

Faith
BUILDERS
101

Foundations

(Resource adapted with permission from The Discipleship Ministry)

The Discipleship Ministry exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to
“Make Disciples of All Nations”

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“Scripture taken from the NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION™,”



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How to Use This Study guide

Purpose

This study is designed to help Christians glorify Jesus Christ and equip them to disciple others! It can be used for personal study, new Christian follow-up, one on one discipleship, small group discipleship or training seminars.

Follow-Up & Discipleship

New Christians should be taught these lessons immediately after becoming a Christian in order to ground them in their new found Faith. Train and challenge those you are studying with to do this study with other people. Each time they share these lessons with another person, it will not only help them in their Christian life, but they will also continue to grow as they gain a greater understanding of God's Word!

Procedure

The Lesson

- Read through each lesson, paying careful attention to all Scripture references.
- Instructions, indicated by bullets, include directions to underline, circle or read specific sections of Scripture. They help you observe and retain significant truths in the Bible!
- Answer the questions in the space provided.
- Complete all assigned applications.

**“The purpose of Scripture is not simply to be informed,
but to be transformed!”**



God's Assurance

Introduction

If you died today, how sure are you that you have eternal life?
Put a tick ✓ on the line below that reflects your answer.

Not Sure Maybe Quite Sure Very Sure

There are many people who have attended church for years who are still not absolutely certain. Being sure you have eternal life involves being certain of your decision to trust in Jesus Christ as Savior! The following four truths explain this important decision.

Four Truths

1. God, Our Creator, Loves Us!

*"For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish
but have eternal life."
John 3:16*

- Circle the word that describes God's attitude toward us.
- Underline the phrase that explains how God demonstrated His Love.
- Underline what we must do to obtain Eternal life.
- Circle to whom eternal life is offered to.

God's Love

Love is translated from the Greek word '**Agape**' which describes a love that is spiritual more than emotional. Where as emotional love is often self-centered, 'Agape' love values the thing loved, and seeks its best no matter the cost to the one loving it.

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;
I (Jesus) have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full."
John 10:10*

- Underline why Jesus said He came.
- Circle what kind of life He wants us to have.

2. Our Sin Has Separated Us From God!

*"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"
Romans 3:23*

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

- Circle how many people have sinned.
- Underline the result of sin.

Spiritual death

The penalty for our sin is death. This death is more than just our bodies dying; it is spiritual separation from God. At our physical death, this separation becomes eternal.

The separation between sinful man and God is so vast that, no matter how “good” we may be, we are powerless to bridge it. Doing so would be like swimming across the Pacific Ocean. No matter how good a swimmer one might be, even the best will fail!

3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, Died On the Cross for Our Sins!

*“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6*

 Circle three things Jesus claims for Himself.

 Circle who is able to come to God apart from Christ



What does Jesus mean when He claims to be “the Way”? “the Truth”? “the Life”?

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8*

 Underline how God has demonstrated His love for us

 Circle what condition we were in when God loved us.

*“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and
that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.
After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers
at the same time, most of whom are still living,
though some have fallen asleep.
Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all
he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.”
1 Corinthians 15:3-6*

 Underline four things Christ did.

 Circle all the people Christ appeared alive to after rising from the dead.



Do you think all of these people could have been mistaken? Why or Why not?

4. We Must Receive Jesus Christ As Savior and Lord!

*"Yet to all who received him,
to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God"*
John 1:12

 Circle the two things we must do to become children of God

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith
and this not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God not by works,
so that no one can boast."*
Ephesians 2:8-9

 Circle how we are saved.
 Underline why God chose to save us through faith instead of by works

Receiving Christ

Have you personally received Jesus Christ as your Savior and trusted in Him to forgive your sins? If not, you would like to wouldn't you? Pray the following prayer to make this all important decision right now!



"Dear Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned against You and need your forgiveness. Thank You for dying on the cross in my place for my sins. I receive you into my life and trust in You alone as my Savior and God. In Your name I pray. Amen!"

The phrase 'receive Christ' is used to describe the act of believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and trusting in all He has done on the cross to purchase our forgiveness.

Important

It is not the words that are important but our faith. We must trust Christ to forgive our sins because He promised He would.

Assurance of Eternal Life

Read the following Bible passage and answer the questions below to learn how you can be certain you have eternal life in Jesus Christ.

*And this is the testimony:
God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
He who has the Son has life;
he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
I write these things to you who believe
in the name of the Son of God
so that you may know that you have eternal life."*
1 John 5:11-13

-  Circle what God has given to us according to 1 John 5:11-13.
-  Underline where eternal life is found
-  Circle what a person has if he has Jesus Christ.
-  Circle what a person does not have if he does not have Jesus Christ.
-  According to this passage, can a person know for sure he has eternal life? Yes No

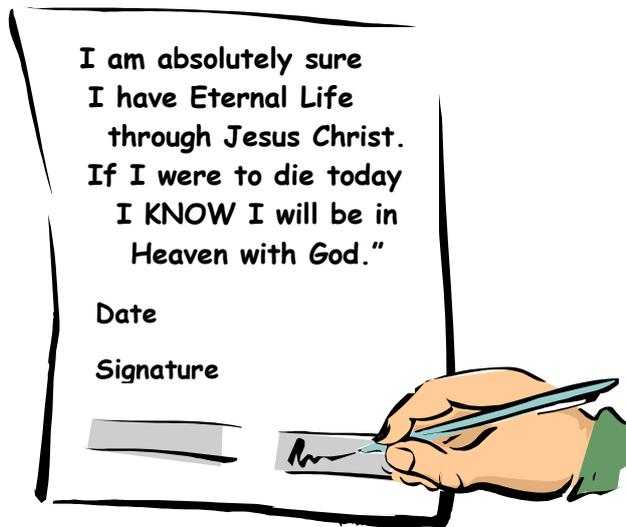
- ✎ Underline this passage's answer to this question.
- ✎ Circle who can 'know' they have eternal life.
- ✎ Do you have Christ in your life? Yes No
- ✎ If 'yes' what else did you receive from God?
 - A perfect face and body to match.*
 - Financial riches*
 - Eternal life*

Basis for Our Assurance

Eternal life is not based on how good we are, or how we feel. It is based on our faith in Jesus Christ. Notice that the teaching in 1 John 5:11-13 is written to those who "believe in the Name of the Son of God"! 📖 Romans 1:16-17

Application

We will close with the same question we began. "If you died today, are you sure you have eternal life?"



If you are still not sure you have eternal life, review 1 John 5:11-13. Discuss any questions you may have with your Pastor, elder, small group leader or Christian friend. It is important that you understand this lesson for it is the foundation of all the others!

Place your faith in the faithfulness of God Himself and the trustworthiness of His Word. The more you learn of His Word, the more you will be able to answer any doubts with solid facts. Your feelings will begin to respond to the truth of God's Word and not your circumstances.

