

**DISCIPLESHIP
LESSONS
TEACHING
HELPS**

Introduction

The content that follows is designed to get you as a discipler thinking about how to teach the lessons in a creative and interactive way.

Beware! Never simply read the lessons to your disciple! Make a lesson plan for teaching thru each lesson using your own illustrations, doodles, biblical cross references, or material from the following lesson support pages.

As you work through this section, you can make notes and record your own ideas in the white spaces that follows or, on the lessons themselves.

The following content is keyed to each of the discipleship lesson outlines.

The material is there for you to apply to the corresponding lesson as you see fit in preparing to teach each lesson yourself.

THE VALUE OF ILLUSTRATIONS!

Illustrations are able to restate, explain, and define all at once. They do this by relating a concept to real life. Illustrations in your discipleship teaching are like the pictures in your television set. Don't make someone watching you teach as if they were sitting in front of a TV with only the sound going.

Illustrations make truths believable by example. Examples are not proof, but psychologically they allow you to gain acceptance for your ideas. Choose your examples with wisdom. All truth is equally valid, but not all truth is equally valuable. Some truth is dime truth and some truth is dollar truth. Dollars and dimes are both coins, but one is worth ten times more than the other.

The disciple needs to not only understand the concepts of discipleship; they need to know what difference it makes in life. Illustrations and experiences show that. Illustrations have other advantages as well:

- They show what difference truth makes in life.
- They aid the memory.
- They stir the emotions.
- They create a sense of need.
- They hold attention.
- They establish rapport.
- They allow you to personalize the lesson material.
- They allow you to put your personality into the lessons and develop your own teaching style.

How do we illustrate something?

ILLUSTRATIONS MUST ILLUSTRATE

The word, illustrate, means to throw light on something. To illumine. Illustrations are like the rows of footlights that light-up the stage for an actor. But, if the light shines in the eyes of the audience too brightly, it may blind them to the truth being conveyed. So, a story told for its own sake may be funny, but it also gets in the way and blinds the hearers to what they ought to see. An illustration has to be chosen for how it centers the attention on the idea you want it to display.

ILLUSTRATIONS MUST BE UNDERSTANDABLE

In general, you want to clarify the unknown by using the known. If you have to explain the illustration itself, it's probably a bad illustration. Your audience has to be able to put themselves in the place of the story in order to feel its force.

ILLUSTRATIONS MUST BE CONVINCING

They have to be accurate. They should not offend. Truth may be stranger than fiction sometimes, but your stories shouldn't leave people doubting if you told the truth.

ILLUSTRATIONS SHOULD FIT THE THEME

God is omnipresent. But just because he's everywhere at once, you don't illustrate this by saying that he's even in the toilet. (There goes God! How was that ride, hey?) The illustration must relate to the topic being discussed.

ILLUSTRATIONS SHOULD FIT THE AUDIENCE

You don't use the same illustrations for a football team in the locker room that you would in a child's Sunday school class. The illustration will work best when it ties into the disciple's career or interests.

ILLUSTRATIONS SHOULD BE TOLD WITH EMOTION

If you can't make them dramatic, then they won't have the force that an illustration should have. How do you do that? Kind of the same way you carve the statue of a person: by cutting away everything that doesn't look like a person. You dramatize a story by cutting away all the details that don't add to the punch line, and then delivering it with some animation. That's what builds rapport with your disciple and keeps you from being boring.

THE BEST ILLUSTRATIONS COME FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Life is interesting! Some people can gather more material in a walk around the block than I can in a trip around the world. And the difference is not in what we experience, but what we see in what we experience. Your life in this world is meant to be God's picture book. All you have to do is look at ordinary events in terms of spiritual application. Begin to use your entire personal history with God as a platform to build windows into your teaching.

Note to the discipler: Never underestimate the value of your personal testimony as a teaching tool. The truth illustrated by showing its application to your own life is powerful. It is one thing to teach the Bible. To show how the Word of God applies to your won life helps to bring insight to your teaching.

The value of a simple drawing (doodle.)

Many people prefer using images, pictures, drawings, and maps when learning. The bible is a very visual book and provides many opportunities to teach doctrines and principles through the use of simple drawings. The lessons in the Discipler Helps provide mentors with simple images that are easy to recreate when teaching the disciple. Each image was intentionally created with the belief that even the worst artist can easily replicate the "doodle", whether on a digital device, a piece of paper or in the dirt. Use these images to help visual learners better understand the concepts from God's Word.

LESSON 1–SALVATION: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *RELATIONSHIP*

The key purpose of this lesson:

- As the discipler, you can open the lesson with your own testimony of salvation.
- Explain to your disciple that they will want to learn how to give their own testimony.

In Acts 22, Paul shows how to give an effective testimony.

- Vs 3-5: Paul told who he was and what his life was like without Christ.
- Vs 6-10: Paul told how he personally encountered Christ.
- Vs 11-20: Paul described how God went to work in his life.
- Vs 21: Paul described who and what he was as result of Christ in his life.

The key point of this lesson:

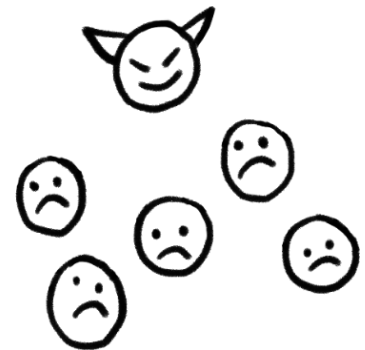
Our relationship with God is now a perfect father and child relationship.

- Make sure the disciple understands that God is a perfect father. Earthly fathers can fail. Our heavenly Father cannot fail His children.

YOU LIVE WITHIN ONE OF TWO SPIRITUAL FAMILIES

A. Satan's Family

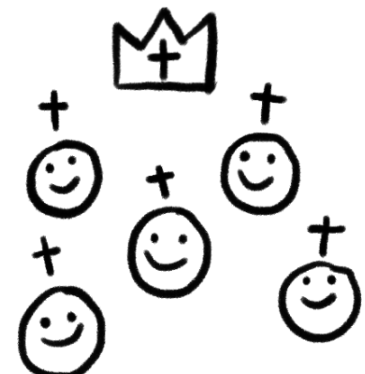
- **Illustration:** Living in darkness – it's hard. You cannot see, so you keep falling and running into things. You keep getting hurt.
- **Doodle:** Living under the Devil's family = misery.



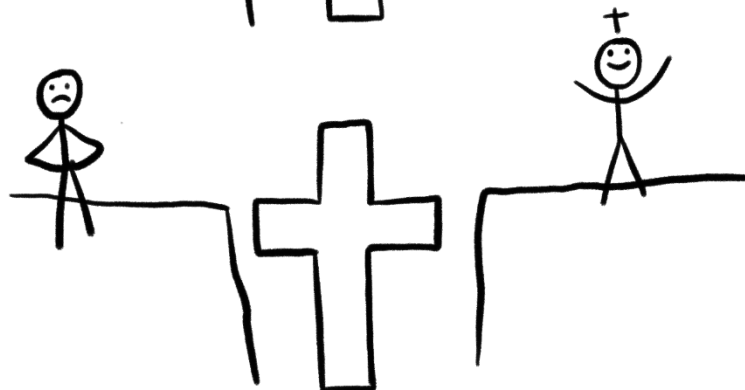
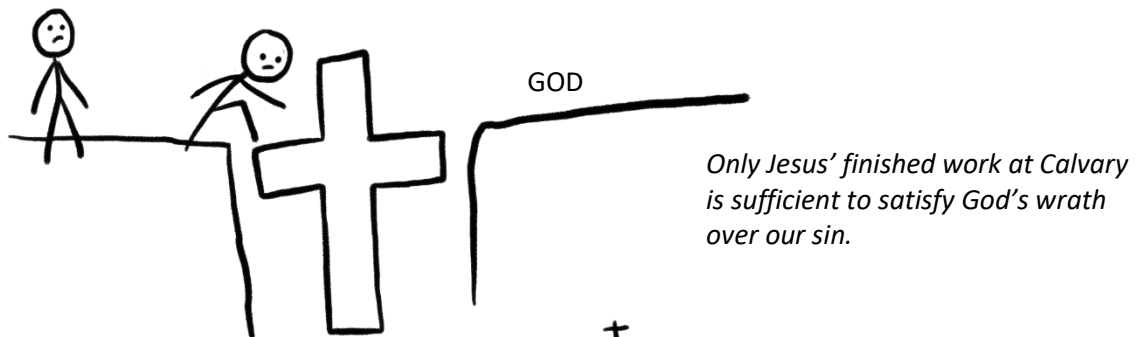
B. God's Family

- **Illustration:** Living in light – it's very helpful. You can see! You can see problems coming and avoid them.

Doodle: Living in God's family = joy.



- Illustration / doodle:** The following is a graphical way to explain the problem of sin (and devil's family) and salvation (God's solution and family.) Only through Christ's finished work at Calvary can we cross over to God.



OTHER QUESTIONS:

Whose family are you in now that you are saved?
 What family did you come from?

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR LIFE HAS CHANGED SINCE YOUR SALVATION

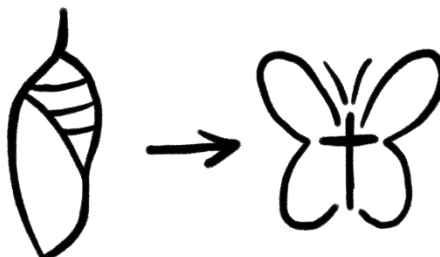
A. You now have the Holy Ghost dwelling inside of you.

- **Illustration:** A Sealed Envelope. If you can bring an envelope to use with this lesson, you can explain the following with this visual aid.

The envelope is our flesh. God's Spirit indwells us.

The Holy Spirit lives inside of us.

The envelope is sealed. God the Father secures this supernatural act.



B. You are now a new creature in Christ.

- **Doodle:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

The difference in the transformation between chrysalis to butterfly is just as profound and dramatic transformation as the new birth is!

C. You now possess eternal life.

Note: if you can lose eternal life, it's not eternal. The life God gives cannot be lost.

D. You now possess a new spiritual nature.

- **Illustration:** Dogs vs Cats. Dogs are all about their master. Cats are all about themselves.
Obedient vs. Selfish.
Excited to see master (dogs) versus aloof or only coming with want or need (cats.)
God's family vs. the devil's family.

Other questions:

How has your life changed since your salvation?

What changes is God desiring of you right now?

SOME COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT SALVATION

A. Is all of mankind part of one large family of God?

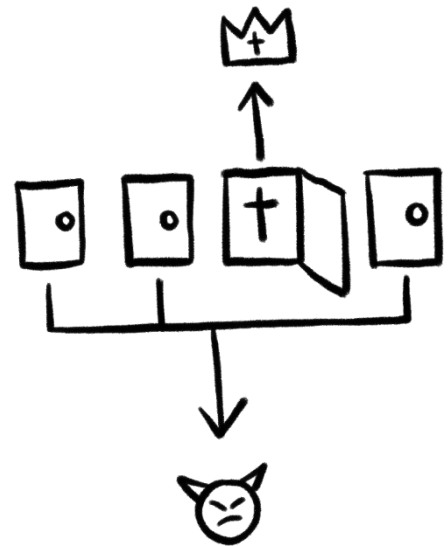
B. Do we have to earn/work our way to heaven?

- When you get to heaven and God asks, "why should I let you in?"
What are you going to say? The disciple should be able to point to Calvary.
- You can give testimony of how you learned of the Gospel of grace.

C. Are there many different ways to get to heaven?

- No. Jesus is the only way to be with God. **Acts 4:12**
- Many doors example:
Only one says "Jesus" only way to heaven.
Example: Religion, works, etc... is a false door.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.



SOME BASIC QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING

Other questions:

What happens when I sin?

Isaiah 59:2 Unrepentant sin hinders our prayer life. Sin interferes with a right relationship.

Who now controls your life? Are you or is Jesus LORD?

LESSON 2—ETERNAL SECURITY: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *SECURITY*



The key point of this lesson:

Our birth is irreversible.

Explain that no one can be “unborn.” (You will reiterate this later in the lesson.)

THE SCRIPTURES REVEAL THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

- A. You received eternal life in Jesus Christ at the moment of your salvation.
- B. Jesus Christ paid the penalty of your sin through His sacrifice. You received the gift of eternal life through His resurrection.
- C. God cannot lie and He has promised you eternal life.
 - **Illustration:** you cannot earn a gift. That’s called payment. If I “give” you a gift but ask you for the money to cover the cost, that’s offensive.



