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# A Program of Follow-Up In the Local Church

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A PROGRAM OF FOLLOW-UP IN THE  
LOCAL CHURCH

A Project  
Presented to  
the Faculty of the Graduate School  
Western Evangelical Seminary

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts in Religion

by  
Thomas E. Karnes

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
1.	THE APPROACH . . . . .	1
	REASONS FOR THIS STUDY . . . . .	1
	MANNER OF APPROACH . . . . .	10
	DEFINITIONS. . . . .	11
2.	THE BACKGROUND . . . . .	14
	FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL. . . . .	14
	FOCUS ON A MULTIPLICATION MINISTRY . . . . .	16
3.	PREPARATION FOR FOLLOW-UP. . . . .	18
	PASTOR . . . . .	18
	CHURCH . . . . .	20
	PEOPLE . . . . .	22
4.	THE PROGRAM. . . . .	1
	BOOK I . . . . .	1
	INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
	ASSURANCE . . . . .	4
	THE BIBLE . . . . .	9
	PRAYER . . . . .	15
	OBEDIENCE. . . . .	20
	THE CHURCH . . . . .	25
	VICTORY OVER SATAN . . . . .	29
	WITNESS. . . . .	33

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

STEWARDSHIP . . . . .	38
FAMILY RELATIONS. . . . .	43
INFLUENCING OTHERS. . . . .	47
BOOK II . . . . .	51
INTRODUCTION. . . . .	51
IDENTIFICATION. . . . .	54
JUSTIFICATION . . . . .	59
THE HOLY SPIRIT . . . . .	64
SANCTIFICATION. . . . .	70
PRIESTHOOD OF ALL . . . . .	77
GUIDANCE. . . . .	83
GLORIFICATION . . . . .	89
DISCIPLESHIP. . . . .	95
LEADERSHIP. . . . .	101
GOD'S PERSON. . . . .	107
ENDNOTES . . . . .	114
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	117

## Chapter 1

### THE APPROACH

#### REASONS FOR THIS STUDY

The Great Commission, given in Matthew 28: 18-20, says:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."<sup>1</sup>

This scripture passage clearly gives a concrete foundation for the need to go beyond evangelism to the teaching ministry as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ. Christians have been given the greatest task in the world, namely the evangelization of a lost and unrepentant world. However, the job goes far beyond mere evangelism to the task of follow-up. Waylon B. Moore in New Testament Follow-up has this to say:

No other subject is more widely taught and illustrated in the New Testament than personal, consistent, church-integrated follow-up. Most of the epistles of Paul, Peter, and John are follow-up letters to those new in the faith. Paul exclaimed, So naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that know about him. (Colossians 1: 28, Phillips). Through "warning" the evangelistic message is proclaimed; through "teaching" those won are brought into the fulness of life in Christ.<sup>2</sup>

Thus, the New Testament and the Great Commission both demand evangelism and conservation of new believers.

Carl Wilson says, "The greatest need of the church lies in a renewal of the New Testament approach to building disciples and 'teaching them to observe all things' that He commanded"<sup>3</sup> Indeed, the spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ in the apostles' time was amazing and the followers of Christ took literally the command to take the message to all nations of the world. Admittedly, the known world was smaller and there were great cultures such as the Greek and Roman influence with which almost all people were familiar which helped spread the Good News. However, the apostles did not have vehicles for speedy travel, no radio or television and no printed page readily at their disposal. Yet this small group, starting with two (if you start when Jesus called his first followers) and then twelve, then seventy, then one hundred twenty, then into the thousands, and finally people complained in Acts 17: 6 that they had turned the world upside down and inside out. Clearly the early believers were doing something that churches and Christians are not doing today. Waylon B. Moore sums up the difference in this manner:

These early soul-winners were also church-planters; they were not satisfied with merely making converts. They exalted a living Saviour and implanted into their converts truths from God which made them life-changers and nation-changers. To them, being a Christian meant having a vital relationship with a risen Christ. His power flowing through them



was irresistible. But what of us today?

Though this power is still available it is not being used effectively by the average Christian. God cannot be glorified in men and women who have been believers for years and yet are living the same way they did when they first trusted in Christ. Through follow-up, a consistent program of maturing new converts can be carried on as a vital part of the total church ministry.<sup>4</sup>

The real ministry of the church begins at follow-up.

Gary W. Kuhne in The Dynamics of Personal Follow-up, states that "personal follow-up is simply a ministry that has been neglected by Christian leaders....Studies have shown that less than one percent of evangelical church members are involved in personal follow-up."<sup>5</sup> Kuhne goes on to state this opinion,

For many years I thought the lack of personal evangelism was one of the greatest problems facing the church. I have not changed my mind as to the seriousness of this problem. But I now believe the lack of effective follow-up being done in the local church today constitutes an even more dangerous problem for the church at large.<sup>6</sup>

Without exception those concerned with Biblical follow-up agree with Gary Kuhne. On every side it is recognized that one of the major weaknesses of modern Protestantism is at the point of conserving and integrating its converts. Evangelism is not enough. We have become so enamored of numbers that we have lost sight of responsibility for convert development.

Arthur C. Archibald in Establishing the Converts has presented a study of denominational statistics and arrived at this conclusion. He says:

A study of the statistics from all major denominations for the past twenty years reveals that nearly 40 per cent of our evangelistic recruits are lost to the church within seven years of their reception.

It is admitted everywhere that this business of retaining our converts, of developing them and enlisting them in great Kingdom projects, represents the weakest and most vulnerable link in present day Protestant strategy.<sup>7</sup>

The problem of church growth seems not so much to be in the area of converts and evangelism but in follow-up and retention of new believers. Just how serious a problem this is can be seen when one looks at several groups of statistics over a twenty year period. One large denomination had a membership of 1,419,833 and twenty years later this same denomination, after a strong evangelistic campaign had a membership of 1,541,991.<sup>8</sup> This was a gain of 122,158 people in membership. However, during the same twenty year period the denomination recorded a total of 1,080,062 additions to its rolls. Clearly, there is a problem of retaining members. This denomination is not alone. Another main line group had a gain over twenty years of 122,836 new members. However, in the same twenty years 4,122,354 were added to the membership rolls and removed somewhere along the twenty year period. Churches that emphasize Christian Education and missions do tend to have a higher retention rate of members but over one half of all membership gain is usually lost, according to Archibald. This writer concedes that Scripture does prepare us for the fact that some fruit, some new believers will fall away and be lost. However, even

allowing for the birds of the air, the rocky soil, and the thorny soil as described in Matthew 13, this loss rate seems exceedingly high and unacceptable. In the Old Testament, Ezekiel 34: 2-5 makes this loss rate even more serious in terms of the churches spirituality and fitness to serve its Lord Jesus Christ. Ezekiel says this:

Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals.<sup>9</sup>

When the church is considered as the shepherd in these verses, serious condemnation is pronounced by God upon those not caring, feeding and protecting the new converts or the "sheep". The following verses of Ezekiel 34 make it very clear that God is displeased with those who do not look after His sheep and the consequences of non-shepherding the flock are severe. Therefore, with any evangelistic thrust there needs to be a corresponding follow-up thrust as well. One without the other is ineffective and many converts will be lost that should have been kept. The church, if it is going to be truly used of God must prepare itself to nurture, guide, and direct new believers as never before in the history

of the church since apostolic times. Indeed, this lack of preparation for effective follow-up could be a major factor in many churches experiencing no spiritual revival. What would these churches do with any new believers?

Today, Christians live in an encouraging age. There is a new emphasis being put on evangelism and many people are coming to accept Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord. Evangelism Explosion III, the Kennedy method of sharing the Good News is now world wide and rapidly expanding. Campus Crusade and "Here's Life America" (the "I Found It") campaign reached untold millions with at least some success. Billy Graham repeatedly shares on his radio program that never has the entire world been so ready, so hungry for the Good News of Jesus Christ. People are seeing the need for evangelism and all sorts of evangelistic tools and aids are now on the market and churches are growing. People are being saved. However, what happens to these new-born babes in Christ is of utmost importance. Just how well these new believers grow and establish themselves in the Christian faith will depend upon the early care given them now in their formative days after receiving Jesus Christ. Charles Riggs, Director of Counseling and Follow-up for the Billy Graham Team says:

Someone has said that the end result of evangelism is an informed Christian who, in turn, has become a witness. Another has said that the decision is five percent, but the living out of that decision is ninety-five percent.<sup>10</sup>

It takes nine months of care, special diet, exercise, vitamins and medical care for a human infant to be born. After the birth even more work lies ahead for the excited parents. The baby is completely helpless and depends upon its parents for everything it might need. The child, if it is to grow as a healthy normal baby needs its messes cleaned up as a part of living, it needs love, it needs food, it needs protection, it needs training and it needs a lot of time and attention just to start bringing that new baby to maturity. It is not easy or simplistic but tough and time consuming. A person born into the family of God needs the same tender care over a long period of time to become established in God's Word, an active supporting member in the church and to be able to be called mature in the faith. Walter A. Henrichsen in Disciples are Made--Not Born makes a very important point when he points out that God has a Father's heart.<sup>11</sup> Jesus Himself instructs us to refer to God as "our Father." Mankind is shocked and angry when a story of child abuse reaches the news media and especially new born babies evoke great kindness and sympathy when they are found abandoned and without parental care. Offers of adoption, care, love, food, are made by many people and groups. However, concerned, sympathetic Christians have a dulled conscience when they hear of new babes in Christ being neglected. Instead of care and love are excuses and avoidance. And the new Christian has to struggle to survive

and often slips into carnality or back into sin and is lost to God and the church rather than being encouraged and helped toward maturity.

Many Christians and just plain church attenders do not have any depth of spiritual maturity. David Mains illustrates this point. He gave a group of senior high students a primary level text with very simple answers. These senior level boys could not answer who built the ark or who had had a coat of many colors or who Moses was. Mains relates that on a possible score of 100 the average score was 17.<sup>12</sup> The Church of today is basically unhealthy and unable to follow-up new believers simply because they do not know enough of even basic Bible knowledge and doctrine. A "good" Christian is one who attends church regularly and contributes some money. These Christians are as Paul describes them, "You are still worldly....Are you not acting like mere men?"<sup>13</sup> These people are spiritually still babies and not ready to "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that you have."<sup>14</sup> As has been mentioned once before, babes do not grow without care, protection, feeding, guidance, and instruction. In God's plan, a human baby is given two parents to look after it. And even in today's society either the mother or father is present along with a day care center or babysitter to look after the baby and see that it is receiving proper care. But when a spiritual baby is born there is seldom a spiritual

parent or even a step-parent available to encourage, feed, guide and protect this new spiritual baby. Waylon B. Moore says this about the need for spiritual parents looking after new spiritual children of God.

It is unnatural and unhealthy for a new Christian to have to spend years in church without any consistent individual training outside a group situation. Neglected children usually become delinquent, and neglect of spiritual parental care is one reason why we have thousands of delinquent members on our church rolls.<sup>15</sup>

It is commonly estimated and a well accepted statistic that 95 percent<sup>16</sup> of all Christians have never led another person to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and of the 5 percent that do lead others to Jesus Christ 99 percent do not have any method, manner or plan of convert follow-up and establishing the new believer in the Christian faith. Wesley Tracy in New Testament Evangelism Today tells of Billy Graham's experience. "He was saved as a youth and stumbled along in his Christian life for three long years before another Christian ever made a call on him."<sup>17</sup> The author's own experience serves as another illustration of the need for follow-up. Several times as a child and a youth this writer walked to the altar and received Christ as his Saviour only to have the preacher slap him on the back and say to go home and read the Bible, and to pray every day. God would help as needed and see a person through to next Sunday. Then the preacher, the congregation, and the Sunday School teacher left and nothing more was ever said about the

event or the Christian life-style. Any growing or encouragement had to come from within as a new struggling believer. Wesley Tracy so very aptly states how most churches and ministers view new converts when he says, "we count the convert, report the convert, rejoice about the new convert-- then all too often forget him."<sup>18</sup> Thus, the need for a Biblically based program of follow-up or nurture for new or young Christian believers would seem automatic in light of the repeated references to teaching, training, and instructing in the right path of life mentioned in the New Testament.