A Prayer

Father, I praise You for You have promised eternal life to all who believe in your Son Jesus Christ. And Your promises are sure for You cannot lie, nor do You change Your mind. You are faithful in all Your ways, and I thank you for the assurance I have in Christ!

Affirmation

1. Christ died on the cross for me.
2. God will receive me in heaven when I die because He promised He would.
3. I have eternal life because I have Christ!

Suggestion for further exploration:



Book - The Case for Christ: A journalist's personal investigation of the evidence for Jesus
 Author: Lee Strobel

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God's Forgiveness

Introduction

How would you complete the following statement?

When a person becomes a Christian, ...

- only those sins that he confesses are forgiven.*
- all of his sins in the past are forgiven, but not those in the future.*
- he becomes perfect and unable to ever sin again.*
- all of our sins past, present & future are forgiven.*

A problem facing all Christians is sin. In the next two lessons, we will not only learn the correct answer to the above statement, but also God's solution to help Christians overcome sin in their lives!

Dealing with Sin

This study will answer four questions that will teach us how to deal with sin in our lives.

1. What is sin?
2. Who sins?
3. What is God's solution for sin?
4. What should we do when we sin?

1. What is Sin?

The word sin translates a Greek word which means "missing the mark" or "to do wrong". It describes the distance between where an arrow lands and the bull's eye of the intended target. Notice how it is used in the following Bible passage.

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
Romans 3:23

Romans 3:23 describes Sin as falling "short of the glory of God". Sin is Man's failure to live up to the perfect standard of God. We have all broken God's perfect moral law, either in

action or in thought. Even our failure to do what we know is right is sin! So there is no one innocent or perfect among us!

Sin's Results

"The soul who sins is the one who will die."
Ezekiel 18:20

 Circle the word that describes the result of sin.

Do you believe people who are guilty of violating the moral law (law of goodness or badness of human action/character) should be punished? So does God! Sin brings God's judgment of death on all who are guilty of breaking God's perfect moral law.

2. Who Sins?

*"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
Romans 3:23*

 Circle the word that describes who God considers a sinner.

*"If we claim to be without sin,
we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us ...
if we claim we have not sinned,
we make (God) out to be a liar and
his word has no place in our lives.
1 John 1:8,10*

 Underline how 1 John 1:8 & 10 describes Christians who claim they are without sin or have not sinned.

 Proverbs 20:9, Ecclesiastes 7:20

3. What is God's Solution for Sin?

Read the Bible passages below that describe God's solution for sin.

In Colossians 2:13-14, the apostle Paul uses an illustration from the legal profession. During his time, convicted criminals were issued a "written code" which listed all the crimes they had committed as well as their penalty sentenced by the court. After fulfilling their sentence, the court took the "written code" and stamped over it the Greek word **'tetelestal'**, which means **'Paid in Full'**. This was the exact word Christ used in John 19:30 when He said, "It is finished", just before He died on the cross!

*"When you were dead in your sins and
in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature,
God made you alive with Christ.
He forgave us all our sins,
having cancelled the written code,
with its regulations,
that was against us and that stood opposed to us;
he took it away, nailing it to the cross."
Colossians 2:13-14*

*"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.'
With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."
John 19:30*

*"God made him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
2 Corinthians 5:21*

 Circle how many of our sins God forgave (Colossians 2:13-14.)

 Underline what God did with the "written code" that contained a list of our sins and the penalty of death.

(By "nailing it to the cross" God was in essence making His Son, Jesus, pay for our sins by dying on the cross in our place. If Jesus didn't pay for our sins, we would have to!)

 Circle the phrase "It is finished" in John 19:30. Write **'Paid in Full'** above it.

 Underline why God did this according to 2 Corinthians 5:21.



Could God have forgiven us without having to sacrifice His Son on the cross? Why or why not?

The death of Jesus Christ satisfies two attributes of God. It satisfied His Holiness which required that sin be punished, and it satisfied His love which desired man's salvation. Through the sacrifice of Jesus, God is able to demonstrate His love for man while maintaining His Holiness!

4. What Should We Do When We Sin?

1 John 1:9 has been called “**The Christian’s bar of soap**” because it contains the key to dealing with sin in our lives. This verse describes the action we must take whenever we sin.

*“If we confess our sins,
(God) is faithful and just and
will forgive us our sins and
purify us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:9*

 Circle the word that describes this action.

The word ‘**Confess**’ comes from a Greek word which means to agree. To confess is to agree with God that we have sinned! Notice also that the above verse is a conditional statement. If we confess our sins, God will do two things for us.

 Underline those two things.

Application

1. Pray and ask God to reveal any sins which you have not confessed to Him.
2. Confess them to God by agreeing that you have sinned. Don’t make excuses for your sins.
3. Turn away from sin and ask God to help you keep from committing them again.
4. Claim the two promises which God makes to those who confess their sins according to 1 John 1:9.
5. Thank God for His forgiveness as an expression of your faith!
6. Memorize 1 John 1:9

More Good News!

*“Then He adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”
Hebrews 10:17*

*“As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”
Psalms 103:12*

*“Come now, and let us reason together, ‘Says the Lord,’
Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.”
Isaiah 1:18*

The Bible passages illustrate our forgiveness in 3 different ways.

- Recognizing that God knows all things, what do you think it means when it says “*He will remember our sins no more*”? (Hebrews 10:17)
- How far is the east from the west? (Psalm 103:12)

- How white is snow? (Isaiah 1:18)
- From these verses, how complete is our forgiveness in Christ?

Suggestion for further exploration:

FAQ (frequently Asked Questions)

1. Q: Are all my sins forgiven by God or just the past ones?

A: Christ died for all our sins: past, present and future.

 Hebrews 10:8-18

2. Q: If God has already forgiven all my sins, why then do I have to confess them to Him?

A: Confession, allows you to experience the forgiveness that is already yours in Christ. Sin breaks your fellowship with God, not your relationship with Him. Your relationship with God as His child is based on His unconditional love for you, but your fellowship with Him depends on your keeping an intimate walk with Him. Whereas sin destroys this intimacy, confession restores it!

3. Q: What if I still feel guilty even after confessing?

A: Any guilt remaining after genuine confession is not from God. Satan, our accuser, delights in keeping us on a guilt trip to keep us serving God!

 Job 1:1-11, Zechariah 3:1, Revelation 2:9-10

4. Q: Why should I confess my sins regularly?

A: Regular confession of our sins keeps our fellowship with God open and fresh. It also keeps our heart sensitive to God's Spirit. Continual sin hardens the heart toward God.

 Psalm 66:18

5. Q: What about restitution?

A: If your sin has hurt others, you should ask their forgiveness, and make restitution if necessary.

