

Basic Christian Life

Part 2: The Spirit-Filled Christian

Discipleship Training for Dynamic Believers

WorkBook



The cover symbol is based upon Psalm one. The tree represents a dynamic Christian firmly planted in the Word of God and thus rooted in Christ. Colossians 2:7 is the New Testament variant with the same ideas of rooted, built up, established and abounding with thanksgiving.

All Scripture verses in this course are taken from the NIV unless otherwise noted.

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Note Exodus 20:15

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Completion Record

Ask others in your study group to check you on your completion of the requirements in this course and have them initial and date each section.

	Initial	Date
SCRIPTURE MEMORY		
"Live the New Life" memory verses:		
"Christ the Center" — 2 Corinthians 5:17		
"Christ the Center" — Galatians 2:20		
"Obedience to Christ" — Romans 12:1		
"Obedience to Christ" — John 14:21		
"The Word" — 2 Timothy 3:16		
"The Word" — Joshua 1:8		
"Prayer" — John 15:7		
"Prayer" — Philippians 4:6-7		
"Fellowship" — Matthew 18:20		
"Fellowship" — Hebrews 10:24-25		
"Witnessing" — Matthew 4:19		
"Witnessing" — Romans 1:16		
Quoted all of "Live the New Life"		

	Initial	Date
Quoted all of “Beginning with Christ”		
Reviewed “Beginning with Christ” for 14 consecutive days		
Completed the Scripture Memory Principles Quiz on page 28		
Completed the Self-checking Quiz on pages 50–52		
QUIET TIME		
Completed “Bible Reading Highlights Record” for 21 consecutive days		
TESTIMONY		
Testimony given from a brief outline — under four minutes		
BIBLE STUDY — <i>The Spirit-filled Christian</i>		
Topic 1 — The Obedient Christian (pages 22–27 and 31–35).		
Topic 2 — God’s Word in Your Life (pp. 38–47).		
Topic 3 — Conversing with God (pp. 53–61).		
Topic 4 — Fellowship with Christians (pp. 66–75).		
Topic 5 — Witnessing for Christ (pp. 82–89).		
ARTICLES STUDIED		
<i>My Heart Christ’s Home</i> (pp. 106–114).		
<i>How to Spend a Day in Prayer</i> (pp. 122–130).		
GROUP EXERCISE		
Spend a half day in prayer		
MISCELLANEOUS		
Completed pages 115–118		
LEADER’S CHECK		
1) Gave testimony to unbeliever		
2) Gave testimony to another unbeliever		
Graduated from <i>Basic Christian Life, Part 2</i>		

Lesson 1



OUTLINE OF SESSION 1

- A. Go over “A Review of the Goals of *Part 1*” (page 10).
- B. Preview *Part 2* by looking over the “Completion Record” (pages 7–8).
- C. Survey the “Scripture Memory Instructions” (pages 10–15).
- D. Read and discuss “Principles for Memorizing Scripture” (pages 16–17).
- E. Read the Assignment for Session 2 (page 17).
- F. Close the session in prayer.

I. A Review of the Goals of *BCL Part 1*

The goals of *Part 1* were:

1. To enjoy Bible reading by ...
 - a. using a contemporary translation.
 - b. using a method of Bible marking.
2. To successfully memorize the five key Scripture memory verses contained in “Beginning with Christ.”
3. To experience a more consistent and meaningful quiet time by ...
 - a. combining meaningful Bible reading and prayer.
 - b. succeeding in having 14 consecutive quiet times during the course.
 - c. recording daily quiet time thoughts on a “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
4. To complete and discuss “Your Life in Christ” as a participant in a Bible study group.
5. To study and discuss the booklet *Tyranny of the Urgent*.
6. To become familiar with “The Wheel Illustration.”
7. To come to a deeper conviction about reasons for memorizing Scripture and to identify possible hindrances to doing well in Scripture memory.

II. Scripture Memory Instructions

A. You Can Memorize Scripture!

Your Memory Is Good. Think you have a poor memory? Wait a minute. What’s your address and phone number? How about all that information you know by heart about your job? How about all the people you call by name? Or the facts and figures you can recite about your favorite sport or hobby? You see, *your memory is really pretty good after all.* Anything is easy to memorize when you are really interested in it, or use it often.

