

EDO

EQUIPPED TO DISCIPLE OTHERS

MAKING DISCIPLES

Series 3

Pressing On to Maturity

Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

... one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14

April 2019

Welcome

Jesus gives the two greatest invitations to the world.

First, He offers to every person the gift of eternal life.

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Second, He offers every believer the privilege of participating in His Kingdom Work. To the disciples He offered this invitation:

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

Both of these invitations are still in play today. Booklet 1 of this series *Essentials for New Believers*, is designed for the person who has recently received the first invitation. We trust that you have made a decision to entrust your eternal destiny to the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. If you have not already completed Series 1, I highly recommend you consider going through that series first.

Series 2, *Foundations of the Faith*, examines the basic doctrines that provide stability and confidence to the believer.

Over the next several weeks you will explore the supernatural provisions of God to live life, to walk in a manner that honors Him.

We recommend you take this journey with two or three other people. Commit together to study through each section individually, and then meet together to discuss your observations. You will be surprised to see the additional insights you will gain as you meet together.

May the Lord bless your study, as you continue your life journey of following Jesus.

Ray Cardwell

Teaching Pastor

Disciples Who Make Disciples

Introduction

Discipleship is one of the most common words used in churches, yet many of us have not found a way to make it real in our lives. This booklet is the **third tool** in a four part series every believer can use to help other believers become disciple makers. Discipleship is a lifelong pursuit. The key to this series is that it is **transferable** and **repeatable**. It is not overwhelming. It is intended to support your life long journey of helping other people find and follow Jesus Christ.

The Plan: Work through each section on your own, looking up the Bible passages and making observations. Then meet with your group to discuss your observations. As you meet, do not try to read all the verses, that will kill your momentum. Be sure to complete the “disciple making assignment” each week.

General Goals

For You: To learn and live out the supernatural provisions of God that enable the believer to walk in a manner worthy of our calling.

For Others: You can take what you have learned and use this series to help build up others in their walk with the Lord.

Series 3

The topics in this series are designed to establish the believer in the grace provisions of God which enable the believer to walk in a manner that pleases the Lord.

Companion Resources for this Series

The book *He that is Spiritual* by Lewis Sperry Chafer is a great addition to your study. Additional books are recommended in Appendix B.

Also available audio messages for each section at EquippedToDisciple.org. Look under the title DM Messages, *Pressing On to Maturity*. Listen to the message after you have completed your study. (Messages are being developed)

Series 3 Outline

Introduction	Just to be Sure	The Gospel The Foundation
Section 1	Embracing Our Role as Ambassadors	
Section 2	How to Study the Bible	View of Scripture Inductive Bible Study
Section 3	The Renewed Mind	Human vs Divine Viewpoint Mental Attitude Conflict
Section 4	The Ministries of the Holy Spirit	OT vs NT Ministries
Section 5	The Filling of the Holy Spirit	Three Commands
Section 6	Walking by Faith	The Faith/Rest/Walk Promises in Scripture
Section 7	Discerning God's Will	God's Decreed Will Desired & Directional Will
Section 8	Testing & Suffering	What is God Doing? What is God's Provision?
Section 9	Grace Orientation	Law vs Grace What Next?
Appendix A	Answers to Blanks	
Appendix B	Additional Resources	

Just to be Sure

What is the Gospel?

What must I do to be Saved?

The Gospel

The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is the starting point for the Christian faith. Paul gives us a concise summary of the Gospel:

1 Cor 15:1,3-4

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved,

if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and

that He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures,...

Creation: *The Background*

God _____ heaven and earth.

Gen 1:1

God _____ us.

Rom 5:8

God wants a _____ with us.

2 Peter 3:9

We were created to be in relationship with God.

However a love relationship requires the freedom to choose.

Fall: *The Need*

All have _____ and fall short of the glory of God.

Rom 3:23

The penalty of sin is _____.

Rom 6:23

As a consequence of rejecting God's design for life, we are all spiritually dead, separated from God.

Rom 5:12

Redemption: The Good News

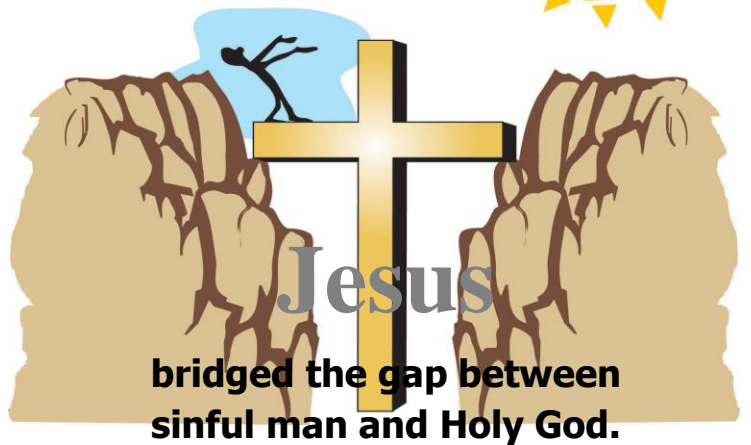
Jesus Christ _____ for our sins,
and was _____ on the 3rd day.
Christ died in our place. He paid the full penalty.

1 Cor 15:3-4

2 Cor 5:21

The GOSPEL

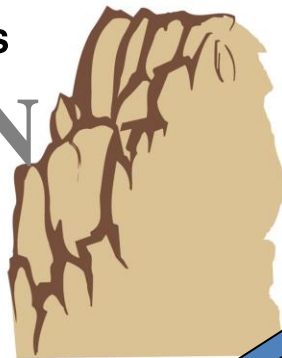
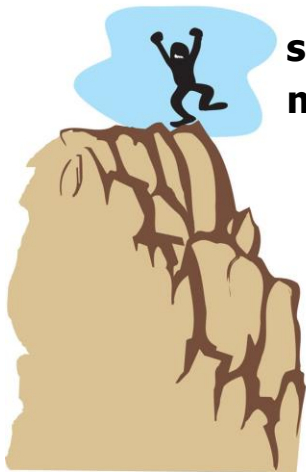
is that Christ died on the cross
for our sins and rose again
from the dead.



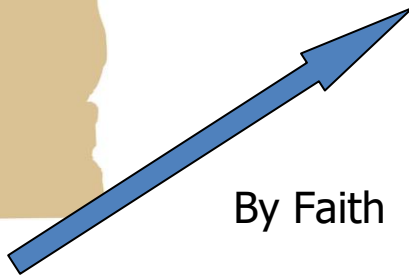
The Barrier
that
separates
man from
God is



SIN



Now we are **Alive** in Christ
Eph 2:4-6



By Faith

We were **Dead** in our Sins
Eph 2:1-3

Reconciliation: The Required Response

He who _____ has eternal life. John 6:47

The required response to the gospel can be summarized in one word:

"believe."

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved... Acts 16:31

What does it mean to believe in Christ?

- 1) Intellectual Agreement: I understand and agree I am a sinner and that God is righteous. I understand that Jesus bore the penalty of my sin. He rose from the dead as historical proof He is who He claimed to be. Because of His completed work on the cross on my behalf, He is offering to me the gift of eternal life.
- 2) Personal Application: This applies to me. I need to change my mind regarding my sin, my need for a Savior, and the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Bible calls this change of mind "*repentance*."
I must choose to respond, to accept or reject the invitation of Christ.
- 3) A Decision: I choose, by a conscious, point-in-time decision, to entrust my eternal destiny to Christ and what He did for me on the cross. This decision is expressed by a salvation prayer to God. The Bible refers to this decision as "calling on the name of the Lord."

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for "Whoever will call upon the Name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:11-13

To believe in Jesus, means to entrust ourselves
to Him alone for our salvation.

Faith alone, in Christ alone.

The Spiritual Growth Process

Spiritual growth requires an intentional process that takes place over time. The typical believer will move through different phases of spiritual growth, similar to the physical growth we experience from infancy to adulthood.

Characteristics of Each Phase

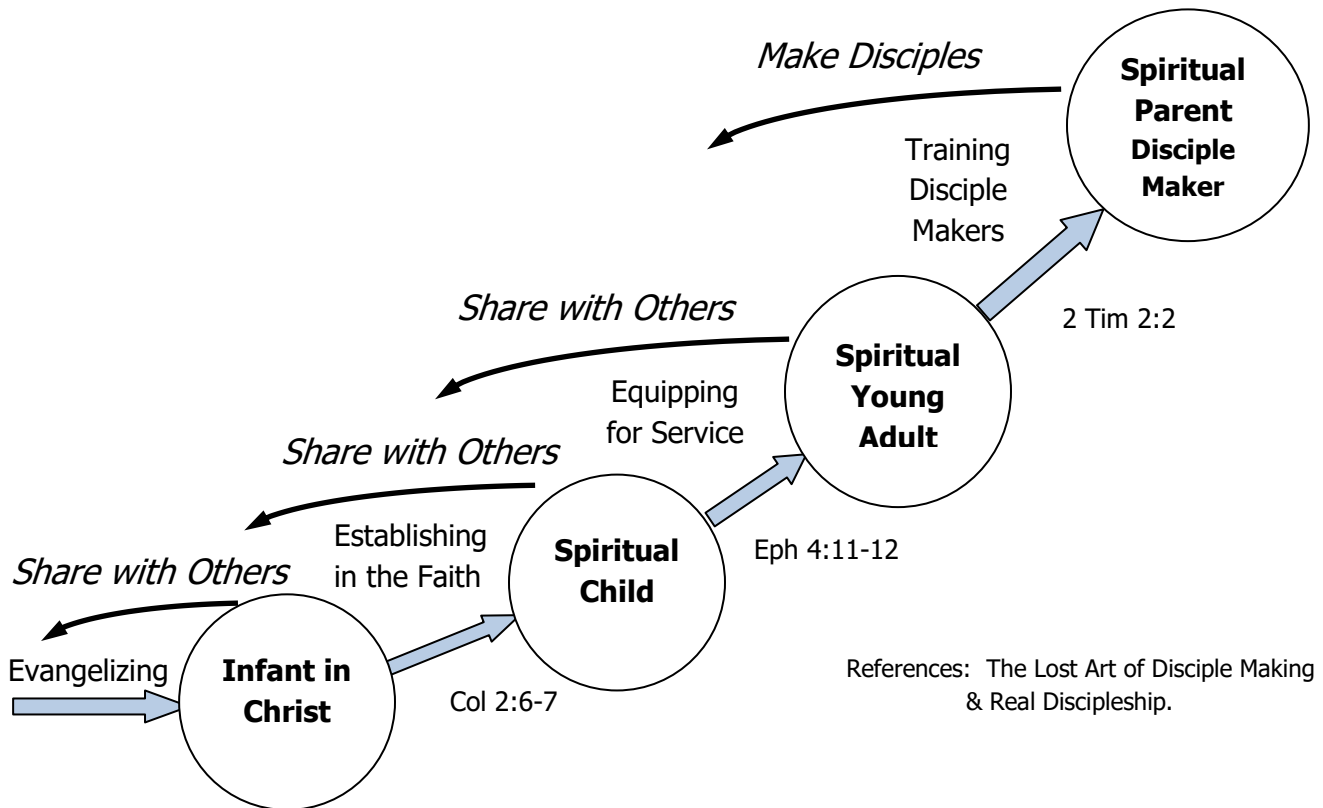
Infants are totally dependent. They need constant care and nourishment.

Children are selfish, "I want." They need training and life experiences.

Young Adults are learning to focus on others. They need encouragement, guidance, balance, and discernment.

Spiritual Parents are spiritually mature, equipped with the Word. They have a servant's heart and understand God's plan for making disciples. They need to initiate the discipleship process with those within their sphere of influence.

Making Disciples of Others



Through spiritual growth, as we become more like Jesus, we become better equipped to make disciples of others.

Knowing vs Doing

One of the word pictures Jesus used for our lives is that of a person building a house. At the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus presented in Matthew 5-7 what is called the Sermon on the Mount. Basically Jesus taught the principles of Kingdom Living. He started with the Beatitudes, character qualities that God values for every kingdom citizen.

Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount addressing their response to His teaching. He compared their responses to two men building a house. Read through the passage and make observations.

Matthew 7:24-29

vs 24 What conditions make for a wise man?

vs 25 What happened to the wise man's house? Why?

vs 26 What conditions make for a foolish man?

vs 27 What happened to the foolish man's house? Why?

Both men heard the words taught by Jesus.

What is the only difference between the wise man and the foolish man?

With this simple story of two men building a house, one on solid rock, and the other on sand, Jesus presents a profound warning and a promise. The trials of life will come; they are inevitable.

Building a House

The question is: What foundation and building materials are we using to build our lives? The following passage extends the building analogy. Record your observations:

1 Cor 3:9-16



Defining Our Terms

As we move forward, we need to be clear on these terms:

A Christian / Believer: There is one condition to be saved, a point in time decision to *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ*.

To the person who trusts in Christ, God gives the gift of eternal life. That person is born again. God completes an irreversible transaction, in a moment of time that person is transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of Light. This is a person who is forever “in Christ,” through the one time work of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

A Disciple: The word comes from the Greek word, μαθητης (mathetes), which has the basic meaning of “learner, or pupil.”

A disciple is a learner and a follower of Jesus Christ.

Today we might use the word apprentice or intern. While believing is the crucial first step in following Jesus, the requirements of being a disciple are continuous and daily. Unfortunately, many Christians fail to fully embrace their identity as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Record what Jesus requires of a disciple:

Luke 9:23-24

John 8:31-32

John 13:34-35

John 15:8

Disciple Maker: A Disciple Maker is a follower of Jesus who comes along side of another person and helps them find and follow Jesus. A Disciple Maker is intentionally looking to influence others toward Jesus.

Discipleship: The intentional process where a Disciple Maker comes alongside another person to influence them toward Jesus – wherever they are on their journey. - The continual efforts to speak the word of God into a person’s life, so that they take one step closer to Jesus.

It is a lifelong endeavor.

Are You Ready to Follow Christ?

Are You a Faithful Believer? 2 Tim 2:2

How do you demonstrate that you are Faithful?