#### MANNER OF APPROACH

The writer has attempted to state in the preceding pages a clear reason and need for the establishment of a program of Biblical follow-up for new Christians. The author proposes to go about this task in a logical order of progression. Thus, an effort will be made to present the material in an orderly manner beginning with the definition of certain terms. The necessity of a clear understanding of terms is of uppermost importance when working with follow-up material. Some differences between words are minor while others are of great significance. Also, New Testament principles of follow-up will be examined and stated. After this, the preparation for Biblical New Testament follow-up must be considered. Follow-up is not automatic and as with any good and effective program used of the Holy Spirit,



readiness to begin is one of the primary keys to success. And finally, an effort will be made to set forth a series of Bible studies and nurture that will gradually but surely lead a new believer toward spiritual maturity.

### DEFINITIONS

Many terms in the Christian faith have ambiguous meanings. For this reason, it is necessary to state as clearly as possible the meanings desired for certain words used in this study.

For the purpose of this study, a Christian is a person who has repented of and confessed his sins and invited Jesus Christ into his heart as his personal Saviour. This person is trusting only in Jesus Christ for his eternal salvation.

Follow-up is the process of training and grounding the new Christian in the basics of the Christian faith according to the Word of God. The process of follow-up must be a spiritual work that conserves and matures the new believer guiding him to the church and discipleship.

Nurture is a term often used and confused with follow-up, but it has a distinct role. Nurture, specifically, is the spiritual pediatrics part of follow-up. Thus, nurture involves the loving care of a new believer and encouragement for the new believer as he proceeds through the rougher areas of his new life as a Christian. Guidance and the teaching of

God's Word are two important functions of nurture.

Maturity, by its very meaning, indicates that a process of growth through follow-up has taken place. For the purpose of this study, maturity is an end product of follow-up and places the believer at a point of decision. This decision is two-fold. One, it is a decision about his life with Christ. He can go into a deeper relationship of total commitment and a holy life and call Jesus his Lord, or he can remain as a struggling believer and try to survive on spiritual milk. The other decision is whether or not to go forth as one trained and strong in the Word and the faith and begin to teach others what he has learned as he witnesses to others evangelistically.

A disciple is a person who is mature and makes the choice to go further and deeper into the knowledge and service of Christ. To be a disciple indicates a desire to grow and conform more and more to the likeness of Christ and His perfect example. A disciple is still learning, but has committed himself completely to Jesus Christ as his Master and Lord. He is in complete obedience to the wooing and working of the Holy Spirit in his life.

Discipleship is the process of taking a mature believer and making a disciple out of him. This includes all the work of teaching and training in the Word of God, his teaching and training others that are newer believers, and also the work of evangelism and follow-up of those evangelized.

A true discipleship program, or process, will produce a disciple capable of fulfilling II Timothy 2: 2. A discipleship program must be producing disciples who are producing new converts. No matter how good the teaching or the commitment, without new converts disciples are not being produced.

To be a witness is every Christian's duty. A witness shows through speech and action that Jesus Christ is real in the life of that believer. The New Testament illustrates this principle in several instances. John 15: 27 has this to say, "And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning."<sup>19</sup> In another instance, a witness is described as one who knows from first hand experience the reality of eternal life and life in Jesus Christ (I John 1: 1-3). Thus, every Christian can be a witness and must be a witness for Jesus Christ.

## Chapter 2

### THE BACKGROUND

Ironically, the word "follow-up" does not appear in the text of the New Testament.<sup>20</sup> However, the New Testament is filled with examples of biblical follow-up. Jesus spoke parables to encourage and strengthen and teach His followers. The letters in the epistles are constantly encouraging, guiding, or correcting those who are children in the Lord. So, the question has to be asked, just how did the early church nurture and conserve those evangelized? What principles are involved?

The first and most important principle of New Testament follow-up is that it focused on the individual. While the need for a group experience is good and needed, the real thrust of the early church was to care for each person as an individual. Jesus in Mark 3: 13-15 called only a few disciples to be His apostles and spent time with them personally, teaching and training them in one-to-one situations. The use of the analogy of a parent-child relationship is useful here. A child is a part of a larger immediate family and the extended family. However, each child is different and needs individual attention, care, and instruction tailored specifically to the one child if it is to survive and grow

as a healthy and normal human being. This was true in the early church follow-up. Along with the group fellowship was the ever-present individual concern and care for each believer. Paul had the same type of ministry as Jesus. Paul took only a few men with him when he traveled, discipling the few on an individual basis. Throughout his letters, the individual is very much on his mind. Each letter addresses the needs of a particular congregation or problem, but Paul also makes it a point to remember by name those very close to him.<sup>21</sup> Thus, personal contact is the first of the New Testament principles in follow-up.

The second principle of follow-up in the early church was love. Jesus set the standard for the early church when he said, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."<sup>22</sup> To give information and gain knowledge is good, but without love it is worthless and ineffective. Paul in I Corinthians 13: 1-3 clearly makes the importance of love foremost in the Christian life. Experiments have shown that babies that are simply fed and diapered will not grow properly and in some cases die. The reason was simple--no affection, cuddling or love were given to the babies. In the spiritual work of follow-up, this is doubly important because it is the spiritual parent's responsibility to show God's love to the new believer. Love is not quick, nor is it easy, but just as God loved each believer, so each believer is commanded to love the new believer.

Spiritual food from the Word of God is the third principle of New Testament follow-up. In the early church the new converts were taught the Word of God and regularly (daily, in Acts) given the spiritual food necessary for their survival as Christians. The spiritual food is necessary to ensure the well-being and protection of a new convert. Jesus resisted Satan with memorized Scripture when He was tempted. A spiritual parent's job is to show the new believer by example and association how to grow and survive using the Word of God.

A fourth principle of New Testament follow-up is the need for instruction. A new believer does not know all the working of the Christian faith that so often is taken for granted. Can a person ever forget the first time he is asked to pray in public? A great many people do not know how to pray without some guidance and instruction.<sup>23</sup> However, with proper instruction and help a person is ready, willing and able to pray in public. A new Christian has to learn how to read the Bible meaningfully, how to pray, how to resist Satan and overcome sin, how to live a Christian life, and how to witness effectively for Christ. Instruction is needed then, to help mold the new believer into the likeness of Christ.

One other very important principle the New Testament church used was the concept of a multiplication ministry rather than an addition ministry. The apostles were taught

by Jesus for a specific purpose. The purpose was not to enrich the apostles' lives and help them to grow spiritually, but He taught the apostles so they could teach others what they had learned. This is multiplication ministry. If the apostles had simply gone forth and taught one or two people to be good followers of Jesus and then left them doing nothing and gone on themselves to two more, the world would still not know about Christ. The disciples used the method Jesus had used. They taught several what Jesus had taught them and these, in turn, were sent out to teach others who were in turn, sent out. The principle of multiplication and its tremendous value is clear.

The New Testament principles of follow-up are found in the ministry of Jesus. Jesus spent the majority of His ministry training twelve men. He spent individual time with the men. He loved them. He fed them spiritual food from the Word of God. He instructed them on how to be true followers of the Christ-like life. He exemplified the multiplication concept through example and recommendation in the giving of the Great Commission. Thus, through His life, service, and example the apostles were taught and became established and fervent followers of Jesus. These New Testament principles should be a part of every soul-winners follow-up plan or program.

## Chapter 3

### PREPARATION FOR FOLLOW-UP

#### PASTOR

The pastor holds the key to successful Biblical follow-up. He, above all other people, will determine the use of time and priorities a church will follow. Thus, the pastor must believe in personal follow-up. A pastor that believes his responsibility to his congregation and to new converts is simply to preach twice on Sunday and visit the sick will either not keep many converts or will not have any converts at all. However, when the same pastor accepts his responsibility as leader and shepherd of the congregation and believes in personal follow-up a dramatic change in attitude and priorities will occur. The pastor will be looking for those seeking Christ and will eagerly present the gospel and guide the new believers into personal follow-up. The emphasis will be upon people and meeting their needs rather than simply scholarly head-knowledge. Soul-winning and the conserving of spiritual fruit will take the upper most priority over all other activities and duties.<sup>24</sup> Indeed, the pastor's style of ministry will change as he becomes a builder and strengthener of the congregation rather than a



door keeper to those already in the congregation.

How does this happen? There are several avenues of approach, but two stand out as necessary in any personal evangelism and follow-up program. These two principles are: the pastor must be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and let God use his life. If the pastor is busy every night of the week with board meetings and cutting the grass, then God cannot use him in the conserving of new believers. Only as the pastor takes the time to be with new converts on a personal basis can God truly use the pastor in the work of follow-up.

In preparation for personal follow-up the pastor must pay close attention to his own devotional life. As a leader, the pastor will be fighting spiritual battles for the souls of men and it takes all the spiritual resources that can be gathered to his aid. Thus, it is important that the pastor continue to grow spiritually in his personal life with God. With many demands made upon his time as the leader and multiplier of others, this cannot be neglected.

Also, new believers are a little like ducklings just hatched. Ducklings will follow the first thing they see after hatching and believe it is their mother. New believers follow the one who brings them to Christ and they usually follow that person's example. Therefore, as an example, a good devotional life is a necessity.

The ministry of the pastor is always under scrutiny,

but when he becomes involved with follow-up this is especially true. Paul instructs those in leadership roles to exercise good judgment. I Timothy 4: 15-17 says:

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.<sup>25</sup>

New believers will honestly and curiously question his various moves and Satan will try to discredit him in any manner possible. Thus, care must be exercised in both a pastor's public and private ministry when working with new believers.

## CHURCH

A church must have a desire for new converts and their conservation if a follow-up program is to succeed. A church must be willing to sacrifice in a variety of ways to become a nurturing fellowship fit for new believers. One of the greatest needs and most resisted changes is to allow their pastor time for follow-up. But this is important. A pastor that is so busy with maintenance, meetings and messages to keep the faithful mellow and content has no time for follow-up. Thus, the congregation has to agree that it is more important that their pastor spend time with a new believer than with them at a meeting where his presence is convenient but not necessary.

Another sacrifice a congregation must be willing to

accept is the idea they are needed. The congregation has too long sat back, paid the bills, and let the paid staff and Sunday School workers do all the work. A church that is prepared for successful biblical follow-up has a congregation that is motivated, eager, **and** ready to assist in any way possible. This involves a commitment to study the Bible, pray, and to be trained by the pastor as workers with new believers.

A key ingredient to keeping new believers in a church is an open, warm fellowship. Imagine if possible, a church with a new convert. Sunday morning arrives and so does the new convert. However, everyone is busy talking to their close friends and enjoying a feeling of tight-knit fellowship. No one speaks except an occasional "Hello". The convert is asked to move because the Alexander family always sits in that particular place. Others comment in loud whispers that the convert could have worn a different tie or a suit coat. This could go further but the point is achieved. A new believer is not welcome in this church. However, a church willing to talk to their friends later can invite the new convert into the group discussion, introduce him, and let him be a part of the fellowship. Does it really matter whether a person wore a suit or tie to a worship service? Of course not!--to a loving congregation. It must be stated plainly, new converts have rough edges. They will smoke between Sunday School and morning worship, they will drink,

and possibly swear and otherwise not "fit" into the normal Christian pattern. But these smoking, swearing, drinking new believers need to know that the people of God, the church of God, can and do accept them in Christian love and the rough edges will be smoothed by the Holy Spirit, in time.

