

# THE BLUE BOOK

This ten-week basic study is a compilation of material that has proven to be useful in helping people get into the Word of God in order to learn first-hand God's purpose and plan for their lives. It also has been a helpful tool for Christians to use in teaching and training others about the basics of the Christian walk. This material is not the key to a successful discipleship ministry. Only the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit can disciple anyone to maturity in Christ. However, God has chosen us as His instruments in leading and teaching others about the One who can do a miraculous work in and through their lives- our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The command to go and make disciples is a precious responsibility and should not be taken lightly. The majority of your time should be focused on your own walk with the Lord and prayers for those God has entrusted to you. Then the material can be very helpful to your discipleship ministry.

## **Purpose of this Study:**

1. To give you a short but comprehensive view of the Christian life.
2. To help you understand and develop the basics in the Christian walk.
3. To introduce you to the process of discipleship with-in a short-term commitment.
4. To help you evaluate your own walk with God, and to set priorities and goals in different areas of your life.
5. To strengthen your personal relationship with Him.

In order to make to most of your discipleship group time, it would be helpful do the following:

1. Be open to God teaching you about His plan for your life.
2. Participate fully by making your discipleship group a priority.
3. Be accountable to your leader.

# THE BLUE BOOK

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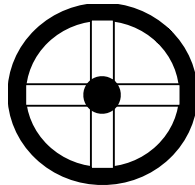
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# THE WHEEL ILLUSTRATION



The wheel illustration is a helpful tool in understanding the Christ-centered life. Each part of this illustration represents an important component of the Christian life. As we each mature spiritually, these different areas of our lives will grow and conform us more to the likeness of Christ.

## The Volitional Dimension: How You Relate to Yourself. (Your Will)



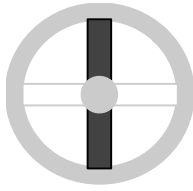
**The Hub: Christ the Center**  
See: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20

Making Christ central in your life is an act of your will. Surrendering totally to Christ's authority and lordship may be at conversion or after some months or even years. God creates within you the desire to do what He wants you to do in order to express His lordship in your life.

**The Rim: Obedience to Christ**  
See: Romans 12:1; John 14:21

Some acts of obedience to God are internal. But even these internal acts of obedience, such as attitudes, habits, motives, sense of values, and day-to-day thoughts, eventually surface in relationships with other people. The proof of your love for God is your demonstrated obedience to Him.

## The Vertical Dimension: How You Relate to God



### **The Word Spoke**

**See: 2 Timothy 3:16; Joshua 1:8**

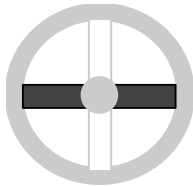
As God speaks to you through the Scriptures, you can see His principles for life and ministry, learn how to obey, and become acquainted with the Christ who is worthy of your unqualified allegiance. A vital personal intake of God's Word is essential for health and growth.

### **The Prayer Spoke**

**See: John 15:7; Philippians 4:6&7**

Prayer is a natural response to God as you hear Him speak to you through His Word. It is sharing your heart with the One who longs for your companionship and who cares about your concerns. Prayer unleashes the power of God in your personal battles and in the lives of those for whom you pray.

## The Horizontal Dimension: How You Relate to Others



### **The Fellowship Spoke**

**See: Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 10:24&25**

Learning from and encouraging others creates a chemistry pleasing to God. God has directed Christians to build each other up through inter-dependence and loving relationships with each other.

### **The Witnessing Spoke**

**See: Matthew 4:19; Romans 1:16**

The natural overflow of a rich vibrant life in Christ should be sharing with others how they too can have this life. God has given believers the privilege and responsibility of reaching the world with the Good News about Christ.

## Lesson 1

# CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE

## I. THE ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE

One of the most striking characteristics of the Christians in the New Testament was the element of certainty in their relationship with Christ. We need that same element of certainty in our lives today.

