

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST



Volume 1

Basic steps of the Christian life

This is the English edition of NEW LIFE IN CHRIST, Vol 1. It was originally produced in Spanish as NUEVA VIDA EN CRISTO. Its purpose is to give you a solid foundation for your Christian life. When you finish with Volume 1, continue with Volume 2 & 3

For more information email us at: info@nuevavidaencristo.org

You may download a free copy of this book at the following website:
www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com

For printed copies contact:

CAM International, 8625 La Prada Dr., Dallas, TX 75228 USA
Phone: 800 366-2264 or 214 327-8206

For free materials in Spanish go to: www.obrerosfiel.com

It is also available in Spanish, French, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, Swahili, Malgache, Kinyarwanda and German. The document is in PDF format and requires Adobe Reader (formerly known as Acrobat Reader) to be read. If you have trouble opening the documents, download the latest free version of Adobe Reader at: <http://www.adobe.com>

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

1. We congratulate you for accepting the challenge of discipling new believers using New Life in Christ as your guide. The results of this study can produce eternal fruit.
2. Let the Bible always be your authority in answering the questions. The students should look up the Bible passages by themselves and try to answer the questions based on what the Bible says.

Some new believers need a brief orientation on how to find the references in their Bibles.
3. This manual may be used in many different ways. In most cases, you will study one lesson a week, encouraging the disciple to do all the assignments in each lesson.
4. Try not to let your sessions get too long.
5. Encourage the students to answer the questions in their own words. Avoid copying the Bible word for word. Using their own words will help them to analyze the meaning of the texts studied.
6. Avoid preaching. Use questions to discover what the students understand and to stimulate active participation.
7. Prepare well for each session yourself. As the teacher, you should be familiar with the content and key concepts of each lesson.

Your preparation should include prayer for your students and for your own heart to be prepared for the lesson.

8. Try to have the students think about the practical implications for their lives. Help them to understand specific, practical applications.

The assignments in the boxes at the side of each lesson are designed for this purpose. Make use of them.

9. Help students cultivate the habit of prayer. Teach them by praying together with them.
10. It is important to understand that discipleship is much more than studying the lessons of New Life in Christ. Discipleship implies a life change for the disciple.

This manual is just an initial help. The students need continual help in seeking to change their character, ways of thinking, habits, etc.

11. It is of the utmost importance that disciples learn habits like daily Bible reading, prayer, and Scripture memorization.

At the beginning of each lesson, take time to review the previous memory verse and ask them how the daily Bible study is going. Do not scold students who have not completed some of the assignments, but be sure to encourage them to finish.

12. Be sensitive to what God is doing in the disciple's life. Take time out of each session to answer any questions they might have, or to help with facing problems in their personal life.

Keep in mind that there are times when it is not possible to get to every question in the lesson because of lack of time. In these cases, choose the questions of most importance to discuss.

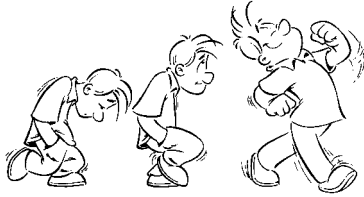
Welcome To God's Family

Congratulations! If you have received Christ as your personal Savior, you have been born again into God's family. Your sins are forgiven and you are now a new creature possessing eternal life.



"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17



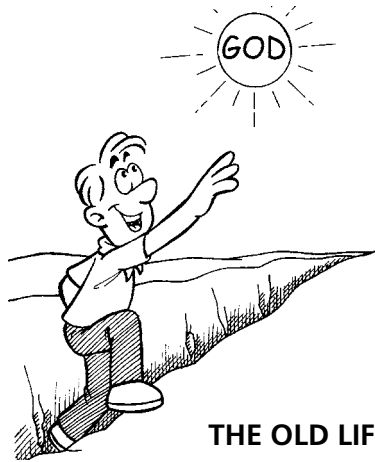
God is just beginning to transform your life. Live each day by faith, entrusting yourself to God as He makes changes in your life. Have patience and wait with anticipation. A great adventure lies ahead!

Exercises To Help You Grow

As a new believer, you are beginning a relationship with Christ which will grow as you follow Him. Learning to follow Him is called discipleship. There are certain exercises that will strengthen you as a new Christian. The more you practice them, the stronger you will become.



- ✓ Christ wants to be the center of your life. Submit to Him moment by moment, letting Him control all areas of your life.
- ✓ Pray throughout the day, every day. Prayer is talking with God.
- ✓ Read the Bible every day. Before beginning, tell God: "Here I am, Lord, ready to hear your voice through the Scriptures."
- ✓ Find a church that preaches the Bible. The church members are your new family.
- ✓ Leave behind the world of sin to which you used to belong. Ask God to help you resist temptation.
- ✓ When you sin, confess that sin to God and receive the forgiveness He offers.
- ✓ Tell others about Christ.
- ✓ Continue studying Volumes 2 and 3 of *New Life in Christ*. If you can't find a place to get them, you may download them for free at the following website: www.newlifediscipleship.com



THE OLD LIFE

Step 1 Saved

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ___ To be saved, it is only necessary to believe that God exists.
 ___ Sin causes a separation between God and man.
 ___ I am saved by going to church and doing good things.

1. According to Ephesians 2:1, what was our condition before Christ gave us eternal life? _____

2. Read Romans 3:23. Does that mean everyone sinned? Yes ☐ No ☐

If that was the case, what was our condition before Christ saved us?

3. The Bible says that we were condemned. Why? (John 3:18) _____

THE WORK OF GOD

4. In Ephesians 2:4-5, how is God described? _____

5. According to this passage, what has God done for us? _____

6. Look at Romans 5:8. How does God demonstrate His love for us? _____

7. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. God decided that we would not be saved by our works (v. 9). What kinds of good deeds do people perform in order to be saved? _____

8. We are saved by _____ through _____ (v. 8)

Grace means "an undeserved gift". In other words, God gave us salvation freely, even though we did not deserve it.

9. In whom should we have faith in order to be children of God? (Galatians 3:26) _____

DECISION TIME

Have you already accepted Christ?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, when? _____

If not, do you want to?

Yes ☐ No ☐

TO RECEIVE CHRIST

1. Admit that you are a sinner. Don't try to hide it any longer.
2. Decide to distance yourself from sin. Repent.
3. Believe that Christ died for your sins and rose from the dead.
4. Ask Jesus to come into your heart to forgive your sins and take control of your life.

The following prayer could serve as a model of how to receive Christ.

Dear Lord

I know that I am a sinner and that I need your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I want to leave sin behind, and live a pure life. Come into my heart, and be my savior. I want to follow you as my Lord. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

THINK ABOUT IT

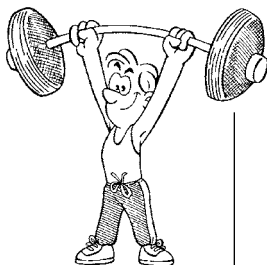
Think about your home and everyone and everything that you love. How does your sin affect them?

Think about your future. Had you continued with the old life, you would have faced the judgment of God. Read Revelation 20:11-15 and think on it, thanking God for His great love.

GROWING STRONGER

It is important to form habits that will help you grow in your new life.

As exercise strengthens the body, there are spiritual disciplines that help you to grow in Christ.



These disciplines include:

Bible study
prayer
memorizing Bible verses.

In addition to completing these lessons, **it is important to read a portion of the Bible and pray to God every day.**

This week read chapters 1-7 in the book of John, one chapter per day.

Pray to God before reading, preparing your heart to receive what He is going to tell you through His Word.

After reading each chapter, pray again, talking with God about what you have read.

With God's help, I commit to reading a chapter a day in my Bible.

_____ Date.

Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9

"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."

In Appendix #1 you will find some cards to help you memorize the verses in these lessons.

10. Tell in your own words what it means to have faith in Christ. _____

THE NEW LIFE

11. For what purpose did Christ come? John 10:10 _____

12. What does God offer to the person who accepts Christ? John 1:12 _____

13. According to John 5:24, what happens when a person accepts Christ? _____

14. What did God create us for, according to Ephesians 2:10? _____

Note that we are not saved by works but we are saved for good works.

15. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. To be "in Christ" means to have accepted Him as Savior. So, if someone is in Christ, what does he or she become? _____

16. Explain in your own words the phrase, "the old has gone, the new has come": _____

IN SUMMARY

In your own words, summarize what we have studied.

1. What was your life like without Christ? _____

2. What did Christ do for you? _____

3. How should you show in your daily life the new life that God gave you? _____



GOD GIVES ME SECURITY

Step 2 Secure!

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ____ Right now I can be sure that I am saved.
- ____ God wants me to sin so He can show more of His love.
- ____ If I sin and die without confessing it, I am still saved.

1. Read Romans 8:38-39. Once we have accepted Christ, is there any way we can be separated from the love of God? _____

Read **John 10:27-29** and respond to questions 2 through 7

2. What is offered to us? (v. 28) _____
3. Who gives eternal life? (v. 28) _____
4. Can something eternal come to an end? _____

The verb "give" is in the present tense. This indicates that we already have eternal life. Eternal life does not begin when we die, but rather from the moment in which we accept Christ as our personal Savior.

5. When will we perish? (v. 28) _____
This refers to the fact that eternal life never ends.
6. Could someone or something snatch us out of Christ's hand? (v. 28)

7. Could someone snatch us out of the hand of our Father? (v. 29)

Now read **Ephesians 1:13-14** and respond to questions 8 - 9.

8. What is the work that God did in us? (v. 13) _____

9. When were we sealed? (v. 13) _____

God gave us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee ("pledge") of the fact that we belong to Him until Christ comes for us.

Read "Who am I in Christ? in Appendix # 2, at the end of the book.

How do you feel as you read these affirmations? Do they give you confidence? _____

GIVING THANKS

According to John 10:28-29, you are in the hand of Jesus Christ, and at the same time you are in the Father's hand.

Think of how protected your life is in those hands! No wonder it says two times that no one can snatch us from that place.



THINK ABOUT IT

To sin is to do, say, or think something against the will of God. Although God loves me, He hates my sin.

Think about and write down two reasons why you believe that a Christian should seek to avoid sin:

1. _____

2. _____



THIS WEEK

This week, pray for one of your family members who has not yet received Christ. Ask for their salvation. Write down their name:

Having trouble finding passages in your Bible? Here's a tip. Memorize in order the names of the first ten books of the New Testament:

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians



GROWING STRONGER

Read John 8-14
this week
(one chapter per day).

Memorize John 10:27-28

***"My sheep listen to my voice;
I know them, and they follow
me; I give them eternal life,
and they shall never perish;
and no one can snatch them
out of my hand."***

10. Read 1 John 5:11-12. Do you have eternal life? _____

How can we know for sure whether we have eternal life or not?

WARNING

11. Now that I am saved, why shouldn't I play around with sin?

Romans 6:1-2. _____

Read **Hebrews 12:5-10** and respond to questions 12-13.

12. Since I am a child of God, He disciplines me. Why does He do this? (v. 6)

13. For what purpose does God discipline me? (v. 10) _____

GOD GIVES ME A CHOICE

It is not God's desire that you sin. But, as human beings, we are subject to temptation. This means that we still struggle against sin in our lives.

What happens when you sin? You do not lose your salvation, but it can affect your fellowship with God. As the loving Father that He is, He has provided the way of escape from temptation and also the means for us to draw near to Him if we do sin. We will study this in detail in Step 3.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. Every Christian will be judged. It will not be to see if they are saved, but rather to test their works.

If his works were pleasing to God, the Christian will receive a reward. If they weren't, he will lose these special rewards (these rewards are not the same as salvation, since the person already has salvation according to v. 15).

Will you receive rewards or will you just barely make it into heaven?



Step 3 Victorious!

Answer True (T) or False (F)

- _____ If we are tempted, it is inevitable that we will sin, because we are so weak.
- _____ If we sin and we confess it to God, He will forgive us.
- _____ We have spiritual enemies who tempt us.

WE ARE ENGAGED IN A BATTLE

The Bible says that God is not the one who tempts us (James 1:13). Who then are our spiritual enemies according to the following passages?

1. James 4:4 _____
2. Galatians 5:17 _____
3. 1 Peter 5:8 _____

How should we respond to each enemy?

4. To the world (Romans 12:2) _____
5. To the flesh (Galatians 5:16) _____
6. To the devil (James 4:7) _____

WE CAN BE VICTORIOUS

7. Who is greater than Satan? (1 John 4:4) _____
8. Who lives in the believer? (1 Corinthians 3:16) _____
9. Who gives us the victory? (1 Corinthians 15:57) _____

GOD GIVES US RESOURCES TO BE VICTORIOUS

According to the following passages, what should we do to avoid falling into temptation?

10. Psalm 119:11 _____
11. Matthew 26:41 _____
12. Proverbs 4:14-15 _____
13. 2 Timothy 2:22 _____

DIGGING DEEPER

We are all tempted, but this doesn't mean that we have to sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13 has three truths that encourage us.

1. Temptations are part of being human. It is possible to overcome them.
2. God puts limits on temptations; we can resist them.
3. In every temptation, God always provides an escape.

WILL I EVER
BE FREE?



Meditate on these truths and BELIEVE THEM!

AFFIRMING THE TRUTH

The Christian can conquer temptations. Can you recall a time recently when you were tempted and overcame it with God's help?

MAKING THINGS RIGHT

The one to whom I should confess my sin is God (Psalm 32:5); but there are cases in which this is not enough. I need to go one step further.

If my sin has affected another person, I should seek out that person and ask his or her forgiveness as well (James 5:16; Matthew 5:23-24).

Paraphrasing the Apostle John:
How can I be right with God,
whom I don't see, if I am not right
with my neighbor, whom I do see?
(1 John 4:20)

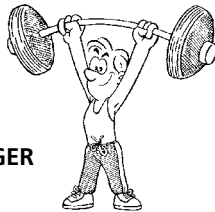
THIS WEEK

This week, pray to God for a friend, co-worker, classmate, or neighbor who needs to know Jesus Christ.

This week I will pray for:

Memorize the next ten books of the New Testament, reviewing the first 10 from the last lesson:

Philippians
Colossians
1 and 2 Thessalonians
1 and 2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James



GROWING STRONGER

Read John 15-21
this week (one chapter
per day).

Memorize 1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

WE CAN BE FORGIVEN

14. According to 1 John 1:8, can anyone, even Christians, claim to be sinless? _____

By sinning, the fellowship between God and the believer is broken. God is not happy, and although He loves us, He will not listen to our requests while we are unwilling to confess our sin.

15. What should we do to be forgiven? (read 1 John 1:9) _____



HOW SHOULD I CONFESS MY SIN?

Confessing is not just saying, "I sinned."
True confession requires several things:

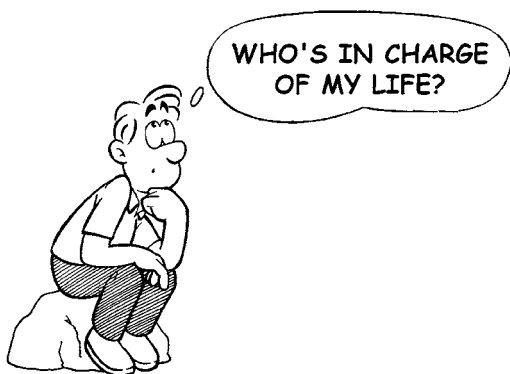
- Be sincere.
- Be repentant (truly sorry and desiring to not commit that sin again).
- Be specific (telling God precisely what I did).
- Be quick to recognize my error. As soon as I realize that I have sinned, I should confess it. Otherwise, I am in danger of falling into more sin.
- Be humble by asking forgiveness of those people who were affected by my sin.
- Accept forgiveness. We should not continue to reproach ourselves for sins that we have already confessed. If God has forgiven us, we must accept His forgiveness, and believing, give Him thanks. Reject Satan's accusation that we can't be forgiven.

16. According to 1 John 1:9, what happens when I confess my sin?

- _____
- _____

SUMMARY

- Who are our spiritual enemies?
- What resources do we have to conquer them?
- If we sin, what should we do to be forgiven?



Step 4

Lord of all

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ____ I have the right to control my own life.
- ____ If I yield control of my life to Christ, He'll take away all my fun.
- ____ I know how to run my own life. No one else has any right to tell me what to do.

WHO'S THE BOSS?

One of the titles that is often used to refer to Christ is "LORD." Although the world lives today in rebellion against God, one day every knee will bow before Christ and every tongue will confess that He is Lord. (Phil. 2:10-11).

1. What does it mean to say: "Jesus is Lord of my life"? _____

2. Why does Christ have the right to rule my life?

Colossians 1:16 _____

2 Corinthians 5:15 _____

To whom does my life belong now? _____

MY RESPONSE

3. If Christ owns me, how should I respond to Him, according to 2 Corinthians 5:15? _____

4. Read Galatians 2:20. This verse summarizes one of the essentials of the Christian life. Explain the following phrase: "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." _____

To be "crucified with Christ" means that my old life died, or remains behind me. Now I have new life in Christ, with power to conquer sin.

5. How should I live this new life in Christ? See the second part of Galatians 2:20.

CHECK UP

There are many things that are not bad in themselves but can come to take the place that only Christ should occupy in our lives.

Mark the things that are hindering the work of Christ in your life:

- ☐ Belongings ☐ Friends
- ☐ Ambition ☐ Work
- ☐ Entertainment ☐ Habits
- ☐ Your character ☐ Family
- ☐ Other _____

What specific areas do you need to surrender to Christ's control?

Right now, pray to the Lord, asking Him to take control of the areas of your life that you wrote down

THIS WEEK

Now finish memorizing the following books of the New Testament, reviewing the other names of the ones you already learned:

1 and 2 Peter
1, 2, and 3 John
Jude
Revelation

CONQUERING FEAR

Does it scare you to think about surrendering your life completely to Christ?



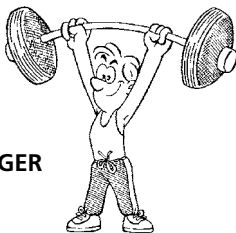
DOES GOD REALLY WANT
WHAT'S BEST FOR MY LIFE?

Here are some reasons people have for being afraid to surrender to Christ. Mark those that affect you.

- ☐ I fear that Jesus really does not understand my problems.
- ☐ I'm afraid Christ will command me to do something I can't fulfill.
- ☐ I fear that Christ won't let me marry the person who will make me happy.
- ☐ I'm afraid God will take away my friends and fun things I do.
- ☐ I fear that I won't be faithful, or not fulfill what He wants me to do.

Now read 1 Peter 5:6-7. In light of this passage, do you think there is any basis for your fears?

Yes ☐ No ☐



GROWING STRONGER

Read Acts 1-7
(one chapter per day).

Memorize Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

6. What is a good way to know if Christ is Lord of my life? Luke 6:46

7. Why is it so necessary to yield my life to Christ's control?

- ✓ I cannot serve two Lords. I have to decide whether I'm going to serve God or serve the world. I can't please both (Luke 16:13).
- ✓ Without Christ as the guide of my life, I am a slave to sin (Romans 6:16).
- ✓ One day I will have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account (2 Corinthians 5:10).

WHO IS MOST CAPABLE OF MANAGING MY LIFE?

	Jesus	Myself
Who always desires the best for my life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who knows what is best for my life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who is able to do what's best for my life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WHAT MUST I SURRENDER TO CHRIST?

Some areas of my life that I should surrender to Him are:

8. Romans 12:1 _____

Isaiah 26:3 _____

Ephesians 5:15-16 _____

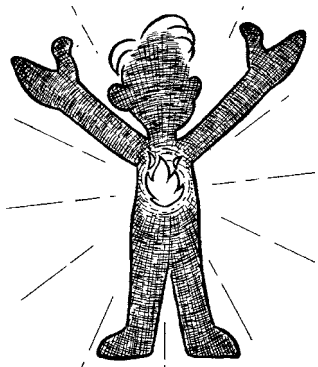
2 Corinthians 9:6-7 _____

A DAILY SURRENDER TO CHRIST

Romans 12:1 exhorts us to surrender our bodies to Christ.
The following prayer may serve as a model for this daily surrender.

*"Lord, I surrender myself to you.
Take my mind and what I think
Take my eyes and what I see
Take my ears and what I hear
Take my lips and what I speak
Take my heart, what I feel and my attitudes.
Take my hands and what I do
Take my feet, where I go
Take my body, it is your temple.
Fill me with your Holy Spirit.
I want to obey you.
I want to do your will."*





Step 5

Living in the Spirit

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ___ The Holy Spirit is a "force" of God.
- ___ The Holy Spirit gives us understanding of our sin.
- ___ The Holy Spirit dwells in all children of God.

THE INITIAL WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When He ascended to the Father in heaven, Christ Jesus sent the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Truth) to give testimony about Himself (John 15:26).

1. According to John 16:8-9, what is the work of the Holy Spirit in unbelievers? _____

2. The Holy Spirit causes the person who accepts Christ to be born again (John 3:3-8). What does it mean to you to "be born again"?

In addition, the Holy Spirit does other things in the person who accepts Christ, as we will see below.

3. According to 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 we were all _____ into one body by the Spirit.

Baptism with the Spirit does not refer to baptism in water, but rather to the Holy Spirit making us members of the body of Christ, that is, the church, which is made up of all true believers throughout the world.

4. According to Ephesians 1:13, we were _____ by the Holy Spirit of promise. To be "sealed" with the Spirit means that we are God's secure possession from the moment that we first believe (v.14). Just like a rancher brands a steer, God had put his mark on us to say "This one is mine!"

5. According to 1 Corinthians 3:16, the Christian is the temple of God, and the Holy Spirit _____ in him or her. This means that the Spirit truly and permanently indwells each Christian.

SUMMARY OF THE INITIAL WORK OF THE SPIRIT:

- ✓ Convicts of sin
- ✓ Causes the new birth
- ✓ Baptizes us into the body of Christ
- ✓ Seals forever
- ✓ Dwells in our body



DIGGING DEEPER

According to 1 Corinthians 6:11, who is the Holy Spirit? _____

See also Acts 5:3-4

THINK ABOUT IT

Ephesians 1:14 says that the Holy Spirit Himself is the "guarantee" or "down payment" of our salvation. How does this truth make you feel?

MY RESPONSE

Knowing that our body is the temple of the Spirit of God, how should we take care of our body?
See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

THE CONTINUING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THIS WEEK

Share your testimony (how you came to know Christ) with one person.



Maybe this could be with the person you have been praying for.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Jude 20. What does "praying in the Holy Spirit" mean? See question 8.

6. What did Christ promise about spiritual knowledge, according to John 14:26? _____

What joy to know that the Spirit of Christ Himself teaches us!

7. The Holy Spirit knows us intimately. What else does He do for the believer, according to Romans 8:26-27? _____

8. Romans 8:14 says that the Holy Spirit leads the Christian. In order to be led by the Holy Spirit, the Christian should:

Ephesians 5:18 _____

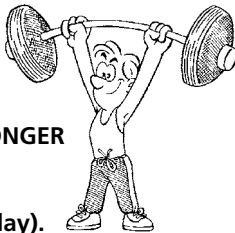
Galatians 5:16 _____

To be filled with the Spirit or to walk in the Spirit means that the Christian is controlled and guided by Him. This is demonstrated by the fruit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23.

HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- ✓ When you realize that you have sinned, confess it to God. Do not wait for sin to build up (1 John 1:9). In addition, it is necessary to accept by faith the forgiveness that God offers you.
- ✓ Present yourself to God. Permit Him to control your life, submitting to His will (Romans 6:13). Review the prayer at the end of the previous lesson.
- ✓ By faith appropriate the filling of the Holy Spirit, that is, believe that He is controlling you. Begin to act and live according to that faith.

HERE I AM LORD



GROWING STRONGER

Read Acts 8-14 (one chapter a day).

Memorize 1 Corinthians 12:13

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

SUMMARY OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE BELIEVER

He teaches the believer

He intercedes for the believer

He guides the believer

He fills the believer

He glorifies Christ (John 16:13-14)



Step 6

God speaks to me

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ____ Almost all of the Bible is of divine origin.
____ Every person who asks for God's help is able to understand the Bible.
____ To get the greatest benefit from the Bible, it's important to meditate on it.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

1. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say about the origin of the Bible? _____

The word "inspired" found in some translations literally means "breathed by God." What does this tell us about God's Word?

This verse says that _____ Scripture is inspired by God. If that's so, could there be any errors in it? _____

2. In what way is the Bible different from other books? Hebrews 4:12

3. Explain how the Bible serves as a sword in your life. (Heb. 4:12) _____

THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

4. The Bible feeds you spiritually. To what is the Bible compared in 1 Peter 2:2? _____

What would happen to the Christian who neglects to read the Bible?

5. The Bible guides you in your daily life. To what is the Bible compared in Psalm 119:105? _____

What is a lamp used for? _____

We live in an age of confusion. There are many "teachers", churches and friends who want to give us advice. How do we know which one has the truth? God gave us the Bible for this very purpose, to enlighten our minds and to help us to evaluate the advice that they give us.

6. The Bible helps you to not sin (Psalm 119:11). What does "I have hidden your word in my heart" mean? _____

THIS WEEK

How are you doing on the Bible readings assigned in each lesson?

Are you reading a chapter a day?

☐ Yes ☐ No

When reading the Bible, have you seen that its power has touched your heart or changed your life?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Tell someone about what you are learning in your readings.

If up until now you have not read your Bible regularly, why not start today?

With God's help I commit to reading my Bible (suggestion: one chapter a day)

Date _____

Memorize in order the names of the first 14 books of the Old Testament:

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 and 2 Samuel
1 and 2 Kings
1 and 2 Chronicles



MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1:8 commands us to meditate on the Bible day and night, that is, all the time.

We suggest the following means of meditating continually on the Bible:



From your daily Bible reading copy a verse onto a 3x5 card or notebook. Carry it in your purse or wallet, or tape it up in a visible place (like the mirror or refrigerator) so that you can review it often during the day.