THE SCRIPTURES DECLARE YOUR ETERNAL SECURITY

A. The Bible says that you have eternal life because God will not disown you for any reason.

- Doodle:



- **A Simple Drama:** Nothing can take you out of God’s hand. Good luck taking something out of a strong man’s hand. Have a child try to take something away from a strong man. They cannot do it! Romans 8:38-39
- B. The Bible says that you cannot forfeit your own salvation.
- **A simple story:** A man was concerned that he might not go to heaven, so he asked his co-workers where he could buy a ticket to heaven. They told him they did know and that he should go to church, so the man went to a church to buy a ticket to heaven. At the church, a churchman told him that God gave us the Bible to know about these things. “Great.” He said, “What does the Bible say about buying a ticket to heaven?” “The Bible does not say

anything about a ticket to heaven.” The churchman replied, “but it does say in **John 3:3** “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

The man was confused, so he asked, “I just want to get a ticket to heaven, what is wrong with that?” The churchman answered his question with another question. “Have you ever lost anything you bought?” “Yes, many times.” The man answered. “Have you ever lost your birth?” the wise churchman asked. “No, that is not possible.” the man replied.

The churchman then explained, “Let us then thank God that eternal life comes from a new birth, not something we buy. God changes us into new creatures, he does not give us a ticket to heaven. We become sons of God, not unchanged men holding a ticket. That new birth cannot be undone.”

The man then heard the gospel, received the truth, trusted in Christ and became a child of God, a new creature in Christ. His whole life was fresh and new, and everybody saw the change. His co-workers saw he was different, and they asked him, “Did you find the ticket to heaven?” “No, he replied, and I thank God I did not. I have been born again...”

John 3:3; 1:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:23

- **1 Corinthians 3:11-15** is discussed in the personal Bible study section of this lesson, teaching that we should invest in spiritual things. But note, that both those who live for Christ and those who do not, are saved (v. 15). Those who do not live for him do not lose their salvation. Jesus is the foundation and he cannot be moved!

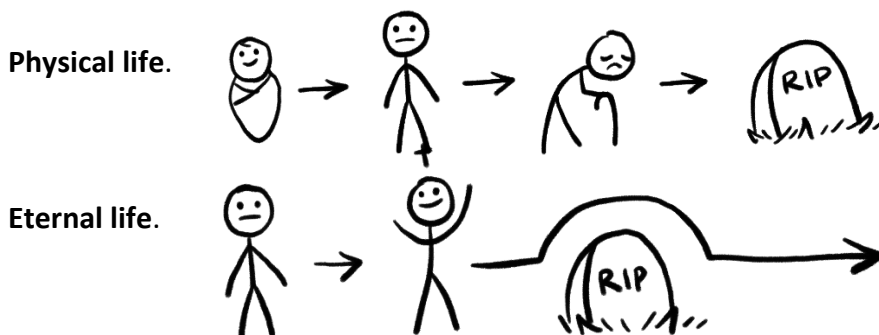
THE SCRIPTURES CONFIRM YOUR ETERNAL SECURITY

A. Your relationship with God is secure because you are now His child by birth.

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON!

Birth is irreversible. You will always be your biological father’s child because you were born of his seed. Even if one or both of your parents were never a part of your life, it does not change the fact that you are their child. You could disown each other, change your name, or never see each other the rest of your lives; but your father will always be your father. The same is true of your Heavenly Father. You can never be “unborn” because your spiritual birth is fixed forever.

- **Doodle:** Physical life goes from birth to the grave. Eternal life never ends.



B. Your new birth in Christ has been sealed with the Holy Spirit of God.

- **Illustration:** A Sealed Envelope. If you can bring an envelope to use with this lesson, you can explain the following with this visual aid.
 - The envelope is our flesh. God's Spirit indwells us.
 - The Holy Spirit lives inside of us. Place a piece of paper labeled "Holy Ghost" inside the envelop.
 - The envelope is sealed. God the Father secures this supernatural act.
You can seal the envelope to show that what is now inside cannot come out.

C. The scriptures confirm our faith even when our feelings do not.

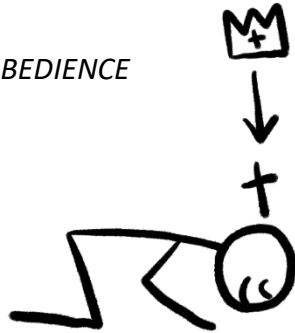
Other Questions:

We know telling a lie is a sin. If you lose your salvation when you tell a lie, then you would have to tell the truth to keep your salvation, right? If that was true, then we would be saved by trusting in Jesus and by telling the truth. Is that how we are saved?

Does your opinion about your earthly father effect whether you are actually his child? No! Nothing can change that reality.

LESSON 3—THE ORDINANCES: discipler helps

The key word of the lesson is: *OBEDIENCE*



WHAT IS BAPTISM?

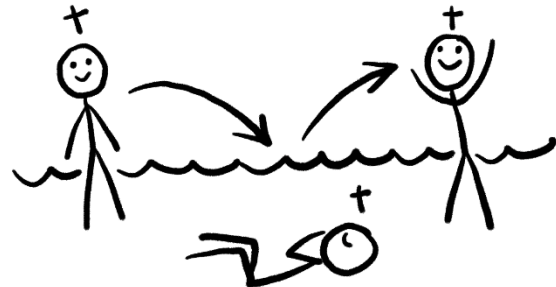
A. Water baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:1-7

The dead are buried not sprinkled.

Doodle

- Picture 1 – Man standing in water
Between Picture 1 & 2 – title “death”
- Picture 2 – burial
- Picture 3 - resurrection



DEATH.

BURIAL.

RESURRECTION.

B. Water baptism is the public testimony of your salvation and identification with Jesus.

- Like wearing your team’s jersey out in public, baptism identifies you to others with the team you associate with – salvation by Jesus Christ.



C. Water baptism is a public declaration that you are choosing to follow and submit to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus set the example for us by submitting to baptism before He began His public ministry. *Matthew 3:13-17*

- **Remember! Baptism is the 1st act of obedience.**
In the last example of a team jersey: to be identified on the field you must first be wearing the uniform. To properly serve the Lord you must first identify with Christ thru this first step of obedience: baptism.

Other questions.

What does the physical act of baptism do for a person?

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

A. The Lord commands all who place their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to be baptized.

B. There are two requirements for those who desire to be baptized. Acts 8:36-37

Requirement #1 – Heart belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

Requirement #2 – Confession that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior **Romans 10:9-10**

Disciplers can refer back to the lesson one helps for these points.

Other questions:

Why would you tell someone they shouldn't be baptized?

Or, what hinders someone from being baptized?

WHEN SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

A. The Bible teaches that you should be baptized after your salvation.

- Disciplers can also refer back to **Matthew 28:19** to see the order.
This verse could also be used for “when.” Conversion 1st, then baptism for those who believe.

B. You should be baptized at the first opportunity after understanding God's command and purpose to be baptized.

- The Lord wants our obedience to be done immediately. From the very beginning this is illustrated within the story of Cain and Abel. Cain brought his sacrifice over time, but Abel brought of the first fruits. **Genesis 4:3-4**

Other questions:

When is it appropriate to be baptized?

HOW SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

A. Every biblical example of an individual's baptism was by immersion.



- *Jesus gave us the example when he was baptized*
- **No other method** (sprinkling or pouring, for instance) **pictures the death, burial, resurrection of Jesus**, so those methods are therefore not biblical pictures of what happened to you at salvation.

Other questions: What ways can you be baptized? Why would you not follow the example of Jesus' model?

WHERE SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

Other points to consider:

A believer should seek to be baptized publicly in the structure of their local church to give testimony to others of what Jesus has done for them. Practically, baptisms in the Bible are performed by those who shepherd God's church.

Other questions:

Can you think of any place for which would not be appropriate to be baptized?

WHY SHOULD YOU OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

- A. Jesus instituted the observance of the Lord's Supper when he said, "... this do in remembrance of me." Luke 22:14-20**
- B. The apostle Paul confirms the observance of the Lord's Supper for the New Testament church as a memorial of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for sin. 1 Corinthians 11:20-34**
- We observe the Lords Supper to OBEY the Lord Jesus.
 - We need to remember what our salvation cost God. Everything.

WHAT DOES THE LORD'S SUPPER REPRESENT?

- A. Unleavened bread is used to signify the pure body of Jesus Christ.**
- Bread represents Jesus' body – sinless, but broken in our place.
- B. Grape Juice is used to signify the pure blood of Jesus Christ.**

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

- A. The Lord's Supper provides you with a proper perspective.**
- The act of taking time to deliberately remember the cross gives proper perspective on your life now in light of your new identity in Jesus.
The Bible gives several examples of having God's perspective. **2 Kings 6:17; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Deuteronomy 6:20-23; Hebrews 12:2**
- B. The Lord's Supper maintains purity within the body of Christ.**

Other questions:

Is there anyone that you or your disciple must reconcile with, forgive or receive forgiveness from? It is wrong to in thanks, remember Christ's death for our sin at the Lord's table while at the same time cling to a point of sin in rebellion.

LESSON 4—HOLY SPIRIT: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *RELATIONSHIP*

WHAT DOES THE SPIRIT OF GOD DO WITHIN ME?

A. The Holy Spirit is the seal and earnest (guarantee) of your salvation.

- **Illustration:** A Sealed Envelope. If you can bring an envelope (or describe one) to use with this lesson, you can explain the following with this visual aid.
 - The envelope is our flesh. God's Spirit indwells us.
 - The Holy Spirit lives inside of us. Place a piece of paper labeled "Holy Ghost" inside the envelop.
 - The envelope is sealed.
God the Father secures this supernatural act.
You can seal the envelope to show that what is now inside cannot come out.



B. The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God.

- **Illustration:** There are things that children need a parent's help, strength or ability to accomplish.
- **Story:** Once a young boy was trying to smooth out the dirt area behind his house so he could play a game there. There was a large rock in the middle of the area that the boy wanted flat. The boy worked very long and hard to remove the rock, but no matter what he tried, he could not make the rock budge. He began to get frustrated. His father saw his son's struggle came to him and said, "You need to use all your strength to move a rock that big!" The boy answered, "I have used it all and I cannot move it!" His father corrected him saying, "No, you haven't. You haven't asked for my help yet!" They then bent down together and moved the large rock easily.

C. The Holy Spirit bears witness to you of your salvation.

- There are 2 things that give you the assurance of your salvation.
The Holy Spirit **Romans 8:16** and the Word of God. **1 John 5:13**

D. The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you.

- Just like you need a lawyer in court to intercede for you (the courts are beyond your ability to communicate effectively) so also we need the Holy Spirit's intercession for prayer lives.

E. The Holy Spirit will teach you the Bible.

- **Illustration:** You learn best from those that you know love you. You know that they care for you, so you receive hard truth from them more readily.

F. The Holy Spirit gives you direction in decision-making.

G. The Holy Spirit comforts you in time of need.

- **Illustration:** The value of a mother's comfort.

H. The Holy Spirit will bring what He has taught you to your remembrance.

I. The Holy Spirit will convict you of your sin.

HOW DOES MY SIN AFFECT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. Your sin grieves the Holy Spirit.

- **Illustration:** This function can be seen in any relationship. Disappointing a parent. Talk about how your heart aches when you you've hurt someone you love.

B. Your sin quenches the Holy Spirit.

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

A. You are filled with the Spirit of God as you are filled with the Word of God.

- **Illustration:** Your car comes with gas, but needs constant filling if it will have power for the work you purchased it for. Otherwise, you end up pushing! You were not meant to do that work. Going to the Word of God is like going to the gas station for a fill up. Fuel for the work / the journey. (you cannot "run out" of the Spirit.)

B. You are filled with the Spirit of God as you allow Him to control you.

- **Illustration:** A glove on a hand. The glove is filled with the hand (picturing the filling of the Holy Spirit) moves the glove for the work.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

You now have two natures dwelling within you. Your old nature is physical, sinful, and made in Adam's image. This nature is often referred to within scripture as the "flesh" or the "old man." Your new nature is spiritual, perfect, and renewed in God's image. This nature is often referred to in scripture as the "new man."

Ephesians 4:22-24

Both natures are present within you at all times. You are now faced with a daily choice to follow your flesh or the Spirit. You must choose which nature you will follow. Choosing to follow the flesh will bring consequences, and choosing to follow the Spirit will bring blessings.

Galatians 5:16-17; 6:7-9

- **Illustration:** Feed the new man. Put to death the will of the old.
Story: The two natures are like owning two dogs that are always fighting for dominance. One is good, one is evil. I've learned that the one that I feed the most is the one that wins.

LESSON 5—WORD OF GOD: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *INFALLIBLE*

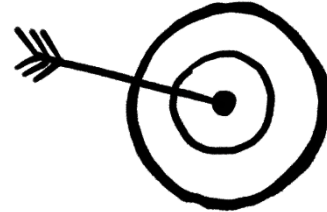
UNDERSTANDING THE ACCURACY OF GOD'S WORD

- A. The Bible is the **INSPIRED** Word of God.
- B. The Bible is the **INFALLIBLE** Word of God.
- C. The Bible is the **COMPLETE** Word of God.
- D. The Bible is the **PRESERVED** Word of God.



