to Heaven. Where are you?” Those who trust in their works are saying to God, “Your Son’s death was unnecessary.” There was no need for Jesus to die for my sins if I can get to Heaven trusting in my works alone. Those who trust in Christ plus works are saying to God, “Your Son’s death was disappointing,” i.e., Jesus paid for some of my sins and I must pay for the rest. In other words, Jesus did not get the job done. Those who trust in Christ alone are saying to God, “Your Son’s death was sufficient.” Jesus did not say on the cross, “I will help you get to Heaven.” No. He said in John 19:20, “It is finished!” Christ did not make the down payment for our sins. He made the full payment. Therefore, I can trust in Him alone to get me to Heaven because He has paid for my admission there.

Make sure to ask the question, “If you were to die right now, where would you go?” before inviting your disciple to pray so that you

make sure they understand the gospel and have trusted Christ.

Heaven
I believed in Jesus
Forever
No

Yes. If they say, “No,” you say: “I thought you said eternal life does not end?! When you trusted Jesus, you have eternal life right now. Does eternal life come to an end? NO. So, if you sin tomorrow, do you still have eternal life? Yes! Is this good news? Yes! God will never take back the gift He has given you.”

Brothers and sisters in Christ
No
No

- C. **John 5:24**—he has everlasting life
he shall not come into judgment
he has passed from death into life

John 6:37-39—Jesus will never reject the person who comes to Him in faith (v. 37). Jesus came to earth to do the will of His Father (v. 38). The will of His Father is that Jesus should not lose one believer (v. 39). If any Christian lost his or her salvation, then Jesus would have failed to do His Father’s will. Staying saved is a matter of Jesus doing the Father’s will, not a Christian doing God’s will.

John 10:28-29—Jesus guarantees that those who believe in Him “*shall never perish*” in Hell. How long is never? Forever. It will never happen. If a Christian can lose his salvation, then Jesus just told a lie. When you believe in Jesus for eternal life, both God the Son and God the Father hold you in their hands and no one is strong enough to remove you from their grip, including you (cf. Psalm 8:3). Assurance that you are going to Heaven is not based upon your grip on God, but His grip on you!

Ephesians 1:13-14—When you hear and believe the gospel, you are sealed by God the Holy Spirit so that you are safe and secure forever.

1 John 5:13—John is writing to believers in Jesus and he wants them to know they have eternal life. The basis of knowing you have eternal life is believing in Jesus for it.

D. Secure

**Lose
Context**

- 1. Rewards**
- 2. Fellowship**
- 3. Discipline**
- 4. Never**

- F. 1. Gratitude**
2. Discipline
3. Rewards

IV. new creation, old things, new

New *motivation* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15):

We live for Christ now because of His great love for us.

New *mindset* (2 Corinthians 5:16): Instead of looking at people with worldly standards, we now view each one as someone for whom Jesus died and wants to save.

New *ministry* (2 Corinthians 5:18-19): We have a new ministry of sharing the gospel with the lost so they can be reconciled to God.

New *identity* (2 Corinthians 5:20): We are now ambassadors or representatives of Christ. We are saints (Ephesians 1:1), seated with Christ in the heavenlies above all powers including the devil (Ephesians 1:20-21; 2:6). We are God's heavenly poem or masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10), God's holy temple (Ephesians 2:21-22).

Cephas

Stone or Rock

Jesus knew the leadership role that Peter would play when He saw Peter in rough form. He would become a leader among leaders.

Become

V. Confess your sins to God.

VIII. inside

- A. To share the good news of Jesus with all lost people and make disciples of all nations.**

Go, not come—we must go where the lost people are.

Everybody, not just some—share with everyone because you never know whom God has prepared to believe in Jesus.

Make trainers, not just church members—train every believer to obey what he learns and pass it on (be a trainer).

D. Clear

Unclear

- 1. Accept**
 - a. Result**
 - b. Person**
- 2. Turn, sorry**
 - a. Stop**
 - b. Repent**
 - c. God**
 - d. Never**
 - e. God**
 - Sinner**
 - f. Trusting**
- 3. Confess**
 - b. Fellowship**
 - c. Believe**
- 4. Pray, sinner's**
 - a. Bible**
 - b. Prayer, Person**
 - c. Before**
 - d. Trusting**
- 5. Give**
 - b. God**
 - c. Disappointed**
 - d. Children**
- 6. Ask**
 - a. Jesus**
 - b. Result**
 - c. Fellowship**

Believers

Children

Person

Fellowship

d. John

e. literal

f. security

believe

- 7. Confess**

a. Present-day

Justification

Victorious

After

b. Confession

c. Lordship

Lawlessness

d. Secret

Rewards

- 8. Follow**

a. Belief
Trust
b. Saving
c. Disciple
9. Commit
b. Works
c. Christians
10. Submit
a. Believing
b. Deity
c. After
Confuse
Believe
Faith

Lesson 2: UNDERSTANDING PRAYER

LOOKING BACK

- A. How are each of you doing? (Take some time to encourage one another and pray.)
- B. Time of worship (Sing a song or two of praise and worship.)
- C. Accountability
 - How did you obey last week's lesson?
 - With whom have you shared your story? With whom have you shared God's plan of salvation? Who has believed?
 - When are you training them to share their own story and to explain to others God's plan of salvation? Are you teaching them lesson 1?
 - Are you training them to train others (2 Timothy 2:2)? Are they doing this? Are the people whom they are training, training others?
- D. Great Commission Vision (John 14:12, 16-17; 16:7-8; Acts 1:8).

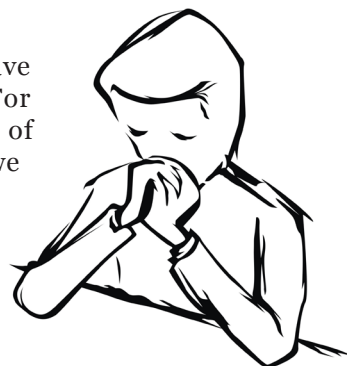
There is a good reason why we can be bold when we go to share the gospel to people about Christ. We can go knowing that we are not alone, that God's Spirit is with us, giving us a _____ that is not our own. We can also go knowing that the Holy Spirit is already at work all around us preparing people, convicting their hearts. God has already prepared these people, and they will respond to the gospel message that you will bring to them. The Bible calls these people "the chosen" (John 13:18, Ephesians 1:4-5), the "worthy" and "people of _____" (Matthew 10:11-13, Luke 10:6).

Because of the Spirit's work, we know that these people are already out there, scattered throughout our society. The only way to find them is to share with _____. As we do this, those whom God has prepared will respond in faith.

What about those who do not respond quickly? Hopefully, we can find ways to expose them to the gospel over time so that some will eventually respond. However, we cannot afford to become so focused on them that we have little time left to look for the _____ that God has already prepared. Our tendency is to find a small number of people with whom to develop relationships for "sowing" and to spend all of our time with them. In the meantime, those whom God has already prepared languish on the vine! Contrast that to the point that Jesus makes to His disciples (John 4:35-36). The disciples were still in "sowing" mode, believing that people were not yet ready. He told them, "Look! The harvest is already here! Start reaping!"

LOOKING UP

As believers, we often take for granted the intimate relationship we have with God. For a new believer, though, it is a radical life change. For this reason, he or she may not grasp the full extent of this blessing of being able to talk openly and freely with God anytime, anywhere. If we desire that new believers will continue to grow spiritually and be fruitful for God, then their lives must be filled with prayer. Praying is _____ with God. When you pray you should be _____ and persistent, as Jesus was when He "talked" with God and as He taught His disciples.



I. Why do we need to pray?

A. This is God's command:

You "_____ *ought to pray*" (Luke 18:1).
"*Pray* _____ *ceasing*" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

B. This is your need:

1. You can "*cast all your* _____ *upon Him, for He* _____ *for you*" (1 Peter 5:7).

2. Seek God's leading:

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).

3. Receive _____ and find _____ in your time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

C. What things do you need to pray for?

"Be anxious for nothing, but in _____ by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your _____ be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

1. How many things in life does God want me to worry about?

2. How many things that I worry about does God want me to pray about?

3. In the midst of tough times, what should my attitude be when I pray?

4. What does God promise for those who follow these directions?

II. The content of prayer

Please draw a line between the verses and the correct description of prayer.

Content:

Praise: praise God for who He is

Purpose: commit yourself to God's will for your life

Provision: ask God to meet your own needs

People: ask God to meet the needs of others

Pardon: ask God to forgive your sin

Protection: ask God for spiritual protection

Verse:

Matthew 6:12a; 1 John 1:9

Matthew 6:11; Philippians 4:6-7

Matthew 6:9; Psalms 135:3

Matthew 6:13; 1 John 4:4;
Ephesians 6:10-17

Matthew 6:12b; 1 Timothy 2:1

Matthew 6:10; 26:39

III. Three answers to prayer

A. _____ green light—God grants your request.

B. _____ red light—God does not grant your request. Trust that God knows what is best for you and says "no" because He loves you.

C. _____ yellow light—God may not immediately respond. You must be patient.

IV. Attitudes that are important in prayer

Attitude:

Verse:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Faith | <i>"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting"</i>
(James 1:6). |
| 2. Repentance for sins | <i>"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear"</i>
(Psalm 66:18). |
| 3. Correct motives | <i>"Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures"</i> (James 4:2-4). |
| 4. Desire for God's will, not our will, to be done | <i>"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if to be done we ask anything according to His will, He hears us"</i> (1 John 5:14). |
| 5. Persistence | <i>"Men always ought to pray and not lose heart"</i>
(Luke 18:1-7; 11:5-10). |

V. Hints for Effective Prayer:

- A. We pray "in Jesus' name" (John 14:13) because only through Jesus can a person come before God (John 14:6). This means you pray what _____ would pray. How do you know what Jesus would pray? Look in His _____ (John 15:7).
- B. We pray in great reverence, aware of the awesome God in whose presence we stand. Our words are addressed to _____, not to those around us (Matthew 6:5-9).
- C. We often end our prayers with "_____", which expresses strong agreement or affirmation (Matthew 6:13).
- D. Prayer has many parts: _____, requests, intercession, and confession (Matthew 6:9-13).
- E. We pray in normal, _____ language (Matthew 6:7-8; 1 Corinthians 14:15).
- F. We can pray at any time of the day and at any place about _____ (Psalm 55:17; Mark 1:35; 6:46; Luke 5:16; 6:12; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

"Oh, that You would bless me indeed (Matthew 7:7-11), and enlarge my territory (Colossians 4:3), that Your hand would be with me (Acts 11:21), and that You would keep me from evil (2 Thessalonians 3:3), that I may not cause pain!" (1 Chronicles 4:10).

LOOKING AHEAD

A. Practice sharing Lesson 2 with each other.

B. Set goals and pray.

1. Pray—Ask God with whom He would like you to share your story and train to tell their story to five additional people, and whom He wants you to train in Lesson 2. Write down their names and pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the way and work in the hearts of those on your lists.

2. Believe—Remember that Christ promises us that His Spirit is already at work even before we get there, so expect the people on your lists to be responsive to God’s leading (John 16:7-11).

3. Ask—Even if the people on your lists do not initially express an interest in taking the next step of faith, ask them if you can share with them the lesson that you are currently working on. Then use this opportunity to go through “Lesson 1—Plan of Salvation” with them or “Lesson 2—Understanding Prayer” if they are new believers. You just might find out that they are ready to respond once they have heard the message presented in a different way.

LESSON ON WATER BAPTISM

I. Why should I be baptized?

- A. Because Jesus _____ it (Matthew 28:19-20).
- B. It is the primary step by which _____ are made and made known (Matthew 28:19).



II. What does water baptism mean?

- A. It proclaims and pictures Christ’s _____ and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- B. It proclaims and pictures my _____ as a Christian (Romans 6:4). Baptism does not make you a believer—it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring—it’s the outward symbol of the transformation that has already taken place in your heart (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- C. It proclaims my commitment to be a _____ of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19).
- D. It proclaims my understanding of the _____ God (Matthew 28:19). God is one substance (Deuteronomy 6:4) yet three in person (Ephesians 2:18; 2 Corinthians 13:14). Each Person of the Godhead had a part in our eternal salvation from Hell (Ephesians 1:3-14):
 - 1. God the Father _____ our salvation (Ephesians 1:3-6).
 - 2. God the Son _____ for our salvation (Ephesians 1:7-12).
 - 3. God the Holy Spirit _____ and _____ our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14).

III. Why be baptized by immersion?

- A. Because _____ was baptized that way (Matthew 3:16).
- B. Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion (Example: Acts 8:38-39).
- C. The word “Baptize” (*baptizo*) means “to _____ under water.”
- D. It best pictures a death, burial, and _____!
 - Death – placed into the water (Romans 6:3).
 - Burial – submerged (Romans 6:4a).
 - Resurrection – brought up out of the water (Romans 6:4b).

IV. Who should be baptized and by whom?

- A. Every person who has _____ in Jesus Christ should be baptized (Acts 2:41; 8:6-13, 36-38; 10:47-48; 16:33; 18:8). This includes anyone who has not been baptized since

becoming a believer and any Christian who has never clearly understood the meaning of baptism, even though they may have been baptized previously.

- B. In most cases, new believers were baptized by the person leading them to _____ (Acts 8:36-38; 16:31-33).
- C. What about infant baptism? To make a disciple, you need first a person who has _____. Infants are not able to understand their need to believe in Christ. Therefore, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

V. When and where should I be baptized?

- A. As soon as you have _____ in Christ (Acts 2:41; 8:6-13, 36-38; 10:43-48; 16:31-33; 18:8). There is no reason to delay. The longest anyone ever waited in the Bible to be baptized was _____ days (Acts 9). As soon as you have believed in Christ for eternal life, you can and should be baptized.
- B. You can be baptized wherever you find enough _____ (Mark 1:9; Acts 2:41; 8:6-13, 36-38; 10:43-48; 16:31-33; 18:8).

Note: Some students of the Bible believe that water baptism is necessary for eternal salvation. They refer to six debatable verses to argue that one must be baptized with water in order to go to heaven. But this assertion clearly contradicts the New Testament teaching that salvation is by grace through faith alone in Christ alone. For example, if water baptism is necessary to obtain eternal life, why didn't Jesus say, "*He who believes in Me [and is baptized] has eternal life*" in John 6:47? Why didn't Luke write, "[Be baptized and] *believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved*" in Acts 16:31? Why didn't the apostle Paul say, "*For by grace you have been saved through [baptism and] faith*" in Ephesians 2:8? Obviously God did not intend for us to let six verses interpret the over _____ verses that teach that salvation is by faith alone. So if these six verses are not referring to salvation from Hell, then to what are they referring?

Must I be baptized with water to be saved?

- **Mark 1:4:** John the Baptist's baptism _____ the nation of Israel to trust in the coming Messiah (Acts 19:4).
- **Mark 16:16:** Jesus refers to the baptism of the _____ (vv. 17-18; cf. Mark 1:8) which takes place the moment a person believes in Christ for the gift of salvation (Acts 10:43-48; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 1:13-14).
- **John 3:5:** When Jesus refers to being "born of water" He is speaking of _____ birth which must take place before one can be born spiritually through faith in Christ (John 3:6, 15-16).
- **Acts 2:38:** This speaks of water baptism as a condition for _____ forgiveness for this Jewish audience. Since they had helped crucify Christ, these Palestinians now had to publicly identify with Him through water baptism in order to have fellowship with Christ and receive the Holy Spirit. When Peter commanded them to repent he was calling them to "change their mind" (*metanoeo*) and trust Christ (cf. Acts 2:41, 44). Without water baptism they would still have eternal life, but they would not escape the temporal judgment coming upon their sinful generation for crucifying the Messiah (Acts 2:40).
- **Acts 22:16:** also speaks of water baptism as a condition for fellowship forgiveness, since Paul was already regenerated on the road to Damascus (Ananias calls him "_____", Acts 9:17; 22:13; cf. Galatians 1:11-12). Paul was regenerated on the road to Damascus, but received forgiveness for persecuting Christ (Acts 9:4) when he was baptized three days later by Ananias (Acts 22:16; 9:17). The demand to be baptized for forgiveness of sins was imposed upon Palestinians who had openly rejected Christ and is never directed toward Gentiles (Acts 10:43-48). Therefore, these accounts in Acts 2 and 22 are the exception, not the norm.
- **1 Peter 3:21:** Peter is referring to _____ baptism since Noah's deliverance is a picture ("antitype") of the kind of baptism mentioned in verse 21. The water did not

save Noah and his family. The ark saved them. Just as the waters of God's judgment fell upon the ark and not Noah, so God's eternal judgment fell upon Christ and not us (v. 18). Furthermore, just as Noah and his family escaped God's watery judgment by being placed in the ark, likewise Christians escape God's eternal judgment by being placed in Christ through Spirit baptism the moment they believe in Jesus (Galatians 3:26-27). When Noah came out of the ark, he entered into a new life—a world that had been cleansed of sin. Likewise, Spirit baptism places us in a new relationship to Christ so we can experience a new kind of _____ life (Romans 6:3-5). Spirit baptism not only saves us from Hell, but it also saves us from the power of sin. Peter says that this baptism is not a physical cleansing ("the removal of the filth of the flesh"), but a spiritual cleansing ("the answer of a good conscience toward God"). *Spirit baptism*, not water baptism, gives us a good conscience regarding our past sin and guilt and enables us to live victoriously now in the power of the resurrection.

Are you willing to follow the Lord in believer's baptism (Matthew 28:19-20)?

Are you willing to follow Jesus and never turn back (Luke 9:57-62)?

