

**EAST CENTRAL AFRICA
DIVISION**

**2006 STEWARDSHIP WEEK OF
PRAYER**

THEME: A Call to Discipleship I

**Adapted and Synthesized
by**

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**From
Basics of the Christian Life: Discipleship 1**

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Key Texts:

Matt 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.""

(NIV)

Rom 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

(NKJ)

Contents

Maximizing the Booklet

Sabbath: *God's Assurance*

Sunday: *God's Forgiveness*

Monday: *God's Power*

Tuesday: *Fellowship*

Wednesday: *The Word*

Thursday: *Prayer*

Friday: *Witnessing*

Sabbath: *Spiritual Multiplication*

Maximizing the Booklet

Purpose

This booklet is designed to help Christians glorify Jesus Christ and equip them to disciple others! It will be used for the stewardship week of prayer. However, it can be used for Personal Study, New Christian Follow-Up, one on one Discipleship, Small Group Discipleship or Training Seminars. It is geared towards grounding people in the basics of the gospel and assisting them grow into Christ. It will not only be useful for the stewardship week of prayer but for ongoing discipleship training program of members in the church.

Using the Booklet

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

Procedure

Lessons can be done without prior preparation or they may be assigned and then reviewed during the study sessions.

The Lesson

Read and share each Lesson, paying careful attention to all Scripture References.

Remember "The Purpose of Scripture is not simply to be informed, but to be transformed"

Sabbath

God's Assurance

Introduction

If you died today, how sure are you that you have Eternal Life? If Jesus was to come now, would you go with Him to heaven?

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

Four Truths

I. God, Our Creator, Loves Us!

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

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

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

2. Our Sin Has Separated Us From God!

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

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

The penalty for our Sin is Death. This death is more than just our bodies dying; it is spiritual separation from God. When God will establish His everlasting kingdom, this separation will become eternal. The separation between Sinful Man and God is so vast that, no matter how 'good' we may be, we are powerless to bridge it.

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

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

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

God offered His Son, Jesus Christ, as payment for our sin. When Christ died on the cross, His death paid the penalty for our sin. This is why Eternal Life can only be found through Christ.

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

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

The phrase 'Receive Christ' is used to describe the act of believing in Christ as Lord and Savior and trusting in all He has done on the cross done on the Cross to purchase our forgiveness.

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

Receiving Christ

Have you personally received Jesus Christ as your Savior and trusted in Him to forgive your Sins? If not, you would like to, wouldn't you? Pray the following prayer to make this all important decision right now! Remember, it is not the words that are important but our faith. We must trust Christ to forgive our sins because *He promised He would.*

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

Assurance of Eternal Life

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

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

- What God has given to us according to 1 John 5:11-13?
- Where is Eternal Life found?
- What does a person have if he has Jesus Christ?
- What does a person does not have if he does not have Jesus Christ?
- According to this passage, can a person know for sure he has Eternal Life?
- Who can 'know' they have Eternal Life.
- *Do you have Christ in your life?*

Eternal life is not based on how good we are, or how we feel. It is based on our faith in Jesus Christ.

Affirmation

1. Christ died on the cross for me.
2. God will receive me in heaven when Christ comes because He promised He would.
3. I have Eternal Life because I have Christ.

Prayer:

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

Sunday

God's Forgiveness

Introduction

How would you complete the following statement? When a person becomes a Christian...

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

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

Dealing with Sin

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

- I. What is Sin?
2. Who Sins?
3. What is God's Solution for Sin?
4. What Should We Do When We Sin?

1. What is Sin?

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

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

Romans 3:23 describes Sin as falling "short of the glory of God". Sin is *Man's failure* to live up to the *perfect standard of God*. We have all broken God's perfect moral law, either in action or in thought. Even our failure to do what we know is right is **SIN**. So there is no one innocent or perfect among us!

Sin's Results

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

Do you believe people who are guilty of violating the moral law should be punished? **So does God!** Sin brings God's Judgment of death on all who are guilty of breaking God's perfect moral law.

2. Who Sins?

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

3. What Is God's Solution for Sin?

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

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

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

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

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

The Death of Jesus Christ satisfied two attributes of God. It satisfied His Holiness which required that Sin be punished and it satisfied His Love which desired Man's salvation. Through the sacrifice of Jesus, God is able to demonstrate His Love for Man while maintaining His Holiness!

4. What Should We Do When We Sin?

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

I John 1:9 has been called "**The Christian's Bar of Soap**" because it contains the key to dealing with Sin in our lives. This verse describes the action we must take whenever we Sin.