Consider the following examples as you "count the cost."

Matt 4:17-22

Luke 5:1-11

Matt 16:21-27

Luke 14:25-35

Record your observations:

vs 25 Large crowds were following Christ

vs 26 If you really want to follow Me:

1)

Family

vs 27 2)

Plans

vs 28-33

3) It must cost you _____

Possessions

Illustrations:

the cost of _____

the cost of _____

vs 34-35 One Distinctive Purpose:

Salt is used to _____ the food around it.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first born from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. Col 1:17-18

Jesus is to be pre-eminent in My Life.

Functional Doctrine & Disciple Makers

The focus of this series of studies is the understanding and pursuit of God's provisions for supernatural living. At the core of this series is a dependency on God's grace provision for experiencing the abundant life. It begins with the transformation of our minds through the Word of God. Next comes the moment by moment enabling power of the Holy Spirit. This leads to walking by faith, discerning God's will, and persevering through trials, all the while remaining oriented to God's gracious provisions.

The content of this booklet comes from the first version of EDO training. *Equipped to Disciple Others* began as a two year training process that met every other Sunday evening. It was primarily knowledge based training.

The strength of EDO was enabling men to become disciples, to better follow Jesus Christ. The weakness of EDO was the training was not easily transferable. EDO was producing *Disciples* but not *Disciple Makers*. This booklet is designed to address that weakness. This booklet is designed to be used over and over and over, as you train others in God's provisions for spiritual maturity.

Effective training must include both knowledge and DOING. Each week there is a Disciple Maker Assignment. When you meet together include a time of joint accountability as you review each person's progress on the DM assignment.

As you proceed through this series, commit NOW to become a *Disciple Maker*. Who is the person in your life who you can come alongside, and walk with them to find and follow Jesus?

May you be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God... Col 1:9-10

The Plan for Each Week

We encourage you to walk through this series with two or three other people. When discipleship is done one on one, it usually sets us a “Bible Answer Man” relationship. The one being discipled (Timothy) tends to look to the one who is leading (Paul) for all the answers. When you meet together with a small group of three to five people, the focus can be turned to the Lord and Scripture. “We are meeting together to seek the Lord and learn from His Word.”

The Role of Paul

Paul initiates the discipleship process. The first phase is to form the group.

1. Pray for who should be part of the group. (all night) Luke 6:12-13
2. Invite each person to be part of the process. Matt 4:18-22
3. Clarify the expectations for each Timothy. For example:
 - We will meet each _____
 - You are expected to have completed the section before we meet
 - Each week, you will have a Disciple Making Assignment
 - We will hold each other accountable for the DM Assignment
 - We will consistently pray for one another, etc. etc.

When you meet, Paul facilitates the flow of your time together.

Model what DM looks like. The Timothy’s should be able to imitate you.

Commitment & Accountability

This is not just another Bible study group.

This is focused training to follow Jesus and become a Fisher of Men.

There must be a balance of Knowledge Transfer, followed by Obedience. Every skill in life is gained by knowledge and practice. Consider how we learn to ride a bike, drive a car, to cook, become a plumber, or doctor, or engineer.

There is classroom training and then there is some venue of doing, of practicing the skills under the watchful eye of the teacher. So it is with becoming a disciple maker, a fisher of men.

Paul is responsible for instilling some aspect of accountability into the group to ensure there exists opportunities for living out disciple making skills.

Recommended Format of Each Meeting

Each time you gather together, we recommend you look three directions.

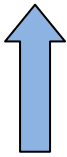


Look Back

Encouragement, Celebration, Accountability, (about 20 minutes)

Look back on what God has done, and is doing. Lovingly hold everyone accountable to report on their progress. Make course corrections, offer suggestions. Follow up on the "I WILL" statement and the Disciple Making assignment from the prior week.

Be sure to remember, this is spiritual work. Our role is to be faithful to speak the word. The results are in God's hands!



Look Up

New Insight from the Word of God, (about 60 minutes)

Look up and seek a better understanding of the Lord, and His will for our lives. Be careful to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Our ability to understand spiritual truth depends on the teaching ministry of the Spirit in our lives. The source document is the Bible. What is God saying to us through His Word?



Look Forward

Response and Application, (about 20 minutes)

Look forward and address the next steps that need to be taken to incorporate God's truths, and instructions into your life. Write down a tangible step to be taken in response to God's word. It is often helpful to identify the next step in the form of an I WILL _____ statement. It should be specific and measurable.

Next week, each person will be held accountable regarding their I WILL statement.

Acknowledgement: The Timothy Initiative (TTI) Trainers Guide

Section 1: Embracing Our Role As Ambassadors

What does Jesus really expect of every believer?

In the Great Commission of Matthew 28, Jesus commanded us to **make disciples**. After the resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days with the disciples preparing them for what lay ahead. He was returning to heaven. The work He started of seeking the lost was now passed to His disciples. Acts 1:1-3

Jesus instructs them to remain in Jerusalem to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus would send. Jesus introduces a second term to describe their work.

Acts 1:8 You shall be My _____

From where does the power come? What is the scope of the task?

What must be true of a witness, for the witness to be effective?

What must a witness do to be a witness?

Paul Used a Third Expression, Ambassador

The moment we trust in Christ, our citizenship is transferred to heaven.

Phil 3:20-21

For now, we live in a foreign land, representing our King.

Take a moment to unpack what it means to be an ambassador. An ambassador is commissioned by the king and sent to a foreign country to represent the king and his policies.

- 1) To prepare, the ambassador must know the "message," policies of the king.
- 2) The ambassador must build credibility and relationships with the people in the foreign country.
- 3) Finally, the ambassador communicates the message of the king to the people in that country, in a way they will understand, and with the intent to influence them in some way.

We are ambassadors of Jesus Christ!

What are the character qualities of an effective ambassador?

2 Cor 5:14-21

vs 14-15 What should motivate us?

What should be the focus of our lives?

vs 16 How are we to view people?

vs 17 What has God done in every believer?

How do we view ourselves?

vs 18-19 What has God done for the world?

What has God given us to do?

vs 20 Therefore we are _____ for Christ!

What is our basic invitation message?

“We Beg you on behalf of Christ, be _____ to God.”

vs 21 What made all this possible?

What has Happened?

In America, Christianity historically has been the predominant religion. Over the last 100 years, believers have drifted from our primary mission. We have degenerated into “country club” Christians. We attend church for the same reason we would join a country club...

We go to church, we sing our songs, we greet everyone, we read our Bibles, and we try to be good people. We focus on the things that benefit us and our families. That is all very nice, and necessary, but it does not begin to fulfill our calling.

We have substituted the **Worthy Walk** for our **Calling**.

In his letter to the Ephesians, chapters 1-3, Paul writes of our *identity in Christ*. What blessings are mentioned in his opening verses?

Eph 1:1-14

Then in chapters 4-6 Paul outlines the **worthy walk** of the believer in Christ. We can call it the *Royal Code of Conduct* for the believer. Notice the transition at the beginning of chapter 4:

Eph 4:1-3

The worthy walk has become the focus of most Christians, but the worthy walk is not what the Christian life is about. (read that again)

The worthy walk only qualifies us to fulfill our calling as ambassadors.

What did Jesus Say?

Jesus had much to say about why He came, and what He has called us to do. Follow the progression of these passages, and let them sink in.

Matt 4:19 The Invitation

- 1) The Condition: _____ Me
- 2) Transformation: and I will _____
- 3) The Goal: _____ of men

Matt 16:24-26 The Universal Call

What are the conditions?

Luke 9:57-62 Priority of the Call

Can I wait until my father dies?

Luke 14:25-35 Count the Cost

What are the conditions to be a disciple of Christ? (page ix)

- 1)
- 2)

Luke 19:10 Why did Jesus Come?

To _____ and to _____ the lost

John 14:12-17 We are to Carry On His Kingdom Work

The works I do, You will _____,
and greater works than these!!

John 17:18-21; John 20:21 Sent Ones, Just Like Jesus

Jesus is praying to the Father, and He prays for us.
What does this prayer say about our calling?

Matt 28:18-20 The Great Commission

Main command: Make _____

How: _____ them, Preparing them **to enter** the Kingdom, (salvation)
_____ them, Preparing them **to serve** in the Kingdom

Acts 1:8 The Final Word

You will receive _____
and you shall be _____

What must a witness do to be a witness?

vs 9-10 What happened next?

vs 11 What has Jesus promised to do?

Until Jesus returns, what are we to do?

Manage the Business

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

Now He has entrusted believers with the same task.

The Jews during the time of Christ were expecting Jesus to establish the Kingdom of God that was promised to the nation Israel. Even up to the final week, that was their expectation, Lk 19:11. As Jesus was approaching Jerusalem the day before Palm Sunday, He taught the parable of the Nobleman:

Luke 19:11-27 Parable of the Nobleman

vs 13 What were the servants to do while the nobleman was gone?

vs 15 What did the nobleman do when he returned?

The main point of the Parable:

Jesus has gone away to receive the kingdom.

Until He returns, He has charged us, as His servants to
"manage the business."

We are to be Salt & Light	Matt 5:13-16
We are to Make Disciples	Matt 28:16-20
We have been Sent	John 17:13-18
We are Witnesses	Acts 1:1-11
We are Ambassadors	2 Cor 5:13-21

1 Pet 3:13-16

What does Peter tell us?

Remember: *We Press On to Maturity*, so that,
We may become better qualified to fulfill our calling as ambassadors.

When You Meet Together

Looking Up:

Are you "All In?" Do you see yourself as an Ambassador?

Develop the Fishers of Men analogy:

How does a fisherman prepare?

What equipment is needed?

Why is bait needed?

How is it used?

How important is time & place in fishing? Will a fisherman always catch fish?

What is it like when you DO catch a fish?

What does it look like in your life to "manage the business?"

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Preparation for Section 2

Complete Section 2: Read through the entire section, look up all of the Bible references and record your observations.

Disciple Maker Assignment

Where has Jesus sent you? What is your area of influence?

Who are the lost people in your life who need Jesus?

People I know who need Jesus:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Pray for all of the people within your sphere of influence.

Begin to pray for opportunities to have a spiritual conversation.

Spiritual Disciplines

Bible Reading: Follow through with your Bible reading plan.

Prayer: Follow through with your dedicated time of prayer.

Section 2: How to Study the Bible

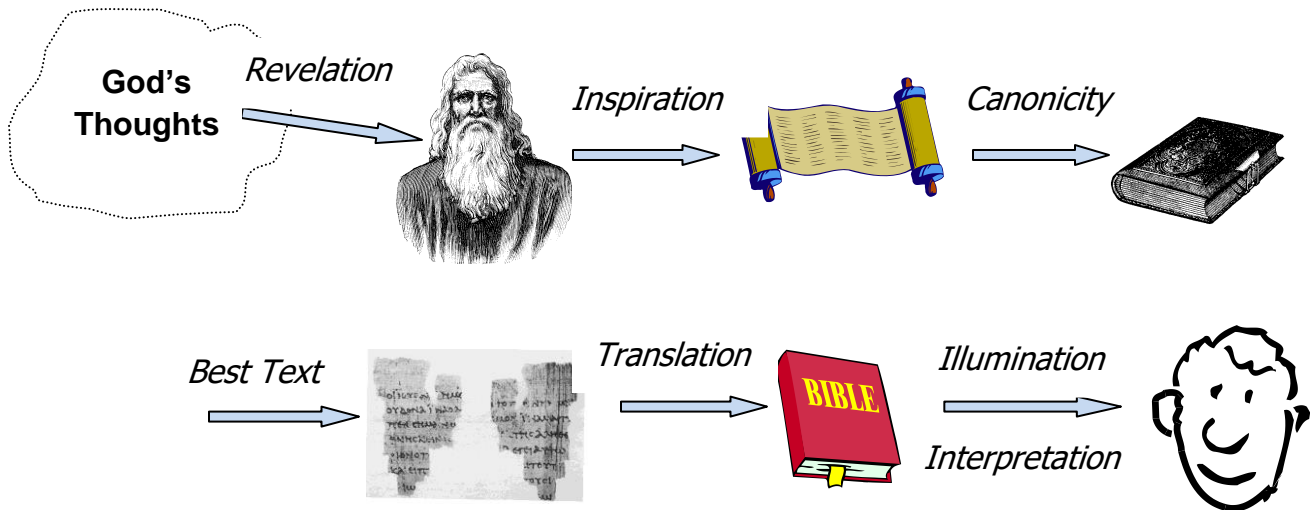
What is our View of Scripture?

What is the best way to study Scripture?

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Col 3:16

Premise: Our view of Scripture, and how we interpret Scripture, will shape every aspect of our understanding of God, and how we are to live.

How We Got Our Bible



Credibility Attacks: There have always been attacks on the credibility of the Bible. Rom 10:13-17 *“Who has believed our report?”*

The Bible’s Claim: To be the Word of God. In 1 Tim 5:18, Paul quotes both the Old and New Testaments and refers to them as Scripture.
Deut 25:4; Matt 10:10

1 Thess 2:13

The Bible means what it Says: How did Jesus interpret Jonah 1-2?
Matt 12:38-41

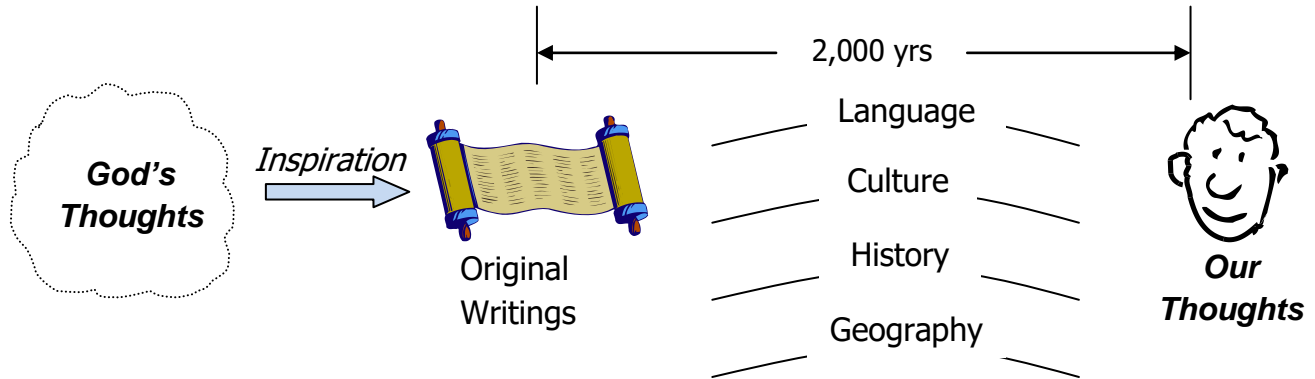
Our Approach to Scripture

What does Peter say about our interpretation of Scripture?