When you meditate on your verse, ask yourself:

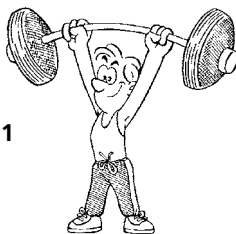
- ✓ What does God want to teach me?
- ✓ How should I put this passage into practice in my life today?

THINK ABOUT IT

Is the Bible the final authority in your life? Read Acts 17:10-11. What custom did the Berean believers have which is worthy of imitation?

GROWING STRONGER

Read Acts 15-21 (one chapter per day).



Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"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."

7. The Bible helps you grow in the Christian life. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the Bible is useful for:

_____, _____
_____, _____

The one who lets him or herself be guided by the Bible will be "thoroughly equipped for every good work." Be careful of those who say that the Bible is not enough and encourage you to seek dreams and revelations in addition to the Bible. The Bible is enough!

8. Is it hard for you to have faith at times? Read Romans 10:17 & answer:

How does faith come to us? _____

How can we increase our faith? _____

THE CONTENT OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is divided into two parts:

THE OLD TESTAMENT

39 Books

The Law (Genesis to Deuteronomy)
The History of Israel (Joshua to Esther)
Poetry (Job to Song of Solomon)
Prophecy (Isaiah to Malachi)

THE NEW TESTAMENT

27 Books

The Life of Christ (the 4 Gospels)
The Growth of the Church (Acts)
Teaching (the Epistles)
Prophecy (Revelation)

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE BIBLE

Listen: Fellowship with a church where the Word of God is faithfully taught. (Revelation 1:3; Hebrews 10:24-25)

Study: Are you reading your Bible daily? Take notes in a notebook of what you are learning in your daily readings (See Appendix 4). A good place to start is with the books of John, Acts, 1 John, and Romans.

Meditate: See "MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE" in the box at the side.

Note: Many religions and groups practice types of meditation. They try to completely empty their minds, repeat one word or phrase over and over to achieve a trance state, or visualize themselves on a journey to get spiritual guidance. This is NOT biblical meditation; it is part of divination, sorcery and idolatry, which God hates (see Deut. 18:9-13). Biblical meditation involves thinking and talking about God's Word.

Memorize: A memory verse is assigned in each lesson. It is very important to complete this assignment, because once you have the verse memorized, it is kept in your mind for use in the future.

Obey: Write in your own words, the main idea of James 1:22. _____

What did Ezra do with the Scriptures? (Ezra 7:10) Write down three things:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Step 7

Talking with God

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ____ In order to pray, it is important to do it in a church and on your knees.
____ I can pray with confidence, because God hears me and promises to answer.
____ It is enough to just pray before I eat and when I go to sleep.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is communicating with God. It is as simple and natural as talking to a friend. You can talk to God with complete confidence about any topic, fear or need. Prayer is an intimate communication with Him.

1. What great offer does God make in Jeremiah 33:3? _____

Prayer is a means of honestly expressing everything that is in your heart to a friend who listens to you with great interest.

How does God promise to respond to your prayer? _____

Are there times when God is too busy to hear your cry? Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Prayer is one of the ways we protect ourselves. What was the advice that Jesus gave to His disciples so that they would not fall into temptation?

Matthew 26:41 _____

3. What dangers do we need to avoid when we pray?

Matthew 6:5 _____

Matthew 6:7 _____

What is your interpretation of the phrase "meaningless repetitions" ("babbling like pagans" in the NIV)?

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

4. The Psalms give us many reasons to praise God. For example, what reasons does Psalm 106:1 give you for praising God?

5. Instead of always worrying, what should you do? Philippians 4:6

THINK IT OVER

With what attitude should we draw near to God, according to Hebrews 4:16?

In your opinion, what is the reason for this degree of confidence that we can have with God?

"We should pray when we have the desire to pray, because it would be a sin to waste such a valuable opportunity. We should pray when we do not have the desire to pray, because it would be dangerous to stay in such an unhealthy condition"

Charles H. Spurgeon

THIS WEEK

Memorize in order the names of the following books of the Old Testament and review the ones previously learned.

Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel



THIS WEEK

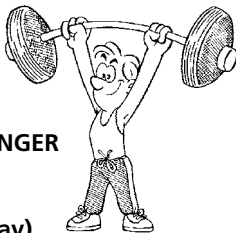
1 Timothy 2:1 commands us that "requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone."

Do you have a list of prayer requests that reminds you for whom you should pray?

Make a prayer list on a piece of paper or in a notebook.

Your list could include the following categories:

- ✓ Family members
- ✓ Friends
- ✓ Brothers and sisters in the faith
- ✓ Servants of God (your pastor, etc.)
- ✓ The people that govern your country and community
- ✓ People who have done you harm
- ✓ People you want to win for Christ
- ✓ Your goals and personal growth



GROWING STRONGER

Read Acts 22-28
(one chapter a day).

Memorize Philippians 4:6-7

"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."

6. According to Philippians 4:6, what should our attitude be when we are asking God for something? _____

When we pray with "thanksgiving", we are expressing faith in God for the answer that He will give to our request.

That is why verse 7 says we can experience _____ in our hearts upon leaving our burden in the hands of the one who is completely able to help us with our problems.

7. What does "pray without ceasing" mean? (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

If you should pray all the time, does that mean that you can pray in any place, for example, at your job, riding the bus, etc.? _____

Your prayer should include:

Adoration & Praise to God for who He is.

Confession of your sins so that they don't hinder your fellowship with God.

Requests for personal needs and intercession for others.

Thanksgiving What has God done for you?
Let's not be ungrateful. Let's express our gratitude to Him.



8. According to John 14:13 we should pray in the name of _____

9. What else can we learn about how to pray from the following passages?

Psalms 66:18 _____

1 John 5:14-15 _____

Matthew 21:22 _____

10. How does Ephesians 3:20 encourage your faith? _____

GOD ANSWERS YOUR PRAYERS

We have seen that God promises to answer our prayers. But, how? Someone has said that God has three ways of answering them:

- ✓ Sometimes He says "yes".
- ✓ There are times when, for our good, He says "no",
- ✓ Others times He says "wait a while."



Step 8

Meeting with God every day

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ___ It is important to read the Bible and pray every day.
- ___ One should try to read many chapters of the Bible each day.
- ___ God wants to transform us day by day through His Word.

WHAT IS A DEVOTIONAL TIME?

A devotional time is our daily appointment with God. It should be every day, because it takes time to develop our relationship with Him. Maturity does not come "instantly," rather, it is cultivated day by day, one step at a time.

"Morning by morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; morning by morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." Psalm 5:3

Some people call it "the quiet time," because it is a time to wait before God so that He will speak to us through His Word, and then to respond in prayer.

ITS IMPORTANCE

Why is it important to have a daily devotional time?

Joshua 1:8 _____

Psalm 63:1 _____

Matthew 4:4 _____

Would you say that a daily appointment with God is a necessity or just a good idea (if you have time)? _____

WHEN AND WHERE SHOULD YOU HAVE YOUR DEVOTIONS?

Usually, the best time is in the morning. This lets us start the day off with God. Men like David and Christ set aside a special time in the morning (Psalm 5:3 and Mark 1:35). Obviously, this implies that we will have to get up earlier than usual, but it will be worth the effort. Some like to set aside time in the evening (Psalm 63:6), or at another time during the day when they know they can keep their "appointment" with God.

Whatever time you choose, look for a peaceful place where you can spend this time without interruptions. Sometimes, to seek this privacy, it might be necessary to get up before others, to close the door to your room, or to go outside.

Set a time and place now for your devotions:

Time: _____ I will get up at: _____ Place: _____

THINK ABOUT IT

Hebrews 4:12 compares the Bible to a "two-edged sword."

Sometimes, reading it is uncomfortable for us, because it penetrates our lives to show us what we are like, and what we have to correct.

Have you ever thanked God for the ability of the Scriptures to do this?

THIS WEEK

Memorize in order the names of the following books of the Old Testament, reviewing the ones you learned before.

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zachariah
Malachi



BIBLE READING PLAN

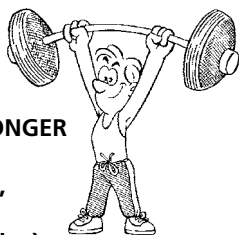
We suggest beginning your reading in the New Testament. Read from one book daily until you finish it.

You might begin to read the books of the Bible in the following order:

John
Acts
1 John
Romans
James
Philippians

Appendix #5 gives a list of readings for a whole year.

Note: When you finish reading a book, before starting another one, try reading a Psalm and a chapter in Proverbs.



GROWING STRONGER

Read 1 John 1-5,
Psalm 1 and 5
(one chapter a day).

Memorize Joshua 1:8

"Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

**Appendix #4
contains a summary of
how to have your
devotional time.**

**Cut out the page and
paste it in your Bible.
It will serve as a guide
to help you benefit from your
daily appointment with God.**

WHAT YOU SHOULD INCLUDE IN YOUR DEVOTIONAL TIME

Prepare your heart:

With what attitude should you present yourself before God?

Psalm 139:23-24 _____

Psalm 119:18 _____

Psalm 5:3 _____

Hebrews 4:16 _____

Study the Word of God

In John 5:39 we see that the Jewish leaders were to search the Scriptures. The Bereans in Acts 17:11 examined the Scriptures when they received them, and the psalmist says, "I have sought out your precepts... I will ponder your statutes." (Psalm 119: 94, 95). This implies not only reading, but also studying the passage for the purpose of discovering its meaning and seeing what God wants to communicate to you.

To begin, study short passages (no more than one chapter). It is sometimes better to read a short passage several times than to read several chapters. That way you can analyze it well.

How to Study the Bible



Passage: _____

Dig into the passage using questions.

Here are a few examples of the kinds of questions to ask as you read.

1. What impressed you most from this passage?
2. What is the main idea of the passage?
3. What are some of the key words? What do they mean?
4. What does it mean for your life? What does God want you to do?
 - a. Is there a commandment to obey?
 - b. Is there an example to follow?
 - c. Is there a sin to avoid?
 - d. Is there a promise to make your own?

Get a notebook today to use in your devotional time. Use the method in the box above to study your Bible, writing down your thoughts in the notebook.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Take the time that you need for your devotions. Don't try to hurry.
2. Give priority to your daily appointment with God. Try not to miss the appointment. If you skip a day, don't get discouraged; but don't miss the next day.
3. Try to read a chapter a day. At times it is better to read less in order to study it well. At times you may need to read more.
4. Mark your Bible, underlining key verses to be able to find them later.
5. Try to put key verses in your own words to understand them better.
6. If it is hard to concentrate, read or pray out loud, or pray standing up. It's better not to have your devotions lying down on the bed; you could fall asleep. Ask for God's power to be able to concentrate.
7. Get a notebook to write down the results of your Bible study, prayer requests, etc.

Pray

Pray, referring back to the Bible passage studied. Respond to God, telling Him about your reaction to the passage. Include:

- ✓ Confession, when you become aware of all the impurities in your life.
- ✓ Worship for who God is (the Psalms can help you enrich your praise).
- ✓ Praise to God for what He does.
- ✓ Thanksgiving for what God has given you.
- ✓ Pray for the requests on your prayer list.

Sing to the Lord

Music lifts your spirit and helps you create an atmosphere of worship. Sing choruses and hymns regularly, throughout the whole day, not just in your devotions. Ephesians 5:19. If you prefer, whistle or hum choruses.

Put what you have learned into practice

James 1:22 warns us to be "doers of the word, and not merely hearers." Reading the Bible without applying it to our lives is like seeing our face in a mirror and going away without cleaning off the dirt that the mirror shows us. It doesn't make sense to read the Bible if we are not willing to submit to what it says.

Note: This doesn't mean that we should stop reading the Bible when we feel rebellious. We should read it all the MORE during these times, asking God to change our hearts. Don't let spiritual enemies (see Step 5) keep you away from the Bible!

Meditate and Memorize

Copy a verse from the passage you read on a piece of paper or in a notebook to meditate on it during the day. Try to memorize it. In this way, God will help you to resist sin.

REVIEW: A SIMPLE PLAN FOR YOUR DEVOTIONAL TIME

1. Prepare your heart

- Examine yourself and confess your sin.
- Ask God for understanding

2. Study the Bible

- What impressed you the most?
- What is the main idea?
- What are some of the key words? What do they mean?
- What does it mean for your life?

3. Pray to the Lord

- Talk with God about the passage studied.
- Worship God for who He is.
- Give God thanks for what He has done
- Ask of God, using your list of requests.



4. Sing to the Lord

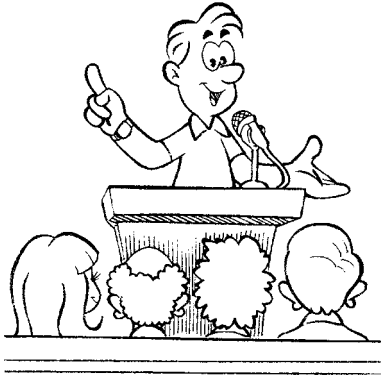
Sing a chorus or hymn. The music will lift your spirit and will help you praise God.

5. Apply what you have learned

What will you do today to put it into practice in your life?

6. Meditate and Memorize

From the passage you read, choose a verse on which you can meditate, and memorize it. Write it down in a notebook or on a 3x5 card to carry it with you during the day.



Step 9 My Church

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ The church is only a building.
- _____ The church is the community of all believers.
- _____ I don't need church, as long as I keep reading the Bible at home and listen to Christian programs on radio or television.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 16:18: "...I will build my church..." Christ spoke in the future tense (I will build) and spoke of the church as something that belonged to Him (my church). This church that Christ was going to build already exists today and continues to grow. It is the visible manifestation of Christ in the world today.

In one sense, the church is universal, but at the same time it has a local presence (Matthew 16:18, Acts 13:1).

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The universal church is the supernatural body of which Christ is the head. It is formed of all the people that have been born again from the day of Pentecost until the rapture of the church.

1. To what is the church compared? 1 Corinthians 12:27 _____

2. Who makes up this body (the church)? The church is made up of all the believers in Jesus Christ, those who have been regenerated by the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 12:13)
3. What has God given to the members of the church? Romans 12:4-8

4. Who is the head of the church? Ephesians 4:15 _____
5. According to Ephesians 1:12, why does the church exist? _____

6. What is the mission of the church? Matthew 28:18-20 _____

THE LOCAL CHURCH

The local church is a group of people who are born again, baptized, and organized in order to glorify God, edify one another and proclaim the gospel.

THIS WEEK

To deepen your fellowship with the brothers and sisters of your church, start this week by inviting one of them to your house or out for a meal together.



THINK ABOUT IT

God has given each believer a spiritual gift. Romans 12, Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12 speak of the gifts. For example, some of the gifts mentioned there are:

Service	Teaching
Exhortation	Giving
Faith	Evangelism
Wisdom	Pastoring
Showing mercy	
Leading (Administration)	

Do you know which are your gifts? If the answer is NO, then you could find out by praying, serving in the church, and asking brothers and sisters in Christ to tell you what ability they observe in you.

THINK ABOUT IT

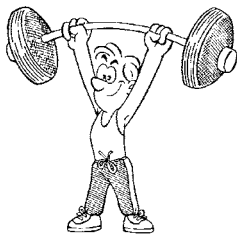
Make a list of the excuses some believers use for not attending church (assembling).

What is the real reason why they don't attend? Hebrews 10:25

THIS WEEK

Make a list of the leaders of your church and pray every day this week for one of them.

GROWING STRONGER



Read Romans 1-4
(read each chapter for two days in a row in order to understand it better).

Memorize Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 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."

7. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Does the Bible teach that the believer in Christ should be part of a local church?

☐ Yes ☐ No Why? _____

How can we "spur one another on toward love and good deeds"?

8. What other things did believers do together in the Jerusalem church?

Acts 2:42 _____

9. If you are a part of a church, you should help it. In what ways could you help your church?

Galatians 6:1-2 _____

Galatians 6:10 _____

1 Peter 4:10 _____

2 Corinthians 9:7 _____

In 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, the Bible sets requirements for church leaders. Read these passages. Although you may not be planning to be a leader yet, every Christian should aspire to have the characteristics mentioned in these verses.

10. Since leaders were put in the church by God, what should our attitude towards them be?

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 _____

Hebrews 13:17 _____

11. What is one of the responsibilities of the church toward its members, according to Galatians 6:1-2? _____

12. What attitude should you have when correcting a straying brother? v.1,2

The church, since it is a family, has the responsibility to look out for the well-being of its people. There are times when discipline is necessary to preserve the testimony and purity of the church. It is an act of love and concern toward the people in the church. Discipline is one of the things God uses to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds".



Step 10

Witnessing

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ It is important to evangelize others, because the majority are on the road to hell.
- _____ I can evangelize my family and friends with success.
- _____ To be able to share my faith, I should wait to receive a course on witnessing.

One of the believer's privileges is to witness about his or her faith in Christ. Witnessing, or evangelizing, means to share the plan of salvation with another person, so that they come to accept Christ.

THE NEED TO WITNESS

As we saw in the first lesson, humanity is trapped in the clutches of sin.

"There is none righteous, not even one...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:10, 23)

1. Matthew 7:13-14 speaks of two gates that represent two different destinies in life. According to these verses, what destiny awaits most people?

2. What does John 3:18 say about those who have not trusted in Christ?

3. In contrast, the believer is _____
_____ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

THE SPECIAL MISSION ENTRUSTED TO US

4. God has appointed us as His ambassadors. What is the mission that God has entrusted to us as his ambassadors, according to 2 Corinthians 5:20?

5. Read Matthew 5:14-16. As well as ambassadors, Christ calls us _____ (v. 14)

6. What does it mean to you to say that we are the "light of the world"?

7. In contrast, what does it mean to put your light under a bowl or a basket?
v. 15 _____

PREPARE YOURSELF TO SHARE WITH OTHERS



Do you feel insecure, because you don't know what to say to those to whom you want to witness?

It's very common to feel that way. In order to have more confidence:

- Study the "plan of salvation" in Appendix 6.
- Learn this plan by heart, including the Bible verses.
- Cut out the page in the appendix that tells the plan of salvation and paste it in your Bible.

If you want to know how to effectively give a personal testimony,

- Appendix 6 gives some practical suggestions to help you share with others what Christ has done in your life.

THIS WEEK

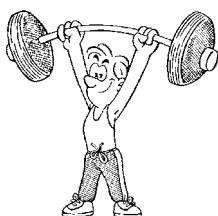
- Whom do you feel responsible to share the gospel with? Write their names below:

Family Members:

Friends and Acquaintances:

- Pray regularly for them and speak to them about Christ.
- When can you start to witness?

This week share the plan with one person on your list. Don't wait for more time to pass! If you don't have the plan memorized, you could share John 3:16.



GROWING STRONGER

Read Romans 5-8
(read each chapter for two days in a row in order to understand it better).

Memorize

Learn the plan of salvation
in Appendix 6

8. How much does your light shine? Understanding that you are the light of the world, mark the statements that best describe your life.

- ☐ I like to speak about Christ, because He has changed me.
- ☐ Sometimes I shine, but sometimes my light is covered up.
- ☐ I don't know how to witness about Christ.
- ☐ I am somewhat embarrassed to talk about Christ.
- ☐ Up until now, my light has shone very little.



9. Matthew 28:19-20 contains what we call the Great Commission. In this commission, what does Christ command us to do?

10. Does it embarrass you to speak with others about Christ? If so, read Romans 1:16. Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel?

HOW TO WITNESS: PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

- Let Christ change your life. Remember that your words will be worth little if they are not backed up by your behavior. Matthew 5:16
- Use the Bible. It is the Word of God. It is a powerful weapon that clears up the confusion in the mind of the sinner. Hebrews 4:12.
- Depend on the Holy Spirit to help you witness. He convicts the world of its sin, preparing them to listen when you present the plan of salvation (John 16:8). You cannot force anyone. God Himself will do the work in their hearts.
- Pray constantly for your friends who have not accepted Christ. Look for opportunities to share with them.
- Look on the unbeliever with compassion, understanding that he or she lives enslaved by sin. The unbeliever is not your enemy; rather, he is a victim of the enemy (Satan).
- Witness with an attitude of humility (1 Peter 3:15). Understand that if it weren't for the grace of God, you could also be in the same condition.
- Be courteous. Make sure the unbeliever feels that you really want to help him. Don't condemn.
- Be natural. The best contacts you have are your family and friends. Don't be afraid to share with them. Take advantage of these opportunities.
- Get some good tracts and begin passing them out now. Ask your pastor or church leaders how to get some.
- Be brave. Even though not everyone accepts your message, remember that you are a bearer of the good news that brings eternal life (Romans 1:16). What's more, the majority of people are more open than we think.



Step 11

Baptism & Communion

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ I must be baptized to go to heaven.
- _____ Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion) make me more holy.
- _____ The elements of the Lord's Supper symbolize the blood and body of Christ

BAPTISM

- Before ascending to the Father in heaven, Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples of all nations. According to Matthew 28:19-20, when someone becomes Christ's disciple, what's the first step they should take?

Baptism is not optional; rather, it is a commandment to be obeyed by every believer.

- Baptism is not required for salvation, but rather it is a result of already being saved. Let's look at the case of the Phillipian jailer in Acts 16.

What was the only requirement in order to be saved? Acts 16:30-31

How did the jailer and his family give testimony of their new faith?

Acts 16:32-33 _____

Note that v.34 indicates that the whole family believed, not just the jailer.

We see that baptism is a way to give public testimony to the fact that we are saved.

- According to Acts 2:41, after having received the word (the gospel), they were _____ and about three thousand souls were _____ to their number.

These three thousand people, by being baptized, identified themselves with the church in Jerusalem. In the same way, ***we identify ourselves with our local church when we are baptized.***

Some people have mistaken ideas about baptism. Therefore, it is important to know that:

- Baptism does not save us.
- Neither is it a step towards salvation.
- Baptism does not make us holier, although it does motivate us to live in holiness.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Romans 6:1-4. At first glance, this passage seems to speak of baptism in water. However, here the word "baptism" is really being used to speak of our identification with Christ.

When we accept Christ we identify with Him in His death, His burial, and His resurrection. So, in Christ we are new people.

Water baptism symbolizes this transformation that occurred in the moment of our salvation.

Going down under the water symbolizes our identification with Christ in His death and burial, and that we "die" to our old life. Coming up out of the water symbolizes our resurrection to a new life.

DECIDE

If you have already accepted Christ, have you obeyed Him by being baptized?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have not been baptized, talk to a pastor or leader in your church today.



THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper (or communion) was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ on the night He was betrayed. It is something sacred and very special, but it is not a sacrament or something magical.

REMEMBERING

According to Hebrews 10:10-12, how many times does Christ offer his body in sacrifice for sins?

" _____ for all"

Think about the implications of this passage for those who say that the bread and wine literally become the body and blood of Christ.

If this were so, wouldn't that mean the sacrifice of Christ was being repeated week after week?

4. Please read 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26. According to verse 26,

What do we proclaim? _____

Until when? _____

This passage teaches us the meaning of the Lord's Supper. It reminds us of Christ's sacrifice on the cross for us, and it is a reminder of His second coming.

5. What does it mean to do this "in remembrance of me"? _____

6. According to verses 24 and 25, what do the bread and the cup symbolize?

The Bread _____

The Cup _____

7. Now, read 1 Corinthians 11:27-31. Verse 28 says that before participating in the supper, each one should examine him or herself. What does this act mean to you?

8. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 emphasizes another aspect of the Lord's Supper which is communion, sharing, or fellowship. What does it mean to have fellowship with other believers?



GROWING STRONGER

Read James 1-5;
Psalm 19 and Psalm 27
(one chapter a day).

Memorize Matthew 28:19

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

Some have mistaken ideas about the Lord's supper; therefore, it is important to know that:

1. The Lord's Supper is not a sacrament or something magical.
2. It does not make us holier, although it does motivate us to holiness.
3. The juice does not turn into the blood of Christ, nor does the bread become the body of Christ; rather they symbolize the blood and the body of Christ, reminding us of Christ's sacrifice until He comes.
4. It is an act of obedience and a moment of fellowship with Christ and with our brothers and sisters in the faith.



Step 12

The Family

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ The husband's primary responsibility is to love his wife.
- _____ The wife's respectful conduct can win her husband for Christ.
- _____ Even if one's parents are not believers, one should always respect them.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

The Christian home is a center of support, protection, and mutual edification. Through the home, material needs are met, and children are taught how to face the issues of life. In contrast, if Christ is not reigning in the home, far from being a refuge, it becomes a battleground and a place of frustration.

God's plan for the family in the book of Genesis

"It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make a helper suitable for him..." Genesis 2:18

- ✓ It was God who created Eve, as a wife for Adam. So, the idea of creating the home came from God Himself.
- ✓ The wife is described as a suitable helper, adequate for her husband. Both the wife and the husband mutually complement each other. United, they are better than when they are apart.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." Genesis 2:24-25

- ✓ The couple needs to become independent from their parents, to form their own separate family. This is the only way they can learn to depend on each other.
- ✓ "One flesh" implies living in union with each other, not in competition, as best friends sharing intimate thoughts.
- ✓ Sex within marriage is not a cause for shame, but rather is a gift from God to the couple for their good. The children that will come are a blessing from God.

DISCUSS

The Bible speaks about the wife's submission to her husband. Do you believe this gives the husband the right to be overbearing? Why not?

THINK ABOUT IT

There are many things that can threaten the unity of the home. Write down some of them:

THIS WEEK



One of the threats to family unity is the low priority we place on spending time together. Although we love them, there are times when they don't feel our love.

What will you do today to show love in a concrete way to your husband or wife (or family member)?

This week, what activity can you do with your children (family members) so that they feel your love?

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE HOME

1. What commands does God give to **husbands** in the following passages?

Ephesians 5:25 _____

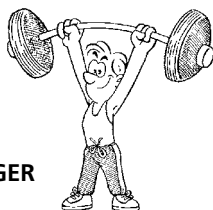
Colossians 3:19 _____

1 Peter 3:7 _____

Husband, do you believe you are fulfilling this? If not, in what areas should you change? What kind of love did Christ have for His church? This love is the model to follow in your relationship with your wife.