 Matthew 5:23-24

6. Q: How often should I confess my sins?

A: As mentioned above, 1 John 1:9 is the "Christian's bar of soap". Just as you wash yourself with real soap as often as necessary, so should you confess as often as necessary? Confess your sins as soon as God convicts you of them. Any delay allows Satan the opportunity to gain a "foothold" in our lives.

 Ephesians 4:26-27

God's Power

Introduction

How would you complete the following? The most essential ingredient to living the Christian life is to ...

- fill your heart and mind with Scripture.*
- pray as much as you are able.*
- attend Christian meetings for inspiration.*
- get involved in ministry.*
- choose to do what is right and Godly*
- none of the above.*

Each of the above choices are important to living the Christian life, but none of them qualifies as the “most essential” because all fail to adequately deal with the primary obstacle Christians must overcome. This obstacle not only makes the Christian life difficult to live, but impossible to live! In this lesson, we will learn about God’s provision to overcome this problem!

Why We Can’t Live the Christian Life

The primary obstacle that hinders Christians is the sin nature. Contrary to the belief that we are all born innocent, Scripture teaches that we do not become sinners, but that we are already born sinners. Consider the following written by King David, whom God described as a “man after my own heart”.

*“Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”
Psalm 51:5*

From the moment we were conceived, we were already damaged with a fatal flaw ... an inherited condition which makes sinning part of our very nature!



If we are sinful at birth, where then do you think sin comes from?  Psalm 58:3, Job 15:14, Romans 5:12

Read how the following Scriptures describe the problem.

*“There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.
All have turned away, they have together become worthless;
There is no one who does good, not even one.”
Romans 3:10-12*

“(Jesus said) ‘For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean’.”

Mark 7:21-23

*“the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.”
Romans 8:7-8*

Because of our sinful nature, no matter how many Scriptures we know, no matter how often we pray, no matter how many inspirational meetings we attend, no matter how involved we are in ministry, or no matter how strong our will to do right, our best efforts will fail because they do not deal with the main problem! When done in our own strength, these activities simply produce spiritual pride! But God has provided a solution for us!

God's Solution

God's solution to our sin nature is to give us a new nature! He did this by putting His Holy Spirit in us at the moment we received Jesus Christ!

Read the following Scriptures that describe this miracle.

"Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again'."
John 3:5-7

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

"to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."
Ephesians 4:23-24

 Circle the words in the above passages that refer to our new nature. God's Spirit imparts God's nature and power in us!

Religion vs Christianity

Many religions teach that we must conform ourselves to a standard of spiritual principles or laws in order to reach perfection. Christianity teaches that man is incapable of transforming himself. What is needed is a totally new life!

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."
Ezekiel 36:26-27

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the world."
Acts 1:8

-  Circle three things God gives to us in Ezekiel 36:26-27.
-  Underline two things which result when God puts His Spirit in us.
-  Circle what we receive when the Holy Spirit comes on us in Acts 1:8. (The word "power" here means "the ability to carry out a task.") God's Spirit gives us the desire (Ezekiel 36:26-27) and the power (Acts 1:8) to do His will!



What is significant about the phrases "heart of stone" and "heart of flesh"
 Colossians 3:10

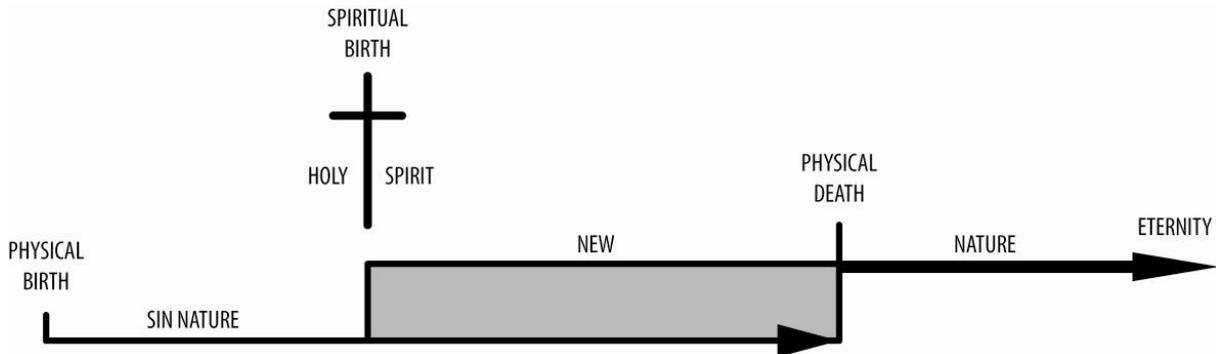
God's Spirit in Us

The desire in you to please God is the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart. It is evidence of the new nature you inherited when you were born again by God's Spirit.

Read Philippians 2:13 from The Living Bible.

*"For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants."
Philippians 2:13 (TLB)*

Applying God's Solution



The above diagram illustrates our situation as Christians. We are born into this world with a **'sin nature'**. But the moment we trust in Jesus Christ for forgiveness, we are "born again" with a **'new nature'**, which is not only the new me, but the real me! The sin nature or old me, can never please God and does not even want to, but our new nature not only desires to please God, but is able to by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 7:22, Philippians 2:13

Notice that the Christian's sin nature will cease at the moment of death, while our new nature will continue for eternity! The challenge we face in this life is the battle between these two natures to rule in our minds, our hearts and our bodies. They are at war within us! The good news is that this struggle is temporary (shaded area)! Once we are free of the sin nature, our New Nature will be unhindered to do all that God desires! Galatians 5:16-17



Can you recall incidents in your life when your new nature and sin nature battled within you?

It is important to understand that the key to victory is **God's Spirit** within us. Only by allowing His Spirit to live through us will we experience God's will and power in us! (see Philippians 2:13)

Be Filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 teaches us how to apply God's provision to overcome sin.

*"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit."
Ephesians 5:18*

Circle what we are to do with the Spirit.

The word "filled" means to be filled to the full! A person "filled with the Spirit" leaves no room for the sin nature to control his life! The following properties of the verb "filled" help us to understand and apply it.

Command: This verb teaches that we are “filled with the Spirit” by an act of our will! God is not asking us to be filled with his Spirit if we feel like it. God is commanding us to be filled. No matter how we feel ... no matter what our circumstances, we can choose to be filled and allow God to rule in our lives!

God’s Work: This verb also indicates that it is God who fills us. We simply make ourselves available to Him! As we yield our lives to God, His Spirit empowers us with His desire and ability!

Present Tense: Finally, this verb commands us to continually allow God’s Holy Spirit to fill us – moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day. No breaks and no allowance for the sin nature to reign!

How can we be sure God will fill us with His Holy Spirit?

Because He said He would, and God does not lie!  Titus 1:2
Read His Promise below.