Anytime a church decides to accept the challenge of personal follow-up, exciting times are ahead. With a clear commitment to this goal, evangelism will occur. Lay people will begin to discover their spiritual gifts and exercise them bringing new vigor and a spiritual life deeper than ever before. New people will enter the church and some will join the church. New faces, new ideas, new growth, new names to remember, will all come with new people.

All of this sounds chaotic and hectic. However, it is so exciting and invigorating that a church will wonder why it didn't do this before. Also, it should be noted, that what in a few brief pages is here listed usually doesn't happen over night or in a month but over several years. Usually, but then why not let your church be the exception!

#### PEOPLE

A question has to be raised at this point. A church is small and has no evangelism and very few workers. What is a pastor to do? This is the third element of preparation for personal follow-up--namely lay preparation. The pastor with rearranged priorities selects a few of his very best people.

These are people who are committed to Jesus Christ and the church and they live lives that exemplify Christ. This group of people would be the "cream" of the church. The pastor can then take these chosen few and begin to follow the example Jesus set in the training of the twelve. By teaching and instructing in evangelism and discipleship the pastor can lead this chosen group and train them to be firm in the Christian faith, capable and ready for any assignment or task. As the pastor quite literally pours his life and knowledge into this group of people, he knows they are learning and will be ready and able to assume responsible leadership when the need arises. This is the key to what follow-up is really all about. Men training men in follow-up and evangelism so that other men can be nurtured and trained and begin to train others in what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

BORN TO LIVE

## Chapter 4

### BOOK 1

There are several good Bible studies on the market such as Robert E. Coleman's seven-week series entitled Established by the Word.<sup>26</sup> The Navigators have a lengthy six book series entitled Studies in Christian Living<sup>27</sup> and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has a four-week Living in Christ<sup>28</sup> series.

This series of Bible studies is designed to be a ten-week course of learning. Each lesson is written to give encouragement and guidance to a young Christian needing help in getting established in his new life in Christ. It is the author's hope and prayer that many will find strength and help in the ten lessons included. The lessons gradually work the new believer into facing his own salvation and eternal life along with such questions as "Must I go to church?" and "Why is money an important part of a Christian's life-style?"

The ten questions in each study usually are simple and many can be answered with only a few words. The last question of each study is a "discussion and deeper thought" question and therefore is generally more detailed and slightly harder than the first nine questions of each lesson. As one goes through the study, he should have plenty of writing

space for answering each question plus a bit extra. This extra space is provided for a purpose: 1. it is the author's intention and hope that the study lesson book will be used more than once; 2. the extra space is provided for noting exceptionally good answers, other scripture verses to look up, starter discussion questions and teaching aids that will be of help in individual Bible study.

Each lesson should take approximately one hour with the verses being looked up and some short discussion or explanation by the leader as needed for clarification. The time allotment easily fits into a home Bible study time or can be used as a Sunday School class for new believers. Due to flexibility of the lessons a suitable hymn title is included with each lesson. Music does much to encourage and strengthen the soul and the author hopes that through the Word and through song the Good News of Jesus Christ becomes implanted and grows to maturity in each believer's life.

The objectives and overview of each lesson are included for the leader's benefit. In case a verse of Scripture does not seem to fit a particular question or there are several answers, the objectives will help the leader determine the most likely application. Also, ten questions cannot begin to cover all that needs to be said about some subjects. Thus, the objectives and overview of each lesson help the teacher of the Bible study to know what areas need to be covered. These can be expanded through group discussion or



3.

as homework assignments, if desired.

## Lesson 1: Assurance

### I. Suggested Song: "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To assist the new believer in knowing that he has eternal life and has it NOW.
- B. To impress the new believer with these ideas:
  - 1. He can know he has eternal life
  - 2. He can know how to keep this relationship going
  - 3. He can know what has happened to bring about this new relationship
  - 4. He can know how to deal with any pressing questions or problems such as devotions, unsaved family members, etc.

### III. Overview

- A. Eternal life is real
  - 1. God wants you to know it
  - 2. God's Word (the Bible) is one way to know
- B. Holy Spirit is real
- C. Knowledge is not all emotion
  - 1. Emotion is part of knowing
  - 2. Faith in God's Word is part of knowing
    - a. Belief that Jesus loves and died for you and arose from the dead is part of knowing
    - b. God is faithful to His Word

D. Knowledge of sins forgiven

1. Freedom from those sins
2. Results:
  - a. Inner peace
  - b. Joy in all circumstances
  - c. Confidence in future with God

E. Sin barrier is removed

1. God is your father
2. You are His child
3. Bible is your guide
4. Holy Spirit ministers to you
5. Inner security confirms your relationship

1. Jesus Christ, God's Son was an individual person and concerned about YOU personally enough to die to pay for your sins. It is a staggering thought--God's Son died for me. To help this realization to sink in look up John 3:16. Read this verse and then, using the paraphrase below, put your name in the appropriate spaces.

"For God so loved \_\_\_\_\_, that he gave his only begotten Son, that if \_\_\_\_\_ believes in him, \_\_\_\_\_ will not perish but \_\_\_\_\_ will have eternal life.

2. What assurance does the Bible give regarding eternal life? See: I John 5:13, 5:1.

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3. It is easy to find fault with one opinion. Besides the Bible, what other source of assurance does God give to the believer? See: I John 4:13, 5:6.

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4. What happens to your sins the moment you believe in Christ? See: John 5:24; Colossians 2:13.

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7.

5. A new relationship between God and you has been established. What is this relationship and how does it make a difference in your life? See: John 1:12; Romans 8:16; John 10:27-29.

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6. There are many benefits to this new relationship. List as many as possible. See: Romans 8:1; John 14:1-3; Romans 5:1; I John 3:14.

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7. How does your belief in Jesus Christ change your outlook upon life and the circumstances that come your direction? See: Romans 8:28; John 14:1-3; Philippians 4:8.

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8. Who is the only source of eternal life? See: Acts 4:10, 12; John 14:6.

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8.

9. Having eternal life gives us much to look forward to. Where would you be if you died without trusting in Jesus Christ and what can you look forward to now that you have trusted in Jesus Christ? See: John 3:16-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Psalm 16:11; Matthew 10:32-33, 6:20; 2 Peter 3:13; John 14:2-3.

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10. Christ wants you to know you have eternal life. Use Revelation 3:20 as a guide and trace the steps that led you to Christ: 1) what you did to let Christ into your life and 2) what were the results of that action? Feel free to use other verses or truths that have been brought out in this study as you give your answer.

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## Lesson 2: The Bible

### I. Suggested Song: "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To encourage the believer to read the Bible.
- B. To help the believer know why the Bible is important.
- C. To consider how to study the Bible.
- D. To stress the devotional life of the new believer.
- E. To give opportunity for guided practice with personal Bible study.

### III. Overview

- A. The Bible is a Christian's guide to daily life
  - 1. The Bible is your means to salvation
  - 2. The Bible can change your life
  - 3. The Bible provides your spiritual food for spiritual growth
- B. The Bible teaches you about God
  - 1. God cannot lie
  - 2. God is trustworthy
  - 3. God provides a personal Tutor
- C. The Bible: a guide to personal study
  - 1. Observe
  - 2. Interpret
  - 3. Summarize
  - 4. Evaluate
  - 5. Apply

6. Actualize

OR

1. Hear
2. Read
3. Study
4. Memorize
5. Meditate

OR

1. Does this teach about any sins I should forsake?
2. Are there promises to claim?
3. Are there examples to follow?
4. Are there warnings to consider?
5. What does it teach me about the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?
6. Are there any other truths?
7. What should I do about these things?



1. As a Christian you must grow or stagnate. What does the Bible tell you young believers need? See: I Peter 2:2; Acts 20:32.

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2. What assurances do you have that the Bible is trustworthy and reliable? See: II Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 6:18; II Peter 1:1-21.

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3. Why is it important to study the Bible? List the reasons. See: II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17.

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4. The following verses have a common theme concerning the Word of God. What is the theme and how is it helpful to you? See: Psalm 119:105, 130; Proverbs 6:23; II Peter 1:19.

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5. It is understandable why Satan tries to prevent serious Bible study in light of what has already been covered. Name some reasons why you might not study the Bible. (Try to think of some of your own ideas first.) See: John 3:19-21.

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6. The Bible itself gives you specific reasons for its existence. To see what the Bible has to say about why it was given, see:

John 20:31 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 15:4 \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 10:11 \_\_\_\_\_

I John 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_

7. God gave His Word to the people of Israel. For what purpose was the Word of God given; how was it received; and with whom was it to be shared? See: Deuteronomy 4:10, 11:18-19.

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From the preceding verses, how important was the Word of God to be in their lives?

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8. Can you add to or delete from the Bible because you like or dislike a particular teaching or command? See: Revelation 22:18-21.
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9. The Bible is worthwhile, important Truth. Yet, it seems difficult to understand and down right confusing at times. Is it possible to always understand what you read in the Bible and who will give guidance as you study the Word? See: II Peter 3:15-16; John 16:13; Psalm 119:18.
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10. Deuteronomy 8:3 says, ". . .man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord." To help you get started and feel at ease with Bible study, turn to I John 1:1-10

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and practice using the personal Bible study suggestions.

See: I John 1:1-10 and "Overview" III, C.

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### Lesson 3: Prayer

I. Suggested Song: "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

#### II. General Objectives

- A. To help the believer to start and maintain a consistent prayer time.
- B. To teach the believer how to pray.
- C. To consider the importance of prayer in the believer's life.

#### III. Overview

- A. Following the example of Jesus
- B. Concrete considerations of prayer
  - 1. How to pray
  - 2. When to pray
  - 3. Why pray
  - 4. Where to pray
- C. Helps and hindrances to prayer
- D. Results of prayer

1. Prayer is very important to the Christian life. To help you understand why prayer is given such importance, look up the following verses for reasons to pray. See: Luke 18:1; I Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 4:16; James 1:5.

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2. Jesus had an active prayer life. To see some examples of Jesus at prayer, look up the verses below (only a partial listing of Jesus at prayer) and state what is significant or new about each instance of prayer. See: Matthew 14:23, 15:36, 26:36, 39, 42, 44; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16, 9:18, 28, 22:42-44; John 11:41.

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3. How often should you pray? See: I Chronicles 16:11; I Thessalonians 5:17.

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4. You may have some hesitation about talking with God. However, you are not alone. Who will assist you in praying and how? See: Romans 8:26.

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5. Prayer is useful in warding off temptation. What are you to do to have success in this area? See: Matthew 26:41; Psalm 91:15.

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6. Your relationship with God has many benefits including the privilege to ask and receive from your Father in heaven. What does Jesus say about this? See: John 16:24.

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7. Prayer is conditional. There are certain prerequisites for effective prayer given in the Bible as well as thin things that will hinder prayer.

A. In the following verses, look for things that will make your prayer effective. See: John 15:7, 16:24; Luke 11:9; Mark 11:24; James 5:16; I John 14:14, 5:14-15.

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B. In the verses that follow, find the reasons that would hinder your prayers. See: Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 1:28-29, 21:13, 28:9; Isaiah 59:2; James 1:6-7, 4:3; Matthew 6:7, 23:14.