### A. Trustworthiness of God's Word

Assurance is based on the authority of God's Word.

1. What does Numbers 23:19 say about God keeping His promises?

2. In Revelation 3:20, what does God promise?

3. What is eternal life? (John 17:3)

4. In Mark 1:15, what conditions are necessary for a person to have eternal life?

a.

b.

5. Study I John 5:11-13.

a. Where is eternal life? (v.11)

b. Who has eternal life? (v.12)

c. What is John's purpose for writing this letter? (v.13)

d. Who does the promise in verse 13 apply to?

B. Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the internal witness of our assurance.

1. Who are the children of God? (Romans 8:14)

2. What does I John 3:24 tell us about knowing that God abides in us?

3. What is one reason the Holy Spirit was given? (Ephesians 1:13–14)

C. Changed Life

The proof that we have experienced a new birth and have become children of God will be demonstrated by our changed lives.

1. Examine I John 2:3.

a. How does it describe the person who knows God?

b. Can a Christian continue habitually in sin? Why or why not?

2. Compare John 14:15 with John 14:21. After thinking about these verses, briefly state the relationship between loving God and obeying God.

3. Study II Corinthians 5:14–17.

a. What is the right response to Christ by a person who has truly experienced the love of Christ? (v.14–15)

- b. Can people live only to please themselves and be controlled by the love of Christ?
  
- c. What does it mean to be a “new creature”? (v.17)

## II. THE GREAT BLESSINGS OF CHRIST’S PRESENCE

As a Christian, a child of the King, you have so many blessings and privileges. The reason for this is that Christ has satisfied every requirement on the cross for you to be perfect before the Father. Understanding your position as a child of the Father is essential in your experiencing to the fullest all that is available to you through Christ.

- A. Read the following verses and discover just a few of the things that happen the moment you receive Christ. List any others that you may know.
  - 1. Colossians 1:14
  
  - 2. John 1:12
  
  - 3. John 5:24
  
  - 4. Romans 6:17-18
  
- B. According to II Peter 1:2-4...
  - 1. What has God granted to us through the true knowledge of Christ?
  
  - 2. The Bible is filled with many promises. Why are these promises given to God’s children?

- C. What does it mean to be “complete in Christ”? (Colossians 2:10)
- D. In Ephesians 1:18–19, Paul prayed for the Christians at Ephesus that they would understand what was already theirs as a child of God.
1. What three things did Paul pray they would understand?
  2. Do you as a Christian understand that these things are a part of your salvation?
  3. If so, the question asked in Hebrew 2:1–3a should ring in our ears. Why do people neglect their salvation?

Do not neglect Christ’s presence in your life. Claim his presence and all the privileges and power which are yours in Christ. Out of a grateful heart for the salvation He so freely gave to you, commit to live to do His will.

#### Memory Verses:

- I John 5:13
- II Corinthians 5:17
- I John 3:24

## Lesson 2

# THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

## I. ACKNOWLEDGING HIS LORDSHIP

Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, has always existed and always will. Not all people presently acknowledge Him as their Lord, but that does not alter the fact of His Lordship. All will someday acknowledge Christ as Lord, but the privilege of acknowledging and obeying His Lordship is possible now. **Allow for Christ to be the lord of your life.**

A. Titles reveal important information about the person to whom they refer. What are Jesus Christ's titles in the following verses?

1. John 13:13

2. Acts 2:36

3. Revelations 19:16

4. Summarize what these titles reveal about Jesus Christ...

B. Jesus Christ is Lord of...

1. Colossians 1:18

2. Colossians 1:16-17

3. Romans 14:9

- C. Write your own definitions of the word “Lord” as you feel it applies to Jesus Christ.
- D. What place should Christ hold in a believer’s life? (Matthew 6:33)
- E. Why should someone make Jesus Christ Lord of his or her life?
1. I John 3:1
  2. Jeremiah 29:11
  3. Matthew 10:29–31
- F. Prayerfully meditate on the Lordship of Christ. Have you decided to acknowledge Jesus’ Lordship in your life?