Attitude Makes the Difference. A good memory is not something you either have or don’t have. It is a skill, and like other skills it can be improved. Attitude is what makes the difference. *Adopt an attitude of confidence in Scripture memory and you will develop skill in memorizing.*

Count on God's Help. Here's some additional encouragement: *You can count on God to help you memorize Scripture*, for He wants His Word to be in the hearts of His children. "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:6); "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16).

So claim Paul's great statement, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13), and *be confident that you can memorize God's Word and that He will help you*. Making the treasures of God's Word your own can be one of the greatest spiritual adventures of your life.

B. What Scripture Memory Will Do for You

It Will Give You Confidence in Witnessing. Have you ever desperately wanted to speak to a friend about Jesus Christ, yet remained tongue-tied? You didn't know how to get started. Many today are finding that memorizing key Bible verses helps them overcome reticence and gives them a workable plan for sharing their faith. They are experiencing the joy of seeing God use them to lead others to the Savior. *Scripture memory can help you become an effective witness for Christ.*

It Will Help You Overcome Worry. Uncertainty of the future or remorse over the past plagues many Christians. Filled with anxiety, their lives become spiritually dry. *The Word of God dwelling in your heart will help you overcome worry.* You can experience God's perfect peace by writing His Word on your heart and keeping your mind fixed on Him.

It Will Give You Victory over Sin. How often have you battled some sin in your life, wishing with all your heart for victory, but experiencing defeat? Perhaps you've almost given up, feeling victory is an unattainable ideal. David wrote, "I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11). God's Word hidden in your heart is the Sword of the Spirit, available to do battle against sin and Satan. *Thousands of Christians have found Scripture memory a key to daily victory over sin. This can be your experience too.*

C. Food for Your Soul

Memorized Scripture is in a sense like medicine; it will help meet specific needs in your life. But it is more. *It is also nourishment for your soul and will help keep you spiritually fit.* Just as your physical health is affected by

your food and eating habits, so your spiritual health depends largely on the habit of feeding yourself regularly on God's Word. The Apostle Peter wrote, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk [God's Word], so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

Memorizing Scripture also is like stocking the pantry of your heart. It will help you now and will also equip you to meet future needs and opportunities.

D. Why Do You Want to Memorize Scripture?

What do you expect Scripture memory to do for you? Success in memorizing Bible verses will come *if your own personal reasons for learning are clearly fixed in your mind*. Look back over the four benefits just mentioned and see which ones best describe your needs. Underline them or list them on the lines below and refer to them occasionally. You may have other reasons that were not mentioned. List them as well. The Lord will help you reach these objectives as you memorize the verses.

E. A Look at the Topical Memory System

The "Topical Memory System" (TMS) is designed to help you learn four things:

1. How to *memorize* Scripture verses most easily.
2. How to *apply* the verses to your life.
3. How to *review* them so you will always have them at your fingertips.
4. How to *continue* memorizing Scripture after you finish this course.

The TMS consists of six series of verses. All but the first contain 12 verses. As you work your way through the *Basic Christian Life* course, you will memorize the first three series. The remaining series will be made available to you at the end of *Part 3* for further use on your own.

A — “Beginning with Christ” (*BCL Part 1*)

B — “Live the New Life” (*BCL Part 2*)

C — “Proclaim Christ” (*BCL Part 3*)

D — “Rely on God’s Resources”

E — “Be Christ’s Disciple”

F — “Grow in Christlikeness”

F. Self-checking Quiz

In Session 5 of this course you will take the “Self-checking Quiz” (pages 50–52) to help you check your grasp of these Scripture memory instructions.

G. Why the Topics?

In the TMS you will learn Bible verses according to topics — two verses for each topic. *Two important reasons for knowing the topics of verses you memorize are:*

1. The topics help you understand the verses, and make them easier to memorize and review.
2. The topics give you mental hooks with which to draw a particular verse from memory when you need it. They help you call the right verse to mind when witnessing, counseling, doing Bible study, or preparing a talk.

The topical outline of the course gives you the course’s overall perspective and shows you where you are going. In learning anything, it helps if you first get “the big picture.” Once you have the outline in mind, the topics become pegs on which to hang the verses as you learn them.

So familiarize yourself with the topical outline on pages 15–16 and *learn the topics as you learn the verses.*

H. Learn the References

Knowing the references makes it possible to turn to verses in the Bible immediately when you need them for personal use or when speaking to others. It is vital, therefore, that you learn the references just as if they were part of the verses.