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to His will,
He hears us.
And if we know that he hears – whatever we ask –
we know that we have what we asked of Him.”
1 John 5:14-15*

-  Circle the attitude we should have when we approach God.
-  Underline what kind of request God hears.
-  Underline the result when God hears our Prayer.

Praying for God’s Will

1 John 5:14 can be applied whenever we pray for anything **according to God’s will**. We can be confident God will answer that prayer because He promised He would!

1. Is it God’s will for us to be filled with His Spirit? Yes No
2. If we ask God to fill us with His Spirit, will He hear us Yes No
3. If we know God will hear us, can we be sure we are filled? Yes No

Application

The following steps can help us experience God’s power continually:

1. **Confess** – Not being filled to the full with God’s Spirit is sin. Confess this to God and claim His forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)
2. **Be Filled with the Holy Spirit** – Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit! Allow Him to reign in your mind, your heart and your body!



“Dear God, forgive me for allowing sin to rule in my life. I now yield my heart, my mind and my body to You, and ask You to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I want YOU to reign in my life! Thank you, LORD, for hearing and answering my prayer! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Suggestion for further exploration:



God centred resources from the ministry of John Piper –

Listen to MP3 teaching sermons

<http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByTopic/>

4 Fellowship

Introduction

A baby is born. Ten years later, they are still the same size and maturity when they were born! Your immediate reaction is:

- “Wow! He’s still so cute!”
- “Well ... I guess some babies grow slower than others.”
- “Get this kid to a doctor ... NOW!”

It doesn’t take a doctor to figure out that the baby in our story is not normal. Normal babies grow and mature. It is abnormal not to!

When God placed His Holy Spirit in you at the moment you trusted Christ for forgiveness, you were “born again” spiritually. Instantly you became a member of God’s eternal family, a “new creation” in Christ, created to grow to maturity and destined to glorify Christ through your life.

📖 1 Peter 1:23, John 1:12, 2 Corinthians 6:18, 1 Peter 2:2

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.”
2 Peter 3:18*

The next four lessons will teach you principles that will help you establish a lifestyle that will promote spiritual growth in your Christian life. As in the physical world, growth takes time, and attaining spiritual maturity requires patience. But if you will discipline your life and apply these principles, spiritual growth will be the inevitable supernatural outcome!

“Strength in numbers!”

The first principle to ensure spiritual growth is to establish strong relationships with other growing Christians.

On fire for Jesus!

Even as coals burn hotter longer when piled together, in the same way Christians who join together in spiritual fellowship will stoke one another’s faith in God, and inflame each other’s love for Him! Here are a few reasons why we should join ourselves together in Christian fellowship.

Encouragement

*“Let us not give up meeting together,
as some are in the habit of doing,
but let us encourage one another and
all the more
as you see the Day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:25*

-  Underline what we are not to do.
-  Circle the words “give up”. The words mean to “completely abandon” or “utterly forsake”. Christians are forbidden to forsake meeting together. Giving up” is not an option!
-  Underline what action we are to do.
-  Circle the word “encourage”.

The word ‘encourage’ is the translation of a Greek word that means “to call alongside”, and presents the beautiful picture of a person encouraging another while walking side by side together. We often find it easier to criticize, or shame, or judge

another person who does not measure up to our standards, but God asks us to encourage, to stand alongside, those who are wavering.

“Never give up!” Sir Winston Churchill

Shortly after the end of world war II, Sir Winston Churchill, who had just led England as Prime Minister through its finest hour during the war, was invited to speak to a gathering eager to hear his words of wisdom. Known for his eloquence and wit, the audience was prepared to be treated to a feast of words. They sat in rapt attention as the great orator strolled to the podium and, like a drum beat, repeatedly exhorted the crowd, “Never give up, never give up, Never give up!” After several minutes and the final cadence, he turned and took his seat before a stunned crowd.

Inspiration

*“Do not be misled:
Bad company corrupts good character.”
1 Corinthian 15:33*

-  Circle the word that describes what we should not be.
-  Circle the word that describes the effect of “bad company” on “good character”.

The word “**corrupt**” means to defile or destroy.

The word “**misled**” means to be led astray from

the truth! We find this admonition throughout the Bible, perhaps because we have a habit of thinking we know the way, even after God has told us the correct way!

Life is full of examples of Christians who chose to remain with bad company only to find their faith corrupted.  Matthew 24:4, Proverbs 13:20, 2 Peter 2:17-22



In what specific ways does bad company corrupt good character?



In what ways can good company inspire good character?

“Do not be misled!” **We will become like the company we keep!** If our goal is to grow spiritually and become a mature Christian, then we must spend time with Christians who are growing spiritually to maturity!

Restoration

Have you ever found yourself in trouble and needing help, but unable to find someone to call? Nothing is more frustrating and dangerous! Like getting caught in a strong ocean current, Christians can find themselves being swept away by sin’s temptations. Fortunate is the Christian who has a spiritual friend who will not hesitate to jump in and rescue him from danger!

*“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin,
you who are spiritual
should restore him gently.”
Galatians 6:1a*

 Circle what can happen to the unsuspecting Christian. The word “caught” means to be trapped by surprise.

 Underline what “spiritual” Christians (those filled with the Holy Spirit) are to do with their fellow Christians caught by sin.

 Circle the word that describes how they are to restore their fellow Christians. Too often we can be harsh and judgmental with other Christians caught in sin, but here we are exhorted to be gentle.

Gentle: The word “gentle” is a translation of the same Greek word from which “meek” is translated. A person who is “meek” is one who is humble toward God. This humility comes from the realization that God is the creator and we are simply the creation! This keeps us from the pride that would hinder us from helping other Christians caught in sin!

Satan Our Adversary

When you became a Christian, Satan became your enemy. He continually schemes to entrap you in sin.  Corinthians 2:11, Ephesians 6:11-12, 1 Peter 5:8



Think back on sins you regularly commit. Can you see how Satan may have entrapped you into committing them?



What can you do to avoid being caught in habitual sins?

Application

1. **Meet regularly with other Christians who desire to grow in their faith.** (*Acts 2:44-47*)
(*Small groups*)
2. **Join a church that honours God and teaches His Word, and attend faithfully.** (*Hebrews 10:25*)
3. **Become involved in your church’s ministry.** (*Ephesians 4:11-12*)
4. **Support your church’s ministry financially through regular giving.** (*Galatians 6:6; Timothy 5:17; 2 Corinthians 9:7*)

Suggestion for further exploration:



WHAT IS TITHING?

Money is necessary to accomplish God's work in this world. The leaders of BICF seek God's direction for ministry every year. A budget is then prepared to achieve these goals. We as the BICF family look to God to support this budget so we can accomplish the ministry the Lord has given us. Every member needs to give their time, talents, and treasures for the Lord's work to advance.