When people ridicule you and mistreat you or threaten to kill you, will you still follow Jesus (Matthew 10:16-39)?

If you have not been baptized, your discipler/trainer will now advise you of the next water baptism to be done by the church.

Lesson 2 Answer Sheet

LOOKING BACK

- D. power**
Peace
Everyone
Harvest

LOOKING UP

Talking
Truthful

- I. A. always**
Without
B. 1. care
2. cares
3. mercy
grace
C. everything
requests
1. None

2. All of them. The word “prayer” refers to talking to God. Tell the Lord what you are worried about. The word “supplication” or “petition” means to tell Him what you need. Few people ever identify what they need B/C they are so busy worrying. The word “request” refers to asking God for what you want or desire (Psalm 37:4).

3. Gratitude. God wants you to pray with a thankful heart. Why? B/C when you trust God to supply your needs and wants in advance during difficult times, you can accept those circumstances and respond more appropriately.

4. The peace of God will protect your heart and mind. The phrase “peace of God” is like a deep calmness in the midst of life’s storms. For example, the water underneath the surface of the ocean remains calm during a storm. The phrase “will guard” pictures an armed soldier walking back and forth in front of the city gate, protecting the occupants inside the city from intruders. God’s peace constantly protects those who choose to talk to Him about their worries, and ask Him for what they need and want.

- III. A. Yes**
B. No
C. Wait

- V. A. Jesus**
Word
B. Him
C. Amen
D. Praise
E. Understandable
F. Anything

LESSON ON WATER BAPTISM

- I. A. commanded**
B. disciples
- II. A. death**
B. new life
C. disciple
D. Triune
1. Planned
2. Provided
3. Produced, Protected

- III. A. Jesus**
B. Bible
C. submerge
D. resurrection

- IV. A. believed**
B. faith
C. believed

- V. A. believed**
3
B. water

MUST I BE BAPTIZED WITH WATER TO BE SAVED?

270
Prepared
Holy Spirit
Physical
Fellowship
Brother
Spirit
Resurrection

Lesson 3: DAILY TIME WITH GOD

LOOKING BACK

- A. How are each of you doing? (Take some time to encourage one another and pray.)
- B. Time of worship (Sing a song or two of praise and worship.)
- C. Accountability
 - How did you obey last week's lesson on prayer?
 - With whom have you shared the gospel? Who has believed?
 - When are you training them to share the gospel and explain it to others? Are you teaching them lessons 1 and 2?
 - Are you training them to train others (2 Timothy 2:2)? Are they doing this? Are the people whom they are training, training others?
- D. Great Commission Vision (John 15:7-8, 11, 16).

Why is it that many Christians are not joyful? One major reason for that is they are bearing little fruit, they are not sharing the gospel. We read in John 15:8 that it is God's will that we "bear much fruit"—*"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."* When we fail to bear _____ and bring glory to God, we know it deep inside and that prevents us from experiencing true joy.

Read Luke 15:7 and 10. According to these verses, what is it that creates great joy in heaven? When a sinner _____ or changes his mind about whatever is keeping him from trusting Christ and then trusts Him for salvation. What is true of heaven is also true of us. So, it is a _____ when we witness and see people come to Christ.

But there is a way we can bear even more fruit and experience even GREATER JOY. Do you know what that is? It is when we gather those we lead to Christ into a small group and _____ them.

But there is a way we can bear even more fruit than that and experience the GREATEST JOY OF ALL. Do you know what that is? It is when the ones we have trained not only share the gospel, but also train _____ who will train _____. This is the same thing Paul commanded Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2: *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* Do you want to be joyful? Then commit to witness and train _____.

LOOKING UP

To really know a person you need to spend time with them. In the same way, if you want to have a close relationship with God, you need a "daily time with God."

I. Why do we spend time with God?

- To worship God
- To open our lives to God to let God speak to us

II. What do we do in our time with God?

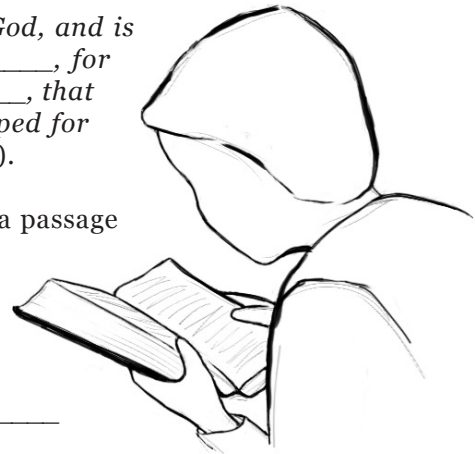
- We talk to God through prayer (Philippians 4:6-7).
- We listen to God speak to us through reading the Bible.

III. How does God speak to us through the Bible?

A. "All _____ is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for _____, for _____, for _____, for instruction in _____, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every _____ work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

B. You can apply 2 Timothy 3:16-17 each time you read a passage from the Bible. Ask God's Spirit to:

1. **Teach** you—Ask God to show you the main _____ that He wants you to understand and believe.
2. **Reprove** you—Ask God to reveal any _____ that is in your life.
3. **Correct** you—Ask God to show you what you need to add to your life or remove from your life to be _____ with Him (beliefs, actions, words, thoughts, attitudes, and motives).
4. **Train you in righteousness**—Ask God to show you what Bible verse or spiritual truth He wants you to _____ to your life this week so that you develop a more _____ character and habits.



IV. What attitude should we have in our time with God?

Psalms 42:1-2

Psalms 119:18, 33-34, 47

V. Examples from the Bible

When we study different characters in the Bible, we discover that the more a person spends time with God, the more God uses him or her. How did these characters from the Bible spend time with God?

Verse:	Character:	Time:	Place:	Activity:
Genesis 19:27	Abraham	morning	previous place	met God
Psalms 5:3				
Daniel 6:10				
Mark 1:35				

From the examples above, what applications to your life can you make regarding spending time with God?

VI. Tools for your daily time with God

Bible: Choose a Bible translation that you can understand. You'll want to start your reading in the New Testament. Begin with John's Gospel, followed by Paul's Book of Romans.

Notebook: During your time with God, _____ down what you sense God is saying to you from the Bible.

Place: Choose a place where you can meet with God daily without being _____.

Time: Choose a daily time when you can consistently meet with God.

Plan: Take your Bible, notebook and pen with you each day. Talk to God openly and honestly through prayer. Listen to God as He teaches you, reproves you, corrects you, and trains you in righteousness (in _____ living).

VII. Beginning Your Time with God

A. Begin with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for God's goodness. *"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise"* (Psalm 100:4).

B. Confess any sins that may be hindering your relationship with God.

"If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just to _____ us our sins and to _____ us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

C. Ask God to open your eyes to see what He has to teach you from the Bible. *"Open my _____ that I may see wondrous things from Your law"* (Psalm 119:18).

D. Now use the pattern you learned in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 as you read a passage from the Bible, asking God to:

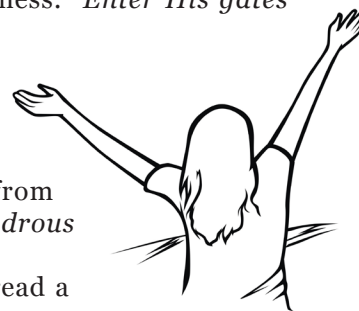
1. **Teach** you—show you the most important lesson He has for you.

2. **Reprove** you—show you any sinful beliefs, actions, thoughts, words, or motives.

3. **Correct** you—show you what He wants to add to or remove from your life.

4. **Train you in righteousness**—show you what Bible verse or spiritual truth He wants you to apply to your life this week.

E. The Bible promises that if you do this, you will be *"thoroughly equipped for _____ good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).



VIII. Persevere in your daily time with God.

Are you willing to commit to a daily time with God? _____ Yes _____ No

Date:

Time:

Place:

Plan:

Signature

Date

LOOKING AHEAD

A. **Practice sharing Lesson 3 with each other.** Read Galatians 5:13-25 and apply Paul's pattern—What is God teaching us in this passage? What sinful ideas or practices is He revealing? What would He have us correct in our lives as a result of this passage? And for training in righteousness, what truth or insight from this passage would God have us apply to our lives this week?

B. Set goals and pray.

1. **Pray**—Ask God with whom He would like you to share the gospel and whom He would like you to train. Write down their names and pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the way and work in the hearts of those on your lists.
2. **Believe**—Remember that Christ promises us that His Spirit is already at work even before we get there, so expect the people on your lists to be responsive to God's leading (John 16:7-11).
3. **Ask**—Even if the people on your lists do not initially express an interest in taking the next step of faith, ask them if you can share with them the lesson that you are currently working on. Then use this opportunity to go through "Lesson 1—Plan of Salvation." You just might find out that they are ready to respond once they have heard the message presented in a different way.

LESSON ON UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

What is discipleship? Jesus describes the discipleship process in Matthew 28:19-20: Christ commands us to "*make disciples*." The word "*disciple*" means a "learner" or "pupil." According to the above verses, what three things must we do to "*make disciples*"?

1. _____. And as we "Go," what are we to do according to **Mark 16:15**? According to **1 Corinthians 15:1-5**, what is the gospel? That Christ _____ for our sins and _____ from the dead.

What does God ask the non-Christian to do when he or she hears the gospel according to **Romans 1:16**? _____ or _____ in Christ alone for the gift of salvation. The first step of discipleship is sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with a non-Christian and inviting them to believe in Christ for the gift of salvation.



2. _____ **new believers in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.** The first step of discipleship after a person believes in Christ for the gift of salvation is water baptism. Water baptism initiates the new believer into the discipleship process and expresses their desire to submit to the Lordship of Christ.
3. _____ **new believers to obey _____ of Christ's commands.** This is more than content for the mind. It is commands for the will. Obedience to Christ's commands is a lifelong process. The issue as a disciple is not, "What do I want to do?" but "What does Christ want me to do?" ***In summary, a disciple is a baptized believer who is obeying the commands of Christ, and therefore is growing in his or her relationship with the Lord.***

It is important to understand the fundamental differences between salvation and discipleship. With the help of your discipler/trainer, examine each term below and check whether it refers to salvation or discipleship.

Term(s)	Salvation	Discipleship
Free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9)		
Obedience (John 8:31)		
Cannot be lost (John 10:28-29)		
Water baptism (Matthew 28:19)		
Faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9)		
Giving God your life (Luke 9:24)		
Receiving God's life (John 3:16)		
Submission to Christ's lordship (Colossians 3:23-24)		
Lifelong process (Revelation 2:10, 26)		
One-time event (John 5:24; 6:35)		
Faith plus works (James 2:14-26)		
Rewards based on our good works (Matthew 16:24-27; 1 Corinthians 3:8-15)		
Based on what Christ has done, not what we do (John 19:30)		
Can be lost (John 15:1-8)		

The Bible teaches that becoming a Christian is based solely upon _____ in Christ. Becoming a disciple is based upon belief plus _____. Salvation is a free gift. Discipleship is costly. Salvation is a one-time event. Discipleship is a continual process of godly decisions.

***THE FOUNDATIONAL STEP OF DISCIPLESHIP AFTER A PERSON BELIEVES IN CHRIST FOR ETERNAL LIFE IS ABIDING IN CHRIST'S WORD (JOHN 8:31-32):**

To whom was Jesus speaking (31a)?
What is the condition for being Jesus' disciple (31b-32)?

The word "abide" means "to remain, continue, to make one's home at." In order to be Jesus' disciple, we must abide or make our home in His Word, the Bible. Abide in His Word daily and you will grow spiritually.

Lesson 3 Answer Sheet

LOOKING BACK

D. fruit
Repents
Joy
Train
Others
Others
Trainers

preach the gospel
died
rose
believe
trust
2. baptize
3. teach
all

LOOKING UP

III. A. Scripture
Doctrine
Reproof
Correction
Righteousness
Good
B. 1. Truths
2. Sin
3. Right
4. Apply
Godly

IV. Psalm 42:1-2: Yearn for the living God and His Word like a thirsty deer longs for water.

Psalm 119:18: Expect God to show you marvelous blessings in His Word.

Psalm 119:33-34: Be open to God teaching You His ways from His Word.

Psalm 119:47: Delight in the Word and love it.

V. Psalm 5:3: David, morning, prayed to God

Daniel 6:10: Daniel, 3 times/day, upper room, prayed & thanked God

Mark 1:35: Jesus, before daylight, solitary place, prayed to God

VI. Write
Disturbed
Godly

VII. B. Confess
Forgive
Cleanse
C. Eyes
E. Every

LESSON ON UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

1. Go

Term(s)	Salvation	Discipleship
Free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9)	✓	
Obedience (John 8:31)		✓
Cannot be lost (John 10:28-29)	✓	
Water baptism (Matthew 28:19)		✓
Faith Alone (Ephesians 2:8-9)	✓	
Giving God your life (Luke 9:24)		✓
Receiving God's life (John 3:16)	✓	
Submission to Christ's lordship (Colossians 3:23-24)		✓
Lifelong process (Revelation 2:10, 26)		✓
One-time event (John 5:24; 6:35)	✓	
Faith plus works (James 2:14-26)		✓
Rewards based on our good works (Matthew 16:24-27; 1 Corinthians 3:8-15)		✓
Based on what Christ has done, not what we do (John 19:30)	✓	
Can be lost (John 15:1-8)		✓

Belief
Behavior
Jewish believers in Jesus
abiding in Christ's word

Lesson 4: THE GOD WHO SAVED US

LOOKING BACK

- A. How is each of you doing? (Take some time to encourage one another and pray.)
- B. Time of worship (Sing a song or two of praise and worship.)
- C. Accountability
 - Are you having a daily time with God? How is that going?
 - How did you obey last week's lesson?
 - With whom have you shared the gospel? Who has believed?
 - When are you training them to share the gospel? Are you teaching them the three lessons?
 - Are you training them to train others (2 Timothy 2:2)? Are they doing this? Are the people whom they are training, training others?
- D. Great Commission Vision (John 15:1-8)

In these verses, Jesus shares ways we can bear fruit that brings glory to God the Father as Christ's disciple. The "fruit" refers to Christlike character, especially as it relates to loving one another (John 15:12-14, 16-17) and to _____ believers—those who believe in Jesus for eternal life through the witness of His disciples (cf. John 4:36). We learn from Jesus that He is the only source of _____ (15:1) and we can receive encouragement from His Word (15:2a). The verb translated "takes away" (*airo*) is better translated "lifted up." A common practice among ancient vineyard growers was to lift up fruitless branches so they can produce fruit. In the context of John 13-14, Jesus encourages or lifts up His discouraged disciples with promises about heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit in John 14.

When a disciple of Christ is already in fellowship with the Lord and producing fruit, God wants him to "bear more fruit," so He _____ him (15:2b-3). Too many branches and leaves can hinder the production of fruit on the grape vine, so the vinedresser prunes excessive branches. God uses His Word to cleanse our lives of that which hinders the production of fruit in our lives. But God also wants His disciples to produce "much fruit" by abiding in Christ or _____ Christ's commands (15:4-5, 10; cf. 1 John 3:24). Jesus warns His disciples that when they disobey Him ("*If anyone does not abide in Me*"), they will experience the loss of closeness with the Lord ("*cast out as a branch*"), the loss of spiritual vitality ("*is withered*"), and will be severely _____ by God ("*they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned*," 15:6; cf. Deuteronomy 4:23-24; 1 Peter 4:12-13) or lose eternal rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Disciples can also "bear much fruit" by relying on Christ through _____ (15:7-8). The secret to answered prayer is to abide in Christ and His _____ abide in you (15:7).

LOOKING UP

I. The Trinity

"Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19b).

The Bible teaches that God is one ("the name" = singular) yet eternally exists in three Persons ("Father... Son... Holy Spirit") who are equal in every way, yet distinct in their tasks and relations to humanity. God is one substance (Deuteronomy 6:4) yet three in Person (Ephesians 2:18; 2 Corinthians 13:14). Students of the Bible refer to this truth as the _____ or

“three in one.” Each Person of the Godhead is eternal, meaning God the Father did not create God the Son at some point in time like some cults say He did.

Throughout the Old Testament references are made to the Trinity. For example:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

The Hebrew word for “God” is the _____ noun *Elohim* which occurs with the singular verb *bara* suggesting that in some sense God is both plural and singular.

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’” (Genesis 1:26).

The phrase “let Us” again gives the idea of plurality. The word “Us” cannot refer to angels because angels do not create. Other references to God as “Us” can be seen in Genesis 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8.

“For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name” (Isaiah 54:5).

The word translated, “Maker” (*ō-śa-yik*) is plural in Hebrew. Therefore, we have a second Hebrew word that is plural that is used of God.

“Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the LORD God and His Spirit have sent Me. Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: ‘I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go’” (Isaiah 48:16-17).

In verse sixteen, God the Son is speaking. He identifies the Father [the LORD God] and His Spirit as having sent Him. In the next verse, the Son is clearly spoken of as the LORD. Hence, these verses identify three _____ Persons who are God without denying the fact there is only one God.

“For He [the LORD] said, ‘Surely they are My people, children who will not lie.’ So He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them” (Isaiah 63:8-10).

These verses make the most sense when we realize that the LORD or Yahweh, the angel of His presence, and the Holy Spirit are distinguishable as three Persons of the _____.

In the Old Testament, God is referred to as _____ (Deuteronomy 32:6; Isaiah 63:16; Malachi 2:10), Son (Psalm 2:6-7, 12; 45:6-7; Proverbs 30:1-4; Isaiah 9:6), and _____ (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 139:7-12; Isaiah 11:2-3; 61:1; 63:10; Zechariah 4:6).