DIGGING DEEPER

Love is central to the Christian home. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Paul defines true love. On a separate sheet of paper, write down the characteristics of love according to this passage; or underline in your Bible the words that stand out the most to you.



GROWING STRONGER

Read **Philippians 1-4; Psalm 37, 51 and 139** (one chapter per day).

Memorize **Philippians 2:3-4**

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interests of others."

2. What commands does God give to **wives**?

Ephesians 5:33 _____

1 Peter 3:1-2 _____

3. What does God tell **parents** to avoid? Ephesians 6:4

Give examples of what parents do that frustrates or provokes their kids to anger. _____

What should they do? _____

4. According to Deuteronomy 6:6-7, in what situations and places should you instruct your children? _____

Share as a family what you learn during your devotional time. Read the Bible and pray together for each one's needs.

5. What does God command **children** to do in Ephesians 6:1-2? _____

6. There are a few rules that promote harmony in the home. They apply to the husband, the wife, and the children. What are they?

Ephesians 5:21 _____

Philippians 2:3-4 _____

THINKING ABOUT YOUR PARTICULAR SITUATION

If your family is not Christian, be prepared for criticism or ridicule for being a believer. When you came to Christ, you probably broke with family traditions. Remember, you must please God ahead of your family, for He is the one you will ultimately give account to. Remember, the Gospel has given you new life and changed your eternal destiny (Rom. 1:16).

Have compassion on the unsaved, knowing that they are victims of the enemy and of their own sinful nature. Remember how you once lived before accepting Christ. The hardest to reach might be those who are "good" or "religious" people.

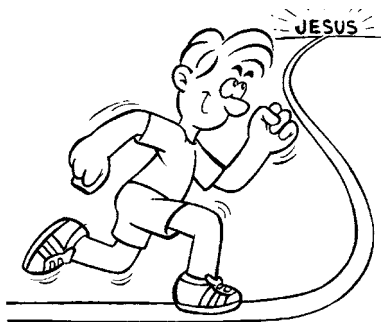
Testify by allowing Christ to change your life. The first thing they will notice is your attitude toward them. Love them, and be patient, praying that God will touch their hearts. Don't preach. Permit your light to shine before them so they will see your good works and glorify God (Matt. 5:16).

Living together without being married is a commonly accepted practice but the Bible calls this fornication. God asks us to make a lifelong commitment to the one we choose to live with. Don't settle for second best; God is calling you to something better. Make that commitment. If you are not legally married, ask your pastor for advice on how to correct the situation.

Adultery has destroyed many homes. Protect your heart, reserving yourself for your spouse alone. Immunize yourself against adultery by dedicating time and energy to keep your marriage healthy. Love needs to be nurtured daily. If one spouse has been unfaithful, they should not try to cover it up but repent, beg for forgiveness, and pray their partner will forgive them. Both of you will probably need the counsel of a mature believer to work through this.

Being single is difficult in today's world that places a low value on sexual purity. Dare to swim against the current and save yourself for your future spouse. Confess your past sin and ask God to help you overcome temptation. Only date other Christians; but also make sure they are serious about their walk with Christ.

We are often surrounded by pornography, so much so that it is hard to avoid. Be careful about what you look at, or the places you go. Be alert: pornography is addictive! If you have an internet connection, install internet filter software on your computer to protect yourself and others from temptation. Use Google or Yahoo to search for "*internet filter software*" to find programs for your computer.



Step 13 Following Jesus

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ___ The Christian has a lot to do with his or her own spiritual growth.
- ___ Fellowship with the body of Christ is not important.
- ___ It is possible to enjoy continual communion with God.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations on reaching the end of this study on "NEW LIFE IN CHRIST". We encourage you to continue your studies in Volume 2. Consider the following questions as you look at the drawing above:

Do you wish to reach the goal of becoming Christ-like? Yes ☐ No ☐

Has this study of "NEW LIFE IN CHRIST" helped you towards reaching that goal? Yes ☐ No ☐

Does finishing this course mean you have reached that goal? Yes ☐ No ☐

Becoming a true disciple of Christ doesn't just consist of finishing a course like this one. Discipleship is like a long distance race, rather than a 100 meter dash. It is a daily walk, every day; a new lifestyle with different rules than those that governed your old life.

BASIC HABITS FOR ORDERING YOUR LIFE

In the previous lessons, you have taken significant steps towards establishing your walk with Christ.



Identify the basic habits of the Christian life that correspond to each of these drawings:



These habits are absolutely necessary for you to be Christ-like. Don't ever neglect them..

It is important to order your life, dedicating time to what is really important. This is called establishing priorities. The habits represented by these drawings should become your new priorities; taking preference over other activities.

Jesus spoke of three things that characterize the Christian life. Dedication to:

- ✓ Jesus Christ ✓ Other Christians ✓ Christ's work in the world.

1. What does Christ want you to have?

John 17:3 _____ John 17:13 _____

2. John 17:11 describes the relationship that Jesus wants Christians to have with each other. "protect them by the power of your name... so that they _____, as we are one."

3. John 17:23 May believers be brought to complete _____ to let the world _____ that Christ came from heaven to love this world. This love and unity among Christians is a strong testimony, which authenticates our message to unbelievers. John 13:34-35

CHECK UP

Are you using the devotional time plan presented in lesson 8?

Yes ☐ No ☐

What is the time you have set aside for your daily appointment with Christ? _____

How are you going to cultivate your relationship with other Christians?

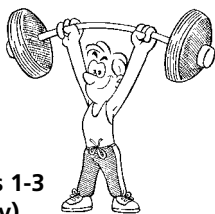
How will you show the world that Christ lives in you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read John 15:16. Jesus' desire is that His own bear much fruit and that their fruit would remain. There are two types of fruit. What are these fruits, according to Galatians 5:22-23 and Matthew 28:18-20?

GROWING STRONGER

Read
1 Thessalonians 1-5
and 2 Thessalonians 1-3
(one chapter per day).



Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

WALKING BY FAITH

4. Paul says "we live by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor. 5:7) How is faith described in Hebrews 11:1? _____

5. Hebrews 11:6 says without faith it is impossible to please God. What are the two things we must believe in order to come to God? v. 6
a. _____
b. _____
6. Think for a moment what it means to "walk by faith", then meditate on what is said about faith in the box below.

Faith is not just blind hope, but rather it is the certainty that God is faithful and that He is going to do all he has promised. To have faith in God implies no longer trusting in our own resources, but resting in God's.

To walk by faith is to daily put into practice what the Lord is teaching you. That's why it is so important to maintain and protect your intimate fellowship with Him.

7. How does Jesus describe His relationship with His followers in John 15:4-5? _____

Our relationship with Christ is compared to a grape vine, with Christ being the plant and ourselves as the branches.

8. Why is it vital to maintain this relationship with Christ? _____

9. What does it mean to "remain" or "abide" in Christ (v. 4)?

10. According to John 15:10, how can we remain in His love? _____

COMMITMENT

11. What is required to be Christ's disciple? Luke 9:23 _____

12. Are you willing to deny your own desires in order to joyfully follow Christ's will for your daily life? Yes ☐ No ☐
 - ✓ Continue on with the patterns and habits that you have learned.
 - ✓ Put into practice what the Lord shows you each day.
 - ✓ Jealously watch over your intimate relationship with God.

Appendix 1

Cut on the lines. Carry these cards with you and memorize the verses

Galatians 2:20 Step 4 "I have been crucified with Christ; and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."	Joshua 1:8 Step 8 "Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."	Proverbs 3:5-6 Step 13 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."
1 John 1:9 Step 3 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."	Philippians 4:6-7 Step 7 "Do no 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 2:3-4 Step 12 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interests of others."
John 10:27-28 Step 2 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me; I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; and no one can snatch them out of My hand."	2 Timothy 3:16-17 Step 6 "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."	Matthew 28:19 Step 10-11 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"
Ephesians 2:8-9 Step 1 "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."	1 Corinthians 12:13 Step 5 "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free -- we were all given the one Spirit to drink."	Hebrews 10:24-25 Step 9 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 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."

Appendix 2

Cut on the dotted line and fold in the center. You might want to glue it into your Bible

WHO AM I IN CHRIST?

I am a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17)
 I am a child of God. (Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:14-15; Gal. 3:26; 4:6)
 I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. (Col. 1:14)
 I am free forever from condemnation. (Rom. 8:1)
 I have been set free from the power of sin. (Rom. 6:1-6)
 I have the right to come without shame before the throne of God to find mercy in times of need. (Heb. 4:16)
 I am righteous in Christ, completely forgiven. (Rom. 5:1)
 I am a slave of righteousness. (Rom. 6:18)
 I am holy. (Eph. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1)
 I am the salt of the earth. (Matt. 5:13)
 I am the light of the world, bearer of the truth. (Matthew 5:14)
 I am Christ's friend. (Jn. 15:15)
 I am chosen by Christ to bear His fruit. (Jn. 15:16)
 I am made a servant or slave of God. (Rom. 6:22; Eph. 3:1; 4:1)
 I am a temple, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19)
 I have been bought with a price and therefore I belong to God. I am not my own master. I live for Christ. (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:14-15)
 I am a member of the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:30)
 I am reconciled with God. I am a minister of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:18-19)
 I was crucified with Christ, and I no longer live; Christ lives in me. (Gal. 2:20)
 I was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and without spot before Him. (Eph. 1:4)
 I am an heir of God, because I am His child. (Gal. 4:6-7)
 I am God's workmanship, born again in Christ to do His work. (Eph. 2:10)
 I am holy and righteous. (Eph. 4:24)
 I am a citizen of heaven. (Phil. 3:20; Eph. 2:6)
 I am a pilgrim in this world, in which I am living temporarily. (1 Pet. 2:11)
 I am a child of the light, not of the darkness. (1 Thess. 5:5)
 I have been rescued from the domain of Satan and transferred to the kingdom of Christ. (Col. 1:13)
 I am an enemy of the devil. (1 Pet. 5:8)
 I am born of God. The devil doesn't have authority to touch me. (1 Jn. 5:18)
 Christ Himself dwells in me. (Col. 1:27)
 I am chosen of God, holy and beloved. (Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4)
 I have received very great and precious promises from God. (2 Pet. 1:4)
 I will be like Christ when He returns. (1 Jn. 3:1-2)
 By the grace of God I am what I am. (1 Cor. 15:10)

Adapted from Victory Over the Darkness by Neil T. Anderson

HOW SHOULD I CONFESS MY SIN?

*"If we claim to be without sin,
 we deceive ourselves
 and the truth is not in us.
 If we confess our sins,
 He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins
 and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

1 John 1:8-9

Confessing is not just saying, "I sinned."
 True confession requires several things:

- ✓ Be sincere.
- ✓ Be repentant (desiring to not commit that sin again).
- ✓ Be specific (telling God precisely what I did).
- ✓ Be quick to recognize my error. As soon as I realize that I have sinned, I should confess it. Otherwise, I am in danger of falling into more sin.
- ✓ Be humble by asking forgiveness of those people who were affected by my sin.
- ✓ Accept forgiveness. We should not continue to reproach ourselves for sins that we have already confessed. If God has forgiven us, we must accept His forgiveness, and believing, give Him thanks. Reject Satan's accusation that we can't be forgiven.

Appendix 3

Cut on the dotted line and fold in the center. You might want to glue it into your Bible

TWENTY "CANS" OF SUCCESS

Someone has said that success comes in cans and failure in cannots.

Believing that you can succeed at Christian growth and maturity takes no more effort than believing that you cannot succeed. So why not believe that you can walk in faith and in the Spirit, that you can resist the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and that you can grow to maturity as a Christian. The following "Twenty Cans of Success", taken from God's Word, will lift you from the miry clay of the cannots to sit with Christ in the heavenlies:

1. Why should I say I can't when the Bible says I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Phil. 4:13)?
2. Why should I worry about my needs when I know that God will take care of all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ (Phil. 4:19)?
3. Why should I fear when the Bible says God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7)?
4. Why should I lack faith to live for Christ, when God has given me a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3)?
5. Why should I be weak when the Bible says that the Lord is the strength of my life and that I will display strength and take action because I know God (Psa. 27:1; Dan. 11:32)?
6. Why should I allow Satan control over my life when He that is in me is greater than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)?
7. Why should I accept defeat when the Bible says that God always leads me in victory (2 Cor. 2:14)?
8. Why should I lack wisdom when I know that Christ became wisdom to me from God and God gives wisdom to me generously when I ask Him for it (1 Cor. 1:30; Jas. 1:5)?
9. Why should I be depressed when I have hope and can recall to mind God's lovingkindness, compassion and faithfulness (Lam. 3:21-23)?
10. Why should I worry and be upset when I can cast all my anxieties on Christ who cares for me (1 Pet. 5:7)?

11. Why should I ever be in bondage knowing that there is freedom where the Spirit of the Lord is (Gal. 5:1)?
12. Why should I feel condemned when the Bible says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1)?
13. Why should I feel alone when Jesus said He is with me always and He will never leave me nor forsake me (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5)?
14. Why should I feel as if I'm cursed or have bad luck when the Bible says that Christ rescued me from the curse of the law that I might receive His Spirit by faith (Gal. 3:13-14)?
15. Why should I be unhappy when I, like Paul, can learn to be content whatever the circumstances (Phil. 4:11)?
16. Why should I feel worthless when Christ became sin for me so that I might become the righteousness of God? (2 Cor. 5:21)?
17. Why should I feel helpless in the presence of others when I know that if God is for me, who can be against me (Rom. 8:31)?
18. Why should I be confused when God is the author of peace and He gives me knowledge through His Spirit who lives in me (1 Cor. 2:12; 14:33)?
19. Why should I feel like a failure when I am more than a conqueror through Christ who loved me (Rom. 8:37)?
20. Why should I let the pressures of life bother me when I can take courage knowing that Jesus has overcome the world and its problems (John 16:33)?

Adapted from Victory Over the Darkness by Neil Anderson, pp. 114-116

Appendix 4

Cut on the dotted line and fold in the center. You might want to glue it into your Bible

A SIMPLE PLAN FOR YOUR DAILY DEVOTIONS

1. **Prepare your heart**
 - Examine yourself and confess your sin.
 - Ask God for understanding
2. **Study the Bible**
 - What impressed you the most?
 - What is the main idea?
 - What are some of the key words? What do they mean?
 - What does it mean for your life?
3. **Pray to the Lord**
 - Talk with God about the passage studied.
 - Worship God for who He is.
 - Give God thanks for what He has done
 - Ask of God, using your list of requests.

4. **Sing to the Lord**

Sing a chorus or hymn. The music will lift your spirit and will help you praise God.

5. **Apply what you have learned**

What will you do today to put it into practice in your life?

6. **Meditate and Memorize**

From the passage you read, choose a verse on which you can meditate, and memorize it. Write it down in a notebook or on a 3x5 card to carry it with you during the day.

BIBLE READING PLAN

Start to read the New Testament, reading one chapter a day until you finish it. We suggest you read John, Acts, 1 John and Romans first. : When you finish reading one book, before starting another, read some Psalms and a chapter in Proverbs. See Appendix 5 for more details.

PREPARING YOUR HEART

Morning by morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; morning by morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. Psalm 5:3

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

Open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things in your law. Psalm 119:18

Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Dig into the passage using questions. Here are a few examples of the kinds of questions to ask as you read.

1. What impressed you most from this passage?
2. What is the main idea of the passage?
3. What are some of the key words? What do they mean?
4. What does it mean for your life? What does God want you to do?
 - a. Is there a commandment to obey?
 - b. Is there an example to follow?
 - c. Is there a sin to avoid?
 - d. Is there a promise to make your own?

Appendix 5

Cut on the dotted line and fold in the center. You might want to glue it into your Bible

A SIMPLE BIBLE READING PLAN FOR ONE YEAR

As you read the chapter, put an "X" over the number of the chapter on the list.
That way, you will be able to keep track of your progress in the readings.

Chapters

JOHN	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	PSALMS	31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
ACTS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	GALATIANS	1 2 3 4 5 6
1 JOHN	1 2 3 4 5	1 TIMOTHY	1 2 3 4 5 6
ROMANS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	2 TIMOTHY	1 2 3 4
JAMES	1 2 3 4 5	MARK	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
PHILIPPIANS	1 2 3 4	PSALMS	41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
1 THESS.	1 2 3 4 5	TITUS	1 2 3
2 THESS.	1 2 3	PHILEMON	1
PSALMS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	GENESIS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
EPHESIANS	1 2 3 4 5 6	PSALMS	51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60
COLOSSIANS	1 2 3 4	1 PETER	1 2 3 4 5
PSALMS	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	2 PETER	1 2 3
MATTHEW	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	REVELATION	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
PSALMS	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	PSALMS	61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70
1 CORINTHIANS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	LUKE	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
2 CORINTHIANS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	HEBREOS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Appendix 6

Cut on the dotted line and fold in the center. You might want to glue it into your Bible

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Have you ever wondered how you could share your faith with a friend? Perhaps one of the best ways is to share your personal story, or testimony. The following guide will help you to organize your thoughts, preparing a testimony that is simple, yet effective. Write it out on paper so that you can practice it. You might want to think about preparing a short version (3 min.) and a longer version.

Guide for preparing your personal testimony

1. "Before I received Christ..."
How did you live and think before receiving Christ? Summarize, including both positive and negative aspects of your life without Christ. Make it interesting by mentioning specific things like your dreams, feelings, attitudes, character, habits, etc. Be truthful. Avoid exaggerations.
2. "How I received Christ..."
Consider some of the following to include: How did you accept Christ? What brought you to this moment? Who helped you come to Christ? Where did you do it? What did you pray? How did you feel? How did God touch you?

Include a key scripture that helped you understand the gospel. People should be able to understand the gospel from your testimony.
3. "After I received Christ..."
What has happened since you accepted Christ? Mention several specific changes you have seen.

Suggestions:
 1. Keep it simple. Use regular words, not "religious" vocabulary. Use words that everyone understands. Avoid unnecessary details (but include enough details to make it interesting).
 2. Keep it casual, conversational. Avoid preaching. Use appropriate humor to relax the atmosphere and reduce tension.
 3. Keep it interesting. Use human interest illustrations and concrete examples. Give graphic descriptions when appropriate, so the listeners can visualize what you are describing.

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

There are many ways to present the gospel. We can use any of them, but there are always some basic things that the person needs to understand in order to be saved. The following plan of salvation is based on "The Four Spiritual Laws."

1. **God loves you and has a plan for your life**

Jn. 3:16	The love of God
Jn. 10:10b	The plan of God for your life
2. **Man is a sinner and is separated from God.**

Rom. 3:23	We are all sinners
Rom. 6:23	The consequence of sin is spiritual death, separation from God
Eph. 2:8-9	We cannot save ourselves
3. **Christ is the only provision for our salvation. He died in our place and rose again.**

Rom. 5:8	Christ died in our place
Jn. 14:6	Christ is the only way
1 Cor. 15:3-6	Christ rose again
4. **We must receive Christ as our Savior**

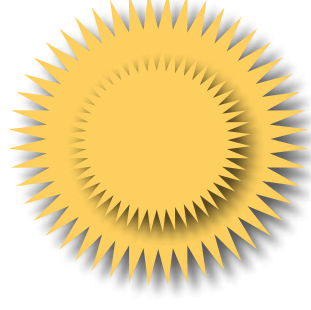
Jn. 1:12	Receive Christ in order to be a child of God.
Rev. 3:20	Christ is waiting for you to invite him in.
Romans 10:9	By faith invite Him to come into your life.

Certificate

This certificate is presented to

_____ who has satisfactorily completed all the lessons of the course

New Life in Christ Volume 1 **Basic Steps of the Christian Life**



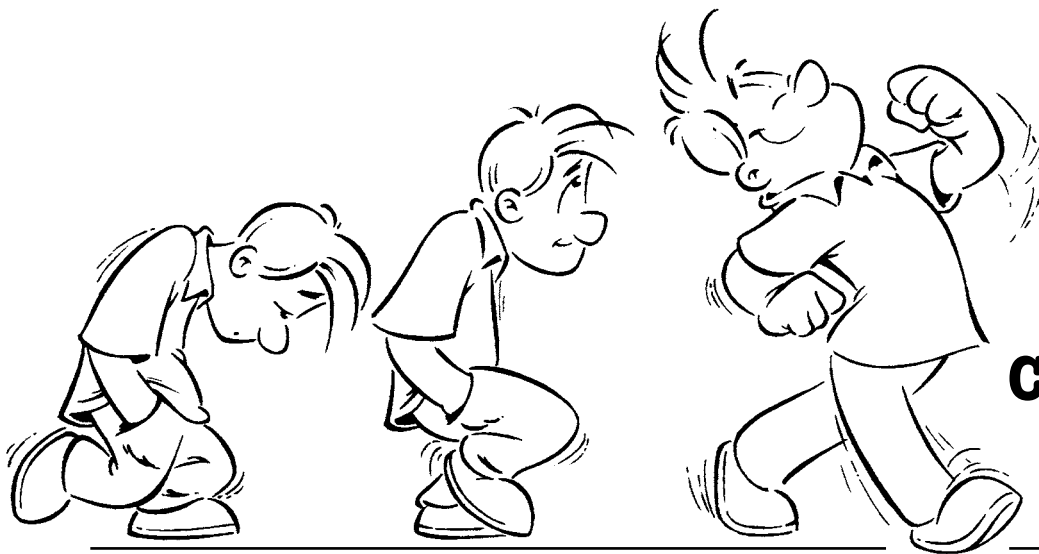
*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live,
but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body,
I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me
and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20*

Pastor or Teacher

Date

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Volume 2



**More
basic
steps
of the
Christian
life**

This is the English edition of ***New Life in Christ Volume 2***. It was originally produced in Spanish as *NUEVA VIDA EN CRISTO* by the Iglesias Evangélicas Centroamericanas and CAM International in Costa Rica.

For more information email us at: info@nuevavidaencristo.org

You may download a free copy of this book at the following website:
www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com

For printed copies contact:

CAM International, 8625 La Prada Dr., Dallas, TX 75228 USA
Phone: 800 366-2264 or 214 327-8206

For free materials in Spanish go to: www.obrerosfiel.com

All volumes are also available in Spanish and Portuguese. Volume 1 is also available in French, Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, Swahili, German, Malgache (Madagascar) and Kinyarwanda (Rwanda).

It is available in PDF format which requires Adobe Reader (formerly called Adobe Acrobat). If you have trouble opening the files, make sure you have an updated copy of Adobe Reader. You may download the latest free copy of Adobe Reader at: <http://www.adobe.com>

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

1. We congratulate you for accepting the challenge of discipling new believers using New Life in Christ as your guide. The results of this study can produce eternal fruit.
2. Let the Bible always be your authority in answering the questions. The students should look up the Bible passages by themselves and try to answer the questions based on what the Bible says.

Some new believers need a brief orientation on how to find the references in their Bibles.
3. This manual may be used in many different ways. In most cases, you will study one lesson a week, encouraging the disciple to do all the assignments in each lesson.
4. Try not to let your sessions get too long.
5. Encourage the students to answer the questions in their own words. Avoid copying the Bible word for word. Using their own words will help them to analyze the meaning of the texts studied.
6. Avoid preaching. Use questions to discover what the students understand and to stimulate active participation.
7. Prepare well for each session yourself. As the teacher, you should be familiar with the content and key concepts of each lesson.

Your preparation should include prayer for your students and for your own heart to be prepared for the lesson.

8. Try to have the students think about the practical implications for their lives. Help them to understand specific, practical applications.

The assignments in the boxes at the side of each lesson are designed for this purpose. Make use of them.

9. Help students cultivate the habit of prayer. Teach them by praying together with them.
10. It is important to understand that discipleship is much more than studying the lessons of New Life in Christ. Discipleship implies a life change for the disciple.

This manual is just an initial help. The students need continual help in seeking to change their character, ways of thinking, habits, etc.

11. It is of the utmost importance that disciples learn habits like daily Bible reading, prayer, and Scripture memorization.

At the beginning of each lesson, take time to review the previous memory verse and ask them how the daily Bible study is going. Do not scold students who have not completed some of the assignments, but be sure to encourage them to finish.

12. Be sensitive to what God is doing in the disciple's life. Take time out of each session to answer any questions they might have, or to help with facing problems in their personal life.

Keep in mind that there are times when it is not possible to get to every question in the lesson because of lack of time. In these cases, choose the questions of most importance to discuss.

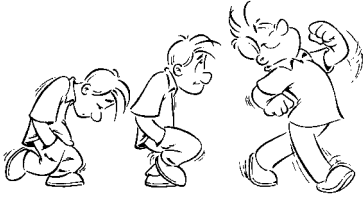
Welcome To God's Family

Congratulations! If you have received Christ as your personal Savior, you have been born again into God's family. Your sins are forgiven and you are now a new creature possessing eternal life.



"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17



God is just beginning to transform your life. Live each day by faith, entrusting yourself to God as He makes changes in your life. Have patience and wait with anticipation. A great adventure lies ahead!

Exercises To Help You Grow

As a new believer, you are beginning a relationship with Christ which will grow as you follow Him. Learning to follow Him is called discipleship. There are certain exercises that will strengthen you as a new Christian. The more you practice them, the stronger you will become.



- ✓ Christ wants to be the center of your life. Submit to Him moment by moment, letting Him control all areas of your life.
- ✓ Pray throughout the day, every day. Prayer is talking with God.
- ✓ Read the Bible every day. Before beginning, tell God: "Here I am, Lord, ready to hear your voice through the Scriptures."
- ✓ Find a church that preaches the Bible. The church members are your new family.
- ✓ Leave behind the world of sin to which you used to belong. Ask God to help you resist temptation.
- ✓ When you sin, confess that sin to God and receive the forgiveness He offers.
- ✓ Tell others about Christ.
- ✓ Continue studying Volumes 2 and 3 of *New Life in Christ*. If you can't find a place to get them, you may download them for free at the following website: www.newlifediscipleship.com



Step 1

Knowing God

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ____ God is a personal God, who cares about me.
 ____ I can get to know about God by the names given to Him.
 ____ To know God, it is enough just to pray and read the Bible.