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8. Prayer is possible in every circumstance of life whether it is public or private. What does Jesus say about both public and private prayer? See: Matthew 6:6 (private); Matthew 18:19 (public).
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9. Prayers are heard and answered. This is something you already know from your salvation experience. Answered prayer will continue to be part of your Christian experience. In preparation for this, note that specific prayer gets specific answer. Peter in prison is a good example. What was the Church doing in Acts 12 and what were the results? See: Acts 12:7, 12, 16.
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19.

10. If God was depending on your prayer life to do all the asking (proving) for the Church, what would you say needed to be changed in your prayer life up to the level you have learned about in this lesson? Review the previous questions, especially number seven before answering. (You may want to use God's telephone number, Jeremiah 33:3, as a part of your answer.)

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## Lesson 4: Obedience

I. Suggested Song: "When We Walk With the Lord" ("Trust and Obey")

### II. General Objectives

- A. To recognize Christ's claim upon a believer's life.
- B. To understand that obedience is necessary for a victorious life in Christ.
- C. To receive help on how to let Christ have complete rule over life.
- D. To acquaint the believer with the pamphlet "My Heart, Christ's Home," by Robert B. Munger.

### III. Overview

- A. He is Lord of all
  - 1. Creation
  - 2. World
  - 3. Church
  - 4. Living and dead
- B. He is Lord of your life
  - 1. Decision
  - 2. Process
  - 3. Fellowship
  - 4. Habits
    - a. Some to eliminate
    - b. Some to establish

C. He is Lord in practice

1. Lordship
2. Will
3. Goals
4. Faith

1. The titles a person wears say a lot about the person. Jesus Christ had several titles. In the following verses, see what these titles are and what they tell you about Jesus Christ. See: John 13:13; Acts 2:36; Romans 14:9; Colossians 1:9-10, Colossians 1:14-20.

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2. You have a decision to make: you can obey Christ or disobey (sin). Why should you want to obey Christ? What can you do in the event of disobedience? See: I Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 7:21; I John 1:7-9; II Corinthians 5:15.

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3. A baby does not reach childhood overnight. Nor does a child grow into adulthood immediately. As a Christian you have a growth goal to be sought after. What is this goal? See: Ephesians 4:13-15; Hebrews 6:1.

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4. Obedience is very important in the Christ-like life.

The Bible gives you some promises if you obey. Look up the following verses and list each promise given along with its condition, if any. See: Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 4:30-31; James 1:5; Revelation 22:14.

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5. What is the result of obedience to God? See: Proverbs 3:13-14; John 14:23; I John 1:7.
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6. How can you show your love for Christ? See: Colossians 3:12-25.
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7. Living for Christ can be habit changing. What might be some habit changes necessary in a believer's life? See: Romans 12:1; I Corinthians 6:19-20; II Corinthians 4:11.
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8. To live for Christ makes certain demands upon the Christian. What are some of these demands? See: Luke 9:23; Colossians 3:23-24.

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9. What does it mean to give complete obedience to Jesus Christ? See: Matthew 16:24; Luke 6:46; Philippians 3:8.

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10. Someone has said, "In all Christians, Christ is present; In some Christians, Christ is prominent; but only in a few Christians is Christ pre-eminent." State where you are now in relation to Christ's lordship in your life and what steps you need to take to make Christ pre-eminent in your life.

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## Lesson 5: The Church

### I. Suggested Song: "The Church's One Foundation"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To explain what the church is.
- B. To explain why the church is needed.
- C. To explain why you need to attend church.
- D. To explain what to look for in choosing a church.

### III. Overview

- A. You belong to the Church
  - 1. Those "called out"
  - 2. Those born new in Jesus Christ
- B. Christ is the Head of the Church
  - 1. Life
  - 2. Unity
  - 3. Diversity
- C. You are the Church
  - 1. Member
  - 2. Priest
  - 3. Bride

1. Describe the Church and Christ's position in it. See: Ephesians 1:23, 5:23; Colossians 1:18.

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2. Who, according to Scripture, makes up the Church? See: Acts 2:47, 5:14, 11:21.

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3. What is the unity the Church possesses in view of so many denominations and disagreements? See: I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:3-6.

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4. The Church exhibits this unity in good times and in bad times. What should be your feelings concerning others in the church? See: I Corinthians 12:25-26; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:3.

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5. People are different. How does God minister to many different people and needs in one church? See:



Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11.

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6. What are healthy characteristics to look for in a church? See: Acts 15:9; Romans 14:17.
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What are things to avoid in a church? See:  
I Corinthians 1:11; II Corinthians 12:20.

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7. Sunday is generally the day for church attendance.  
What does the Bible say about "the Lord's Day" and what is Jesus' example? See: Exodus 20:11, 31:14; Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7.
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8. Why is group worship important? See: Matthew 18:20; Acts 2:46; Hebrews 10:24-25.
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9. The Bible lists several things considered important to the Church if it is to be a true Church. List them.

See: Ephesians 4:12, 5:27; Acts 2:42, 16:5.

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10. Regularity of church attendance was a key mainstay to the New Testament believers. This included doctrinal teaching, prayer, fellowship, communion, worship, and service. Think how your church fulfills each of these ingredients so important to the New Testament Church. (You may need to contact the pastor for assistance.) Ask yourself what can make each ingredient better and what you can do toward achieving that betterment.

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## Lesson 6: Victory Over Satan

### I. Suggested Song: "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To help the believer know what temptations are.
- B. To help the believer identify the source of temptation.
- C. To help the believer deal with temptation.
- D. To help the believer have victory over temptation.

### III. Overview

- A. Satan: God's enemy
  - 1. Opposes you in the Christian life
  - 2. Opposes your study of the Bible—God's Word
- B. Christ has conquered Satan
  - 1. Holy Spirit is your helper
  - 2. God's Word is effective
- C. Be an overcomer
  - 1. Temptations make you strong
  - 2. A day-to-day walk with God makes you strong

1. Who is it that overcomes the world and by what power?

See: John 16:33; I John 4:4, 5:5.

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2. From names and descriptions given in the Bible, what kind of person is Satan? See: Matthew 4:3, 9:34; Luke 8:12; John 8:44; II Corinthians 4:3-4, 11:3, 14; Ephesians 2:2; I Peter 5:8; I John 2:14; Revelation 12:9, 10.
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3. Why did Satan fall from a place of privilege and to what punishment? See: Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 20:10.
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4. Christ had a confrontation with Satan and was tempted three times on this occasion. Why do you think these temptations were used and how did Jesus resist the temptations? See: Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; Luke 4:1-13; I John 2:16; Psalm 119:11.
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5. Sin separates us from God. Sin is breaking God's law and, more specifically, God's known law. How does the Bible describe sin? See: Isaiah 1:2; Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 14:23; I John 3:4.
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6. When temptations come your way, why do you need not fear? See: I Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 2:17-18.
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7. What did Christ's death on the cross mean for Satan? For man? See: Hebrews 2:14-15.
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8. There are certain key factors needed in overcoming Satan. Look up each reference and note the key to overcoming Satan. See: Ephesians 6:14-18; I Peter 5:8-9; Revelation 12:11.
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9. Since sin separates from God, what should you do if sin comes between you and God? See: Psalm 32:5; I John 1:9, 2:1.

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10. Choose A or B:

A. Satan constantly is trying to undermine your faith and belief in Jesus Christ, especially by casting doubt upon God's Word. Think of a recent experience when you have been tempted and relate how this study would have helped then and will help in the future battles with Satan.

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B. Genesis 3:6 and Matthew 4:1-11 contain the accounts of Satan's temptations of Eve and Jesus. Study the two Scriptures and make comparisons, contrasts, or parallels to be found. How can you apply this to your own life?

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## Lesson 7: Witness

### I. Suggested Song: "We Have Heard the Joyful Sound"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To teach each believer the Scriptural injunction  
"Go tell."
- B. To show how the message of Jesus Christ can be told.
- C. To encourage the believer to accept responsibility  
to witness.
- D. To help the believer be open and recognize  
opportunities for witness.
- E. To give encouragement and suggestions for an  
effective witness.

### III. Overview

- A. You must bear fruit
  - 1. God's Son died for you—you, in turn, tell  
others
  - 2. Fruit is to glorify God—not earn salvation
  - 3. Reason for living—to glorify God through witness
- B. You are God's tool
  - 1. Only through you can some be reached
  - 2. Only with God's strength and help can you reach  
out
  - 3. Only as a co-laborer with Christ can you be  
effective

C. Practical guidelines and ideas

1. "Steps to Peace with God"
2. "Four Spiritual Laws"
3. "Good News"



1. There is one thing on earth you can do that will be impossible in heaven. What is this one thing and why?  
See: Matthew 4:19, 9:37-38; II Timothy 2:4.

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2. What was the first action Andrew took after meeting Jesus? See: John 1:40-42.

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3. What is the Great Commission? See: Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15.

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4. God works through Christians. To be effective as a witness, what must you share and with whom? See: Mark 5:19; Acts 22:15; I John 1:3.

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5. A sharing tool or a testimony is needed to help you share the Good News of Jesus Christ. What should be

included in a testimony? See: John 9:25; Acts 26:1-29.

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6. How can you best prepare to win others to Christ? See: I Corinthians 2:4-5; II Timothy 2:15; I Peter 3:15.
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7. Since God works through people's hands, feet, and mouth, what does God need at this moment? See: Matthew 9:38; Romans 10:14-15.
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8. As a believer, what should you tell a non-believer in a witnessing situation? See: Acts 8:26-35, 22:15; I Corinthians 2:4-5; I John 1:3.
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9. What happens when a non-believer accepts Christ? See: Matthew 18:3; James 5:20.
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10. Using Paul's three-step approach, write out your own testimony. See: Acts 26:1-29.

A. Before I trusted Jesus Christ, I was like this. . .

B. How I met Jesus Christ. . .

C. Since I trusted Jesus Christ, my life has changed to this. . .

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## Lesson 8: Stewardship

### I. Suggested Song: "I Gave My Life For Thee"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To help the believer see God's ownership of ALL.
- B. To raise stewardship above a call for money.
- C. To encourage the believer to see at least three areas of stewardship.
- D. To see a Scriptural basis for stewardship, including money.
- E. To show that God holds each person accountable for his actions.

### III. Overview

- A. God's ownership
  - 1. God of all
    - a. Time
    - b. Talents
    - c. Money
    - d. Body
  - 2. God gives us all we have
- B. Good stewards
  - 1. You are held accountable for what you do
  - 2. You see things according to God's value system
- C. Giving
  - 1. Tithes

2. Offerings

3. Instructions

1. God expects His stewards to be faithful. What are some of the areas in which God expects faithfulness? See: I Chronicles 29:12-14; Proverbs 3:9-10; Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 5:15-16.

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2. As a steward of God, what do you need to be aware of? See: Romans 14:12.

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3. Admit it, some people are more talented, efficient, richer than you are. How can you feel comfortable around this type person and be a good steward with less? See: Matthew 25:14-30.

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4. Above all else, what will a good steward seek? See: Matthew 6:25-34.

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5. All believers have a special talent given them by God. What is the reason for having this talent and how is it

to be used? See: Romans 12:3-8; I Peter 4:10.

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6. Our body is God's. How is this described in Scripture and what are you to do with your body? See: Romans 12:1-2; I Corinthians 6:19-20; III John 2.
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7. Why is it important to have a correct view of money and its use? See: Matthew 19:16-22; I Timothy 6:10.
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8. God accepts some gifts and rejects other gifts. What are the key elements to successful giving and what makes the gift acceptable? See: Exodus 25:2, 35:21-19; I Chronicles 29:9; Matthew 6:1-4; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:7.
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9. God has strong words concerning the want of things, including money. What does He say? See: Luke 12:15-21; I Timothy 6:7-10; Hebrews 13:5.
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10. While stewardship includes your time, talents, and body, most people think only of money. So that you may be sure to have a proper perspective of possessions in relation to the teachings of the Bible, do the following exercises:

A. Read II Corinthians 8 and 9. What principles of money management and giving can you find? Note especially 8:9 and 9:8. (Also, see I Corinthians 16:2.)

