

# BUILDING BLOCKS

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# BUILDING BLOCKS

## FOLLOW-UP

### I. *Why Follow -up?*

*“Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual, but as worldly - mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it.” I Corinthians 3:1-2*

When you lead someone to Christ or help a young Christian recognize his need to grow spiritually, you are embracing a great privilege and responsibility. You will have become his “spiritual parent” or “spiritual leader.” Just as a newborn baby does not know how to feed himself, or even what to eat, a new or young Christian does not know what to do to grow either. He needs you to help him. That is the responsibility part. You have the opportunity to share with him some of the greatest truths that have transformed your own life. You will have a part in helping him understand some of the most fascinating subjects that will be foundational in the growth of his relationship with God for a lifetime.

It is also a great privilege to follow up a new or young believer. Since the Holy Spirit has shown him his need for Christ to be an intimate part of his life, take advantage of the chance you have to demonstrate all the great benefits that result from walking with God, joy, peace...the fruits of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)

### II. **How to get the most out of this study**

- A. Pray. Ask God to teach you and to give you understanding as you go through "Building Blocks."
- B. Get them in the Word. (See Taste & See)
- C. Allow time to fill out the evaluation grids in your first and last meetings. This will be an encouraging process as they review the progress they have made after completing the study.
- D. Take one lesson a week to allow adequate time to study and meditate over each lesson.
- E. Take time to hide God's Word in your heart and mind by memorizing the bold italic verses in each lesson.
- F. Finish the study by giving some practical application steps so it will be clear what is next in their spiritual journey.

# EVALUATION GRID

Evaluation is an important element in life that most people miss out on. It can help you understand where you have come from, where you are, and where you are going. In the following evaluation, please circle the number on the line which best communicates your knowledge of the particular areas listed. This will help you understand where you are in your new spiritual journey and also help your leader get to know you better.

	NONE			SOME				ALL			
The Gospel	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lordship	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The Word of God	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Assurances From God	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Privilege Mentality	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
View of God	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
View of Sin	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
View of the Church	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Living By Your Purpose	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Discipleship	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

# TIME ALONE WITH GOD

*God speaks to us through His Word and as we reflect, meditate and understand, we can communicate this back to God.*

*Definition - Time alone with God is communicating with God for the purpose of building intimacy that leads to oneness with God.*

## I. Why Spend Time With God?

- |    |                                  |  |
|----|----------------------------------|--|
| A. | Deuteronomy 8:3                  | Spiritual sustenance                       |
| B. | Proverbs 13:20<br>Acts 4:13      | You become like those you spend time with. |
| C. | Daniel 6:10<br>Psalm 5:3         | Godly Examples                             |
| D. | Mark 1:35                        | Christ receives direction                  |
| E. | Luke 5:16                        | Jesus did                                  |
| F. | I Corinthians 1:9<br>James 4:4-5 | God longs for our fellowship               |

## II. Results From Being With God

You will be transformed to the image of God!

II Corinthians 3:18  
Ephesians 4:23-24  
Colossians 3:10

# TIME ALONE WITH GOD

## HOW TO GET STARTED

Commit this time to God; Ask Him to lead you through your time.  
Here are some suggestions for your time alone.

1. Take time to worship God.
2. Confess any sin that is in your life.
3. Reflect on who God is and who you are in Christ.
4. Meditate on God's Word.

## WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Write out in your own words what the passage is saying. Here are some types of questions and topics to look for.

Topics:

*Questions:*

- S Sin to avoid
- P Promise to claim
- E Example to follow
- C Command to obey
- K Knowledge of God

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Reflect on what the passage means to you.

## WHAT DO I DO?

In light of these verses, how should I view God, others, myself?

What action step(s) can I take?

## MAIN THOUGHT

Keep it short and simple - now memorize and meditate.