- **Illustrations:** God preserves His Word. Man's attempts to destroy It do not work!
 - Moses tablet being broken. Compare **Exodus 32:19 with 34:1-29!**
 - Jeremiah's scroll being cut and burned. Compare **Jeremiah 36:23 with 36:27-32!**

- **Doodle:** Picture of a target and arrow.
Like an arrow hitting the center of a target, the Bible is accurate in all matters of history, prophecy and life.



- **History example:** Jesus is a real historical person that is documented in the four gospels, the book of Acts, and among five hundred witnesses (**1 Corinthians 15:6**). In addition, the respected Jewish historian Josephus described the condemnation and crucifixion of Jesus at the hands of the Roman authorities in his writing *The Antiquities of the Jews*.
- **Prophecy example:** Approximately 300 years before Cyrus was King of Persia and had Jerusalem rebuilt (**Ezra 1:1-2; Jeremiah 29:10**), he was called by name and his actions foretold in **Isaiah 44:28**.
- **Prophecy:** For centuries, people thought that the prophecies about Israel in the last days (**Romans 11:26; Revelation 7:4**) was inaccurate due to the nation's destruction that happened in the first century A.D. Miraculously, in 1948, Israel was declared a nation once again, after almost two thousand years of Jewish disbursement.
- **Life example:** God gives us instruction and wisdom in all matters of life so that we can have proper relationship with Him and others.
 - Drunkenness: **Proverbs 20:1**
 - Confronting others: **Proverbs 9:7-9**
 - Responsibility: **Proverbs 13:11; 20:13**
 - Money: **Proverbs 13:22**

- God protects His Words for us. He warns people not to add to or take away from His Words. **Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Matthew 15:8-9; Revelation 22:18-19**
There are two examples in Scripture where God’s original inscriptions were destroyed by man– God immediately had them written down again for His people. **Exodus 32:19, 34:1,4; Jeremiah 36:27-32**
- God has preserved His Words for us. Things fade, decay and die around us all the time. Just observe things in nature like grass and flowers. Unlike these temporal things, God’s words stand the test of time. **Isaiah 40:8**
- Not only is God’s Word accurate, but you must also understand that your feelings (and heart) are not accurate (**Jeremiah 17:9**). When you *feel* as though God is telling you to do one thing, but God’s Word (the Bible) *says* something different, you must trust the Bible to be God’s Word for your guidance; not your heart.

Question:

Do you trust God’s word and its accuracy? Why or why not?

Illustration: Matthew 7:24-25

UNDERSTANDING THE APPLICATION OF GOD’S WORD

A. The Word of God has the power to save you.

B. The Word of God has the power to guide you.

C. The Word of God has the power to grow you.

- **Illustrations:**

God’s Word is like a mirror that shows us the reality of our fallen nature. It reveals sin in our life. **Romans 7:7; James 1:23-24**

Just like how a lamp, at night, shows us where it is safe to step, God’s Word brings light to our circumstances, so we don’t have to remain in darkness. **Psalms 119:105**

In the same way that our bodies need food and water in order to survive, we need spiritual nourishment on a daily basis to live the life that God intended for us– and we find this nourishment in the Word of God. **Deuteronomy 8:16, Luke 11:3**

Question: Is there an area of your life that you’re not sure what God’s will is for you? Work with your discipler to find a verse that speaks about that specific situation or topic.

- Be a doer of the word and not a hearer only. **James 1:22-25**
- Have the right heart attitude. **Matthew 13:2-23**

SOME COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD

A. Is it really necessary to use the Bible when sharing your faith?

B. Can someone really understand the Bible without outside resources?

C. Does reading the Bible really change a person?

- God's Word is truth that brings light to dark places. **John 1:1-5**
Once we have received this light through the Word of God, we are called to share it with others. **Luke 11:33**

Doodle: don't cover the light!

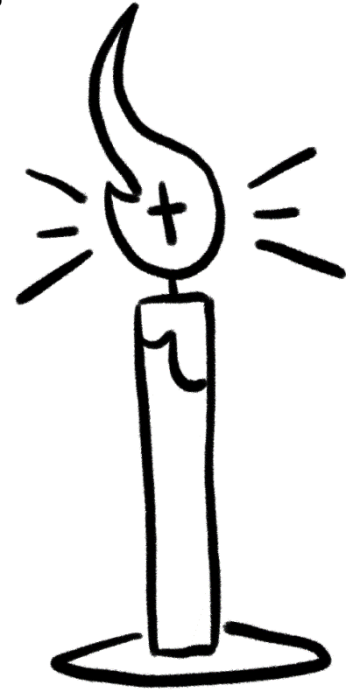
- We have all experienced a time in our life when we have received misinformation from someone. As people share news, it often gets twisted, exaggerated, or skewed because we all have opinions and biases that influence how we hear and share information. This can even happen when people teach from the Bible. When we go straight to the source of God's word, we can see for ourselves what God is saying. **Romans 3:4**

God gave us His spirit to help us understand His words **John 14:26**

A great example in the Bible of people going straight to the source of God's word to discern if a teacher was preaching truthfully was the Berean church in **Acts 17:10-11**.

- Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. **Romans 10:17**

In the same way that craftsmen can take a rock and carve it into a beautiful statue, God's Word chisels at our heart and conforms us into the image of Christ. **Jeremiah 23:39**



Question: What areas in your life need God's word to refine?

Illustration: In the same way that soap help to wash dirt and oil off our hands, God's Word cleanses our hearts from impurities. **John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26**

SOME BASIC QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING

A. Where should I start reading?

B. How do I have a quiet time?

C. What if I find something in the Bible that I don't understand?

D. Can I rely on the accuracy and authority of God's Word?

- The Bible points to the morning as being an ideal time. **Psalm 5:1-3; 63:1; Prov 8:17; Mark 1:35**
Though the morning isn't mandated as the time to be alone with God, it's important to note that when you fill your mind and heart with God's Word, prayer and fellowship, you can carry that with you throughout the day. In contrast, if you don't fill your mind and heart with God's Word early on, other cares of the world will fill the void and it becomes harder to concentrate on God's Word. **Proverbs 27:7**

- Our pursuit of God and His Word must come from our heart and be continuous. **Deut 6:4-9**
- In addition to God giving you His Word and the Holy Ghost, he has also given you the church, pastors and teachers to help you grow in understanding. **Ephesians 4:11-16**

Questions:

Do you have a regular time that you meet with God and read His Word each day? Please describe. Is there an area of your life that you're not sure what God's will is for you? Work with your discipler to find a verse that speaks about that specific situation or topic.

- Be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only. **James 1:22-25**
- Have the right heart attitude. **Matthew 13:2-23**

LESSON 6—PRAYER: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *COMMUNICATION*

WHAT IS PRAYER?

A. Prayer can be spoken audibly and silently.

- **Note:** God knows everything. He knows what you are trying to say.

B. Prayer can be spoken publicly and privately.

- **Note:** The one way to insure that prayer is hindered is to NOT pray! Make sure that you talking to God.

Jesus need time alone with the Father in prayer. You do too. **Mark 6:46; John 6:15**



WHY SHOULD YOU PRAY?

A. God answers prayer.

- **Note:** SO, we have not because we ask not. **James 4:2**

B. Prayer produces a change in you.

C. Prayer draws you close to God so that He alone can prove His sufficiency for your every need.

- **Note:** It is a good thing to wrestle in prayer. **Genesis 32:24-32**. You don't always get from God what you want, but you learn that you get what you need! When God answers our prayer with "no" or "not yet," we are blessed! I need to learn that God's Word over my life is all that I need.

WHEN SHOULD YOU PRAY?

A. God desires that you continuously communicate with Him in prayer.

- See also: **Luke 6:12**. If Jesus needed much prayer, how much more do we need to seek God is much prayer!?
- **Illustration:** A healthy marriage relationship. The couple talks every day! They talk about everything, how their day went, the things they want, how they are feeling, if they need something from each other, etc.

If the husband only talked to his wife to thank her for dinner, or when things were going horrible, or when he needed something than they would have a very dysfunctional relationship. BUT: this is often how we approach God, any strong relationship is built on strong communication. And prayer is such a powerful tool to acknowledge God, and speak WITH Him in response to His Word over our lives in our daily circumstances. We should want to talk to God often, about everything, and expect Him to respond because He loves us.

B. God desires that you give thanks in every circumstance in your life.

HOW SHOULD YOU PRAY?

A. You do not need to go through any other person to talk to God. You have direct access to God personally.

B. Talk to the Lord as a friend.

Other Questions:

Who is Your closest friend? How often do you want to talk with them?

Our closeness with Him is demonstrated by our desire and willingness to spend with Him in prayer and in His Word.

Do you believe God cares about your desires? Do you think God desires to speak with you daily?

C. It is not necessary or biblical to use repetitious prayer.

- **Note:** Repetitious prayers are like answering a phone call and getting an automated message. It lacks intimacy and a genuine heart.

We are to approaching God as a child would talk to a loving Father. God wants us to share our hearts with Him.

The God we serve and pray to is the creator of the Universe, he is great an powerful. But he is also our Father and cares about the smallest details of our lives.

- **Example:** if you are talking on the phone to a friend and you keeps saying the same things over and over, that becomes frustrating for your friend because that's not how friends speak. It's weird.

D. Pray specific prayers. The prayers of many believers are wasted because they are too general and are not biblically based.

- See also: **James 4:2-3**

WHAT SHOULD YOU PRAY?

A. SUPPLICATIONS – *These are earnest and fervent requests for God to move.*

B. INTERCESSIONS – *These are specific requests on the behalf of others.*

- **Illustration:** A lawyer makes a case to the judge on another's behalf. He intercedes.
"Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still. He will never talk well and with real success to men for God who has not learned well how to talk to God for men." - EM Bounds, *Power Through Prayer*

C. PRAYERS – *These are communications with God that are based in his Word.*

D. THANKSGIVINGS – *These express gratitude to God for His wonderful works.*

- **Note:** This is just good manners!

LESSON 7—LOCAL CHURCH: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *EDIFICATION*

WHAT IS THE LOCAL CHURCH?

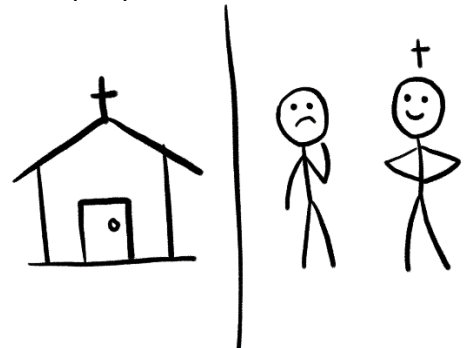
It is important to understand what the local church is NOT...

1. The church is **NOT** a denominational group of congregations. The churches mentioned in the New Testament were all individual groups of believers serving together.
2. The church is **NOT** a building. Our bodies are the temples of God, and we worship God in spirit and in truth. – **1 Corinthians 6:19-20; John 4:24**
3. The church is **NOT** replaceable. There are many good things (*TV and radio preachers, podcasts, electronic media, commentaries, conferences, etc.*) that believers try to use to fill a need that only a local church can biblically provide. God's work in your life is accomplished through the local church, and nothing should replace it in your life.

- **Illustrations:**

Example 1: The Difference between a church building and the people of God.

1. Point to the church building.
2. Now point to your disciple or church members/congregation.
3. Ask your disciple, "what is the church?"
4. What can accomplish the Great Commission?
A building? Or people?



Example 2: The church building is simply a tool.

1. Without "force" applied, the tool does nothing to accomplish the mission.
2. It is simply made of inanimate objects and materials.
3. We need the Holy Spirit to move within the PEOPLE of God.

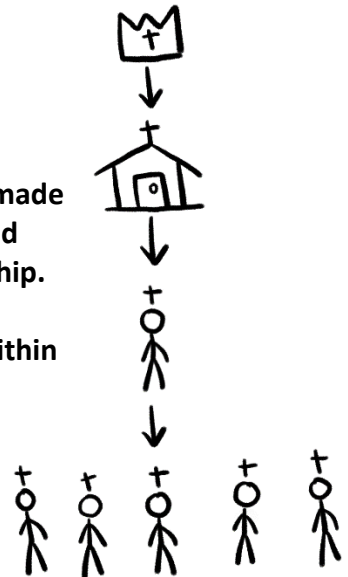
Example 3: The "church" is not a building but we can be used to build it up.