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B. The Old Testament deals with giving as well. Rather than looking up many separate verses, use I Chronicles 29 as your guide to Biblical giving. What do you learn?

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C. One other aspect of giving must be mentioned. What is this aspect and why is it so important to remember? See: Luke 6:38; Philippians 4:15-19.

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## Lesson 9: Family Relations

### I. Suggested Song: "Happy the Home When God Is There"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To see God's plan for personal relationships.
- B. To know Biblical standards of marriage.
- C. To be aware of Scriptural admonitions concerning children.
- D. To know how to correct broken or strained relations.

### III. Overview

#### A. Relationships

- 1. General principles for good relationships
- 2. Qualities that make for good relationships

#### B. Marriage

- 1. God instituted marriage
- 2. God's goals for marriage
  - a. Husbands
  - b. Wives

#### C. Children

- 1. Responsibility
- 2. Guidance

#### D. Strains and cracks

- 1. Causes
- 2. Restoration

1. The Bible gives instructions for living at peace with all ages of people. What are these Scriptural guidelines? See: I Timothy 5:1-2; Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 15:20.

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2. What qualities should a Christian life contain? See: Titus 2:2-8.

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3. The words "house" and "family" used to be the same word. Using this key, why is it important to have a God-centered home? See: Psalm 127:1; II Chronicles 7:15-16.

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4. With whom did marriage originate and for what purpose? See: Genesis 2:18-25.

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5. What is God's job description for husbands and fathers?

See: Ephesians 5:21-33; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21.

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6. What is God's job description for wives and mothers?

See: Ephesians 5:21-22; Titus 2:4-5; Proverbs 31:10-31.

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7. Above all else, what is the Scriptural key to a good Christian marriage relationship? See: Ephesians 5:25, 28; I Peter 3:7; Colossians 3:19.

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8. How does the Bible instruct parents to regard their children? See: Psalm 127:3-5; Genesis 33:4-5; Proverbs 17:6; Matthew 19:14.

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9. A balance between discipline and love is required by God in rearing children. How is this balance achieved and maintained according to the Bible? See: Proverbs 13:24; Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 14:6; I Thessalonians 2:7, 10-12.
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10. Maintaining right relationships is a constant task needing frequent evaluation. What causes these breakdowns in relationships and how can they best be healed? See: Proverbs 15:1; Hebrews 5:1-2; I Corinthians 13:4-7; Galations 6:9-10; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 1:27; Ephesians 4:15; Acts 5:11; Philippians 2:21; James 2:1-4, 14-17.
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## Lesson 10: Influencing Others

### I. Suggested Song: "Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To help the believer know his area of personal influence.
- B. To help the believer reach out to his area of influence.
- C. To help the believer have a good influence.
- D. To help the believer use his influence wisely.

### III. Overview

- A. Your personal influence
  - 1. On the church
  - 2. On the family
  - 3. On unbelievers
- B. Reaching out to others
  - 1. With God's help
  - 2. With Christian life style
- C. The message of your influence
  - 1. Its source
  - 2. Its importance

1. As a Christian, what are you to be to those with whom you come into contact? See: Matthew 5:13-16.

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2. When you accepted Jesus Christ you entered another realm of influence. According to Scripture, what is this area of influence? See: Acts 16:25-34, 18:8, 10:21-33; II Timothy 1:5; John 1:40-42.

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3. How can you go beyond your personal circle of friends in influencing society? See: John 13:34-35; John 17:20-21; II Corinthians 2:14-17.

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4. Should the Church be in the "influence" business? See: Hebrews 10:24-25; I Peter 2:9-10.

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5. What are some things that can hinder your influence? See: Philippians 2:14-15; I Peter 2:11-12.

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6. Jesus set an example for you to follow concerning influencing non-believers. Paul establishes the attitude you should have toward non-believers and also warns of danger. What are the Biblical admonitions? See: Luke 5:27-32; I Corinthians 9:19-23; Galatians 5:23.
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7. In attempting to influence your world, where does your ability to do this come from? See: II Corinthians 2:12-3:6; Romans 1:16.
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8. Under whose orders are you commanded to be an influence? See: John 20:21.
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9. Influencing people toward and for Jesus Christ should be an important part of every Christian's life. Why should this be so important to every Christian? See: John 3:16-18; Matthew 28:19-20.
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10. A person following Christ is called upon to adopt a life that is Christ-like. The following passages refer to various areas of conduct and values that should be modeled after Christ. In each passage identify the conduct or value and how a Christian should act. See:

Mark 10:42-45 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 25:35-40 ; John 12:26 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 6:25-34 \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 19:4-6 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 10:37-38 \_\_\_\_\_

I Timothy 6:6-8, 17-19 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:13 ; I Peter 4:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 10:7 ; II Thessalonians 3:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_



## BOOK 2

There are several good Bible studies on the market that attempt to lead a believer into a deeper, more thorough study of God's Word. The two that are most available, and widely used, are Robert E. Coleman's Life in the Living Word<sup>29</sup> and the Navigators' series entitled Design for Discipleship.<sup>30</sup> Coleman's Bible study book is one volume and contains eleven lessons. The Navigators' series is a set of six books with no set number of lessons.

This series of Bible studies is designed to be a ten-week course of study. Each lesson is written to acquaint the believer with a different aspect of the Christian faith and its biblical basis for existence. Each lesson is written to give support to a growing believer and expand his realm of knowledge and experience. The lessons gradually work into the more difficult questions that require additional thought.

The twelve questions in each study are readily answerable and some may take only a few words. However, the last question of each study is designed to be more difficult and require more thought and personal involvement than the other questions.

As one goes through the study, he should have plenty of writing space for answering each question plus a little extra. This extra space is provided for a purpose: 1. it is the author's intention and hope that the study lesson book will be used more than once; and, 2. the extra space should also allow for notation of exceptionally good answers, other

Scripture verses to look up, starter discussion questions, and teaching notes that will be of help in individual Bible study.

Each lesson should take an hour to an hour and a half with the verses to look up and some brief discussion of questions that need clarification or further explanation. The longer period of time for the study is based upon the idea that a serious, growing believer will enjoy and desire to spend time in Bible study.

As with the previous series of lessons, a suggested song is included with each Bible study. The objectives and overview are included for the Bible study leader's benefit. In case a verse of Scripture does not seem to fit a particular question, or there are several answers, the objectives will help the leader determine the most likely application. Also, twelve questions cannot begin to cover all that needs to be said about some subjects. Thus, the objectives and overview of each lesson help the leader of the study to know what areas need to be covered. These can be expanded through group discussion or as homework assignments.

The Scripture verses following each question are, generally, not listed in any particular order. However, as a rule of thumb, the first Scripture listed should be the most helpful in answering a question. In the case of two-part questions, the verses are listed to answer the first part of the question first and then the supporting verses for the second part of the question are listed.

This is the second book of a two-book series of Bible lessons. However, despite its being the second book in a series, it can be used independently of the first series of Bible lessons.

One other very important consideration must be mentioned at this time. With the completion of the first book, a lot of study and knowledge have been gained. With the conclusion of the second book a student may feel that he knows all there is to know about the Christian life-style. This is not true. This writer recommends that the student continue his study with a series of lessons on the Holy Spirit. Robert E. Coleman has an excellent study entitled, The Spirit and the Word.<sup>31</sup> The student should also embark on a course of independent study covering the Bible.

## Lesson 1: Identification

### I. Suggested Song: "More About Jesus Would I Know"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To enable the believer to be known as a Christian.
- B. To understand what it means to be a Christian.
- C. To help the believer know how he became a Christian.
- D. To clarify what had to happen for the believer to be a Christian

### III. Overview

- A. Christ's effort for you
  - 1. Who did it
  - 2. Why He did it
  - 3. What He did
- B. Christ in you
  - 1. A new life style
  - 2. A new fullness of life
  - 3. A new relationship with God
- C. Christ's promise to you

## Lesson 1: Identification

1. You are a new creature in Christ Jesus, transformed by God into an entirely new you. Just who is Jesus Christ?  
See: Hebrews 1:1-14; John 10:28-30; Mark 1:1.

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2. There is one important difference that makes Jesus unique. What is this unique factor and why do you think it is important? See: Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:20.

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3. Jesus had a reason for coming to earth. What was this reason and how was it accomplished? See: Luke 19:10; John 10:10-11, 17-18; Matthew 20:28.

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4. In order to save you from sin, Jesus had to die. Why?

See: Hebrews 9:22; I Peter 1:18-19; Titus 2:14;

Revelation 1:5.

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5. God does not want to leave you wondering about Christ's ability to remove sin. What assurance do you have that Jesus truly was the Son of God and saves from sin? See: I Peter 1:3; Romans 1:4.

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6. Having accepted Jesus Christ by faith, you are now "in Christ." How did this happen and what is the significance of being "in Christ"? See: I Peter 1:23; II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:3-23.

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7. The Bible has a name for those who follow Christ. What is the name? See: Acts 11:26; I Peter 4:16.

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8. God calls you to a new life style as a believer in Jesus Christ. What is the new life-style like? See: Ephesians 1:4; 5:1-2; 8; Galatians 5:16; I John 2:6; Colossians 3:17.

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9. Life at its fullest is found by those living in Jesus Christ. Confirm this from God's Word, then, relate how you know this by personal experience. See: John 1:4, 14:6; I John 5:11; Luke 6:38.

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10. Living this full, new life will not always be easy. How can you live this new life and who will help you? See: II Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 10:38; Romans 8:16.

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11. As a Christian, you have a new relationship with God. What is it? See: Galatians 4:4-7; Philippians 3:9; Romans 7:4.

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12. A name is a precious heritage, especially for the Christian because God's Son died that you might bear the name "Christian." As a Christian the name of Christ is yours in prayer and God promises to honor all requests made in His name. Use the following verses which pertain to prayer and tell why God can promise you anything in Jesus' name? See: John 14:13-14; 16:23-24.

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## Lesson 2: Justification

### I. Suggested Song: "Years I Spent in Vanity and Pride"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To help the believer see himself before God.
- B. To help the believer see how he is free from all sin before God.
- C. To understand that the peace of God is conditional upon correct behavior and obedience.
- D. To make clear the need for continuous growth in God.

### III. Overview

- A. Free from all sin
  - 1. How can it be?
  - 2. What does it mean?
  - 3. When does it happen?
- B. Free before God
  - 1. Sins are gone
  - 2. Christ's righteousness is yours
  - 3. Faith makes it yours
- C. Freedom's results
  - 1. Sin no more
  - 2. Peace with God
  - 3. Bound by God's law

1. As a Christian your sins are gone. What has happened to your sins and where are they? See: Hebrews 9:26; Colossians 2:14; Psalm 103:12.

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2. Because Jesus Christ, acting on your behalf, died, you are free from sin. How is this freedom from sin achieved? See: Romans 3:22; 10:3-4; 17; 3:25.

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3. Having accepted Jesus Christ and his death, how are you looked upon by God? See: Romans 3:24; Acts 13:39.

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4. Since Christ died for you, what can you be sure of relating to your sins? See: Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14.

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5. God forgives your sins. How many sins are forgiven and how do you know God will not bring them out again some day? See: Colossians 2:13; I John 1:9; John 3:16; Hebrews 10:17.