Yes  No

## II. THE PRACTICE OF LORDSHIP

Once you have decided to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ in your life, you will prove that He is Lord by submitting to Him hour by hour and obeying Him in the daily affairs of life.

- A. Take a few moments to evaluate your practice of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. A good way to determine if Christ is in control of an area of your life is to ask, “Am I willing to do whatever Christ desires in this area?” or “Will I be able to thank God for whatever may happen in this area?”
1. Name any areas that you are not allowing Christ to control.

2. What can you do in these areas to acknowledge Christ's Lordship?

B. According to Luke 6:46-49...

1. What is a good way to evaluate if Christ is truly Lord of your life?

2. What is the best foundation upon which to build your life?

C. What does Romans 12:1 say you should do with your life as a Christian?

D. What three things is the person who follows Christ call to do: (Luke 9:23)

**The Action to Take**

**What This Means in Your Own Words**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E. What does the lordship of Christ mean to you?

Memory Verses:

- Colossians 1:18
- Luke 9:23

## Lesson 3

# THE SPIRIT CONTROLLED LIFE

Experiencing the reality of being filled with the Holy Spirit and living constantly moment by moment under His control is the **KEY to the abundant and powerful Christian life.**

### I. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. The Holy Spirit is a person – The spirit of God living in you. Read John 14:16–17 and 25–26 and count the number of time Jesus refers to the Spirit as a person. How many times are there?
  
- B. Read these verses and learn what Jesus taught about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  - 1. John 7:37–39
  
  - 2. John 16:7–15
  
  - 3. John 14:16–17
  
  - 4. John 14: 25–26
  
  - 5. John 15:26
  
  - 6. Acts 1:8
  
- C. What will be the results of a Spirit-controlled life?
  - 1. Galatians 5:22–25

2. II Corinthians 3:17

3. I Corinthians 15:56-57

D. Why can the Christian not live the abundant life Christ promised in his own efforts?

1. Romans 8:6-8

2. John 15:4-5

E. How can the Christian experience the abundant lifestyle that Christ promised in John 10:10?

1. Ephesians 5:15-18

2. Galatians 5:16-18

The normal Christian life is supernatural. Therefore, it takes a supernatural person and power to live the normal Christian life.

## **II. HOW TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

A. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and John 14:16-18

1. What did Jesus promise?

2. How long is the promise good for?
  3. Does Jesus ever make a promise He does not keep?
- B. When does a person receive the Spirit of God promised by Christ? Read Ephesians 1:13–14 and Romans 8:9.
- C. What does it mean to be controlled (filled) by the Spirit? Read Ephesians 5:18.
1. Does the term “filling” mean quantity or control of the Spirit? Explain your answer.
  2. How is being drunk like being filled with the Spirit?
- D. Read Ephesians 4:30 and I Thessalonians 5:19.
1. What does it mean to grieve or quench the spirit of God within you?
  2. How can you tell if you have grieved the Spirit of God?
  3. What sins in your life quench the Spirit and keep you from experiencing the full power of the Holy Spirit?
- E. What actions must be taken to be controlled by the Spirit of God?
1. I John 1:9

2. Romans 12:1-2

3. Colossians 2:6

**IMPORTANT:** Remember these promises and principles...

1. God has promised to answer our prayer of faith if we ask anything according to his will.  
(I John 5:14-15)
  
2. It is His will that we be controlled by the Holy Spirit.  
(Ephesians 5:18)
  
3. God has promised to fill you with the Holy Spirit if you will only ask in faith.  
(Luke 11:13)

**Memory Verses:**

- Galatians 5:16, 22-23
- John 15:5

## LESSON 4

# PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL LIFE

You become more like the people you spend time with, so if you desire to become more like Jesus, why not spend time alone with Him each day?