What do you learn about God the Father and God the Son, Jesus Christ, in these passages?

Matthew 3:16-17

John 1:1-18

John 6:38-40

Colossians 1:12-20

Hebrews 1:8

What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17, 26; 16:13-14; Acts 5:3-4? What do you learn about what He does and about His relationship to the Father and the Son?

What do you learn about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 1:3-14 as it relates to your eternal salvation from Hell?

The Bible teaches that God loves, protects, provides for, and disciplines us.

II. God's Love

"The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have _____ you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you'" (Jeremiah 31:3).

A. Based on what reason did God save you?

_____ because you are so bad? _____ because you first loved Him?

_____ because you are so good? _____ because _____

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His _____ with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by _____ you have been saved)" (Ephesians 2:4-5).

B. How does God reveal His love to you? Please write an example below.

1. Your personal example:

2. 1 John 3:16; 4:9-12, 16

C. In Luke 15:11-32, Jesus talks about how the father loves the son. How would you describe the similarity between a father and God?

III. God's Protection

"But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and _____ you from the evil one" (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

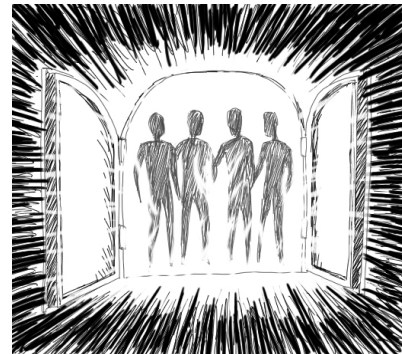
A. In Psalm 34:7, what does God promise:

Israel (2 Kings 6:15-18; cf. 2 Chronicles 32:7-8)?

The three friends (Daniel 3)?

Peter (Acts 12:1-19)?

B. How does God protect you when you face temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)?



IV. God's Provision

"And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

- A. Why are God's children not to worry? (Matthew 6:25-33)
- B. What gift has God given His children to demonstrate He will meet our needs? (Romans 8:32)

V. God's Discipline

"Because the Lord _____ those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son" (Hebrews 12:6).

- A. What does God expect for His children? (Ephesians 4:13)
- B. How does God discipline His children?
 - 1. Friend: (Proverbs 27:6, 17)
 - 2. Bible: (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - 3. Trials: (Hebrews 12:11; James 1:2-4)
 - 4. Physical _____ (1 Corinthians 11:29-30; Acts 5:1-11)
 - 5. The _____ (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 1 Timothy 5:19-21):
 - a. In cases between _____ believers (Matthew 18:15-17)
 - 1. The offended believer is to go to the sinning believer to try to resolve the matter between themselves _____ (18:15).
 - 2. If the sinning believer does not repent, the offended believer is to take one or two spiritually _____ believers to help resolve the problem (18:16; cf. Galatians 6:1).
 - 3. If the sinning believer does not repent at a semi-private level, then the sinning believer is to be brought before the entire _____ to decide the outcome (Matthew 18:17a).
 - 4. If the sinning believer refuses to repent, the church is to treat him or her as an unbeliever and withdraw _____ from him or her until they forsake their sinful behavior and return to the Lord (Matthew 18:17b; cf. 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:6-7; Titus 3:9-11).
 - b. In cases involving a church _____ or elder, the other elders are to "_____ " the sinning elder *"in the presence of all"* the other elders or possibly the entire church (1 Timothy 5:19-20; cf. Matthew 18:17) *"that the rest also may fear"* God and take _____ more seriously (5:20).
- C. Which aspect of God's fatherhood is most meaningful to you?
 - _____ love and kindness _____ provision for your needs
 - _____ discipline _____ protection

LOOKING AHEAD

A. Practice sharing Lesson 4 with one another.

B. Set goals and pray.

- 1. Pray**—Ask God with whom He would like you to share the gospel and whom He would like you to train. Write down their names and pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the way and work in the hearts of those on your lists.
- 2. Believe**—Remember that Christ promises us that His Spirit is already at work even before we get there, so expect the people on your lists to be responsive to God’s leading (John 16:7-11).
- 3. Ask**—Even if the people on your lists do not initially express an interest in taking the next step of faith, ask them if you can share with them the lesson that you are currently working on. Then use this opportunity to go through “Lesson 1—Plan of Salvation.” You just might find out that they are ready to respond once they have heard the message presented in a different way.

Lesson 4 Answer Sheet

LOOKING BACK

**D. New
Life
Prunes
Obeying
Disciplined
Prayer
Words**

LOOKING UP

**I. Trinity
Plural
Distinct
Trinity
Father
Spirit**

Matthew 3:16-17: When Jesus came up from the water, *“the Spirit of God”* descended upon Him like a dove before God the Father spoke from heaven saying, *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

John 1:1-18: The “Word,” Jesus Christ (vv. 1, 14, 17) was “with” God the Father from the beginning, meaning He is separate and distinct, yet equal with the Father (vv. 1-2). Jesus is the Creator God who made all things (vv. 1, 3). Jesus is the source of eternal life for all who believe in Him (vv. 4, 7, 12). God became human flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ (vv. 1, 14) in order to reveal what God the Father is like (v. 18; cf. John 12:44-45; 14:7-11).

John 6:38-40: God the Father sent Jesus from heaven to earth to do His will which is that Jesus should not lose one believer (vv. 38-39). It is the Father’s will that everyone who sees and believes in Jesus has everlasting life and will be resurrected in the future (v. 40).

Colossians 1:12-20: God the Father “qualifies” or authorizes believers to be partakers of the rewards inheritance (v. 12; cf. Colossians 3:23-24). The Father has delivered us from the power of darkness to reside one day in the Kingdom of His Son (v. 13). In Jesus, we have forgiveness of sins (v. 14). Jesus is the “image” (exact likeness/representation/manifestation) of the invisible God because He is God in human flesh (v. 15a; cf. John 1:1, 14, 18). While Jesus has always existed as God, He was born as a man and holds

rank over every living thing (“firstborn”—preeminent, v. 15b). Why? Because by Him and for Him all things were created (v. 16). Jesus is “before all things” as God and in Him “all things consist” or are held together (v. 17). Jesus is the Head of the Church and only He can claim to be “the Firstborn from the dead” (others rose and died again in the Bible, but only Jesus was resurrected never to die again), so that He has preeminence (first place) in all things (v. 18). Christ has first place in all things because it pleased God the Father that “the fullness” of His plan is carried by Christ as the One who is in control of it all, having reconciled all things to Himself (the Father) through Jesus’ shed blood on the Cross (vv. 19-20), resulting in believers in Jesus being reconciled to God (Ephesians 2:14-16) and the ultimate end of enmity between creation and the Father (Revelation 22:3).

Hebrews 1:8: God the Father refers to His Son as “God” whose throne is forever and ever.

John 14:16-17, 26: The Father gives the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, to abide with and in believers forever (14:16-17). The Holy Spirit will teach believers all things and bring to remembrance all things Jesus taught (14:26).

John 16:13-14: The Holy Spirit will guide believers into all truth and teach them things to come (v. 13). He will glorify Jesus and not Himself by declaring what is Christ’s teaching (v. 14).

Acts 5:3-4: The Holy Spirit is God since lying to the Holy Spirit is equal to lying to God.

Ephesians 1:3-14: God the Father has blessed believers with every spiritual blessing in the spiritual realm (v. 3). The Father chose believers before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in Christ before the Father (v. 4). God predetermined beforehand (“predestination”) to adopt into His family those who would trust in Christ (v. 5). The Father made us accepted in Christ (v. 6). Conclusion: *God the Father planned our salvation*. God the Son blessed us with redemption (He purchased us from sin by paying the penalty for all of our sins.) so we can have complete forgiveness through faith in Christ (vv. 7-8; cf. Acts 10:43; Colossians

2:13). God has revealed His plan of redemption to us in Christ (vv. 9-12). Conclusion: *God the Son provided our salvation*. God the Holy Spirit seals all who hear and believe the gospel, making them secure and safe forever (vv. 13-14). Conclusion: *God the Holy Spirit produced and protected our salvation*.

II. loved

A. Great Love grace

B. 2. Through Jesus' death, His Word, and the love of other believers.

C. **Like a father**, God is generous to His children (v. 12); He allows His children to make their own decisions and live with the consequences (vv. 12-16); He longs for His wayward children to return to Him (v. 20a); He unconditionally loves and accepts His wayward children (vv. 20-22); He celebrates whenever His wayward children return home to Him (v. 22-24, 32); He loves His obedient and disobedient children the same (vv. 20-32); He invites His angry and self-righteous children to share in His joy over a repentant sinner (v. 28); His obedient children have constant access to fellowship with God the Father along with enjoyment of all He possesses (v. 31).

III. Guard

A. **Psalm 34:7**: The Angel of the Lord will surround and deliver those who fear or revere Him.

2 Kings 6:15-18: When surrounded by the Syrian armies, God protected Elisha and his servant with His angelic armies.

Daniel 3: God delivered the three Hebrew youths from the fiery furnace after they refused to worship false gods.

Acts 12:1-19: God delivered Peter from prison and certain death through His angel who led Peter safely out of danger while the church prayed for Peter.

B. God is faithful not to give us more than we can handle when tempted, but also provides a way of escape

so we may endure the temptation without yielding to it.

IV. A. Because worry shows misplaced priorities—there are more important things to think about than physical life (v. 25); Because worry fails to realize how much God cares for the needs of believers. God cares far more for the needs of believers than He does for the birds of the air that He feeds and the lilies of the field that He clothes (vv. 26-29); Because worry cannot prolong one's life (v. 27); Because worry imitates the attitude of unbelievers and does not believe God already knows their needs and will provide what they need when their priorities are in line with His (vv. 31-33).

B. God gave the gift of His Son when we were His enemies. How much more will He do for us now that we are His children?

V. Disciplines

A. Unity in what they believe ("faith") and know of Jesus, a mature Church ("perfect man"), and growth in becoming more like Christ.

B. 4. Death

5. Church

- a. Individual
 1. Privately
 2. Mature
 3. Church
 4. Fellowship

- b. Leader
 - Rebuke
 - Sin

Lesson 5: THE CHURCH, THE COMMUNITY OF GOD

LOOKING BACK

- A. How is each of you doing? (Take some time to encourage one another and pray.)
- B. Time of worship (Sing a song or two of praise and worship.)
- C. Accountability
 - Are you having a daily time with God? How is that going?
 - How did you obey last week's lesson?
 - With whom have you shared the gospel? Who has believed?
 - When are you training them to share the gospel? Are you teaching them the four lessons?
 - Are you training them to train others (2 Timothy 2:2)? Are they doing this? Are the people whom they are training, training others?
- D. Great Commission Vision (James 1:22).

God has given _____ of His children responsibility for the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Every Christian has the potential to take part and to bear much fruit for God. Everyone has the potential to witness to others and to train them. However, not everyone will do it. Not everyone will be a faithful "doer" of the Word. Many will be "hearers only."

As you train others, look for the "doers." These are the faithful ones you will want to pour your life into. As Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2, *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* So, keep an eye out for these _____ people.

How can you discover who the "doers" are? Train _____ who believes the gospel. The "doers" will quickly emerge. Those who are "hearers only" will tend to _____ out (John 6:60-69). That is a good thing! It leaves you with more time to devote to the "doers"!

LOOKING UP

When you become a Christian, you are a member of God's family. God is your heavenly Father, and all Christians are like brothers and sisters of the same family. "...God's household, which is the church of the living God..." (1 Timothy 3:15). The household is not a building, and the "church" is not a place of worship but is a _____ of believers.

I. Let's answer some basic questions about church:

- A. Who is in the church?
 - 1. Church consists of those who receive the message of the gospel by _____ in Jesus (Acts 2:41, 44, 47).
 - 2. Have you received the gospel by trusting in Jesus alone to save you from Hell and give you eternal life?
- B. What is our role in the church?

Romans 12:5

Ephesians 1:22-23

C. What is Christ's relationship to the church (Ephesians 5:23)?

D. What does the church do?

As "the body of Christ," the church exists to continue and spread the work of Jesus Christ on earth. Acts 1:1 says: *"In my former book (the Gospel of Luke) ... I wrote about all that Jesus began to _____ and to _____."* If the Gospel of Luke, which tells the story of Jesus' earthly ministry is about all that Jesus began to do and teach, then the Book of Acts, the story of the early church, is the continuation of Jesus' actions and teachings through His _____, the Church.

II. Jesus' two GREAT instructions to the church give the church its five purposes:

A. The GREAT Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39).

1. Loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind is _____.
2. Loving your neighbor, if he or she is a believer, is _____.
3. Loving your neighbor, if he or she is lost, is _____.

B. The GREAT Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

1. Teaching believers to obey all of Christ's commands is _____.
2. Going to all nations is _____ / _____.

III. Practice and remember: "A GREAT Commitment to the GREAT Commandment and the GREAT Commission makes a GREAT Christ-follower and a GREAT Church!"

EXERCISE: The Five Purposes of the Church:

Read these verses to see how the church can fulfill its purpose on earth.

1. Worship: *"So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, _____ God and having favor with all the people"* (Acts 2:46-47a; cf. Psalm 149:1).
2. Fellowship: *"They continued steadfastly in ... _____, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers"* (Acts 2:42; cf. Hebrews 10:24).
3. Discipleship: *"They continued steadfastly in the apostles' _____"* (Acts 2:42; cf. Matthew 28:20).
4. Ministry: *"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had _____"* (Acts 2:44-45; cf. James 1:27).
5. Evangelism/Missions: *"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them... And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being _____"* (Acts 2:41, 47b; cf. Acts 1:8).

IV. Where does the church meet?

- A. Churches can meet anywhere: schools, theatres, cathedrals, or homes.
- B. Where did churches typically meet in New Testament times (Acts 2:46; 5:42; 16:40; 17:5-7; 20:20; Romans 16:5)?
- C. Do you have a home? Could a church be started there?

V. Rites and Obligations we have in church

A. A Rite to fulfill—Water Baptism

1. Jesus commanded His followers to “make disciples” by “_____” them (Matthew 28:19).
2. Baptism expresses our desire to follow Jesus as His _____ (Matthew 28:19).
3. Baptism is a public sign that we have a _____ life in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3).
4. Baptism shows that we are _____, buried, and resurrected together with Jesus Christ (Romans 6:4).
5. Baptism is a _____ and it has no power to forgive sins. Salvation is by grace through faith alone in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).

B. A Remembrance to practice—the Lord’s Supper

1. Jesus Himself established it, to be in remembrance of _____, His death and shedding of blood for our sins (Matthew 26:17-19, 26-30).
2. Whenever we take the Lord’s Supper, it helps us to think and thank God for His _____ again (Isaiah 53:5).
3. The Lord’s Supper also calls us to examine our lives to see if there is any sin for which we need to ask forgiveness (1 Corinthians 11:23-29; 1 John 1:9).

C. A Sacrifice to make—offerings

1. An offering is a _____ that we make to God, and it is also worship to God. There are many kinds of offerings: living sacrifice of the whole person, life offering, time offering, gift offering, and money offering.
2. A money offering is a _____. How am I to give financially to the Lord?

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

- Give _____ (vv. 2-3)—according to what you have, not according to what you don’t have!
- Give _____ (vv. 2-4)—seeing that giving is a privilege. This means to give because you want to, not because you have to!
- Give your _____ (v. 5)—first to the Lord, then to others.

1 Corinthians 16:1-3

- Give _____ for doing God’s work _____. While there are many Christian causes doing many good things, the Bible makes it clear that our first and primary giving is to be to and through our local church which makes disciples (Galatians 6:6). Even this special gift, which was for relief for believers in another area, was to be collected and given through their local churches.

- Give _____. It was collected each Sunday, each person setting aside a sum of money.
- Give _____. "As he may prosper." What does proportionally mean? God called the Old Testament believers to give a tithe (10%) of their income to the Lord, plus special offerings. The New Testament does not call us to a certain percentage of giving. Many believers find great joy in giving, not just a tenth, but beyond that, because they have experienced God's grace. They also find that giving this way strengthens their trust in God and loosens the hold of money on their lives! By giving, Christ gives us the ability to have money without money having _____!

3. Where are we investing when we give to God's work in this world?

By being generous now, you lay up treasure for _____ in _____ (Matthew 6:19-20). We usually miss those words "for yourself." This makes it clear that there IS a way to "take it with you." Send it ahead by using the time, treasure, and talent God has entrusted to you as a steward for God's kingdom and glory. What is the problem with treasure on earth (v. 19)? _____
What is the beauty of heavenly treasure? (v. 20) _____

Is it possible to make it your goal to lay up treasure on this earth, and at the same time have your heart set on the things of God and the life to come (Matthew 6:20-21, 24)?

4. Look to the New Testament to see how early Christians used their money (Matthew 5:42; Luke 6:38; Acts 2:45; 6:1-3; 11:27-30; 2 Corinthians 9:7).
5. Practical suggestions for _____ money in the church.
- a. Develop a church _____ (Proverbs 21:5; 27:23-24). A budget is _____ spending.
 - b. Create a system of financial _____.