In order to know a person, you need to spend as much time with them as possible. This is the only way to truly know them. The same is true in our personal relationship with God; you need to take as much time with him as possible.

A PERSONAL GOD

The Bible teaches us that God is personal, not someone way off in the sky somewhere, but close by, interested in our lives, caring about what happens.

1. Psalm 139:1-3 What things does God know about us? _____

2. Luke 5:18-20 One day while Jesus was teaching a crowd, several men brought their paralytic friend to him to be healed. He was not disturbed by the interruption. On the contrary, he took time to address the man's needs. What two things did Jesus do for the paralytic? v. 20, 24 _____

3. Luke 5:30-32 Jesus was criticized when he invited a corrupt tax collector, named Levi to follow him. Why? v. 29-30 _____

How did he respond to his critics? v. 31-32 _____

4. After reading these verses, do you think God is personally interested in your life, even if you have messed it up? Yes ☐ No ☐ Why? _____

5. How can we get to know God personally?

John 5:39 _____

Jeremiah 33:3 _____

God is always ready to hear our secret joys and fears and to respond to our cries for help. We might feel alone, but we never are.

KNOWING WHO GOD IS

God is always seeking a loving relationship with each of us. People long ago got to know him through his names, titles and attributes.

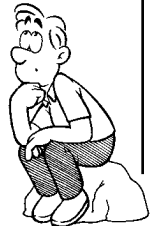
WHAT CAN I DO?

Are you taking the time to get to know God in a personal way?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If your answer is no, are you willing to commit yourself to a daily time of Bible study and prayer in order to know him better?

Yes ☐ No ☐



This is an important commitment. Today is the time to begin! Get to know the one who loved you and gave his life for you.

Date _____

Signature _____

LET'S DO IT!



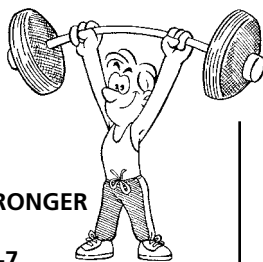
**Lord,
I want
to know
you**

THINK ABOUT IT

This week, meditate on the list below of names given to God.

If one is particularly meaningful to you, mark it, and thank God for the blessing you received by meditating on this aspect of God's character.

- ☐ Good shepherd (John 10:11)
- ☐ My hope (Psalm 71:5)
- ☐ My rock (Psalm 18:2)
- ☐ My fortress (Psalm 18:2)
- ☐ My deliverer (Psalm 18:2)
- ☐ My shield (Psalm 18:2)
- ☐ My salvation (Psalm 18:2)
- ☐ My hiding place (Psalm 32:7)
- ☐ Faithful & true (Revelation 19:11)
- ☐ The righteous judge (2 Tim. 4:8)
- ☐ Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5)
- ☐ Our peace (Ephesians 2:14)
- ☐ Bread of life (John 6:35)
- ☐ Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6)
- ☐ My redeemer (Psalm 19:14)
- ☐ Father of compassion (2 Cor. 1:3)
- ☐ Great high priest (Hebrews 4:14)



GROWING STRONGER

Read Psalm 1-7
this week
(one chapter
per day).

Memorize John 5:39

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.

6. What is the name used for God in Genesis 17:1? _____
What does it mean for our lives to know that he is God Almighty? _____

7. What is God called in Exodus 34:14? _____
Why is he jealous? v. 14-15 _____
Idolatry is putting something or someone in the place that only God deserves in our lives. It could be your family, sports, work, friends, etc..
Check the areas below that are replacing God in your life.
- | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Money | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Television, Videos | <input type="checkbox"/> Romance or Relationships | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Habits | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
8. Ephesians 2:14 says God is our _____
For you, what does it mean to say that he is our peace? _____

9. In Psalm 23 God is called our shepherd, whose primary concern is to care for his sheep. Read it, noting the promises found in each of these verses..
v. 1 _____
v. 3a _____
v. 3b _____
v. 4 _____
v. 6 _____
10. When you read these verses, what comes to your mind and heart?

- God comforts us. Are you willing to accept his comfort or do you prefer to feel sorry for yourself? _____
 - The shepherd leads us in paths of righteousness.
How is your walk? Is it a righteous walk? Yes ☐ No ☐
 - What path are you headed down? Are you at peace with the life you have chosen? _____
 - Do you believe God is concerned about you? Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Do you believe that you can really get to know God personally? Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Would you be willing to continue studying the Bible each day in order to know him? Yes ☐ No ☐



Meditate on who God is by using the help in the left hand column under "THINK ABOUT IT."



Step 2

Christ our example

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ Jesus always loves us, no matter what we do.
- _____ We are called to make sacrifices in order to serve others..
- _____ It is intolerant and wrong to tell someone they are living wrong.

Christ is and will always be, the best model that anyone can follow. He was perfect in everything, the only one who with his life and words could say: "I am the way" and "Learn from me."

1. Who lives in us? Galatians 2:20 _____

If Christ lives in us, how should we now live? _____

Follow his example in the following areas:

LOVE

2. How did Jesus show his love? Rom. 5:8 _____

Christ's love in this verse is:

- ☐ Unconditional (He loves us, in spite of who we are or what we do)
- ☐ Conditional (He only loves us when we're good).

3. John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that he _____
_____ for his friends."

4. Today, are we called to make sacrifices too? Yes ☐ No ☐

To love like Jesus means to be willing to sacrifice ourselves for others. This does not necessarily mean to die for them, but to give them our time, listen to them, help them, encourage them in their struggles, etc..

5. How will others know that we are truly Christ's disciples? John 13:34-35

6. How can we remain in his love? John 15:10 _____

HUMILITY AND SERVICE

7. What can we learn from Christ? Matthew 11:29 _____

8. Read Philippians 2:5-8. Christ, being God, lived in heaven far above the evil in the world. In spite of this, verse 7 says he made himself nothing, taking the nature of a _____. What does it mean to be a servant?

9. The maximum expression of Christ's humility was his death on the cross (v. 8). Crucifixion was not only painful, but shameful. He died between

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Christ followed the will of his father. Since I belong to him, how can I honor him with my life?

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

Christ prayed to his father even before dawn. What do you do when you wake up?

If we don't pray, what does that say about our concept of God?



TO WORK ON

Mark the items on the following list you are willing to commit to.

- ☐ I will pray every day, asking to be more like Jesus.
- ☐ I will seek God's divine will through the reading of scripture and prayer.
- ☐ Everyday I will submit to him, giving him control of every part of my being.

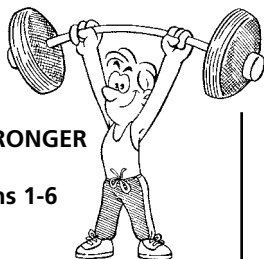
THINK ABOUT IT

Are there attitudes that prevent us from following Christ's example as seen in this lesson?



Mark the items on the list below that could be keeping you from a life of humility and service.

- ☐ Worry about everything.
- ☐ Difficulty in forgiving others.
- ☐ Pride.
- ☐ Lack of patience with others.
- ☐ Difficulty loving others.
- ☐ Jealousy.
- ☐ Envy.
- ☐ Selfishness.
- ☐ Anger.
- ☐ Lack of discretion, rashness.
- ☐ Evil thoughts, a dirty mind.
- ☐ Indifference towards the needs of others..
- ☐ Machismo.
- ☐ Others



GROWING STRONGER

Read Ephesians 1-6 and Psalm 8 this week (one chapter per day).

Memorize Matthew 11:29

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls."

thieves, naked, suffering the mockery of the people, executed on a cross as if he were a criminal instead of a king. Verse 5 tell us to imitate his humility. How? v. 3-4 _____

10. According to Luke 6:31, what is one of the best ways to serve others? _____

COMPASSION

11. According to Matthew 9:35-36, Jesus had _____ on the crowds. Why? _____

12. How do you look at the unbelievers that surround you? Is it easier to be critical of them or to feel compassion? _____

13. The Pharisees, seeking to trap Jesus, brought a woman caught in adultery to him. Quoting Moses, they asked Jesus if she should be stoned, to which Jesus replied, "If any of you is _____ let him be the first to _____" John 8:7

14. How does Jesus' attitude toward this woman differ from ours today when we see someone involved in sinful behavior? John. 8:10-11 _____

15. ☐ True ☐ False: Showing compassion towards sinners is just a way to facilitate or cover up inappropriate behavior .

Although he was compassionate, Jesus also told her to "go _____." v. 11

True compassion is different from "tolerance." It moves us to exhort in love the one who is doing evil, not tolerate their behavior.

COURAGE TO CONFRONT WRONG

16. How did Jesus confront the hypocrisy of the Pharisees? Matthew 23:27 _____

17. Denouncing hypocrisy and injustice requires courage. Is it correct to hide behind arguments like, "I don't want to offend anyone?" _____

PRAYER

18. What example did Jesus give us in Mark 1:35? _____
Why do you think it is good to pray early in the morning? _____

19. One time Jesus prayed all night before making an important decision. What was the important thing he was praying about? Luke 6:12-13 _____

God expects each believer to seek his will in all the decisions they make. Furthermore, is it important to note that Jesus did not just pray when he had to make decisions, but also to seek communion with his father.

Step 3

Called to serve

FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS



Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ The only way to serve God is by occupying a position in the church.
- _____ The strongest Christians are those with the ability to preach.
- _____ Each believer has the ability to serve.

Service is a part of the Christian life, but not everyone understands what it means to serve. Let's see what Jesus did to teach his disciples about the importance of service.

1. Read Matthew 20:26-27 and fill in the blanks. Whoever wants to become _____ among you must be your _____, and whoever wants to be _____ must be your _____.

Those who only look out for themselves and their own welfare will never find the happiness they seek. Christ taught that success comes to those who deny themselves in order to serve others.

2. What do you think it means to be another's "servant"? _____

To serve means sacrifice, but the sacrifice is accompanied by contentment. More than a burden, sacrificial service for others is a privilege.

3. The best example to follow is the one Christ gave in Matthew 20:28. He did not come to _____ but to _____ and to _____ as a ransom for many.

4. Give an example of how you could "give your life" to serve others: _____

USING YOUR GIFTS

The Bible tells us that God has given spiritual gifts to each member of his church. A "spiritual gift" is a special capacity to contribute to the edification and growth of the church.

5. Which believers have received gifts? 1 Corinthians 12:7 _____
Note The manifestation of the Spirit here refers to spiritual gifts.
6. What are your gifts to be used for? 1 Peter 4:10 _____

The gifts are from God and are never for our own benefit, but rather for the edification of other believers.

Read Romans 12:3-5 and answer the following questions:

7. How should I look at myself? v. 3 _____

SOMETHING TO MEDITATE ON

Make a list of the spiritual gifts you think you possess and describe briefly how you could use them in your church and your community.



Speak with your pastor, showing him the list, asking him how you can use these gifts.

TO THINK ABOUT

The church is compared to the human body. Have you ever hit your thumb and been unable to use it? It's awkward, right? Now, imagine how the church is crippled when its members fail to use their gifts.

How are other believers affected when you don't use your God-given abilities?





FOR FURTHER STUDY

What should a servant of Christ be like?

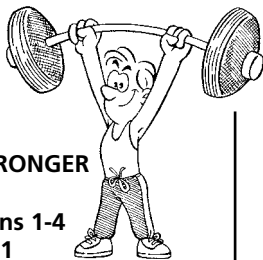
Study the following passages, noting the **attitude** of a servant mentioned in each one.

1 Corinthians 15:14

Philippians 2:3-4

1 Corinthians 10:31

Colossians 3:23-24



GROWING STRONGER

Read Colossians 1-4 and Psalm 9-11 this week (one chapter per day).

Memorize Matthew 20:27-28

"...and whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

8. The church is called the body of Christ and is compared to the human body. Verse 5 says we are _____, yet form _____ body. As a result each believer must seek the unity of the body by serving others.
9. Verse 4 says there are _____ members of the body, but all do not have the same _____. Since this variety exists, should we worry when we see that we do not all have the same gifts?
10. Who are the most important people in your church? ☐ The pastor
☐ The teachers ☐ The musicians ☐ Everyone is important.
11. According to 1 Corinthians 12:20-22, are there some members of the church who are more important than others? _____. Why? _____

In regards to spiritual gifts there is place for neither pride nor envy. Those that envy others for their gifts haven't yet understood what these verses teach. God has different jobs for different believers. Some people's gifts are very visible like those who preach or teach from the pulpit, but there are many whose gifts are equally important, yet are used in less visible ways.

On the other side, those who brag about their gifts still haven't understood that God has given his people a variety of gifts, all of which are equally important, even those which are less visible or dramatic.

12. The following passages list different spiritual gifts like helping, teaching, exhortation, giving, administration, showing mercy, evangelism, pastoring etc.: Eph. 4:11; Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-10, 28-30.
13. As we have seen, not all believers have the same gifts. Why is it important to understand this? _____

Never isolate yourself from the body. The church can only advance as all of us use our gifts together to form a complete and healthy body.

14. How is a congregation affected when its members fail to use their gifts? _____

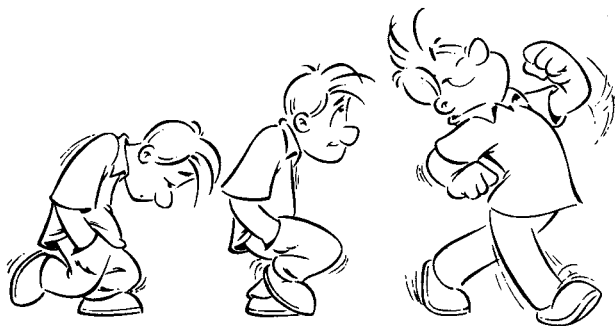
HOW CAN I KNOW WHAT MY GIFTS ARE?

The best way to discover your gifts is by **helping wherever there is a need**. After **being involved** in various ministries you will be able to discern what you are good at, and where you are weak. Listen to the **counsel of mature believers** who see your strengths and weaknesses.

15. What gifts do you think you have? _____

SUMMARY

- The Bible teaches that each believer ought to serve, not just be served.
- God has given us gifts that will contribute to the growth of the church, and we need to use them.



Step 4

Who am I in Christ?

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ___ Now that I am a believer, I am a member of a new family.
- ___ We have a very special position in Christ.
- ___ I have biblical support for keeping my self esteem high.

It is extremely important to understand our position in Christ, since our enemy, Satan, is very astute and will try to cut the floor out from under us, leading to an erroneous view of ourselves and thus to spiritual failure. Do we really have a special position in Christ or is that just an illusion? What does the Bible say?

I AM GOD'S CHILD

1. Explain what the phrase "all who received him" means in John 1:12.

2. What happens when someone receives Christ? _____

Children occupy special places in a family, especially when that family is the family of God.

I AM GOD'S TEMPLE

3. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says that each believer is the temple or dwelling place of God. According to this verse, who dwells in every believer?

4. In this verse, what is meant by the phrase "you are not your own?" _____

5. If God the Holy Spirit lives in us, can Satan do whatever he wants to us?
1 John 4:4 Yes ☐ No ☐ Why?

I AM A SAINT, CALLED TO BE HOLY

6. Who were the "saints" Paul referred to in Philippians 4:21? _____

7. In 1 Corinthians 1:2 Paul wrote to those _____ in Christ, and called to be _____. "Sanctified" refers to the fact that each believer has been made holy, not by his own efforts, but because of the work of Christ. To be sanctified means to be set apart from the values of the world, to live for God.

I AM A MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY

8. 1 Corinthians 12:27. "you are _____ and each of you is a part of it." When someone accepts Christ, he is baptized with the Holy Spirit, which is to say, made a part of his body (1 Cor. 12:13). The "body of Christ" refers to the universal church, consisting of all the believers throughout the world. (Ephesians 1:22-23)

SOMETHING TO DO

Each day this week, read one or more of the following verses and reflect on your position in Christ:

- ✓ 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ✓ Romans 6:1-11
- ✓ Romans 6:12-23
- ✓ John 15:1-5
- ✓ John 15:15
- ✓ Galatians 4:6-7
- ✓ Ephesians 2:4-7
- ✓ Philippians 3:20
- ✓ 1 Peter 2:11

After reflecting of these verses, what do you think about your position in Christ?



THINK ABOUT IT

Understanding our position in Christ will help us in at least three areas of our lives:

1. It will allow us to maintain a healthy self esteem based on who we really are and on what God thinks about us.
2. As we live in righteousness each day, we will clearly understand God's plan for our lives.
3. We will be strong in our battle against Satan, the world and the flesh.

FOR REFLECTION

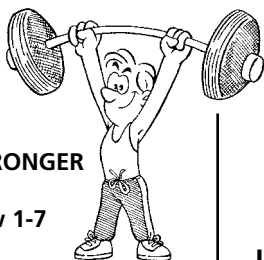


What _____
was your
family like
when you
were a child?

Did you receive the following?

Love	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Support	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Understanding	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Encouragement	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Security	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you did not receive love and security as a child, all that has been left behind. Today you have a new family in Christ. Pray that God will take away your bitterness and thank God for the members of your new family.



GROWING STRONGER

Read Matthew 1-7
this week
(one chapter
per day).

Memorize Colossians 3:1

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

9. According to Ephesians 2:19 we are no longer foreigners ... but fellow citizens with God's people and members of _____.
10. If we are members of God's household, then other believers are _____.
11. Think about how a family functions. What does it mean to you to know that you have a new family? _____.

If you were born into a dysfunctional family where love and acceptance were lacking, know that now you have a new family that will support you.

I HAVE DIED TO SIN

12. Galatians 2:20 says we have been _____.
- What does it mean to be "crucified with Christ"? Look at the rest of the verse to answer _____.

13. Colossians 3:1 In addition to being crucified with Christ, we were also _____ with Christ. Therefore how should we live? v.1 _____.

14. What does the expression "things above" refer to? _____.

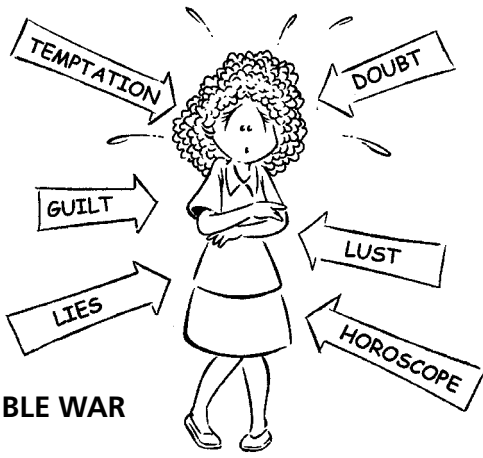
I AM FREE FROM CONDEMNATION

15. Romans 8:1 There is no _____ for those who are in Christ
16. Romans 5:1 Since we have been _____ through faith, we have _____ with God. "Justified" means that God has declared us righteous because of Christ's death on our behalf.

Many believers find it hard to believe that God has truly forgiven them, believing their sins are just too many to be pardoned. As a result they continue to experience guilt feelings that keep them from finding victory in Christ. That is why these two verses are so important; they free us.

I'M SPECIAL

- 17 According to 1 Peter 2:9, what are we now in Christ?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
18. What does it mean to you, knowing that you have a special position in Christ? _____.
19. Since he has done so much for me, how should I live my life? 2 Cor. 5:15 _____.



Step 5 Spiritual Warfare

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ___ The devil attacks believers by pointing out all their sins.
- ___ Satan uses lies to manipulate and intimidate us.
- ___ All Christians are automatically protected against Satan..

THE INVISIBLE WAR

1. Ephesians 6:12 speaks of a battle. According to this verse, the struggle is not against _____, but against _____
2. Who do you think these "rulers" and "powers" are? _____
3. What is Satan trying to do to us? 1 Peter 5:8? _____
What attitude should a believer have? v. 9 _____

Who is our enemy?

Some think of Satan as a person from the Comic strips, dressed in red with horns and a tail. Satan himself is probably the author of these ideas, because the Bible presents him in a very different light. Satan, as well as his followers, the demons, are fallen angels. Satan was a cherubim, perfect and beautiful, until he rebelled against God (Ezekiel 28:14-15). Since that time he has been a declared enemy of God and his people.

THE ENEMY'S TACTICS

Satan uses different tactics, depending on the person or the situation. Sometimes he works openly through occult practices like witchcraft and magic. Often however, he is more subtle, making it harder to detect his influence. The more we know about his tactics, the better we will be able to resist him.

4. Read Deuteronomy 18:10-12. What does it say about divination, witchcraft, casting spells, etc..? _____ v. 12
Divination is the practice of foretelling the future or hidden knowledge through magic or omens. Diviners or psychics use things like horoscopes, cards, etc.. At times they claim to be able to read minds.
5. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:9, some of Satan's servants will act with _____, _____ and _____.
Satan uses his special powers to manipulate, intimidate and to trick people into believing he is invincible, or that he can grant them special favors or power, etc..
6. John 8:44b tells us "he is a _____ and the father of _____,"

DIGGING DEEPER

The devil uses lies to intimidate and trick God's people, trying to side-track them from the true path.

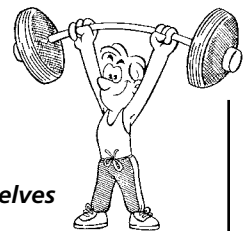
Make a list of some of the lies he has tried to use in your life.

GROWING STRONGER

Read Matthew 8-14
this week
(one chapter
per day).

Memorize
James 4:7

Submit yourselves
then to God.
Resist the devil, and
he will flee from you.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Often, out of ignorance or curiosity we get ourselves in dangerous situations..

If you have ever been involved in any of the forbidden practices listed below, check its box.



- ☐ Consult with a witch or healer.
- ☐ Sought to contact the dead.
- ☐ Consult a horoscope.
- ☐ Consult with a psychic.
- ☐ Made a pact with Satan.
- ☐ Use charms to access hidden power..
- ☐ Watched satanic movies.
- ☐ Practiced white or black magic.
- ☐ Participated in satanic rituals.
- ☐ Consulted with a spirit guide.
- ☐ Other occult practices.



If you have checked any of the above boxes, you need to pray, renouncing your past participation in these occult practices. Ask your pastor or a mature believer for help.

The
victory
is yours!



7. We are in a battle between the truth and lies, where the battle is won in our minds. That is why Jesus said: "you will know the _____ and the truth will _____." John 8:32
8. Is it possible to know the truth? How? _____
9. Satan masquerades as an _____ and his servants are disguised as _____ (2 Cor. 11:14-15). False religions and philosophies are examples of this tactic. The devil's most effective servants are often "good" people.
10. Revelation 12:10b, mentions another one of Satan's tactics. What is it?

Why is it that after confessing their sins, so many Christians still feel guilty? Could it be because they pay more attention to the devil's accusations than to the promise of forgiveness in 1 John 1:9?

11. What is the promise in 1 John 1:9? _____
- Does 1 John 1:9 indicate that there are some sins so big that God will not forgive them? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is it necessary to do "penance" in order to be forgiven? Yes ☐ No ☐

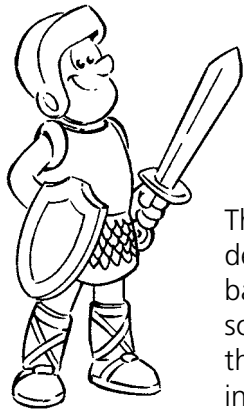
The problem of many believers is that they refuse to accept the forgiveness that God offers. They keep beating themselves up as a form of penance because they feel unworthy. They forget that forgiveness is a gift, even though it is undeserved. As long as they think this way, the devil wins.

12. Ephesians 2:2 speaks of people who follow the _____ and the _____ of the kingdom of the air.
- The ruler of the kingdom of the air refers to the devil who tempts us, using all the world has to offer. It must be remembered that sin is almost always very pleasurable and attractive, at least in the beginning.

THE BELIEVER'S CONFIDENCE

13. Although Satan attempts to control us, we don't belong to him. Read Colossians 2:15. What has Christ done with the demonic forces (powers and authorities)? _____
14. How can 1 John 4:4 give us confidence in the battle? _____
15. James 4:7 promises that the devil will flee from us, but we must first _____ to God _____ the devil.
16. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 Is there victory in Christ to demolish Satan's strongholds? _____. What do we need to do? v. 5b _____

Discuss what it means to take our thoughts captive or obedient to Christ.



Step 6

The armor of God

The Christian is not without defenses in his spiritual battles. There are many resources, one of which is the armor of God mentioned in Ephesians 6:11-17

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- ___ The Bible is an important part of my armor.
- ___ Faith is simply believing that God will do what he has promised.
- ___ Satan tries to confuse us as to our special position in Christ.

1. What is the purpose of the armor mentioned in Ephesians 6:11, 13? _____



"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist..." (v. 14) "...and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God." (v. 17)

We learned in the previous lesson that Satan uses lies to twist the truth just enough to trap us.

2. What allows the believer to be free? John 8:32 _____

3. Where can the truth be found? John 17:17 _____

To detect a counterfeit bill, a bank teller must know what a genuine bill is like. Since it's not possible to study all the kinds of counterfeit money that exist, knowing genuine money well will allow detection of the counterfeit.

4. In order to have the truth "buckled around your waist," it is indispensable that the believer have a good knowledge of biblical truth. How can a believer increase his biblical knowledge? _____

Check the boxes that best describe your situation:

How often do you study the Bible in your devotional?

- ☐ Daily ☐ Occasionally ☐ Almost never

Do you memorize or meditate on scripture passages?

- ☐ Regularly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Almost never

How often do you hear the word preached in church?

- ☐ Weekly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Almost never

On a scale of 1-10, grade yourself on your ability to recognize the lies and deceptions of the devil: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

5. The sword of the Spirit is useful to attack as well as to defend. How does Hebrews 4:12 describe the Bible? _____

When we preach the gospel, we are invading Satan's territory. We teach the Bible, not our personal opinions, because it is the word that penetrates to a sinner's innermost being, convincing and freeing them from their sin.