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6. God saves through faith in Jesus Christ and His death on the cross for you. Why is faith the only acceptable way to God? See: Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:2-5; Isaiah 64:6.

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7. Since you are free from all sin in Christ, how do you feel? See: Romans 5:1, 8:1-2; John 5:14; Galatians 5:1; I John 3:21.

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8. What must you do to keep up these benefits of following Christ? See: John 5:14, 8:11; Romans 6:12.

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9. As a follower of Christ, what must you be careful to avoid? See: Romans 13:13-14; I Peter 2:16; Galatians 5:13.

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10. Sin blocks you from God. As a Christian, what will be your attitude toward known sin? See: Proverbs 19:27; Psalm 101:3; II Peter 2:8.

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11. Even though you are forgiven by God and living for Him the best you can, some ugly moments will arise from your past sins. In light of these moments, why are you assured

inner peace? See: I Timothy 1:15; John 8:36.

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12. To successfully live a Christian life means a lot of taking and giving that just does not happen to a non-Christian. Nowhere is this fact clearer than in dealing with human hurts and errors. The Bible gives three principles for a Christian life dealing with (a) those you have wronged; (b) those who have wronged you; and (c) how to live. Look up the following verses and find the principle; then, apply it to your life. See:

(a) Ezekiel 33:14-15; Luke 19:8 \_\_\_\_\_

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(b) Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13; Mark 11:25 \_\_\_\_\_

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(c) I John 3:7; James 1:25-27 \_\_\_\_\_

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### Lesson 3: The Holy Spirit

I. Suggested Song: "Once I Was Bound By Sins' Galling Fetters"

#### II. General Objectives

- A. To help the believer understand the role of the Holy Spirit.
- B. To help the believer recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in his life.
- C. To help the believer understand the necessity of the Holy Spirit in his life.

#### III. Overview

- A. The Holy Spirit dwells within
  - 1. In your life
    - a. Possesses personality
    - b. Possesses body
  - 2. By faith in Christ
- B. The Holy Spirit makes a difference
  - 1. Holy Spirit gives a divine nature
  - 2. Holy Spirit gives comfort
  - 3. Holy Spirit helps to glorify Christ
  - 4. Holy Spirit is your teacher
- C. The Holy Spirit provides spiritual resources

1. Even now, you may have a doubt lingering in your mind about Christ's presence as Saviour in your life. What evidence is available to let you know you are a Christian? See: I John 4:13; John 13:34-35; I Corinthians 2:12.

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2. Knowing you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit is not easy to distinguish in a visible, concrete manner. However, God has provided a way for this inner presence of the Holy Spirit to be known. How? See: John 16:14; I Corinthians 12:3; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16.

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3. As you believed in Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit entered your life spreading the spirit of Christ. What did you become when this happened? See: II Corinthians 3:6; John 6:63.

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4. It is powerful to think of the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit actually living in you. What analogies are available from Scripture concerning this relationship and how do these analogies help you understand? See: Romans 11:17, 19; John 15:5; I Corinthians 6:15; Ephesians 5:30.

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5. The Bible refers to your body as the home of the Holy Spirit. How does this fact change your life? Why? See: I Corinthians 6:19; II Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 2:22; I Peter 2:5.

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6. The Holy Spirit is given to you for a purpose by God. What does God have in mind for you to become with the Holy Spirit's help? See: Ephesians 4:13; John 17:24.

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7. God's purpose for your life is awesome, but possible through the help of the Holy Spirit. What obstacles might block this desired purpose of God? See Galatians 5:16-17; Ephesians 4:29-32.

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8. The Spirit of God within expects your cooperation through obedience toward fulfilling God's purpose in your life. When you become indifferent or disobedient, what happens? See: Ephesians 4:30; I Thessalonians 5:19; Acts 7:51.

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9. What can you do to be sure the Holy Spirit is not grieved? See: I John 3:24; II Corinthians 10:5; I Peter 1:22; Philippians 2:5, 3:13-15.

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10. Change comes in your life through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. What is this change? See: II Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:10.

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11. The freshness of the Holy Spirit is constantly under attack from the world and its desires. How can you keep your experience with the Holy Spirit fresh and new every day? See: Titus 3:5; II Corinthians 4:16; John 4:14.

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12. The Holy Spirit is a real person who indwells your life. For your encouragement and better understanding of the Holy Spirit, look up the following verses and give the trait or work of the Holy Spirit that is mentioned. Try to think how each verse could help in your life. See:

Acts 13:2, 4 \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 2:10-13 \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 12:7, 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:30 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:26 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 9:14 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:7-15 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:26 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 139:7 \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 4: Sanctification

### I. Suggested Song: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To know what being filled with the Spirit (sanctification) is.
- B. To understand the problem of self.
- C. To cover the idea of sin and perfection.
- D. To set forth certain conditions that must be met.
- E. To look at the need for crisis and process.
- F. To be more Christ-like in life.

### III. Overview

- A. Sanctification
  - 1. A new power
  - 2. A new step of faith
  - 3. A new freedom
  - 4. A new "fruit"
- B. Sanctification's problems
  - 1. Two natures
    - a. Carnal nature
    - b. Human nature
  - 2. Perfection
    - a. God's requirement
    - b. Sin
      - i. Intentional sin

ii. Unintentional sin

3. Crisis and process

C. Sanctified living

1. Constant obedience

2. Confess sin

3. Full consecration

4. Faith

5. Christ's example

6. A servant

1. A deeper relationship with God is found in Scripture.

What is this relationship based on and how is it referred to? See: Hebrews 10:14, 19, 22, 13:12; Ephesians 5:26; Acts 15:9; II Thessalonians 2:13.

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2. The early believers had to experience a new, deeper relationship with God before the Church began to have an impact on the world. How would you describe the disciples before this relationship experience and then after the experience? What differences do you find? See: Luke 10:20; John 15:3; John 17:12; Ephesians 5:18-21; Acts 4:31, 11:24; Romans 5:5; Ephesians 4:22-24.
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3. You find within yourself two natures in conflict. What are these two natures and which one should win the conflict? See: Galatians 5:16-17; Romans 8:5-7; I Corinthians 3:1-4.
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4. As a remedy to this conflict, God offers an opportunity to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Why does a complete infilling of the Holy Spirit free you from the old nature of sin? See: Romans 7:25-8:4.
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5. Even though you completely yield yourself to the Holy Spirit, temptations and circumstances will try to make your deeper relationship fail. (a) What are some of these problems; and (b) What can you do to strengthen your relationship against these difficulties? See:
- (a) I Corinthians 3:3; Hebrews 12:15; I Corinthians 9:27; Ephesians 6:11-12; I Peter 5:8-9. \_\_\_\_\_
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(b) II Corinthians 7:1; Romans 8:2, 14, 16-17, 26-27; II Corinthians 10:3-5; II Timothy 2:21. \_\_\_\_\_

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6. God has a standard for you to live by. What is this standard and what would keep you from this standard?

See: Matthew 5:48; Psalm 24:3-5; Hebrews 12:14; Isaiah 59:2; I Corinthians 15:34; Mark 7:21-23; Matthew 5:27-28; Romans 6:12, 15.

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7. The key to Christian perfection before God is found in your attitude toward sin. What should your attitude toward sin be and if this is your attitude, how are you seen by Him? See: Psalm 97:10; Proverbs 8:13; I Thessalonians 5:23; Revelation 14:5; Luke 1:75; Hebrews 12:14.
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8. Define sin according to Scripture and tell what you can do to live without sin? See: I John 3:4; James 4:17; Matthew 23:23; I John 1:9; I John 2:1; John 5:14, 8:11.
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9. Crisis and process are both found in Romans 12:1-2.

Tell how these verses bring you to a point of crisis and how they also show a continual growth process. See: Romans 12:1-2; I Thessalonians 5:23.

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10. Whatever your view of sanctification evolves into, what should a Christian be doing in his life and with what attitude? See: I Corinthians 15:58; I John 3:3; Colossians 1:28; Philippians 3:12-15.
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11. Your growth in God can be seen in a parallel between physical life and spiritual life. Using the following verses, what do you learn from these parallels? See: I Thessalonians 2:11; I Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 5:13-14; I Peter 2:2-3; Matthew 16:24-25; Luke 9:23-24.
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12. There is much conversation about the gifts of the Spirit but little emphasis is placed upon the fruits of the Spirit which are so needful and useful in Christian living. (a) Look up and list the fruits of the Spirit with a brief definition; (b) then, look up the fruit "love," especially. Tell what love is and is not according to Scripture. See:  
(a) Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9; I John 4:16.

(b) I Corinthians 13:4-8.

## Lesson 5: Priesthood of All

### I. Suggested Song: "We Are One In the Spirit"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To assist the believer in seeing his place in the body of Christ.
- B. To assist the believer in fulfilling his role in the body of Christ.
- C. To assist the believer in grasping the necessity of his work in the body of Christ.
- D. To assist the believer in understanding the gifts of the Spirit.

### III. Overview

- A. Your place in the body of Christ
  - 1. A priest
  - 2. An ambassador
- B. Your role in the body of Christ
  - 1. Through love
  - 2. Through work
- C. Your importance to the body of Christ
  - 1. Every believer has a needed gift
  - 2. One malfunction and the whole body is in disharmony
- D. Your gift(s) of the Holy Spirit
  - 1. Who is the giver of the gift?
  - 2. What is the purpose of the gift?

1. Through Jesus Christ you have a special relationship with God. Why do you have this special relationship and what is the relationship? See: I Peter 2:5; Revelation 1:6; Hebrews 4:14-16; Romans 8:34.

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2. Beside the above relationship, what other function is yours for Christ and how do you fulfill this function? See: II Corinthians 5:20; John 21:16; Matthew 15:35-40.

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3. In as much as all believers are ministers of Jesus Christ, it is important to remember the place of Christ among believers. Why? See: Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:15; I Corinthians 11:3; Romans 9:5.

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4. As a minister of Jesus Christ, you are called upon to serve. What motivation do you have to serve Christ?

See: II Corinthians 5:14; John 13:35; I John 4:11, 19;  
I Corinthians 10:31.

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5. In serving as a representative for Christ, how important does God consider your work? See: Matthew 10:40; Luke 10:16.
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6. There is a Biblical standard for service to Christ. What is the standard and how can you tell if you are fulfilling the standard of Christ in service? See: Acts 20:35; Matthew 10:8; Luke 12:48, 14:26-27; Mark 14:8.
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7. God has bestowed upon each individual certain abilities or gifts. Some are natural abilities and other abilities are yours because God has especially allowed you to have use of them. Who is the giver of each gift and how does He help in the use of each gift? See: I Corinthians 12:11, 18; Acts 13:2,4; Acts 16:6-7; I Corinthians 2:4.

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8. There are many different gifts of the Spirit. Why is there such a variety of gifts and why do not all believers have the same gift? See: I Corinthians 12:14-19, 28-30.

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9. A spiritual gift is given for a precise reason or purpose. What is this purpose or reason? See: I Corinthians 12:7-11; I Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:12.

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10. The body of Christ is large and varied, each fulfilling a needed function. Is there ever an unnecessary function and how can this varied body work together without malfunction? See: I Corinthians 12:20-22; Ephesians 4:2-3; (by avoiding: I Corinthians 12:15-16, 21).

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11. List the gifts of the Holy Spirit. See: Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:8-10, 28; Ephesians 4:11.

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12. As a believer in Jesus Christ you have at least one important function to fulfill in the body of Christ. You may already know what your gift is and are using it. However, you may not know, so seek to determine what your spiritual gift(s) is and tell how you should be using it in Christ's work to support the body as a whole. See: Matthew 28:19-20, 20:27-28; John 14:12.