For example:

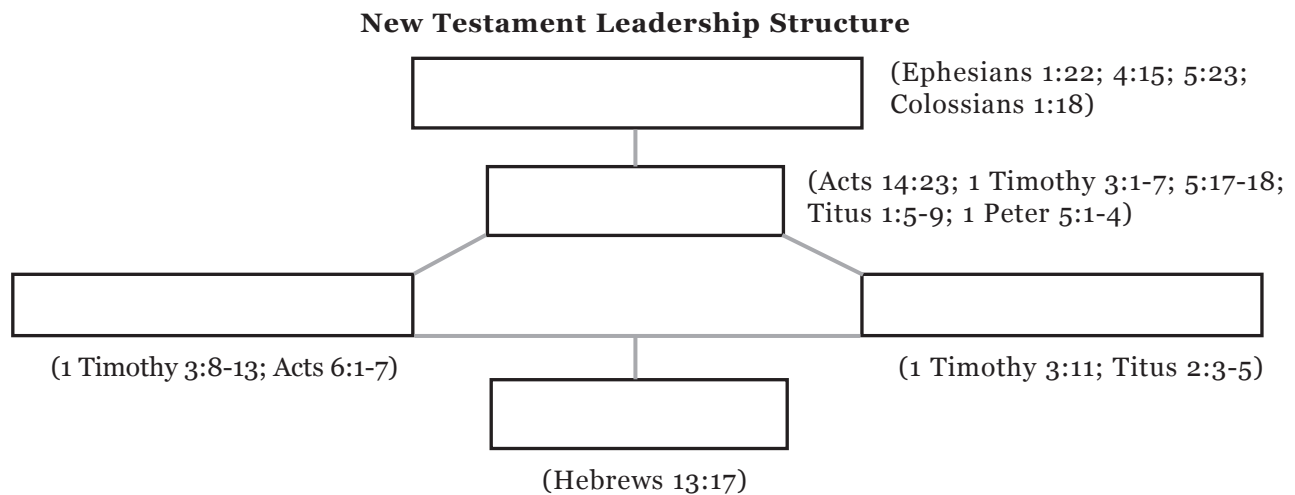
1. Two or more ushers collect the offerings and take it to the accounting team. Never have less than two people handle the money after it is collected.
2. A team of two or more count the offering monies.
3. Another team of two or more people record the offerings in the church accounting system.
4. Two or more financial officers deposit the money in the church bank account and give the receipt to the church Treasurer.

This system ensures that the same person is not responsible for all church money matters.

- c. _____ for the future (Proverbs 6:6-8; 13:11; 21:20).
- d. _____ on giving.

VI. The Leadership Structure of the Church

With the help of your discipler/trainer, fill out the leadership chart below by looking up the following Scripture.



- A. Just as God has appointed parents to guide and nurture their children toward godliness (Ephesians 6:1-4), likewise He has appointed spiritually mature men called _____, to guide and nurture the family of God toward Christlikeness. The terms “elders, overseers/ bishops,” and “pastors” or their verb forms are used interchangeably to refer to the same church leaders in the New Testament (Acts 20:17-18, 28; cf. Titus 1:5-7; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-2). List the qualifications of church leaders (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-7):

New Church
Crete—Titus 1:5-9
“Appoint”

Mature Church
Ephesus—1 Timothy 3:1-7
“Aspire”

- B. Men and women are of equal value before God in Christ (Galatians 3:28), but each has a different role _____ to fulfill in God’s family, the church. Your role is not who you are, but how you are to function in God’s family. Women are not to _____ or exercise spiritual _____ over men in the local church meetings (1 Timothy 2:12). This does not mean she cannot teach men in other settings outside of the local church (i.e., public school, secular, or religious work, etc.). What two reasons are given why a woman is not to teach or exercise authority over men at the meeting of the church (1 Timothy 2:13-14)?

1. _____

2. _____

God wants men to lead and teach in the local church. A woman is saved from her lack of leading and teaching role in the local church by giving birth to children and teaching and leading them (1 Timothy 2:15). If her children continue in godly living, she will be saved or fulfilled. One qualification for an elder is that he must be a husband; a _____. But also remember that the influence of godly women has changed history. Every elder/pastor knows that _____ women volunteer, at first, to serve in the church than men. Women have the most important teaching role because they instruct the next generation of Christian leaders. Single women or married women unable to have children can teach other people's children. If married, they can find fulfillment in being helpmates for their husbands. If single, they can find fulfillment in serving the Lord in the local church, at work, or in life.

C. Healthy _____ churches consist of healthy _____.

1. If you are a married man, the greatest _____ you can have on earth is to your wife. What does your wife need most from you? She needs you to _____ her as Christ loved the Church (see Ephesians 5:25-32).



What does this kind of love look like (see 1 Peter 3:7)?

- a. Spend quality _____ with your wife—“*dwell with them.*”
 - b. Study her needs and how you can meet them—“with understanding” lit. “*according to knowledge.*”
 - c. Show her respect by carrying your responsibility of _____—“*giving honor as to the weaker vessel.*”
 - d. Show her honor and a place of respect—“*being heirs together of the grace of life.*”
2. If you are a married woman, what does your husband need most from you? He needs to know you _____ him and will follow God's leading through him (Ephesians 5:22-24, 33; cf. 1 Peter 3:1-6).

What does this kind of respect look like?

- a. Consider how you talk _____ him.
- b. Consider how you talk _____ him. *Why does this matter?*

First, you usually get really _____ advice from others.

Second, you _____ him further.

Third, you destroy him in your _____ eyes. The more you complain about anything the worse it looks to you, including your husband. But the more you speak well of someone, the better they look to you.

- c. Consider how you can _____ him your desire to follow his lead.
3. If you are a father, what do your children need from you the most? (See Ephesians 6:4). They need _____ and _____ about God's view of them. Our children need to hear “I love you” and “I am proud of you.” They need to know that they have value as a _____ and that what they _____ has value. When Jesus began His public ministry, His heavenly Father said this about His Son in front of a crowd of people: “*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*” (Matthew 3:17).

How can we communicate to our children that they have value?

A _____. Your child needs to know that they are accountable for their actions (Proverbs 13:24).

B _____. Your child needs to know that they have a future and a hope through Jesus Christ. As a father, you can speak God's blessing to your child. They need to know that God will use them in a mighty way (see Genesis 27:38; 1 Chronicles 4:9-10; Jeremiah 29:11).

C _____. Your child needs to know that you love them and have compassion for them in the midst of their failure (see Luke 15:20).

Where is your greatest struggle? Loving your wife?... husband?... children? We cannot love God's way in our own strength. Before Paul gave instructions about the family in Ephesians, he wrote: *"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit"* (Ephesians 5:18).

The main issue of this verse is _____. Will you be controlled by wine or by the Holy Spirit? Instead of trying to control your life, your spouse or your family, yield daily to the control of the Holy Spirit so He can enable you to love others God's way. God only commands you to do things you CAN do—be filled with the Holy Spirit.

D. How to resolve _____ with another believer in the church:

1. Talk to _____ about it first (James 1:5). This may resolve the problem right there! You may find it is mostly _____ problem anyway (Matthew 7:3-5). Ask yourself, "Is this my problem?" We all have blind spots. None of us is perfect. Ask yourself, "Am I being unrealistic. Am I being oversensitive? Am I being too demanding? Am I being insensitive or ungrateful?" Our _____ spots keep us from seeing another person's needs.

God wants to help us. We just need to talk to Him about the problems that we are facing in our lives. As you talk to God about the problems you are facing, you may discover that the problem you are facing is a need that He _____ to be meeting anyway. For example, many conflicts arise because we are expecting something from someone that they just cannot give. Oftentimes, we expect other people to meet needs in our lives that only _____ can meet.

2. If the problem is not resolved by talking to God, then go _____ to the person who has offended you and try to settle it between yourselves privately (Matthew 18:15). You do not go to somebody else to talk about somebody else. That is called _____. Gossip destroys churches more than anything else. When you are neither part of the problem nor part of the solution but you are talking about it, you are gossiping. The Bible calls it _____ (Proverbs 11:13; 16:28; 20:19).

Use "Drive-through" Listening when you meet privately.
(taken from Gary Smalley's Pastors Couples Conference)

"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19).

- Decide who will be first to speak.
- That person holds an object (ex. feather, tissue, etc.). They can only share their needs or feelings. Example: "When this happened to me, I felt angry..."

- The listener repeats what he heard.
 - When the speaker feels understood or validated, he can pass the object to the other person who will next share his needs and feelings, etc.
 - Only after you have understood and validated each other, seek a “win-win” solution. Share several potential solutions and then prayerfully agree on one.
3. If the conflict is not resolved privately, take one or two spiritually _____ believers to help resolve the problem (Matthew 18:16; Galatians 6:1). Do not go to _____ people to help you settle a conflict with believers (1 Corinthians 6:1-6).
 4. If the conflict still cannot be resolved, personally _____ the wrong (1 Corinthians 6:7-8; cf. Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-14).
 5. In some cases (see 1 Corinthians 5:1-13), the matter may need to be brought before the _____ to decide the outcome (Matthew 18:17a).
 6. If the offending believer refuses to be reconciled, the church is to treat him or her as an unbeliever and withdraw _____ from him or her until they forsake their sinful behavior and return to the Lord (Matthew 18:17b; cf. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Corinthians 2:6-7; Titus 3:9-11).

LOOKING AHEAD

A. Practice sharing Lesson 5 with one another.

B. Set goals and pray.

1. **Pray**—Ask God with whom He would like you to share the gospel and whom He would like you to train. Write down their names and pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the way and work in the hearts of those on your lists.
2. **Believe**—Remember that Christ promises us that His Spirit is already at work even before we get there, so expect the people on your lists to be responsive to God’s leading (John 16:7-11).
3. **Ask**—Even if the people on your lists do not initially express an interest in taking the next step of faith, ask them if you can share with them the lesson that you are currently working on. Then use this opportunity to go through “Lesson 1—Plan of Salvation.” You just might find out that they are ready to respond once they have heard the message presented in a different way.

Lesson 5 Answer Sheet

LOOKING BACK

D. All

Faithful
Everyone
Drop
Body

LOOKING UP

body

I. A. Trusting

B. Romans 12:5: Just as a physical body has many members (arms, legs, feet, etc.) with different functions, so the body of Christ, the Church, has different individual members (believers) with different spiritual gifts to serve the Church.

Ephesians 1:22-23: Christians are Christ's body, the Church. The word "Church" means "Called-out ones." By faith Christians are called out of the world into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

C. Christ is the "Head" or authority over the Church who lovingly gave His life for her.

D. Do, Teach, Body

II. A. 1. Worship

2. Fellowship
3. Ministry

B. 1. Discipleship

2. Evangelism/Missions

III. 1. Praising

2. Fellowship
3. Doctrine
4. Need
5. Saved

IV. B. temples, homes, public places

V. A. 1. Baptizing

2. Disciple
3. New
4. Dead
5. Witness

B. 1. Him

2. Grace

C. 1. Gift

2. Privilege
generously
cheerfully
self

locally, globally

regularly

proportionately

us

3. yourself

heaven

It is temporary

It is permanent

No

4. Matthew 5:42: Give what others request of you, assuming it is within their power to do so. This applies to loans as well as gifts (cf. Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:37; Deuteronomy 23:19). This does not mean we should give all our money away to individuals and institutions that ask for our financial assistance (cf. Proverbs 11:15; 17:18; 22:26).

Luke 6:38: Those who obey Jesus' command to give will receive back the same measure and more. "*Will be put into your bosom*" (i.e., into a makeshift pouch created by folding one's clothing).

Acts 2:45: Freely and without abusive pressure, believers sold their possessions and goods to distribute among all of the church as anyone had need.

Acts 6:1-3: The early church provided regular sustenance to believing women who had no other family or means of support (cf. James 1:26-27; 2:14; 1 Tim. 5:3-15).

Acts 11:27-30: The sister church at Antioch sent relief to the Jerusalem church which was stricken by a famine.

2 Corinthians 9:7: Believers are to give as they wish ("*purpose in his heart*") and cheerfully.

5. Managing

a. Budget

Planned

b. Accountability

c. Save

d. Teach

VI. Jesus Christ

Elders

Deacons, Deaconesses

Congregation

A. Elders

Titus 1:5-9: “blameless”—no one can bring a legitimate moral charge against him; “husband of one wife”—faithful to his wife in thought and action; “having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination”—his children are well-behaved believers; “not self-willed”—does not demand his own way but is willing to yield to the majority; “not quick-tempered”—controls his anger; “not given to wine”—is not controlled by alcohol or other substances; “not violent”—not prone to verbal or physical violence; “not greedy for money”—loves ministering to people, not getting money; “hospitable”—opens his home to minister to others; “a lover of what is good”—values what God values; “sober-minded”—exercises good judgment and makes good decisions; “just”—fair-minded, impartial; “holy”—devoted to becoming more Christlike; “self-controlled”—in control of himself and his emotions; “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught”—he is always learning from God’s Word and applying it to his life; “able by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict”—able to give guidance from God’s Word and expose and correct false teaching.

1 Timothy 3:1-7: “blameless”—no one can bring a legitimate moral charge against him; “husband of one wife”—faithful to his wife in thought and action; “temperate”—emotionally and mentally well-balanced; “sober-minded”—exercises good judgment and makes good decisions; “good behavior”—does good deeds in the church and community; “hospitable”—opens his home to minister to others; “able to teach”—knows the Word and can teach others; “not given to wine”—is not controlled by alcohol or other substances; “not violent”—not prone to verbal or physical violence; “not greedy for money”—loves ministering to people, not getting money; “gentle”—kind and forbearing; “not quarrelsome”—does not engage in arguments; “not covetous”—is content with what he has; “rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence”—his wife and children respect him as the spiritual leader of the home; “not a novice”—he has grown spiritually for years; “must have a good testimony among those who are outside”—is respected by unbelievers even though his beliefs are different from theirs.

B. Teach

Authority

1. **The order of creation**—God made Eve to be a helpmate to Adam, not Adam to be a helpmate to Eve. Women were not designed to lead and teach men in the local church.
2. **The Fall**—women are more prone to being deceived and to leading others into sin.

Man

More

C. Local, Families

1. ministry

love

a. time

c. headship

2. Respect

a. To

b. About

Bad

Alienate

Own

c. Show

3. Training

Instruction

Person

Do

Accountability

Blessing

Compassion

Control

D. Conflict

1. God

Your

Blind

Needs

God

2. Directly

Gossip

Sin

3. Mature

Unbelieving

4. Accept

5. Church

6. Fellowship

Lesson 6: FIGHTING SHAME WITH GRACE AND TRUTH

LOOKING BACK

- A. How are each of you doing? (Take some time to encourage one another and pray).
- B. Time of worship (Sing a song or two of praise and worship).
- C. Accountability
 - Are you having a daily time with God? How is that going?
 - How did you obey last week's lesson?
 - With whom have you shared the gospel? Who has believed?
 - When are you training them to share the gospel? Are you teaching them the 5 lessons?
 - Are you training them to train others? (2 Timothy 2:2) Are they doing this? Are the people whom they are training, training others?
- D. Great Commission Vision (Matthew 10:24-25; John 1:14)

We have learned that a disciple is to be like his teacher and master, Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:24-25). Thus, the purpose of discipleship is to make us more like Jesus who was "full of _____ and _____" (John 1:14). He maintained a perfect balance between these two attributes. _____ says there is a right way, a best way. _____ gives us the encouragement to get there. As humans we tend to err on one side or the other of grace and truth. Grace without truth is wishy washy. It is called _____. There are no absolutes. . . no right or wrong. . . no consequences for our actions. Anything goes, resulting in lives without direction. There is nothing we can know for sure which is tolerance. Without truth we would have no need for grace. For grace to be real it must be based on truth. On the other hand, truth without grace is unbearably _____. Truth without grace gives us this chronic sense that we can never measure up to God's standard of holiness. Without grace truth would condemn us all to suffer forever in hell.

Christ has the perfect ability to tell us the awful truth about _____, while holding us up by His grace. Because He is full of truth He was the perfect sacrifice to pay the penalty for all our sins. Because He is full of grace, you can come to Him just as you are, without having to clean up your life first. And because He is full of truth, you can come in complete confidence knowing that He will keep His _____ to forgive you and grant you eternal life the moment you believe in Him. Jesus promised, "He who believes in Me has everlasting life" (John 6:47b).

That is grace and that is truth. Jesus was full of both. Therefore, we are to seek to be _____ and truthful with one another. We are called to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32). Is there someone in your life that needs not just truth, but grace? Something has come between you and your relationship. They need to hear from you that the past is gone. It's been wiped out. That's the power of grace.

LOOKING UP

I. All of us struggle with _____

A. Shame versus guilt

Before we can fight shame we must identify what shame is not and what it is. Many people confuse shame with guilt. Guilt is the conviction we experience when we have violated God's standard of holiness. In short, guilt says, "I have _____ wrong." For example,

when a person covets, hates, lies, lusts, murders, steals, or commits adultery, he or she has a sense of guilt for having done wrong (cf. Psalm 32:1-5; Romans 3:1-20; James 2:10). The Bible teaches us that sin and its subsequent guilt can lead an unsaved person to believe or trust in Christ alone as his or her Savior, resulting in cleansing and forgiveness (cf. John 16:8-11; Acts 10:43; Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:22-24). God uses our guilt to _____ us of our need for Him.

The Hebrew word for “ashamed” (cf. Genesis 2:25) is בוש (bosh), which means to fall into _____, to be embarrassed or humiliated.

The Greek word for “shame” (Hebrews 12:2) is αἰσχύνῃς (aischynēs) which also refers to disgrace. According to some theologians and psychologists, shame is a feeling (or belief) that we are bad, defective, flawed, and worthless. Guilt says, “*I have done wrong*,” but shame says, “*I _____ wrong*.”¹ Instead of focusing on what a person has done (guilt), shame focuses on who the person is. It says that at the core of our being we are bad, inferior, and unacceptable. One author says, “*Shame is a strong sense of being uniquely and hopelessly different and less than other human beings*.”² Satan uses shame to _____ us and isolate us from God and one another.