- I. **DEFINITION** – A devotional life is having fellowship with the living God and developing your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - A. What it is:
    1. Psalm 63:1-3
  
    2. Psalm 46:10
  
  - B. What it is not:
    1. John 5:39-40
  
    2. Matthew 23:27-28
  
  - C. Main Objectives
    1. John 4:23 – To \_\_\_\_\_ God in \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_ to bring Him the glory due Him.
  
    2. James 1:5 -- To gain \_\_\_\_\_ from God and to live each day according to His will.
  
    3. Zechariah 4:6 – To receive \_\_\_\_\_ from God's Spirit to live the Christian \_\_\_\_\_ life.
  
    4. Galatians 6:4 – To \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to keep from sin.

5. Hebrews 2:1-3 – To not \_\_\_\_\_ your salvation and keep from drifting away from God.

## II. NECESSITY

### A. Benefits

1. What are a few of the many benefits of a consistent time with the Lord recorded in these verses?
  - a. Isaiah 40:28-31
  - b. Psalm 27:1-3
  - c. Proverbs 3:5-6
  - d. Psalm 40:1-3
  - e. II Corinthians 3:18
2. In 2 Timothy 1:12, Paul said to Timothy: "I \_\_\_\_\_ whom I have believed and am \_\_\_\_\_ that God is able to guide, protect, and keep me until His coming again."

That kind of statement can only be made by someone who has been with the Lord!

### B. God's Perspective: Read Psalm 73.

1. What is the Psalmist's attitude and perspective in verses 1-16?
2. What is the Psalmist's attitude and perspective in verses 18-28?
3. What brought about this radical change (v. 17)?

C. God's Desire

1. Jeremiah 2:32 is one of the saddest verses in the Bible. What terrible mistake did God's people make?
2. In John 4:23, it says that God is looking for people to do what?
3. God is a jealous God. What does that mean? (James 4:4-5)
4. Did God create you for yourself or for Himself? Explain your answer.

III. PROBLEMS WITH YOUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE

A. Distraction

1. What distractions are mentioned in these verses?
  - a. Isaiah 59:1-2
  - b. II Timothy 2:3-4
  - c. Mark 4:19
2. The good is often the enemy of the best. In Luke 10:38-42, Martha let this happen to her. How might the story parallel our own lives today?

B. Motivation

1. Example of Christ – Mark 1:35
2. Your desire to know God – James 4:8
3. Seeing your own need for God's Spirit to teach, guide, protect and empower you each day – Psalm 63:1

- C. Time  
The cost to have an effective and deepening devotional life is simple — TIME. It will take time to develop your relationship with Jesus Christ. "Hours for the world, minutes for Christ." May that never be your pattern of life. Take time to be still and know God. He has plenty of time for you. The question is, "Do you have time for Him?"

#### IV. PRACTICAL HELPS WITH YOUR DEVOTIONAL LEFE

- A. Set a definite place and time to meet with God each day. This will help you be consistent.
- B. Be fully prepared physically and mentally.
  - 1. Be thoroughly awake before you spend time with the Lord.
  - 2. Remove any distractions so that your full attention is devoted to the Lord.
- C. If you have no sense of God's presence and feel that your prayers are empty, tell Him about it. At the same time, claim the promise of His presence (John 14:16, Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 28:20). Trust Him that He will hear your prayers quite independently of your feelings.
- D. Come to your time with God open to what He has to show you and a willingness to obey what His will is for you that day.
- E. If you miss a morning for one reason or another, don't go on a guilt trip. If the fault is yours, confess it, obtain immediate cleansing, and claim the full power of the Holy Spirit. If the fault is not yours, do not feel you have to make it up to God. Your devotional life should not become a ritual, but rather it is a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The quiet time makes us more like Jesus, and the result of spending time with Jesus is shown in Acts 4:13. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. People will know that we have been with Jesus.