2 Pet 1:20-21

If Scripture is not a matter of our own interpretation...

then we need to be careful to build accurate bridges



The Goal: To Conform our thoughts to God's Thoughts

The Inductive Bible Study Method

The goal of our Bible Study is to learn and apply what God says. We must allow God to speak to us through the text of Scripture. The challenge we face is our tendency to impose our religious, or theological biases on the text. Our natural bent is to search for, and emphasize passages that say what we want the Bible to say.

The Inductive Bible Study method, when carefully followed, helps to limit the influence of our biases, promotes objectivity and allows us to learn what Scripture teaches. The word inductive means "to pull out the facts."

There are three general phases to the Inductive Bible Study Method:

- Observation* What does the passage say?
- Interpretation* What does the passage mean?
- Application* How does the meaning of the passage apply to me?

Guidelines to Personal Bible Study

1. Pray and Prepare

We need to prepare ourselves to hear from God. We are dependent on the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding. It is a good practice to first take a moment and “check ourselves out” to ensure there is no unconfessed sin in our life that would hinder the teaching work of the Holy Spirit as we study.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your soul. James 1:21

Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. Ps 119:18

*These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches **but which the Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 1 Cor 2:13*

John 16:12-15

2. Read the Passage and Make General Observations

Read the passage several times. What does the passage say?

Identify the Context

A passage pulled out of context can be distorted to say anything.

Look for the Obvious, Who, What, When, Where

Who are the main characters in the passage?

What is happening? Describe the event.

When is this happening? What led up to this event?

Where is this taking place?

Write down your observations.

Begin to write down any questions.

Remember:

Let the text speak for itself.

3. Re-Tell the Passage in your Own Words

Write down the passage using your own words.

Sometimes it is helpful to read the passage from a different translation.

4. Accurate Interpretation

What does the passage mean?

What are the main truths from the passage?

Guiding Questions:

1. *What do we learn about God?*
2. *What do we learn about Man?*
3. *What Principles of Life are in the passage?*
4. *Are there any Sins we are to avoid?*
5. *Are there any Commands we are to Obey, or Follow?*

5. Applications

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-25

Scripture is **profitable** for: 2 Tim 3:16-17

Teaching - What am I to learn about God, or man, or life?

Reproof - What is wrong in my thinking or behavior?

Correction - What is the next step toward correction?

Training in Righteousness - What life training do I need to apply?

6. Purposeful Response, "I Will _____"

What specific steps should I take in response to God's Word?

Ezra 7:10

7. Make Disciples, "I Will Share"

Who can I share this with this week? How can I use what I learned to begin a spiritual conversation?

Keep thinking about it:

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, **but you shall meditate** in it day and night, **that you may observe to do** according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Josh 1:8

Practice Exercise

Practice the guidelines using **Luke 5:17-26**.

Observations:

Context: Who, What, When, Where?

Interpretation

What are the main truths from the passage?

About Jesus, about man?

Principles of Life, Commands, etc.

Application

"I Will _____

"I Will Share _____

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Pray for the people you listed in the DM Assignment last week. pg 1-6

Looking Up:

Why is our view of Scripture so important?

What examples in the Bible support a literal interpretation of Scripture?

Consider Rom 5:12

Share your observations from your study of Luke 5:17-26.

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Spiritual Disciplines

Bible Reading (*Write down something for each day.*)

Follow through with your Bible Reading Plan. If you do not have one, use the plan that is in the Appendix.

Prayer Follow through with your dedicated time of prayer.

Preparation for Section 3

Complete Section 3: The Renewed Mind

Memorize: *Is 55:8-11*

Disciple Maker Assignment

Continue to pray for the people you listed on page 1-6.

What are some good questions that may start a spiritual conversation?

Section 3: The Renewed Mind

Human Viewpoint vs. Divine Viewpoint

How can I allow God to renew my mind?

Memorize Is 55:8-11

Basic Premise: God has chosen to reveal Himself to us. He has provided the believer the opportunity to know and understand His wisdom. Read and record your observations:

1 Cor 2:6-16

vs 6-8 What does Paul say about God's wisdom?

vs 9-12 What has God done? For what purpose? (vs 12)

vs 13 What is the process to understand God's wisdom?

vs 14-16 What is the contrast between the natural man and the believer?

Phil 3:7-14

Describe the passion of Paul. What is his priority?

What has Paul chosen to give up?

vs 12-14 How does Paul describe his faith journey?

Phil 3:15-21

vs 15-17 What is Paul encouraging us to do?

vs 18-19 What is the warning?

vs 20-21 What is the spiritual reality that should motivate us?

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:14*

Human Viewpoint vs. Divine Viewpoint

With God's wisdom, the believer is able to process life with "Divine Viewpoint."

It is helpful for us to introduce two terms to evaluate our thinking. **Human Viewpoint** is the standard thinking of the world on any given topic and in any given situation. **Divine Viewpoint** seeks to see the issues of life, and any situation from the perspective of God.

The Principle Stated in Scripture

We must realize the magnitude of difference between "Human Viewpoint" and "Divine Viewpoint."

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways" says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Is 55:8-9

Divine Viewpoint Illustrated in Scripture

The Old Testament is rich with examples of people who faced the circumstances of life with a divine viewpoint. Moses is one such example.

God called Moses to lead the people out of Egypt:	Ex 3
After 10 plagues, Pharaoh tells them to GO	Ex 12:31-33
God led them, a pillar of cloud by day, fire by night	Ex 13:21
Israel is caught between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea:	

Ex 14:5-31

vs 5-9 The Pharaoh had a change of heart, note vs 5 & 8

vs 10-12 How did the people respond?

This is typical *Human Viewpoint*, a view from man's perspective

vs 13-14 How did Moses respond?

This is unique *Divine Viewpoint!* a view from God's perspective

vs 15-18 What will God do? WHY (vs 18)

vs 19-31 the Rest of the Story...

The Example of David

When David was a young man, probably in his late teens, the Philistines had gathered to invade Israel. This is one of the most famous “stories” in the Bible. Read through the chapter.

1 Sam 17

vs 1-7 The description of Goliath

vs 8-10 What was the challenge of Goliath?

vs 11 What was the response of ALL Israel?
(*Human Viewpoint*)

vs 12-19 Introduction to David, and his situation

vs 20-23 David arrives on scene

vs 24-25 What is the response of the men of Israel? more *HVP*

vs 26 What is the response of David? (*Divine Viewpoint!*)
In David’s mind, what was the key issue?

vs 34-37 Key Life Application Principle:
David draws from past experiences of God’s Faithfulness

vs 45-47 David confronts the problem more *DVP*



Observations from both examples:

Many people were confronted with the same situation. However there were two very different responses. In each case only one person responded with divine viewpoint.

Can you think of a recent example in your life where there may have been both a human viewpoint and a divine viewpoint response?

As new believers, we bring into the Christian Life all of our old human viewpoint, and the wisdom of the world. Rom 8:5-8

We need to grow spiritually, and allow our minds to be renewed, so that we may be transformed to think in terms of divine viewpoint.

The Conflict of Mental Attitude

In the believer, there is a constant battle of the mind.

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal
but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
casting down arguments and every high thing
that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,
bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.
2 Cor 10:3-6*

This is a battle for what thoughts will dominate our thinking.

What do the following verses say about our thoughts?

Prov 23:7

Matt 5:21-28

Phil 4:8-9

Example Areas of Life affected by DVP

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| ◆ Confidence regarding death | 2 Cor 5:6-8 |
| ◆ Stability & Inner Peace | Is 26:3-4 |
| ◆ Boldness in witnessing | 2 Tim 1:7-8 |
| ◆ Giving requires the correct mental attitude | 2 Cor 9:7-8 |
| ◆ Love is built on a proper mental attitude. | Deut 6:5 |
| ◆ Genuine fellowship is based upon " <i>being of the same mind</i> " | Phill 2:1-2 |
| ◆ Priorities, God's plan vs. the world system | Col 3:1-4 |
| ◆ Our view of marriage | Matt 19:3-6 |
| ◆ Dating | 1 Thess 4:1-8 |
| ◆ Work | Col 3:22-25 |
| ◆ Role of Government & Authority | Rom 13:1-7 |

One aspect of the "worthy walk" of the believer is to seek out and apply divine viewpoint to every area of life.

How do we Get Divine Viewpoint?

Through the consistent intake of the Word of God, and applying it to our lives, our minds are gradually renewed and conformed to divine viewpoint. This is the primary provision of God for the believer to live life in accordance with His will.

Rom 12:1-2

Col 3:9-10

John 8:31-32

God's knowledge is infinite, but He has revealed to us the knowledge we need to live life according to His standards.

Rom 11:33-36

Deut 29:29

Through the renewing process, the believer can come to have the "mind of Christ."

1 Cor 2:11-16

Consistent Intake of God's Word



and Consider the significance of this study.

Why do we study the Bible?

Why is the Word of God so important in our lives?

What is your Bible Reading Plan?

What Bible verses have you memorized?

How do you foster the discipline of meditating on the Word of God?

When You Meet Together

Applying Divine Viewpoint to Life:

Share your observations & questions from your study this week.

There are two levels of application, discuss these when you meet together:

To the Areas of Life,

God's Word addresses Every Area of Life.

We seek to learn the _____ in the Word of God.

As we grow in the knowledge of the Word of God, the Holy Spirit builds a connected grid of Biblical principles through which we can sift and evaluate our thoughts.

Compare and Contrast Human and Divine Viewpoint for the following Areas of Life. Write down some relevant passages for each area:

Marriage	Dating
Career and Children	Work
Origins of Life	Authority
Retirement	Warfare
Old Age	

To the Circumstances of Life

God's Word can be applied in every circumstance of Life.

To prepare, we seek to memorize the _____ in Scripture.

Compare and Contrast Human and Divine Viewpoint for the following situations, Write down a relevant promise for each situation:

- Severe Sickness
- Missed a plane at the airport
- Lost your Job
- Car accident

In every situation and circumstance of life,
the believer is to seek out
and respond with divine viewpoint.

Looking Back:

Pray for the people you listed in the DM Assignment last week. pg 1-6

Follow up on last week's DM Assignment. What are some good questions that may start a spiritual conversation?

Looking Up:

Discuss God's process of renewing our minds.

What does that look like in your life?

Discuss a current situation in your life and contrast human and divine viewpoint.

Can you identify a specific principle or promise that applies?

Remember the Character of God we studied in Series 2.

Practice applying the character of God to your situation.

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Additional Notes or Questions

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Spiritual Disciplines

Bible Reading (*Write down something for each day.*)

Follow through with your Bible Reading Plan. If you do not have one, use the plan that is in the Appendix.

Prayer Follow through with your dedicated time of prayer.

Preparation for Section 4

Complete Section 4: The Ministries of the Holy Spirit

Work through the entire section, look up all of the Bible references and record your observations.

Memorize: *1 Cor 12:13*

Disciple Maker Assignment

Do you know someone who is struggling? Can you help them with DVP?
Is there a question you can ask them to begin a spiritual conversation?

Section 4: The Ministries of the Holy Spirit

Memorize 1 Cor 12:13

The Promise of Jesus

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and shall be in you. John 14:16-17

This was a profound promise from the Lord. Up until that point the Holy Spirit was only given to certain people, to carry out specific roles within the Plan of God. In this section we will examine the changing nature of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the OT, through the transitional period in the book of Acts, up through the ministry of the Holy Spirit today in the life of every believer.

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Several times in the OT, we read the Holy Spirit “came upon” a specific person to enable them to complete a specific task. Note the following examples:

Joseph	first reference to HS with man	Gen 41:38
Saul	prophecy and rulership	1 Sam 10:6,10, 11:6
Craftsman	built the Tabernacle	Ex 31:3-5 35:30-35
Joshua	leadership	Num 27:18-20
David	king of Israel	1 Sam 16:13
Gideon	military leadership	Judges 6:34-7:25
Samson	strength	Judges 13:25, 14:6
Ezekiel	divine inspiration	Ez 2:2

Summary Observations:

In the Old Testament, the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

Was not universal, He was with specific people

Came to equip & enable selected people to accomplish specific roles

Was temporary, A person could loose the Holy Spirit. 1 Sam 16:14; Ps 51:11

The Holy Spirit During the Life of Christ

The prophecy of John the Baptist began a transition period in the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers. What do the following passages say regarding the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

- Matt 3:11-12 What future event is coming?
- Matt 3:16-17 The Baptism of Jesus
 What did the Holy Spirit do?
- Luke 11:13 What did Jesus invite the Disciples to do?
- John 14:16-17 What did Jesus promise?
- John 20:22 What did Jesus do?
 Why? To sustain them until He sent the Holy Spirit.
 (Lk 22:31 They were under spiritual attack)
- Acts 1:4-5; Lk 24:49 What did Jesus command them to do?
 What was going to happen?
 All in fulfillment of the promise given by John the Baptist

The Glorification of Jesus Christ

"... But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."
John 7:37-39

When Christ ascended into heaven, He was seated at the Father's right hand, and restored to glory as the God - Man. This showed God's acceptance of the finished work of Christ on the cross. This made possible the sending of the Holy Spirit and the universal indwelling of the Spirit in every believer.

With the earthly work of Christ completed and accepted, God the Father and Jesus Christ could now fulfill the promise to send the Holy Spirit.