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

Application

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

More Good News!

"Then He adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." Hebrews 10:27

"As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:12

"Come now, and let us reason together, 'Says the LORD,' though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool." Isaiah 1:18

Questions and Answers

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

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

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

A: Confession, allows us to experience the forgiveness that is already ours in Christ. Sin breaks our Fellowship with God, not our Relationship with Him. Our Relationship with God as His Children is based on His Unconditional Love for us, but our Fellowship with Him depends on our keeping an intimate walk with Him. Whereas Sin Destroys this intimacy, Confession Restores it!

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

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

Q: Why should I confess my sins?

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

Q: What about making restitution? Matthew 5:23-24

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

Q: How often should I confess my sins?

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

Monday

God's Power

Introduction

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

- Fill your heart and mind with Scripture.
- Pray as much as you are able.
- Attend Christian meetings for inspiration.
- Get involved in ministry.
- Choose to do what is right and Godly.
- None of the above.

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

Why We Can't Live the Christian Life

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

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

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

Read how the following Scriptures describe this problem.

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

"Jesus said) 'For front within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder; adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean'." Mark 7:21-23

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

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

God's Solution

God's Solution to our **Sin Nature** is to give us a **New Nature!** He did this by putting His Holy Spirit in us at the moment we received Jesus Christ! Many religions teach that we must conform ourselves to the standard of spiritual principles or laws in order to reach perfection. Christianity teaches that man is incapable of transforming himself. What is needed is a totally new life!

Read the following Scriptures that describe this miracle.

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

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

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

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

Applying God's Solution

We are born into this world with a Sin Nature. But the moment we trust Jesus Christ for forgiveness, we are "born again" with a New Nature, which is not only the New Me, but the Real Me. The Sin Nature, or Old Me, can never please God and does not even want to, but our New Nature not only desires to please God, but is able to by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

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

The desire in you to please God is the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart. It is evidence of the New Nature you inherited when you were born again by God's Spirit. The Christian's Sin Nature will be changed when we are glorified, while our New Nature will continue for eternity! The challenge we face in this life is the battle between these two Natures to rule in our minds, our hearts and our bodies. *They are at war within us!* The good news is that this struggle is temporary! Once we are free of the Sin Nature, our New Nature will be unhindered to do all that God desires! Come quickly Lord Jesus!!

It is important to understand that the key to victory is **God's Spirit** within us. Only by allowing His Spirit to live through us will we experience God's Will and Power in us!

Be Filled with the Spirit

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

Ephesians 5:18 teaches us how to apply God's provision to overcome Sin. The word "filled" means *to be filled to the full!* A person filled with the Holy Spirit leaves no

room for the Sin Nature to control his life! The following properties of the verb “filled” help us to understand and apply it.

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

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

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

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

Because He said He would, and God does not lie!

- Read His promise in 1 John 5:14-15.

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of Him.”

Application

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

- I. Confess- Not being filled to the full with God’s Spirit is sin. Confess this to God and claim His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
2. Be Filled with the Holy spirit — Ask God to fill you with His Spirit! Allow Him to Reign in your Mind, your Heart and your Body!

Pray

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

Tuesday

Fellowship

Introduction

A baby is born. Ten years later, it is still the same size and maturity as when it was born! Your immediate reaction is:

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

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

When God placed His Holy Spirit in you at the moment you trusted Christ for Forgiveness, you were "born again" spiritually. Instantly, you became a of God's eternal family, a "new creation" in Christ, created to grow to maturity and destined to glory Christ through your life.

- Read 2 Peter 3:18:

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

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

Strength in Numbers!

The First Principle to ensure Spiritual Growth is to establish strong relationships with other growing Christians.

On Fire for Jesus: Even as coals burn hotter longer when piled together, in the same way Christians who join together in Spiritual Fellowship will stoke one another's faith in God, and inflame each others love for Him! Here are a few reasons why we should join ourselves together in Christian Fellowship.

Encouragement

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some arc in the habit of doing, but let its encourage one another and all the snore as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 11:25

The words "give up" mean to "completely abandon" or "utterly forsake". Christians are forbidden to forsake meeting together. 'Giving up' is not an option!

"Never Give Up!" Shortly after the end of World War II, Sir Winston Churchill, who had just led England as Prime Minister through its Finest Hour during the war, was invited to speak to a gathering eager to hear his words of wisdom. Known for his eloquence and wit, the audience was prepared to be treated to a feast of words. They sat in rapt attention as the great orator strolled to the podium and, like a drum

beat, repeatedly exhorted the crowd, '**Never give up, Never give up, Never give up,...**!' After several minutes and the final cadence, he turned and took his seat before a stunned crowd.