1. We are building a spiritual building, not a physical one.
2. One who's head is Christ.

Example 4: Difference between Producers and Consumers

1. Givers and Takers
2. Yes, we all need to feed off of God's goodness, but we should be known as the ministers of God.

- A. The “Church” is the body of Christ made up of born-again believers from every nation, and from all time both in heaven and on earth.
- B. The “Local Church” is the visible body of Christ on this earth that is made up of born again, baptized believers who have agreed to worship and serve God together in a specific location under clear biblical leadership.
- C. God has ordained two offices to provide structure and leadership within the local church.
 1. The office of pastor.
 2. The office of deacon.



THE WORD OF GOD COMPARES THE LOCAL CHURCH TO A HUMAN BODY.

After His resurrection and ascension into heaven, Jesus replaced Himself on the earth with the indwelling Holy Ghost (His Spirit), the complete Word of God (His soul), and the local church (His body). The Holy Spirit will guide you through the Word of God to help you fulfill your role within your local church.

- Each member has a different function. *1 Corinthians 12:14-20*
- No single member can function on its own. *1 Corinthians 12:21*
- Each member’s contribution is vital. *1 Corinthians 12:22-24*
- A properly functioning body will operate in unity. *1 Corinthians 12:25-27*

Other teaching points to consider:

- Christ is the head of the church. **Ephesians 4:15-16**
- Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.
 - Individually. **1 Corinthians 6:19**
 - Collectively. **Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-21; Colossians 3:15**
- The church body can be healthy or unhealthy, just like any body.
 - We need to take care of and edify the body.
 - Good communication strengthens the body.
 - Poor and evil communication tears down the body.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH?

- **Reinforce:** The local church is the only institution ordained by God to fulfill the Great Commission. God intends for the local church to educate, equip, and edify you for the work of the ministry and to provide a place for God’s plan to be realized in your life. God’s plan for you can only be fulfilled when you are connected within the local church.

Other questions:

Can someone be used by God without the “local Church”?

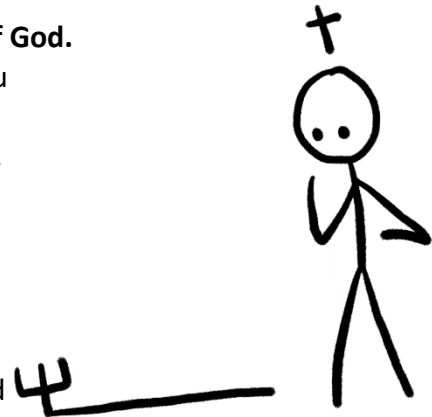
Can you get educated and equipped to do the work of God without the people of God?

What are you currently getting from your “local Church” and what are you giving back?

A. The local church provides you the environment to help you grow through three general stages of spiritual growth.

1. Become a LEARNER as you are EQUIPPED in the Word of God.

- **Illustration:** The very first time you step on the farm you have little knowledge of the tools and process of farming. The tools of the farm are plows, shovels, rakes, hoes, and hoses. These tools are used to work through the earth and prepare it for planting, maintaining the field and crops into maturity, and harvesting the crop. Upon arrival to the farm you learn how to plow or dig through the earth properly with the appropriate tool. In the local church you learn how to open the word of God and use it to work through the soil of your heart.



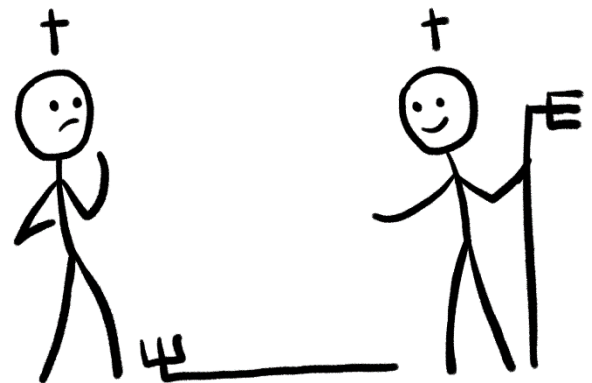
2. Become a LABORER as you are ENGAGED in the work of the ministry.

- **Illustration:** As you grow in your understanding of the tools you put them to work and use what you have learned. On the farm you would learn how to plow and then get to work plowing. You would learn how to weed and then get to work pulling weeds. While you labor with the tools, engaged in the work, you will continue to learn. After plowing the farmer or gardener will learn how to plant. So while you are engaged doing what you have learned you continue to learn. Now you can put both parts of the process together, both learning and laboring. You are being effective, engaged with what you know. As a believer in the local church you will begin to grow in your knowledge and understanding of the word. You will have opportunities to engage in the work of the ministry and put what you have learned into action.



3. Become a LEADER as you are EDIFIED within the body of Christ.

- **Illustration:** After learning the tools and engaging in the work, you can lead others by teaching and showing them what you know and how to do it. Knowledge of farming without the work of farming will give you an empty field at the time of harvest. Sharing your knowledge of farming and equipping others to partake in the workload will multiply your total harvest.



B. The local church helps to conform you to the image of Christ.

C. The local church provides a guard for doctrinal purity.

D. The local church helps you to discover and fulfill your vital role within the body of Christ.

HOW DO YOU FIND A GOOD LOCAL CHURCH?

- A. According to *Acts 2:41-47*, the early church was focused on...**
- B. The following questions will help you to determine if there is evidence of the biblical qualities that should be present within any local church.**
- **NOTE:** The key here is this; is the church focused on a BIBLICAL agenda?

LESSON 8—OTHER CHRISTIANS: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *FELLOWSHIP*

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN GOD'S SPIRITUAL FAMILY

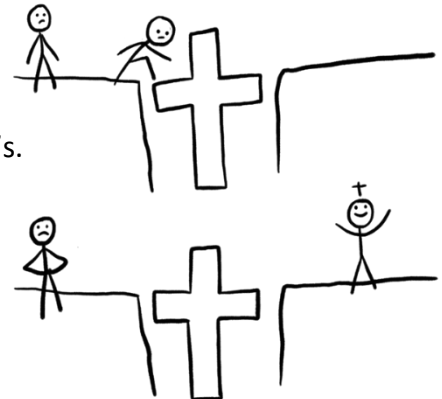
A. Your spiritual brothers and sisters are only those who have been born again through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

B. Those who have not been born again are not spiritually related to you and are not God's children.

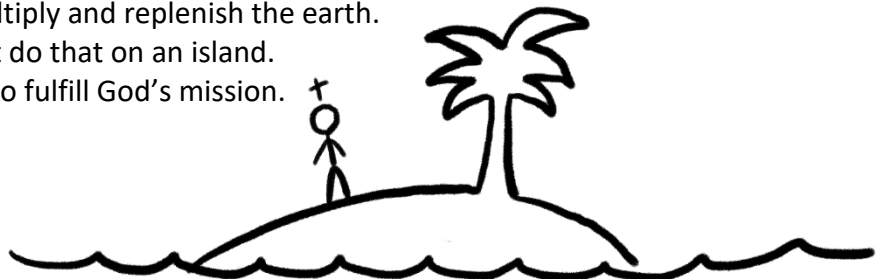
- You may have to warn your disciple that some relationships with the lost will need to end.
- If the relationship is pulling them from Christ (because they are not yet mature and strong enough spiritually to effectively minister to an old acquaintance from the lost world) then it may require prioritizing their relationship with Christ first.

- Remember the 2 spiritual families.
- All start in Satan's spiritual family. **John 8:44-47**
Those who believe on the Gospel are born again in to God's.
John 1:12

- We need to pray for the lost! **2 Timothy 2:1-8**

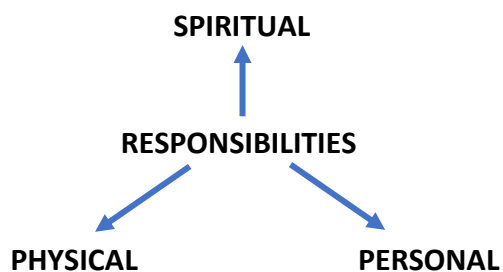


- **Illustration:** No believer is intended to live on an island alone. God desires for you to be with a family. A family provides for you and protects you. There may be no problems alone (you don't have to deal with craziness of others) but you also can't reproduce and build up the body of Christ alone. We are to be fruitful, multiply and replenish the earth.
 - **Doodle:** You can't do that on an island.
 - You need others to fulfill God's mission.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN GOD'S SPIRITUAL FAMILY

- A. You have **spiritual responsibilities** toward your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- B. You have **physical responsibilities** toward your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- C. You have **personal responsibilities** toward your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Remember that love is a great motivator to help us fulfill our responsibilities.
 - Our family in Christ has need that the Word of God calls us to RESPOND to according to our ability. RESOND-ability.
 - Example: A loving parent sacrifices willingly and gladly to meet the needs of their child. When our brethren have need, God has us in their life to help. Every member of the body should enjoy the support of the body.
 - All three areas of need are of equal import and priority.
 - Other potential passages. **Ephesians 6:18; 1 Samuel 12:23; 1 Corinthians 2:1-8; Galations 6:2**



Other questions:

In what ways could you begin to minister to or serve other Christians in your local church?

Things to keep in mind: There are countless ways in which we can prefer others before ourselves and be a help to others in the church. Such opportunities include helping the elderly, weak, and strained believers in your church. Additionally, the upkeep of the church, serving in the ministries that exist, and supporting missionaries are all ways that a believer in Christ can begin getting involved in the church body.

If we do not receive spiritual, physical, and personal support from the body of Christ, where would these things come from?

Things to keep in mind: If the disciples of Christ are not fulfilling their responsibilities, the members of the church will look to the lost world for the satisfaction of those needs. Ultimately, they may receive some help, but they will greatly miss out on the blessings that God has for them by finding true help, satisfaction, and fulfillment through Christ and his church.

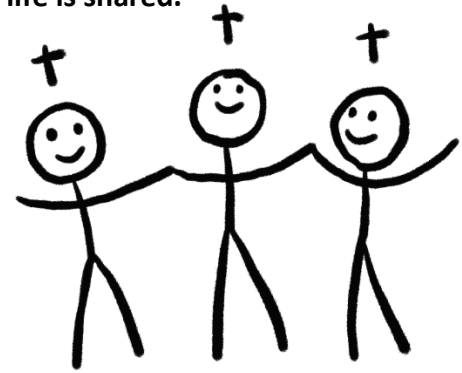
UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF FELLOWSHIP WITHIN GOD'S SPIRITUAL FAMILY

- A. **Biblical fellowship is the common bond that unites all believers in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- “Spiritual life” in the last sentence is referring to the sub-points of B 1-5 (next in the lesson.) When believers in Christ gather together, they ought to be doing these things.

B. Believers are united in Biblical fellowship when spiritual life is shared.

Points 1-5: Illustrates when and how true biblical fellowship occurs.

If believers are physically together but never pray, build up one another's faith, serve, suffer, or consider doctrine, one can conclude that true Biblical fellowship is not occurring.



Give your personal testimony of how you've seen biblical fellowship take place in your church.

Other verses to consider: Amos 3:2; Matthew 18:20

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO HANDLE CONFLICT WITHIN GOD'S SPIRITUAL FAMILY

A. What should you do if you have offended someone?

B. What should you do if someone has sinned against you?

- **Matthew 18:15-17** Can you give an example of how this has worked in your own life?

C. You must remain blameless throughout any conflict with another believer.

"Conflict cannot survive without your participation." -Wayne Dyer

Other verses to consider: Proverbs 13:10; 11:14; James 5:16

Other questions:

What does God's forgiveness look like?

Things to keep in mind: God's forgiveness was complete and absolute. Our forgiveness for our brothers and sisters should be equally complete.

Is there any conflict that is so great that you should resist getting right with that person immediately?

Things to keep in mind: The greatest separation/division that ever existed was humanity being lost in our sin apart from God. God's response was to make a way for humanity's relationship to be restored with Him. In like manner, when conflict or division exists between believers in Christ, it should be immediately be made right.

LESSON 9—THE FAMILY: discipler helps

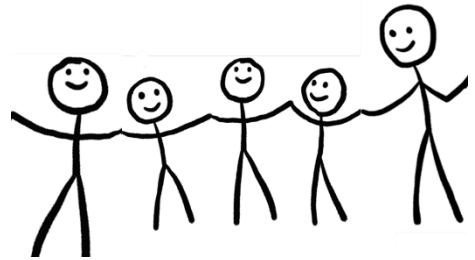
The key word of this lesson is: *RESPONSIBILITY*

- Remember! The areas of responsibility include your family, church family and ministry. Mature believers have to keep balanced responsibility to all 3 areas.
- **Example:** A guy who is always helping at the church. Everyone at the church thinks this guy is amazing. But he won't even take care of his own family. He won't work to provide for his family. He doesn't spend time teaching his own children about God. He doesn't provide for his family, but he's a deacon in the church. **Travesty!**

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY

A. The first institution that God established on earth was the family.

- This should be a source of joy, not constant fear or pain. Anytime that something that God has set up is a source of hurt, it is due to man's sin not God's design.