# TASTE AND SEE

## *The 31-Day Experiment*

### The Gospel

1. Mark 1:14-15
2. I Corinthians 15:1-6
3. Ephesians 1:13

### Lordship

4. Deuteronomy 11:26-28
5. I John 2:3-6

### The Word of God

6. Proverbs 30:5-6
7. John 5:24
8. Hebrews 4:12

### Assurances From God

9. Matthew 6:33-34
10. Romans 8:31-39
11. Philippians 4:13
12. I John 1:8-10
13. I John 4:7-8

### Privilege Mentality

14. Job 1:20-21
15. Romans 5:6-9
16. I John 3:1-2

### View of God

17. Exodus 34:6-7
18. Psalm 66:3
19. Psalm 139:14
20. Lamentations 3:22-23

### View of Sin

21. Romans 6:14
22. Ephesians 6:10-11,16
23. II Peter 2:9

### View of the Church

24. Ephesians 3:20-21
25. Ephesians 5:29

### Living By Your Purpose

26. Psalm 86:9
27. Matthew 9:36-38
28. John 17:25-26

### Discipleship

29. Matthew 28:18-20
30. John 15:8
31. II Timothy 2:2

# THE GOSPEL

## LESSON 1

Understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ is essential, if not foundational, in your new life with Christ. What do the following Scriptures say about the gospel?

### I. What is the gospel?

1. *Romans 1:16*
2. 1 Corinthians 15:1-6
3. Ephesians 1:13

How would you summarize the gospel of Jesus Christ?

### II. What is the definition of reconciliation?

What do the following verses have to do with reconciliation?

1. Romans 5:9-11
2. II Corinthians 5:17-21
3. Colossians 1:19-22
4. Colossians 2:13-14
5. How does reconciliation play a part in the gospel?

### III. What are a few of the benefits that the gospel will provide for you?

1. “The thief comes only to steal, and kill and destroy; I came that they might have \_\_\_\_\_, and might have it \_\_\_\_\_.” (John 10:10)
2. “And this is \_\_\_\_\_, that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.” (John 17:3)

3. “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the \_\_\_\_\_.”  
(Galatians 4:4-5)
4. “...and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF \_\_\_\_\_.” (Ephesians 6:15)
5. “...if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the \_\_\_\_\_ that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.” (Colossians 1:23)

**IV. Who should the gospel be proclaimed to?**

1. Matthew 24:14 - To the \_\_\_\_\_
2. Mark 13:10 - To all the \_\_\_\_\_
3. Mark 16:15 - To all \_\_\_\_\_
4. Acts 8:40 - To all the \_\_\_\_\_

**V. What is the proper response to the gospel?**

1. *Mark 1:15* - \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
2. Acts 14:15 - \_\_\_\_\_

**VI. The gospel is a very valuable part of your life. Find out how the gospel plays such an important role in the life of a believer. How should you react to the gospel once you have become a child of God?**

1. Romans 16:25 - \_\_\_\_\_
2. II Corinthians 9:13 - \_\_\_\_\_
3. Philippians 1:15-16 - \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How does knowing the benefits from section III affect the way you view your life now?
2. Write down and discuss what you learned from this lesson on the gospel.

# THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

## LESSON 2

### I. ACKNOWLEDGING HIS LORDSHIP

Jesus Christ, lord of lords, has always existed and always will. Not all people presently acknowledge Him as their lord, but that does not alter the fact of His lordship. Everyone will one day acknowledge Christ as Lord, but the privilege of acknowledging and obeying His lordship is possible now. Allow Christ to be the lord of your life.

A. Titles reveal important information about the person to whom they refer.

1. What are Jesus Christ's titles in the following verses?

John 13:13 - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:36 - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 19:16 - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

2. Summarize what these titles reveal about Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is Lord of:

Romans 14:9 - of the \_\_\_\_\_ and of the \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 1:16-17 - \_\_\_\_\_

**Colossians 1:18** - \_\_\_\_\_

C. Write your own definition of the word lord as you feel it applies to Jesus Christ.

D. What place should Christ hold in a believer's life? (Matthew 6:33)

E. Why should someone make Jesus Christ lord of his or her life?

Jeremiah 29:11

Matthew 10:29-31

I John 3:1

F. Prayerfully meditate on the lordship of Christ. Have you decided to acknowledge Jesus' lordship in your life?

## II. THE PRACTICE OF LORDSHIP

Once you have decided to acknowledge the lordship of Christ in your life, you will prove that He is Lord by submitting to Him moment by moment and obeying Him in the daily affairs of life.

- A. Take a few moments to evaluate your practice of the lordship of Jesus Christ. A good way to determine if Christ is in control of an area of your life is to ask, “Am I willing to do whatever Christ desires in this area?” or “Will I be able to thank God for whatever may happen in this area?”
  - 1. List any areas that you are not allowing Christ to control.
  