The word "encourage" is the translation of a Greek word that means "to call alongside", and presents the beautiful picture of a person encouraging another while walking side by side together. We often find it easier to criticize, or shame, or judge another person who does not measure up to our standards, but God asks us to encourage, to stand alongside, those who are wavering.

Inspiration

"Do not be misled: 'Bad Company corrupts good character.'" 1 Corinthians 15:33

The word "misled" means to be led astray from the truth! We find this admonition throughout the Bible, perhaps because we have a habit of thinking we know the way, even after God has told us the correct way!

The word "corrupt" means to defile or destroy. Have you ever met people who, thinking they could help other people deep in sin, have instead been drawn into sin themselves? Life is full of examples of Christians who chose to remain with bad company only to find their faith corrupted.

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

- In what specific ways does bad company corrupt good character?
- In what ways can good company inspire good character?

Restoration

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

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

When you become a Christian, Satan becomes your enemy! He continually schemes to entrap you to sin. Too often we can be harsh and judgmental with other Christians caught in sin, but here we are exhorted to be gentle.

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

Application

- Meet regularly with other Christians who desire to grow in their faith. (Acts 2:44-47)
- Join a Church that honors God and teaches His Word, and attend faithfully. (Hebrews 10:25)

- Become involved in your Church's ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- Support your Church's ministry financially through regular giving. (Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

Wednesday

The Word

Introduction

How long do you think we can survive without eating?

_ 1 day _ 3 days _ 10 days _ 20 days _ 40 days _ 60 days _ 100 days

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

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

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

In this lesson, you will learn:

- The Source of the Word
- The Purpose of the Word
- The Power of the Word
- The Application of the Word

The Source of the Word

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

The Greek word translated **God-breathed** is used no where else in the New Testament. Though the word does not explain how Scripture was given to us, it does indicate the *supernatural* and *divine origin* of it! This verse teaches that every Scripture in the Bible originates from God!

The Purpose of the Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17 and underscores the four ways Scripture is useful to us:

- Instructing us in the truth God
- Convicting us of the truth of God
- Restoring us to the truth of God
- Teaching us how to live the truth of God

After the scripture has performed its four-fold work in our lives, we are then thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Power of the Word

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

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

The Application of the Word

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

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

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

Memorization is simple if done in steps.

- Read the verse 3 times.
- Write the verse 3 times.
- Recite the verse from memory 3 times.
- Review every day regularly for the next 10 days.

Meditation

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

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

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

Application

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

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

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

S- Sins to Confess

P- Promises to Claim

A- Attitudes or Actions to Adopt or Avoid

C- Commands to Obey

E- Examples to Follow

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

Thursday

Prayer

Introduction

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

Prayer is like that. Prayer is to our Spiritual Lives as air is to our physical. It is what energizes our New Nature and refreshes our Soul. Without it, our Christian lives become spiritually stagnant. Why? Because ...

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

You can be involved in every kind of Christian activity without being empowered by the Holy Spirit, except prayer. Ron Dunn asserts that prayer alone requires you to be right with God because it is a "Man to God encounter"!

Four Aspects of Prayer

- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication

Adoration

The word Adoration means to worship or to praise. The Hebrew word translated worship in Psalm 29:2 means to bow down or to prostrate oneself. It describes the Attitude of Worship.

In Psalm 100:2, the word worship is a translation of another Hebrew word. Here it means to serve or to work. This verse describes the Action of Worship.

Praise: *"Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can show forth all his praise?" Psalm 106:2*

The Psalmist in Psalm 106:2 uses a common literary tool by expressing the same

Share some "mighty acts" God has done in your life!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

David's Prayer of Praise found in 1 Chronicles 29:11-13:

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

Worship is enhanced as we come to know the attributes and character of God.

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

Confession

Another important aspect of Prayer is the Confession of our sins. Read the following Scriptures on Confession.

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

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

Psalm 66:18. This verse teaches there is a relationship between sin and prayer. Sin short circuits our Fellowship with God, and keeps Him from hearing our prayers. (

The confession of David after he committed adultery with Bathsheba:

"Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me...Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." Psalm 51:2-5,10 & 12

Genuine confession results in a desire to obey God. Notice that after David confesses his sin to God, he asks God to give him an obedient heart!

Thanksgiving

A third aspect to Prayer is Giving Thanks.