Check out the Holy Spirit diagram at the end of this booklet.

The Holy Spirit after Jesus was Glorified

The Book of Acts provides historical accounts of the advent of the Holy Spirit, and the beginning of the universal work of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. Record your observations:

Acts 2:1-5, 32-33

Note this was only Jews, it was evidenced by speaking in tongues (actual foreign languages) and Peter was on hand to explain what was happening.

The Gospel was preached almost exclusively to Jews for 8 years.

Acts 8:5-25

Now the Holy Spirit is received by Samaritans (half Jew/half Gentile).

Peter was on hand, and he used the Jewish rite of laying on hands, as a visual display of what was happening. There is no mention of tongues.

(Other verses on the laying on of hands, Acts 6:6, 13:3, 1 Tim 4:14, 2 Tim 1:6)

Acts 10:1-48

Now the Holy Spirit was given to Gentiles !! It was evidenced by tongues.

Again Peter was on hand, to provide spiritual oversight of the event.

vs. 45 The Jews were amazed.

Acts 11:15-18; 15:7-9

Peter had to defend and explain this historical event to the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. Notice his reference to the original prophecy of John the Baptist, Act 11:16 *“John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

From this point on, the Holy Spirit was received by believing in Christ for salvation. The promise Jesus gave in John 7:37-39 had been fulfilled.

Acts 19:1-7

Final historical account, Isolated Believers: These were Jews who had heard the preaching of John the Baptist, but had not heard that Jesus had come, or of Pentecost, or of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Ministries of the Holy Spirit Today

The passages in the Gospels and the book of Acts were all historical events which outlined the transition of the ministry of the Holy Spirit from the Old Testament to the Church in the New Testament. In every case, the coming of the Holy Spirit was associated with a group of people, *not* the progressive sanctification of an individual. We must be careful not to misapply these historical transitions. Today, the moment a person trusts in Christ for salvation, they are indwelt with the Holy Spirit, and baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ.

The Convicting Ministry Toward the Lost

Jesus told His disciples about the ministry of the Holy Spirit after He goes away.

John 16:7-11

vs 7 What does Jesus call the Holy Spirit?

vs 8 Who does the Holy Spirit convict?

vs 9 Concerning _____ Jesus was judged for all our sins. The only remaining cure for sin is faith in Christ.

vs 10 Concerning _____ The character of God is the absolute standard of righteousness. No attempts of self improvement or good works will meet the perfect standard of God.

vs 11 Concerning _____ Everyone will face judgement. Even Satan has been judged, and will face judgment.

What is Satan doing to those who are lost?

2 Cor 4:3-4

What is the Holy Spirit doing to reach the lost?

1 Thess 1:5

It is the responsibility of every believer to sow the seed, to present the Good News of the Gospel to the lost. It is then the work of the Holy Spirit to convict, and enable a lost person to understand their need for a Savior.

The RIBS of Salvation

At the moment a person places their trust in Christ, there is a four-fold work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the new believer. They can be remembered by the acronym "RIBS."

Regeneration

The natural man is spiritually dead, separated from God. Eph 2:1
What did Jesus say to the very religious Nicodemus?

John 3:1-18

The moment we believe, the Holy Spirit, using the Word of God, performs the supernatural work of regeneration.

Titus 3:4-6

1 Pet 1:23-25

What do the following say about the results of regeneration?

2 Pet 1:4

2 Cor 5:17

Eph 2:4-7

Gal 3:26

Gal 4:6-7

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:5

Indwelling

At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in the body of the believer.

1 Cor 6:19-20

vs 12-17 Note the context of what Paul is teaching. Our bodies are sacred. Therefore we are to flee immorality.

Based on this, how should we treat, and care for our bodies?

Note the following:

John 7:37-39 Promise that all who believe in Him will receive the Spirit.

Rom 5:5 "... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Rom 8:9 The very fact of salvation can be tested by whether "...if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you".

1 Cor 2:12 We have received the Spirit who is from God. (no conditions).

2 Cor 5:5 "...who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge." (no conditions)

Gal 3:1-3 We received the Spirit by faith, not by works.
 "... did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith? ... Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"

Gal 4:6 "... God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts."

2 Tim 1:14 "... through the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us."

1 John 3:23-24 "... by the Spirit whom He has given us."

1 John 4:13 "... because He has given us of His Spirit."

From these verses we see that all believers have the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that all believers have entered into all the possible blessings of a Spirit-filled life. We are given the Spirit when we are saved.

The promise of Jesus was *that He may be with you forever.* John 14:16

Baptizing

The work by which the Holy Spirit joints the individual believer to the Body of Christ, of which Jesus Himself is the Head. Col 1:18

1 Cor 12:13

Rom 6:3-4

Our baptism into Christ is the basis or our separation from the power of sin, and our ability to walk in newness of life. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the divine act of God that places the believer *“in Christ.”* The believer in Christ shares in the inheritance of Christ. Record some of these blessings:

Eph 1:3

Gal 3:26-29

Col 2:9-14

What about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as a “Second Blessing” after salvation? There are no instructions in the Epistles for new believers to seek or ask for the Holy Spirit. In fact, Eph 1:3 states that we have already been blessed with every spiritual blessing. If we are not experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the solution is not to seek to receive more of the Holy Spirit, or a “second blessing”, the solution is to be obedient to the commands of Scripture and be Filled by the Holy Spirit. Eph 5:18 (the topic of our next section)

Sealing of the Holy Spirit

A seal is a guarantee of a transaction. (Jer 32:10-14 Esther 3:9-10, 8:7-8)

We are sealed by the Holy Spirit when we receive Christ, as God's guarantee, His mark of ownership, the earnest of our new inheritance. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is one of the strongest assurances of our eternal security.

(John 3:16, 10:28-29)

Eph 1:13-14

Eph 4:30

2 Cor 1:22

Secure in Christ

These four ministries of the Spirit are done by God at the moment we believe in Christ for salvation and never repeated. The believer is:

Regenerated: Born spiritually

Indwelled: Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit

Baptized: The believer is identified with, placed in Christ

Sealed: The believer is sealed as a guarantee of ownership

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil 1:6

Be sure to examine the Transition of the Holy Spirit diagram in the Appendix.

Additional Notes or Questions

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Continue to pray for the people you listed on pg 1-6.

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 3-7.

Have someone share "Their Story."

My Life Before Christ

What Brought Me to Christ

My Life After I Trusted in Christ

Looking Up:

The ministries of the Holy Spirit is one of the most misunderstood areas of the Christian life. You may need to give this section additional time.

Discuss your insights from this week.

How do the ministries of the Holy Spirit affect your security in Christ?

Clarify, what does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit?

What is the condition?

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Spiritual Disciplines

Bible Reading (*Write down something for each day.*)

Follow through with your Bible Reading Plan. If you do not have one, use the plan that is in the Appendix.

Prayer Follow through with your dedicated time of prayer.

Preparation for Section 5

Complete Section 5: Filling of the Holy Spirit

Memorize: *Eph 5:17-18*

Going Deeper: *He that is Spiritual*, Lewis Sperry Chaffer

Disciple Maker Assignment

Continue to pray for those in your life who need Jesus.

Practice telling "Your Story."

Before Christ

How I Found Christ

After Christ

Section 5: The Filling of the Holy Spirit

What is Genuine Spirituality?

There are several terms used in the Bible to address spirituality. Consider the following:

Memorize
Eph 5:17-18

Abide in Christ	vs not abiding	1 John 3:24
Walk in the Light	vs walk in darkness	1 John 1:5-2:2
Walk by the Spirit	vs walk as men	Gal 5:16
Walk in Newness of Life	vs walk after the flesh	Rom 6:4-13
Spiritual men	vs carnal men	1 Cor 2:15-3:4
Be filled with the Spirit	vs not filled with the Spirit	Eph 5:18

All these have to do with the quality of daily life of saved people, they are not contrasts between saved and unsaved people. There is a spiritual life available to earnest believers who faithfully seek to honor God, that is full of blessing, joy, power, and victory. Jesus called it the abundant life. John 10:10

The central element to Biblical spirituality is the believer's proper adjustment to the Holy Spirit. One must "*be filled by the Holy Spirit.*" Eph 5:18

(A present tense command, literally, keep being filled.)

"Every moment in a spiritual life is one of unmeasured need and superhuman demands, the supply of enabling power and grace must be constantly received and employed."

A spiritual person, is one who experiences the divine purpose and plan in his daily life through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The character of that life will be the out-lived Christ. Eph 3:16-21; 2 Cor 3:18

The Work of the Spirit in the Life of the Believer

The Spirit Produces Christ-like Character, (Fruit of the Spirit)

Gal 5:22-23

Eph 4:1-3

Christ-like character is not obtained through human effort and energy. Rather, it is through maintaining fellowship with the Holy Spirit such that He can accomplish the divine work of conforming the believer into the image of Christ.

Answers to blanks
are in App A

The Spirit _____ Spiritual Truth

Understanding of spiritual truth is possible only through the Holy Spirit.

John 16:12-15

1 Cor 2:6 – 3:4

1 John 2:27

The Spirit _____ the Believer

The Holy Spirit reveals the will of God to the believer.

Rom 8:14

Gal 5:18

The Spirit Gives _____ to the Believer

He is an internal witness to our sonship relationship through Jesus.

Rom 8:16-17

Gal 4:6

1 John 3:24

The Spirit Promotes _____ & _____

Eph 5:18-20

1 Thess 5:16-19

The Spirit Makes _____ for the Believer

Rom 8:26-27

The Spirit _____ the Believer

The Spirit distributes and empowers each believer's spiritual gift.

1 Cor 12:4-11

The Holy Spirit provides enablement for every area of the Christian life.

The Spiritual Christian

It is the work of the Spirit to enable the believer to live a Christ-like life. The believer must abandon any attempt to live by religious rules, or human effort.

Rom 8:2-4

The Christian Way of Life is a superhuman way of life
which requires God's Grace to fulfill,
namely the enabling power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

A spiritual Christian is a spirit-filled Christian in whom the unhindered Spirit is manifesting Christ. The control which the Spirit exerts over the believer is dependent upon the believer's active and correct adjustment to the Spirit.

2 Cor 4:10-11

Phil 1:20-21

Gal 4:19

What does the Word "Filled" Mean?

The central command of the believer related to the Holy Spirit:

Be Filled by (with) the Holy Spirit

Eph 5:18

What analogy does Paul use to illustrate being filled by the Holy Spirit?

Develop the analogy, How does wine affect us?

Other uses of "Filled"

Luke 5:26

John 16:6

In each use of the word, there is something in the person's life that has great influence on how they think, speak and act.

How to be Filled by the Holy Spirit

To be filled by the Holy Spirit,
is to be under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit influences how the believer thinks, talks, and acts, all in a manner where the believer becomes more and more like Jesus. To be filled is commanded in Eph 5:18, therefore it is conditional. There are conditions, or adjustments the believer must make in order to be filled by the Holy Spirit. The conditions are best understood by **three commands** given to every believer regarding the Holy Spirit.

1. Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit

Sin grieves God, Gen 6:6. Sin destroys our fellowship with God.

Eph 4:30-32

vs 30 What is the command?

vs 31 What are the examples of grieving the Holy Spirit?

vs 32 In contrast, what will bring "joy" to the Holy Spirit?

Eph 4:25-32 What other actions grieve the Holy Spirit?

Recovery from Sin, Spiritual Cleansing

Throughout Scripture, God has provided a means to be cleansed from our sin. While serving in the Tabernacle, the priests were required to cleanse their hands and feet at the Brazen Laver before every sacrifice. Ex 30:17-21

Today, as believer priests, 1 Pet 2:9, the provision for cleansing from sin is confession of our sins. Cleansing was made possible by the completed work of Christ on the cross. John 5:24; Col 2:13-14 Now that the judicial punishment is satisfied, the believer need only to confess their sin to be cleansed from sin.

1 John 1:1 – 2:2

2. *Do Not Quench the Holy Spirit*

To quench means to suppress, inhibit, subdue, or to put out as one would put out a fire. It is the same word used in Eph 6:16 for extinguishing the flaming arrows of the evil one.

1 Thess 5:19

The Spirit is quenched by saying "No" to the revealed will of God. The context on this verse also includes the idea of not suppressing the work of the Holy Spirit in and through the lives of others.

The believer is to present, or yield their life to God. There should be a full dedication of our lives to God, and His will.

Rom 6:13

Rom 12:1-2

Jesus is our example of submitting to the will of the Father.

Phil 2:5-8

Heb 10:5-7

As a love response to God, we should be motivated to Live for Christ.

*"For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, **that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him** who died and rose again on their behalf."*

2 Cor 5:14-15

What in your life causes you to say "No" to God?

What steps can you take to help ensure you do not quench the Holy Spirit?

3. Walk by the Holy Spirit

The NT is filled with instructions regarding the walk of the believer.

Col 1:9-10

Eph 4:1; 5:15

Rom 6:4

1 John 1:5-10

2 Cor 5:5-9, (vs 7)

The term walk is used to refer to how we live out our daily lives. The action of walking also reminds us of the step by step, moment by moment dependency we have on the Lord. It is this dependency, a step by step reliance on the presence and power of the indwelling Holy Spirit that is included in this command.

Gal 5:16-26

vs 16 What is the command?

vs 17 What is the problem?

vs 19-21 What are the works of the flesh?

vs 22-23 What is the fruit of the Spirit?

vs 24 The dictatorial power of the flesh has been crucified. Rom 6:5-7

vs 25 What is the basis of the appeal to walk by the Spirit?

Why Must We Rely on the Spirit?

God requires Holy standards of living, in contrast to the world's standards of living. They are impossible in our own strength. For example:

Eph 5:1	Be imitators of God
John 13:34	Love ... even as I have loved you
1 Pet 1:13-16	Be Holy as God is Holy
2 Cor 10:5	Take every thought captive to ... Christ
1 Thess 5:16-17	Rejoice always; pray without ceasing;
Eph 4:1-3, Col 1:9-10	Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord

Believers have an Enemy, Satan and his forces

Eph 6:10-12	Put on the full armor of God
James 4:7	Resist the Devil
1 Pet 5:8-9	Resist him, firm in your faith
1 John 4:1-4	Greater is He who is in you...