B. The human family is a picture of God's family.

- After the dedication of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That pastor said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!" Source: Unknown

Other questions:

Why did God create the institution of the home? Think about the commission given in Gen 1:28. Relate this plan (God's plan!) to the roles in the following KEY POINT section.

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON!

God uses your role within the family as an illustration of what it means to be a spiritual member of God's family.

1. **FAMILY** – The body of Christ is called the "family" of God. *Ephesians 3:14-15*
2. **HUSBAND** – You have been espoused to Christ as your "one husband." *2 Cor 11:2*
3. **WIFE** – The body of Christ is called "the Lamb's wife." *Revelation 19:7*
4. **FATHER** – God desires that you approach him as a "Father." *Luke 11:1-2*
5. **MOTHER** – You are to spiritually minister to others "as a nurse cherisheth her children." *1 Thessalonians 2:7-8*
6. **CHILDREN** – God desires to relate to you as His "sons and daughters." *2 Cor 6:17-18*

THE BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HUSBAND

A. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church.

- This is the husband's role. One of sacrificial love. Crucified living. There are no preconditions that a husband should expect to receive before he lays down his life loving his wife.



B. The husband is to give honor to his wife.

- The husband should know and be paying attention to his wife. He should value her as a priceless treasure, and handle her with great care because she is precious. The husband should treat his wife as an equal partner, knowing they are of equal standing in God's eyes.

THE BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A WIFE

A. The wife is to help her husband.

B. The wife is to reverence her husband.

- Again, this is the role of the wife. She is to honor her husband. She doesn't honor him because he deserves it. But to fulfil her role in the picture.
- We need to fulfill our God given role and trust God to use our obedience in the life of our spouse.

Other questions:

If married, do you find yourself fulfilling your God given role only when if your spouse fulfills theirs? Do you require your expectations to be met BEFORE you will fulfill your biblical roles?

THE BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

A. Parents should train their children.

B. Parents should not discourage their children.

C. Parents should manage their home.

- Is Christ and the Word of Christ at the core of your family relationships?
- It is critical that parents keep the heart of their children. If parents don't have a child's heart and trust, it becomes very difficult to train and discipline their child. That produces bitterness. If you have your child's heart because you have shown unfeigned consistent love, you have a great deal of latitude in how you deal with your child. Love really does cover a multitude of sin.
- Children are like anything else in life. Neglected, they tend toward ruin.



THE BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHILDREN

A. Children should obey their parents.

B. Children should honor their parents.

- Again, your role as an obedient child does not require perfect parents.
- Fulfill your role and trust God to use your obedience in the life of your parent.

LESSON 10—DEALING WITH SIN: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *OVERCOME*

- **Illustration:** The example of a man who already has victory. We are not trying to grasp victory. We already have it.
- **Doodle:** Use a drawing of a man at the top of a mountain possibly. You don't have to walk up the mountain to get victory. You're already on top. You already are victorious. You need to realize God has given you everything you need to be victorious. You have all the tools. And he already did all the work. It's about reckoning right.

UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF SIN

- A. It is sin to have a proud heart.
- B. It is sin to do anything that is not of faith.
- C. It is sin to do the opposite of what you know is right.
- D. It is sin to break God's law.
- E. It is sin to allow any unrighteousness in your life.

Other questions:

As you have learned more truth from God's Word, are you noticing how the Holy Ghost is reminding you of truth when you disobey?

UNDERSTANDING WHY YOU SIN

- A. You sin because you inherited a sinful nature from Adam.
- B. You sin because your old nature draws you into sin.
- C. You sin as a result of three major areas of temptation. – *1 John 2:16*
 1. The lust of the flesh – the temptation to satisfy the desires of your body
 2. The lust of the eyes – the temptation to become covetous
 3. The pride of life – the temptation to be lifted up in pride
- **Illustration:** One evening a grandpa told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, it is like a battle between two wolves inside us all. "One is evil, which is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego."

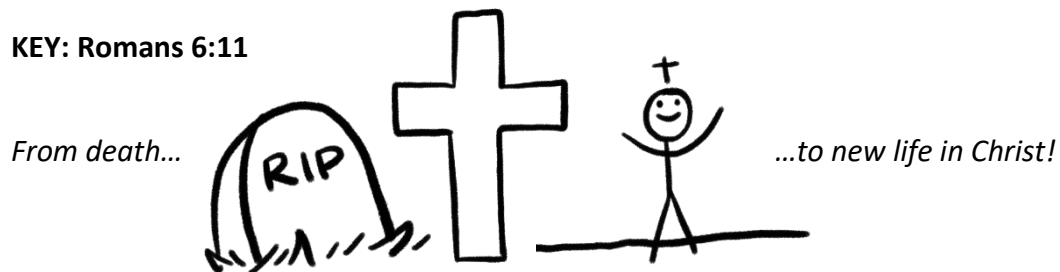
“The other is good, which is joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: “Which wolf wins?”
The grandpa simply replied, “The one you feed.”

UNDERSTANDING HOW GOD VIEWS YOUR SIN

- A. God judged your sin at Calvary by placing your sin upon Jesus Christ.
- B. God allows you to reap the consequences of your sin.
- C. When you continue in your sin, God will chastise you as His child.

- KEY: Romans 6:11

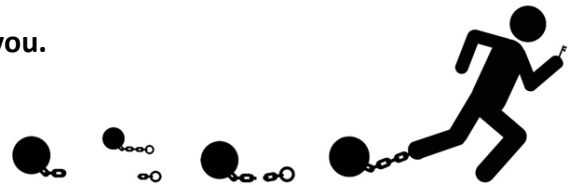


UNDERSTANDING HOW TO RESPOND WHEN YOU SIN

- A. Instead of covering up your sin, confess it to God and trust Him to cleanse you.
- B. Judge your own sin, and do not attempt to make excuses or rationalize it.
- C. Choose to serve God over the sins that frequently dominate your life.
- D. Apply God's Word to your life to cleanse you from your sin.
 - **Biblical example of rightly dealing with temptation. Genesis 39:10-12**
Joseph sets a great example for us in getting out of harm's way even if it cost you something. There is always a way of escape. **1 Corinthians 10:13**

UNDERSTANDING HOW YOU CAN OVERCOME SIN

- A. Agree with God that sin no longer has power over you.
 - Doodle: Hebrews 12:1



- B. Do not provide your flesh with opportunities to sin.
- C. Do not allow sinful thoughts to control your mind.

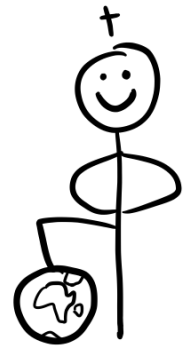
SOME BASIC QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING

A. How do I keep the influences of a sinful world from affecting me?

- **Key verse! Romans 13:14**

B. How will God continue to lead me to deal with sin in my life?

- We need the Word of God, Spirit of God and the people of God to help us live Christ instead of living the sins of the flesh. Ephesians 4 illustrates the entire process.
- **Example:** Spiritually, you are the child of a King.
So spiritually, do not dress like a pauper. In your life choices, represent Him well.



LESSON 11—LIBERTY IN CHRIST: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *FREEDOM*

- **Illustration:** Christ has set you free from your prison cell. Why do you keep going back to it? (A life of bondage) Why do you have decorations on the walls? Like it's your home.

The key point of this lesson:

The liberty you have in Jesus Christ gives you freedom to do what is right, and to serve God fully and completely.

- Before Christ, there was no way to effectively serve God. **Isaiah 64:6; Proverbs 21:4**

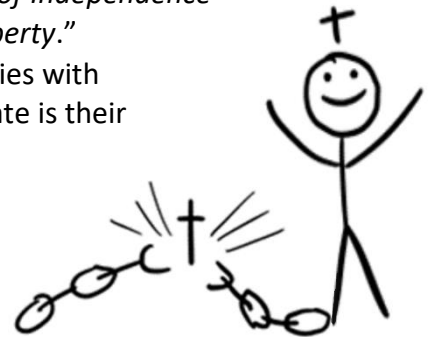
YOU ARE FREE IN CHRIST

A. Jesus Christ made you free from sin.

- **Illustration: Fourth of July - Independence Day.**
- On July 4, 1776, delegates from 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson. America severed ties with Great Britain and officially became an independent nation. It has been said, "*The Declaration of Independence has since become our nation's most cherished symbol of liberty.*"
- Likewise, when the disciple was born again, they severed ties with sin and became a new creature in Christ. For them, that date is their most cherished symbol of liberty!

B. Jesus Christ made you free from the law.

- **Doodle:** We were set free at Calvary!



YOU ARE FREE TO SERVE

A. You are free to serve the Lord BECAUSE you are no longer a servant to sin.

B. You are free to serve the Lord BECAUSE you are no longer bound by the law.

- **Peter Marshall's Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth, and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right. - Peter Marshall, Before the U.S. Senate*

Other questions:

- What does liberty in Christ sound like or feel like to the flesh? Mortification.
- **Key verse to consider:**
John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

YOU ARE FREE TO CHOOSE

A. You are free to choose between your will and God's will.

B. You are free to make wise choices.

- The exodus typifies our salvation. God redeemed Israel unto Himself that they might serve Him. However, when Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people turned aside quickly from what God commanded them and chose the sin of idolatry. **Exodus 32:1-8**
- The plowing of the wicked is sin. **Proverbs 21:4**
Before being liberated from sin, we were enslaved to and bent towards sinful choices. In Christ, through the power of His Holy Spirit, we can make wise choices.

YOUR LIBERTY WILL AFFECT PEOPLE AROUND YOU

A. Do not judge others who have different convictions than you.

- The disciple must be wary of practicing "reverse liberty." This is where the disciple becomes the self-appointed authority on liberty in Christ for others, and anyone who exercises their liberty in a way they disagree with, is wrong.

B. Avoid anything that could cause another believer to stumble in their faith.

- The focus of liberty in Christ for the disciple is never "how much do I get to do?" This heart-attitude always leads to the believer becoming an instrument that damages weak believers.

C. You must guard yourself against the appearance of wrong doing.

- The key to properly stewarding our liberty in Christ is to walk in the Spirit. If we're walking in the Spirit, we will be sensitive to the Spirit. This allows us to discern how our liberty is best used for the Glory of God and the edification, not destruction of others.

YOUR LIBERTY MUST SUBMIT TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

A. Lordship is choosing Jesus Christ first in every situation.

- Consider the response by some who encountered the marvelous grace of Jesus:
 - After the leper was healed by Jesus, he went out and began publishing it much and blazed abroad the matter. **Mark 1:40-45**
 - After the demon-possessed man was healed by Jesus, he went out and began publishing what Jesus had done for him. **Mark 5:1-20**
 - After the man who was deaf and dumb in speech was healed by Jesus, the people went out and published it. **Mark 7:31-37**

The point: Our newfound liberty in Jesus Christ is about Jesus Christ.

B. Lordship is yielding your will to God's will.

- As new creatures in Christ, we are to yield ourselves as servants of righteousness.

Romans 6:12-18

C. Lordship is recognizing that you are not your own.

- A carnal view of liberty is that it is somehow not under the umbrella of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. If Jesus is the Lord of our lives, He must also be the Lord of our liberty.

D. Lordship is loving God with your entire being.

- Jesus' heart-attitude towards His Father during His earthly ministry was to ALWAYS please Him (**John 8:29**) because He loved Him. When it comes to liberty in Christ, the ultimate goal is to please God because we love Him.

Lesson 12—Will of God: discipler helps

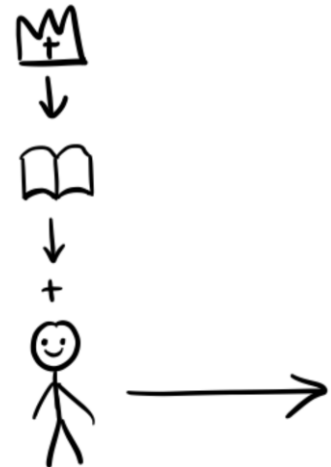
The key word of this lesson is: *CONFORMITY*

The key purpose of this lesson:

To reveal the will of God from the Word of God, so that you can effectively conform your life to God's will.

Christ is Lord so His Word is authoritative. As we apply It, we are directed.

- **Idea:** Isaac willingly walked up the mountain. **Genesis 22**
He submitted to his Father's will.
He was willing to become a sacrifice.
- **Idea: Example** from the Burning Bush. It was completely consumed yet completely sustained. This pictures the consecrated life.
- **Idea:** Example from the Garden of Gethsemane.
Not my will, but thy will.
God wasn't fitting in Jesus' plans. Jesus was fitting his plans into God the father's.
- **Key:** We are created to fulfill God's will over our lives. **Revelation 4:11**



The key point of this lesson:

You must be in conformity to the will of God before He will direct you in the specifics of your life.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD'S WILL, GOD'S PLAN, AND GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE?