  
  - 2. What can you do in these areas to acknowledge Christ’s lordship?
  
- B. According to Luke 6:46-49,
  - 1. What is a good way to evaluate if Christ is truly lord of your life?
  
  
  - 2. What is the best foundation upon which to build your life?
  
- C. What does Romans 12:1 say you should do with your life as a Christian?
  
  
- D. What three things is the person who follows Christ called to do? (**Luke 9:23**)  
In your own words, write what this means to you.
  
  
- E. What does the lordship of Christ mean to you?

# THE WORD OF GOD

## LESSON 3

### I. THE CREDIBILITY OF GOD'S WORD

A. What is God's Word referred to in the following verses?

Nehemiah 8:2-3 - \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 1:2 - \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 2:16 - \_\_\_\_\_

B. According to *II Timothy 3:16-17*, where does Scripture originate?

C. What is one of the purposes for God's Word? (vs. 17)

D. How does the Word equip us for every good work? (vs. 16)

By \_\_\_\_\_ us.

By \_\_\_\_\_ us.

By \_\_\_\_\_ us.

By \_\_\_\_\_ us in \_\_\_\_\_.

E. Why do we need God's Word?

1. So we may not \_\_\_\_\_ against God. (Psalms 119:9-11)

2. It gives us \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 119:33)

3. It is a source of \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 119:47, 97, 162)

4. The Word provides spiritual food so that we will \_\_\_\_\_ in  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. (I Peter 2:2)

F. How should God's Word be viewed?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (*Psalm 19:7*)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 19:8)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 119:142, 151, 160)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 40:8)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 55:11)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 4:12)

G. How should we respond to God's Word?

1. Psalm 119:161 - By standing in \_\_\_\_\_ of God's words.
2. Psalm 119:162 - By \_\_\_\_\_ in thy Word.
3. Jeremiah 23:28 - By speaking His Word in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Acts 17:11 - By receiving the Word with great \_\_\_\_\_, and by \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures for ourselves.
5. II Timothy 2:15 - "Be \_\_\_\_\_ to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of truth."
6. James 1:22-25 - By being \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word.

## II. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- A. Do you personally see a need for God's Word in your life? Explain.
  
- B. Do you believe that the Bible is "the inspired Word of God?" Explain.
  
- C. How will you respond to God's Word? Will you make it the priority in your life? Explain.

# ASSURANCES FROM GOD

## LESSON 4

Read Numbers 23:19 and II Peter 1:3-4. What is the basis of our assurance in God?

### I. ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

Romans 8:35-39  
*Titus 3:4-5*

I John 4:7-8

- A. Why does God love us? Do you deserve to be loved by God?
  
- B. What is love?
  
- C. If you know God, can you ever have God's love taken away? Explain.
  
- D. When you are unfaithful to God (out of fellowship with Him) does God stop loving you? Explain.

### II. ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PROVISION

I Kings 17:2-16  
Matthew 6:25-34

- A. What does God promise to provide for you?
  
- B. What is your responsibility in this promise? (vs. 33-34)
  
- C. How did God provide for Elijah during his time of need?
  
- D. What principles can you learn from the example of Elijah?

### III. ASSURANCE OF VICTORY

I Corinthians 10:13

Galatians 5:16-21

Philippians 4:13

I Peter 5:6-10

I John 5:4-5

A. You have the assurance of victory through \_\_\_\_\_.

B. God has given you victory

over \_\_\_\_\_

over \_\_\_\_\_

over \_\_\_\_\_

over \_\_\_\_\_

C. Is there ever such a thing as a hopeless situation?

### IV. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Romans 8:31-39

II Timothy 1:7-12

A. What was Paul convinced of?

B. What was it that convinced him?

C. Why did the apostle Paul write this epistle to the Asian churches where he was ministering?

D. What insight does I Corinthians 6:15 have to offer about losing your salvation even though it is in reference to sexual immorality?

E. Read John 10:25-30. Can you ever lose your salvation? Explain.

## V. ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Isaiah 43:25  
Isaiah 55:7  
Jeremiah 31:34  
Luke 1:77  
Luke 24:47

Acts 10:43  
Romans 3:25  
***I Peter 3:18***  
I John 1:8-10

- A. Why do you need forgiveness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. Do you deserve to be forgiven? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. Why did God choose to forgive you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- D. Are you assured of God's forgiveness if you are His child? (I John 1:8-10)

## VI. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- A. If you know you have the assurance of God's love, how will this effect the way you live your life?

assurance of God's provision?

assurance of victory?

assurance of salvation?

assurance of forgiveness?