The Flesh, When we are saved, we do not lose our old nature with all its tendencies to sin. The Bible uses the following terms to describe our old nature:

the Flesh	Rom 13:14, 2 Cor 7:1, Gal 5:16-24, 6:8
the Old Man	Rom 6:6, Eph 4:22, Col 3:9-10

Inside each believer there is a conflict raging, a *Passion War*. This conflict is between the flesh and the Holy Spirit:

“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.” Gal 5:17

Because of the Death of Jesus Christ and the fact that we share in Christ's death, the hold or power of the old man over us has been broken (rendered inoperative - no longer in control).

We don't have to *"continue in sin"* but may instead *"walk in newness of life."* Our old nature has been judged and we have been given the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Rom 6:1-13; 8:3-4

Recap: What is Spirituality?

Spirituality is the unhindered manifestations of the indwelling Spirit, producing the character of Christ in the life of the believer. HOW?

The Holy Spirit is free to work in the Christian who:

1. Is not grieving the Spirit with sin in their life,
2. Is not quenching the Spirit, but is yielded to God's will in every area, and
3. Who is humbly walking in the Spirit
by an attitude of dependence upon His power.

In this Christian, the Spirit is free to fulfill all the purpose and desire of God.

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 4-9.
Practice telling "Your Story."

Looking Up:

Discuss your insights from this week.

Walk through each of the following commands, What do they mean?

- Do not Grieve the Holy Spirit
- Do not Quench the Holy Spirit
- Walk by the Spirit

What steps do you take to ensure you are filled with the Holy Spirit?

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Putting it All Together

Compare these Passages *(Record your observations for each passage.)*

Eph 5:15-21 The Holy Spirit

vs 15

vs 16

vs 17

vs 18

vs 19

vs 20

vs 21

Col 3:16-21 The Word of God

vs 16

vs 17

vs 18-21

What can we conclude from these passages about God's provisions for supernatural living?

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Spiritual Disciplines

Bible Reading (*Write down something for each day.*)

Follow through with your Bible Reading Plan. If you do not have one, use the plan that is in the Appendix.

Prayer Follow through with your dedicated time of prayer.

Preparation for Section 6

Complete Section 6: Walking by Faith

Memorize: *Col 2:6-8*

Disciple Maker Assignment

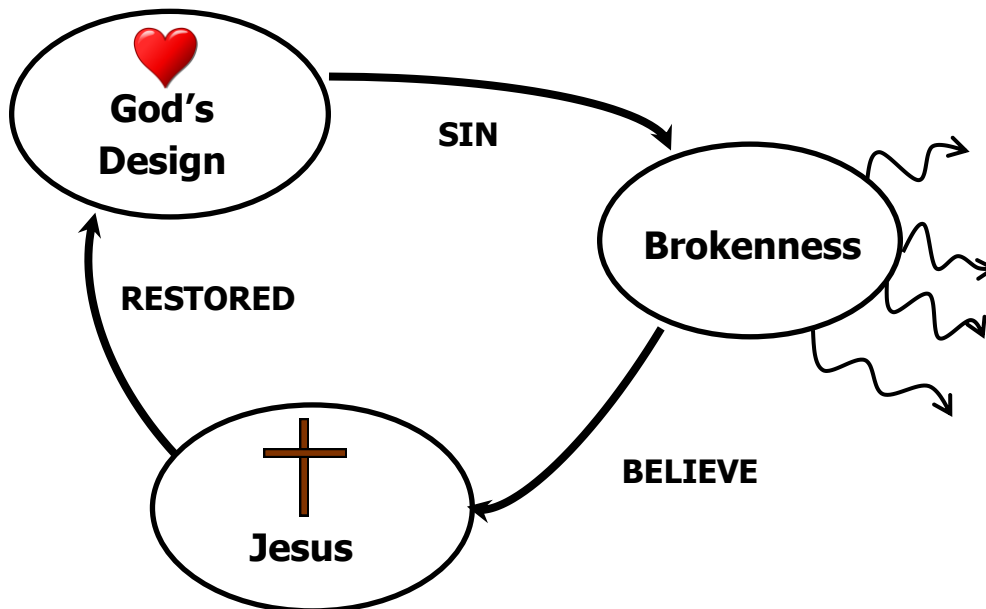
Continue to pray for those in your life who need Jesus.

Who is the next person you can disciple using this booklet,
(or one of the other tools listed on the back cover)?

Practice presenting the Gospel as clearly as you can.

Try using the 3 Circles Diagram.

The 3 Circles Diagram



Section 6: Walking by Faith

What is Faith?

Memorize
Col 2:6-8

What does it mean or look like to "walk by faith?"

Everyone talks about faith. Even our secular culture encourages us to "have faith." Every week in church, there will be some mention of faith. However, as with all of our religious words, we must be clear on what we mean by "*faith*."

What is Faith?

How important is faith? (How important is it, that we get this right?)

Heb 11:6

Faith is Not:

- a. Religious optimism, I hope so...
- b. Worked up feelings, I can feel it, it must be true...
- c. A substitute for fact, or a blind acceptance of something

Faith is built on _____

Luke 7:19-22 In effect Jesus said, Here is the *evidence* you need in order to be able to believe. The Walk of Faith, (2 Cor 5:7) usually involves trusting in information that is *unseen*, (not by sight).

Definition

Faith is the non-meritorious system of perception whereby we:

- 1) Are provided information (spiritual truth).
- 2) Come to an understanding of the information, and determine it is true.
- 3) Decide to Rely and Trust in that information

(even though we may not understand the specifics...)

We put our faith in a *Person*, (*or Object*)

in order to provide a _____ - Rather than relying upon ourselves.

We trust a doctor to operate, a teacher to speak truth, a pilot to fly the airplane, a chair to hold our weight, the county water system for clean water.

We entrust ourselves to someone or something. Faith must have an object.

The merit of our faith is in the object, not the amount of our faith.

One aspect of wisdom is the discernment to determine where to place our faith.

Give other examples where we express faith:

What is Biblical Faith?

The only distinction of Biblical faith, is the object of our faith involves spiritual, usually unseen information contained in Scripture. We cannot see God, heaven, Jesus, creation, the flood, the cross, or the second coming. These are persons, places and events that are included in the Bible.

Example: When your 4th grade teacher told you about the country England, did you believe it? Why? You trusted the source of the information, your teacher. For you personally, it was "unseen" information, yet you believed it to be true.

So it is with Biblical faith. There is sufficient evidence for us to trust the source document, the Bible, even though it communicates unseen things.

The Greek word translated "to believe" is πιστεωω, pisteuo (the verb form).

The noun form of the same word, πιστις, pistis is translated "faith." Remember, faith must always have an object.

Developing our Faith

It should be the goal of every believer to have our faith grow and become stronger. This happens through a continual process of:

- 1) _____ the _____ Rom 10:17
- 2) Exercising, or Responding
 The Word must be _____ with faith Heb 4:1-2
 Walk in Him, _____ in your faith Col 2:6-7
- 3) The _____ of our faith by fire 1 Pet 1:6-7

Because the information is spiritual, the enablement of the Filling Holy Spirit is necessary to be able to understand God's spiritual truth.

1 Cor 2:12-13

Running the Race of Faith

Heb 12:1-2

vs 1, We have examples from the OT, (Heb 11), What are we to lay aside?

To complete the race will require _____

vs 2, What must be our Focus?

What is the focus of your life?

The Faith Rest Walk (FRW)

Faith is a system of perception. It is a process where we accept something to be true without being able to verify it through other systems of perception such as seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, or by some method of rational thought. Most of what we learn in life, we accept by faith. In spiritual things, faith is the only means of perception because it doesn't depend on our physical or mental abilities, (not by human effort). God has done all the work in providing us spiritual truth, we have only to accept it **by Faith**. (Grace all the way)

Definition

The *Faith-Rest-Walk* is the function of a believer where we use or apply Bible promises, principles, and doctrine to move through various circumstances in life. By doing this the believer is able to enter into God's rest - a rest not dependent on circumstances.

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” Rom 8:32

The Example of Jehoshaphat

Jehoshaphat was a Good King	2 Chron 19:3; 20:3
Followed David's example	17:3
Sought the Lord	17:4, 18:31
Greatly prospered	17:10-18:1
Failure: Alliances with Ahab	18:1-2

2 Chron 20:1-30

vs 1 Circumstances: Threat to national security, _____ & _____

vs 2 Knowledge of problem received

vs 3 Response - Fear, very normal response,

However, he turns and seeks the Lord. Ps 56:3

This is a hopeless situation from a Human Veiwpoint. He prays for Help.

Prayer is the means of seeking help and an expression of our willingness to wait for God's provision.

2 Chron 20:1-30 (continued)

Answers to blanks
are in App A

- vs 5-9 Orientation to God's character and plan _____
 God's sovereignty and power
 Past divine provision
 Existing blessing, sanctuary - visual reminder
 Commitment to seek out the Lord's help
- vs 10-13 Request for Victory, Petitions God
 Powerless, Totally dependent on the protection of God
 Focus on the Lord not on the problem.
- vs 15 God's promise, "Battle is God's" Heb 13:5-6 _____
- vs 16 Required to face the problem
- vs 17 Nothing they could do, told to stand and see
 the salvation/deliverance of the Lord.
- vs 18 Worship and Praise, because of God's promise,
 even before its fulfillment _____
- vs 20 Obedience, rose up and went out, told to trust in the Lord.
- vs 21 Thanksgiving
- vs 22-23 At the time they began to walk by faith, the enemy self destructs.
- vs 25-30 Results: Blessing, joy, security, peace, rest _____

Background Passages Underlying the FRW

Children of Israel Leaving Egypt

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Plagues | Ch 7-12 |
| Pillar of cloud and fire | Ch 13 |
| Deliverance across Red Sea | Ch 14 |
| Provision of Manna | Ch 16 |

Ex 17:1-7 No Water

- Camped at Rephedim, in the wilderness of Sin
- vs 1-3 Complained, no one expressed faith in God providing water
- vs 6 Moses struck the rock
- vs 7 Place named Meribah because the sons of Israel complained

Num 13-14 Arrived at Promised Land

- vs 25 - 33 The spies reported the land was wonderful.
 - Only Caleb and Joshua recommended they take the land. (DVP)
 - But the other men said the people are too strong. (HVP)
- vs 14:1 - 4 People cried, let's return to Egypt. (HVP)
- vs 5-10 Response of Joshua and Caleb (DVP)
- vs 11-12 Response of God: "How Long _____?"
- vs 13-19 Pray of Moses on behalf of the people,
 - Moses appeals to _____
- vs 22-25 Consequences of their unbelief: _____
- vs 28-39 They were verbally rebuked by God through Moses.
 - vs 29 all 20 and over will die in the wilderness
 - (37.5 yrs, 1.5 million people, 85/day, 7/hr are buried for 37 yrs)
- vs 40-45 Tried to go in on their own power, They were defeated,
 - Required to wander in the wilderness for another 37 years.

Num 20:1-6

- Next Generation, No Water at Kadesh in Wilderness of Zin
- vs 1-5 Same reaction, complained, longed for Egypt
- vs 7-12 Sin of Moses, made an issue of sin not grace, but God provided the water from the rock.
- vs 13 Called the waters of Meribah because Israel complained.

Ps 95:6-11 Song of David

- Referring back to the 'No Water' Situations
- vs 1-5 Come let us...
- vs 6 Come let us _____ and _____
- vs 7 For He is:
 - and we are:
- vs 8 WARNING:
- vs 11 "Therefore, I swore in My anger, Truly they shall not enter into My rest."
 - Why is God angry?
 - What was the "rest" offered to that generation?
 - What is the "rest" that David speaks of? (Hint, it is not salvation)

Faith Rest Presented in the New Testament

The theme throughout the book of Hebrews is the superiority of Jesus Christ. The writer is warning believers of going back to Judaism.

Heb 3:1-6 Jesus Christ is superior to Moses.

Heb 3:7-19 Canaan Rest, an example of failure Josh 22:4-6

Writer refers back to the failure to believe God and enter the land, by quoting Ps 95:7-11

vs 8-11 "*when they provoked Me*", Greek word for Meribah

vs 12 Warning: _____

vs 13 but Encourage one another

vs 14 The effectiveness and reality of our partnership with Christ experienced in our life depends on using the same confidence (faith) that we used in salvation to claim the promises of God's Word. Col 2:6-7

vs 17-18 Questions regarding the Exodus generation

vs 19 They did not enter God's rest because of unbelief, In what?

Heb 4:1-16 Promised Rest

vs 1 Warning: "*Therefore, let us fear lest while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.*"

vs 2 What is the good news?

(Hint: this warning is written to believers. The good news they are in danger of missing is not the Gospel. See vs 6)

What was the problem? _____

vs 3 How do we enter the promised rest? _____

vs 4 The Quality of the Rest, God's Rest, He rested on the 7th day
Man was created to enjoy God's Rest. Gen 1:27-31

vs 5-6 For the Exodus generation, the good news of promised rest was the Land

vs 7-8 In David's day, there is another good news of promised rest, but it was not the rest of the Land obtained through Joshua.

vs 9 Therefore: There remains a Rest available today, for the people of God!

vs 10 Characteristic of one who has entered His Rest

There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

The Means to Enter God's Rest

vs 11 *"Let us be diligent to enter into that rest lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience."*

vs 12 The Object of our faith, the Word of God

vs 14 This verse picks up where Chap 2:17-18 left off, talking about the superiority of Jesus Christ as our high priest, who gives us confident access to the Throne of Grace, vs 16.

Summary Statement to the Original Recipients of Hebrews

The Exodus Generation failed to enter God's promised rest of the Land, due to unbelief. David warned the people of God in his day of a failure to enter God's Rest. So also, these believers started out well, but to revert back to Judaism would be disobedience to the One who promised them Rest, Jesus Christ.