A. God's Will.

- **Note:** The will of God can be defined as the desire of God. From **Romans 12:1-2**, what desires out of the life of the disciple can be broken down into three categories:

Presentation – "...that ye present your bodies..." This is where the disciple presents themselves wholly to God for His use, pleasure, and glory.

Conformation – "...And be not conformed to this world..." God's desire is that the disciple be not like the world in thought, speech, or behavior.

Transformation – "...but be ye transformed..." God's desires a spiritual metamorphosis in the life of the disciple. This is being completely changed from who they were in the flesh to having Christ lived out in their life.

The Will of God is not hidden!

We don't have to search high and low to find it.

God has given us clear directions and instructions in the Word of God.

It's right in front of you. And yet we try to look in all these other places.

Don't look for the personal plan of God and yet fail to simply submit to the Will of God.

B. God's Plan.

- **Note:** The specificity of God's plan in the lives of His servants is clear throughout God's Word:
Gideon: Judges 6:14
Samson: Judges 13:4-5
Jeremiah: Jeremiah 1:5
Paul: Galatians 1:15-16

C. God's Purpose

- **Illustration:** Tony Robbins is one of the most influential motivational speakers in American history. His website generates over a million visitors per month. Regarding purpose in life, he says, "*True fulfillment comes from designing your own life. To find your purpose, you must decide what's truly right, and know it by your heart and soul, not by your fears or your head.*"

For the disciple, their life is designed by the Word of God (**Psalm 119:133**), God has given them purpose. **Revelation 4:11 & 1 Corinthians 10:31**

God says they can't trust their heart. **Jeremiah 17:9**

God has shown them what is truly right. **Psalm 19:8, 119:128**

- In what way can your life be more aligned with God's Will, Plan and Purpose for your life?
Isiah 55:8-9

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE?

A. It is God's will for you to be **SAVED**.

- **Illustration: Christ Bought our Salvation**

Elizabeth Keckley was a slave in Missouri before the Civil War. Her greatest desire was to purchase freedom for herself and her son. Her owner agreed that if she could raise \$1,200 she could gain her freedom. Keckley worked as a seamstress and came up with a plan to go to New York City and work there to raise the money, but her owner feared that she would not return.

Instead, some of her wealthy clients in St. Louis contributed the money she needed, and Elizabeth Keckley paid the price for her freedom as well as her son's. She moved to Washington, DC, where she counted Mary Lincoln among her dressmaking clients. Without the help of someone else, Keckley would never have been able to purchase her freedom.

All of us were enslaved to sin with no hope of ever gaining freedom. In mercy and compassion, Jesus gave His life for us, purchasing our salvation by shedding His blood on the cross. We are now free from sin, but that freedom does not mean that we do whatever we want. Instead we are to live how Jesus wants us to live.

Source: *Behind the Scenes, Elizabeth Keckley*

B. It is God's will for you to be a **SOUL WINNER**.

- **Note:** It is wise to desire what God desires. **Proverbs 11:30**
Therefore, it is foolish for the disciple to not preach the gospel and win people to Christ.

C. It is God's will for you to be SANCTIFIED.

- **Illustration:** According to research by WebMD in 2006, by age 20, 75% of Americans have had premarital sex. That number rises to 95% by age 44. Lawrence Finer, director of domestic research at the Guttmacher Institute said, "*Premarital sex is normal behavior for the vast majority of Americans, and has been for decades*"

This is not sanctified behavior.

A necessary teaching point is that what might be normal for many people is not always biblical. More than a few of the believers in the church at Thessalonica were saved out of Greek paganism (**1 Thessalonians 1:9**), which included vile sexual practices. Although they were young in the faith (**Acts 17:1-3**), the Apostle Paul commanded them to abstain from fornication and to possess their vessel in sanctification and honour. **1 Thessalonians 4:3-7**

D. It is God's will for you to SHOW GRATITUDE.

- **Note:** We give thanks in everything because God is good: **Psalm 107:1**

E. It is God's will for you to be SPIRIT FILLED.

- **Note:** The Spirit-filled life is important because the disciple cannot please God in his flesh: **1 Corinthians 1:29**

F. It is God's will for you to SERVE.

- **Note:** Serving is essential to the disciple's identity as it was with Christ and the Apostle Paul: See also, **Mark 10:45; Romans 1:1**

G. It is God's will for you to be SUBMITTED.

- **Note:** Provided that submitting doesn't call for disobedience to the Word of God, the disciple must understand that rebellion to God-ordained authority is rebellion to God: **Numbers 12:1-10**

H. It is God's will for you to SUFFER.

- **Note:** Suffering for well doing pleases God because it is rooted in obedience: **Isaiah 53:10**

WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE?

A. God reveals His direction for your life by the three resources He has provided.

- **Illustration:** Three-legged stool.

The Holy Spirit, Word of God, and local church are like a three-legged stool; without all three, the stool cannot function.

In order for the disciple to realize God's plan for their life, they must walk in the Spirit through the Word of God in the structure of the local church.



B. God will use the events and circumstances of your life to direct you.

C. God is more interested in who you are than in what you do for Him.

- **Note:** In walking with Jesus and the other 11 disciples, Judas was responsible for the bag. **John 12:6, 13:29**

This meant that Judas was handling the finances for the team. Yet, he was a thief and betrayer of Jesus.

- According to Brotherhood Mutual, *“Increasing at an annual rate of more than six percent, researchers expect worldwide church financial fraud to reach the \$80 billion mark by 2025. That’s still not the whole picture. Most cases of church fraud go unreported and therefore are not included in statistics.”*

BASIC QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING?

A. Why does God choose not to reveal all the details of His plan for me now?

- **Note:** When we first meet Joshua in Scripture, we see him being called upon by Moses to choose out men to go out and fight with the Amalekites. **Exodus 17:9**
Later, God would commission Joshua to lead the people Israel into the promised land.
Joshua 1:1-9

B. Why does God allow seemingly bad things to happen in my life?

- **Note:** When God led Israel out of Egypt, He could have led them in a way that would have avoided the Red Sea. As trying as it was, the Red Sea provided Israel with the opportunity to learn that God was greater than anything they would face and He could be trusted.

LESSON 13—Giving: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *CONTROL*

The key purpose of this lesson:

To help you understand the nature of New Testament giving.

The key point of this lesson: *SURRENDER*

WHY DOES GOD WANT YOU TO GIVE?

A. Giving redirects your focus away from earthly things so that you may invest in eternal things.

- **Note:** The faithfulness and quality of our giving determines where our affection is set. If our affection is set on things above, we will give and invest in eternal things. But if our affection is set on things on the earth, we will give to and invest in temporal things at the expense of eternal things. **Colossians 3:1-4**

Example of how God gives: Your eternal salvation is a gift.

- **Draw a picture of a gift.**

Think about opening the gift: Ask them what are all the good gifts that God has given to you since becoming a Christian.

Maybe they can visualize placing all of those things being placed into God's gift of salvation.

- Remember, it is a gift. You didn't earn it.
- Every good gift comes from above.

Is your job a blessing/gift from above?

Or do you deserve your job?

The only thing I deserve is hell.

We give as he has blessed us.

We don't give to earn favor with God.

We give because it is Biblical and because we have been given favor already.

Acts 2:24-46 shows this take place.

B. Giving produces the fear of the Lord within you, because you are showing that your first priority is to honor God.

- **Note:** Giving is an act of worship and so is the fear of the Lord because the fear of the Lord shows that we have a right view of God. In this, the disciple does not give because they "have to." Instead, when giving as an act of worship in the fear of the Lord, they give because they "want to."

- **Example:** Are you the owner or a manager over the affairs of your life?

God is the owner. We need to function as stewards over all that He has entrusted to us.

Give him control. Control of your finances. Your resources.

God owns the cattle on a 1,000 hills.

He has asked you to steward over some of that flock. It is not your flock.

You have been given the task of serving the King. All that He has entrusted to you belongs to God.

C. Giving establishes your dependency upon God because you are trusting Him to supply your future provision.

- **Note:** Giving is always the believer's response to God's provision. Except God provided, the believer would not be in position to give. Therefore, the believer gives from a place of gratitude and dependence for God's continued provision.

Other questions:

How can you give back to God in a way that mirrors what he gave for you?

Mark 12:41-44 describes a woman who gave all with a heart of total worship.

In your new nature is there anything that truly belongs to you?

WHERE DOES GOD WANT YOU TO GIVE?

A. Build your giving around the structure of your local church first.



B. The leaders of your church are responsible to be wise stewards.

- **Note:** Any more than the money being given does not belong to the disciple, it doesn't belong to the pastors either. Therefore, no one is giving to the pastors or to the church for that matter. Again, if giving is an act of worship, then we are giving to the Lord and trust Him to work through those with direct oversight of the church.

HOW DOES GOD WANT ME TO GIVE?

A. Your willingness to give to God's mission is more important than the amount that you are able to give.

- **Note:** Giving is NEVER to be unwilling because when giving is generated from an unwilling heart, it is not worship to God.

B. Your giving should begin by first giving yourself to the Lord and His people.

- **Note:** Ananias and his wife Sapphira lied to the Holy ghost and kept back part of the price of the land because they were not fully given to the Lord and His people. **Acts 5:1-11**

C. Giving develops an attitude of grace as you grow in your relationship with God.

- **Note:** Giving is at the heart of grace. The grace of God was manifest to the world when He gave His only begotten Son. As the disciple experiences more of the exceeding riches of God's grace through Christ Jesus (**Ephesians 2:6-7**), they will develop an attitude of grace.

D. Giving proves the sincerity of your love for God, His church, and His mission.

- **Note:** True love always calls for sacrificial giving:

Abraham: Genesis 22:1-2

Jesus Christ: John 3:16

Husbands: Ephesians 5:25

E. Your giving should be as God has prospered you. Do not compare the amount that you give with the amounts that others give.

- **Note:** The poor widow gave according to how God had prospered her, and she gave all that she had, even all her living. **Mark 12:41-44**

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO GIVE?

A. There are three types of giving mentioned in the Old Testament Scripture.

B. As a New Testament believer, your giving should be structured upon biblical principles as you establish the discipline of giving in your own life.

- **Note:** The prophet Haggai dealt with God's people for making their personal homes the priority over finishing the Temple. The Temple sat unfinished for almost 20 years while the people preoccupied themselves with their own homes. This was very displeasing to God and He cursed them for it. **Haggai 1:1-11**

Stress the importance of giving based on the tithe, offerings, and sacrificial giving model and warn the disciple from giving God their leftovers.

C. God has not commanded you to give a specific amount.

- **Note:** If giving is an act of worship, how does a believer then be at peace with giving as least as possible?
- If we were to be biblically accurate, Jews in the Old Testament actually gave "more than 10%." God commanded Israel to bring their "tithes" (plural) into the storehouse. **Malachi 3:10**
A tithe was required for the Levites. **Numbers 18:21**
A tithe of the what the land produced had to be offered annually to the tabernacle/temple **Deuteronomy 14:22-23, 16:9-12**
A tithe was required every third year for the poor. **Deuteronomy 14:28-29, 26:12**
In total, Jews gave over 20% annually.

1. Plan your time, service, and finances around your giving.

2. Decide how much you will give before you arrive at church.

- **Note:** Ezra was one of God's greatest servants. He was a "ready" scribe in the law of Moses (**Ezra 7:6**) who prepared himself to give himself to that which pleased God. Ezra was diligent and meticulous in his preparation because he deemed God to be worth his very best.

Not being prepared to give regularly is on par with not being willing to give. It shows an irreverent heart towards God.

3. Remember the law of sowing and reaping.

4. Your giving should come from a heart that is ready and willing to give.

- **Note:** Carnal Christians sow sparingly with the expectation of reaping bountifully. A growing disciple on the other hand, will grow in their giving and cheerfully sow bountifully.

5. God will provide for your needs.

- **Note:** Countless believers can attest to the fact that, you can never out-give God. Sowing bountifully never leaves the disciple destitute whereas sowing sparingly does.
Proverbs 11:24

6. God will be glorified through your giving.

Lesson 14—Money and Possessions: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *ATTITUDE*

The key purpose of this lesson:

To teach from the scriptures how to be a biblical steward of God's resources.