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To assist you in finding your spiritual gift, you may find it helpful to use the following six guidelines:<sup>32</sup>

1. Open yourself up to God to work through you via the Holy Spirit.
2. Examine your aspirations for Christian service and ministry.
3. Identify the area you believe to be the most important ministry or weakness that you feel needs to be met or filled.
4. Evaluate the results of your efforts to use your gifts in ministry. What opportunities do you have to use your gifts and with what results?
5. Follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in obedience to Christ.
6. Remain alert to the suggestions and responses of other Christians regarding your gifts and abilities.



## Lesson 6: Guidance

### I. Suggested Song: "He Leadeth Me"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To let the believer know God is directing his life.
- B. To help the believer understand the place of obedience in staying in the will of God.
- C. To assist the believer in finding God's will.
- D. To show the believer the promises given to those in God's will.

### III. Overview

- A. God is directing your life
  - 1. He has promised to lead you
  - 2. He has given His Spirit to lead you
  - 3. He has an interest in every decision you make
- B. God directs your life only as you obey Him
  - 1. A complete life surrender to God is called for
  - 2. A stumbling block many fall over is their own will
  - 3. A changed mind helps you obey God's will
- C. God wants you to know His will for your life
  - 1. God's will is not always easy to find
  - 2. God gives you tools to use in finding His will:
    - a. Bible
    - b. Prayer
    - c. Christian counsel
    - d. Common sense
- D. God reveals only what He wants you to know

1. As a Christian, what can you be confident of regarding your entire life? See: Jeremiah 29:11; Isaiah 48:17; Psalm 48:14; Romans 12:2; John 16:13; Psalm 32:8.

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2. A Christian has the assurance of not facing the future alone. Who helps the Christian to make correct choices even during difficulty? See: Romans 8:14; John 14:26; Philippians 4:13; John 15:5.

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3. Many people turn to God for assistance only when earthly wisdom and strength are exhausted. This happens under the guise of "I don't want to bother God." Does God want to give direction about all your needs and how complete is God's care? See: John 16:3; I John 5:6; Psalm 24:9-10; Isaiah 30:20-21; Philippians 4:19.

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4. When God shows you His will, through what will He work and why? See: Psalm 139:23-24; Proverbs 28:13; Romans 12:1-2.

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5. God will show you His will if you look for it. What responsibility is yours in seeking God's will? See: Ezra 7:10; Luke 11:9-10; Psalms 25:5, 31:3.

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6. As you strive to know God's will, several areas become apparent that God wants you to grow in. How does God reveal these areas of weakness and what are some areas in which God wants you to grow? See: Psalm 119:105; II Timothy 3:16; Matthew 6:33, 22:37-39; I Peter 1:15; II Peter 3:18.

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7. When God's will is not readily apparent to a Christian, what does the Bible suggest you do? See: Proverbs 11:14; Matthew 18:19-20; Acts 13:2; Proverbs 15:22.

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8. Many factors can help you determine God's will and leading. What are some factors useful in determining God's will? See: Colossians 3:15; Philippians 1:12-14; Ephesians 5:15-17.

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9. Waiting is a hard, but necessary, step in knowing God's will. This time should often be spent in prayer, communication with God, and waiting on God's time chart. Use the following verses to get a good understanding of "waiting on the Lord" and relate any benefits you see from this practice. See: Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 30:18; Matthew 7:7-8; Philippians 4:6-7; James 1:5.

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10. There is one final check point before going ahead with a decision or action. What is this final check? See: I Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17.
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11. The will of God is not only for making decisions, but also for daily living. What are some things God wishes for you? See: I Thessalonians 4:3, 5:8; I Peter 2:15.
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12. Use the three passages that follow and tell how Gideon and Moses made decisions. Use the preceding study and remember to include what was at stake, the decision made or not made and its consequences, and the various factors that made up each decision process. Then, putting yourself in each man's place, use Romans 8:28 and tell how you would use this verse in interpreting the position of each man.
- Gideon: Judges 6:25-28 \_\_\_\_\_

Moses: Hebrews 11:25-26

## Lesson 7: Glorification

### I. Suggested Song: "Marvelous Message We Bring"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To assist the believer in seeing the relationship between heaven and now.
- B. To give the believer a general description of future life in heaven.
- C. To help the believer gain an understanding of the victory over death.
- D. To show the believer the biblical statements on Christ's return.

### III. Overview

- A. A heavenly home
  - 1. Spiritually
  - 2. Physically
- B. A heavenly description
  - 1. Things that will be in heaven
  - 2. Things that will not be in heaven
  - 3. Things to do in heaven
- C. A heavenly reward
  - 1. Victory over death
  - 2. Well-deserved reward
- D. A look at Christ's return

1. As a Christian you have an inheritance with Christ through faith. Where is this inheritance kept? See: Matthew 6:20; I Peter 1:4.

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2. Death, for awhile, separates the soul and the body. The soul is immediately with Jesus in heaven, but what happens to the body and when? See: Romans 8:11, 23; II Corinthians 4:14; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Colossians 3:4; I Corinthians 15:44; II Corinthians 5:4; Philippians 3:21.

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3. Heaven is described briefly in Scripture. The descriptions fall into two categories; namely, the things heaven will be and things it will not be. Use the following verses and tell what they say about heaven. See: John 14:2; II Corinthians 5:1; Revelation 21:4, 10-27, 7:16.

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4. While you are not told explicitly what heaven will be like, Scripture does say there will be work to be done. What is this work and will it be enjoyable? If enjoyable, why? See: Revelation 7:15, 22:3, 5; John 14:3, 17:24.
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5. Why does a believer not fear death? See: I Corinthians 15:54-57; II Corinthians 5:4, 8; Philipians 1:20-23; Revelation 14:13.
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6. The return of Christ involves a judgment. What can the faithful Christian look for? See: Matthew 16:27; II Corinthians 5:10; II Timothy 4:8.
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7. Many questions come to a person's mind concerning the return of Christ to earth. These questions, such as (a) "What time will Christ return?" (b) "What will be the world condition when He returns?" (c) "Why hasn't Christ come already?" (d) "What should a Christian be doing until Christ returns?" and (e) "Where is Christ now?" are all answered in Scripture. So that you will know the answers to these, look up the following verses and find the needed answers. See:

(a) Matthew 24:36, 42: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Matthew 24:6-7, 37-39: \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Matthew 24:14; II Peter 3:3-9: \_\_\_\_\_

(d) Matthew 24:12-14; Mark 13:35-37 \_\_\_\_\_

(e) Hebrews 10:12; Romans 8:34; John 14:2: \_\_\_\_\_

8. When Christ does return, certain things will happen. Without attempting to establish any orderly sequence, list the events that Scripture says will take place. See: I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

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9. The Bible describes what will be the end results for both believers and non-believers. Look up the following verses and tell what will be the end result of each group. See: I Corinthians 15:22-23; I John 3:2; I Thessalonians 1:10; II Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 20:12-15.

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10. The idea that Jesus is coming again is a tremendous thought. How should this idea effect your attitudes and life? See: II Timothy 4:8; James 5:7-8; I Peter 1:13; I John 3:2-3; Titus 2:11-14.

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11. To study about the return of Christ is good, but it has not happened for many centuries. How can you know that the biblical accounts are true on this point? See: I Thessalonians 4:15; Hebrews 6:17-18.

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12. Jesus promised to return again (John 14:2-3). The return of Christ is mentioned in almost every New Testament book and frequently referred to. To assist you in grasping the vast amount of reference to the return of Christ, look up the following verses. List who is doing the talking and what the writer has to say about Christ's return.

(a) Matthew 16:27, 24:27; Mark 13:26-27; Luke 12:40.

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(b) I Thessalonians 2:19, 3:12-13, 4:16-18, 5:2-6.

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(c) James 5:7-8. \_\_\_\_\_

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(d) I Peter 1:13. \_\_\_\_\_

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(e) Jude 14. \_\_\_\_\_

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(f) Revelation 1:7. \_\_\_\_\_

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How do these passages effect your life?

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## Lesson 8: Discipleship

### I. Suggested Song: "Rise Up, O Men of God"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To help show the distinction between a Christian and a disciple.
- B. To assist the believer in becoming a disciple.
- C. To show the cost of discipleship.
- D. To prepare the believer for entrance into a discipleship training program.

### III. Overview

- A. Defining a disciple
  - 1. Obeying
  - 2. Praying
  - 3. Suffering
  - 4. Serving
- B. Making a disciple
  - 1. By teaching
  - 2. By training
  - 3. By submitting
  - 4. By committing
- C. Serving as a disciple
  - 1. The nature of service
  - 2. The work of communicating
  - 3. The fellowship of discipleship
  - 4. The responsibility of discipleship

1. Using the following verses, arrive at a biblical definition of a disciple. See: Luke 14:26-27, 33; John 8:31, 13:34-35, 15:8.

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2. How many people does Jesus call to be His disciples and what phrase is used over and over? Do you find any significance to the words used? Explain. See: Matthew 11:25-30; Mark 1:16-17; John 1:37, 43.

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3. If you are a disciple of Jesus you have certain privileges and responsibilities. However, along with the benefits of discipleship are the conditions of discipleship. What are the conditions of discipleship and what do you think they mean in your life? See: Luke 9:23-27; Philippians 2:8.

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4. Many people may claim to be a disciple of Jesus Christ without meeting any of the requirements. What condition is absolutely necessary for being a disciple of Jesus?

See: Matthew 7:21; Luke 9:57-62; Matthew 21: 28-31; John 8:31; James 1:22-25.

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5. The Word of God plays an important role in a disciple's life. Why study the Word of God and along with the Bible, where/who else can teach you? See: John 8:31-37; 7:14-17, 6:45; Matthew 11:29; Hebrews 13:7-8; Proverbs 4:1, 27:17.

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6. The Bible contains several references to signs or indicators which showed that a person followed after God. (a) What are some of these indicators (signs) and (b) what sign do you need to show you are a disciple of Jesus? See: (a) Genesis 17:9-14; Exodus 31:12; John 1:26. \_\_\_\_

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(b) John 13:34-35, 15:9, 12-13, 17:21, 26; Ephesians 3:18-19, 4:2-3. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. In order to show the sign of a follower of Jesus, what must you avoid? See: Ephesians 4:25-32; Hebrews 12:14-15.
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

8. A very important part of Jesus and His life was communication with God. As a disciple, you are expected to have this same type relationship and communication. What is this communication called and how persistent should you be? See: Luke 11:1-10. (Note especially, the order Jesus gives the disciples and what areas He includes in the petition.)
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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9. Jesus was an example of the servant life-style. As a disciple of Jesus, you are expected to be like Him. Use the following Scripture passages and tell what it



says about Jesus and servanthood. Then, tell how you can serve following His example. See: John 13:1-16; Luke 22:24-27; Philippians 2:5-11.

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10. In the story of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus set forth the principles of your ministry of discipleship. Using the following passages, find these principles and apply them to your life. See: Mark 6:30-44; John 1:8, 17:6, 18; Matthew 28:18-20.
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11. As a disciple of Jesus Christ you have a large responsibility and you are held accountable for that which is yours to accomplish. The road to fulfillment of your responsibility will not be easy, but Jesus promises to be with you. (a) What can you expect as you live the life of a disciple, and (b) with what reward? See: (a) Matthew 10:16-18, 22-23; John 15:18-25; II Corinthians 6:17; Philippians 2:15-16.
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(b) Luke 19:11-27; Matthew 25:14-30; I Corinthians 3:13;  
II Corinthians 5:9.