The Bible says everything belongs to God. "The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24.1). Whatever we have is 'on loan' from Him. We are stewards of His gifts and will one day give an accounting of our faithfulness. Tithing ("a tenth part") is clearly taught in both Old and New Testaments. It was paid by Abraham (Genesis 14.20) and affirmed by Jesus (Matthew 23.23). Giving our tithe to God is the starting point. The Bible teaches our giving to God should be:

Sacrificial — Paul says the Macedonians, "gave as much as they were able and even beyond their ability" (2 Cor. 8:3). They gave even when it meant a sacrifice in their lifestyle. Biblical giving involves great cost (2 Sam. 24:24).

Responsible — Christians are to give "according to their ability" (Acts 11:29). There are seasons to economic life. There are responsibilities to our families and to our debts. Over time we hope the amount we can give will steadily grow.

Joyful - Paul asked for money in this way: "I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love... for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich." (2 Cor. 8:8-9). The difference between moralists (those who think God accepts them for their good works) and Christians (those who know they are sinners saved purely through God's grace) is that Christians give freely and generously as they have received from God.

Systematic - Paul directed the Corinthians to set aside a portion of their wealth each week (1 Cor. 16:2).

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TITHES AND OFFERINGS

While tithes are the basics of Christian Stewardship, offerings are gifts made above and beyond the scriptural tithe. Throughout the year, you may learn of financial needs (disaster relief, scholarship, missions etc) to which you feel led by God to contribute toward such additional offerings. Different churches in different settings use different methods of collection - bags passed, boxes placed on tables, members walking up in front and dropping gifts in plates, offering bags, direct bank credit, credit cards donations etc.



What is the importance of the Lord's supper / Christian Communion?

<http://www.gotquestions.org/communion-Christian.html>



Sermons on tithing or giving by John Piper (MP3)

<http://www.desiringgod.org/Search/?search=Giving+Tithing&submit.x=0&submit.y=0>



Are you in a small group yet?

It's your home away from home. Go to our small groups website for more info

<http://www.bicf.org/component/content/article/85>

5 The Word

Introduction

How long do you think we can survive without eating?

1 days 10 days 20 days 40 days 60 days 100 days

If you ticked '1 day', I can see you've never missed a meal in your life! No, it's not even 10 or 20 days. We can survive **40 days** without food, but after that, our bodies begin to starve and death is not far off. Just as our physical bodies need food to grow and survive, even so, our spirits need to be fed as well. Notice how the metaphor(image) of "milk" and "solid food" are used in Scripture.

"In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!"
Hebrews 5:12

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,"
1 Peter 2:2

-  Underline what Hebrews 5:12 means by the metaphor milk.
-  Circle how we are to "crave pure spiritual milk" in 1 Peter 2:2.

In this lesson, you will learn:

1. **The source of the Word**
2. **The purpose of the Word**
3. **The power of the Word**
4. **The application of the Word**

1) The Source of the Word

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17

-  Circle the source of Scripture
-  Circle how much of Scripture is from God.

The Greek word translated God-breathed is used nowhere else in the New Testament. Though the word does not explain how Scripture was given to us, it does indicate the supernatural and divine origin of it! This verse teaches that every Scripture in the Bible originates from God!

2) The Purpose of the Word

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
2 Timothy 3:16-17*

 Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17** and write the four ways Scripture is useful to us in the blanks below :

- _____ ► ***instructing us in the truth God***
- _____ ► ***convicting us of the truth of God***
- _____ ► ***restoring us to the truth of God***
- _____ ► ***teaching us how to live the truth of God.***

 Underline the result of these four activities of the Word in our lives.

 Circle how many good works we will be equipped for.

3) The Power of the Word

*“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”
Ephesians 6:17*

Underline how the “word of God” is described in Ephesians 6:17. The “word of God” is the only offensive weapon listed in Ephesians 6:10-17 which describes the **Armour of God**. The Christian who learns how to wield it can defeat his spiritual enemies. Unfortunately, many Christians, ignorant of God’s Word, wield something more like a pocket knife than a sword!



Why do you think the Word of God is described as the sword of the Spirit?

 Hebrews 4:12, Matthew 4:1-11

4) The Application of the Word

Memorization

- is simple if done in steps. **Read** the verse 3 times.
- Write** the verse 3 times.
- Recite** the verse from memory 3 times.
- Review** every day regularly for the next 10 days.

Psalm 119 is the great anthem to the Word of God, containing exhortations every Christian should read!

*"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
Psalm 119:11*

-  Underline what we should do with God's Word.
The word "hidden" means "to hide or to treasure". God's Word should be hidden in our hearts because it is something treasured! The word "heart" refers to our "mind, soul, conscience, emotions, passions, will and desires". In other words, memorizing the Word is not just an intellectual exercise, but one that includes the entire person!



How does hiding God's Word in our hearts keep us from sinning?

Meditation

*"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers.
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."
Psalm 1:1-3*

-  Circle the one word in Psalm 1 that describes the person who keeps himself from the wicked, sinners and mockers.
-  Underline where this person finds his "delight"?
-  Underline what he does with God's Word.
-  Underline what this person is compared to.
-  Circle the result of this person's lifestyle.



Why is the tree a good illustration of someone who delights in God's Word?

Meditating on God's Word involves deliberately contemplating a passage over and over again, absorbing all the spiritual nutrients in it! One way is to:

- Recite a verse over and over in your mind. Then ...
- Emphasize a different word each time to absorb the contribution of that word's meaning to the meaning of the verse as a whole.

Application

*"Do not merely listen to the Word,
and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says."
James 1:22*

- ✎ Underline what people who "merely listen to the Word" do to themselves.
- ✎ Underline what we should do with the Word instead.



How do we deceive ourselves if we merely listen to the Word?

Below are Five Applications from God's Word expressed in the acronym - **SPACE**

When you read, memorize or meditate on God's Word, see if there are any ...



Sins to Confess

Promises to Claim

Attitudes or **Actions** to Adopt or Avoid

Commands to Obey

Examples to Follow



Without looking at this sheet, recite the 5 principles from the acronym SPACE.

We began this lesson thinking about how often we needed to eat to survive. Just as we need daily nourishment for a healthy body, even so, we need a daily intake of God's Word to ensure a healthy spiritual life. Too many Christians only hear God's Word once a week on Sundays. Make it a habit to read, memorize, meditate and apply God's Word ... **EVERY DAY!**

📖 Matthew 12:50, Luke 6:46, James 1:22-25

Suggestion for further exploration:



Daily Bible Verse -

Sign up to receive a Bible verse daily in your mailbox

<http://www.christnotes.org/email.php>



Daily Devotionals -

Listen to Saddleback Church Drive Time (MP3) -

<http://www.saddleback.com/MediaCenter/DriveTime/Default.aspx>



The Discipleship Ministry – more fantastic lessons to continue your growth.