Let me illustrate the difference between guilt and shame. When I say, “*I _____ bad about yelling at my children when they misbehave*,” that is guilt. But when I say, “*I _____ a bad father*,” that is shame.

We can feel guilt and shame at the same time. But shame is more _____. We can feel shame as a result of our own actions and the actions of others. There are two types of shame: true shame and false shame.

_____ shame is that feeling of disgrace or embarrassment when we have sinned. This is what Adam and Eve experienced when they disobeyed God in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:7-8, 10).

_____ shame is that same feeling of disgrace or embarrassment about our personhood, not our actions. We can actually experience shame when we have done nothing wrong, but because of the actions of others we are ashamed. False shame says, “*because of what was done to you, you are now _____*,” or “*this happened to you because you are bad*.”³ For example, a child who was sexually abused may internalize what was done to him or her and conclude, “*I am bad because that happened to me*.” Or “*because I am bad that was done to me*.”

B. Shame was not part of God’s original design (Genesis 2:25)

When God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, and joined them together as husband and wife, the Bible tells us “*they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not _____*” (Genesis 2:25; cf. Mark 10:6-9). Before Adam and Eve sinned, they did not experience shame. Therefore, shame was not part of God’s original design for humankind. To be “naked” and “not ashamed” suggests something more than not wearing



¹ Michael John Cusick, *Surfing for God* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2012), p. 67.

² Sandra D. Wilson, *Released from Shame: Revised Edition* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002), p. 23.

³ <https://www.ibelieve.com/faith/the-important-difference-between-guilt-and-shame.html>.

any clothes. These words describe Adam and Eve's relationship with God and with one another. They were able to be completely open with the Lord and each other without holding anything back or hiding their true selves. Adam and Eve were fully known by God and each other and they were okay with this. This enabled them to experience uninhibited _____ with God and with one another.⁴ They knew that they were totally accepted and loved by God. There was nothing to fear and nothing to hide from the Lord and each other.

Prior to the Fall, they did not experience any self-consciousness regarding the uniqueness of their personhood as man and woman. For example, Adam probably did not doubt his masculinity or his ability to impress Eve as a man. He was not concerned about his biceps being big enough or being a good enough lover for Eve. Nor did Eve wonder if her beauty was enough to attract Adam or if her ideas were as significant as his. With an unwavering assurance, both of them knew that who they were and what they offered to one another was more than just good enough – it was “_____ good” (Genesis 1:31).⁵

C. The Origin of Shame (Genesis 3:1-10)

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-6), they experienced shame for the first time. The complete innocence and vulnerability they once had with God and one another were now lost. “*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings*” (Genesis 3:7). They were now self-conscious and ashamed of their nakedness before one another, so they tried to remove their shame by covering themselves with fig leaves. They went from holding nothing back from one another to _____ and covering their true selves.

When they put their own desires ahead of God's will for their lives, they may have realized they could also put their own interests ahead of the other's. Would Adam be able to trust Eve after she violated God's trust? Would Eve be able to trust Adam after he did the same thing? Once transparent and vulnerable with each other, Adam and Eve now _____ their physical nakedness and the nakedness of their _____ with fig leaves. Instead of trusting each other, they were afraid of being hurt by one another, so they chose to protect themselves by hiding under the cover of fig leaves.

But their sin and shame also adversely affected their _____ with God. “*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden*” (Genesis 3:8). Instead of being open and vulnerable before God, they now _____ themselves from His presence when He pursued them. God is presented in this verse as pursuing His fallen children by walking in the garden in the cool of the day as if this was something He had always done to connect with them. We might assume that God came to them to punish and shame Adam and Eve for the wrong they had done, but notice that God does not seek to shame His fallen children. He seeks to _____ them. “*Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’*” (Genesis 3:9). Why would an all-knowing God ask Adam a question to which He already knows the answer? Because the Lord wanted a _____ from Adam. “*Where are you in relation to Me?*” God asks. God knew where Adam was, but did Adam know where he was in relation to the Lord? Do we know where we are in relation to God?

When Adam told God, “*I was afraid because I was naked*” (3:10). God replied, “*Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat*” (3:11)? _____ never told Adam and Eve they were naked. This was the

⁴ Cusick, *Surfing for God*, p. 68.

⁵ Ibid., p. 69.

natural consequence of their sin. Satan also reveals our shame to us when we sin (true shame) or don't sin (false shame). His accusations against believers produce shame in their lives. The Devil uses shame to _____ Christians from God and one another. Like a roaring lion who focuses on those who are isolated and weak, Satan focuses on believers who are alone and weak (cf. 1 Peter 5:8).

Would Adam and Eve _____ God is still the same loving and merciful God that He had always been prior to their disobedience? Or would they believe the lie of the serpent who implied that God could not really be trusted (cf. Genesis 3:1-5)? The Lord did not abandon Adam and Eve when they sinned and felt ashamed. He _____ them out to restore them to fellowship with Himself.

But instead of trusting the Lord, Adam and Eve were now _____ of Him. "So he said, 'I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself'" (Genesis 3:10). Their sin and shame now became a _____ to His loving and merciful pursuit of them. Not only were they self-conscious of their nakedness before one another, they were now self-conscious of their nakedness before God. By covering themselves with fig leaves and hiding themselves among the trees of the garden, Adam and Eve _____ themselves from being able to receive God's love, grace, and mercy which He was freely offering to them. Their faith in God had now changed to _____. Unfortunately their shame pushed them away from the Lord instead of drawing them near to Him. And shame can do the same to us today.

D. Modern-Day Fig Leaves⁶

Like Adam and Eve, we also try to _____ our shame from the Lord with modern-day fig leaves. We may hide behind expensive cars, motorcycles, or homes. Some of us may take refuge behind our vast theological knowledge, ministries, or positions of leadership. We may hide behind our busyness, hobbies, humor, sarcasm, sports, or superficial interactions. Others may try to cover their shame with _____ efforts and rituals. Whatever fig leaves we choose to hide behind, we are going against God's design for us by refusing to present our _____ selves to Him and to one another. This never leads to the abundant life God meant for us to experience. What fig leaves are you hiding behind? _____



E. Shame-based concepts of God

Ever since the Fall of Adam and Eve, people have struggled with shame. Just as Adam's and Eve's shame distorted their view of God (Genesis 3:1-10), many people today have many shame-based concepts about God. These misconceptions about God often originate from our _____ of origin. We think that God will resemble our parents or authority figures from our childhood (cf. Psalm 50:21). Check the following shame-based concepts of God⁷ that apply to you.

_____ "The cruel and unpredictable God" is the most extreme distortion of God's nature and is found among those who received brutal and unpredictable abuse in childhood most often at the hands of their fathers, stepfathers, or father figures. If you are one of the bruised believers who experienced severe physical or sexual abuse as a child, this might be the way you see God and you understandably struggle to _____ your Father in heaven.

⁶ Ibid., p. 71.

⁷ Adapted from Wilson's, *Released from Shame*, pp. 142-143.

_____ *“The demanding and unforgiving God”* is often the view that Christian adults have whose parents were rigid and perfectionistic. No matter how hard you try, you can never measure up to the demands of this distorted deity who does not forgive nor forget your sins. When you fail, watch out! His cruel side is manifested. He seems to delight in sending financial disaster or physical disease to emphasize His intolerance of your spiritual failures. Understandably, it is difficult for you to _____ Him and experience His forgiveness and love.

_____ *“The selective and unfair God”* is a distorted view of God found among Christian adults who experienced spiritual abuse by parental authorities in childhood. This might be the God you worship if you feel Jesus has revealed Himself more fully to other Christians who, in turn have a deeper relationship with Him than you do. You probably struggle with being a different and _____-than Christian.

_____ *“The distant and unavailable God”* may care about His worshipers, but He is off somewhere running the universe and cannot get too involved in their lives. If your parents were physically or emotionally unavailable through prolonged absences, perhaps because of death, divorce, illness, military duty, working overseas, or neglect, you may experience God as eternally _____ and unavailable.

_____ *“The kind but confused God”* is a clumsy and powerless deity who is confused by all the chaos in the world. If you had parents who were overwhelmed by uncontrollable chaos in their lives and your family, you may have this view of God.

F. Shame-based church families

It is easy for Christians who grew up in shame-based families to seek shame-based church families. In shame-based families, the expectations for children do not match the truth about child development and human imperfection. Likewise, the expectations of shame-based churches do not match the truth about spiritual growth and human imperfection. Also these churches _____ the truth about God. They have no concept of God’s _____ which cannot be deserved or earned.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us concerning Jesus the Messiah, *“A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench”* (Isaiah 42:3). Jesus quoted this verse after He healed a great multitude of people who followed Him (Matthew 12:20). The Messiah did not deal harshly with those who were already hurting nor did He extinguish what little _____ a broken heart possessed. He comes along side of them to strengthen them with His presence rather than step on them to advance His own plans. He wants to rekindle our love and passion for Him. Unlike the religious leaders of His day, Jesus had _____ for the weak and vulnerable. He extended gentleness and humility to the harassed and helpless (Matthew 9:36) as well as to the weary and burdened (Matthew 11:28). He used His supernatural power to heal, not to punish or shame. Jesus spent much of His ministry fighting sickness and shame, not asking *“Why?”* or condemning with *“Who sinned?”*

Shame-based churches add to the shame of the broken and bruised by being harsh and demanding. But grace-based churches reflect the mercy and grace of Jesus who understands and sympathizes with those who are broken and hurting (Hebrews 4:15). Christ uses grace-based churches to _____ hurting and vulnerable people so He can set them in a broad place. He is on our side. He is not against us (cf. Psalm 118:5-9; Romans 8:31-39). Sandra D. Wilson compares shame-based church families with grace-based church families in this insightful chart below⁸:

⁸ Ibid, p. 151.

Shame-based Church Family	Grace-based Church Family
Rooted in shame-based religionism; keeping human-made rules in order to be “right.”	Rooted in grace-based relationship; trusting in Christ’s death and resurrection in order to be “right.”
God is experienced as a demanding Shepherd who drives his sheep.	God is experienced as an understanding Shepherd who leads his sheep.
I am expected to be totally (or almost totally) transformed the moment I trust Christ.	I am expected to keep on being transformed by having my mind renewed as long as I live.
Since I should be totally transformed (perfect) I am a different-and-less-than Christian because I am not perfect.	Since I am in a lifelong process of being transformed to be like Jesus, my imperfections don’t surprise me, church members or God.
Members with obvious problems are an embarrassment to the church. Since real Christians have no serious problems, no provisions have been made to help .	Members with obvious problems are expected since the past and present effects of sin in Christians’ lives can cause serious problems. There are programs in place to provide appropriate help.
Small-group Bible studies are dangerous places because someone might get close enough to see behind my mask of perfection and know I have problems.	Small-group Bible studies are safe places to practice being maskless and be with others who do the same. It’s great to go where I don’t have to hide my problems.
Emphasis is on looking religious by wearing the right clothes and carrying the right translation of the Bible.	Emphasis is on developing a deeper relationship of love and trusting obedience with Jesus Christ.
Emphasis is on performance.	Emphasis is on worshiping God.
Emphasis is on revealing and rebuking sinners.	Emphasis is on restoring repentant sinners.
Attendance at church activities is used as the main indicator of a person’s true spirituality.	Acknowledgment that true spirituality is reflected in total lifestyle and known only to God.

What do you learn about the difference between shame and God’s grace in the above chart?

Does your church most resemble a shame-based church family or a grace-based church family?

Explain:

II. Fighting Shame with grace and truth

The author of the book of Hebrews is writing to Christians who are being pressured to return to Judaism and give up on their Christian faith. He compares living the Christian life to running a long distance race. He challenges them to “*run with endurance the race that is set before us*” (12:1b). He instructs them to run this race successfully by “*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, _____ the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*” (12:2). Notice that Jesus endured the cross by “*despising the shame.*” The word “*despising*” comes from a compound Greek word, *kataphronéō*, which means “*against, down*” (*kata*) and “*to think*” (*phronéō*).” Literally it means “*to think against*” or “*to think little of.*” Jesus was able to endure the embarrassment or humiliation of the cross and the sins He bore by “*despising the shame*” associated with them.

He looked down on shame with contempt because it was not His and it was _____ to God's original design for humanity (Genesis 2:25). How can we fight shame so we can finish our race (the Christian life) successfully for the Lord?

- A. _____ **Jesus' grace and truth by believing in Him to remove all your sin and shame.** Since Adam and Eve could not remove their sense of fear and shame by covering themselves with fig leaves, God graciously provided the proper covering. He "*made tunics of skin*" through the death of an _____ animal (Genesis 3:21). Blood must be shed. Imagine how Adam must have felt to see one of the animals he had named and cared for being killed on his account! Never had Adam and Eve known death. This was _____ business and this was to be God's way of dealing with sin and shame throughout the ages. By providing a covering with animal skins, God provided forgiveness through the "*shedding of blood*" (Hebrews 9:22). God later provided forgiveness through the Old Testament sacrificial system.

Those animals were shadows of "*the Lamb of God*," Jesus Christ, who would be "*full of grace and truth*" (John 1:14, 29). Like that first animal that was sacrificed for Adam and Eve, Jesus Christ would also be innocent and without _____ because He was and is God (John 1:1, 14, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 3:18). And like that first sacrificial animal, Jesus was born to die for the sins of others (John 1:29; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9), that "*whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame*" (Romans 10:11; cf. Romans 4:5; John 3:16). When you believe in Jesus, you are covered with His righteousness and beauty so that God sees nothing in you that is worthy of condemnation or shame (cf. Romans 4:5; 8:1a, 31-39; 2 Corinthians 5:21). The Bible says, "*Long ago, even before He made the world, God chose us to be His very own through what Christ would do for us; He decided then to make us holy in His eyes, without a single fault—we who stand before Him covered with His love.*" Ephesians 1:4 [TLB] All our sins are removed beyond our reach as far as the east is from the west (Psalms 103:12). They are cast out of our sight into the deepest part of the sea (Micah 7:19). Nothing, including our guilt and shame, can _____ us from the love of God (Romans 8:35-39)!



Like Adam and Eve, our human efforts or works cannot remove our sin and shame (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:8-9). Religion cannot take away our sin, guilt, and shame. Only Jesus Christ can take away our sin, guilt, and shame (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Titus 3:4-7). Is there any shame in your past that you believe Jesus has not forgiven and removed? _____

Explain:

- B. _____ **closer to Jesus who is full of grace and truth.** Look to Jesus instead of your shame to live the Christian life. Jesus despised or did not pay attention to the shame associated with His sufferings and our sins (Hebrews 12:2). Look to Jesus, not your _____, to run the race that is set before you. Christ did not let shame keep Him from finishing His race successfully and nor should we let our shameful past or the shame-based lies we believe keep us from finishing the race set before us.

This involves _____ whereby we learn to ignore the voice of shame in our Christian lives which tries to bully us from finishing the race Christ has called us to run. We are to listen to the voice of truth found in Christ's Word that sets us free from sin and shame (John 8:31-32). When shame tries to intimidate us, pay little attention to it. The Bible says, "*Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore*" (Isaiah 54:4). Christ removed all our shame at the cross so we can forget that it ever was, and focus on Him.

But this is easier said than done, isn't it? Let's look to Jesus and see how He showed grace and truth to people. Some of us may be like Nicodemus in John 3 who was a proud and pious religious leader in Israel. Like Nicodemus, we may be trying to medicate our brokenness and shame with _____ and not even realize it. We may see God as a perfectionistic deity that we must appease with our religious performance. And yet, no matter how hard we try, we cannot measure up to His standards which causes us to have more shame. And so we work harder, trying to please Him. And it is difficult for us to experience His _____ and forgiveness.

We are told that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night (3:2a). Perhaps John mentions this because night symbolized the darkness and shame that surrounded Nicodemus' soul. Nicodemus has great respect for Jesus and recognizes His ministry is blessed by God (3:2b). But Jesus knows why Nicodemus is really there and so He confronts Him with the truth. *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (3:3). Christ is talking about spiritual _____ which is something God does. Nicodemus thought he could get to heaven by his religious position and practice. But Christ confronts him with the truth that removed the fig leaves Nicodemus was hiding behind. No amount of religion or piety can remove our shame and get us to heaven.



Now Nicodemus is ready to be confronted with Jesus' _____ (3:13-15). Since we cannot get to God through our religion, God came down from heaven through Jesus to give us grace (3:13). And just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness so disobedient Israelites could take one look at it and be saved from physical death (3:14), so Jesus would be lifted up on the cross so that whoever looks and *"believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (3:15). Christ's truth confronts us with our sin and shame problem, and His grace provides the _____ to our problem. So notice that with a proud religious person who is bound in shame, Christ confronts him with truth and then with grace to move him from his rules to a relationship with the living God.

But some of us may be like the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at a well of water in John 4. Like this woman, we may try to medicate our brokenness and shame with _____ relationships. We may see God as a distant and impersonable being who does not care about us. So we try to medicate our loneliness and pain with romantic or sexual relationships which only intensifies our shame. These relationships may be with real or imaginary people. By imaginary I am referring to online pornography which is destroying lives. How does Jesus respond to hurting and ashamed people who are addicted to sex?