6. In order to be protected by the truth, it is important not only to _____, but also to _____. James 1:22

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Ephesians 6:16 exhorts us to use the shield of faith to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. Make a list of some of the arrows Satan has been shooting at you lately.



Why would you say to someone who says: "But I don't have enough faith. My faith is too weak."



What can we do to help our faith grow?



"The breastplate of righteousness" v. 14

DIGGING DEEPER

According to Philippians 4:6-7 the Christian is at peace when he does what verse 6 tells him to do.

"Do not be _____,
_____, but in
everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, _____."

Each of us must decide to choose either peace or worry. Which do you choose?

- ☐ To be at peace, leaving my worries in God's hands.
- ☐ To worry, carrying the load of my problems by myself.

7. According to Romans 3:24 we have been _____ freely by the God's grace. "Justification" means that we have been declared righteous by God; not because we deserve to be called righteous, but because when we receive Christ, he cancels the debt of sin that condemned us.
8. Romans 5:1 One result of our justification is that we are at _____ with God. Knowing this protects us from the lie that God is still holding our sins over our heads because we are unworthy of forgiveness.
9. Since justification gives us the freedom to resist sin, what are we now? Romans 6:18 _____
Saying "no" to sin and practicing righteous deeds is our best defense.

To put on the breastplate of righteousness means remembering each day that we are no longer under condemnation. This defends us from Satan's accusations and demands that we choose righteousness rather than evil.



"With your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace" v. 15

Since we are at peace with God (Romans. 5:1), we need to always be ready to take the gospel of peace to others.

10. Romans 10:15 says: "How beautiful are the _____ of those who bring _____." Remember that the weapon we use to announce the gospel of peace is the sword of the Spirit, the word of God. Let's trust his word, not our words or abilities to touch people's hearts.



"The shield of faith" v. 16

To use the shield of faith, believe that God acts according to his character and promises. Faith is trusting what the Bible says and acting accordingly.

11. What are the flaming arrows of the evil one? Give examples _____

Using the shield of faith is giving credit to what God says instead of listening to the lies and accusations of the enemy.



"The helmet of salvation" v. 17

The helmet protects our head since Satan's principle target is our mind. As "the accuser" he chips away at our self esteem, trying to convince us that we are weak, helpless failures. His goal is to convince us that we will never be victorious, that resisting temptation is a lost cause. Remember, in Christ we are "winners", not "losers" (Romans 8:37-39)

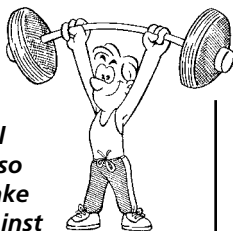
- 12 Being saved brings a new life with many a whole list of benefits like:
The right to be called _____. John 1:12
I will never be lost because I possess _____. John 3:16
We are at _____ with God. Romans 5:1
My sins have been _____ Colossians 1:14

GROWING STRONGER

Read Matthew 15-21
this week
(one chapter
per day).

Memorize
Ephesians 6:11

*"Put on the full
armor of God, so
that you can take
your stand against
the devil's schemes."*





Step 7

Forgive to be free

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ It's my right to not forgive those who have hurt me.
- _____ Forgiving means to forget the offense.
- _____ I can only find freedom from bitterness by forgiving.

THE NEED TO FORGIVE OTHERS

Find the answers to the following questions in Ephesians 4..

1. Paul exhorted the believers to live in humility, bearing with one another in love. What should characterize my relationships with others?
_____ Eph. 4:2
2. What does it mean to bear with each other in love? v. 2 _____
3. Going to bed angry is a way to give a foothold to _____ v. 26-27
4. Why isn't it healthy to go to bed angry? _____

In another passage, Paul spoke about the necessity of forgiveness so that Satan won't outwit us. (2 Cor. 2:10-11).

5. Think for a moment. In what ways could Satan gain a foothold if we let bitterness take control of us? _____

Can I can still be free, even if I don't forgive others? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is it possible that I can become enslaved by bitterness? Yes ☐ No ☐

Can I be at peace with God and hate a brother? Yes ☐ No ☐

Who suffers most when I won't forgive? Me ☐ The offender ☐

ENSLAVED BY BITTERNESS

Many Christians reject the biblical command to forgive, preferring to hold a grudge against the one who has hurt or offended them. They prefer vengeance over forgiveness. They justify their grudge by saying:

"I'll never forgive them for what they did to me. How can I be expected to forgive them, just like that? I want to see them suffer."

What they fail to understand is that they themselves are the ones who will suffer the most. When they refuse to forgive, they become ensnared in a web of bitterness, slaves to hate and the quest for vengeance. It is impossible for them to be at peace, and their resentment affects their relationships with others and with God. It doesn't matter that the other does not deserve to be forgiven. The only way they can be free is to obey God's command to forgive those who have hurt them.



Forgiveness What it is and what it isn't.

What does it mean to forgive another? After reading the following truths jot down on a separate sheet mistaken ideas you have held in the past.

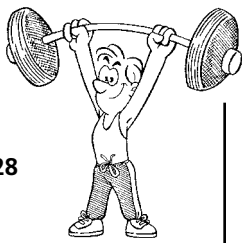
- ✓ It does not mean to forget the offense. Wouldn't it be great if we could instantly erase past memories? It takes time for the memories to fade.
- ✓ It doesn't mean we have to let the other keep on abusing or manipulating us. In love we must confront them; drawing a line, telling them that even though we have forgiven them, we will not continue to take the abuse.
- ✓ It means deciding to stop holding it against them. It means stop playing the video of the offense over and over in our minds. Forgiving is refusing to seek vengeance, leaving them in God's hands, letting him deal with them.
- ✓ It means living with the consequences of the other's sin. Whether we like it or not, we must recognize that we have been hurt badly. Denying our hurt or blaming others will not fix the problem. The only solution is to face the fact that we are wounded so that we can learn to live with the pain and seek healing. What will it be, resentment or forgiveness?
- ✓ Ask ourselves if we like being bitter people? If not, forgiveness is the only road to freedom.

GROWING STRONGER

Read
Matthew 22-28
this week
(one chapter
per day).

Memorize Colossians 3:13

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."



6. We are exhorted in v. 31 to get rid of bitterness, anger, rage and malice. What is the alternative to anger? v. 32 _____

HOW TO FORGIVE OTHERS

7. Who is the model for forgiveness? v. 32 _____

8. What is God's forgiveness like? What kind of people does he forgive?

Romans 5:8 _____

Read Romans 12:18-21 and answer the following questions:

9. Is it possible to always be at peace with others? v. 18 Yes ☐ No ☐

Why? _____

While I cannot force others to be at peace with me, I can still choose to be at peace with them. I can do my part, forgiving and asking forgiveness if I have offended them. If I do that, I'm free, no matter what they decide.

10. According to v. 19 why shouldn't we seek vengeance? _____

Will those who hurt others escape punishment? Yes ☐ No ☐

Will God deal with them one day? Yes ☐ No ☐



11. How should I deal with evil? v. 21 _____

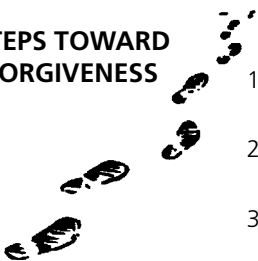
12. How can I overcome evil with good? v. 20 _____

the phrase "heap burning coals on his head" refers to the fact that our enemies are embarrassed when we treat them well instead of badly. It is unexpected and surprising to them, and they don't know how to react.

13. Are there limits to forgiveness? According to Matthew 18:21-22, how often should I forgive my brother?

_____ What does that mean? Are there times when it is impossible or isn't necessary to forgive? _____

STEPS TOWARD FORGIVENESS



1. What do you feel towards those who have hurt you? Admit your anger and bitterness. If you refuse to acknowledge your strong emotions it will be impossible to resolve them through forgiveness.
2. Remember that Christ died for them as he did for you. Perhaps they don't deserve to be forgiven, but then neither did you when Christ died for your sins.
3. Decide to forgive them even if you don't feel like it. Although your heart says "Don't forgive", decide to do it anyway, letting go of your anger. The decision is yours if you want to be free from your past.

4. Pray to God: "Lord I forgive _____ (name) for _____ (the offense).

5. Decide to not seek retaliation against them in the future. Stop accusing! Drop it!

6. Remember that forgiving is not forgetting. We can't instantly wipe out our memories, but we can choose to meditate about something else (i.e. Scripture) when the memories return. We can remind ourselves we have already forgiven that offense.

7. Don't expect that your decision to forgive will cause a great change in the other person. No matter how they respond, you have done the right thing and are free to move on.

Right Now! What is my decision? I will forgive ☐ Not yet, I want to wait ☐

Step 8

Forgive me



Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ You can love God and hate an enemy at the same time.
- _____ It is important to ask forgiveness for an offense, even when the other person is not willing to forgive you.
- _____ It is best to seek reconciliation by speaking face to face with the other.

When conflicts arise in your family and you offend someone, what do you do ?

- ☐ I feel bad but I don't say anything to them.
- ☐ We stop talking with each other for a while. When we finally begin to speak to each other again, we assume things are OK.
- ☐ I go to them, admit my failure and ask them for forgiveness.

WHY ASK OTHERS FOR FORGIVENESS?

1. When you love someone do you insult and offend them? _____
How do you treat them? _____

2. Read 1 John 4:20. Is it possible to love God and hate someone at the same time? Yes ☐ No ☐

Read Matthew 5:23-26 and answer the following questions.

3. If you have offended someone and have not sought reconciliation, is it possible to be in fellowship with God? Yes ☐ No ☐

4. Are your offerings, worship or service to God valid if you have not reconciled with the other person? v. 23-24 Yes ☐ No ☐

Why? _____

5. According to v. 25, why is it urgent to be reconciled with your adversary?

6. Although most disputes don't reach the point of legal action, do you think it is important to resolve each dispute as soon as possible?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Why? _____

According to v. 22, when we provoke people to anger, we are putting them in danger of judgment. Our failure to seek forgiveness affects our adversary as well as ourselves.

"Your brother has something against you" in v. 23 means you have done something to offend him. A key to seeking reconciliation is to go to them, admitting our error and ask forgiveness.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How do you answer those who say the following?

✓ I am willing to ask him for forgiveness as long as he admits his part and does the same.

✓ It is better not to admit I was wrong and ask for forgiveness because it might be used it against me later.

✓ If I ask for forgiveness, he will only laugh at me.

✓ I asked, but he didn't forgive me. So what good did it do? We are back where we started.



THINK ABOUT IT

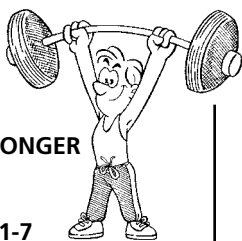
What do you think it means to be "reconciled" with someone?

Do you need to be reconciled with someone? Who?

- ☐ Spouse
- ☐ Kids
- ☐ Parents
- ☐ Neighbors
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Others



What will you do today to resolve the conflict and draw closer to this person?



GROWING STRONGER

Read
1 Corinthians 1-7
this week
(one chapter)

Memorize Matthew 5:23-24

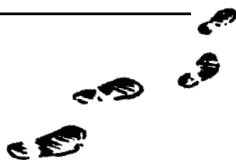
Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

7. Why do you think it is so hard to go to another and ask for forgiveness?

HOW TO ASK OTHERS FOR FORGIVENESS

8. There are times when words aren't enough. Sometimes it is necessary to make restitution to repair the damage done to another. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, a corrupt official who had stolen much. When he was converted what did he promise to do? Luke 19:8

In Old Testament times it was necessary to pay the damages plus a 20% fine (Num. 5:7). Although we don't live under the law, the principle of restitution is still valid today.



Asking forgiveness is a process that involves several steps.

Prepare for Reconciliation:

- Admit you were at fault. Be honest. Recognize what you did to the other.
- Once you have acknowledged you were at fault, ask God for forgiveness.
- If the other is also guilty of offending you, have you forgiven them?
- Look for an appropriate time and place to speak with the offended person.

When you speak with the one you have offended:

- Speak with them personally, face to face and alone, except in cases of immorality or abuse. In these cases it is best to have a counselor or your pastor present.
- Think through the words you will use to ask forgiveness. Admit you were wrong. Use phrases like "it was wrong", "I am at fault." Don't try to brush it off lightly.
- Be humble. Don't try to excuse your actions, or blame others in order to defend yourself. Admit your responsibility, even when the other is guilty too.
- It is not necessary to enter into every detail, but you must be clear about what fault you are confessing.
- Finish your confession with a direct question: Will you forgive me?
- Don't write a letter, except when there is no other way to communicate with the offended. A letter can easily be misunderstood or read by others who have nothing to do with the situation.
- When necessary, make restitution for damages done.

What if they won't forgive me...?

- Turn it over to God and leave it in his hands. You have done your part and can now be free even though the other person is still resentful. Sometimes it will take the other person time to forgive. Meditate on Romans 12:18

9. What's your decision? Are you willing to go and ask forgiveness of the one you have offended? Yes ☐ No ☐
Start today to go through the process described in the box above.



CALLED TO BE HOLY

Step 9 Called to be holy

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ I can live a holy life and sin at the same time.
- _____ God calls me to be holy because he is holy.
- _____ To be a holy person I must do holy things.

The apostle Paul always called the believers "saints" (Eph: 1:1; Phil. 1:1). Why? He called them this because it expressed who they were in Christ. Because of Christ's blood, they had been declared holy and just.

1. According to 1 Cor. 1:2, Christ has sanctified us. This means that he has set us aside for holiness. Although we are already sanctified, what are we called to? v. 2 _____ What this means is that God wants us to renounce sin and live lives dedicated to Him.
2. What is holiness? We could explain it this way:
 - a. It means to leave sin behind and give ourselves to God.
 - b. It is one of God's characteristics; what he is. (1 Peter 1:15-16).
 - c. It is something that we can attain in Him. (2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 4:3).
3. Read 1 Peter 1:15-16 answer, Who is holy? _____
Can I be holy? Yes ☐ No ☐.

Some think people like us could never be truly holy; but would God command us to do something which is unattainable? This doesn't mean we will become perfect, but we will head towards the goal, seeking lives separated from sin.

4. Why don't more believers live in holiness? The Bible says that to be holy we must abstain from certain things. For example, 1 Thess. 4:3, 7 says it is necessary to avoid:

_____ (v. 3) and _____ (v. 7)

jot down some other things the Holy Spirit wants you to avoid:

5. So then, how important is holiness in the Christian life? Is it just another option or is it really necessary? _____

HOW CAN WE LIVE IN HOLINESS?

6. To cultivate holiness we must _____
_____ 2 Cor. 7:1 Can you think of some examples?
7. What has God done to help us to live pure lives? 1 John 1:9

THINK ABOUT IT

"Run in such a way as to get the prize." 1 Cor. 9:24



Will your present life style help you to attain this prize?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

If you aren't sure, the following exercise could help you to discover why.

CHECKUP TIME

There are many things that can block your growth.

Check the items on the following list that you feel are keeping you from a truly godly life.

- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Work
- ☐ Music
- ☐ TV, videos, internet, etc.
- ☐ Possessions
- ☐ Lack of a daily devotional life.
- ☐ Everyday busyness
- ☐ Not fellowshiping with other believers (church, small groups etc..)
- ☐ Habits, Which ones?

- ☐ Other obstacles

Are you willing to make the necessary changes, confessing and leaving behind your sins?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Holiness begins with what we think about and then extends the actions which that thinking produces. Phil. 4:8
2. Holiness includes control over the body and its appetites as well as the emotions.
1 Cor. 9:27

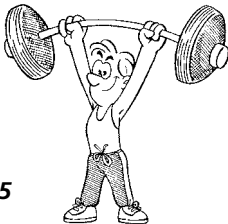
HOW DO I STAND?

God has given me all the tools I need to live a holy life.

1. He saved me.
2. He freed me from bondage to sin.
3. I am free from condemnation.
4. The Holy Spirit lives in me to produce his fruit.
5. He gave me the Bible to teach me the way to live.
6. He gives me the opportunity to yield my life to him daily.

GROWING STRONGER

**Read 1 Corinthians 8-14
this week
(one chapter
per day).**



**Memorize
1 Peter 1:14-15**

"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do."

8. Read Proverbs 4:23 What should we guard? _____
9. What practical suggestions does the Bible give on how to guard your heart?
Psalms 119:11 _____
Colossians 3:2 _____
10. What does Romans 6:19 say about living a righteous life? _____

If we used to give ourselves to impure acts, we should now offer our bodies to God to do good, becoming slaves to righteousness instead of sin.

A DAILY COMMITMENT

11. Read Romans 12:1-2. What does God ask of me in v. 1? _____
12. What is a living sacrifice? _____

The prayer below serves as a model of what it means to be a living sacrifice.

*"Lord, I surrender myself to you.
Take my mind and what I think.
Take my eyes and what I see.
Take my ears and what I hear.
Take my lips and what I speak.
Take my heart and what I feel as
well as my attitudes.
Take my hands and what I do.
Take my feet, and where I go.
Take my body, it is your temple.
Fill me with your Holy Spirit.
I want to obey you.
I want to do your will."*



13. Give examples of unhealthy thoughts and conduct common in our world today. _____
14. To avoid molding ourselves to the world's pattern, we need to renew our _____ (v. 2), that way, we will know what God wants us to do.
What are some ways we can renew our minds? _____
15. This passage calls for a daily commitment in order to know and please God, and receive his blessing. Are you ready to make that commitment today, and all the rest of the days of your life?
Yes ☐ No ☐ _____ Date _____
Sign on the line above to record your commitment.



Step 10

Stewardship

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ There are more important things than a good salary and a comfortable life.
- _____ Only those who can afford it are responsible to give to their church.
- _____ Everything we have comes from God.

MY ATTITUDE TOWARDS MATERIAL THINGS

1. According to Luke 12:15, why should I watch out for greed?

If one's life does not consist of having things, then what is really important? Luke 12:31 _____

2. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Why not trust in wealth for enjoyment and security? v. 17 _____

3. Where do I get what I need to truly enjoy life? v. 17 _____
- How often do I express my gratitude to God? _____

4. Where shall a believer look for riches? v. 18-19 _____
- _____
- How long will these last? _____

5. The Bible says I'm an administrator, or steward, of the good things of God. What is the principle requirement to be a good steward? 1 Cor. 4:2 _____
- _____

6. What are some of the things God has given me to administer? _____
- _____
- _____

MANAGING MY MONEY

Money is one of the things God has given me to administer. The Bible teaches that it is important to return to God a part of what he has given me. These are called offerings and tithes.

7. When should I give to God? 1 Cor. 16:2 _____
- This means it is important to support God's work on a regular basis, not sporadically or just when I hear about a special need. The first day of the week refers to Sunday.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Read the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 17:8-16. What do you learn from this story?

Do you think it is really worth it to make sacrifices to support God's work? Why?

What warning did Jesus give to those who would trust in their wealth for security and happiness? Luke 12:16-21



FIGURE IT OUT AND DECIDE

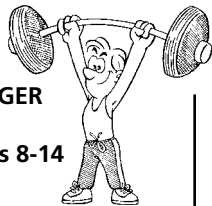
¿What is my weekly or monthly income?

How much is 10% (tithe)?

My church should be first on the list to receive my support because that is where I receive teaching and care. In addition there are other projects I can support like missions.

With God's help I purpose to support God's work with:

_____ each month.



GROWING STRONGER

Read 1 Corinthians 8-14
this week
(one chapter
per day).

Memorize 2 Corinthians 9:6

«Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.»

8. Is it all right to give only if we have extra money? Yes ☐ No ☐
Why? _____
9. What should we take into account when deciding how much to give?
1 Cor. 16:2 _____
Our giving is to be in proportion to our earnings. Those who receive more will give more. Those who receive less will give less.
10. In Old Testament times the tithe was a requirement. (Leviticus 27:30-32).
What is a tithe? _____
A tithe is the tenth part of anything, in other words 10%.
11. If in Old Testament times they gave 10% of their income to God, now that we are in Christ, shouldn't we give at least this much? Yes ☐ No ☐

WHAT SHOULD MY ATTITUDE BE TOWARDS GIVING?

12. According to 2 Cor. 9:6, our offering is an investment in God's work. Therefore we should give _____

Although the believers in Macedonia gave generous offerings to Paul, they sacrificed (2 Cor. 8:1-3). The responsibility and privilege to support God's work is not just for the wealthy.
13. According to 2 Cor. 9:7, we should give as we have _____ in our heart. This means it is important to plan ahead how we will give to God's work and not just do it on impulse.
14. According to 2 Cor. 9:7 we should give "not _____ or _____, because God loves a _____"
15. What should we watch out for? Matthew 6:1-2 _____

How should we give? Matthew 6:3-4 _____

THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING

16. What do the following passages tell us about the blessing of giving to God with sacrificial generosity?

2 Cor. 9:6 _____

Acts 20:35 _____

Why is it more blessed to give than to receive? _____





Different believers feel differently about things in our society.

For example, there are many views about what is appropriate for Christians in regards to dress, music or entertainment.

These “doubtful” practices cause a lot of tension among Christians because some say they are permissible, while others say they aren’t. While there will always be controversy about practices that the Bible does not specifically forbid, we don’t have to be at each other’s throats when we disagree with others.

In his time, Paul had to deal with the controversy of whether or not a Christian could eat meats sacrificed to idols. The following principles from his writings will help us make better decisions in these “doubtful” areas.

IS IT BENEFICIAL? DOES IT EDIFY?

1. In 1 Corinthians 10:23 Paul presents an important principle which applies to any area of our lives. What did he mean by the phrase “Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial”? _____
2. Can you give an example of something that isn’t good for you, even if it is not expressly forbidden in the Bible? _____
3. Why avoid some things? Look at the last part of 1 Corinthians 10:23 and complete the following: Although I have freedom to do many things, not all of them _____

It is best to avoid things that don’t edify, even if the Bible doesn’t specifically forbid them. A good way to judge whether something is advisable is to ask the following questions

- *Will this help me grow as a Christian?*
- *Will it hinder my growth in any way?*

4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12. What does the last part of the verse mean?

Many Christians’ lives are controlled by the latest styles, music, what they see on television etc. Often they don’t realize or want to admit how much influence certain things have on their lives

5. If something controls your life, is it edifying? _____
Are there things that have become obstacles, dominating areas of your life? _____
If yes, what are they? _____

Step 11

I can, but should I?

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ The Bible doesn’t forbid some things, even though they aren’t good for me.
- _____ My actions can be a stumbling block for others.
- _____ My liberty in Christ gives me permission to do whatever I want.

THINK ABOUT IT

Take some time to think about your life. Are your actions building up fellow believers?

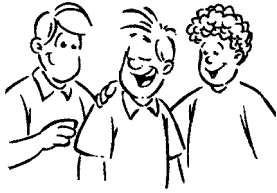
List some of the things you do that could cause others to stumble. Ask God to help you gain victory in this area for the benefit of others.

Now think of ways in which you can build up other believers. Jot down specific examples below.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Read Colossians 3:23-24 and list the principles you find there..





SOMETHING TO DO

Read and meditate on
1 Corinthians 10:23-33, listing
practical applications for your life.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT OTHERS? THE PRINCIPLE OF LOVE.

6. What warning do we find in 1 Corinthians 8:9? _____

7. 1 Corinthians 8:13 gives Paul's position in regards to becoming a stumbling block for others. What does his decision show us? _____

8. What two things should a Christian avoid? Romans 14:13 _____

9. What things in your life might be obstacles in the lives of other Christians?

10. Strive for? _____ & _____ Rom. 14:19

"Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others." 1 Cor. 10:24

Consideration for others should be principle that controls our lives. Today there are many customs or activities that are acceptable to some, but not to others. They could be things like dress, our way of speaking, food, entertainments and even things within the church. Therefore, love limits my liberty to the point where another believer's liberty begins. Out of consideration for others, I will limit myself in certain areas.

DOES IT GLORIFY GOD?

11. What should be my goal in all I do? 1 Corinthians 10:31 _____

Ask yourself: Can I do this and glorify God at the same time?

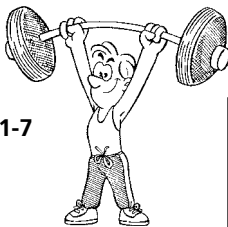
SUMMARY In doubtful areas I should take into consideration:

- Even if it is not prohibited, does it edify? Is it beneficial?
- How does it affect other believers? Does it build them up or cause them to stumble?
- Does it bring glory to God?



GROWING STRONGER

Read
2 Corinthians 1-7
this week
(one chapter
per day).



Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:23

Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible but not everything is constructive.

AVOID THE EXTREMES

License: Some believers practice their liberty in Christ unwisely. They don't examine what they do to see how it affects their growth. Neither do they take into account how their behavior affects other believers. They just don't care.

Legalism: there are other believers who's lives are ruled by prohibitions. They believe that spirituality consists of following a list of rules. Their concept of Christianity is based more on what they don't do, rather than what they do. At the same time, they judge others who feel liberty to do certain things. They often reflect attitudes of superiority, criticism and negativism.

A balanced life: This person examines doubtful things, avoiding what is harmful or what does not edify. Out of love for fellow believers, they limit their liberty, so as to not be a stumbling block for others. They seek to glorify God in all they do.



Step 12

Discernment

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ The Bible is the only trustworthy guide for my life.
- _____ All preachers base what they say on the Bible.
- _____ It's important not only to study the Bible, but to obey it.

What should I do?
Who should I believe?
What church should I attend?

We ask these questions because the world we live in is often a very confusing place. Who is telling us the truth? How can I make wise decisions?