- B. Summarize the main thought that you learned from Lesson 4.

# PRIVILEGE MENTALITY

## LESSON 5

Understanding the privilege mentality will help give you the proper perspective of how fortunate and blessed you are to have a personal relationship with the one true God. This value stems out of having a grateful heart. Focusing on what God has done in your life will produce a privilege mentality. When your focus is off of God and on yourself, a deserving mentality often results. This lesson is designed to look at both mindsets in an effort to help you learn how you can develop the right mentality toward God.

### I. UNDERSTANDING THE PRIVILEGE MENTALITY

#### A. *God does not owe me anything!*

1. What was Jacob's attitude in Genesis 32:9-10 when God increased his cattle, family and possessions?
2. Read Job 1:6-22. What was Job's mentality? (vs. 20-21)
3. What is your attitude as you face different circumstances in your life? Does God owe you anything? Are you focusing on God and His incredible blessings?

#### B. *I deserve nothing!*

1. What is it that I truly deserve?

Matthew 8:10-12 - \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 25:31-46 - \_\_\_\_\_

John 3:36 - \_\_\_\_\_

John 8:23-24 - \_\_\_\_\_

John 12:48 - \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

II Thessalonians 1:6-9 - \_\_\_\_\_

#### C. *God is Enough! He has given me everything I need.*

***“And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”  
(Philippians 4:19)***

## II. EVIDENCES OF A DESERVING MENTALITY

- A. Discuss the following topics and how they can lead to a deserving mentality.
1. Expectations Believing you should receive something that you really do not deserve.
  2. Complaining Self pity - You start focusing on what you think you need or what you missed out on.
  3. Bitterness You harbor anger toward someone else. You lose sight of what that person means to you or has done for you.
  4. Lack of Motivation You are not truly thankful for what Christ has done for you.
- B. Do you recognize any of these characteristics in your own life? If so, how can you eliminate them? If you do, what will be the result?

## III. THE GOOD NEWS

- A. It is a privilege to be:
1. A \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 9:36-38)
  2. A \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. (*John 1:12*)
  3. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. (*II Corinthians 5:20*)
- B. How did we get these privileges?
- Romans 5:6-9
- Ephesians 2:5-9
- C. If you want to keep the privilege mentality for the rest of your life, never lose focus of the great sacrifice God made on the cross by giving His only son, Jesus Christ, **for you.**

*“If God be God and died for me, there is no sacrifice too great for me.” CT Studd*



# VIEW OF GOD

## LESSON 6

An understanding of who God is lays the foundation for you to grow in your relationship with God. One excellent way of understanding who God is can be achieved by studying the attributes or character qualities of God. When we see God more and more for who He is, our life will be transformed by that view. Most of the problems in the Christian life are rooted in a false or inaccurate view of God.

I. **Read the following attributes and the verses that go along with them. Fill in the blank with the appropriate response to that particular aspect of who God is from the list of words below.**

All-knowing	All-powerful	Fair
Unchanging	Limitless	Right
Everywhere	Committed Eternally	Gracious
Committed	Slow to Anger	Perfect

A. **Omnipotent** = \_\_\_\_\_

“O Lord, the God of our fathers, art Thou not God in the heavens? And art Thou not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Thy hand so that no one can stand against Thee.” (II Chronicles 20:6)

“Looking upon them, Jesus said, ‘With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.’” (*Mark 10:27*)

B. **Omnipresent** = \_\_\_\_\_

“Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Thy hand will lead me, and Thy right hand will lay hold of me.” (Psalm 139:7-10)

C. **Omniscient** = \_\_\_\_\_

“...for God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.” (I John 3:20b)

D. **Immutable** = \_\_\_\_\_

“For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.” (Malachi 3:6)

E. **Infinite** = \_\_\_\_\_

“Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.” (Psalm 90:2)

F. **Holy** = \_\_\_\_\_

“Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; FOR ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE THEE, for Thy righteous acts have been revealed.” (Revelation 15:4)

G. **Just** = \_\_\_\_\_

“The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.” (Deuteronomy 32:4)