The surest way to remember references is to say them “*fore ‘n aft*,” at the beginning and end of the verse each time you say it. This will connect the reference and the verse in your mind, so that whenever you hear or see the reference it recalls the verse, and the words of the verse likewise remind you of the reference. (Naturally, this “fore ‘n aft” rule applies only when you memorize and review, not when speaking or witnessing.)

When learning or reviewing a verse, make it a habit to say the topic first, then the reference, then the verse, and the reference again at the end.

I. When Should You Memorize?

Initial learning is best done when you can concentrate without distraction. Two times during the day are most conducive to learning.

One time is just before you go to bed at night, because while asleep you forget less of what you have just learned. The other time is right after you get up in the morning, because your mind is then most receptive to new impressions.

Many people set aside part of their morning quiet time just for Scripture memory. They learn quickly, are spiritually refreshed, and get off to an early start on their memory work. Others find that taking a few minutes at lunchtime or just before supper best fits their schedules. One excellent habit to form is to use spare moments during the day, such as while waiting, walking, or driving, to review or meditate on your verses.

You should experiment and discover what times of day are best for your memory work.

J. How Fast Should You Learn?

Quality before Quantity — Your main goal in the “Topical Memory System” is to gain a scriptural foundation for godly living and service to others. So don’t rush your memorizing.

One or Two a Week — Some weeks you will be assigned two verses. Other weeks you will do only one. Take time to look up the context of each verse — the portion of Scripture surrounding it — in the Bible. You should also take time to meditate on these passages.

Keep a Steady Pace — If you have time and desire to work ahead you may do so. It is important, however, that you do a thorough job. Develop good memory habits at the beginning that will enable you to succeed.

K. Why Learn Word-perfectly?

When learning or reviewing a passage of the Bible, always quote it word-perfectly. Make sure the *first* impression on your mind is clear and correct. Mistakes once learned are difficult to unlearn. It is easier to learn verses correctly, and it is easier to recall and use them when properly learned.

Word perfection as a memory habit will...

- fix the passage sharply in your mind.
- make your review easier.
- give you confidence to use your verses.

Anything worth doing is worth doing right. Keep your memory habits sharp!

L. Which Translation Should You Memorize?

The verses will be given to you in the New International Version. However you may prefer to use a modern translation. Determine what best fits your long-term needs. Then memorize in that version. It is best not to mix translations in memory work.

III. The Topical Memory System in This Course

The “Topical Memory System” has one series “Beginning with Christ” with only 5 verses. The rest of the System includes five more series with 12 verses each — “Live the New Life”; “Proclaim Christ”; “Rely on God’s Resources”; “Be Christ’s Disciple”; and “Grow in Christlikeness.” Each of these 5 series has six topics and two verses for each topic, for a total of 12 verses in each series. All of the topics relate to important areas of the Christian life.

In *BCL Part 2* you will memorize the next 12 verses:

B. LIVE THE NEW LIFE

Christ the Center	• 2 Corinthians 5:17	• Galatians 2:20
Obedience to Christ	• Romans 12:1	• John 14:21
The Word	• 2 Timothy 3:16	• Joshua 1:8

Prayer	• John 15:7	• Philippians 4:6–7
Fellowship	• Matthew 18:20	• Hebrews 10:24–25
Witnessing	• Matthew 4:19	• Romans 1:16

IV. Principles for Memorizing Scripture

A. As You Start to Memorize the Verse

1. Study the “Scripture Memory Instructions” each week. This material is extremely helpful and should be reviewed each week.
2. Read the context of the verse in your Bible. This will help you understand the setting of the verse.
3. Get a clear understanding of what each verse actually means. You may want to read the verse in one or two translations or paraphrases to get a better grasp of the meaning.
4. Read the verse through several times thoughtfully, aloud, or in a whisper. This will help you grasp the verse as a whole. Each time you read it, say the topic, reference, verse, and reference.
5. Discuss the verse with God in prayer, and continue to seek His help for being successful in Scripture memory.

B. While You Are Memorizing the Verse

6. Work on the verse audibly as often as possible.
7. Learn the topic and reference first.
8. After learning the topic and reference, continue to memorize by adding an additional phrase after you feel comfortable in quoting correctly what you have already learned.
9. Choose a time when your mind is free from outside distractions. Just before retiring at night or when you first get up in the morning are excellent times for memorizing. Keep in mind whether you are a “night” or a “morning person.”
10. As you memorize and review the verse, think about how it applies to your own life and daily circumstances.