THE BIBLE POINTS TO THE RIGHT PATH

1. In a world in which so many claim to have the truth, where can the truth be found? _____ John 17:17

2. What is more correct to say? ☐ The Bible contains the truth.
☐ The Bible is the truth.



3. What will Bible study do for our lives?

Psalm 119:98 _____

Psalm 119:130 _____

4. Bible study is great, but we must understand what Matthew 7:24-27 says.

Those who _____ Christ's words and _____
_____ are like wise men who build their houses on a rock. v. 24

Those who _____ Christ's words and _____
_____ are like foolish men who build their houses on a sand. v. 26

5. What is the main difference between those who build on the rock and those who build on the sand? _____

6. According to John 7:17 the person who can distinguish truth from error is the person who _____

According to this passage, it's not enough to just **know** what God wants; we must **choose to do** what he says in the Bible. See also James 1:22-24.

WATCH OUT FOR FALSE TEACHERS

7. If a preacher is popular, does it mean his message is biblical?

Yes ☐ No ☐

8. Many preachers and teachers sound good when they talk about God, but they're not necessarily speaking the truth. What does Matthew 7:15 teach? _____



DECISION TIME

After studying this lesson you might realize that you have lacked spiritual discernment in the past..

Perhaps you have listened to unwise advice or have submitted to a church that manipulates its members, seeking to control them instead of training them to study the Bible for themselves. Or perhaps you have been carried along by emotional preachers without evaluating their message.

Whatever the reason, if you now realize you need more discernment, what can you do about it?

Remember what you learned in Lesson 6. In order to detect a counterfeit bill, a bank teller must know what a real bill looks like. It's not possible to study all the kinds of counterfeit money that exist, but if he knows a genuine bill, it will be easy to detect a counterfeit.

In order to discern between truth and error, it is necessary to know your Bible well.

- ☐ Today I choose to spend more time studying God's word.
- ☐ I will have my devotional each day a _____ (hour)

Sign _____

Date _____

DIGGING DEEPER

How can I know God's will for the big decisions in my life. ?

See the Appendix titled: **Knowing God's Will**



WHICH CHURCH?

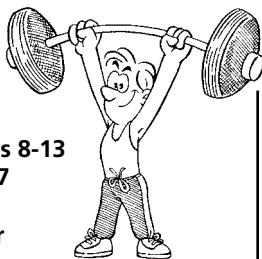
SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Some churches base their beliefs on religious traditions rather than the Bible. Sometimes these traditions distort biblical truth.

Can you think of some religious traditions that lack biblical support?

GROWING STRONGER

Read
2 Corinthians 8-13
and Psalm 17
this week
(one chapter
per day).



Memorize 2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

9. How can we recognize a true man or women of God? Matthew 7:16-17

10. How does 2 Timothy 2:15 tell us to use God's word? _____

_____. There is always the temptation to twist the word to make it say what we want to hear or what is popular. See 1 Thess. 2:3-6

11. Are there preachers who distort God's word? Yes ☐ No ☐

How can we recognize them? _____

HOW TO CHOOSE A CHURCH THAT PREACHES THE TRUTH

The following questions can how us evaluate a church.

Yes ☐ No ☐ Do the messages teach the Bible in a clear and orderly manner?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Are it's leaders men of faith? Do they show the fruit of the Spirit?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Are you allowed to think for yourself without blindly accepting what the preacher says?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Is it free from any kind of spiritual manipulation or pressure?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Do its members show concern and compassion for each other?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Does Bible teaching take preference over emotionalism?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Are believers encouraged to study the Bible for themselves?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Is Christ exalted more than those who minister?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Do the messages edify more than they scold?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Is grace emphasized above rules?



INTERPRETING THE BIBLE

Why is there so much confusion regarding the interpretation of some passages? The following principles will help to correctly interpret God's word.

- ✓ The scriptures must be read with an open mind, sensitive to what the Holy Spirit wants to teach. Preconceived ideas and prejudices must be set aside.
- ✓ Interpret the Bible literally. It's words should be understand in their normal sense, without trying to "spiritualize" them or find hidden meanings.
- ✓ Keep in mind the context of the verse when trying to interpret it. The "context" refers to these verses that come before and after as well as the setting of where and when it was written. Ignoring the context will distort the truth.
- ✓ Let the Bible interpret itself by comparing one passage with another. A difficult or unclear passage should always be interpreted in the light of a clearer passage whose meaning is evident.
- ✓ Take into account figurative language like metaphors, similes, analogies, hyperbole, etc. For example when Christ said "I am the way" he is speaking in a figurative sense.



Step 13

Sharing Christ

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ It's OK for me to decide whether or not I want to evangelize.
- _____ the majority of people on earth will go to heaven.
- _____ An effective evangelist has compassion for the lost.

WHY EVANGELIZE?

1. What does Romans 3:10-12, 23 say about the world's condition? _____

Nobody is good enough to reach heaven on their own. We all need Christ.

2. Matthew 7:13-14 speaks of two roads and two different destinations. The wide one leads to _____; The narrow leads to _____

What will be the destiny of most people? _____

3. Matthew 7:15. One of the reasons many are lost is because there are many _____. Jesus called these false teachers wolves dressed in sheep's clothing, indicating that false teaching almost always is presented as something attractive or good.

4. 1 John 2:28 tells us to _____ in Christ, so that when he comes we will have _____ and not _____.

Those that abide in Christ will obey his commandment to take the gospel to the whole world. We don't know the day or the hour, but each day brings us closer to his coming. Romans 13:11.

5. Evangelism is not optional for the believer. It is not something to do just if we feel like it. Write down the command found in the following passages.

Matthew 28:19 _____

Acts 1:8 _____

2 Timothy 4:2 _____

As we can see, evangelism is commanded, not suggested; but in order to communicate that message effectively, there are certain requirements Christians must fulfill.

REQUIREMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM

6. Juan 3:3. An evangelist needs to be _____

7. According to John 15:4-5, we should _____ in Christ. This means to live in fellowship and dependence on him.



Read Revelation 20:11-15 and choose one of the following options:

- ☐ Do you want your family or friends to be thrown into the lake of fire?
- ☐ Would you rather have them share eternal life with you in heaven? Rev. 21:1-7



SOMETHING TO DO

From this moment on, I commit myself to pray for the following people, asking God to give me the opportunity to share Christ with them.



ADVICE FOR THOSE WHO SHARE THEIR FAITH

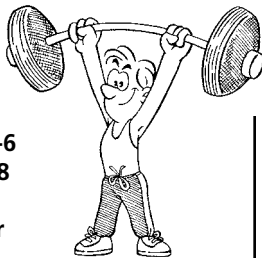
1. Be sincere. Others will know if you really mean what you say.
2. Watch your appearance (personal hygiene, dress appropriately etc.)
3. Be kind. How you say something is often more important than what you say.
4. Be gentle. The goal is not just to win an argument.
5. Listen. This will help you present the gospel more effectively.
6. Memorize scripture passages to accompany your gospel presentation.

SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT

Write down the demands of 1 Peter 3:15 and reflect on them.

GROWING STRONGER

Read
1 Timothy 1-6
and Psalm 18
this week
(one chapter
per day).



Memorize Romanos 10:15

And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

8. Matthew 9:36; 14:14. We need _____ for people, just as Christ did.
9. According to Matthew 7:29 we need to speak with _____. This does not mean we have to go around healing or performing miracles, but rather to have scriptural backing for our message. The Bible is powerful tool which can be trusted to convince people of their need. Above all, our lives need to demonstrate what God's work has done in our lives. (Matthew. 5:16).
10. 2 Timothy 1:8 We must not _____

DUTIES OF AN EVANGELIST

Pray: Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance to effectively present the gospel at appropriate times.

Search the scriptures: As God's messenger, it is important to study the Bible regularly since that is what gives testimony to Christ. (John 5:39).

Memorize the plan of salvation: Look at the simple plan of salvation in the appendix and learn it by memory. This will allow you to be ready to share Christ when an opportunity arises. Having it memorized will allow you more freedom and confidence when you share.

HOW TO START AN EVANGELISTIC CONVERSATION

Depend on God's Spirit to open doors to testimony. The following questions could help you begin the conversation.

- ✓ *Suppose you were to die today and God asked you: "Why should I let you into heaven?" What would you answer?*
Their answer will indicate whether the person has understood the gospel or whether they are trusting in their works to be saved.
- ✓ *In your opinion, what must someone do in order to go to heaven? Would you like to know what the Bible says about this subject?*
- ✓ *When someone tells you about a personal problem, ask: Could I pray for you right now?* The vast majority of people will be thankful for your interest and prayer. This will also leave the door open for future conversations.
- ✓ *Could you help me by giving me your opinion of this booklet?* If the person says "yes" present them with an evangelistic tract or booklet.
- ✓ *When the conversation turns to topics like problems in the world or your community (family disintegration, crime, drugs etc.) ask: What do you think is the solution for all these problems? Did you know that the Bible gives us answers?*
- ✓ *Have you reached the point where you feel assured that you will go to heaven when you die? Would you like to know how you can have that assurance?*
- ✓ *Where do you find yourself in your spiritual pilgrimage?*
- ✓ *Has anyone ever shared with you how you can know God? Would you like to hear what the Bible says about this subject?*



Step 14

The Future

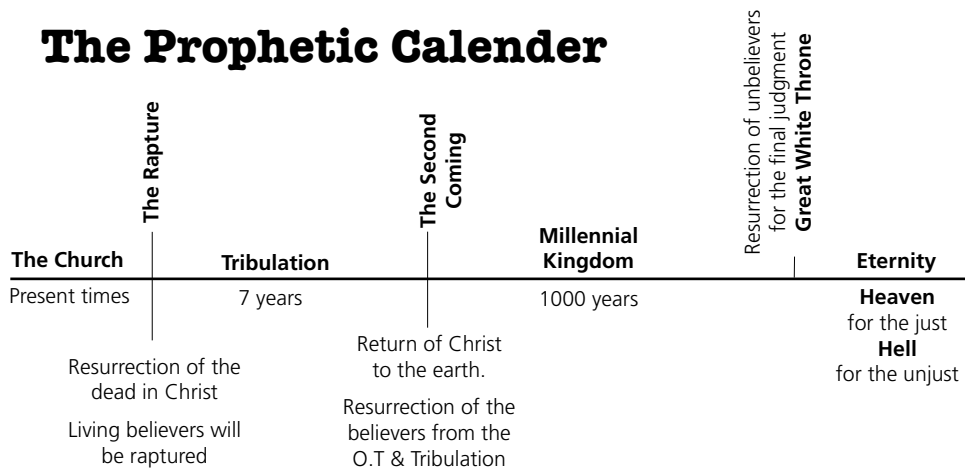


Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ The rapture is the same as the tribulation.
- _____ A horrible time of judgement awaits unbelievers.
- _____ At any time Christ could come to call us believers into his presence.

Sometimes when we see the confusion in the world, we ask, what does the future hold? Is God still in control here on earth? The Bible lays out God's sovereign plan for the future. This lesson will focus on of the details of that plan.

The Prophetic Calendar



THE RAPTURE

The Bible teaches that at some unexpected moment in the future, Christ will come to take the church into his presence. This is called the rapture. At any time Christ could come in the clouds to rapture the church. The rapture is not the same as the second coming which we will study in the next lesson.

1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-53

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Here Paul answers the question, what happens to believers who have died? Let's see how he answers the question:

- What happens as the trumpet sounds and the Lord descends from heaven?
v. 16b _____
v. 17 _____
- Who will come to take us away? v. 16 _____
- Where will we meet up with the Lord? v. 17 _____
- Where will we be after the rapture? v. 17 _____

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you have any loved ones who have died? If they were believers, how do you feel after meditating on 1 Thessalonians. 4:13-16?

Does the Bible teach that all religious people will be raptured?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Is it possible that there are people who claim to be Christians, but who really aren't?

Yes ☐ No ☐

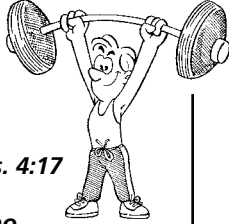
Could there be people in your church who claim to be Christians, but who really aren't?

Yes ☐ No ☐

What will happen to them when the rapture occurs?

GROWING STRONGER

Read 2 Timothy 1-4
and Psalm 19-21
this week
(one chapter
per day).



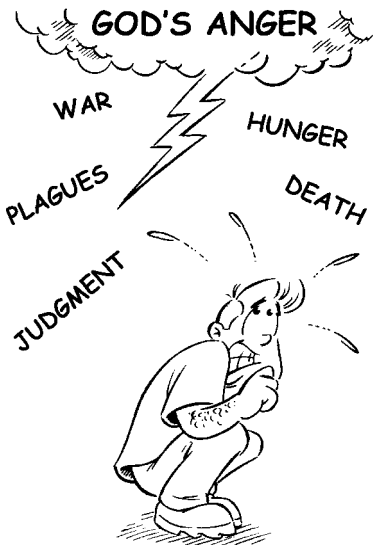
Memorize 1 Thess. 4:17

*After that, we who
are still alive and are left will
be caught up together with
them in the clouds to meet the
Lord in the air. And so we will
be with the Lord forever.*

SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT

Some have heard the gospel, but refused to accept Christ. They say "If all this about the rapture is really true and someday all the Christians disappear, then I'll accept Christ."

In light of what the Bible says about the tribulation, what would you say to these people? Before answering, read Revelation 20:4 to see what will happen to many who accept Christ during the tribulation.



Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 and answer the following questions:

5. "We will not all _____ but we will all be _____" v. 51
The word "sleep" is an reference to death. Not all believers will die because some will be raptured before death.
Will all living Christians be raptured or only some? _____
6. At the Rapture, the perishable will be converted into _____
and the mortal will be converted into _____ v. 53
What do you think that means? _____

7. How long will it take for the rapture to occur? v. 52 _____

In summary: At any time, Christ could return to rapture his church. In an instant, the believers who have died will be raised up, and then those believers still living on earth will be taken to be with Christ forever. Both the living and the dead will be transformed, receiving new bodies that will no longer be subject to weakness, sickness or sin.

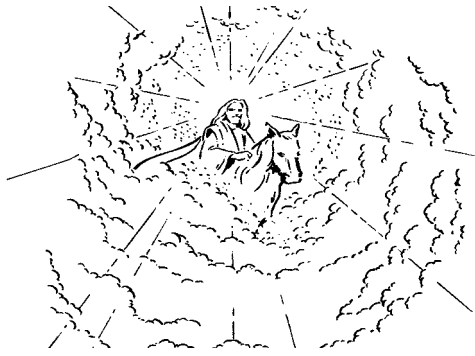
THE TRIBULATION

The Bible also teaches that after the rapture, there will be seven years of terrible trouble on the whole world.

8. Matthew 24:21 says there will be _____, like the world has never seen up until now, or ever will see. Verse 22 indicates it will be so bad that nobody would survive if it were not for the fact that God will stop the destruction so as not to destroy all life on earth.

The book of Revelation describes the tribulation as follows:

- ✓ It will begin after the rapture of the Church.
- ✓ God will pour out his wrath against the sinfulness of mankind. (Rev. 14:19-20)
- ✓ There will be three series of judgments (Rev. 6, 8-9, 15-16) which will include war, hunger, plagues and earthquakes. More than half of the world's population will die. One third of the earth's vegetation, drinking water and sea creatures will be destroyed. People will be tormented for five months by pain so intense that they would prefer to die.
- ✓ The whole world will fall under the control of the Antichrist, a declared enemy of God and his people. (Rev. 13:3, 4, 7)
- ✓ Those who choose to remain faithful to God will be persecuted, many unto death (Rev. 6:9-11; 7:9-14; 20:4). There will also be strong persecution against Israel. (Rev. 12; Mt. 24).
- ✓ There will be many false prophets and religions, culminating with a world wide worshipping of the Antichrist. (2 Thess. 2:3-4, 9; Rev. 13:8, 11-18)
- ✓ The Tribulation will end with Christ's return to earth to judge evil and establish his kingdom.



Step 15

More about the future

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- _____ The second coming will cause great happiness among the majority of the earth's inhabitants..
- _____ One day Christ will return to judge and reign over the world.
- _____ Non believers will be judged and thrown into the lake of fire.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

In contrast to the rapture, where Christ comes without being seen by those on earth, the Bible speaks of Christ's visible return to earth. At the end of the tribulation, when the world is at the point of destroying itself, Christ will come to judge the world and establish his thousand year kingdom.

1. Who will see the second coming of Christ to earth? Revelation 1:7

2. How will people react to his coming? _____

Read Revelation 19:11-16 and answer the following questions:

3. He will come with justice to _____ and _____ v. 11

4. Christ will tread the winepress of _____ v. 15

5. Who should dread the second coming? _____

In contrast, for the just, the second coming is a time of rejoicing which signals the end of the Antichrist's reign and the beginning of a reign of justice.

6. Verse 11 calls him _____.
Although he come to judge, his judgments are always in accord with the truth and justice. Each person will receive exactly what he deserves.

7. Verse 16 calls Christ _____.
Christ will establish a perfect kingdom on earth; but first he must rid the world of evil, so that his reign over all peoples will be one of peace & justice.

In summary: At the end of the tribulation Christ will return to earth to accomplish two things: To judge and to rule. His judgments will be fierce against all evil, while his reign will be perfect, just and peaceful.

THINK ABOUT IT

In light of the condition of the world today, it could be easy for believers to become discouraged, doubting that God is really still in control.

In spite of what things look like, biblical prophecy gives us a different viewpoint, allowing us to see things as they really are.

"...the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed... It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."
Daniel 2:44

"But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever." Daniel 7:18

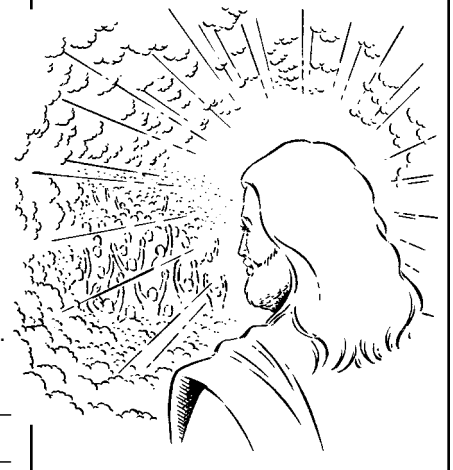
THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

Christ's reign will be called the millennium because it will last for a 1000 years.

8. Where will Satan be during the millennial kingdom? Revelation. 20:1-3

9. Isaiah 11:4 describes the millennium as a time of _____
_____ for the poor and _____ for the wicked.

10. How is the peace of the millennium described in Isaiah 11:6? _____

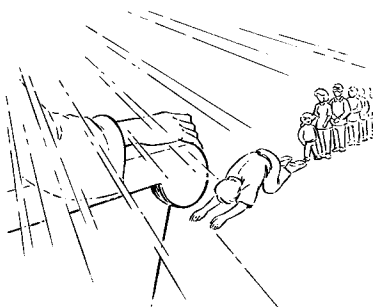


CHECK UP

1 Cor. 3:11-13 speaks of different building materials we use to construct our lives. Which materials predominate in your life?

- ☐ Gold, silver & costly stones
- ☐ Wood, hay or straw

WE MUST ALL GIVE AN ACCOUNTING TO GOD...



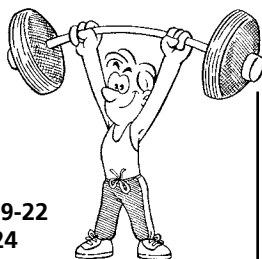
SOMETHING TO DO

Write down the names of your acquaintances whose names are not written in the book of life.

You can do something to help change the eternal destiny of these people. Ask God for opportunities to speak to them about Christ.

GROWING STRONGER

Read
Revelation 19-22
& Psalm 22-24
this week
(one chapter per day).



Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.

11. Evil will not be allowed to hurt or destroy because the earth will be full of _____ . Isaiah 11:9

JUDGEMENT OF THE WORKS OF EACH BELIEVER

12. Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-10. Paul always tried to please the Lord. Why? v. 10 _____
13. What will we be accountable for at the judgement seat of Christ? v. 10 _____
14. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, compares the works of some believers to gold, silver and costly stones which will survive the fire of God's judgment. The works of other believers are like wood, hay and straw, which will not stand the test of God's judgment.

If what the believer has build survives, he will receive _____. v. 14

If another's work is burned up, he will _____. He will be _____, but only as one escaping through the flames. v. 15

This means that some of those saved will arrive before God with their hands empty, with nothing to present to the Lord for rewards.

JUDGEMENT OF THE UNBELIEVERS AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

Revelation 20:11-15 describes the judgment of the works of unbelievers when they stand before the Lord.

15. Who will be judged? Will anyone escape the final judgment? v. 11-13 _____
16. What will happen to those whose names are not written in the book of life? v. 15 _____
17. How is the lake of fire described in Revelation 14:10-11? _____
18. Who else will be in the lake of fire? Rev.. 20:10 _____

ETERNITY

19. Rom. 8:21 One day the creation will be liberated from _____ and brought into _____

After the millennial kingdom and the judgement of the great white throne, God will destroy the earth and create a new heaven, a new earth and a new city, the heavenly Jerusalem. (Rev. 21:1-3). In this heavenly city, God will dwell with those of us who have been redeemed.

20. From the following verses in Revelation, write down some of the conditions that will prevail in the new Jerusalem and new earth.

21:4 _____

21:27 _____

22:3 _____

22:5 _____

Appendix 1

Knowing God's Will

1. Do you believe it is possible to know God's will? See Psalms 32:8.
2. Are you willing to obey God's will no matter what, or do you just want to know what his will is so you can decide if that is the route you want to go? John 7:17
3. Have you ever made the decision to commit your life completely to Christ? If not, meditate on Romans 12: 1-2 and seek the counsel of a mature believer.
4. Is there unconfessed sin in your life? Are you pretending to live a normal life while you are hiding something from God? If so, take the time now and confess that sin. If you are unwilling to face your sin, your search for God's will is in vain. 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13; Psalms 66:18.
5. Are you obeying what God wants you to do day by day? If not start today. The most important thing is to obey what we already know to be his will. For example, each command we find in the Bible is a clear indication of what he wants us to do.
6. Have you already made up your mind and wouldn't really be interested in receiving advice? Do you really care what the Bible says about the decision you are about to make? Pray, asking God to give you a willing heart to do his will, no matter what it is. Phil 2: 13
7. Are you praying specifically about the decision you will be making soon? Write down your thoughts about the decision you need to make, and begin to pray about them. Pray in faith, believing that God will give you guidance. James 1:5-7, Mark 10:51
8. How about your devotional life? Are you in fellowship with Christ moment by moment throughout the day? Are you reading the Bible and praying daily? If not, commit to start today. As you fill your mind with God's word, you will learn to think and make decisions biblically.
9. Has God spoken to you by means of your study in his Word? Do you feel that certain passages are calling you to make changes in your lifestyle or make adjustments in the course you have chosen? Write down in a notebook what you feel God is trying to tell you. If you are reading the Scriptures, but don't yet feel any leading, keep on reading and wait patiently.
10. Do you have all the necessary information in order to be able to make a wise decision? If not, find out what you need to know to be able to make an informed decision.
11. Make a list of the pros and cons regarding the decision you are contemplating. Evaluate each of the advantages and disadvantages in the light of the Scriptures. Things are not always what they appear to be at first glance.
12. What does common sense tell you to do?
13. What do you want to do? Do you have a special preference? Psalms 37:4
14. Before making decisions, ask how they will effect you spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually. Meditate on the truth of 1 Cor.6:12. The fact that something is not specifically forbidden in Scripture, does not necessarily indicate that it is correct or edifying.
15. Have you thought about whether the decision you are considering will crowd out other healthy things in your life. Will it move you towards a materialistic or sensual lifestyle? Will it bring you more or less peace? Mark 4:19
16. How will your decision affect others? Will it cause others to stumble? 1 Cor. 10:23; Prov. 14:21. Will it glorify God? 1 Cor 10:31
17. Have you sought out the advice of a mature believer? Prov. 15:22
18. Does the decision you are about to make violate any specific Scriptural commands?
19. If you are unsure about the course of action you should take, are you willing to wait in faith until God gives you peace and the appropriate circumstances? Hebrews 10:36
20. If you have inward peace and a conviction that it is God's will, proceed with confidence. Act on your faith. Romans 14:23; Hebrews 11:6

Appendix 2

What is our message? A summary of the gospel

There are many ways to present the gospel. We may use any of them, but there is a basic message that all must understand to be saved. The following plan of salvation is adapted from *The Four Spiritual Laws*.

1 God loves you and has a plan for your life.

John 3:16 God loves us.

John 10:10b God has a plan for our lives.

Why are so few people experience God's love and plan for their lives?
The answer is found below.

2 We are sinful and separated from God.

Romans 3:23 We have all sinned.

Romans 6:23 The consequences of sin is spiritual death and eternal separation from God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 Salvation is by faith alone. We cannot save ourselves through good works.

3 Christ is God's only provision to save us. He died in our place.

Romans 5:8, Christ died for us.
2 Corinthians 5:21 He took our sins so that we might be declared righteous.

John 14:6 Jesus is the only way of salvation.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 Christ was raised from the dead.

4 We must receive Christ as our savior.

John 1:12 We must receive Christ to become God's children.

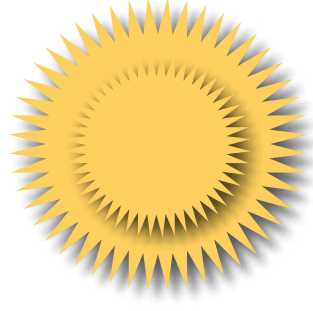
Revelation 3:20 We must invite Christ to come into our lives.

Certificate

This certificate is presented to

_____ who has satisfactorily completed all the lessons of the course

New Life in Christ Volume 2 **More Basic Steps of the Christian Life**



*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you
will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29*

Pastor or Teacher

Date



NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Volume 3

Living together with each other

This is the first edition of New Life in Christ Volume 3. Its purpose is to help provide a solid base for your Christian life, especially in the area of relationships with other believers.

For more information email us at: info@nuevavidaencristo.org

You may download a free copy of this book at the following website:
www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com

For printed copies contact:

CAM International, 8625 La Prada Dr., Dallas, TX 75228 USA
Phone: 800 366-2264 or 214 327-8206

For free materials in Spanish go to: www.obrerosfiel.com

All volumes are also available in Spanish and Portuguese. Volume 1 is also available in French, Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, Swahili, German, Malgache (Madagascar) and Kinyarwanda (Rwanda).