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

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

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

This verse teaches that no matter what happens in our lives, God is able to use all things, good or bad, for our good!

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

Supplication

Supplication is the bringing of our requests to God. Too often, we become worried and forget the one Person who can help! Read Philippians 4:6 below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For Whom Should We Pray

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." 1 Timothy 2:1

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

Application

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

Friday

Witnessing

Introduction

What would you say is the greatest threat to Christianity?

- Ungodly people.
- Our culture.
- Antagonistic governments.

Someone has perceptively suggested that ...

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

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

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

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

Sharing Christ With Your Testimony

We may not know much about the Bible or Theology, but all of us are experts in our own lives. Although people may not be interested in hearing what we have done for God, they are Interested In hearing what God has done for us! Our Testimony is the story of what Christ has done in our lives!

Use the following outline to prepare your Testimony.

Preparing Your Testimony

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

Sharing Our Faith with Pictures

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

- Picture 1: Write God up and draw Man below. Explain how God our Creator Loves us and offers Eternal Life.
- Picture 2: Write God and draw man below and write SIN in the gap between God and Man. Explain how our sin has separated us from God and His life and how man is unable to bridge this gap on his own.
- Picture 3: Write God and draw man below. Then draw the cross as the bridge between God and man. Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins. Through him alone, we can experience God's love and life.

Sharing Our Faith After a Presentation

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

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

Sharing Our Faith With a Booklet

There are a wide variety of booklets available, but each contains the same message — How to Find Eternal Life in Jesus Christ. Described below is a method developed by Campus Ministries.

Benefits

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

Introducing the Booklet

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

1. "The message contained in this booklet has helped me more than anything else May I share it with you?"

2 “Has anyone ever shared with you how you can know God in a personal way? May I share it with you?”

3. “If you died right now, would you be absolutely sure you will be in heaven when Christ comes? This Booklet shares how you can be. May I share it with you?”

Presenting the Booklet

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

Sharing Our Faith With Prayer

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

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

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

Application

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

Sabbath

Spiritual Multiplication

Introduction

How would you answer the following?

Why Am I Here Instead of In Heaven?

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

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

- Read Jesus' final command below.

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

The Great Commission

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

Go- you can't reach people for Christ unless you go to them. This verb implies that God assumes we will go.

Baptizing — the word 'baptize' symbolizes the cleansing and new identity Christians have in Christ when they place their faith in Him.

Teaching — making disciples involves teaching.

The Plan

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

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

The three geographic areas where we are to be Christ's witnesses:

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

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

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

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

The Strategy - Discipleship

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

WIN - People to Christ- "go" & "baptize"
BUILD -People in Christ- "teaching"
SEND -People for Christ- "Obey everything I have commanded you"

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

Spiritual Multiplication

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

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

The beauty of spiritual multiplication is that each succeeding generation grows as those who have **learned** now **teach** others. This is the magic of Spiritual Multiplication. Therefore, we continually win, build and send others to win, build and send still others!

In contrast is **Spiritual Addition**. This is where we win people to Christ but never building them up or sending them out to win and build others.

If we are to reach the world, we must move from spiritual addition to spiritual multiplication!

The Chart

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

Compare the numerical results between

Spiritual Addition and Spiritual Multiplication

Spiritual Addition (Reach 100 people every day)	Year	Spiritual Multiplication Win, build, send one person every 6 months
36000	1	4
72000	2	16
108,000	3	64
144,000	4	256
180,000	5	1,024
216,000	6	4,096
252,000	7	16,384
288,000	8	65,536
324,000	9	262,144
360,000	10	1,048,576
396,000	11	16,777,216
432,000	12	67,108,864
468,000	13	268,435,456
504,000	14	1,736,741,824
576,000	15	17,179,867,184

One Person CAN Make a Difference!

God Wants YOU To Be That Person!

A Significant Life: If you have ever wanted to do something significant with your life, you will not find a more significant work than Winning, Building and Sending people for Christ. Your efforts will not only result in Abundant Lives, but Eternal Lives!

Appeal: Commit yourself to be part of God's movement to reach the world for Christ by completing the Discipleship Covenant on the following page.

Discipleship Covenant

*“Only One Life Will Soon Be Past,
Only what’s done for Christ Will last!”*

*In obedience to the Great Commission of
My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
I, _____,*

*Pledge myself to Help
WIN People to Christ,
Build People in Christ and
Send People for Christ.*

*In order that the whole world may know
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD and HIS COMING
IS IMMINENT*

*I make this Covenant
On this _____ Day _____, _____*

GOD is My Witness!