Matt 11:28-30

You have come to the Father, John 14:6

To revert back to Judaism would be the same manner of unbelief and result in not experiencing God's Rest. vs 11 Therefore Be Diligent to Enter His Rest!

Faith Rest Walk Summary

2 Cor 5:6-10

Col 2:6-8

Faith - The object of the believer's faith is the Word of God.

Rest - The result is inner peace, confidence, stability, no matter what the circumstances.

Walk - This is daily, step by step
It should be the normal way of life for the believer.

1) Claim a promise from the Word.

This stabilizes our thinking, gets our minds off of the problem and onto God.

2) Apply biblical principles that are relevant to the situation.

For example: God's character, God's Plan for our life, Examples from Scripture.

3) Arrive at a divine viewpoint conclusion to meet the circumstances.

Prayer

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 5-10.
 Have someone share "Their Story." Practice presenting the Gospel.

Looking Up:

Discuss your insights from this week.
 What difficult situation are you facing now?
 Work through the FRW process and arrive at a DVP conclusion.

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Build Your Promise Toolbox *(What promises are you ready to claim?)*

<i>Anxiety</i>	1 Pet 5:7	<i>Prayer</i>	Heb 4:15-16
<i>Courage</i>	Deut 31:6, Is 41:10, 51:12	<i>Peace</i>	I John 5:14-15 Is 26:3-4
<i>Details of Life</i>	Ps 37:4-5 Matt 6:33	<i>Protection</i>	Phil 4:6-7 Ps 34:7
<i>Guidance</i>	Prov 3:5-6	<i>Provision</i>	Ps 33:18-19 Phil 4:19
<i>God in Control</i>	Rom 8:28 I Thess 5:18	<i>Strength</i>	Is 40:31 Phill 4:13
<i>Success</i>	Joshua 1:8-9		

Caution:

This is not "Name it and Claim it." This is not a promise that God will do what we want. The issue is arriving at a Divine Viewpoint Conclusion for our situation.

Preparation for Section 7

Complete Section 7: Discerning God's Will

Going Deeper: *Just Do Something* Kevin DeYoung

Disciple Maker Assignment

Continue to pray for those in your life who need Jesus, and for an opportunity for a spiritual conversation.

Jesus served people. What can you do to demonstrate the love of Jesus?

Section 7: Discerning God's Will

Does God have a will for our lives?

How do we know what it is?

Memorize
Eph 2:10

In the life of every believer, there is a fundamental struggle in our hearts. Do I live my life God's way, or My way? What do the following say about God's will and man's will?

Col 1:17-20 That He will come to have _____ in everything

Prov 14:12 The way of man leads to _____

This entire discussion is based upon a premise: God has a Plan for my life. Since that is true, I need to discern God's will for my life.

Eph 2:10

Acts 13:36

Characteristics of God's Will, (Can I Trust God?)

Jer 29:11

God is Good, All the Time.

James 4:13-17

God's will extends through every area of our lives. Consider the following:

Rom 1:10

James 4:13-17

God's Will is consistent with His Character:

Dan 4:35

God is All Powerful

2 Chron 20:6

Amos 4:7-9

Rom 11:33-34

God is All Knowing

Heb 4:13

Principle: Because of Who God is, I can Trust Him.

Categories of God's Will

Theology is man's attempt to understand the infinite God. One method to help our limited understanding is to group truths into categories. Our effort here to categorize God's will is a meager attempt to better understand God.

The Sovereign Decreed Will of God

God has decreed His Plan Ps 135:6; Is 46:9-10

Acts 2:22-23	The predetermined plan of Christ going to the cross
Rom 11:25,33	The partial hardening of Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles
Phil 2:9-11	Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Jesus is Lord
Acts 17:26, 31	The time and place of every person, and the judgment to come

God has predestined the eternal destiny of every believer

Eph 1:5,11; Rom 8:29, adoption, inheritance, conformed to the image of Christ

The Decreed Will of God will come to pass!!

The Desired Will of God,

God created angels and mankind with a free will.

God has revealed in Scripture His desired will for all mankind, especially for believers:

1 Tim 2:3-5	Desires all men to be saved
<u>Deut 30:19</u>	To Israel, I set before you life and death, Choose life!

The will of God for every believer, 100's of commands in Scripture:

Love God, love your neighbor, work as unto the Lord, submit to authority,
Walk in the light, Be filled with the Holy Spirit, Be devoted to one another,
Make disciples, Flee immorality, Do not show partiality, etc etc etc.

The Desired will of God should be the priority of every believer.
The desired will of God is revealed in Scripture. We are to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, James 1:22. It is the will of God revealed in Scripture to which every believer will be held accountable.

The Directional Will of God

In **some** situations, God has a specific directional will for the believer, but not always.

Examples in Scripture: Abraham, Jonah, Paul in Acts 16:6-9

What does God want me to do in this specific situation?

The believer is to always submit their plans to the Lord, Prov 3:5-6; James 4:13-17

Discerning God's Directional Will

Valid Questions to ask:

Operational: *What does God want me to do?*

What principles in Scripture apply to this situation?

Mental: *What does God want me to think?*

Divine viewpoint, Is 55:7-11; 2 Cor 10:5; Rom 12:2; Phill 2:5; 4:8

Geographical: *Where does God want me to be?*

Example, Jonah, Paul's missionary journeys Acts 13:2,4; 15:28; 16:6

Basic Principles on Divine Guidance

Divine Guidance is for believers.

1 Cor 2:14-16

Believers are instructed to know and follow the will of God.

Eph 5:17

Rom 12:1-2

God offers Promises of Divine Guidance.

Ps 32:8

Ps 73:24

Prov 3:5-6

Prov 16:6

Is 48:17

Is 58:11

God's leading will be consistent with Scripture. God will not lead us to do something contrary to His Word.

There is no set rule by which one can determine exactly what to do for every decision. It begins with a mental attitude of humility and a desire to please God. In 1 Cor 7, Paul addresses marriage, and the decision whether to marry. Note what he says in vs 35:

1 Cor 7:35

Components of God's Leading, (Avenues)

(The following study is taken from
"Fruit from the Frucht" Winter 99.)

- 1 _____ God causes events to happen by which we are guided.
- 2 _____ *of God's Word*: God has already spelled out what He wants us to do in many areas:

Heb 4:12-13
Pray
Luke 18:1
Walk by Faith
2 Cor 5:7
Learn the Word
1 Pet 2:2
Witness
1 Pet 3:15
Assemble with believers
Heb 10:25
- 3 Be sensitive to the leading of the _____.
Rom 8:14; John 16:13
- 4 Pursue God, Go to the Lord in _____.
Phil 4:6-7; Prov 16:3; James 1:5
- 5 Use your _____. God has given us the ability to think, reason, evaluate, and make decisions. Prov 14:15; James 4:13-17; Prov 16:9
- 6 Apply Godly _____. As we grow spiritually, we gain wisdom that enables us to apply the principles of Scripture to the events of life, and make better decisions. "Skill in living." James 1:5
- 7 Seek out the wise _____ of others: Prov 12:15; 15:22

A Common Pitfall, A Danger in Discerning God's Will

Some teach, God has a Perfect Plan for your life. This leads to the conclusion the believer must discover God's perfect will for every situation. If we do not determine God's perfect will, we may make the wrong decision, and miss out on God's perfect plan for our lives. This has a paralyzing effect. We become afraid to make any decision, until we have a "clear calling from God."

The Biblical examples used to teach the Perfect Plan View invariably include a supernatural revelation to people God has chosen to fulfill a specific role in the outworking of His Plan. It is not appropriate to apply these examples to our everyday decisions in life.

Maintaining a Balanced View of God's Will

*Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that you may prove what the will of God is,
that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:2*

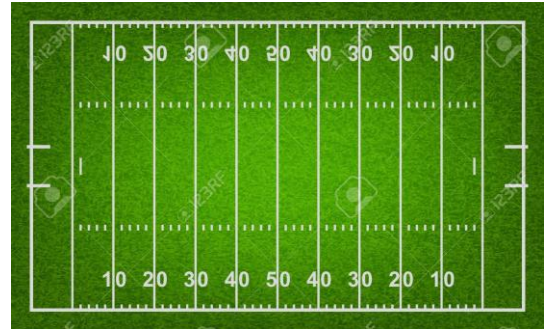
Discerning the will of God is kind of like the game of football. It is God's will for us to move down the field and score a touchdown.

There are boundaries and rules to the game.
(Do's & Don'ts in Scripture)

We have choices as to the best play to call.
(We gain wisdom as we play the game.)

Sometimes the coach calls in a play.
(God has a specific directional will for this situation.)

Some plays result in a gain of yardage, some plays result in a loss of yardage.
(We make wise and foolish decisions. The topic of the entire book of Prov.)



Practical Factors in Maintaining Balance

Obey the Commands in Scripture. There are certain areas of life specifically addressed in Scripture. We simply must obey.

When Scripture seems silent: We are called on to make many decisions without clear guidance from Scripture. Make the decision:

With an attitude of _____ on the Lord, humbly seeking His will, and moving forward with a desire to please and honor the Lord.

Applying whatever _____ you have gained through prior life experiences.

Instead, you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that. James 4:15

An Example of Decision Making

*The mind of man plans his way,
But the Lord directs his steps. Prov 16:9*

In the opening of his letter to the Romans, what does Paul express?

Rom 1:8-13

vs 8-9 Paul's priority was serving God

vs 10 He prayed about his plans, he submitted his plans to God

vs 11-12 Paul's plans had spiritual goals.

Rom 15:20-29

vs 25-27 Paul's plans were ordered by priorities

Summary

The Bible reveals the Will of God to us in the form of instructions, principles, and doctrine. The Holy Spirit enables us to understand the Word and guides us in applying it to circumstances where we are seeking God's will. We should also pray for wisdom, think it through, evaluate the circumstances and seek the counsel of other mature believers.

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 6-8.

Have someone present their Story.

Practice presenting the Gospel.

Looking Up:

Discuss your insights from this week.

Give an example of a recent decision where you were seeking God's Will.

What did you learn?

Is there a situation in your life now that requires you to discern God's Will?

Talk through how to apply the principles in this study to your situation.

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Who can you disciple next? Pray for that person and the opportunity.

Additional Notes & Questions

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Spiritual Disciplines

Bible Reading *(Write down something for each day.)*

Follow through with your Bible Reading Plan. If you do not have one, use the plan that is in the Appendix.

Prayer Follow through with your dedicated time of prayer.

Preparation for Section 8

Complete Section 8: Testing and Suffering

Disciple Maker Assignment

Who do you know that needs Jesus? Pray for them specifically.

Ask God for an opportunity to have a spiritual conversation with them.

Asking Good Questions is the key to opening up a spiritual conversation.

What are some good questions you can ask?

The Five Rhythms of the Church

Note the rhythms we observe modeled for us in the book of Acts.

- | | |
|---|---|
| R1: They <u>Prayed</u> | Acts 1:14; 2:42; <u>4:31</u> ; 10:9; 12:5, 12 |
| R2: They were <u>Filled</u> with the Holy Spirit | Acts 2:4; 4:8,31; 13:9, 52 |
| R3: They <u>Spoke</u> the Word of God with boldness | Acts 4:8; <u>8:4</u> ; 13:46 |
| R4: They <u>Endured</u> Persecution | Acts 4:3; 8:1-3 |
| R5: They <u>Devoted</u> themselves to Teaching, Fellowship & Prayer | Acts 2:42 |

What steps are you taking to live out these same 5 rhythms?

Section 8: Living Through Suffering & Testing

Why does suffering exist?

Why does God allow suffering?

<p>Memorize Rom 8:18</p>

The Bible reveals that at the end of the sixth day of creation, God's assessment of all He had created was good, Gen 1:31 Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect *unbroken fellowship* with God. God entrusted stewardship responsibility over His creation to Adam, and had given him the capabilities to carry out that task. Sadly, Adam disobeyed God, and sin entered into the world.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned. Rom 5:12

The Fall of Adam explains the origin of suffering, decay, and death. These all resulted from a broken relationship with God, our Creator.

What was the effect of the Fall on Creation?

Gen 3:8-21

What is the current state of all Creation?

Rom 8:18-22

Gal 1:4

Causes of Suffering

We live in a world that has been ruined by sin. Life is not fair.

Eccl 9:11-12

Other people cause suffering, from simple gossip, to international war

Privation, lacking food, water, etc.

Disease, sickness, genetic disorders

Weather, storms, flooding etc.

Mental, anguish, worry, fear

The abusive use of Authority and Power

There is an Angelic Conflict raging around us, we live in a battlefield

Suffering in Time & in Eternity

Since the fall of Satan and the fall of Adam, there will always be suffering within some realm of God's creation.

Suffering in Time

Suffering of unbelievers, Designed to awaken him to the existence of God and to the reality of eternity, and his need to get right with God. Amos 9

Suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ, This is unique suffering the Lord experienced when bearing the penalty of our sins. Ps 22, Is 53

Suffering of believers, These reasons are the subject of this section.

Suffering in Eternity

Unbelievers, Those people who die without accepting Christ as Savior and therefore choose to stand before God on their own merit, will be judged and sent to the Lake of Fire. Rev 20:12-15; John 3:18

Believers, No Suffering. Rev 21:4

Take a moment to reflect and absorb the full impact of these realities.

Suffering in Life of the Believer

All suffering in the Christian life
is ultimately designed for ***Blessing***.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
1 Pet 1:6-7

For I consider that the suffering of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Rom 8:18

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Rom 8:28

Why God Allows Suffering to Play Out

God created both angels and mankind with free will, and holds both accountable for our decisions. Any given situation of suffering can come from various reasons.

Some Suffering is _____, Divine Discipline

Heb 12:5-11

vs 6 Divine discipline is an expression of God's _____

vs 10-11 What is the goal of God's discipline?

1 Cor 11:27-32

Some Suffering is _____

Suffering can be part of God's Larger Plan

Job 1-4

What was the cause of Job's suffering?

Job glorified God by keeping his focus on God in the midst of suffering.

Lk 16:20-31

How does suffering now compare to suffering in eternity?

John 9:1-7

vs 3 Why was the man born blind?