It is available in PDF format which requires Adobe Reader (formerly called Adobe Acrobat). If you have trouble opening the files, make sure you have an updated copy of Adobe Reader. You may download the latest free copy of Adobe Reader at: <http://www.adobe.com>

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

1. We congratulate you for accepting the challenge of discipling new believers using New Life in Christ as your guide. The results of this study can produce eternal fruit.
2. Let the Bible always be your authority in answering the questions. The students should look up the Bible passages by themselves and try to answer the questions based on what the Bible says.

Some new believers need a brief orientation on how to find the references in their Bibles.

3. This manual may be used in many different ways. In most cases, you will study one lesson a week, encouraging the disciple to do all the assignments in each lesson.
4. Try not to let your sessions get too long.
5. Encourage the students to answer the questions in their own words. Avoid copying the Bible word for word. Using their own words will help them to analyze the meaning of the texts studied.
6. Avoid preaching. Use questions to discover what the students understand and to stimulate active participation.
7. Prepare well for each session yourself. As the teacher, you should be familiar with the content and key concepts of each lesson.

Your preparation should include prayer for your students and for your own heart to be prepared for the lesson.

8. Try to have the students think about the practical implications for their lives. Help them to understand specific, practical applications.

The assignments in the boxes at the side of each lesson are designed for this purpose. Make use of them.

9. Help students cultivate the habit of prayer. Teach them by praying together with them.
10. It is important to understand that discipleship is much more than studying the lessons of New Life in Christ. Discipleship implies a life change for the disciple.

This manual is just an initial help. The students need continual help in seeking to change their character, ways of thinking, habits, etc.

11. It is of the utmost importance that disciples learn habits like daily Bible reading, prayer, and Scripture memorization.

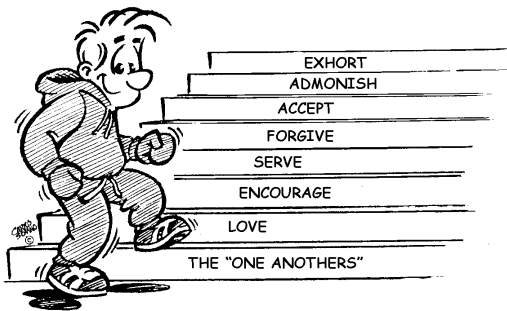
At the beginning of each lesson, take time to review the previous memory verse and ask them how the daily Bible study is going. Do not scold students who have not completed some of the assignments, but be sure to encourage them to finish.

12. Be sensitive to what God is doing in the disciple's life. Take time out of each session to answer any questions they might have, or to help with facing problems in their personal life.

Keep in mind that there are times when it is not possible to get to every question in the lesson because of lack of time. In these cases, choose the questions of most importance to discuss.



*“Do to others as
you would have
them do to you.”
Luke 6:31*



Step 1

The "one anothers"

TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ We should treat others the same way they treat us.
- _____ As long as I don't hurt anyone, I'm doing all that God asks of me.
- _____ Christians are called to support their brothers in Christ.

WORKING TOGETHER

A missionary in Africa watched two lepers planting seed in a field. One of them had no hands because they had been consumed by leprosy. The other had lost his feet to that terrible disease. The leper without hands carried on his shoulders the one without feet. The one with hands carried a sack of seed from which he dropped seeds to the ground, while the other leper used his feet to press them into the soil.

Together they were able to do the work of one healthy man.¹

When we come to Christ, we become part of his Church, with brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. The Church is our new family, refuge and support group. But as with all families, we sometimes struggle to get along with each other because we are all so different. How can we live together in unity? Let's look at some of the rules God has given us that will help us to be at peace with one another.

THE GOLDEN RULE

1. Luke 6:31 contains what we call "the golden rule." Summarize in your own words what it says.

2. Let's look at the implications of the golden rule in the following passages:

Luke 6:27 _____ your _____ and do _____ to those who _____.

Luke 6: 28 _____ those who _____ and _____ for those who _____.

Obeying this command of Christ is more than **not hurting others**, it means to **treat them well**, as you would like to be treated. We shouldn't harm others; but the golden rule goes one step further, exhorting us to handle them with love and mercy, even when they treat us badly.



This symbol signals you to **STOP** for a moment. Take time to reflect about the following:

How do you want others to treat you? Is that the same way you treat them?

Think of a time this week when you felt bad about the way you acted toward someone.

What could you have done to treat him better?

HOW SHOULD WE TREAT EACH OTHER?

The "one anothers": There are many passages in scripture that use the phrase "one another." Each of them helps to clarify how to obey the golden rule and thus live in harmony with "one another." Write out the command or commands mentioned in each of the following passages:

3. Mark 9:50 _____

THINK ABOUT IT

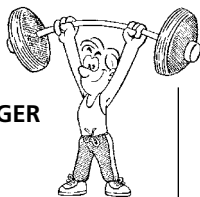
John F. Kennedy once said:
"...ask not what your country can
do for you; ask what you can do
for your country."

Think about the implications for
your life if you were to say, "ask
not what other Christians can do
for you; ask what you can do for
them."



SERVING OTHERS

What gifts do you have that will
help you to serve others? Ask your
pastor or a mature Christian to sug-
gest ways you might serve in your
church.



GROWING STRONGER

Read
Galatians 1-6
and Titus this week
(one chapter per day).

Memorize Luke 6:31.

*"Do to others as you would
have them do to you."*

4. John 13:34 _____
5. Romans 14:13 _____
instead _____
6. Romans 12:15 _____
and _____
7. Romans 15:1 _____
8. Romans 15:2 _____
9. Romans 15:7 _____
10. Romans 15:14 _____
11. Romans 16:16 _____
12. Galatians 5:13 _____
13. Galatians 5:26 _____
14. Galatians 6:2 _____
15. Ephesians 4:2 _____
16. Colossians 3:13 _____
17. Colossians 3:16 _____
18. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 _____
19. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 _____ & _____
20. Hebrews 10:24-25 _____
& _____
21. James 5:16 _____ & _____
22. 1 Peter 4:9 _____



Up to this point, how have you lived as a Christian? Have you been
more concerned about your own growth or helping others grow?

On a scale of one to ten—ten being the best—grade yourself on how well you
have followed the "one anothers." 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Choose one of the characteristics mentioned in this lesson that you could
emphasize this week. Which one? _____

How could you use this characteristic this week to help you connect with other
believers? Be specific. _____

Step 2

Love one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Loving other Christians will show the world that we really are God's children.
- _____ You can love God and hate someone at the same time.
- _____ True love is seen by our actions, not just our words.

LOVING MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

While we should love all men, we are called especially to love our brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Peter 2:17). As a family, we are responsible to care for and support each other. Our church body should be a refuge where we experience the unity and love that is so rare in the world today.

1. Why is loving other believers so important? John 13:34-35

v. 34 _____

v. 35 _____

Loving other believers is not just a command, it is like a uniform which **identifies us as followers of Christ, and distinguishes us** from those who do not know him.

2. Who is our model with respect to love? v. 34 _____.



Romans 5:6-8 states that God loves us, not because we are worthy, but because of his grace. Love is his true nature (1 John 4:8). Christ's love thinks about others, while worldly love is selfish, asking, "What's in it for me?" Think about your love for your Christian brothers and sisters. Can it be called unselfish, or unconditional? Do you think more about others or more about yourself?

3. Love is more than just a warm feeling towards others; it demands action. If we want to love as Christ loved, what do we need to do? John 15:10 _____

4. Love is like a **spiritual thermometer**. What can be said about someone who claims to be a good Christian, yet hates his brother? 1 John 2:9-10 _____



5. 1 John 3:18 Let us not love _____ but with _____ and _____

What's the difference between love with words and love with actions and in truth? _____

Do you sometimes pretend to love others when you really don't? The following questions will help understand what true love requires.

LOVE AND SACRIFICE

6. According to 1 John 3:16, how can we demonstrate our love? _____

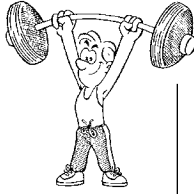
Does that mean we must literally die for others? _____

7. What example is given of laying down one's life for another? v. 17 _____

Ignoring others' needs shows that we really don't have as much love as we would like to think.

GROWING STRONGER

Read Romans 12,
2 John, 3 John,
Jude y 2 Peter 1-3
(one chapter a day).



Memorize 1 John 3:16

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

THINK ABOUT IT

Love is more than just a good feeling toward others. It involves an act of the will. Matthew 5:42-48 tells us that God causes the sun to shine on both the **evil** and the **good**. We are called to love our enemies, as well as our friends. This means forgive them, pray for them, and treat them well when the occasion arises.

Make a plan of how you could be reconciled with those you have had conflicts with. Remember that reconciliation includes asking for forgiveness as well as forgiving.

Review the two lessons on forgiveness in Volume 2

Write down your plan on a separate sheet of paper.



OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD.

8. Give other examples of how you might lay down your life for others.

9. The second commandments says: "love your neighbor as yourself." When someone asked: "And who is my neighbor," Jesus answered with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Read Luke 10:30-37.

Which person in this parable really loved his neighbor? _____

How do you know? _____

10. Even though the priest and the Levite had nothing to do with the man's beating, can we say they were better than the thieves? Why? _____

Although **indifference** doesn't seem so bad, it is really just another type of abuse because it shows a lack of love for others. Even though the Samaritan wasn't from that neighborhood, he showered the wounded man with compassion. He understood that his "neighbor" was really whichever needy person God put in his path.

Someone has summarized the attitudes of the parable's characters:

- The thieves: "Whatever is **yours is mine**."
- The priest and Levite: "Whatever is **ours is ours**."
- The Samaritan: "Whatever is **mine is yours**."



Think about how you treat others. Write down which of these three attitudes best describes your relationship with your:

Family _____

Co-workers or fellow students _____

Members of your church _____

WHAT IF THEY DON'T TREAT ME RIGHT?

*"Anyone who proposes to do good must not expect people to roll stones out of his way, but must accept his lot calmly if they even roll a few more upon it."*²

11. Read Romans 12:17-21. How should we respond to those who mistreat us, according to the following verses?

v. 17 _____

v. 18 _____

v. 19 _____

v. 21 _____

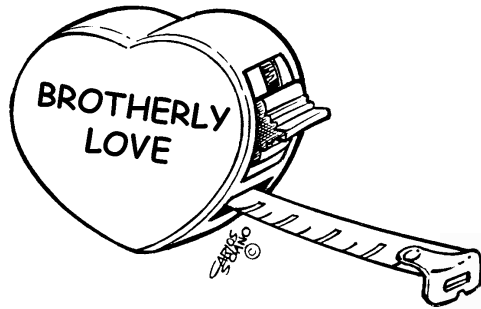


We can overcome evil with good. How successful have you been in doing that? _____. If your answer is "not very," who are you at odds with? _____

What good thing could you do this week to ease the tensions with that person? _____

Step 3

More about love



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ *Instead of protecting love, jealousy will destroy it.*
- _____ *True love overlooks others' faults.*
- _____ *A desire to acquire things can hurt my ability to develop healthy relationships with others.*

TAKING THE MEASURE OF TRUE LOVE

1. What is love? 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 describes true love, listing fifteen characteristics — seven positive and eight negative. Write them down.

Love is: _____

Love is not: _____

2. What does the Bible mean when it says love is patient, or long suffering? v.4 _____

3. If love "does not envy," what does it want for others? v.4 _____

4. If love is not self-seeking, what then does it seek? v.5 _____



Which of the characteristics from this list do you need to work on most? _____

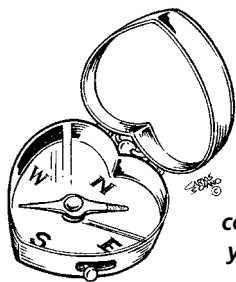
Think about how these qualities affect you.

5. List the characteristics of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 that counter the following errors.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | I'll never forgive him for what he did to me. |
| _____ | Why is Jane so popular when I've achieved the same things? |
| _____ | I can't stand my little brothers. They are always bothering me. |
| _____ | My husband is a loser. He'll never amount to much. |
| _____ | Why should I help Pete out when I've got needs of my own to take care of? |
| _____ | Our worship group is much better than theirs. They can't even carry a tune. |
| _____ | I don't need anyone's help to get things done. |
| _____ | Ha! They fired John. I never did like him anyway. |
| _____ | I hope they kick him out so I can take his place. |
| _____ | Everything about Martha bugs me, even the way she dresses. |

THIS WEEK

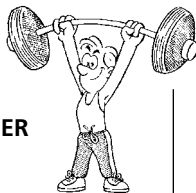
Christian music is a powerful tool to help us grow. This week learn a song with words that deal with love among fellow Christians.



**What
course is
your life
taking?**

It is easy to get lost along the way, loving the world and what it offers instead of loving your neighbor. Love is like a compass that can get us back on track.

We clash with others when we give priority to acquiring things instead of building positive relationships with people.



GROWING STRONGER

**Read
Hebrews 11-12
and 1 Peter 1-5 this week
(one chapter a day).**

Memorize John 13:35.

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

LIVING TOGETHER IN LOVE

6. Romans 12:10 tells us to be devoted to each other in brotherly love. What does this include, according to the last part of the verse? _____

7. Read Galatians 5:14-16. In spite of the command to love their neighbor, what do some do? v. 15 _____

What did Paul mean by "bite and devour"? _____

How can we overcome the desire to destroy others? v.16 _____

Look at Step 5 in Volume 1 to review what it means to walk in the Spirit.

8. How can love help us to live together? 1 Peter 4:8 _____

Explain the meaning of "love covers a multitude of sins." _____

True love is not conditioned on the behavior of others; instead, it loves in spite of their faults. Christ gave his life for the just and the unjust. His sacrifice is an example of how to love by giving ourselves in service to one another.

9. Read Peter's story in John 21:15-17. Even though Peter had denied Christ three times, what job did Jesus entrust to him? _____

10. Name something that we should not love. 1 Juan 2:15 _____

11. According to James 4:1-2, what is the cause of many conflicts? _____



Loving the things of the world affects our ability to love one another. We clash with others when we give priority to acquiring things instead of building positive relationships with people. Are there things that are hindering your relationship with others? List them.

12. As Christians, we love one another, but what type of reception should we expect from unbelievers? 1 John 3:13 _____

Why? v. 12 _____

Although many unbelievers belittle us and even hate us, we still need to love them, pray for them and share the good news with them, just as Jesus did.

Step 4

Encourage one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Spending time with other believers should motivate us to be better people.
- _____ Only our actions, not our words, can encourage others.
- _____ When someone is going through hard times, one of the best ways to encourage him is to spend time with him.

"Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you." ³

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

1. What are the two commands found in 1 Thessalonians 5:11? _____
and _____.
2. If we want to encourage someone, is it necessary to say nice things about him, even if they aren't true?

3. What is the main goal of meeting with other believers, according to Hebrews 10:24? _____

4. Does this type of encouragement mean we should say only positive things? Why? v.25 _____

5. What are the two commands found in Hebrews 10:25? _____

6. Meeting with other believers includes church attendance. It also includes fellowship during the week through phone calls, visits and small groups. How can these informal contacts help us? _____



How often do you generally meet with other believers? _____
Ask your pastor if there is a small group that you could become involved in.



7. There is a certain urgency to meet together since we see "the day approaching." v. 25
What day is the author referring to? v. 37 _____

HOW TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

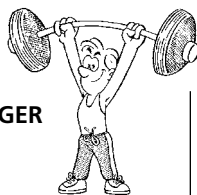
8. What is one way to encourage others? Proverbs 12:25 _____
9. Read Prov. 18:21. _____ and _____ are in the power of the tongue.
Words are powerful, capable of lifting up our spirit or of killing it. Proverbs 16:24 adds that pleasant words are like honey and medicine to our bodies. See "Words of Encouragement" on the next page.
10. Our words should be _____ Ephesians 4:29

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

1. Use words that praise, encourage and are thankful such as: "Good Job!", "You can do it", "I believe in you", "You gave it your all; don't worry about the mistakes", "Thanks for your help."
2. Treat others with respect and dignity. Expect the best of others, not the worst. Trust them.
3. Avoid criticism, yelling and ridicule. Don't expect perfection. Avoid sarcasm and "jokes" at others expense. Limit the "buts" ("You did well, but...")
4. Listen with empathy when others speak. Give them your full attention, looking them in the eye, without thinking of how you will respond when they finish. Don't interrupt. Don't judge. Others will know if you have listened if you are able to repeat their concerns back to them.
5. Take their fears seriously, and help them to overcome those fears.
6. Teach them to limit their use of the phrase "I can't."
7. Take their dreams and wishes seriously.

THINK ABOUT IT

What should we do when we meet together with other believers? What parts of the services encourage you? Are there parts that discourage or frustrate you? What are they? Talk to your pastor, asking advice about how to deal with your frustration.



GROWING STRONGER

**Read Genesis 1-7
this week
(one chapter each day).**

Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

11. Give examples of words which encourage and build others up: _____

Give examples of words that discourage others: _____



Measure your Words. Your words usually:

- ☐ Build up ☐ Criticize and scold ☐ Comfort ☐ Complain & grumble
☐ Promote unity ☐ Gossip & backbite ☐ Lifts others' spirits.

☞ See "Words of Encouragement" in the box at the left.

12. What is one way to encourage others? Romans 12:15

Our presence at someone's side during tough times is more important than what we say. When we sympathize with another person, sharing his pain and joys, he knows that someone cares for him.



13. Paul wrote about the rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 so that Christians might encourage one another. This is an example of how the Bible can be used as a powerful tool of encouragement. It is literally the power of God. When we fail to listen to and study God's word, we cut ourselves off from the possibility of receiving that support.

List several passages that have encouraged you recently.

14. What words of encouragement do we find in the following passages?

1 Peter 5:7 _____

1 John 4:4 _____

15. According to Hebrews 4:14-16, is there anyone who really understands our problems? _____

So, what should we do? v.16 _____

The "throne of grace" refers to the merciful presence of God. Through prayer, we approach him at any time, knowing that he is waiting to hear us, even when we feel unworthy. The Bible is full of encouraging passages like this one. Take advantage of them to be encouraged and to encourage.



Are you discouraged; or do you know someone who needs encouragement? **See Appendix 2 in Volume 1 which talks about "Who Am I in Christ"**

Step 5

Serve one another



TRUE OR FALSE

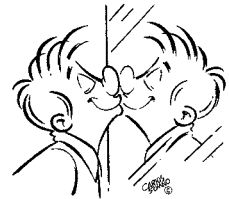
- _____ Service is only for those who have the time for it.
- _____ Humility is a prerequisite to service.
- _____ Great leaders look for ways to serve others.

SERVING OR BEING SERVED?

1. Read Galatians 5:13. Although we are free in Christ, some use that freedom to give free reign to their passions. They abuse God's grace and forgiveness, using their freedom as an excuse to do pretty much what they want. Instead of misusing our freedom, what should we do? _____
2. The gospel doesn't call us to selfishness, but to service. Why? v. 14 _____
Servants ask: What can I do for others? Selfish people ask: What can others do for me?
Love and service are inseparably linked. Love motivates us to serve, while service demonstrates our love.
3. Summarize what Matthew 20:26-28 teaches about service. _____

4. What can we do to attain the very best in life? What would you say to someone who is interested only in his own welfare? _____

The road to greatness passes through the valley of service.



LEARNING BY THE EXAMPLE OF OTHERS

5. What did Jesus do in John 13:3-5? _____

The self-centered only think about themselves.

During the American Revolution a man in civilian clothes rode past a group of soldiers repairing a small defensive barrier. Their leader was shouting instructions but making no attempt to help them. Asked why by the rider, he retorted with great dignity, "Sir, I am a corporal!"

The stranger apologized, dismounted, and proceeded to help the exhausted soldiers. The job done, he turned to the corporal and said, "Mr. Corporal, next time you have a job like this and not enough men to do it, go to your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you again." It was none other than George Washington.⁴

6. In those days, washing visitors' feet was the work of the servants, below the dignity of someone as important as Jesus.
What was Jesus trying to teach his disciples by washing their feet?
John 13:14-16 _____

7. What attitude did Jesus display that we should imitate? Phil. 2:5-8

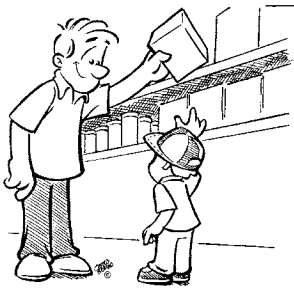
If Jesus humbled himself in order to serve others, why should we do less?
8. What can we do to serve others, according to Philippians 2:3-4?
v. 3 _____
v. 4 _____

THINK ABOUT IT

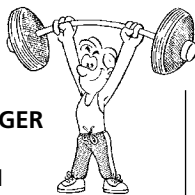
An ax is made for hard work. Even though it is worn down as it is used and re-sharpened, it is serving the purpose for which it was created.

In contrast, an ax left at home without use is a sad sight, as it quickly becomes covered by rust.

It is better to spend ourselves in serving others than to seek the selfish "rest" of only seeking our own well being. Next time you see an ax, or another tool, think about this.



"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." ⁵



GROWING STRONGER

**Read Psalms 25-31
this week
(one chapter per day).**

Memorize Galatians 5:13.

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."



Give some examples of how you might look out for the interests of others. _____

9. For the apostle Paul, the greatest form of service was to carry the good news of salvation to others. That is why he said in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel..." What do we learn from him in the following passages that will help us serve others?

2 Cor. 4:5 _____

2 Cor. 6:3 _____

10. What other trait of a servant do we see in 2 Corinthians 11:29? _____

IT'S NOT EASY, BUT IT'S WORTH IT

11. Service can be costly. Explain how. 2 Cor 6:4-8 _____

See 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 for more details about the sacrifices the apostle Paul made in order to serve others. See also 2 Timothy 2:10.

12. Are the sacrifices that service requires worth it? Why?

2 Corinthians 9:6 _____

Hebrews 6:10 _____

13. How is service described in 2 Cor. 8:4? _____

GETTING PRACTICAL

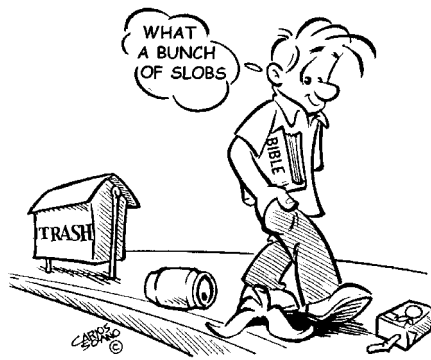
"What work does Christ set his servants to do? The way that they serve him, he tells them, is by becoming the slaves of their fellow-servants and being willing to do literally anything, however costly, irksome, or undignified, in order to help them." ⁶

Above all, service is practical as we dedicate our time, resources and energy. Examples of service might include:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Listening | • Teaching someone to read | • Preparing meals |
| • Encouraging | • Discipling a new believer | • Taking out the trash |
| • Counseling | • Helping with homework | • Sharing the gospel |
| • Visiting | • Washing, ironing, sewing | • Watching the kids |
| • Comforting | • Running errands | • Teaching |
| • Repairing a faucet, door or car. | • Taking someone to the doctor | • Cleaning the house |
| • Cutting the grass | • Keeping him/her company | • Praying with and for the person |
| • Painting | • Doing something on the computer | • Reading to someone |
| • Cheering someone up with a smile. | • Teaching someone how to use a computer | • Loaning a book |
| • Washing dishes | | • Phoning to see how someone is doing |



Ask: "How can I make myself useful today?"



Step 6

Bear with one another

TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ As Christians, we must put up with all sorts of abuse.
- _____ We can learn to tolerate others by forgiving them.
- _____ Before criticizing others, we must remember that we have our own faults.

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another."
Ephesians 4:2

LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD

Does it bother you to live with imperfect and irritating people in your home or church? Ephesians 4:2 speaks of "bearing with one another in love." Some translations say "forbearing" or "showing tolerance." The idea is that we must learn to live with others' weaknesses. When we stop complaining about their faults, we can begin to love them.

1. Proverbs 19:11 helps us to understand the concept of "bearing with one another" when it says: A man's glory is to _____.
2. According to Ephesians 4:2, we should "bear with one another" with an attitude of _____, _____ and _____.
This will allow us to have _____ in the church. Ephesians 4:3
3. Why is humility necessary in order to put up with others' weaknesses? Matthew 7:3

4. We all have weaknesses that others must put up with. What are some of your faults that might irritate others? _____

5. What future awaits your family if you can't learn to live with each other's weaknesses? _____

6. How would it affect you to know that your spouse can't live with your defects and always wants to change you? _____

7. How does it affect children to know that their parents are always disappointed in them because they are less than perfect? _____



The Perfectionist

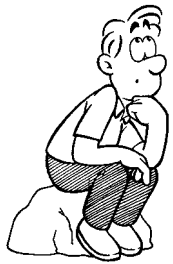


Are you a perfectionist or do you live with one?
Meditate on the statement at the right about the effects of perfectionism on our personal relationships.

As perfectionists, we look down on those who don't measure up to our expectations. When we demand too much of others, we burden them with a load that they will never be able to carry.

Their reaction might be of anger, frustration or discouragement. No matter how hard they try to meet our standards, both of us will always end up frustrated or angry with the other.

We won't have healthy relationships with others until we learn to accept them as they are.

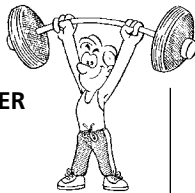


Are we
here to
serve or
to criticize ?

Someone once
said to John Wesley,

"I never forgive
and I never forget."

To which
Wesley replied,
"Then, Sir, I hope
you never sin."



GROWING STRONGER

Read Genesis 8-14
this week
(one chapter per day).

Memorize Ephesians 4:2.