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12. As a believer considering the demands of Jesus Christ upon your life, it is Scriptural to consider the cost of following Jesus (Luke 14:28-32). You must submit to the absolute authority of Jesus in your life to be a true disciple (Luke 14:33). Using the following Scripture passage, tell what kept these men from coming and then search your own life to see if there is any area not submitted to Jesus as Lord. See: Luke 14:16-27.

First person: \_\_\_\_\_

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Second person: \_\_\_\_\_

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Third person: \_\_\_\_\_

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Fourth person (you): See, also: I John 2:15: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summarize in one word what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 9: Leadership

### I. Suggested Song: "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To challenge the believer with the high goal of Christian leadership.
- B. To set forth the biblical principles of leadership.
- C. To show why the good leader is "good."
- D. To discover the source of power available to the leader.

### III. Overview

- A. A leader
  - 1. What to look for in a leader
  - 2. What power source is available to the leader
- B. A good leader
  - 1. Some leaders succeed
  - 2. Some leaders achieve more
- C. A leader's survival
  - 1. Difficulties
  - 2. Group needs
  - 3. Communication

1. Being a leader is a great responsibility. What comes with greater responsibility? See: James 3:1; Luke 12:48.

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2. A Christian leader has what seems to be an impossible task. The leader works in his spare time, with untrained volunteers, on a limited or no budget, and is expected to work miracles. What source of power does a Christian leader have in order to accomplish his task? See: Philippians 4:3; II Samuel 22:33.

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3. To be a Christian leader requires more than simply knowing good administration and leadership skills. God looks for a person with a clean heart and pure lifestyle. According to Scripture, what behavior does God expect from a leader? See: Matthew 5:27-28; Hebrews 11:6; II Corinthians 7:1; I Thessalonians 4:3-7; I Peter 3:3-4, 5:5-6; II Timothy 2:19-22.

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4. A basic necessity for good leadership is found in the ministry of Jesus. From the following passages, what qualities of Jesus should a Christian leader have? See: Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27; I John 3:16; Mark 8:1-3; I Kings 3:9-10; Matthew 23:11-12.
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5. People are different and so are leaders. Some seem to be able to produce great results with almost no effort, while others are continually plodding in an unchanging task, seemingly, going nowhere. What qualities make for success in leadership? See: Psalms 8:1, 148:13, 36:7, 119:139; Isaiah 12:5; Mark 7:37; I Chronicles 11:6; Isaiah 6:8; Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:16; John 7:46; Mark 2:2-5; II Chronicles 31:21; Colossians 3:23; John 2:17; Mark 12:29-30.
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6. Time after time, one ingredient stands out as a key to successful leadership. Use the following verses to determine this important key to success. See: Proverbs 24:27; II Chronicles 8:16; Ezekiel 38:7.

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7. The Bible gives excellent advice to those who want to succeed as leaders. What is this advice and what does it say to you? See: Numbers 1:1-2, 17-18, 11:11, 14, 16-17; II Timothy 2:2.

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8. As a Christian leader, things will not always be rosy and pleasant, even when you are serving and doing God's will. Moses is just such an example of a leader having difficulty. Use the following verses and find the problem Moses faced and the solution arrived at. See: Exodus 18:13-24.

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9. The leader has a greater responsibility and also more visibility. Of what, then, should a leader beware? See: I Thessalonians 2:5; Colossians 3:1-5; I John 5:21; Exodus 20:3; I Timothy 6:9-10; I Thessalonians 2:6; Mark 12:38-40.
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10. Your own leaders effect you and you, in turn, effect others that look (or will look) to you for leadership. What you are as a leader, those following you will become. What biblical principles are available to help you in training those following your example? See: Numbers 27:15-17; I Thessalonians 2:10-11; Deuteronomy 3:28; I Corinthians 14:3; II Timothy 2:2.
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11. A leader must inform others of what is happening to avoid confusion. This generally takes the form of the spoken word. As a leader, from where should your message come and how should it be spoken? See: Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Jeremiah 23:29; Psalm 119:97; Matthew 7:29;

Acts 14:1 (Note in Acts 14:1 "so spake" and look it up in several different translations.).

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12. God calls people to be His leaders and depends upon men and women to respond. In order to help you respond positively to God's call to leadership, look at the men God has used in Scripture and the excuses they tried to use for not being a leader for God. See:

	<u>Person</u>	<u>Excuse</u>
(a) Exodus 3:1-15	_____	_____
(b) Judges 6:1-16	_____	_____
(c) Jeremiah 1:4-8	_____	_____
(d) Acts 22:19-20	_____	_____
I Corinthians 15:9	_____	_____
I Timothy 1:12-13	_____	_____
(e) Acts 15:36-38	_____	_____
(f) Matthew 28:19-20	_____	_____



## Lesson 10: God's Person

I. Suggested Song: "O To Be Like Thee! Blessed Redeemer"

### II. General Objectives

- A. To present a biblical view of man as God wants him to be.
- B. To present methods of becoming God's person.
- C. To present reasons for being God's person.
- D. To present you as God's person in the world.

### III. Overview

- A. A biblical pattern
  - 1. To grow in Christ
  - 2. To show Christ
  - 3. To show love
- B. A biblical method
  - 1. Purity
  - 2. Honesty
  - 3. Speech
  - 4. Suffering
- C. A biblical person

1. Your life in Christ is maturing and growing into a deeper relationship as you are obedient to God's Word and leading. What is God's standard for a person of God?

See: I Peter 1:15; Matthew 5:48.

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2. God's expectation for you as a Christian is high, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, you can do what humanly is impossible. What is provided, according to Scripture, that will assist you in being God's person? See:

Ephesians 6:14-18.

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3. To be God's person requires that you have godly characteristics. Name several areas in which these characteristics will be shown, then, name some of the characteristics. See: Philippians 4:8; Colossians 4:6; I Peter 2:12; I Timothy 6:11; Ephesians 4:23-24; II Peter 1:1-8; II Corinthians 10:5.

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4. There are nine "blessed" statements concerning a person of God. Look up the "blessed" verses and tell what is the benefit promised regarding each "blessed." See: Matthew 5:3-12.
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5. Love is a major theme in Scripture and the most important judge of your Christian life. Most people turn to I Corinthians 13:4-8 for their consideration of love. However, many other verses also refer to love. Use the following passages of Scripture and list at least four love-related truths you have learned. See: I John 4:8-21, 3:16-18.
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6. The Bible is clear that you are to love God. Who else is to be included in the scope of your Christian love? See: Deuteronomy 6:5; I Thessalonians 3:12; Luke 6:27-28; I Peter 4:8; Mark 12:30; Ephesians 5:25, 28; Titus 2:3-4.

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7. There are several lists in the Bible containing good works or standards that a Christian should seek after. Look up two of these lists and prayerfully ask God to show you the strengths and also the weaknesses you need to work on. Write these out and tell how you can improve in the areas in which you are weakest. See: Romans 12:6-21; Matthew 25:35-40.

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8. Being God's person implies a purity of life. Use a dictionary and find the definition of purity. Look up the following verses and tell how they contribute to a pure life. (Compare what you find in Scripture with the dictionary definition.) See: Psalm 51:10; Romans 13:14;

Proverbs 4:14-15, 7:1-3; Colossians 3:5; I Peter 1:14-15,  
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9. While everyone readily agrees that honesty is good and should be practiced, it is not easy. Use the following verses to see what God has to say about honesty and what Paul found helpful in living in honesty. Then, list five qualities of an honest person. See: Leviticus 19:11; II Corinthians 8:21; Psalm 15:1-5.

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10. The Bible has much to say concerning the tongue and how a person of God would use it in daily living. Describe the tongue according to Scripture and what guidelines are given regarding its use? See: James 3:8-10; Psalms 52:2-4, 35:28, 145:10-12; Proverbs 10:9, 17:9; Isaiah 50:4; James 1:26, 4:11; Ephesians 4:25.

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11. Suffering is a part of being human. As a Christian, you are not immune from the human events of life. However, you are expected to react differently as a person of God as opposed to an unbeliever. How should God's person view suffering and with what response? Also, for what purpose is suffering allowed? See: James 1:2-4; Ephesians 5:20; I Thessalonians 5:18; Romans 5:3-5; Hebrews 12:6, 10-11; II Corinthians 1:3-4; Psalm 119:67, 71.
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12. Many parts go together to make a whole. This is especially true for a person striving to be God's. This study has attempted to cover several very broad categories necessary to be a person of God. However, to see the whole in complete perspective, use the following verses and list every detail regarding a person called "God's person." How do you compare against this list? What changes or improvements will you be making? See: I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-10.
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## ENDNOTES

### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup>New International Version of the Holy Bible (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1979). Matthew 28:18-20. All Biblical cites hereafter are from this version unless otherwise stated.

<sup>2</sup>Waylon B. Moore, New Testament Follow-up (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1970), p. 17.

<sup>3</sup>Carl W. Wilson, With Christ in the School of Disciple Building (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1977), p. 11.

<sup>4</sup>Moore, op. cit., pp. 17-18.

<sup>5</sup>Gary W. Kuhne, The Dynamics of Personal Follow-up (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1978), p. 13.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Arthur C. Archibald, Establishing the Converts (Philadelphia: The Judson Press, 1952), p. 13. For a more complete explanation of the statistics see Archibald's book. However, even his explanation is lacking in detail. Archibald's point is that even with death, transfers and other happenings a lot of people are still being won and lost to the church.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., p. 14.

<sup>9</sup>Ezekiel 34:2-5.

<sup>10</sup>Moore, op. cit., p. 9.

<sup>11</sup>Walter A. Henrichsen, Disciples are Made--Not Born (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1974), p. 80.

<sup>12</sup>David R. Mains, Full Circle (Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1971), p. 19.

<sup>13</sup>I Corinthians 3:3.

<sup>14</sup>I Peter 3:15.

<sup>15</sup>Moore, op. cit., p. 20.



<sup>16</sup>D. James Kennedy, Evangelism Explosion (Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1977), p. 4.

<sup>17</sup>Wesley Tracy, New Testament Evangelism Today (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 1972), p. 120.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>King James Version of the Holy Bible (New York: Collins' Clear-type Press). John 15:27.

## Chapter 2

<sup>20</sup>Moore, op. cit., p. 11.

<sup>21</sup>See Romans chapter 16 for an example of Paul's individual concern for people.

<sup>22</sup>John 15:12.

<sup>23</sup>Kennedy, op. cit., p. 68.

## Chapter 3

<sup>24</sup>Acts 6:1-7. This passage is the clearest of several places in Scripture relating the principle that a pastor's priority is to be soul-winning and praying and strengthening the fellowship of believers. The pitfall of other demands upon a pastor must be avoided if this Scriptural principle is to be followed.

<sup>25</sup>I Timothy 4:15-17.

## Chapter 4

<sup>26</sup>Robert E. Coleman, Established by the Word of God (Winona Lake, Indiana: Light and Life Men, International, 1964).

<sup>27</sup>Studies in Christian Living (Colorado Springs, Colorado: Navpress, 1979).

<sup>28</sup>Living in Christ (Minneapolis, Minn: The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1967).

<sup>29</sup>Robert E. Coleman, Life in the Living Word (Wilmore, Kentucky: Department of Evangelism, 1965).

<sup>30</sup>Design for Discipleship (Colorado Springs, Colorado: Navpress, 1979).

<sup>31</sup>Robert E. Coleman, The Spirit and The Word (Fort Lauderdale, Florida: Christian Outreach, 1977).

<sup>32</sup>Guidelines suggested by Kenneth C. Kinghorn, in an address ("Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts") to a Forum for Youth, n.d., (tape on file in Western Evangelical Seminary under Theology--CT 77).

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