**Spending time along with God changes lives – I dare you to try it.**

**Once you have started, you will never want to quit!**

Study the “TAWG -- Time Alone with God” exercise on the next page. You will do the first one together in your discipleship group at your next meeting.

Memory Verses:

- Mark 1:35
- Psalm 5:3

# TAWG

## Time Alone with God

The **best investment** you could ever make **with the most profitable returns** will be the time you take each day to be alone and communicate with your God. This time will not only give you a heavenly outlook on each day, but also on your entire life and the people and circumstances around you. You must work at having a consistent time alone with God each day. It will not just happen. You must set the priority and let everything else revolve around that time with God. I challenge you to **decide today and now to build this habit into your life and protect it, for in your time alone with God lies the secret to your own daily walk with Him.**

### Guide for Each Day:

1. Write in a notebook: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture Verse \_\_\_\_\_
2. Main Thought:
  - Write the verse for the day in your notebook.
  - Read the verse several times.
  - Pray for insight as you think about what the verse says.
  - Circle all the key words in the passage.
  - Write out the key words and define them using either your own definition or a dictionary.
  - Read the verse through again replacing the circled words with your own definition.
  - Write out the main thought or meaning of the passage.
3. Application:
  - Write out one or more specific applications of how you will apply what you have learned to your life.
4. Prayer:
  - Pray that during the day through the power of the Holy Spirit, you will apply these principles from God's word to your life.

### VERSES

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Jeremiah 29:11       | 17. Hebrews 10:24-25      |
| 2. John 3:16            | 18. Galatians 6:7-8       |
| 3. Romans 3:23          | 19. Galatians 5:16        |
| 4. Romans 6:23          | 20. 1 Peter 2:21          |
| 5. 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 | 21. Mark 1:35             |
| 6. John 14:6            | 22. James 4:17            |
| 7. Colossians 1:14      | 23. 1 Corinthians 16:14   |
| 8. John 1:12            | 24. John 13:34-35         |
| 9. Matthew 7:7          | 25. Hebrews 3:13          |
| 10. Ephesians 2:8-9     | 26. Mark 10:45            |
| 11. 2 Corinthians 5:17  | 27. 2 Timothy 2:15        |
| 12. John 10:10          | 28. 1 Corinthians 10:13   |
| 13. Joshua 1:8          | 29. Matthew 6:24          |
| 14. Matthew 6:33        | 30. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 |
| 15. James 1:22          | 31. 2 Corinthians 4:18    |
| 16. Proverbs 3:5-6      | 32. Philippians 4:6-7     |

## Lesson 5

# LIVING OUT YOUR PRIORITIES

We all live according to a schedule. The difference between people is that some plan their schedule and others **don't plan** their schedule. **If you don't plan your time, someone else will.** God has charged you to make the most of your time. However, to use your time wisely, you must first know what is important to you (priorities) and the way in which to live your life according to your priorities (objectives and goals).

The purpose of this study is to help you as a Christian to:

1. Declare your priorities.
2. Set up your life in light of your priorities.
3. Budget your time according to your priorities.

### I. USE OF TIME

Time is the most valuable resource you have available to you. How you use it will determine the direction, the impact, and effectiveness of your walk with the Lord and your ministry to others.

A. What perspective did the psalmist have on his time on the earth in the following verse?

1. Psalm 144:4
  
2. Psalm 39:4-5
  
3. Psalm 103:15-16

B. Read Ephesians 5:13-18

1. How are you to walk through life as a Christian? (v. 15)
  
2. How can you walk as a wise man? (v.16)
  
3. Why should you make the most of your time? (v.16)
  
4. What is the opposite of being foolish with your time? (v.17)
  
5. What is God's will for every Christian? (v.18)

- C. What will happen as you conduct your time with wisdom? (Colossians 4:5)

## II. SCRIPTURAL PRIORITIES

The way in which you use your time will reflect your priorities. That which you put first in importance is revealed by what you do, not by what you claim to do.