H. **Truth** = \_\_\_\_\_

“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (*Numbers 23:19*)

I. **Good** = \_\_\_\_\_

“Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth’...” (Exodus 34:6)

J. **Love** = \_\_\_\_\_

“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)

K. **Patient** = \_\_\_\_\_

“The Lord is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.” (Numbers 14:18)

L. **Faithful** = \_\_\_\_\_

“Thy faithfulness continues throughout all generations; Thou didst establish the earth, and it stands.” (Psalm 119:90)

**II. When you think of who God is, what are three more attributes you would ascribe to Him? Write down the attribute, definition, and reference from the Bible.**

<u>Attribute</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Reference</u>
A.		
B.		
C.		

**III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- A. If you were to focus on God's attributes consistently, how would this affect your relationship with God? With others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. Which of these attributes is easiest for you to comprehend? The most difficult? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. What are some ways to keep these attributes on the fore-front of your mind?

# VIEW OF SIN

## LESSON 7

### ***SIN - “Disobedience of God’s Law”***

The topic of sin can be overwhelming but also freeing when you have a proper perspective about it. Satan would like nothing more than for you to believe you are still in bondage to sin, but God wants you to know the truth. First you should know what sin is. It is “missing the mark” or “knowing what is good and right in God’s eyes and doing something else.” Examine God’s Word to find out more about the power of sin.

#### **I. WHAT IS SIN?**

How do these verses describe sin?

Proverbs 24:9 - \_\_\_\_\_

I John 3:4 - \_\_\_\_\_

I John 5:17 - \_\_\_\_\_

#### **II. THE EFFECTS OF SIN**

A. There are many consequences that result from committing sin. The verses below will give you a few examples.

Exodus 32:34

***Romans 6:23***

II Timothy 3:1-7

B. Can you think of other consequences besides these three?

### III. THE POWER OF SIN

Sin is extremely powerful. It is ruthless and can destroy a person if taken lightly. Examine the next few verses about the power of sin below and list your results in the appropriate column.

Before Christ

As God's Children

John 8:32-36

John 9:39-41

Romans 6:15-22

Romans 8:1-14

I Corinthians 10:13

Revelation 1:5-6

### IV. SIN AS A CHILD OF GOD

When you became a child of God your sin was looked upon by God in a different light. Through His compassion and mercy, God has dealt with you by grace through His son, Jesus Christ. In the following verses, what does God say about your sin?

1. Psalm 103:12

2. Isaiah 44:22

3. Jeremiah 31:34

4. I John 1:7-9



# THE CHURCH

## LESSON 8

God has created only two institutions on this earth, marriage and the church. He holds both in the highest regard. In fact, the church is defined as “the living body of Christ” of which Christ is the head. To live a fruitful Christian life, we must understand God’s purpose for church and our role as a part of it.

### I. DEFINING THE CHURCH - *Who or what is the church?*

A. The church is the body of Christ.

1. The church is also called the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Colossians 1:18,24)
2. Who then is the body of Christ? In Ephesians 4:11-12, it is all of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

B. The church is God’s family.

1. The church is also referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.  
(1 Timothy 3:15)
2. God tells us that true disciples, or followers of Christ, are His children - in His household. (See John 1:12-13; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 3:7; Hebrews 3:6)
3. The church, therefore, is every true \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

### II. THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH - *How does it work?*

A. The primary function of the church is the **edification** (building up) of the body.

1. The book of Acts gives you the best picture of a healthy, local church body. Read Acts 2:42-47. Record the different aspects of the “body-life” mentioned in *Acts 2:42*.
  - a. to the \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. to \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. to \_\_\_\_\_

2. Let's take a closer look at fellowship.
  - a. The goal of fellowship is \_\_\_\_\_. (John 17:23, Romans 15:5, Ephesians 4:13)
  - b. We are to be one in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*Philippians 2:2*)
  - c. We are to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to the leadership of the church (Hebrews 13:17) and to \_\_\_\_\_ as well. (Ephesians 5:21)
  
- B. The other primary function of the church is the **evangelization** of the lost world.
  1. Jesus' last instructions to the disciples are found in Matthew 28:18-20. What was their assignment?
  
  2. Jesus' last instructions to the church are found in Acts 1:8. What was the church's mission?

### III. YOU AND THE CHURCH

- A. The church is one body with many parts. What is your part?
  1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Summarize this passage in a simple sentence or two.
  