11. Always include the topic and reference as a part of the verse.
12. Recent research has shown that memory work can be done most effectively while lying down. Sitting is the next most preferred position. Standing is the least effective position.

C. After You Can Say the Topic, Reference, Verse, and Reference Correctly

13. It is helpful to write the verse out. This deepens the impression in your mind.
14. Review the verse immediately and frequently in the first few days after learning the verse. This is crucial for getting the verse firmly fixed in mind.
15. REVIEW! REVIEW! REVIEW! Repetition is the best method to deepen your impressions of verses and to maintain an ability to quote them accurately.



Assignment for Session 2:

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the two verses on “Christ the Center,” 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20.

You will take a “Scripture Memory Principles Quiz” during Session 2, so you will want to review the “Principles for Memorizing Scripture” (pages 16–17). In the quiz you will list at least six principles of Scripture memory. (Passing this quiz is one of the requirements for graduation from *Part 2*.)

2. *Quiet Time:* Continue your Bible reading and marking as you learned in *Part 1*. Continue to use your “Bible Reading Highlights Record” and “My Personal Reading Record.”
3. *Lesson 2:* Carefully read Lesson 2, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.
4. *Other:* Work on getting everything you can completed and ready to be signed on your “Completion Record” at the next class meeting.

Lesson 2



OUTLINE OF SESSION 2

- A. Break into verse review groups and review the two verses on “Christ the Center,” 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20. Also review the “Beginning with Christ” verses from *Part 1*. (Work at getting everything signed that you can on your “Completion Record.”)
- B. Share your quiet time thoughts, primarily from the “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Complete the “Scripture Memory Principles Quiz” (see page 28).
- D. Discuss Questions in the Bible study “The Obedient Christian, Part A” (pages 22–27), using the leader’s method of *Question-by-Question — Sharing in Sequence*. (The various discussion group leader’s methods are explained in Session 6.)
- E. Read the Assignment for Session 3 (page 28).
- F. Close in prayer.

I. Scripture Memory Instructions

A. And Now to Begin...

Each week you will have three things to work with:

1. *Your memory materials* — the verse cards and a verse pack. (Don't put all the cards in the pack at once. Keep them in a convenient place where they will be accessible each week.)
2. *Comments about the verses* — to make the verses more meaningful and easier to learn and apply.
3. *Your weekly plan* — to help you progress step by step in your memory work and avoid possible pitfalls.

B. About the Verses

Series B: Live the New Life

Every person has physical life. When we have received Jesus Christ into our lives as Savior and Lord, we then possess a new, spiritual life — the life of Christ in us.

This new life may be illustrated by a wheel, as we have seen earlier. A wheel gets its motivating force from the hub. In the Christian life *Christ is the hub*, the source of power and motivation for living for Him (see John 15:5). He lives in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, whose expressed purpose is to glorify Christ.

The rim of the wheel represents you, the Christian, responding to Christ's lordship through your wholehearted obedience to Him. Such obedience is linked with every other element of the Christ-centered life.

The spokes of the wheel show the means by which Christ's power reaches our lives. The vertical spokes concern our relationship to God. The horizontal spokes represent our relationships to other people, both believers and unbelievers. The wheel functions smoothly only when all the spokes are present and in proper balance.

Topic 1: Christ the Center

Just as the driving force in a wheel comes from the hub, so the power to live the Christian life comes from Christ. It is not our resolve to "turn over a new leaf," but our active dependence on Him that enables us to live lives that are pleasing to God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 — Life in Christ is completely new, and His presence gives an entirely new dimension to it. Our old ambitions, outlook, and values are changed as we come to know Him and as His power becomes operative in our lives.

Galatians 2:20 — Not only are we in Christ, but He lives in us. These two truths teach us the closeness of the relationship we enjoy with Him. As believers, we are identified with Him in His death and in His resurrected life. By faith we rely on Him to live His life in and through us.