All free from <http://www.biblestudycd.com/>

Daily Devotionals -

Subscribe to RBC Ministries - <http://www.ourdailyjourney.org/today/>

6 Prayer

Introduction

Let's perform a test. Take three deep breaths and hold the last one. Now how long can you go without breathing? A few days? Of course not! Not even a few hours! The longest humans can last without air is a few minutes at best.

Prayer is like that. Prayer is to our spiritual lives as air is to our physical. It is what energizes our new nature and refreshes our soul. Without it, our Christian lives become spiritually stagnant. Why? Because ...

“Prayer is the one activity that brings us into an encounter with the Living God!”

You can be involved in every kind of Christian activity without being empowered by the Holy Spirit, except prayer. Someone shares that prayer alone requires you be right with God because it is a “man to God encounter”!

Four aspects of prayer - expressed in the acronym **ACTS**.



Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Adoration

The word Adoration means to **worship** or to **praise**.

Worship

The Hebrew word translated ‘worship’ in Psalm 29:2 means to ‘bow down’ or ‘to prostrate oneself’. It describes the attitude of worship. In Psalm 100:2, the word worship is a translation of another Hebrew word. Here it means to ‘serve’ or to ‘work’. This verse describes the action of worship.

Jesus brings both attitude and action together in Luke 4:8! (*Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only*)

Praise

The psalmist in Psalm 106:2 uses a common literary tool by expressing the same idea in two different ways.

*“Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD?
Who can show forth all his praise?”
Psalm 106:2*

 Underline the equivalent thought to “show forth all his praise”. To praise God then is to proclaim His “mighty acts”.

List some “mighty acts” God has done in your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Read David’s prayer of praise below.

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.”
1 Chronicles 29:11-13

-  Circle each *characteristic* David attributes to God.
-  Underline David’s *response* to God.

Application

Praise God for each item in YOUR list of God’s mighty acts. Give Him thanks and praise His glorious Name!

Confession

Another important aspect of prayer is the confession of our sins. Read the following Scriptures on confession.

“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;
Psalm 66:18

*“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’
-and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
Psalm 32:5*

(*Iniquity = sin, transgression = wrongdoing)

-  Underline what happens if we cherish sin in our hearts. This verse teaches that there is a relationship between sin and prayer. Sin short circuits our fellowship with God, and keeps Him from hearing our prayers.
-  Underline what the psalmist acknowledges before God in Psalm 32:5?
-  Underline God’s response.

Read the confession of David after he committed adultery with Bathsheba found in Psalm 51 below.

“Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

Psalm 51:2-5, 10 & 12

 Underline the four things David asks God to do for him at the end of the passage.

Genuine confession results in a desire to obey God. Notice that after acknowledging his sins to God, David prays that God would give him an obedient heart.

Thanksgiving

A third aspect to prayer is **giving thanks**.

*“Give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*
1 Thessalonians 5:18

-  Circle in which circumstances we are to give thanks (Thessalonians 5:18)
-  Underline why we must give thanks.



What are some benefits to being a thankful person?

The verb ‘give thanks’ is a command. God requires that, as an act of our wills, we give thanks in all circumstances. Romans 8:28 below explains why we can do this.

*“And we know that in all things
God works for the good of those who love him,
who have been called according to his purpose.”*
Romans 8:28

-  Underline the reason we can give thanks in all circumstances.
-  Circle how many things God is able to work for our good. This verse teaches that no matter what happens in our lives, God is able to use all things, good or bad, for our good!

Knowing this, can we genuinely give thanks in all things? Yes No



How does God use “bad” experiences for our benefit?

The Sovereignty of God

“The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy. Being infinitely elevated above the highest creature, He is the Most High, Lord of heaven and earth. Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him.” Attributes of God by Arthur Pink

 Isaiah 46:10, Daniel 4:35, Ephesians 1:11

Application

Spend time in prayer right now thanking God for all the things He is allowing in your life, good or bad, knowing that He is absolutely able to use everything for your benefit. Giving thanks to God demonstrates our faith!

Supplication

Supplication is the bringing of our requests to God. Too often, we become worried and forget the one person who can help!

*“Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.
And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:6*

-  Underline what it teaches about being anxious.
-  Circle the word that describes what things we can ask God for.
-  Underline the result of bringing our requests to God.



What are the two opposite emotions mentioned?

Have you ever wondered why some of our prayer requests are not answered?
The Scriptures below explain why.

*“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”
James 4:3*

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him.”
1 John 5:14-15*

*“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”
John 15:7*

*“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”
Matthew 21:22*

-  Underline why we sometimes don't receive what we ask for in James 4:3.
-  Circle what James means by 'wrong motives'.
-  Underline the condition for answered prayers in 1 John 5:14-15.
-  Underline the condition for answered prayers in John 15:7.
-  Underline the condition for answered prayers in Matthew 21:22.



Why does God establish conditions for answered prayers?

For Whom Should We Pray

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

1 Timothy 2:1

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

James 5:16

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

Ephesians 6:18

 Circle all the people we are to pray for in the verses above.



When the apostle Paul wrote 1 Timothy 2:1, the governing authority was the Roman Emperor Caesar. How do you pray for governing authorities that you may not agree with?



What is the value of confessing our sins to each other?

Application

Spend a few minutes praying for all the people the LORD brings to your mind.

Suggestion for further exploration:



Title: Sacred Pathways

Author: Gary Thomas

Everyone has their own unique way of approaching God. Learn how to improve your devotional, quiet-time, and personal-worship life with God.



I Lift My Eyes Ministry –

Learn how to develop an effective personal prayer life and move into Christian intercession. <http://psalm121.ca/prayer.html>

7 Witnessing

Introduction

What would you say is the greatest threat to Christianity?

- Ungodly people.
- Our culture.
- Antagonistic governments.
- Indifference (lack of concern)

Someone has perceptively suggested that ...

“The greatest threat to Christianity is Christians trying to sneak into heaven without ever sharing their faith.”



Why do you think many Christians do not share their faith?

One of the great privileges we have as God’s children is the authority and privilege to invite others to be reconciled with God! There is no greater decision people can make than trusting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. In this lesson, we will learn five ways to share our faith in Christ with others.

Sharing our faith, or witnessing, is one of the most important factors in growing as a Christian. It keeps our faith fresh and exciting as we watch others being transformed by a miracle from God! But we need to remember the following to be effective witnesses for Christ:

1. **Be Available:** Yield your life to God. God uses available servants.
2. **Be Prayerful:** Ask God to lead you to people to share with. Pray that God will make them open to His Word!
3. **Be Filled with the Spirit:** Only God can bring others to Himself. Our part is simply to be filled with His Holy Spirit and allow Him to share His love with others through us!