The key point of this lesson: *CONTENTMENT*

DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF A MANAGER

A. God owns everything in this world because He created everything.

B. You have the responsibility to manage a portion of God's resources. God owns it, and you manage it.

- **Note:** Historically, stewards were entrusted with authority by their masters to manage their affairs. Stewards did not own anything. Their responsibility was to manage what belonged to their master. Likewise, the believer in the dispensation of grace, has been empowered by God to manage His affairs.
- **Illustration:** Picture—we are responsible to care for a precious possession until the owner returns.
 1. Babysitter caring for a baby while the mother is gone. "Take care of baby till I return."
 2. God's owns the "business." We are the manager.
- **Passages that help make the point:** Revelation 4:11; Genesis 39:4-6; Romans 14:12

C. The way that you manage your physical resources will reveal the way that you will manage your spiritual responsibilities.

- **Note:** A key teaching principle: God entrusts those with more who've proven they can be trusted with more.

D. God will hold you accountable for your faithfulness in managing the resources He entrusted you with.

- **Note:** The key to stewardship is faithfulness and stewards fail in their stewardship because of unfaithfulness. Like the virtuous woman who is hard to find (**Proverbs 31:10**), so are faithful people. **Proverbs 20:6**
- Stress to the disciple the importance of being faithful.

Key thought: When thinking of making an investment, you want to make sure the investment will last. That way if you go through a tough season, it will still be there when you surface. Wood, Hay and Stubble? OR Gold, Silver and Precious Stones? **1 Corinthians 3**

The Word of God and the Souls of Men are eternal investments. That's where I want to place my money and possessions – in things that will last forever.

Other questions:

How will God view your work as His manager so far?



DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

A. The amount of material goods you possess is not a reflection of your spiritual character.

- **Note:** Scripture proves that material possessions and wealth are not proof of godly character:

Moses: Heb 11:25-26

Jesus: Matthew 8:20; 2 Corinthians 8:9

Paul: Philippians 3:7-8

B. There is no eternal value in accumulating material things.

- Everything in and of this world is going up in smoke. **2 Peter 3:10-12** It will all burn.

C. It is better to pursue a right relationship with God than to pursue the riches of the world.

- **Illustration:** The hymn, “*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*” was first published in 1918 in the form of a pamphlet in London, England. The author and composer of this hymn, Helen H. Lemmel, relates that one day, in 1918, a missionary friend gave her a tract entitled “*Focused*.” The pamphlet contained these words: “So then, turn your eyes upon Him, look full into His face and you will find that the things of earth will acquire a strange new dimness.” This influenced what became a core line in the refrain: “*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.*”
- Challenge the disciple to look unto Jesus the author and finisher of their faith (**Hebrews 12:2**) and when they do, the things of this earth will grow strangely dim.

D. The quickest way to reveal what has your heart’s attention is to evaluate where you invest your resources.

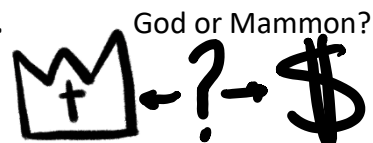
- **Illustration:** 401K. A 401K is a retirement savings plan, which according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 32% of Americans have. A great teaching principle: Every disciple must have a “**417P**.”
Php 4:17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.
A **417P** is an eternity investment plan.

E. Focus your attention on the kingdom of God, and allow Him to take care of your physical needs.

- **Note:** Believers who build upon Christ’ foundation gold, silver, and precious stones, are focused on the kingdom of God. However, believers who build wood, hay, and stubble, are focused on the physical things of this world: **1 Corinthians 3:11-13**

F. The most precious possession you have is your eternal soul, not your material things.

G. You must choose between serving the Lord and material things.



Passages that help make the point: Psalm 73:12-22; Mark 12:42-44

Other questions:

If God looked at what you spent money on, would He say you focused on yourself or Him?

DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF FAITH

A. You must trust God to help provide for all of your needs rather than attempt to provide for them solely on your own.

- **Note:** God's testimony with David was that David never witnessed the seed of the righteous begging bread: **Psalms 37:25**

B. Your possessions will hinder your relationship with God if you place your trust in them.

- **Note:** It's interesting that the motto, "IN GOD WE TRUST" is found on U. S. currency. In reality though, many trust in the money and disregard the motto.
- **Story:** I had a friend named Jane. Jane was a very wealthy business person. Her husband was wealthy too. When presented with the gospel of Christ, her reply was: I have money, a large house, a good husband, a good job. I don't need God. Several years later, I heard she had cancer, but I had lost touch with her.

C. Do not forget God when He blesses you materially.

- **Note:** One of the things that plagued Israel in the Old Testament was a short memory. They quickly forgot God's many blessings and it cost them dearly: **Psalms 106:13-15**
- Warn the disciple that forgetting God's blessings will be to their demise.

D. Do not lose faith in God when you have difficult times of great loss.

- **Note:** A good teaching point here is to remind the disciple of the first goal of discipleship, which is to Establish them in Worship. God is still God in times of great loss and is always worthy of the glory that is due unto His name. **1 Chronicles 16:29**

Passages that help make the point: 1 Timothy 6:10; Luke 12:16-21; 2 Corinthians 1:9

Other questions:

What are you trusting God for in the area of money or possessions?

DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF BEING BLAMELESS

A. Avoid getting involved in opportunities to obtain wealth quickly.

- **Note:** The disciple should view get-rich schemes as traps designed to ensnare them and are to be avoided. **Proverbs 1:17**

B. Do not be envious of someone else's wealth.

- **Illustration:** Dwight L. Moody once told the fable of an eagle who was envious of another that could fly better than he could. One day the bird saw a sportsman with a bow and arrow and said to him, "I wish you would bring down that eagle up there." The man said he would if he had some feathers for his arrow. So the jealous eagle pulled one out of his wing. The arrow was shot, but it didn't quite reach the rival bird because he was flying too high. The first eagle pulled out another feather, then another--until he had lost so many that he himself couldn't fly. The archer took advantage of the situation, turned around, and killed the helpless bird. Moody made this application: if you are envious of others, the one you will hurt the most by your actions will be yourself.

- C. Do not allow your financial stewardship to hinder your testimony or cause God’s name to be evil spoken of within your community.**
- **Note:** Ananias and Sapphira ruined their testimony as a result of poor financial stewardship. **Acts 5:1-11**
- D. Be honest and ethical in your business dealings. God will not bless you when you choose to compromise biblical principles to gain wealth.**
- **Note:** Achan coveted the silver and the gold and hid them under his tent. Not only did soldiers lose their lives as a result of this, but Achan, his children, and all of his possessions were destroyed. **Joshua 7**
 - Abstain from appearance of evil. **2 Thessalonians 5:22**

DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF CONTENTMENT

- A. God uses both the poor and the rich to further His kingdom.**
- **Note:** At the highest level, financial stewardship is about managing 100% of what God has entrusted to us for His Glory (not just 10%).
- B. Contentment comes from having a proper understanding that a relationship with God is the only source of eternal riches.**
- **Note:** A relationship with God is not fleeting like riches: **Proverbs 23:5**
Therefore, contentment cannot be found in something that is “certainly” going to leave.

If we have God, we have EVERYTHING!
- C. Loving money is the root of all evil.**
- Quote:** *“Make money your god, and it will plague you like the devil.”*
— Henry Fielding, English novelist and playwright 1700’s.
- D. People get into financial trouble for many reasons.**
- **Note:** One of the issues that plague many believers is not being able to distinguish between wants and needs. It has been wisely pointed out, you only need four things to survive:
A place to get out of bad weather.
Enough food and water to maintain your health.
Basic health care and hygiene products.
Clothing (just what you need to remain comfortable and appropriately dressed.)

Everything that goes beyond this—a big house, name-brand clothes, fancy foods and drinks, and a new car—is a want.
- E. God desires for you to be balanced in your finances.**
- **Note:** A Gallup poll found only about 1/3 of Americans (32%) maintain a household budget and only 30% of Americans have a long-term financial plan that includes savings and investment goals. Biblically speaking, stewards must have a plan to manage God’s money. **Proverbs 21:20**

Other questions:

Where do you plan to be financially in 5 – 10 years?

Lesson 15 – Job and Employer: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *OPPORTUNITY*

Discipler! Think about your testimony at work. How can you communicate the importance of being a hard and effective worker through your own example? Share with your disciple how God has opened doors for the Gospel where you work!

GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO HIS WORK

A. Your true calling and vocation is to serve Jesus Christ with all of your life.

- **Note:** Before his conversion to Christ, the Apostle Paul saw himself as an Hebrew of the Hebrews and a Pharisee. **Philippians 3:5**

Paul's identity and vocation were encompassed in those things. But, after his conversion, he saw himself as a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle (**Romans 1:1**), a servant of God (**Titus 1:1**), and a prisoner of Jesus Christ (**Philemon 1:1**). These titles captured Paul's new calling and vocation in life.

B. God expects you to be involved in His work of reaching the lost of this world with the gospel.

- **Note:** Paul told the believers at Thessalonica that we've been put in trust with the gospel by God. **1 Thessalonians 2:4**

Since God has entrusted the gospel to us, every disciple has a stewardship responsibility of the gospel. This responsibility carries a greater urgency than any worldly career.

C. God has called and commanded you to live a life that is committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ.

YOUR JOB IS A MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

A. Your co-workers are probably the greatest exposure you have to the lost.

Other questions: Do you have a good testimony with the people in your job? Can they tell that you are a Christian by the way you behave and work?

B. Your co-workers have the opportunity to observe your life as a daily testimony of God's grace and love.

- **Illustration:** *Flying over a city at night.* When you are flying in an airplane over a city at night, the lights of the city really stand out in the midst of the darkness. As children of the light (**1 Thessalonians 5:5**), we should stand out in the midst of a dark world.
- **Note:** **Acts 18:1-4.** Why do you think Paul continued to make tents, when he could have rightly received money from the Thessalonians? It was better to support himself if he could so that no one could accuse him of wrongly taking money. As Christians we should care more about our testimony than getting money, and work hard if needed to have a clear testimony.

- **Note:** Your job is not a necessary evil.
Common complaint: “Man, I’d love to minister more at the church, but my job is getting in the way.” (Obviously there needs to be a balance here)
 1. Remember, God gave you your job to have opportunities to minister to the lost in your life.
 2. This is one of the greatest evangelistic pools you will have in your life.

YOUR JOB PROVIDES FOR YOUR MINISTRY

A. Your first ministry is to your family.

- **Note: Genesis 2:15.** What does this passage teach us about the importance of work in God’s eyes? God gave Adam work prior to a wife or children, in a list of priorities clearly it was important to God that men worked.

B. Your second ministry is to your church family.

C. Your third ministry is to reach the lost with the gospel.

- **Note:** In the Parable of the Great Banquet in Luke 14, one of the excuses used for not attending was work. **Luke 14:19**

Remind the disciple that a career never excuses them from prioritizing their Father’s business in the home and local church. Their career is simply a tool of provision from God for those ministries.

Other questions: Are there any lost people at your job? If so, how can we pray for opportunities to share Christ with them?

KEY: We are accountable to keeping a good balance and focus in all 3 priorities because of our focus and devotion to God Himself. For example: If I only prioritize my physical family and never engage in ministry, I’ll be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

WHAT KIND OF EMPLOYEE SHOULD YOU BE?

A. You are to serve in the workplace as if Jesus Christ is your employer.

- **Note:** Even though King Saul was against David and tried to smite him to the wall with a javelin, David behaved himself wisely in Saul’s presence. **1 Samuel 18**
David understood that King Saul was over him (**1 Samuel 24:5-6**) and it was not his place to go against that. Likewise, in the workplace, the disciple must behave in a way that shows they under authority and like David, allow the Lord to deal with their manager if necessary.

B. You are to do your best and work hard so that your employer is successful.

- **Note:** Teach the disciple the importance of a biblical work ethic. **Proverbs 12:27; 13:4; 22:29**
A diligent work ethic is a blessing to the employer and to the disciple as well.
- **Note:** Daniel 1:18-21; 6:1-3. What does this teach you about how Christians should be viewed by their employers? Christian employees should be the best employees, because they work hard and produce great results because they are working as unto God.
Proverbs 20:4. How hard should you work at your job?

C. You are to focus on your own work and not the work of others.

- **Note: Proverbs 22:5.** Because the workplace is comprised of the lost, thorns and snares will be in the workplace. The disciple must be careful to keep himself from this way. Complaining and gossiping in the workplace damages the disciple's testimony and work performance.
Your place of employment is on the greatest places to trust God to win souls.

D. You are to have a healthy respect for the company and its leaders.

- **Illustration:** A servant honoring those over him.



WHAT KIND OF EMPLOYER SHOULD YOU BE?

A. Set fair and equal expectations for your employees.

B. Give your employees fair and equal wages in relation to their responsibilities.

C. Always maintain the attitude of a servant.

- **Quote:** "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." -Former United States President, Abraham Lincoln.