C. Your Weekly Plan

1. As you did in *BCL Part 1* you need to prepare your memory verses. You will find them at the end of this workbook. Either photocopy them, or cut out the pages and then have them laminated. If you cannot have them laminated, then glue them to a piece of cardboard or stiff paper to reinforce them. After you have done this, cut them apart and put them with your study materials. If you have not already done so, you may want to put your name, address, and phone number on a piece of paper to fasten with your pack of cards for identification in case you should lose the pack. You already have 5 verses from *Part 1* which should be together either with a rubber band or in a plastic cover. Place 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 on the top of your verse pack. Make sure 2 Corinthians 5:17 is showing. Now you have all the verses together so that you can memorize the two new ones as well as review the old ones from *BCL Part 1*.
2. If your *Basic Christian Life* group meets on Sunday, memorize the first verse on Monday and Tuesday. As soon as you can, say the verse at least once without looking. Then repeat it frequently throughout Monday and Tuesday to fix it firmly in mind.
3. Follow the same steps with the second verse on Wednesday and Thursday, and review the first verse. Review both verses on Friday and Saturday.
4. When you learn or review a verse, always say the topic, then the reference, then the verse, and the reference again at the end. For example, “Christ the Center, Second Corinthians five seventeen, ‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!’ Second Corinthians five seventeen.”

NOTE: The capital “B” in the lower left corner of each card indicates the TMS series in which the verse is included. The number with the

letter indicates the position of the verse within the series. These are not to be memorized; they are merely there to help you keep the verses in order.

5. By the end of the week, before coming to class, write out these two verses from memory or quote them to someone to make sure you have learned them correctly.

I seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You...

I meditate on Your precepts and consider Your ways.

— Psalm 119:10–11, 15

II. Bible Study: The Obedient Christian, Part A

Do you know that you have a personal Tutor at your side as you study the Bible? He is always available to help you understand what it means and how it applies to you. He is the Author of the Book — the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ said the Holy Spirit would “teach you all things,” and “guide you into all truth” (John 14:26; 16:13).

The Holy Spirit teaches you through your personal study of the Bible and through God-appointed pastors and teachers. One is not a substitute for the other — you need both personal study and the teaching of others.

Ask for the Spirit’s guidance and teaching as you study and as you consider how to apply the Word to your life. A good prayer from the Book of Psalms is: “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law” (Psalm 119:18).

For your personal Bible study, you need:

- **A Time:** Just as church attendance is planned for a regular time each week, you should plan a time for your Bible study. Some like to study a little every day; others set aside an evening each week. Decide on a time that is best for you, then stick to it faithfully.
- **A Place:** Choose a place free from distractions. If possible, study in the same place each time.

- **Method:** As you consider each verse of Scripture, think about it carefully, then write out your answer. It's also helpful to read the context (the surrounding verses) of each passage listed. Write the answers in your own words whenever possible.
- **Material:** Beside your study book, you will need a complete Bible — Old and New Testaments.

In the *Part 1* Bible study, “Your Life in Christ”, you discovered the reasons for the central place Christ holds in your life. But you may have wondered, *How do I live a Spirit-filled, Christ-centered life?* In this study, “The Spirit-filled Christian,” you will find answers to this question — in five important areas which revolve around the person of Christ. Each of these topics deals with one of the parts of the “Wheel Illustration”:

- The Obedient Christian
- God’s Word in Your Life
- Conversing with God
- Fellowship with Christians
- Witnessing for Christ

At the moment you placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior, a life of obedience to God became a real possibility. The Holy Spirit set you free from sin and death (Romans 8:2), and He came to live within you. The Holy Spirit enables you to live like Jesus did.

It is not just that we should strive to live like Jesus, but that Jesus by His Spirit should come and live in us. To have Him as our example is not enough; we need Him as our Saviour. It is thus through His atoning death that the penalty of our sins may be forgiven; whereas it is through His indwelling Spirit that the power of our sins may be broken.

~ John R. W. Stott*

Recognizing that the Spirit’s energizing power helps you to obey, proceed to learn more about the obedient Christian in action.

A. The Basis for Obedience

When you consider obedience to God, it is necessary to remember who He is and what He desires for you.

*From *Basic Christianity* by John R. W. Stott. ©1958 Inter-Varsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois. Used by permission.

1. What do the following statements tell you about God?
 - a. 1 John 4:16 _____

 - b. Revelation 4:11 _____

 - c. How do these facts influence your obedience to God?

2. Read Deuteronomy 10:12–13.
 - a. What did God require from Israel? _____

 - b. Why did God desire that they keep these commandments?