**"Be completely humble and
gentle; be patient, bearing with
one another."**

8. Do you think that an effective way to motivate others is to shame them when they fail? _____ Why? _____

Shame often produces results, but not the kind we want. It motivates us to do the right things for the wrong reasons and only works as long as someone is looking over our shoulder.

9. Must we accept others' bad behavior without calling them to account?
Galatians 6:1 _____

10. Does tolerance mean others will escape the consequences of their actions?
Rom. 12:17-19 _____

11. Read Romans 15:1-2 and answer the following questions:

_____ True or False? Putting up with others is just a sign of weakness, indicating that we don't know how to defend ourselves. v. 1

The purpose of bearing with others is _____ . v. 2

The main point of this passage is that we should:

- ☐ Support others instead of just doing what is best for ourselves.
- ☐ Put up with others even though we don't want to.



It's true that others' faults bother us, but are we here to serve them or criticize them? _____

Think about how this concept could change your life.

12. Read Col. 3:13. To bear with one another, we must _____.

Can we put up with others' weakness without forgiving them? _____

Why? _____

Who best models forgiveness for us? _____. Christ forgave others to the point of pardoning his enemies while he still hung on the cross.

13. Colossians 3:8 exhorts us to lay aside our anger. What happens when we refuse to let go of a grudge? *Do we become better or bitter?*

14. What other qualities will help us make allowances for other's annoying faults? Col. 3:12 _____

15. Who wins when church members take up sides against each another?
☐ Nobody ☐ The group which comes out on top ☐ Satan

Who wins in a church whose members learn to bear with one another?

16. Based on what you have learned in this lesson, what would you say to those who are looking for "the perfect church"? _____



Step 7

Forgive one another

TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Scripture tells us to forgive others no matter what they have done.
- _____ Holding a grudge will only entrap us in a web of bitterness.
- _____ A friend learns to overlook the offensive behavior of his friends.

1. According to Colossians 3:13, what must we do when we have a complaint against someone?

It's important to note that forgiveness is linked with "bearing with one another," given that both are necessary to live in harmony with others. We need to look to Christ as our model of forgiveness.

2. What is one of the characteristics of a friend? _____ Proverbs 17:9

To "cover an offense" means to forgive or overlook the offense. The phrase "repeats the matter" may either refer to gossiping about the sins of others, or dwelling on the matter, constantly reminding them of their shortcomings.

From the passage about the woman taken in adultery (John 8:3-11), we learn that forgiveness does not mean to minimize the importance of sin. After forgiving the woman Jesus told her to go and sin no more.



3. What alternatives to forgiveness are mentioned in Ephesians 4:31? _____

Your decision of whether or not to forgive will determine the course of your life. You have only two alternatives — forgiveness or bitterness. Seeking revenge will only lead you to a dead end of resentment. Choose to let go of your anger.



Meditate on the following thoughts:

"To carry a grudge is like being stung to death by one bee." ⁷

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future." ⁸

Which life style do you choose? ☐ Bitterness — holding that grudge ☐ Peace — forgiving



6. Ephesians 4:32 links forgiveness with a tender and compassionate heart. Why do they go together?

Forgiveness is the result of a tender and compassionate heart.

7. We should _____ our sins to one another and _____ for one another. James 5:16.

Admitting our sins to others isn't easy. Some of the things that might possibly keep us from doing it are fear of being scolded, pride, fear that others will find out what we have done, etc. Can you think of others? _____

8. A critical spirit makes it hard to forgive others. What does the Bible say about criticism?

Romans 2:1 _____

Matthew 7:1-5 _____

GROWING STRONGER

Read Genesis 15-21
this week (one
chapter per day).



Memorize Ephesians 4:32.

*"Be kind and compassionate
to one another, forgiving each
other, just as in Christ God
forgave you."*

STORIES OF FORGIVENESS

After the Civil War, Robert E. Lee visited a Kentucky lady who took him to the remains of a grand old tree in front of her house. There she bitterly cried that its limbs and trunk had been destroyed by Federal artillery fire. She looked to Lee for a word condemning the North or at least sympathizing with her loss.

After a brief silence, Lee said, "Cut it down, my dear Madam, and forget it." It is better to forgive the injustices of the past than to allow them to remain, let bitterness take root and poison the rest of our life.⁹

✓ There's a Spanish story of a father and son who had become estranged. The son ran away, and the father set off to find him. He searched for months to no avail. Finally, in a last desperate effort to find him, the father put an ad in a Madrid newspaper.

The ad read: "Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Your Father." On Saturday 800 Pacos showed up, looking for forgiveness and love from their fathers.¹⁰

For more information on
forgiveness, see steps 7 and 8 in
Volume 2 of New Life in Christ.
Download Volume 2 at
www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com.



Summing up, what is the main problem with judging others? _____

9. Who of us has the right to judge others? Matthew 7:5 _____

The Bible commands us to forgive others, regardless of what they have done. We even forgive our enemies. This doesn't mean that the offender won't be held accountable for what he has done. Both parties have responsibilities:

- The **offender** is responsible to repent and ask forgiveness.
- The **offended** is responsible to forgive, even though he doesn't feel that the other deserves it. Once he forgives, he has done what is required of him and is then free to leave behind the bitterness that used to control his life.

10. What kind of behavior can we expect from God's people?

Proverbs 24:17 _____

Proverbs 24:29 _____

Exodus 23:4-5 _____



*Stop and try to think of a modern day example
of Exodus 23:4-5 that you could act on today.*

11. How far should our forgiveness extend? According to Luke 6:35-36, a forgiving person _____, and does them _____.

He does all this without _____. (v. 35)

He follows the example of his God, who is _____. (v. 36)

Mercy has the idea of *not giving the person the punishment he deserves*. For example, he does good, even to the evil and ungrateful. (v.35).

Thoughts on Forgiveness

- ✓ Forgiveness is not the same as forgetting an offense. It takes time for the memories to be erased once I have forgiven.
- ✓ It means I stop recriminating the other, always bringing out the dirty linen.
- ✓ It doesn't demand vengeance or punishment, because I understand that the offender will have to give account to God for what he has done.
- ✓ Forgiveness is mainly a decision to let go of my anger. Even though I don't want to forgive, it is the only manner to free myself from bitterness.
- ✓ My decision to forgive isn't dependent on the attitude or actions of the one who has hurt me.
- ✓ When the bad memories come to mind I can say: "I have already forgiven. I refuse to dwell on what is past."

Step 8

Accept one another



TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ *Unity in the church requires that we accept irritating people.*
- _____ *If we accept the ungodly, other believers will criticize us.*
- _____ *Accepting sinners means we are giving approval to their evil deeds.*

God's family is huge and includes all sorts of people. Some are mature, others are not. Some are easy to get along with, while others are always causing problems. The Bible tells us to accept one another. No matter who they are, God seeks unity among the members of his family.

LIVING WITH IRRITATING PEOPLE

1. What does God want for his children? Romans 15:5-6 asks that God might grant believers _____ as they follow God, who gives perseverance and encouragement.

2. What is required to live together in harmony? Romans 15:7 _____
To receive others (KJV) is to accept them, even with their defects.

3. Can we choose those who will be our brothers and sisters in Christ? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Are there believers who rub us the wrong way? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Are there believers in our church with serious problems and defects? ☐ Yes ☐ No



This is exactly why Romans 15:1 exhorts us to _____

4. Romans 15:8-9 speaks of two groups of people, the Jews (the circumcision) and the _____ (v.9). Previously, the Jews had looked down upon the Gentiles, not wanting to associate with them, or even shake their hands; but when they received Christ, things changed. God made them all into one family.

5. Read Luke 19:1-10 and answer the following questions about Zacchaeus:

What kind of a reputation de Zacchaeus have? v.2, 7 _____

6. Even though Zacchaeus was a disreputable person, Jesus didn't snub him. How did Jesus' acceptance affect Zacchaeus, even though he had been rejected by the majority? v.6 _____
v.8 _____

7. How did Jesus answer those who criticized him for associating with a sinner like Zacchaeus? v.10 _____



The church is a family, yet it is also a refuge and a hospital for problematic people. What would be the point of a hospital that only accepted patients who were well? _____

Luke 15:7 speaks of the joy in heaven when one sinner repents. God seeks out and welcomes the wayward. Should we do less? Who should be welcome in our church?

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nice people | <input type="checkbox"/> Irritating people | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Christians | <input type="checkbox"/> The weak and immature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The upper class | <input type="checkbox"/> The lower class | <input type="checkbox"/> Addicts | <input type="checkbox"/> Immoral people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Those who have different opinions than we do | <input type="checkbox"/> Foreigners and people of different race or culture | | |

GROWING STRONGER

Read Genesis 22-28 this week, (one chapter per day).



Memorize Romans 15:1-2.

"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Read Luke 7:36-50 and discuss the different attitudes of Jesus and the Pharisee toward the sinful woman.

8. If we welcome all kinds of people, does it mean that the church cannot establish standards of conduct? _____
Why? _____

Receiving the weak doesn't mean we need to let them dominate or cause divisions; rather, we should seek to build them up (Rom. 15:1-2).



What could you do to make the following people feel more comfortable in your church? Think about specific people.

- ✓ The timid or reserved: _____
- ✓ Visitors: _____
- ✓ Problematic people: _____

For example, invite them out for coffee. Pray for them.

9. What problem does James 2:1-4 point out? _____
What then can we learn from this passage? _____

What irony do verses 5-7 mention? _____

Not only that, but often quiet or humble folks who don't impress us at first have more to offer than the "important people" we tend to favor.

10. Ephesians 4:3-4 commands us to be _____. Can we be united if we don't accept other believers as they are? ☐ Yes ☐ No

WORTHY OF HONOR

11. What other type of people do we need to receive? Philippians 2:25, 29 _____
How should we treat God's servants? v.29 _____

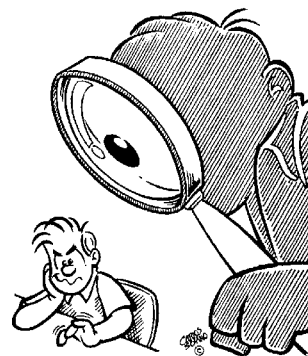


What could you do to honor the leaders of your church? _____

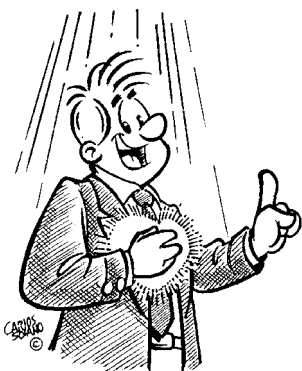
Grace or Legalism?

Many believers are confused and discouraged, covered with feelings of guilt, because they feel like they are under constant surveillance by other Christians. They feel **no love, grace or acceptance**, but rather a cold judgemental atmosphere dominated by spiritual pride and attitudes of superiority.

While it is true that the Bible sets high standards, we often add our own norms and traditions to God's. It is easier to demand that others live by our list of "dos and don'ts" than to look inside and see their hearts. Perhaps our motives are sincere when we judge others, but this is called **legalism**. It doesn't mean we have no right to point out errors, letting people do whatever they want. The Bible also tells us to exhort one another, but with grace and tenderness, basing our exhortation on **biblical commands, not personal opinions**.



LEGALISM



Step 9 Exhort one another

TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ To avoid problems, it's better not to offer counsel to anyone.
- _____ If I feel God leading me to exhort someone, I should do it without delay.
- _____ Basing my counsel on the Bible insures that it will be sound.

WE CAN'T TURN A BLIND EYE

1. Hebrews 3:13 commands us to _____.
"Encourage" in the NIV is rendered "exhort" in most translations, or as *The Message* says, "Keep each other on your toes."
2. When is the right time for exhortation? v. 13 _____
3. If we turn a blind eye and fail to take a stand against sin, we run the risk of _____
by sin's deceitfulness. v.13 What are the characteristics of a hardened heart? _____

The more time that passes before someone is confronted with his sin, the more calloused he becomes. Some people are sensitive and repentant, while others seem to shrug off the warnings. It takes time to harden a heart, which is why it is so easy for some to say: "What's the rush? I'll deal with it tomorrow."

Why do we often wait until "tomorrow" before talking with others about a problem? _____



Do you feel that God is leading you to exhort someone, yet haven't taken action yet?

What is holding you back from speaking with the person?

Is there any reason you couldn't act today (or this week)?

Formulate a plan of how you hope to confront and encourage the person.

4. True or False:

- _____ Exhortation means to pressure someone to change.
- _____ The best way to exhort is to shame someone until he changes.
- _____ Exhortation means encouraging someone to change his attitude.

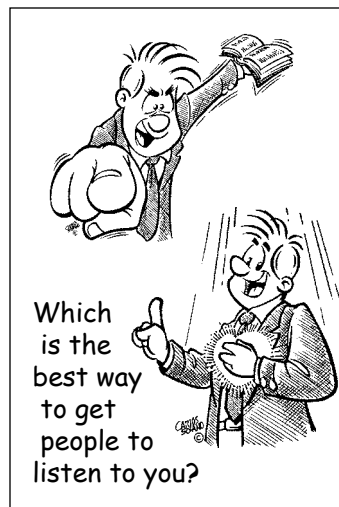
HOW TO EXHORT OTHERS

5. What should be our attitude when we urge others to turn from sin?
1 Timothy 5:1-2 _____

Is scolding and browbeating an acceptable way to exhort? _____

When we exhort someone, we should treat him with respect, as if he were family. When it is time to talk with someone ask: "Is this how I would like someone to treat my mom or dad or sister?"

6. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, a powerful tool for reproof is _____. The Bible is useful for _____, _____, _____, and _____



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

We all need counsel and sometimes an exhortation. We must listen to others to learn from them.

An African proverb says:

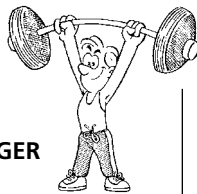
***"It takes a village
to raise a child."***

What is the main point of this proverb?

What implications does it have for the Church today?

Do I really need my brothers and sisters in Christ in order to become the person God wants me to be?

***"He that gives good advice,
builds with one hand;
he that gives good counsel
and example, builds with both;
but he that gives good
admonition and bad example,
builds with one hand and pulls
down with the other."*** ¹¹



GROWING STRONGER

Read Genesis 29-35
this week (one
chapter per day).

Memorize Hebrews 3:13.

***"But encourage one another
daily, as long as it is called
Today, so that none of you
may be hardened by sin's
deceitfulness."***

There will always be someone telling us what to do, but how can we know if that advice is worth taking? When we use the Bible to counsel others, we can be sure that we are sharing God's wisdom, and not just personal opinions.

7. That is why 2 Timothy 4:2 exhorts us to _____.

When is the appropriate time to use the Word for exhortation? _____

8. Even though we use the Bible, the last part of the verse tells us to correct and exhort with _____.
The power to change a life does not come from our words, but from God's Word. We need to be patient, understanding that the Holy Spirit will use the Scriptures in the lives of others.

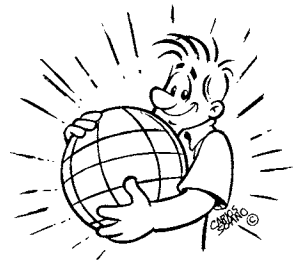
9. The Bible is full of exhortations. For example, what are we urged to do in the following passages from the book of Philippians?

1:27 _____

2:3-4 _____

3:1 _____

10. A challenge is another way to exhort, by motivating others towards certain attitudes or actions. For example, what are we challenged to do in Matthew 28:19-20?



STOP What do you expect from others?
Sometimes we expect too little. Think about the following:

***"Treat a man as he is, he will remain so.
Treat a man the way he can be and ought to be,
and he will become as he can be and should be"*** ¹²

The other side of the coin is to **expect too much** of others. We must avoid being too demanding when challenging others.

Why? _____

Review TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Exhortation is supposed to make others feel guilty about their sin.
- _____ Exhortation should instruct someone how to do what is right.
- _____ A good chewing out is the way to get others to change.
- _____ It is best to remain silent so as not to offend anyone.
- _____ Our counsel to others should be based on the Scriptures, not on personal opinions.
- _____ We should exhort with gentleness and respect.



Step 10

Admonish one another

TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ It's best to keep silent about sin so as not to discourage others.
- _____ When we admonish others, it should be with love and respect.
- _____ A good scolding will keep others on their toes and help them become stronger Christians.

HONESTY WILL BUILD UP A BROTHER

"...admonishing and teaching everyone...so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.." Colossians 1:28

1. Read Proverbs 24:24-26 and answer the following questions:

What mistake should we avoid? v. 24 _____

What is the right thing to do? v. 25-26 _____

What happens when we confront the wicked honestly? v. 25-26 _____

2. We must put off _____ and speak _____. Ephesians 4:25

Being honest with others about their faults is the best way to deal with problems; but this requires courage since not everyone is willing to hear the truth. Speaking frankly is risky, but it is for their good.

3. In the end, the one who _____ will come out ahead of someone who uses _____. Proverbs 28:23

Why do we often prefer flattery over rebuke? _____

4. How should we respond when others confront us with our sin? Proverbs 28:13 _____ and _____. Covering up problems will only guarantee failure. On the other hand, facing up to them with honesty and repentance brings forgiveness and allows us to overcome weaknesses.

5. The purpose of admonition is _____. Col. 1:28
This noble goal should motivate us to move forward, trusting God to change lives. v. 29



HOW TO ADMONISH OTHERS

6. To instruct others we must be full of _____ and _____. Rom. 15:14

What would instruction without **goodness** be like? _____

What would instruction without **knowledge** be like? _____

Without knowledge we often do more harm than good. We need biblical knowledge and wisdom as well as knowledge of the situation in order to effectively admonish someone.

7. James 1:19 tells us to be quick to _____ and slow to _____ and _____.

It is common to half listen to someone, and then interrupt him with our advice or admonition, without having taken the time to understand his situation. We shouldn't be surprised when that person resists our counsel because he feels we didn't really hear him out or that we are misinformed.

8. In 1 Corinthians 4:14, Paul didn't write the Corinthians to _____ but rather _____ as his _____. Admonition requires firmness but it is not harsh. Shaming someone publicly will backfire, producing resistance and rebellion instead of repentance.



Shaming someone publicly will backfire, producing resistance and rebellion instead of repentance.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Name a serious sin that deserves admonition. Titus 3:10

How serious is the sin of trouble making? v.10-11

What are some of the tactics used by troublemakers?

THINK ABOUT IT

How can we admonish others (Romans 15:14) without being judgmental (Romans 14:13)?

Those who admonish need goodness and knowledge (Romans 15:14), but above all they need to look at themselves first to see if they qualify to correct others (Luke 6:41-42).



GROWING STRONGER

Read
Genesis 36-42
this week
(one chapter a day).

Memorize Galatians 6:1.

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."

Read Galatians 6:1-2 and answer the following questions.

9. What kind of person is qualified to restore others? _____
10. In what spirit should we seek to restore the fallen? _____
How would the meaning of v. 1 change if we substituted "punish" or "scold" for "restore"? _____
11. What other warning do we find at the end of v. 1 and in v. 3? _____

Even the most godly among us is subject to temptation, so there is no place for pride. It is only God's grace that keeps us from falling.

12. Another part of restoration is _____. v. 2
The "burdens" we carry for others are not the normal every day problems which each of us is responsible to carry for ourselves. "Burdens" here refers to the crushing trials that one is unable to bear alone. (v. 5)

13. Matthew 18:15-17 gives us a model of how to deal with someone who sins against us. What are the **three steps** we must follow?

v.15 _____

v.16 _____

v.17 _____



Which of these steps is most difficult for you? _____

How often do you use these steps to deal with those who offend us? ☐

Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Infrequently ☐ Never

14. Why is it important to first speak alone with the offender? _____

It is common and easier to skip the first step and jump directly into gossip.

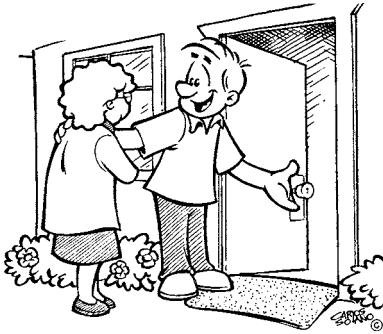
15. Why do we need the witnesses of step 2? _____

16. What are the consequences of ignoring the counsel of the church? _____

To treat others as pagans or tax collectors doesn't mean to be cruel or to reject them, but simply to treat them as if they were unbelievers.

REVIEW TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Chewing someone out will keep him on the straight and narrow.
- _____ We should never rebuke people; rather, we must only accept them.
- _____ Admonition must be based on goodness.
- _____ Shaming someone will cause him to forsake his sin.
- _____ Many jump the gun, exhorting without having all the facts.
- _____ If we speak gently with someone, he will never understand the seriousness of his sin.
- _____ The first step in warning others is to go directly before the church.
- _____ It is important to examine our own lives before admonishing others.



Step 11

Greet one another Offer hospitality to one another

TRUE OR FALSE

- _____ Church is a place where we can relate to and fellowship with other believers, not just receive teaching.
- _____ Our words can really encourage others.
- _____ Many believers are hungry for a relationship with others.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

1. There is a good habit described in Romans 16:16. What is it? _____

The "holy kiss" was a way that believers greeted each other in biblical times. Although greetings vary from culture to culture, a "holy kiss" is to be a warm greeting — personal and genuine, yet appropriate (holy).

2. At first glance Colossians 4:7-18 doesn't appear to be particularly interesting; yet when reexamined, it sheds light on how we relate to Christians. Answer the following questions based on this passage.

What does this passage consist of? _____

3. Why is this passage included in the Bible? What can we learn from it? _____

4. Thinking about the passage, decide if the following statements are true or false.

- _____ Paul truly loved the believers in Colosse.
- _____ Greetings like these are just a courtesy, yet are actually superficial.
- _____ It was hard for Paul to remember peoples' names.
- _____ Paul had a close pastoral relationship with the Christians in Colosse.
- _____ Paul concerned himself with Bible teaching without becoming personally involved in peoples' lives.
- _____ Paul preferred to be alone and really had very little patience for others.
- _____ Paul used these greetings to stimulate and encourage the brethren.



5. Write down some of the encouraging statements that Paul used in his greetings.

- v. 7 _____
- v. 9 _____
- v.11 _____
- v. 12 _____
- v. 14 _____



What do others say about you? Are you approachable and friendly or stiff and cold?

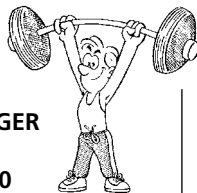
Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5.

Cold 1 2 3 4 5 Friendly



Some people abuse our hospitality. Think about the following proverb from the Swahili of Africa .

"Treat your guest as a guest for two days; on the third day, give him a hoe."



GROWING STRONGER

Read Genesis 43-50 this week (one chapter per day).

Memorize 1 Peter 4:9.

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."

OFFERING HOSPITALITY

6. According to 1 Peter 4:9, we need to be _____ yet without _____.

Although we treat others well, our facial expressions reveal whether our hospitality is genuine or not.

7. What is genuine hospitality? To answer this question, think about the following statements and decide if they are true or false.

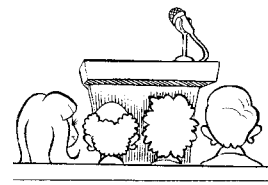
- _____ Hospitality requires the ability to make a good cup of coffee.
- _____ Hospitality is the ability to make others feel at home.
- _____ It is important to have a nice house so that we might entertain guests.
- _____ Hospitality comes from the heart. It is a way of expressing love for others.
- _____ Hospitable people welcome guests without keeping track of whether or not they return the favor.
- _____ Hospitality requires a generous spirit, yet not necessarily spending a lot of money.
- _____ Like it or not, we are required to be hospitable.
- _____ Being hospitable doesn't necessarily mean inviting others to our house.

8. Many people live lonely lives, perhaps because they don't have family or friends. Even those with "friends" often feel the need for more personal contact with others. This is exactly why hospitality is so important, because it helps them to feel that someone is interested in their lives. They come to church seeking God but also relationships with others.



How are visitors received in your church?

Write down some ways that you could make visitors feel genuinely welcome and comfortable in your church.



Appendix 1

Cut on the lines. Carry these cards with you and memorize the verses

<p>Luke 6:31 Step 1</p> <p><i>"Do to others as you would have them do to you."</i></p>	<p>1 Thes. 5:11 Step 4</p> <p><i>"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."</i></p>	<p>Ephesians 4:32 Step 7</p> <p><i>"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."</i></p>	<p>Galatians 6:1 Step 10</p> <p><i>"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."</i></p>
<p>1 John 3:16 Step 2</p> <p><i>"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."</i></p>	<p>Galatians 5:13 Step 5</p> <p><i>"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather serve one another in love."</i></p>	<p>Romans 15:1-2 Step 8</p> <p><i>"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."</i></p>	<p>1 Peter 4:9 Step 11</p> <p><i>"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."</i></p>
<p>John 13:35 Step 3</p> <p><i>"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."</i></p>	<p>Ephesians 4:2 Step 6</p> <p><i>"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another."</i></p>	<p>Hebrews 3:13 Step 9</p> <p><i>"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."</i></p>	

Quotes

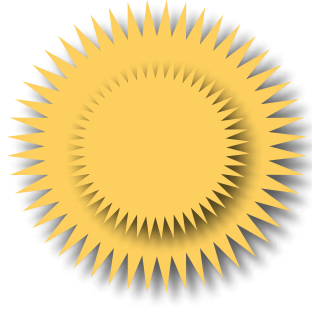
1. 6000 Sermon Illustrations, ed. Elon Foster (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House), 1992 p. 309
2. Albert Schweitzer
3. William Arthur Ward
4. *Today in the Word*, March 6 1991
5. Albert Schweitzer
6. James Packer in Your Father Loves You, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986
7. William Walton
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10. *Bits & Pieces*, October 15, 1992, p. 13
11. Francis Bacon
12. Goethe
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Certificate

This certificate is presented to

_____ who has satisfactorily completed all the lessons of the course

New Life in Christ Volume 3 **Living Together With Each Other**



Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

Pastor or Teacher

Date