He begins with _____. On His way through the country of Samaria Jesus encountered a hurting woman at a well of water. In John 3, Jesus did most of the talking in His conversation with Nicodemus and was confrontive. But in John 4, He listened more to the woman at the well and was _____. In John 3, only three verses record what Nicodemus says. But in John 4, _____ verses record what the Samaritan woman said to Jesus. God both speaks and listens. With a hurting person, Jesus listens more than He does with a proud person. He extends grace to this hurting woman first at the well by offering the free gift of everlasting life to her (4:10-14), but she misunderstands Him to refer to physical water (4:15). She doesn't understand her need for eternal life, so Jesus confronts her with the _____ regarding her five previous marriages and the fact that she is now living with a man who was not her husband (4:16-18). This was the most sensitive area in her life . . . the area where she had experienced the most hurt and shame . . . the area where she had the highest and thickest walls of self-protection. But Jesus graciously spoke the truth to her in a way that gave her dignity.

How do we know this? Because after her conversation with Jesus, she goes back to her village and says to the people, “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” (4:29). Would she have invited people to come see Jesus if He had shamed her or bullied her? No. Jesus knew all about the shameful things she had done, yet He still loved her. No one ever treated her with such _____. Jesus spoke to her in a way that brought healing and hope to her heart. He spoke to her in a way that removed her shame and filled her with His love. And He wants to do the same with you and with me. Are you willing to invite Jesus to come in to the dark and wounded parts of your soul to shine His light of love and heal your brokenness?

Explain:

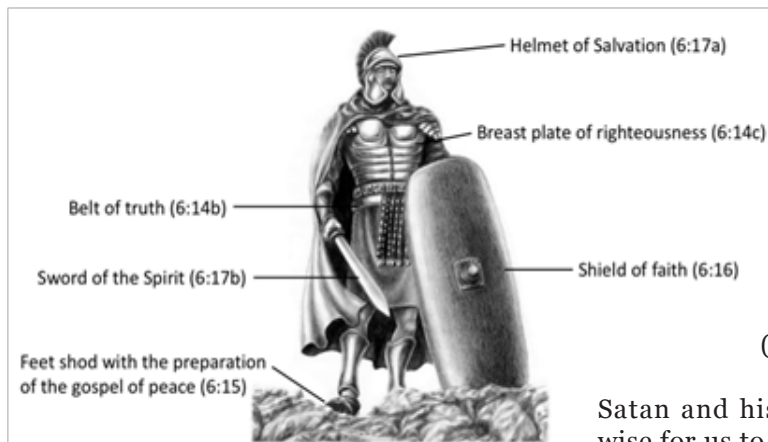
C. _____ to God in prayer and put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).

We are in a battle with Satan and his demonic armies (Ephesians 6:12). Satan wants to build strongholds of _____ in our minds to keep us enslaved to sin and shame. He often does this by inserting a lie in our minds when we are deeply wounded. For example, if you were sexually abused you may believe the lie that says, “I am bad or worthless.” All of us have painful memories. In the following chart⁹, ask God to help you identify the ten worst moments in your life and the lie that was attached to each one (Psalm 139:23-24).

Identify Worst Moments and Accompanying Lies

My Ten Worst Moments	Lie
Example 1: When I was six years old I was sexually abused by my uncle.	I am bad because of what happened to me.
Example 2: My parents divorced.	No one could ever love me as I am.

⁹ Adapted with permission from *Conquer Series Study Guide Volume 2* (2017), pp. 26-27.



Once we understand the spiritual battle we are in, we are ready to discover the weapons God has given us to fight this battle. In Ephesians 6:10-18, the apostle Paul instructed Christians in the city of Ephesus to pray and put on the whole armor of God to withstand the attacks of Satan and his demonic armies. Each piece of armor refers to the way we _____ (cf. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

Satan and his demonic armies are far too strong and wise for us to overcome on our own. We need the Lord's power, strength, and weapons to defeat them (6:10). Our primary responsibility is *"to stand"* (6:11, 13-14) and to *"put on"* or *"take up. . . the whole armor of God"* (6:11, 13, 17). Failure to put on all of God's armor leaves us vulnerable to spiritual attack and _____. Paul describes the armor that Roman infantrymen wore in the order they would put it on.

"The belt of truth" (6:14b). The first thing a soldier would put on his long tunic shirt was a "belt" (6:14b) to hold his breastplate and sheathe for his sword in place. The "truth" refers to God's revealed truth and the truthfulness of the believer. This is _____ to spiritual victory. We cannot overcome the father of lies (John 8:44) apart from the truth of God's Word (John 8:31-32). The lies of the enemy are at the root of our shame. To overcome these lies, we must get God's Word into our souls. The left side of our brain only thinks in words and images that are linear (ex. memorizing Scripture). To defeat Satan's lies, we must also download God's Word into the _____ side of our brains where the battle for our minds takes place. We can access the right side of our brains when we read Scripture by doing the following¹⁰:

1. _____ the Scriptures. For example, pray one of the Psalms back to the Lord. Put your name in the verse to make it your own. When the Psalmist prayed, *"Remove from me the way of lying, and grant me Your law graciously"* (Psalm 119:29), insert your name in place of the personal pronoun *"me"* as you pray this verse back to the Lord.
2. "The right side of our brains uses _____ not words. Find or draw a picture that goes with your Scripture. Place it where you can see it every day. Review it at night before going to sleep so your brain can process this truth and insert it into the right side (limbic system) of your brain."

"Breastplate of righteousness" (6:14c). The second piece of armor that a soldier put on was **"the breastplate"** which covered him from his neck to his thighs, and was normally made of bronze or chain mail. The breastplate protected his vital organs, particularly his heart. The **"righteousness"** refers to both being declared righteous before God at the moment of faith in Christ (Romans 4:5) and to righteous living after we are saved (Romans 6:11-14). Knowing we are covered with Christ's righteousness at the moment of our salvation can protect us from Satan's accusations and motivate us to live out that righteousness as we yield to the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:1, 4-5). The breastplate of righteousness has to do primarily with living the truth as a _____. God wants you to develop a lifestyle of truthfulness. A tool to help you do this is to ask yourself, *"Have I lied to anyone directly or indirectly this week?"* _____ is based on the lies and deceit of the enemy. The more our truthfulness increases, the less vulnerable we will be to shame. This piece of armor will be your primary defense against shame.

¹⁰ Adapted with permission from *Conquer Series Study Guide Volume 2* (2017), p. 33.

“Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (6:15). Next the soldier put sandals on his **“feet”** (6:15) that were studded with sharp nails to give him better footing especially on a slippery battlefield. **“The preparation of the gospel of peace”** refers to a Christian being prepared to share the good news of Jesus that brings peace with God (Romans 5:1) and with one another (Ephesians 2:14-18). When God’s _____ rules in your heart, Satan cannot deceive you with your feelings or his lies. You will be able to stand no matter how fierce the battle with shame may be. A tool to use for this armor is based on Romans 16:20: *“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”* Take time to identify the deepest struggles in your life. _____

Then take off your shoes or sandals and write the lies that are at the root of these struggles on the bottom of your shoes. Picture in your mind the God of peace crushing Satan and his lies under your feet as you trample those lies throughout the day.

“The shield of faith” (6:16). The fourth piece of armor was **“the shield”** (6:16) made of wood and rectangular (about 2.5 feet wide and 4 feet long), covered with a leather flame retardant. A Roman soldier used this to protect his entire body. Before a battle involving flaming arrows from their enemies, soldiers poured water on the leather shields to extinguish flaming arrows. One of the ways we can anoint our faith and keep it from becoming rigid and brittle, is to worship God. When you are alone, _____ out loud to Jesus. As you adore and praise the Lord, the water of the Holy Spirit can pour over you and “quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” Top priority (**“above all”**) is to be given to this piece of armor. The **“faith”** that provides this extensive protection refers to trusting God’s _____ in the heat of battle. Satan wants us to doubt the trustworthiness of God’s Word (cf. Genesis 3:1-5). For example, God promises to go before us and to be with us, never leaving us nor forsaking us (Deuteronomy 31:8). Satan wants to cast doubt on this promise to cause us to be afraid and discouraged. When you are under attack from the enemy and are tempted to give in to shame, sing to the Lord and _____ His promises out loud.

“Helmet of salvation” (6:17a). Following the shield, the soldier took up **“the helmet”** (6:17a) to protect his head. This **“salvation”** refers to three types of salvation: our past salvation from the _____ of sin (Ephesians 2:8-9), our present salvation from the _____ of sin (James 1:14-22), and our future salvation from the _____ of sin (1 John 3:2-3). Satan wants to cast doubt on a believer’s past, present, and future salvation so he is more vulnerable to temptation and defeat. But God wants to protect our minds from doubting His promises to save us from the penalty of sin in hell, from the power of sin now, and from the presence of sin in the future. The more secure we are in the salvation God guarantees, the more confidence we will have on the battlefield. The point of this piece of armor is that we are fighting _____ victory, not for victory. To defeat Satan, we must be able to see him and confront him in the spirit. To do this, we must get God’s Word into our left and right brains. _____ Scripture gets God’s Word in to our left brain so that our right brain has something to work with. Jesus was able to see and confront Satan in the wilderness because God’s Word was in Him (Matthew 4:1-11).

“The sword of the Spirit” (6:17b). The final piece of armor put on by the soldier was **“the sword”** (6:17b) which was short and two-edged, used to cut and stab in hand-to-hand combat. This was the only offensive weapon in Paul’s list of armor. **“The word of God”** refers to the _____ **“word”** (rhema) of God rather than to the written word. For example, Jesus spoke God’s Word to the devil when he tempted Jesus to sin, and the devil was defeated (cf. Matthew 4:1-11). This is **“the sword of the Spirit”** in that the Holy Spirit gives us the Scripture to speak to the devil when he attacks us on the battlefield, so that the devil will _____ from us (cf. Matthew 10:19-20; James 4:7). The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and He will guide us into all truth daily (John 16:13). Learn to rely on Him and listen to His voice.

The fact that this sword was “two-edged” is significant. One edge represents _____ speaking to you and the other edge represents _____ speaking God’s Word to the enemy when he tries to attack you.

While Satan wants to build strongholds of lies in our minds, the Lord Jesus wants to build strongholds of _____ in our minds that will liberate us from the lies that enslave us to sin and shame (John 8:31-32). In the following chart,¹¹ next to the worst moments you already identified, ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify the truth He wants you to apply to that painful moment in place of the lie you already identified. Write out the Bible verse and truth about yourself that it communicates. Then write out what that verse says about your _____. Spend time this week speaking these truths when you find yourself thinking or speaking their corresponding lies.

Worst Moment	Bible Verse(s)	Truth	Destiny
Example 1: When I was six years old I was sexually abused by my uncle.	“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” Matthew 13:45-46; cf. 1 Cor. 6:19-20	I am precious to Jesus because of what happened to Him.	Because my worth is based on what Jesus has done and not what was done to me, I no longer need to try to prove my value through what I do.
Example 2: My parents divorced.	“When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.” Psalm 27:10	I am loved and cherished by the Creator of the universe.	Although my parents may not love me, God loves me and cherishes me, and therefore I no longer need to try to gain everyone’s love and approval.

¹¹ Adapted from *Conquer Series Study Guide Volume 2* (2017), pp. 51-52.

What did you learn the most about God and yourself when you did this exercise?

- D. _____ Jesus’ eternal perspective.** Jesus thought little of the shame He would endure on the cross because it was of little consequence compared to the surpassing **“joy that was set before Him”** when He would sit **“down at the right hand of the throne of God”** (Hebrews 12:2). Christ endured the pain and shame of the cross because of the _____ that awaited Him on the other side when He would sit down on His everlasting throne next to His heavenly Father (cf. Hebrews 1:8-9).

The Bible promises a great _____ to believers who hold fast to their Christian faith. *“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward”* (Hebrews 10:35; 11:6). This great reward includes _____ with Christ in His coming Kingdom on earth if we remain faithful to Him to the end of our lives on earth (Hebrews 1:5-13; 3:1, 14; 4:1, 11; 9:15; cf. Luke 22:28-30; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 2:25-27; 3:21).

Like Jesus, Moses also despised the shame that can accompany _____ to God by looking to his future reward. *“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward”* (Hebrews 11:24-26). By faith Moses despised the shame (“passing pleasures of sin”) of ruling in Egypt so he could lay hold of his future reward of ruling with Christ.

To earn the reward of ruling with Christ, we must live _____ for Him to the end of our Christian lives. To do this, it is important to train our minds to imagine ourselves remaining faithful to Christ and receiving His reward at the Judgment Seat when Jesus says to us, *“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord”* (Matthew 25:21). Like an athlete who visualizes himself winning a race, visualizing ourselves remaining faithful to Christ and receiving this reward from Him will actually create _____ neurological pathways in our brain. And our brains respond the same way to mental rehearsing of a task and actually performing the task.

Instead of focusing on our past shame or the shame that can accompany following Christ, focus on _____ who endured the cross, despising the shame that we deserved, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God so we could sit with Him in His future Kingdom on earth if we remain faithful to Him. The more we look to Jesus now, the less true _____ we will experience when we stand before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ after His coming for us. *“And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming”* (1 John 2:28).

LOOKING AHEAD

A. Practice sharing Lesson 6 with one another.

B. Set Goals and Pray.

- 1. Pray**—Ask God with whom He would like you to share the gospel and whom He would like you to train. Write down their names and pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the way and work in the hearts of those on your lists.
- 2. Believe**—Remember that Christ promises us that His Spirit is already at work even before we get there, so expect the people on your lists to be responsive to God’s leading (John 16:7-11).
- 3. Ask**—Even if the people on your lists do not initially express an interest in taking the next step of faith, ask them if you can share with them the lesson that you are currently working on. Then use this opportunity to go through “Lesson 1—Plan of Salvation.” You just might find out that they are ready to respond once they have heard the message presented in a different way.

Lesson 6 Answer Sheet

LOOKING BACK

D. grace
truth
truth
grace
tolerance
harsh
ourselves
promise
gracious

LOOKING UP

I. Shame
A. Done
Convict
Disgrace
Am
Condemn
Feel
Am
Relational
True
False
Bad
B. Ashamed
Intimacy
Very
C. Hiding
Covered
Souls
Closeness
Hid
Restore
Confession
God
Isolate
Believe
Seeks
Afraid
Barrier
Removed
Fear
D. Hide
Religious
True
E. Family
Trust
Approach
Less
Distant
F. Distort
Hope
Compassion
Heal

II. Despising
Contrary
A. Grasp
Innocent
Serious
Sin
Separate
B. Grow
Shame
Discipleship
Religion
Love
Birth
Grace
Solution
Romantic
Grace
Compassionate
Eight
Truth
Dignity
C. Go
Lies
Think
Defeat
Foundational
Right
1. Pray
2. Images
Lifestyle
Shame
Peace
Sing
Promises
Speak
Penalty
Power
Presence
From
Memorizing
Spoken
Flee
God
You
Truth
Destiny
D. Get
Joy
Reward
Ruling
Faithfulness
Faithfully
New
Jesus
Shame

Lesson 7: GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

LOOKING BACK

- A. How is each of you doing? (Take some time to encourage one another and pray.)
- B. Time of worship (Sing a song or two of praise and worship.)
- C. Accountability
 - Are you having a daily time with God? How is that going?
 - How did you obey last week's lesson?
 - With whom have you shared the gospel? Who has believed?
 - When are you training them to share the gospel? Are you teaching them the six lessons?
 - Are you training them to train others (2 Timothy 2:2)? Are they doing this? Are the people whom they are training, training others?
- D. Great Commission Vision (Matthew 13:18-23; Luke 8:11-15).

As you continue to faithfully witness to people and train them, you will discover the truth and power of Jesus' parable of the sower. Some to whom you share the gospel will not receive or _____ it (Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:12). Others will believe the gospel but never really make a commitment to follow Christ and _____ fall away because of adversity (Matthew 13:20-21; Luke 8:13). They are "hearers only" of the Word like we talked about last week. They are not willing to follow Jesus regardless of the costs. A third type of person you will discover are those who believe in Jesus and start to follow Him, but they never bear much fruit because they are so _____ by other things (Matthew 13:22; Luke 8:14).

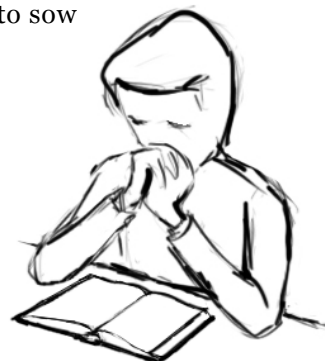
So far this has been disappointing. If this is the kind of response we can expect to get from many people, why go on? Jesus tells us why! He tells us to not become discouraged because, eventually, we will come across the fourth kind of person, a believer who bears _____ fruit (Matthew 13:23; Luke 8:15). Unless we are willing to endure those who reject our message, those who fall away and those who are too distracted, we will never discover the pure joy of finding those who are fruitful!

And notice that Jesus tells us that some of these fruitful ones will bear fruit a hundredfold (Matthew 13:23). One of the blessings you will experience if you continue to faithfully train people and hold one another accountable is that you will begin discovering these amazingly productive individuals. They will far exceed you in witnessing and planting new groups. We call these extraordinarily effective workers "super spreaders." The only way to find these "super spreaders" is to train _____ who believes the gospel. From among those who prove to be doers of the Word, you will discover those who demonstrate their giftedness through the fruit they bear. As these super spreaders emerge among us, we will begin to see a more significant movement take place in our _____ as well. But the whole process begins with those who are faithful to sow the seed—to share the gospel and train others.

LOOKING UP

I. God wants you to grow

Now that you are a child of God through faith alone in Jesus alone—a follower of Christ, you will want to continue to grow in your relationship with Him. We do this by spending time with God each day, learning from the Bible, and _____ His Holy Spirit's leading.



We also grow by regularly meeting with other believers who can speak into our lives as we apply God's Word to our lives together. Together, we fulfill Christ's central teachings of the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) as we worship and fellowship together, minister to those in need, obey His teachings, and _____ the message of God's grace.