2 Cor 12:7-10

vs 7 Why was Paul given a thorn in the flesh?

Suffering due to _____ with Others

1 Cor 12:25-27

Rom 12:15

As believers in the Body of Christ, we are all connected.

Suffering due to our Position in Christ

John 15:18-19

2 Cor 4:7-18

2 Tim 1:8-9

1 Pet 3:13-17

1 Pet 4:12-19

vs 19 What is the believer to do in the midst of suffering for Christ?

How Does God Use Suffering?

To Develop our _____ to become more like Christ

In each of the following, How does God use suffering?

Deut 8:11-21

1 Pet 1:7-8

2 Cor 4:8-11

Heb 5:8

Phil 3:8-10

In each of the following, What Character quality is God working?

Heb 10:34-36; James 1:3

Ps 94:12

1 Pet 5:8-10

Rom 5:3

Ps 30:5; 126:6

How does suffering help the Body of Christ care for the weak?

2 Cor 1:3-7

Acts 20:35

1 Thess 5:14

The Believer's Response to Suffering

Our natural short term response is to complain. "Why God?" What do the following passages say about our response?

1 Pet 5:8-11

Is 41:10

James 1:2-4; 1 Thess 5:18

Ps 61:1; 71:12

Ps 62:8

God's Provisions in the Midst of Suffering

Romans 8:1, 22-39

vs 22-25 Waiting eagerly for the H_____ of A_____

vs 26-27 The Holy Spirit I_____ for us

vs 28-30 We K_____ that God is working all this together for G_____

vs 31-34 God has already done the most for us..

and Jesus Christ also I_____ for us

vs 35-39 Our standing is secure, Nothing can S_____ us from God.

It all comes down to: Do I TRUST GOD?

Do I TRUST His Plan?

and what He is doing, long term?

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him,
and rescues them. Ps 34:7*

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 7-8
Discuss the Five Rhythms from the book of Acts listed on pg 7-8.
Practice presenting the Gospel.

Looking Up:

Discuss your insights: How has your perspective of suffering changed?
Is there suffering in your life now, How do you think God is working?

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Spiritual Disciplines

Bible Reading (*Write down something for each day.*)

Follow through with your Bible Reading Plan. If you do not have one, use the plan that is in the Appendix.

Prayer Follow through with your dedicated time of prayer.

Preparation for Section 9

Complete Section 9: Orienting to God's Grace

Memorize: *2 Pet 3:18*

Disciple Maker Assignment

Who do you know that needs Jesus? Pray for them specifically.

Follow up with a spiritual conversation. What is the next step?

Are they ready to hear Your Story?

Take steps to invite the person(s) you hope to lead through this study.

Section 9: Grace Orientation

What is Grace?

How can we live out the Christian way of Life?

Memorize
2 Pet 3:18

We love to talk and sing about grace, but living out grace is a different matter. To get us started, note the five statements of Paul to the Galatians:

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain." Gal 2:20-21

I am _____ with Christ
 Christ lives ____ Me
 I live by _____
 God _____ me, He gave Himself for me!
 I must live according to the _____ of God.

The Importance of Grace Paul asks five rhetorical questions:

Gal 3:1-5

Who deluded you?

Did you receive God's Spirit by doing good works or by faith?

What is the root means of spiritual growth and maturity?

You have suffered much in the past due to your profession of faith.

Were these suffering to no purpose? Background in Acts 14.

What is the basis of God's present work?

Is God's blessing on the basis of *Law-Works*, or *Grace-Faith*?

Gal 3:6-9

the example of Abraham, quoting Gen 15:6

The two main features of Judaism, Circumcision and the Law were not the basis of spiritual life and blessing. Paul demonstrates that even for father Abraham, he believed God, (the *Grace-Faith* way) and it was counted to him as Righteousness.

The Three Phases of Grace

Grace is God's Free and Unmerited Favor.

Principles of Grace

Titus 2:11-14

vs 11 Salvation is offered to all man by grace (Past)

vs 12 God's grace leads to what kind of living? (Present)

vs 13 Grace living leads to what kind of focus? (Future)

vs 14 What are the two intended results of the Lord's redemptive work?

Eph 2:8-9 Salvation is by Grace

2 Pet 3:18 We are to _____ in Grace

2 Tim 2:1-2 We are to be _____ in Grace & Reproduce

The Christian Way of Life, (CWL) is by Grace

Every aspect of the CWL is enabled by God's grace:

Eph 1:7 Our standing in Christ

Heb 4:16 _____, our ability to approach God

Rom 6:14 Power over _____

2 Cor 9:8 God's provisions

Eph 3:8; 4:7-11 Giving & Enablement of Spiritual _____

2 Thess 2:16-17 Comfort & _____

Take a moment to reflect and absorb the full impact of these verses.

How should Grace impact our view of: 1) ourselves, 2) others, 3) our ability to serve, 4) our assessment of the service of others, 5) our standing before God? Do you see why God values Humility?

What does a “Grace Oriented” Believer look like?

A grace oriented believer is a fully functional, balanced believer who demonstrates spiritual maturity through tangible expressions of Christlikeness.

A grace oriented believer:

Maintains a Dependency upon God, They are convinced of the faithfulness of God, and are quick to depend on God through every life situation. Heb 10:23, 38; 11:6; Rom 14:22

Models the Humility of Christ, They look to the interest of others. Phil 2:5-8
1 Pet 5:6-7; 1 Cor 4:6-7; 1 Cor 1:26-31

Demonstrates Holy Living, through the filling of the Holy Spirit, Gal 5:16-26
1 Pet 1:13-16; 4:10-11

Embraces our Identity in Christ, Views life as an offering to God, Gal 2:20-21
Rom 12:1-2; Eph 4:1; 2 Cor 5:14-15

Has Eyes Fixed on Jesus, maintains a focus on our eternal destiny,
Heb 12:1-2; Titus 2:13

The Outflow of Grace

*But by the grace of God, I am what I am,
and His grace toward me did not prove vain...1 Cor 15:10*



What about the Law?

The Law was a system of conduct and framework for the function of government for the nation Israel. It contained a moral, social, and spiritual code.

Moral Code -	Commandments Ex 20:1-17, Deut 5:6-21
Social Code -	Social Life Ex 21:1-24:11, Lev 11-15, 18-20 Diet, Sanitation, Taxation, Military Service Marriage, Divorce
Spiritual Code -	Ordinances of Religious Life Ex 24:12-31:18 Levitical Feasts Lev 23-25 Levitical Offerings Lev 1-10

Scope & Purpose of the Law

The original promise to the nation Israel, was given to Abraham. Gen 12:1-3
Gal 3:15-19

vs 16 The promise will be fulfilled through the "seed," Jesus Christ

vs 17 The Law came 430 years later, The promise to Abraham is still in effect

vs 19 Why was the Law given?

How long is the Law in effect?

What is the Purpose of the Law now?

Rom 3:19-20

vs 20 By the Law comes the _____ of _____

Therefore the law was our tutor to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:24-26

For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. Rom 6:14

The Believer in Christ is not under the Law! The living out of the Christian way of life is not by trying to keep the law. (that is Legalism)

The Christian way of life is now lived out by utilizing the supernatural grace provisions of God.

The Contrast of Law vs. Grace

Living under the Law, and living under grace are total opposites.

Law

Grace

a) Different Areas of Divine Rule

Addressed to one nation Deut 5:1
Rom 9:4

Addressed to "the Church"
Gal 3:26-28, Eph 3:6

Promise to inherit the land Deut 30:16-18

No land, strangers and pilgrims

b) Different Rules of Conduct

Love thy neighbor as thyself Lev 19:18
Keep the law

Love as God loves John 13:34
Imitate Christ 1 Cor 11:1

c) Different order of blessing & obligation

Deut 28:1-68
vs. 1 Obey, God will bless
vs. 15 Not obey, cursing
Deut 30:15-20

Eph 1-3 God has already blessed
Eph 4 "Therefore walk..."
Rom 12 "Therefore..."

d) Different degrees of Divine Enablement

Energy of the Flesh Deut 6:5
heart, soul, & might

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
Acts 1:8, Gal 5:22-25

The Counterfeit of Legalism

Legalism starts with a mind set to live out a set of external standards of conduct with the intent to gain the approval of God or others - Anything we do to earn the favor of God. Jesus warned of empty religious ritual and activity.

Mark 7:6-8

It is easy to fall into legalism, if we lose the distinction between

Biblical Principles and Personal Convictions.

Personal convictions are fences we build into our lives so as not to violate Biblical principles. (that is good) However, allowing a conviction to become a principle that we impose on others, leads to legalism.

Principle: Phil 4:8

Conviction: I will not view R-rated movies

1 Cor 6:19

I will not smoke or drink



Convictions

What about Self Discipline?

Where does self discipline fit into the Christian way of life?

*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. **But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. 1 Cor 9:24-27*

Self-discipline incorporates “exercises” that result in benefits that foster our spiritual growth.

Bible Study

Memorizing Scripture

Consistent Prayer Time

Faithful attendance & service

Danger: These “exercises” must never become a performance measurement aimed at trying to earn God’s blessing, (or man’s approval). We run the race from a love response to all that God has already done. 2 Cor 5:14-15

Continuing the athletic analogy, we must distinguish between

Training Exercises and Running the Race.

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 8-6.

Practice presenting Your Story.

Looking Up:

How has this study influenced your view of the Christian life?

Discuss the difference between grace orientation and legalism.

What spiritual disciplines have you incorporated into your life?

Decide together, where you go from here.

Who in your life can you come alongside and disciple?

What Next?

This series is intended to move you toward spiritual maturity through the proper orientation to God's grace provisions for supernatural living. Hopefully from your study, you have a greater appreciation for all that God has done to enable us to walk in a manner pleasing to Him. This should change our lives. Paul said it this way:

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 2 Cor 5:14-15

We are on a life long journey of following Christ, such that He can transform us into *Fishers of Men*. Disciples who Make Disciples, Matt 4:19.

To continue your journey, consider the following pursuits.

1. **Time with God:** Spend quality time with God each day. Lift up your prayer requests to the Lord and continue the habit of reading the Bible each day. John 15:1-11
2. **Local Church:** Faithfully attend and serve in a church that teaches the Bible. Develop "one another" church family relationships. Rom 12:10
3. **Make Disciples:** Find 2 or 3 others who you can lead through this series. Do not let this booklet sit on a bookshelf and collect dust!! Use this, along with the other Ambassador Tools listed on the back inside cover, to *Make Disciples who Make Disciples*.
4. **Continue Your Training:** Series 4, *Serving the Lord*, is the next booklet in this series. It covers the practical aspects of how to serve the Lord in a manner that is glorifying to Him.

We were created to enjoy fellowship with God forever. Until we meet the Lord face to face, we have the privilege of participating in His kingdom work.

*And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Matt 4:19*

*Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.
1 Cor 15:58*

Appendix A, Answers to Blanks

Intro Section Notes

Pg iii God Created heaven

God Loves us

a relationship with us

All have sinned

The penalty of sin is death

Pg iv Jesus Christ died for our sins

and was raised on the 3rd day

Pg v He who Believes has eternal life

Section 1 Notes

Pg 1-1, You shall be My Witnesses

Pg 1-2, Therefore we are Ambassadors for Christ

Pg 1-3, The Condition: Follow Me

Transformation: and I will make you

The Goal: Fishers of Men

Pg 1-4, Make Disciples

How: Baptizing them...

Teaching them...

You will receive Power

and you shall be My Witnesses

Section 3 Notes

Pg 3-6, We seek to learn the Principles in the WOG

To prepare, we seek to memorize the Promises in Scripture

Section 4 Notes

Pg 4-4, Concerning Sin, Righteousness, Judgement

Section 5 Notes

Pg 5-2 The Spirit Teaches Spiritual Truth

The Spirit Leads the Believer

The Spirit Gives Assurance to the Believer

The Spirit promotes Praise & Thanksgiving

The Spirit Makes Intercession for the Believer

The Spirit Enables the Believer

Section 6 Notes

Pg 6-1 Faith is built on fact

We put faith in a Person in order to provide a Service...

Pg 6-2 Developing our Faith:

Transforming the Mind

The Word must be Mixed with Faith

Walk in Him, Established in your faith

The Testing of our Faith by fire

Will require Endurance

Pg 6-3 & 4 Example of Jehoshaphat:

Fear & Worry."

Prayer

God's Promise

Response

Results

Pg 6-5 Arrived at the Promised Land:

vs 11-12 How Long will this people spurn Me?

vs 13-19 Moses appeals to God's Reputation

vs 22-25 God would not all them to enter

Pg 6-6 Heb 3:7-19

vs 12 Warning: Do not fall into the same unbelief

Heb 4:2 Problem: Did not mix the Word of God with Faith

vs 3 How to enter rest: By believing, Faith

Section 7 Notes

Pg 7-2 The Sovereign Decreed Will of God

The Desired Will of God

The Directional Will of God

Pg 7-4 God's Leading:

Providence

Knowledge of God's Word

Holy Spirit

Prayer

Our Minds

Wisdom

Council

Pg 7-5 Balanced View
An attitude of Reliance
Applying whatever Wisdom

Section 8 Notes

Pg 8-3 Why God allows Suffering:
Some Suffering is Deserved
Some Suffering is Undeserved
Suffering due to Association with Others

Pg 8-4 God uses Suffering
To Develop our Character to become more like Christ

Pg 8-5 Romans 8:
vs 22-25 Waiting eagerly for the Hope of Adoption
26-27 The Holy Spirit Intercedes for us
28-30 We Know that God is working all this together for Good
vs 31-34 God has already done the most for us..
and Jesus Christ also Intercedes for us
vs 35-39 Our standing is secure, Nothing can Separate us from God

Section 9 Notes

Pg 9-1 Grace Principles:
I am crucified with Christ
Christ lives IN Me
I live by Faith
God loves me, He gave Himself for me!
I must live according to the Grace of God

Pg 9-2, We are to Grow in Grace
be Strong in Grace
Prayer,
Power over Sin
Enablement of Spiritual Gifts
Comfort & Hope

Pg 9-4, By the Law comes Knowledge of Sin

Appendix B, Additional Resources

<i>Sin, the Savior, and Salvation</i>	Robert P. Lightner
<i>He that is Spiritual</i>	Lewis Sperry Chafer
<i>Just Do Something</i>	Kevin DeYoung
<i>Basic Theology</i>	Charles C. Ryrie
<i>Major Bible Themes</i>	Lewis Sperry Chafer & John F. Walwood

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Bob Theime, Jay Chappell, George Miesinger, Ron Merryman, Charlie Clough,
The professors of Capital Bible Seminary
The pastoral staff of Chantilly Bible Church

Thank the Lord for these men who faithfully and carefully taught so many, so we could turn around and teach others also.