An employer or manager holds a position of power. If they are not a servant-leader like Christ, they will use and abuse people. **Mark 10:44**

YOU WILL ENCOUNTER CONFLICT IN YOUR JOB

A. Your job may conflict with your spiritual priorities.

B. Your job may conflict with Biblical principles.

- **Note:** Joseph's boss, Potiphar, was a powerful man in Egypt. Potiphar's wife demanded that Joseph commit adultery with her. Although the consequences would be bitter for not doing so, Joseph refused. **Genesis 39:7-23**

C. You may have conflict with your co-workers.

- **Note:** Remind the disciple to make sure their expectations are realistic regarding unsaved people in the workplace. Unsaved people think, say, and do unsaved things because they do not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God. The disciple must walk in the Spirit and meditate on the Word of God, which will enable them to properly manage conflict in the workplace with unsaved people. **Psalms 119:165**

D. You may encounter conflict through persecution.

- **Note:** A true disciple of Jesus Christ is going to experience rejection and possibly persecution in the workplace. **John 15:19; 16:33**

E. You may have conflict because of an opportunity to advance in your career.

- **Note:** Remind the disciple that a larger salary usually equals more responsibility. Therefore, they should only accept a promotion if it's from the Lord. **Psalms 75:6**

ARE YOU CONSIDERING NEW EMPLOYMENT?

A. Have you prayed and sought the Lord's direction?

- **Note:** A good teaching point is to remind the disciple that people move, or God moves people. If a move is to be made, the disciple wants to wait on the Lord to ensure that it is God moving them to another opportunity.

B. Have you sought counsel from a mature believer?

- **Note:** God warned King Ahab by the prophet Micaiah that he would die in battle. **1 Kings 22:13-40** Ahab disregarded Micaiah's counsel and proceeded to his death just as Micaiah had prophesied. God often uses wise men and women as part of the process to affirm or warn us regarding a certain direction.

C. How will this new employment opportunity affect your family?

D. How will this new job opportunity affect what God is doing in your life?

E. Are you avoiding something you should be facing and trying to correct?

F. Will this new employment opportunity cause you to seek a new local church?

- **Note:** It has been wisely said, *"God never moves us from something to nothing."* If an employment opportunity involves relocating from a biblical New Testament local church to a location where there isn't one, it's hard to believe this opportunity is from the Lord.

Lesson 16—The Lost World: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *MISSION*

The key question this lesson answers: *RESPONSIBILITIES*

The key purpose of this lesson: *INTEGRITY*

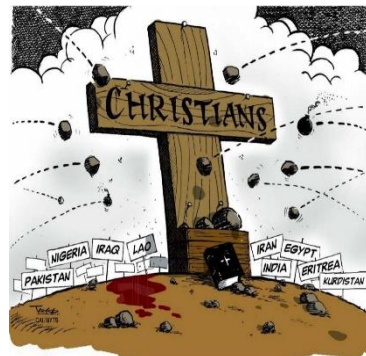
The key point of this lesson: *LOVE*

HOW DOES THE LOST WORLD VIEW YOU?

A. The world is watching you to see if you really live out what you believe.

- **Other verse: Matthew 5:16**
- **Note:** Teach the disciple that their walk and their works validate their authenticity and love for God. It also creates opportunities for them to share their love for Him with others.

B. The world will oppose you because you are Christ's representative on earth.



HOW DO YOU VIEW THE LOST WORLD?

A. You must understand your relationship with the culture.

- **Note:** Stress the importance of being peculiar, not popular in the culture. It is by being peculiar that the disciple will stand out as a light for Jesus Christ in a dark world. This was God's heart for Israel as well. **Exodus 19:5**

B. You must understand your relationship with the government.

- **Note:** The disciple is not to get distracted by political/governmental issues except to abide by the government biblically. The disciple must understand that ultimately, God is in power. **Proverbs 21:1; Daniel 4:35**

C. You must understand your relationship with the lost world.

- **Note:** The Lord Jesus Christ was not of this world and came with a mission from on high. He is our example for how we are to relate to the lost world. **Luke 19:10**
- **KEY:** The believer that refuses to interact with the lost world will never win souls for Christ.
Explain that Bible believers are "insulated" (the lost world does not affect them) not "isolated" (the lost world is never interacted by them.)
- **Note:** The lost world is not something to be avoided.
We should not withdraw to our Christian fortresses, blocking out the lost world.
The lost need us. They need to hear our Gospel and see God's love for them.

Describe a believer who doesn't want to sin and so he avoids all interaction with the lost. He's accomplishing nothing for the King. He has buried his talent. Conversely, describe a believer who is active in ministry. Yes, they make mistakes. They may even fall. But they keep getting back up. And they are profitable for the King.

HOW DO YOU SHARE YOUR FAITH?

A. Start by understanding what God told you to do.

- **Note:** Remind the disciple that God has consistently commands His servants to **GO** on a mission:

Abraham. Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, **Get thee out** of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Moses. Exodus 3:10-11 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. ¹¹ And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should **go** unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

Joshua. Joshua 1:1-2 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, ² Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, **go** over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, *even* to the children of Israel.

Gideon. Judges 6:14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, **Go** in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

Samuel. 1 Samuel 16:1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and **go**, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

David. 1 Samuel 23:2 Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, **Go**, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

Jeremiah. Jeremiah 1:7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I *am* a child: for thou shalt **go** to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

Disciples. Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.** ¹⁹ **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** ²⁰ **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world.** Amen.

B. Focus on your obedience, not results.

- **Note:** God told Jeremiah that the people would fight against him (**Jeremiah 1:19**) and they did. The Southern Kingdom rejected Jeremiah's ministry and did not listen to him: **Jeremiah 7:27** Jeremiah prophesied to the Southern Kingdom for at least 40 years and was only met with rejection and persecution, but he was obedient in proclaiming God's truth.

C. Pray for God to lead you in the sharing of your faith.

- **Note:** The Great Commission begins with evangelism, but Jesus told His disciples that He is "with" them in the mission. **Matthew 28:20** He also told them that without Him, they could do nothing. **John 15:5** Therefore, the key to bearing fruit is to be with Christ and to trust Him in prayer to preach the gospel.

D. Develop a simple presentation of the gospel.

- **Note:** Remind the disciple the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. **Romans 1:16**
Therefore, the power is found in the gospel, not them. The gospel simply needs to be preached.

E. Be ready to share your testimony.

- **Note:** As the disciple grows in their walk with Christ, they will find that God will grant them several opportunities to tell their story. Encourage the disciple to practice on being able to share their testimony in 3 minutes, 15 minutes, or 30 minutes.

Lesson 17–Judgment Seat: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *SERVICE*

The key purpose of this lesson: *ACCOUNTABILITY & FOCUS*

The key point of this lesson: *JUDGMENT*

Note: Be sure to clearly explain the difference between the judgment seat of Christ and the great white throne judgment. **Revelation 20:11-15**

For believers, our sins were judged at Calvary to never be remembered (**Hebrews 8:12**) while the unbeliever will be eternally judged for their sins at the great white throne judgment.

God's judgment of your sin took place on the cross at Calvary.

By placing your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior, your sins were paid for, and you do not have to fear the judgment of your sins. **2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24**

WHAT IS THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

- A. **Every believer will one day be presented before the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **Illustration:** On a car, the Windshield is *much* larger than the rearview mirror. Yes, sometimes it's important to look behind. But we need to be focusing on what's in front of us. God's judgment is coming. Are we looking forward and preparing for that day?
- B. **All believers will give an account for their Christian service at the Judgment Seat of Christ.**
- **Illustration:** *Closing ceremony of the Olympic games.* The Olympic games conclude with the athletes presenting themselves before the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to receive their medals for their athletic accomplishments during the Olympic games. At the judgment seat of Christ, the believer presents themselves before Christ where they are rewarded for their ministry service to Him.

WHAT WILL YOU BE JUDGED FOR AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

- A. **You will be judged for how you built upon the foundation of your salvation in Jesus Christ.**
- B. **You will be judged by the quality of your works, not by the quantity of them.**
- **Illustration:** *Home inspection process.* Before closing on a home, most home buyers will have an inspection done to ensure that the home is in solid condition. The home inspector will inspect the home from the foundation to the roof (every nook and cranny). The home inspector will then generate a report, which is essentially his/her grade of the home. At the judgment seat of Christ, what the believer built upon the foundation given by Christ is inspected by Christ.

HOW WILL YOU BE AFFECTED AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

A. There are negative consequences at the Judgment Seat.

- **Note:** Some home inspections expose major issues with a home causing a seller to lose out on a deal. At the judgment seat of Christ, some believers will lose rewards as a result of Christ' inspection of what they built on His foundation.

B. There are rewards available to the New Testament believer at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

- **Example:** *Caleb in the OT.* Caleb wholly followed the LORD and received his inheritance in the land. **Joshua 14:6-11**

HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

A. Focus your life on the things that will matter in eternity.

- **Example:** *The Lord Jesus Christ.* **Heb 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

B. Focus on pleasing the Lord with your life now.

- **Note:** Remind the disciple that this was how Jesus approached life during His earthly ministry. **John 8:29**

C. Focus on being held accountable for your life.

- **Note:** Teach the disciple the importance and power of accountable relationships. **Proverbs 27:17**

D. Focus on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Note:** The young church at Thessalonica exemplified the power of living in genuine expectation of the return of Christ. **1 Thessalonians 1:3, 10**
They endured hardness as good soldiers and sounded out the word of the Lord!

Lesson 18—Next Steps: discipler helps

The key word of this lesson is: *REPRODUCE*

The key point this lesson: *RESPONSIBILITY*

The key purpose of this lesson: *MANDATE*

- Remind your disciple that in the first recorded words of God to man, multiplication was emphasized. This stresses the importance of discipleship in the plan of God for the believer:

Genesis 1:28a And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful (evangelism), and **multiply** (discipleship), and replenish (world missions)

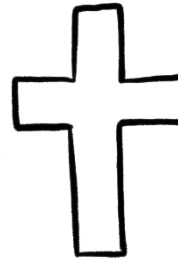
- Disciples are accountable to make disciples. **Luke 12:48**

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

A. You have been given the responsibility to lead the lost to salvation.

- **Illustration:** The disciple is like a lifeguard. Lifeguards possess a deep sense of responsibility for the people swimming on their watch. They are trained, “*When in doubt, GO!*” The lost are in eternal danger, Therefore, the mindset of the disciple should be to GO. **Matthew 28:18**

- **Doodle:** The disciple, like a lifeguard, saves lives by leading people to the cross of Jesus Christ.



B. You have been given the responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission.

- **Illustration:** The role of an ambassador. An ambassador takes up residence in a foreign country. Their mission is to speak and act on behalf of the interest of their sending country. As a citizen of heaven (**Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20**), the disciple is an ambassador for Christ in this world with the mission of fulfilling the Great Commission. **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

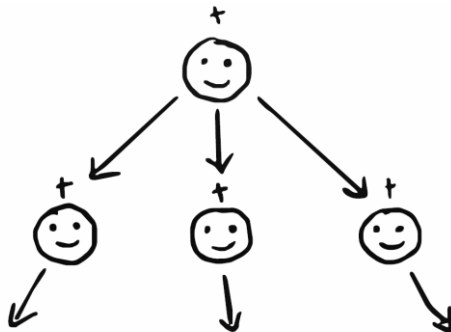


Illustration: Having a baby and then leaving it at the doorstep. That is not acceptable. Having a baby implies you are going to raise it.

With the hopes that it matures and someday is able to reproduce as well.

When a child does not grow we know that something is wrong.

C. You have been given the responsibility to abound in the work of the Lord.

- **Note:** After his encounter with the risen Christ on the Damascus road, Paul's life thereafter was all about abounding in the work of the Lord.

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO APPROACH DISCIPLESHIP

A. Understand what you are teaching.

- **Illustration:** The role of a museum docent. A museum docent is an educator with a passion to teach others about art. They amplify the beauty of the art by pointing out what is not obvious to the natural eye and by explaining the meaning of the art. A discipler is to possess a passion for the Word of God and through their understanding of the Word of God, expose its beauties to the disciple.

B. Understand that discipleship is not a program, it is a ministry philosophy.

- **Note:** The difference between discipleship as a program and a ministry philosophy is like the difference between knowledge and wisdom. Programs can provide the "what" but fall short regarding the "why." Discipleship as a ministry philosophy provides the "what" and the "why."

C. Understand that Discipleship is not only the transfer of knowledge, it is also the transfer of spiritual maturity.

- **Note:** When Paul left Titus in Crete to set things in order and ordain elders in every city, it was evident that he had transferred more than knowledge to Titus. Titus had become a leader of leaders.

D. Understand that Discipleship requires you to be completely committed to share your life with your disciples.

- **Note:** After being ousted from Thessalonica prematurely, like a father, Paul was concerned for his spiritual children left behind. He had already imparted his soul to them, but he would send Timothy to comfort and establish them concerning their faith. **1 Thessalonians 2:8-11; 3:2**