- A. Read Matthew 6:33, Psalm 119:10, and Matthew 28:19–20.
  - 1. What two things are you to be most concerned about as a Christian?
  
  - 2. Does the way in which you use your time reflect these two priorities?
  
- B. Jesus' purpose was to glorify the Father. How did He do this? (John 17:4)
  
- C. What were the main priorities in Jesus' life? (John 17:25–26)
  - 1.
  
  - 2.
  
- D. What excuses are often given to keep people from living out their priorities?
  
- E. What is it going to cost you to live out your priorities?

### III. ESTABLISHING OBJECTIVES AND GOALS IN YOUR LIFE

An objective is a stated intent of achievement. (Ex: Read the Bible to know God's plan and purpose for my life.) A goal is a specific and measurable step to be taken to achieve your objective. (Ex: I will read five chapters of the New Testament every day for the next semester.)

#### A. Reasons for Establishing Objectives and Goals

1. Gives you a strategy for achieving your purpose in life.
2. Allows you to spend your time as well as your life on the things that are most important to you.
3. Keeps you from getting sidetracked.
4. Provides a means to evaluate your progress.

#### B. Basic Areas to Be Considered --Luke 2:52

1. Spiritual
2. Mental
3. Physical
4. Social
5. Ministry

#### C. Application -Steps to Take

1. Decide to allow Christ to be the Lord of your time.
2. List your priorities.
3. Write down objectives and goals in each area.
  - a. Keep concise and brief enough to remember.
  - b. Clear enough to write down.
  - c. Specific enough to be achieved.
  - d. Realistic enough to be accomplished.
4. Take the time to plan your time to accomplish your goals.
  - a. Use a weekly schedule to plan your time out for each week.
  - b. Pray over your schedule each day to know God's will for you that day.
  - c. Be flexible and open to the Holy Spirit's leading you that day.  
(Proverbs 16:9)

For the next four weeks, give a copy of your schedule each week to your discipleship leader and discuss any problem you may be having managing your time.

Memory Verses:

- Ephesians 5:15-17
- John 17:4

## Lesson 6

# RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

“It is impossible for a believer, no matter what his experience, to keep right with God if he will not take the trouble to spend time with God ... Spend plenty of time with God; let other things go, but don't neglect Him.”  
--J. Oswald Sanders

## I. PRAYER

The great people on the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer, nor those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those **people who take time to pray**. They have not time, it must be taken from something else.

- A. Because God is the believer's refuge, what are you told to do? (Psalm 62:8)
  
- B. How does 1 Thessalonians 5:17 relate to Psalm 62:8?
  
- C. What conditions of prayer do you find in the following verses?
  - 1. Psalm 66:18
  
  - 2. Matthew 21:22
  
  - 3. John 15:7
  
  - 4. John 16:24
  
- D. What common truth do you find in Jeremiah 33:3 and Ephesians 3:20?

- E. Consider Jesus' pattern for prayer in Matthew 6:9–13
1. How does the prayer begin? How is this important?
  2. Which requests are God-centered? (v. 9–10)
  3. Which requests are man-centered? (v.11–13)
  4. In what specific ways can this pattern for praying help you pray?
- F. Using Paul's prayer as a guideline, list some requests you pray for others and yourself. (Ephesians 3:14–21)
- G. The basic elements of prayer can be remembered by the word ACTS, which is composed of the first letters of the following words. Write a brief definition for each:

**A**doration –

**C**onfession –

**T**hanksgiving –

**S**upplication –

This is merely a guideline and not a rigid sequence that you must follow.

- H. **If you do not have a plan to pray, your prayer life will fall prey to your other plans.** Do you have a plan for your prayer life? Decide on a plan for your prayer life so that you can first meet with God daily and then bring your requests before Him.

## II. BIBLE STUDY

Either you are in the Word of God and the Word is conforming you into the image of Jesus, or you are in the world and the world is squeezing you into its mold.