John 6:44

1) Sharing Christ With Your Testimony

We may not know much about the Bible or theology, but all of us are **experts** in our own lives. **Although people may not be interested in hearing what we have done for God, they are interested in hearing what God has done for us!** Our testimony is the story of what Christ has done in our lives! Use the following outline to prepare your testimony.

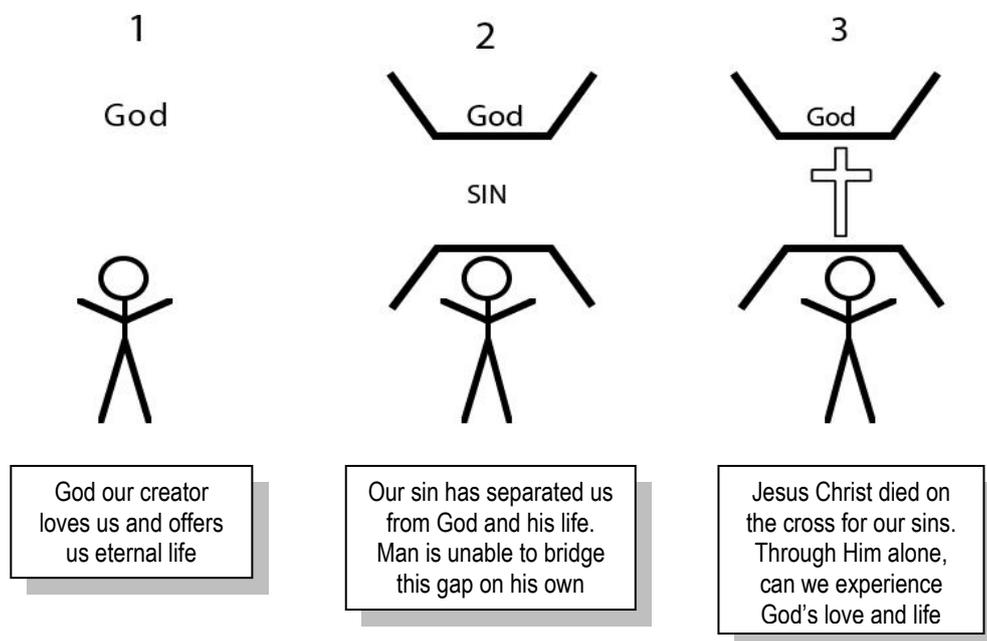
Acts 26:1-29 (Paul’s testimony to King Agrippa)

Preparing Your Testimony

- ✍ Pray before you develop your testimony and ask God to give you His story to tell.
- ✍ Write out your testimony and look for a theme that will tie it together.
- ✍ Develop your testimony along that theme following the outline at left.

1. **Your life Before Christ:** Share specifically about an area of your life in which Christ changed you. Resist the temptation to dwell on how bad you were
2. **How You Came to Know Christ:** Explain clearly how you heard about Christ, and how you made the decision to trust in Him for forgiveness. This will help the person you are sharing with hear a clear presentation of how to know Christ in your testimony!
3. **Your Life After Receiving Christ:** Share how Christ changed you in the area of your life mentioned above.

2) Sharing Our Faith with Pictures



Draw just one picture and simply add to it as you share. (You do not have to draw three separate pictures.)

The gospel can be quickly and easily drawn using simple stick pictures. After completing the pictures, use the final one to illustrate how we must choose to come to God through faith in Jesus Christ who is the bridge. This is an excellent way to share Christ with children!

3) Sharing Our Faith After a Presentation (video, drama, movie)

After reading, seeing or hearing a gospel presentation through a booklet, video, drama, movie, tape, etc., use the following four questions to introduce the Gospel.

1. What did you think about the (booklet, video, concert, etc.)?
2. Did it make sense to you?
3. Have you ever trusted Christ to forgive your sins as presented by the (booklet, video, drama, concert, etc.)?
4. You would like to wouldn't you? (note - positive leading question)

Recite these four questions without looking at them.

 Romans 1:16

4) Sharing Our Faith With a Booklet

There are a wide variety of booklets available, but each contains the same message ~ How to find eternal Life in Jesus Christ. Described below is a method developed by Campus Crusade for Christ. or use BICF's evangelism booklet.

Benefits

1. **Easy:** Booklets make witnessing easier by including the essential truths of the gospel, as well as a prayer to help a person trust in Christ.
2. **Clear:** Booklets present the gospel in a logical manner, usually in four statements supported by Scripture.
3. **Small:** Booklets are easy to carry wherever we go.
4. **Concise:** Booklets usually take only 10 - 15 minutes to read.
5. **Givable:** Booklets can be left with people we share with, so that they can read them later. Many people have come to Christ this way
6. **Transferable:** Booklets can be passed from one person to another several times.

Introducing the Booklet

The biggest obstacle to overcome is introducing the subject of Christ to others. It is always best to relate the gospel to a need in the person's life. Here are some ways you can introduce a booklet in order to share it with them:

1. "The message contained in this booklet has helped me more than anything else. May I share it with you?"
2. "Has anyone ever shared with you how you can know God in a personal way? This booklet explains how. May I share it with you?"
3. "If you died right now, would you be absolutely sure you will be in heaven? This booklet shares how you can be. May I share it with you?" (Note: not so suitable for Asians)

Presenting the Booklet

1. **Hold the booklet steady** between both of you. Make sure the person you are sharing with is able to see the pages easily.
2. **Maintain the person's attention** by pointing to relevant words or illustrations as you read. Sometimes it helps to fold the pages back to ensure you are both on the same page.
3. **Simply read through the booklet!** Resist the temptation to add to the message of the booklet. This often only confuses the person you are sharing with, and can lengthen the time needed considerably.

5) Sharing Our Faith With Prayer

Although many people are hesitant to talk about God, most people are happy to have you pray for them. This opens up a great opportunity to share Christ with others.

Offer to pray for the needs of *friends, co-workers, acquaintances, neighbors, etc.* Pray that God draws them to Himself and look for opportunities to share Christ with them as God provides.

- ✍ Keep a journal of prayer requests and answers. Record the dates the requests were received and answered.
- ✍ Pray diligently for each request expecting God to work in people's lives!
- ✍ Find out if God is answering your prayers and look for opportunities to share His love!

Application

1. **Review** each of the above ways to share your faith and practice each one. 📖 1 Peter 3:15
2. **Pray and ask God** to show you people who need to hear about God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ, then make a list of the names God brings to mind.
3. **Pray for each person daily** asking God to draw them to Himself.
4. **Take advantage of every opportunity** God gives you and share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. 📖 Colossians 4:5
5. **Be available** to share with people you meet through the day. You never know when God has set up a divine appointment for you to share with someone!
6. **Always remember** that it is God who brings people to Himself ~ not our techniques or charm. Be continually filled with God's Spirit and expect God to use you!

Spiritual Multiplication

How would you answer the following?

Why am I here Instead of in heaven?