  2. Every believer has one or more spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 12:4-8 and I Corinthians 12:4) You should discover yours and \_\_\_\_\_ it to serve others. (1 Peter 4:10)
  
- B. What should you look for when you are searching for a church to attend?
  1. You should find a church that:
    - a. Teaches sound \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Timothy 4:3-4; Titus 1:9, 2:1)
    - b. Effectively reaches \_\_\_\_\_ with the gospel (Acts 5:42, Colossians 4:4-6, 1 Thessalonians 1:8)
    - c. Engages in true \_\_\_\_\_. (Ephesians 5:19-21)
    - d. Ministers to the \_\_\_\_\_. (James 1:27)



# LIVING BY YOUR PURPOSE

## LESSON 9

Before Christ the only purpose we had was to serve ourselves. We were living out our own agenda because we were, in a sense, our own master. Now that you have become a child of God, discover the new exciting purpose and plan God has for your life!

### I. PURPOSE

- A. Why did God Almighty create man? (Psalm 86:9; Isaiah 43:7)
  
- B. In John 17:4, what was Christ's ultimate purpose and how did He accomplish this purpose?
  
- C. What were Christ's priorities in His life? (John 17:25-26)
  
- D. How did Christ make God known in John 17:4? What was the work which Christ had done up to this point?

### II. GOD'S HEART

- A. In order to know God's purpose and plan, you must know what is on God's heart. What does God say is on His heart?
  - 1. Matthew 28:18-20 - To \_\_\_\_\_ of all the nations.
  - 2. Mark 16:15-16 - To \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel.
  - 3. Luke 15:4-7 - He wants for those who do not know Him to \_\_\_\_\_ and to have fellowship with Him.
  - 4. John 3:16-17 - To \_\_\_\_\_ the world.
  
- B. God's plan to reach the world is evident through the life of Christ and His relationships with His disciples and with other people. Though God could have chosen any plan, He chose to reach the world through people. After reading *II Timothy 2:2*, explain what is taking place and its significance in reaching the world with the gospel of Christ.
  
- C. In light of God's purpose and plan, what is God looking for?  
(*Matthew 9:36-38*)

### **III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- A. What will it take for you to get to know God intimately?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. What will it take for you to be a laborer for God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. Will you be the laborer God is looking for?

Why or why not?

# DISCIPLESHIP

## LESSON 10

When one hears the word *discipleship*, he or she should think of both the lifestyle and the process.

### I. DISCIPLESHIP—A WAY OF LIFE

- A. The definition of a disciple is one who follows closely the teaching of another.
1. What did Christ say characterized a true disciple?
    - a. *John 8:31*
    - b. John 13:34-35
    - c. John 15:8
  2. What did Paul say would be the result in the life of a person who experienced and accepted the love of Christ?
    - a. Romans 12:1-2
    - b. II Corinthians 5:14-15
- B. There is a cost involved in discipleship. Not all of those who followed Christ were His disciples. When He began to explain the cost to follow Him, many turned away. The same is true today.
1. Read Luke 14:25-35.
    - a. What mistake did the builder and king make?
    - b. What is the parallel to the Christian life?
  2. Read Luke 9:23-25.

To follow Christ you must deny \_\_\_\_\_ and follow Him \_\_\_\_\_ . In short, you give your \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.
  3. In Philippians 3:7-10, what was Paul's attitude toward the cost of salvation to know God?

4. Jesus' standards for His disciples are high.
  - a. What right does He have to demand these standards?
  - b. Why do you think it is important to not compromise these standards?
  - c. Have you counted the cost to follow Christ?
  - d. What would it cost you to follow Christ daily?
  - e. Is it worth it to you? Why or why not?

## II. DISCIPLESHIP—THE PROCESS

### A. Principle of Multiplication

God does not intend to reach the whole world through a single individual. His plan is to reach the world the same way it is populated—by multiplication. Jesus saw the masses through the man. He loved the world, helped thousands, but trained the twelve. The ministry of multiplying disciples comes through ministry to individuals. This is the way Paul communicated his life to Timothy.

(II Timothy 3:10) **You reach the masses through the man!**

As you invest your life in one person and then see him invest his life in another, you will become part of the spiritual multiplication process. God has not only told you what to do, He has also provided a plan to help you accomplish the task.