A. Look up the following verses and summarize some of the ways the Bible is important to you as a Christian.

1. Jeremiah 15:16

2. John 5:39

3. 2 Peter 1:4

4. 1 John 2:1

B. Study 1 Peter 2:2

1. What should be our attitude toward studying the Word of God?

2. What is the purpose or aim of the Word of God? Explain your answer.

C. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17....

1. All scripture is from \_\_\_\_\_. Why is this important?

2. What will the Word of God do for you?

3. What will the Word of God equip you for?

- D. Read Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-3.
1. What will be the results of a person who meditates on God's Word?
  2. What does it mean to "meditate on God's Word"?
- E. Read Psalm 119:9-16.
1. Do you see the importance of God's Word, and are you committed to spend time daily in the Word of God?
  2. What will it cost you to spend time daily in your Father's words written to you?
  3. Is it worth it? If so, plan to spend time daily in your Father's words written to you.
- F. How intense and necessary was David's desire to know God? Psalm 42:1-2.

**You too must earnestly and eagerly seek God as you pray and read His Word.**

Memory Verses:

- Jeremiah 33:3
- Joshua 1:8

## Lesson 7

# RELATIONSHIP WITH MAN

## I. FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

The church is the only fellowship in the world where the one requirement for membership is the unworthiness of the candidate.

### A. Biblical Fellowship

#### 1. Read I John 1:3.

a. What was the author's purpose for proclaiming what he had seen and heard?

b. With whom did he have fellowship?

#### 2. "Fellowship" is derived from the Greek word "koinonia", which means "sharing in common." As you examine the verses below, determine what you can share with others.

I Peter 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 6:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. In the first century church in Acts 2:44-47 you can see fellowship at its best.

a. What were they devoting themselves to?

b. All those that had believed were together and had all things in common (v.44). What specifically did they have in common?

c. What was the result of that kind of fellowship?

4. Read II Corinthians 6:14–15.
  - a. Can a Christian have Biblical fellowship with a non-Christian?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. In light of this verse, what should your relationship with non-Christians be based upon?

B. The Purpose of Fellowship.

1. Study Hebrews 10:24–25.
  - a. As Christians, to what are we to take time to “stimulate each other”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How can you do this to Christians around you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What is your responsibility to the body of believers at your church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Examine Hebrews 3:13.
  - a. How often should Christians encourage one another?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Why is that so important?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In Galatians 6:1–2 what is another purpose for proper fellowship in the church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. According to Ephesians 4:2–3 what will preserve the unity of the Spirit in the body of Christ?

## II. SHARING CHRIST WITH OTHERS

Witnessing is not merely an activity; it is a way of life. Christians don't do witnessing; they are witnesses – good or bad.

### A. A Holy Life

1. According to II Corinthians 7:1, why are we to live a holy life?
  
2. According to James 3:13, what shows that a person is wise and has understanding?
  
3. Read I John 3:2–3. This passage says that Christ is going to return to earth again and we will be in His full presence.
  - a. If you fix your hope on His coming, what will be the result? (v. 3)
  
  - b. Why would being conscious of Christ's coming alter the way you live?
  
4. Read II Timothy 2:21–22.
  - a. What kind of person is useful to the Master?
  
  - b. What are you to flee?
  
  - c. What are you to pursue?
  
5. Why are you to keep your body from immorality? I Corinthians 6:18–20.
  
6. What will be the results of letting Christ live in your life? Matthew 5:16.

7. What good is your testimony to the world if you do not live a holy life? Matthew 5:13.

B. Verbal Witness

1. In Colossians 4:2–6 Paul tells us how to be ready to give a verbal witness. What attitudes and actions are to be taken?

2. There are two essential principles to remember about a verbal witness. What are they?

a. I Thessalonians 2:8

b. I Corinthians 2.4–5

3. We do not have to be fearful in our verbal witness because god through His Spirit has given us \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. II Timothy 1:7.