II. God has a special plan for your life.

- A. There is a special reason that God saved you and chose you to be His child.

To understand this purpose, let's see what the Bible says about God's special purpose for us.

1. When the world was destroyed by flood, God saved Noah and his _____ (Genesis 6:9-7:1).
2. When God destroyed the city of Jericho, He saved Rahab and her _____ (Joshua 6:17-25).
3. When Cornelius believed in Jesus for salvation, his entire _____ believed in Jesus, and both he and his _____ were baptized (Acts 10:24-48).
4. When the Philippian jailer believed in Jesus, his entire _____ also believed in Christ and they were all baptized (Acts 16:23-34).

- B. Why do you think God saved you? What is His special purpose for you?

1. God wants you to win your _____ and friends to Christ as well.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you which five persons He wants you to tell your story to this week. Begin _____ for them now.
3. Prepare a time when you will tell them your story.
4. For those who respond, teach them the Lessons you've just learned:
a) The Plan of Salvation; b) Understanding Prayer; c) Having a Daily Time with God;
d) The God Who Saved Us; e) The Church, the Community of God; f) God's Will for Your Life

III. God wants you to be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- A. Each day as you spend time alone with God you can grow _____ in your understanding and relationship with Him.
- B. Each week as you meet with other believers as a church you can fulfill God's purposes of worship, fellowship, ministry, _____, and evangelism/missions.
- C. Each time you study God's word, whether alone, or as a community of believers, you can use the pattern you learned in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
1. **Teach** you—What truths does God want you to understand and believe?
 2. **Reprove** you—What false or sinful beliefs, actions, attitudes, words, and motives does God want you to confess and avoid?
 3. **Correct** you—What new beliefs, actions, attitudes, words, and motives does God want you to have?
 4. **Train you in righteousness**—What does God want you to apply to your life each day and week so that you develop a godly character and habits.

As you practice these disciplines, God's Word promises that you will become "*thoroughly equipped for every good work*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

IV. God wants you to see yourself as He sees you—Your New Identity in Christ

Circle below to whom or to what you are looking to define who you are:

your family	your past	your pain
your failures	your education	your appearance
your friends	your job	your teacher/coach
your achievements	your pastor/priest	a celebrity

What do all of the above items have in common? They can all _____. We _____ on the basis of what we _____ about ourselves. When John the Baptist was asked, “Who are you?” (John 1:22), to what did he turn to define his identity (see John 1:23)?

The only reliable and accurate source of information about you is the _____. The Bible tells you that your identity is determined by _____, not by _____.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ... having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever” (1 Peter 1:3, 23).

You are who you are because you were born into God’s family through _____ alone in Christ alone, not because you _____ your way into God’s family.

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, all things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

When you believed in Christ, you became a _____ person. You are now part of a royal family—God’s family—the church. Learning what that means takes time. You have been seeing yourself through one set of eyes for so long, that it is hard for you to believe you are a child of the King. But God now says to you, “You are MY CHILD through Jesus and that makes you royalty.” God now says, “I not only want to be in a relationship with you, but I also want to change the way you see yourself; because if I can change the way you see yourself, you will live a radically transformed life.”

You are not the same person you were before you became a Christian. You may ask, “*If I am not the same person I used to be, why do I still practice the same old ways and habits?*” Because _____ has deceived you into believing you are the same person you were before you came to Christ. And we act in the way we _____ ourselves to be.



**My STANDING ... the way
God sees me in Christ.**

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7).

Your behavior does not determine who you are. At the very core of your being you are God’s child and God wants you to learn to start acting in a way that is consistent with who you are.

_____ your actions starts with _____
your identity.

The phrase “in Christ” is used 120 times in the New Testament and refers to how _____ sees you after you become a Christian. If you are not the same person you were before you came to Christ, then who are you?

Turn in your Bible to the **Book of Ephesians**. The apostle Paul wrote this book to Christians who were living in the city of Ephesus, a sex-saturated society that was the home of the temple to Diana. Christians were enticed by temple teachings to live without restraint. Paul countered this godless culture by emphasizing the Christian's new identity in chapters 1-3, followed by a call to live in a way that is consistent with who they are in chapters 4-6. What Paul is saying will change the way you think about yourself and it *may* change your life!

A. You are an adopted _____ of God forever.

Ephesians 1:5a

The word "predestined" means God determined beforehand that all who believe in Christ will be adopted into His family. In the time that the apostle Paul wrote Ephesians, adopted children in Rome had all the rights of a natural born child in the new family and completely lost all rights in their old family. In the eyes of the law, the person adopted was a new person. So new that even all _____ and obligations connected with the previous family were abolished as if they had never existed. When you believed in Christ, you were adopted into God's family where you can now enjoy all the rights and privileges that God's only Son possesses. All your sin debt has been cancelled as if it never existed.

How would you respond to the temptation to sin if you see yourself more as a child of God who happens to sin sometimes instead of a sinner who always sins?

B. You are totally _____ by God.

"To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:6).

You are totally accepted by God because you are "in Christ." Because Christ has received you and He is fully accepted by God the Father, you are fully accepted by God, too. You do not need to change a thing about yourself for God to accept you. Your acceptance by God is not based on what you _____, but on who you _____ in Christ.

What would happen if you told yourself that "I am always accepted by God no matter what" when you are afraid of rejection?

C. You are totally _____ by God.

Ephesians 1:7

When Christ died for your sins, how many of them were future? _____
At the cross, God took every sin that you would ever commit and placed them all on Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus paid the penalty for all of your sins so you could be totally forgiven the moment you believed in Christ. Forgiveness means God has removed the _____ of all your sins so you can now enjoy closeness with God. What this means is that you can never lose your relationship with your heavenly Father. Just as you are born into your earthly family and can never cease to be your parents' child no matter what you do, so too, when you are born into God's family, you can never cease to be His child no matter how you live. You can sin as God's child without ever ceasing to be His child. But your sin will break that closeness with God just as disobeying your parents breaks your closeness with them. When you fail (and we all do), what does God say to do in order to restore closeness with Christ (see 1 John 1:9)?

What difference would it make if you see yourself as totally forgiven by God when you fail?

When we do sin, this does not change the fact that we are God's children at the very core of our being: *"We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him"* (1 John 5:18).

Satan cannot “touch” or _____ our born again nature. This is important to remember especially after being humbled by our sinful failures. The evil one would like to trick us into thinking that we are not really God’s children after we have failed, thus leading us into more failures. But if we know and embrace the truth found in 1 John 5:18, we can avoid the devil’s deception, and rise from our confession to the Lord knowing we are the same inwardly holy children we were before we sinned.

D. You are _____ next to the exalted Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:20-21; 2:6

According to Ephesians 1:20-21, where is Jesus Christ seated in relation to the devil?

According to Ephesians 2:6, where are you seated?

When God the Father looks to His right and sees His Son seated in a place of power above all other authorities, including the devil, He sees _____ sitting there with Him. What happened to Jesus 2,000 years ago happened to you when you believed in Christ for salvation.

What difference does it make to see yourself seated next to the exalted Lord Jesus Christ above all authorities when Satan comes knocking at your door to tempt you to get drunk, to do drugs, or to have sexual relations with someone outside of marriage?

E. You are God’s _____, not a _____.

Ephesians 2:10

The word “workmanship” comes from the Greek word *poiema* which is where we get our English word “poem” from. A poem is a collection of words that are specially chosen and put together so that they make a powerful statement that lasts. God is saying that you are His heavenly poem—you have been specially _____ by God to make a powerful statement about His grace that endures forever.

Another word that describes this is the term “masterpiece”—like a painting that has been specially created or like a potter carefully creating something out of clay that is unique and has his personality and stamp put on it. You are God’s Masterpiece—something He has poured Himself into to change your life. You used to be defined by sin and guilt, but now you are defined by being “in Christ.” And God sees in you holiness... beauty... and goodness. Everything He sees in Jesus Christ He now sees in you. You may see yourself as this person who has failed or who lacks certain abilities, but God sees you as His _____ masterpiece. What difference does it make to see yourself more as God’s masterpiece instead of a mistake when you are criticized or tempted to get discouraged?

F. You are God’s _____ temple.

Ephesians 2:21-22

The apostle Paul saw believers as a magnificent _____ created by Jesus Christ. You are now a dwelling place of God the Holy Spirit. God’s Spirit lives inside of you now:

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

Your purpose is to _____ the glory of God, not to draw attention to yourself or to other believers. You can do this by relying on God the Holy Spirit to empower you to live a holy life, a life that pleases the Lord Jesus. When you choose to _____, you are acting in a way that is contrary to who you are in Christ.

For example, if you see yourself as an alcoholic at the core of your being, what will be the most natural thing for you to do? _____. What will be the most unnatural thing for you to do? _____. But if you see yourself as a holy temple of God, what is the most natural thing for you to do? _____. Satan wants to convince you that you are a sinner. Why? Because sinning is accepted as natural. But if you realize you are a holy temple of God, then you will come to the conclusion that sinning compromises who you are. Sin is inconsistent with who you are at the core of your being.

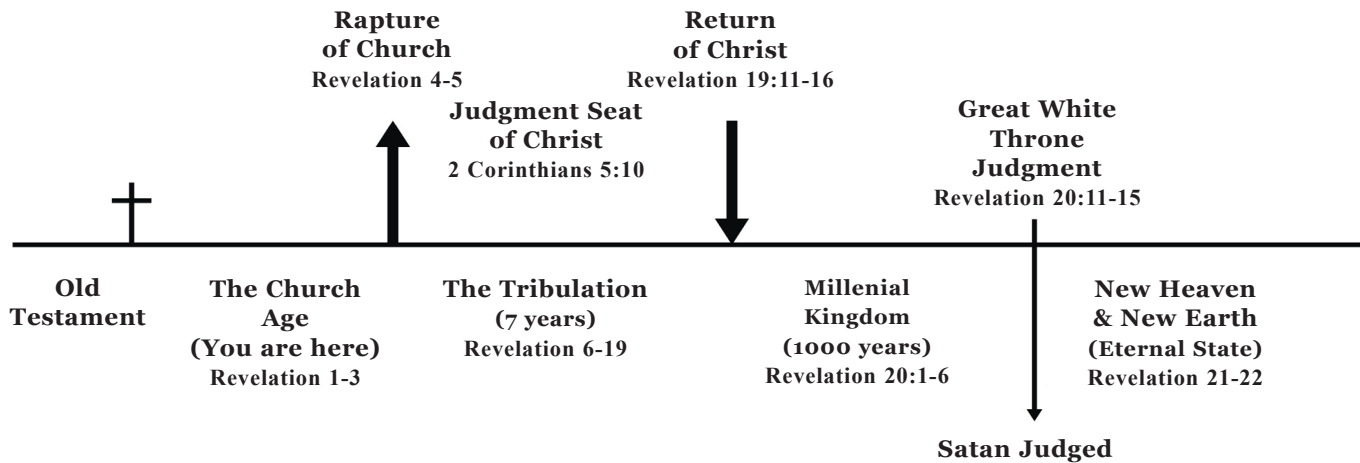
Let me ask you a question: **On what are you basing your identity?** For a whole lot of people, there have been events that have scarred their identity: abused as a child, not making the team, parents whose marriage failed, a moment of indiscretion, a sinful act... the scars are there and they are real. Good news! When you are “in Christ,” when you have trusted Him as your only hope of heaven, He gives you a _____ identity, and the past is gone. You’ve got potential. _____ now lives in you!!!!

*“I myself no longer live, but **Christ lives in me**. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20 NLT).*

V. Facing Christ at the Judgment Seat

- A. Satan and his demons have fought against God since the day they _____ (Isaiah 14:13-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19). You are now in this _____ for the souls of men and women, boys and girls all over the world. We may see this battle end very soon.
 - 1. Since the time of Satan’s rebellion, he has opposed God’s work through false teachers and _____ (2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 11-15). Satan’s churches teach many false things like works salvation, the Bible is not our final authority, Jesus is not _____, plus many more lies.
 - 2. The Bible warns believers to flee from _____ because people who worship idols are actually worshiping demons (1 Corinthians 10:14-20; 1 John 5:21; cf. Psalm 106:36-38; Revelation 9:20).
- B. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that our battle is not against _____, but against “principalities,” which are Satan’s frontline evil spirits. “Powers” refer to evil spirits which have delegated authority and “rulers of the darkness of this age” refers to evil spirits ruling parts of the world under Satan.
- C. Through discipleship you can _____ many people from Satan’s kingdom. Continue to share your story with people each week and the “Lesson 1–Plan of Salvation” because you do not have much time left.
- D. The last book of the Bible (Revelation) provides an outline of future events beginning with the current _____ age to the eternal state. The chart in the next page provides a summary of the events leading up to the end of this spiritual battle.

GOD'S PROPHETIC PLAN



1. We are living in the Church Age which began at Pentecost (Acts 2) and will end with the _____ or removal of the Church which could take place at any moment (John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-5:11).
 2. Soon after you are taken in the Rapture, seven years of _____ begins on the earth. This period begins when the Antichrist or Beast of Revelation makes a covenant with the nation of Israel (Daniel 9:26-27). This will be an awful time of death, disease, hunger, famine, earthquakes as never seen, warfare, entire seas turned to blood, darkness, scorching of the sun and multiple other judgments (Revelation 6–19). It will end when Jesus returns to earth with His Church and Christ will destroy His enemies (Revelation 17:12-14; Revelation 19:11-21). At that time, the Antichrist and False Prophet will be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20) and the Devil will be bound for a 1000 years (Revelation 20:2-3).
 3. Then Jesus will reign as _____ over the entire earth for a thousand years from the city of Jerusalem (Zechariah 14; Revelation 20:4-6). This period is called the “Millennium” which means one thousand.
 4. At the end of the Millennium, God will destroy the entire creation (2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 20:11). Every person who did not trust in Christ alone for the gift salvation will stand before God as He sits on the Great White Throne to judge each unbeliever according to their works to determine the degree of their punishment in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15). Satan will receive his final _____ in the lake of fire at this time.
 5. Then a New Heaven (Universe) and New Earth will be created which are _____ and beautiful (Revelation 21–22).
- E. Now you know how this spiritual battle will end. This should encourage you to live for what is _____ and not for that which is temporary. Why? There is **another Judgment**. During the Tribulation, in Heaven, you and other Christians will give an account for all your work for Christ. While Christians will never be judged to determine their eternal destiny since they already have eternal life (John 5:24), they will face another kind of judgment to determine what, if there's any, _____ they will receive in Christ's eternal Kingdom. This Judgment is to motivate us to be a faithful disciple and obey the Word of God. This is called the _____ **of Christ**.
1. _____ Christians must appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10) to determine what if any rewards they will receive for deeds done in their Christian lives (1 Corinthians 3:8-15).

2. Christians can earn heavenly _____ (Matthew 6:19-21) by giving a cup of cold water to God's servant (Matthew 10:42), doing a charitable deed in private (Matthew 6:3-4), praying in private (Matthew 6:6), and fasting in private (Matthew 6:17-18).
3. Christians who remain _____ in their service to Christ to the end of their lives will be given rewards that include wearing special white garments (Revelation 3:4-5), _____ with Christ (2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21), eating the fruit of the tree of life (Revelation 2:7), eating hidden manna (Revelation 2:17), receiving a white stone engraved with your own special name that only the Lord and you will know (Revelation 2:17) and receiving a special entrance into the New Jerusalem (Revelation 22:14).
4. Christians can also earn a crown of _____ for making disciples (1 Thessalonians 2:19), a crown of righteousness for loving the appearing of the Lord Jesus (2 Timothy 4:8), a crown of life for _____ trials and temptations until death (James 1:12), a crown of glory for faithfully shepherding others as a servant leader (1 Peter 5:4), and an imperishable crown for living a disciplined life (1 Corinthians 9:25).

By focusing on the Judgment Seat of Christ, you will develop a desire to please _____ rather than men. Because Christ is first in the life of a disciple and could come back at any moment, a disciple should seek to win as many people to Christ as possible and become more like the _____ who will evaluate his or her life at the Judgment Seat.

Revelation 7 gives us a picture of Heaven:

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:9-10).

What part of that multitude will be there because of you?

LOOKING AHEAD

A. Practice sharing Lesson 7 with one another.

B. As a group exercise, take the resource “Gospel of John Reading Guide” and study together the first passage listed, i.e., John 1:1-5. Use the four 2 Timothy 3:16 questions. Keep in mind that all four questions may not be relevant to every passage you read. In the coming weeks, your group will continue to study through the Gospel of John together followed by the Book of Romans.

C. Set goals and pray.

1. **Pray**—Ask God with whom He would like you to share the gospel and whom He would like you to train. Write down their names and pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the way and work in the hearts of those on your lists.
2. **Believe**—Remember that Christ promises us that His Spirit is already at work even before we get there, so expect the people on your lists to be responsive to God's leading (John 16:7-11).
3. **Ask**—Even if the people on your lists do not initially express an interest in taking the next step of faith, ask them if you can share with them the lesson that you are currently working on. Then use this opportunity to go through “Lesson 1—Plan of Salvation.” You just might find out that they are ready to respond once they have heard the message presented in a different way.

Resource: Gospel of John Reading Guide

As you study each Bible passage remember to apply 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and ask God to:

1. **Teach** you—What truths does God want you to understand and believe?
2. **Reprove** you—What false or sinful beliefs, actions, attitudes, thoughts, and motives does God want you to avoid or relinquish?
3. **Correct** you—What new beliefs, actions, attitude, thoughts, and motives does God want you to have?
4. **Train you in righteousness**—What does God want you to apply to your life each day and week so that you develop a godly character and habits?