1. Read Paul's instructions to Timothy in II Timothy 2:2.
  - a. What did he tell him to do?
  - b. What kind of man did Paul tell Timothy to invest in?
  - c. Communication passes from one person to another. Fill in the blanks with the people mentioned in this verse. Paul to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Most of Christ's time was spent training the disciples. Why is that so important?
3. In John 21:15-17, Christ explained to Peter the natural response you will have if you love Jesus Christ. What will you do?

## B. The Great Commission

1. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and in your own words, explain the passage.
2. What was the very last thing Christ said to His disciples? Does this apply to Christ's disciples today?
3. As Jesus looked on the needs of His people, He felt compassion for them (Matthew 9:36-38). He told the disciples that there are many people who are hungry, but few workers to feed them. The same is true today. Many are spectators, few are laborers. Why has the Great Commission been neglected?
4. What did Jesus have in mind when He asked men to follow Him? (*Matthew 4:19*)
5. What was promised to the disciples to empower them to fulfill the Great Commission? (Matthew 28:20, Acts 1:8)
6. The task is clear—make disciples. As a Christian, you should either be involved in that task or equipping yourself to make disciples. What will it take to equip you to be a part of this process?

## III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- A. Do you see a need for being disciplined personally? Explain.
- B. Summarize how the process of multiplication works.
- C. Will you be committed to make disciples through the process of discipleship? Explain.

# EVALUATION GRID

Now that you have completed this material, how would you evaluate yourself? Compare this grid with your first to see the progress you have made. Use the results of these grids to determine if you should spend more time on studying these foundational topics. It is important for you to nail down any questions that you may have now before you continue on your spiritual journey.

	NONE			SOME				ALL			
The Gospel	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lordship	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The Word of God	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Assurances From God	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Privilege Mentality	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
View of God	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
View of Sin	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
View of the Church	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Living By Your Purpose	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Discipleship	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

# WHAT'S NEXT?

The following are some suggestions of what you can do next to continue to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

- A. Find a home church that is growing and is centered around Christ and God's Word.
  
- B. Find good, healthy fellowship with other believers.
  
- C. Continue to seek out other material that can help you grow.
  - 1. Outline for daily time alone with God.
  - 2. Keeping on track.
  
- D. Pray and study God's Word daily.
  
- E. Seek out a mentor who can provide leadership and accountability in your relationship with God.

# KEEPING ON TRACK

In order to handle the word of God properly, it is important to follow certain guidelines of interpretation (hermeneutics is the academic word). Observing these guidelines does not always guarantee correct conclusions, but disregarding them frequently leads to error.

Walt Henrichsen has written a helpful book on this subject; [A Layman's Guide to Interpreting the Bible](#) (NavPress, 1979). The rules he suggests are summarized below. You would profit greatly by also reading the explanations and examples of these given in his book.

## I. General Principles of Interpretation

- A. Work from the assumption that the Bible is authoritative.
- B. The Bible interprets itself; Scripture best explains Scripture.
- C. Saving faith and the Holy Spirit are necessary for us to understand and properly interpret the Scriptures.
- D. Interpret personal experience in the light of Scripture and not Scripture in the light of personal experience.
- E. Biblical examples are authoritative only when supported by a command. A corollary: the believer is free to do anything that the Bible does not prohibit.
- F. The primary purpose of the Bible is not to increase our knowledge but to change our lives. Two corollaries:
  - a. Some passages are not to be applied in the same way they were applied at the time they were written.
  - b. When you apply a passage, it must be in keeping with a correct interpretation.
- G. Every Christian has the right and responsibility to investigate and interpret the Word of God for himself.
- H. Church history is important but not decisive in the interpretation of Scripture. A corollary the Church does not determine what the Bible teaches; the Bible determines what the church teaches.
- I. The promises of God throughout the Bible are available to the Holy Spirit for the believers of every generation.

## II. Grammatical Principles of Interpretation

- A. Scripture has only one meaning and should be taken literally.
- B. Interpret words in harmony with their meaning in the times of the author.
- C. Interpret a passage in harmony with its context.
- D. Interpret a word in relation to its sentence and context.
- E. When an inanimate object is used to describe a living being, the statement may be considered figurative.
- F. When an expression is out of character with the thing described, the statement may be considered to be figurative.