- Because my home in heaven is not finished yet.*
- Because I must not be good enough yet.*
- Because God is having second thoughts about me.*
- None of the above.*

The reason we are here instead of in Heaven is to fulfill Jesus' final command to all Christians.

 John 4:34, John 17:4, Acts 20:24

Read Jesus' final command below.

*"Then Jesus came to them and said,
'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and
teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:18-20*

The Great Commission

Christ's final instructions to His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 above is commonly called "The Great Commission" because in it, Jesus commissions them to take the Gospel to the world. The main verb in this command is "make disciples".

Three other verbs that connect to the main verb explain how this is to be accomplished. See if you can find them.  Circle each one on the scripture verses above (Matt 28:18-20).

- Go** you can't reach people for Christ unless you go to them.
 This verb implies that God assumes we will go.
 Circle where we are to go according to Christ's commission.
- Baptising** the word 'baptize' symbolizes the cleansing and new identity Christians
 have in Christ when they place their faith in Him.
 Underline into what new identity are Christians to be baptized in
- Teaching** making disciples involves teaching.
 Underline what we are to teach new disciples.



Why does Jesus begin the Great Commission with the declaration 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me?'  John 17:2

The Plan

Where do you start when you're trying to "make disciples of all nations"? Acts 1:8 gives us the plan to follow.

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8*

 Underline three geographic areas where we are to be Christ's witnesses.



Jerusalem ~ the city of Jerusalem represents the disciples' home. (ie. their family, friends, home town/city)

Judea & Samaria ~ these two provinces represent the surrounding area. (ie. State, Province or Country.)

Ends of the Earth ~ this includes everyone else to be reached with the Gospel ~ to the farthest reaches of the earth. (all nations)

We can all witness to people in our **Jerusalem**, as well as work with other Christians to reach everyone in our **Judea & Samaria**. But to reach the **ends of the earth** requires Christians to go and live among the people in other nations. Every Christian should be willing to go, but even if we do not, we must all support those who do go, with our prayers and finances!



Where is your Jerusalem?



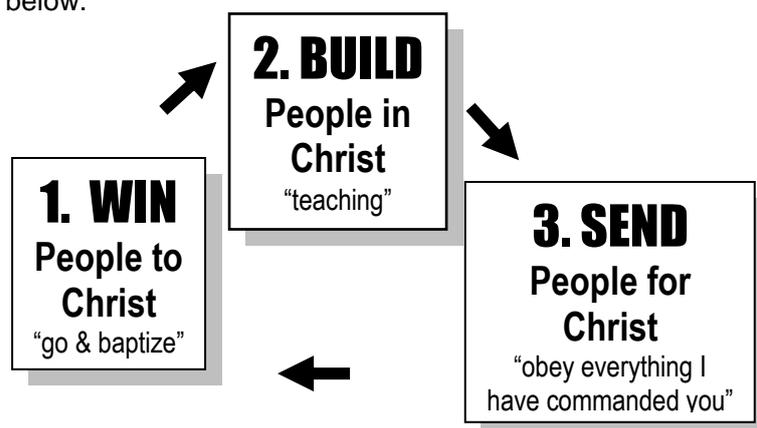
Where is your Judea & Samaria?



How do you plan to reach the ends of the earth'?

The Strategy ~ Discipleship

Now that we know our mission is to make disciples of all nations, the question is 'How?'. The **Discipleship Process**, developed by Campus Crusade for Christ, is outlined in Matthew 28:18-20 and diagramed below.





How does teaching disciples to obey everything Christ has commanded us result in them winning and building others for Christ?

The **Discipleship Process** results in growing numbers of Christians becoming involved in discipleship as they are built up and sent out for Christ. This results in **“Spiritual Multiplication”**.

Spiritual Multiplication

The principle of Spiritual Multiplication is found in 2 Timothy 2:2.

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses
entrust(hand over) to reliable men
who will also be qualified to teach others.”
2 Timothy 2:2*

- Underline what we are to do with the things we are taught.
- Underline what ‘reliable men’ are supposed to do with what they have learned.

Spiritual Multiplication is diagramed at right.

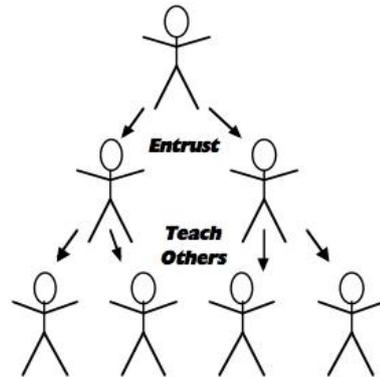
Notice that each succeeding generation grows as those who have learned now teach others. This is the magic of Spiritual Multiplication.

Spiritual Addition

Winning people to Christ but never building them up or sending them out to Win and Build others.

Spiritual Multiplication

Continually winning, building and sending others to Win, Build and Send still others



If we are to reach the world, we must move from Spiritual Addition to Spiritual Multiplication!

The Chart

The chart represents how many people are reached for Christ by the end of a year. Notice that by continually discipling 1 person every six months, who will then continue discipling others, it is possible to reach the entire world in only 16 years! Through Spiritual Multiplication, one person can reach the entire World!

Compare the numerical results

Spiritual Addition	Year	Spiritual Multiplication
<i>(Reach 100 people for Christ each day)</i>		<i>(Win, build & send one person every 6 months)</i>
(thousand) 36,000	1	4
72,000	2	16
108,000	3	64
144,000	4	256
180,000	5	1,024 (thousand)
216,000	6	4,069
252,000	7	16,384
288,000	8	65,536
324,000	9	262,144
360,000	10	1,048,576 (million)

One Person CAN Make a Difference!

God Wants YOU To Be That Person!

A Significant Life

If you have ever wanted to do something significant with your life, you will not find a more significant work than winning, building and sending people for Christ. Your efforts will not only result in abundant lives, but eternal lives!

Commit yourself to be part of God's movement to reach the world for Christ by completing the [discipleship covenant](#) on the following page.

Suggestion for further exploration:



The Global network –

Free online resources (books & video) in many languages for reaching the world - <http://www.globalreach.org/>

Reaching Internationals -

Movement to reach international student, provide a lot of good tools and helps that will empower you in your ministry
<http://www.reachinginternationals.com/>

Bible questions answered

Frequently asked faith questions and answers
<http://www.gotquestions.org/>



Discipleship Covenant

**“Only One Life Will Soon Be Past,
Only What’s Done for Christ Will Last!”**

**In Obedience to the Great Commission of
My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,**

I, _____ ,

Pledge Myself to Help

**WIN People to Christ,
BUILD People in Christ and
SEND People for Christ,**

In Order That the Whole World May Know

Jesus Christ is Lord!

I Make This Covenant

On This ____ Day of _____ , _____ !

GOD is My Witness!





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