Note: You will not find answers to every question in every passage. Also, the Bible does not always teach us with direct instruction. Sometimes it tells stories about people whose example we are to imitate or avoid.

Description of Passage	Verses
7 SIGNS TO PERSUADE NON-CHRISTIANS TO BELIEVE IN JESUS	JOHN 1–12
The Eternal Word	John 1:1-5
John's Witness: The True Light	John 1:6-13
The Word Becomes Flesh	John 1:14-18
John the Baptist Prepares the Way	John 1:19-28
Behold the Lamb of God	John 1:29-34
Jesus Calls His First Disciples	John 1:35-51
1 st Sign—Jesus Turns Water to Wine	John 2:1-12
Jesus Cleanses the Temple	John 2:13-25
You Must Be Born Again	John 3:1-21
John the Baptist Magnifies Jesus	John 3:22-36
Jesus Witnesses to a Samaritan Woman	John 4:1-26
The Disciples View the Whitened Harvest	John 4:27-38
Samaritans Trust Jesus as The Savior of the World	John 4:39-42
Galileans Welcome Jesus	John 4:43-45
2 nd Sign—Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son	John 4:46-54
3 rd Sign—Jesus Heals a Lame Man at Pool of Bethesda	John 5:1-15
Jesus' Equality with God the Father	John 5:16-30
Fourfold Witness to Jesus	John 5:31-47
4 th Sign—Jesus Feeds 5,000 Men	John 6:1-14
5 th Sign—Jesus Walks on the Sea	John 6:15-21
Jesus' Discourse on the Bread of Life	John 6:22-40
The Jews React against Jesus' Teaching	John 6:41-59
Many Disciples Turn Away from Jesus	John 6:60-71
Jesus' Brothers Disbelieve	John 7:1-9
Jesus Teaches at the Feast of Tabernacles	John 7:10-24
Could This Be the Christ?	John 7:25-31
Religious Leaders Seek to Arrest Jesus	John 7:31-36
Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit	John 7:37-39
The People Divided over Jesus	John 7:40-44

The Rulers Reject Jesus' Claims	John 7:45-52
An Adulteress before the Light of the World	John 7:53-8:12
Jesus Defends His Self-Witness	John 8:13-20
Jesus Predicts His Departure to the Father	John 8:21-29
The Truth Shall Make You Free	John 8:30-36
Abraham's Seed and Satan's	John 8:37-47
Before Abraham Was, I AM	John 8:48-59
6 th Sign—Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind	John 9:1-12
The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man	John 9:13-34
The Man's Belief and the Pharisee's Blindness	John 9:35-41
Jesus Is the True Shepherd	John 10:1-6
Jesus Is the Good Shepherd	John 10:7-21
Secure Forever in the Shepherd's Hands	John 10:22-30
Renewed Efforts to Stone Jesus	John 10:31-39
Many Believe in Jesus beyond the Jordan	John 10:40-42
Lazarus Dies at Bethany	John 11:1-16
Jesus Is the Resurrection and the Life	John 11:17-27
Jesus Shares the Sorrow of Death	John 11:28-37
7 th Sign—Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead	John 11:38-44
Religious Leaders Plot to Kill Jesus	John 11:45-57
Mary Anoints Jesus at Bethany	John 12:1-7
The Jews Plot to Kill Lazarus	John 12:8-11
Jesus Enters Jerusalem in Triumph	John 12:12-19
Jesus, The Fruitful Grain of Wheat	John 12:20-26
Jesus Predicts His Death on the Cross	John 12:27-36
Who Has Believed Our Report?	John 12:37-41
Believers Should Walk in the Light	John 12:42-50
INTIMACY WITH CHRIST EXPLAINED TO PERSUADE NON-CHRISTIANS TO BELIEVE IN JESUS	JOHN 13-17
Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet	John 13:1-11
Jesus Explains His Example	John 13:12-20
Jesus Predicts Judas' Betrayal	John 13:21-30
The New Commandment: Love as Christ Loved	John 13:31-35
Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial	John 13:36-38
Jesus Is the Way, the Truth, and the Life	John 14:1-6
Jesus Reveals the Father	John 14:7-11
Prayer in Jesus' Name	John 14:12-15
Jesus Promises Another Advocate	John 14:16-18
The Indwelling of the Father and the Son	John 14:19-24
The Gift of Jesus' Peace	John 14:25-31
The True Vine and Its Branches	John 15:1-8
Love as He Loved	John 15:9-17
Jesus Forewarns of Persecution	John 15:18-16:4

The Work of the Holy Spirit	John 16:5-15
Sorrow Will Turn to Joy	John 16:16-24
Jesus Christ Has Overcome the World	John 16:25-33
Jesus Prays for Himself	John 17:1-5
Jesus Prays for His Disciples	John 17:6-19
Jesus Prays for All Believers	John 17:20-26
8th SIGN TO PERSUADE NON-CHRISTIANS TO BELIEVE IN JESUS	JOHN 18–21
Jesus Betrayed and Arrested in Gethsemane	John 18:1-11
Jesus Victorious in His Trials as Peter Fails in His	John 18:12-40
Jesus Mocked and Crowned with Thorns	John 19:1-4
Pilate Persuaded to Crucify Jesus	John 19:5-16
Jesus Is Crucified	John 19:17-24
Jesus Provides for His Mother	John 19:25-27
It Is Finished	John 19:28-30
A Soldier Pierces Jesus' Side	John 19:31-37
Joseph and Nicodemus Bury Jesus	John 19:38-42
8 th Sign—Jesus' Resurrection	John 20:1-10
Mary Magdalene Sees the Risen Lord	John 20:11-18
The Disciples Are Commissioned	John 20:19-23
Thomas Sees and Believes	John 20:24-29
These Are Written That You May Believe	John 20:30-31
The Miraculous Catch of Fish	John 21:1-14
Jesus Restores Peter	John 21:15-19
The Beloved Disciple and His Book	John 21:20-25

Lesson 7 Answer Sheet

LOOKING BACK

D. Believe
Soon
Distracted
Much
Everyone
Country

LOOKING UP

I. Obeying
Spread

II. A. 1. Household
2. Household
3. Household
Household
4. Household

B. 1. Family
2. Praying

III. A. Deeper
B. Discipleship

IV. Change
Behave
Believe
The Bible—Isaiah 40:3
Bible
Birth
Behavior
Faith
Worked
New
Satan
Perceive
Changing
Clarifying
God
A. Child
Debts
B. Accepted
Do
Are
C. Forgiven
All of them
Barrier
Confess your sins to God
Harm
D. Seated
Far above him
Next to Jesus Christ
You

E. Masterpiece
Mistake
Chosen
Awesome
F. Holy
Temple
Reflect
Sin
Get Drunk
Stay Sober
Stay Sober
New
Jesus

V. A. Rebelled
Battle
1. Churches
God
2. Idolatry
B. People
C. Rescue
D. Church
1. Rapture
2. Tribulation
3. King
4. Punishment
5. Perfect
E. Eternal
Rewards
Judgment Seat
1. All
2. Treasure
3. Faithful
Ruling
4. Rejoicing
Enduring
God
Judge

Lesson 8: ABIDING IN CHRIST'S WORD

LOOKING BACK

- A. How is each of you doing? (Take some time to encourage one another and pray.)
- B. Time of worship (Sing a song or two of praise and worship.)
- C. Accountability
 - Are you having a daily time with God? How is that going?
 - How did you obey last week's lesson?
 - With whom have you shared the gospel? Who has believed?
 - When are you training them to share the gospel? Are you teaching them the seven lessons?
 - Are you training them to train others (2 Timothy 2:2)? Are they doing this?
Are the people whom they are training, training others?
 - Are you having any difficulty in training others?
- D. Great Commission Vision (Matthew 28:18-20).

With these simple yet profound words, Jesus gives His followers both their _____ assignment until He returns and the promise upon which their success is guaranteed.

The main emphasis is placed on the central command to "*make disciples*." Note that the command is to make disciples, not just _____. "Go," "baptizing," and "teaching" reveal three important aspects of making disciples:

Go: We must take the initiative to reach _____ people everywhere by preaching the gospel (Mark 16:15). We cannot wait for people to come to us.

Baptizing: People must be baptized into the Trinity. Baptism is the public testimony that the individual desires to follow Christ as His disciple after he has placed his faith in Christ. The words "into," and "Father ... Son" strongly suggests that this baptism is also a sign that the person has entered Christ's family and has pledged submission to His _____ as His disciple.

Teaching: As members of Christ's family and as those who have pledged submission to His Lordship, Christians must learn how to live accordingly. Note carefully what is to be _____. The verse does not say the goal is to teach commandments, rather, the goal is to teach _____. There is a tremendous difference between teaching commandments and teaching obedience. To simply inform people of Christ's will for them does not accomplish Christ's purpose. We must teach (and encourage and empower) people to obey. Note also that they are to be taught to obey "all things that I have commanded." This means we must teach them to obey the whole will of Christ, leaving nothing out. We must not be satisfied with the _____ obedience which can so easily become the norm. Rather, we must constantly search the Scriptures, asking ourselves, "Have we obeyed everything which is written here? And, "How can we obey more faithfully?"

Finally, we are to persevere in these three things "to the end of the age," i.e., until Jesus returns for His people. With these words, Jesus shows that these instructions are for _____ believers until He returns, including us! The assignment just described may seem overwhelming. However, as we go to make disciples, baptizing them and striving to teach them to obey all that Jesus commanded, we can go with confidence. We are assured of our ultimate success, because Christ now has all authority and has promised to be with us in a special way ("Lo, I am with you always") to the end of the age if we obey Him. This

is referring to more than Jesus' personal presence which is guaranteed for all believers (Heb. 13:5). Christ guarantees to back you up with _____ you need to make disciples (i.e., protection, strength, people, resources, etc.) as you trust and obey Him.

LOOKING UP

Beginning with this meeting, we will study a passage of the Bible each week as our new lesson. We will use the resource "Gospel of John Reading Guide" followed by the "Book of Romans Reading Guide" to determine which passage we will study each week. This will be the pattern we will follow from now on. Today we will study John 1:6-13. As a group, we will use the same Bible study method from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that you have been using for individual study.

1. ***What does God want to teach us in this passage? What truths does God want us to understand and believe?***
2. ***How does God reprove us in this passage? What false or sinful beliefs, actions, thoughts, attitudes, words, and motives does God want us to confess to Him and avoid?***
3. ***How does God want to correct us in this passage? What new beliefs, actions, thoughts, attitudes, words, and motives does God want us to have?***
4. ***How does God train us in righteousness in this passage? What does God want us to apply to our lives each day and week so that we develop godly character and habits?***

LOOKING AHEAD

In the light of studying this passage and discussing the four questions from 2 Timothy 3:16, take ten minutes to prayerfully write down your answers to the following questions:

- A. **Listen:** What did you sense God say to you personally? What was the main thing He impressed on you?
- B. **Reconcile:** Is there something you need to confess to God and ask His forgiveness for? Is there someone with whom you need to seek reconciliation?
- C. **Obey:** Is there something specific that God wants to change in your life or that He wants you to do? What will you do this week as a first step of obedience?

Remember that B and C may not be relevant in all cases. Some Bible passages may not lead to those questions. In those cases, you can just focus on question A.

(After ten minutes) Does anyone want to share some of what you wrote down and how the group can pray for you?

Keep your sheet of paper each week in a folder as a record of how God is working in your life. Take time to go over these papers from time to time as a reminder. ***Remember: The first and foundational step of Discipleship is abiding in Christ's Word every day (John 8:31-32).** Continue in Christ's Word and continue to meet with your trainer and trainees and you will grow spiritually and your life will become more like Christ's.

Set goals and pray.

1. **Pray**—Ask God with whom He would like you to share the gospel and whom He would like you to train. Write down their names and pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the way and work in the hearts of those on your lists.
2. **Believe**—Remember that Christ promises us that His Spirit is already at work even before we get there, so expect the people on your lists to be responsive to God's leading (John 16:7-11).
3. **Ask**—Even if the people on your lists do not initially express an interest in taking the next step of faith, ask them if you can share with them the lesson that you are currently working on. Then use this opportunity to go through "Lesson 1—Plan of Salvation." You just might find out that they are ready to respond once they have heard the message presented in a different way.

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"
(2 Timothy 2:2).

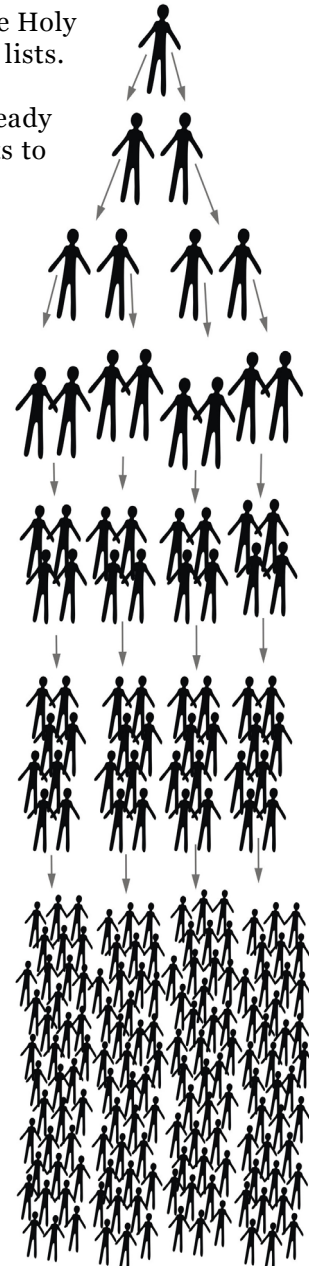
God wants to use you to change the world for Christ _____
person at a time.

Resource: Book of Romans Reading Guide

As you study each Bible passage, remember to apply 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and ask God to:

1. **Teach** you—What truths does God want you to understand and believe?
2. **Reprove** you—What false or sinful beliefs, actions, attitudes, thoughts, and motives does God want you to avoid or relinquish?
3. **Correct** you—What new beliefs, actions, attitude, thoughts, and motives does God want you to have?
4. **Train you in righteousness**—What does God want you to apply to your life each day and week so that you develop a godly character and habits?

Note: You will not find answers to every question in every passage. Also, the Bible does not always teach us with direct instruction. Sometimes it tells stories about people whose example we are to imitate or avoid.



Description of Passage	Verses
THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TO DELIVER FROM GOD'S WRATH	Romans 1:1–18
The Author: Paul, The Subject: The Gospel	Romans 1:1-6
The Recipients: The Roman Christians	Romans 1:7-15
The Gospel's Power Delivers the Justified from God's Present Wrath	Romans 1:16-19
ALL UNRIGHTEOUS HUMANITY SUFFERS UNDER GOD'S WRATH	Romans 1:20–3:20
The Gentiles Suffer under God's Wrath	Romans 1:20-32
The Moralists Suffers under God's Wrath	Romans 2:1-16
The Jew Suffers under God's Wrath	Romans 2:17-3:8
The Guilt of All Humanity	Romans 3:9-20
DELIVERANCE FROM SIN'S PENALTY (JUSTIFICATION)	Romans 3:21–5:11
God's Righteousness Comes by Faith Alone in Christ's Substitutionary Death	Romans 3:21-31
Examples of Justification by Faith Alone from the Old Testament	Romans 4:1-25
Justification by Faith Alone in Christ's Death Provides Sanctifying Power	Romans 5:1-11
DELIVERANCE FROM SIN'S POWER (SANCTIFICATION)	Romans 5:12–8:39
Death in Adam, Resurrection Life in Christ	Romans 5:12-21
Freedom from Sin	Romans 6:1-14
Slavery to Righteousness	Romans 6:15-23
Freedom from the Law	Romans 7:1-6
The Law Intensifies Sin in Justified Believers	Romans 7:7-12
The Law's Inability to Sanctify Justified Believers	Romans 7:13-25
The Holy Spirit's Ability to Overcome Sin	Romans 8:1-11
Sonship through the Holy Spirit	Romans 8:12-17a
Suffering for Christ Leads to Greater Glory	Romans 8:17b-30
God Will Never Abandon Christians Who Suffer for Christ	Romans 8:31-39
ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE FROM GOD'S WRATH	Romans 9:1–11:36
God's Sovereign Use of Israel in the Past	Romans 9:1-29
God Has Temporarily Set Israel Aside Due to Her Rejection of His Righteousness	Romans 9:30–10:3
Israel Can Escape God's Temporal Wrath through Justification and Sanctification	Romans 10:4-21
God Extends Mercy to the Gentiles Now and to Israel in the Future	Romans 11:1-32
Praise for God's Wise Plans	Romans 11:33-36
SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS	Romans 12:1–16:27
Live a Life of Surrender to God in View of His Great Mercy	Romans 12:1-2
Serve God with the Loving Use of Spiritual Gifts	Romans 12:3-21
Obey the Government	Romans 13:1-7
Love Others in View of Our Hope	Romans 13:8-14
Serve by Showing Sensitivity to Others	Romans 14:1-23
Glorify God by Bearing With Christians Whose Faith Is Weak In Disputable Matters	Romans 15:1-6
Paul's Ministry	Romans 15:14-33
The Importance of Accepting One Another	Romans 15:7-13
Commendation of Phoebe and Greetings to Christians at Rome	Romans 16:1-16
Avoid Divisive People	Romans 16:17-20
Greetings from Paul's Friends and Paul's Benediction	Romans 16:21-27

Lesson 8 Answer Sheet

LOOKING BACK

D. Main

Converts

All

Lordship

Taught

Obedience

Partial

All

Everything

One