4. I Peter 3:15 gives you both a challenge and an instruction with regard to witnessing.

a. Sanctify means “to be set apart”. Your heart is to be set apart for whom?

b. What should you be ready to do at any time?

c. In what way are you to do it?

5. Are you prepared to share the gospel with another person? If not, the best way to equip yourself is to:

a. Prepare your personal testimony.

b. Learn the verses and a presentation you could use to show someone how to become a Christian.

## Memory Verses:

- Hebrews 10:24-25
- I Peter 3:15

# PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Write out your personal testimony using the following outline:

**My life before knowing Christ:**

**How I became aware of my need:**

**How I received Christ:**

## **What Christ has done and is doing in my life:**

## Lesson 8

# PROCESS OF DISCIPLESHIP – MAKING DISCIPLES

When one hears the word discipleship, he or she should think of both the lifestyle and the process.

## I. FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

A. Definition of a disciple: One who follows closely the teaching of another.

1. What did Christ say characterized a true disciple?

a. John 8:31

b. John 13:34–35

c. John 15:8

2. What did Paul say was the result in the life of a person who experienced and accepted the love of Christ?

a. 2 Corinthians 5:14–15

b. Romans 12:1–2

B. The cost of discipleship: Not all of those who followed Christ were His disciples. When He began to explain the cost to follow Him, many turned away. The same is true today.

1. Read Luke 14:25–35.

a. What mistake did the builder and king make?

b. What is the parallel to the Christian life?

2. Read Luke 9:23–25. To follow Christ you must deny \_\_\_\_\_ and follow Him \_\_\_\_\_. In short, you give your \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.
3. In Philippians 3:10, what was Paul's attitude toward the cost of salvation to know God?
4. Jesus' standards for His disciples are high.
  - a. What right does He have to demand these standards?
  - b. Why do you think it is important to not compromise these standards?
  - c. Have you counted the cost to follow Christ?
  - d. What would it cost you to follow Christ daily?
  - e. Is it worth it to you?

## II DISCIPLESHIP – THE PROCESS

### A. Principle of Multiplication

God does not intend to reach the whole world through a single individual. His plan is to reach the world the same way it is populated – by multiplication.

Jesus saw the masses through the man. He loved the world, helped thousands, but trained the twelve. The ministry of multiplying disciples comes through ministry to individuals. This is the way Paul communicated his life to Timothy (2 Timothy 3:10). You reach the masses through the man!

As you invest your life in one man and then see him invest his life in another, you will become part of the spiritual multiplication process. God has not only told you what to do, He has also provided a plan to accomplish the task.

1. Read Paul's instructions to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2.
  - a. What did he tell him to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What kind of man did Paul tell Timothy to invest in?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Communication passes from one person to another. Fill in the blanks with the people mentioned in this verse: Paul to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ .
  
2. Most of Christ's time was spent training the disciples. Why is this so important?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In John 21:15–17 Christ explained to Peter the natural response you will have if you love Jesus Christ. What will you do?

B. The Great Commission

1. Read Matthew 28:18–20 and in your own words explain the passage.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was the very last thing Christ said to His disciples? Does this apply to Christ's disciples today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. As Jesus looked on the needs of His people, He felt compassion for them (Matthew 9:36–38). He told the disciples that there are many people hungry, but few workers to feed them. The same is true today. Many spectators, few laborers. Why has the Great Commission been neglected?

4. What did Jesus have in mind when He asked men to follow Him?  
(Matthew 4:19)

5. What was promised to the disciples to empower them to fulfill the  
Great Commission? (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:20)

6. The task is clear – make disciples. As a Christian, you should wither  
be involved in that task or equipping yourself to make disciples.  
What will it take to equip you to be a part of this process? Christ's  
Presence in Your Life!

#### Memory Verses:

Matthew 28:18–20

2 Timothy 2:2