Sample Questions to Begin a Spiritual Conversation

Innocent Awe Questions: (Getting to know you)

- 1) What are your life goals?
- 2) What did you want to be as a kid?
- 3) What dreams have you let go of? What dreams do you still hold on to?
- 4) What is your dream job?

Life Based Questions:

- 1) Tell me your greatest success along the way?
- 2) What is the biggest thing you have learned on your journey?
- 3) What was the best advice, or wisdom ever passed on to you?

Other belief systems: (Getting to know your worldview)

- 1) What kind of belief system did your family have growing up?
- 2) How can all religions be right and so different?
- 3) How is it possible for a person to know what is right?
- 4) What is the source of your moral authority?

Right & Wrong:

- 1) Do you think there are absolutes when it comes to right and wrong?
- 2) How do you teach your kids right from wrong?
- 3) Why do you think our culture has moved away from absolutes of R & W?
- 4) Why do people try to live Good Lives?

Knowing God: (Getting to know your view of God)

- 1) Why are there so many misconceptions about God?
- 2) Why do people live as though God does not exist?
- 3) What would God have to do to validate to you that He exists?
- 4) What do you hope is true about God?
- 5) Do you think we are the product of random processes?
- 6) How does your view of God, affect your life?
- 7) What is your biggest question for God?

About Following Jesus:

- 1) How does someone become a Christian?
- 2) Have you ever thought about what it means to be a follower of Jesus?
- 3) Have you ever explored what the Bible says about following Jesus?

Talking about New Birth:

- 1) What do you think when you hear the phrase Born Again?
- 2) Do you ever wish you could get a mulligan, a do over?

The Moment We Believe

The moment we place our trust in the work of Jesus Christ for our salvation, there are a number of supernatural, permanent transactions that God performs to the benefit of the believer:

New Life: Made Spiritually Alive

The natural man is spiritually dead, separated from God, unable to understand spiritual things. At the moment of salvation, the believer is spiritually born, made alive:

From death to life	John 5:24; Col 2:13-15
Born Again into God's family	John 1:12; 3:7; Gal 3:26; 1 Pet 1:23
Regenerated by the Holy Spirit	Titus 3:5
New Creation	2 Cor 5:17; Eph 4:24; 2 Pet 1:3-4
Reconciled	2 Cor 5:18-19

New Home: Transferred Citizenship

The natural man is within the domain of Satan's kingdom. At salvation, the believer is transferred into God's kingdom.

Transferred into God's Kingdom	Col 1:13 (rescued us)
Heavenly Citizens	Phil 3:20

New Standing: Legally Declared Righteous

The relative righteousness of man does not meet the absolute, perfect standard of God's righteousness. At salvation, the believer is credited with the righteousness of Christ and declared justified by God the Father.

Credited with +R of Christ	2 Cor 5:21; Phil 3:8-9
Declared Justified	Rom 5:1; Rom 3:26-28; Gal 2:16
No condemnation	Rom 8:1, 31-34
Cannot be separated from God	Rom 8:35-39

New Identity: Placed "In Christ"

At salvation, the believer is identified with or placed in Christ. This makes possible the pouring out of God's blessing.

In the Body of Christ	1 Cor 12:13
Adopted as adult sons	Rom 8:15; Gal 4:4-7
Inheritance of Christ	1 Pet 1:3-4; Eph 1:11
Complete In Him	Col 2:10
Every Spiritual Blessing	Eph 1:3; 2 Pet 1:3
Seated with Christ	Eph 2:4-7

The Three Aspects of our Relationship with God

Every relationship in life has three aspects:

1. The Basis of the Relationship, Why the relationship exists, in most cases there is a defining event that established the relationship, (birth, wedding, hired for a job, moved into a neighborhood).

Our Relationship with God: The believer's Standing in Christ because of the work of God at the moment we trusted in Christ. We were *born again*. The one time, irreversible transaction described on the previous page.

John 5:24; 1 Cor 1:30; Eph 2:1-9

2. The Experiential State of the Relationship at a given time, Describes how the relationship is doing at the current time. Vibrant, close, OR cold, in conflict, not on speaking terms

Our Relationship with God: Typically expressed in the "Walk" passages. The believer is either Walking in the Light, in Fellowship with God, OR Walking in Darkness, out of Fellowship with God. Conditioned on obedience, and being cleansed through confession.

Jesus used the word "*abide*" in John 15.

Walk Passages:

1 John 1

Gal 5

Eph 4

Col 1:10; 3;

Phil 3:17

2 Cor 5:7

3. The Maturity Level of the Relationship, Describes the nature of the relationship as it has gradually grown over time.

Our Relationship with God: As we grow spiritually, our relationship grows, God relates to us as a child, or as a teen, or as a young adult, or as an adult. Eph 4:11-16; Heb 5:11-14

In 1 Corinthians, Paul is writing to a church that is filled with divisions. In chapter 3, he addresses all three aspects of their relationship with the Lord:

vs 1 I have to speak to you *as infants*, (their Maturity level)

in Christ, (the Basis of their relationship)

vs 2 I gave you milk to drink, (because they are spiritual infants)

vs 3 for you are *still fleshly*, ...

and *walking like mere men*, (Experiential state of their relationship)

Phases of Discipleship Effort

How do we help a person take one step closer to Jesus?

Skeptic, Far from God
 Deceived by the wisdom of the world
 Enslaved by the lusts of the flesh
 No knowledge of God or Jesus
Engage

Growing in Christ
 Following & Serving the Lord
Equip

Questions & Stories

Seeker, Approaching the Cross
 Open to hearing about Jesus
 Under Conviction of Holy Spirit
Evangelize

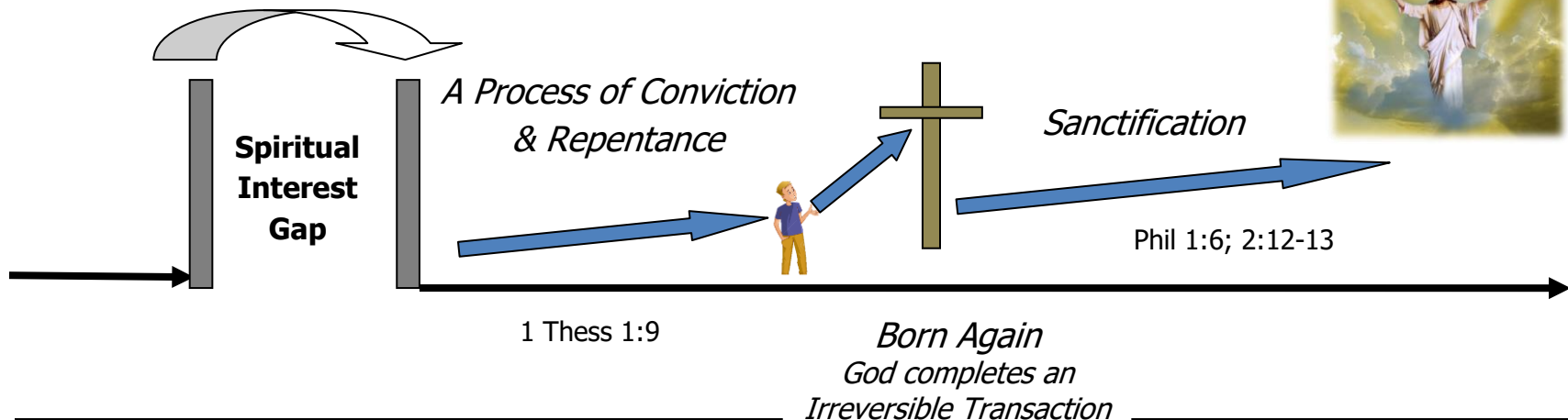
**Follower
 A New Believer**
 Has Trusted in Christ
Establish

DM3 Pressing On
DM4 Serving Fishers of Men

Apathy
No Interest in Spiritual Things

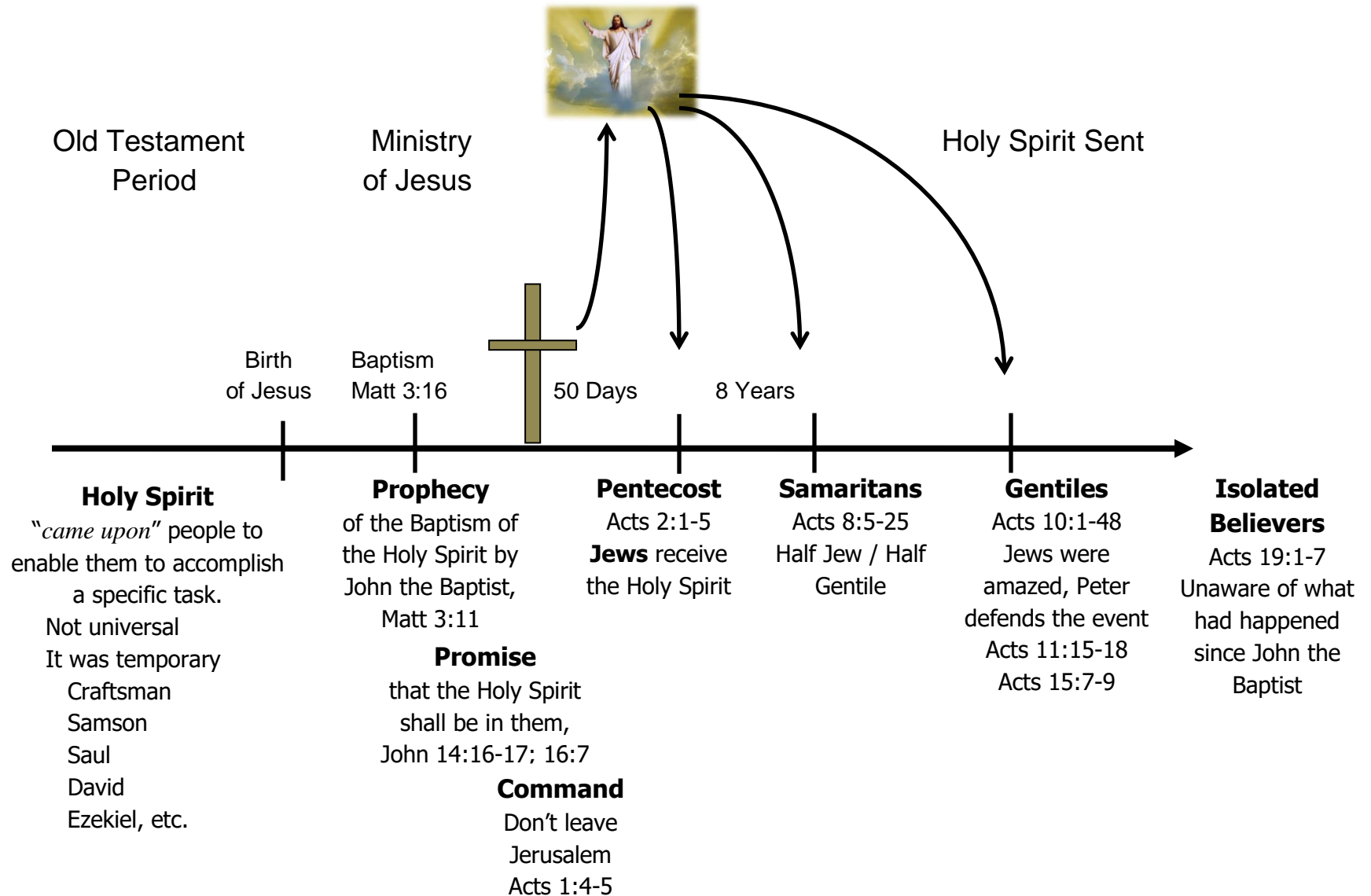
The Invitation
Who is Jesus?
Good News Booklet

New Life in Christ
DM1 Essentials
DM2 Foundations



The Transition of the Holy Spirit's Ministry

For the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified, John 7:39



The Ambassador Toolbox

This booklet is part of a series of materials which together, give us a toolbox of resources we can use to make disciples. Every discipleship opportunity is different. There is no one cookie-cutter approach. However, the following resources are designed to give you a place to start.

3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide, a pamphlet outlining a diagram of circles to initiate a spiritual conversation that sets the context for the gospel.

The Invitation, a 5 week booklet intended for an unchurched person, with minimal exposure to the God of the Bible. Starting with Genesis, how does the Bible answer the fundamental questions of life. "Have you ever read for yourself what the Bible says?"

Who is Jesus? This 5 week booklet is intended for the religious person with some knowledge of the Bible, maybe grew up with some exposure to Jesus, but has never really come to understand who He is.

New Life in Christ This 5 week booklet is for the new believer. I just trusted in Christ, what happens now?

The Good News of Jesus Christ, After you have had a conversation explaining the gospel, this is a follow up booklet. "How about you read through this, and we get back together again next week and talk about it?"

Making Disciples, Series 1, Essentials for the New Believer, an 8 week study that covers the essentials for living a Christ centered life. Don't let the name fool you, it covers good reminders for any believer, no matter how long you have been saved.

Making Disciples, Series 2, Foundations of the Faith, an 8 week study that covers the doctrines of God, man, sin, and salvation. A solid understanding of these foundational topics provide stability and confidence to the believer.

Making Disciples, Series 3, Pressing on to Maturity, an 9 week study that covers the supernatural provisions of God for the believer to walk in a manner that honors Christ.

To be developed:

Making Disciples, Series 4, Serving the Lord



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