 - c. How does this apply to a 21st-century Christian?

3. What does 1 John 5:3 teach about God’s commandments?

4. After reflecting on John 14:15, 21, briefly state the relationship between loving God and obeying Him.

B. Obedience to God

How do you know what God desires for your life? The Bible is God's revelation of truth, and obedience to God's Word is obedience to God Himself.

5. Psalm 119 deals with the importance of God's Word. What are several ways the Bible can help you live for Christ?

Verse 11 _____

Verse 105 _____

Verse 130 _____

6. Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16 says that the Word of God is profitable for:
- a. _____ What to believe and do
 - b. _____ Recognizing sin
 - c. _____ How to change
 - d. _____ How to live

This can be illustrated in the following manner:

TEACHING

Shows you the path to walk on

TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

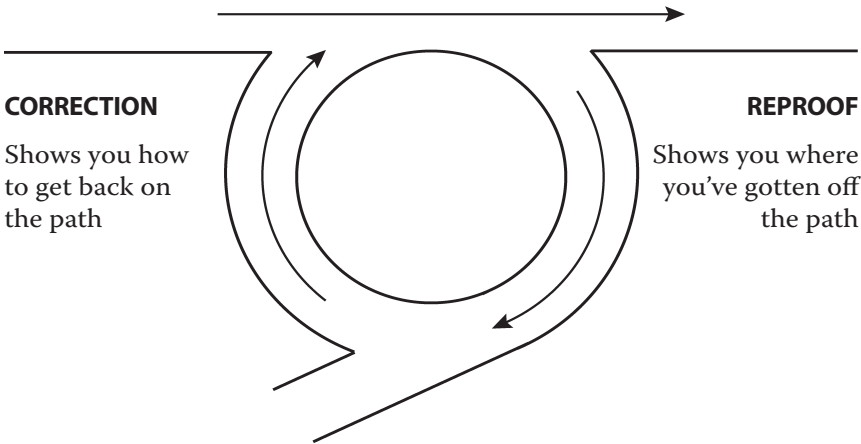
Shows you how to stay on the path.

CORRECTION

Shows you how to get back on the path

REPROOF

Shows you where you've gotten off the path



7. Jesus presents a vivid picture of two types of people in Matthew 7:24–27: the wise man and the foolish man. Read the passage and answer the following questions.

Wise Man

Foolish Man

On what foundation was the house built?

To what forces were both houses exposed?

What was the result?

Did this person hear God’s Word?

How did these two men differ? _____

8. Perhaps God’s Word has recently made you aware of an area of your life which needs to be brought into closer obedience to God. If so, in what area?

The key to usefulness, to revelation, and to a Holy Spirit-filled life is obedience to the Word of God.

~ John G. (“Jack”) Mitchell

C. Keys to Consistent Obedience

God’s Provision

God does not expect you to live an obedient life in your own strength. He has provided you with everything necessary to make obedience a reality.

9. Who lives in every believer?

1 Corinthians 3:16 _____

2 Corinthians 6:16 _____

Galatians 2:20 _____

10. Why are Christians able to overcome their enemy in the world?

1 John 4:4

11. In addition to His personal presence, what else has God given to help you live for Him? Match the letter with the appropriate reference.

___ 2 Timothy 1:7 a. All things that pertain to life and godliness

___ 2 Peter 1:3 b. His Word

___ Romans 15:4 c. Power, love, and self-control

Your Attitudes

While God has equipped you for obedience, a key to successful use of these resources is your attitude.

12. What attitudes can you display in obeying God?

Deuteronomy 26:16 _____

Psalm 40:8 _____

Luke 8:15 _____



STOP: Do not proceed any further in this lesson until directed to do so by your facilitator.

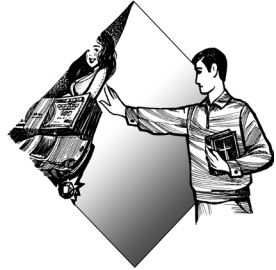
III. Scripture Memory Principles Quiz



Assignment For Session 3:

- 1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the two verses on “Obedience to Christ,” Romans 12:1 and John 14:21.
- 2. *Quiet Time:* Continue using your “Bible Reading Highlights Record” and “My Personal Reading Record.”
- 3. *Lesson 3:* Carefully read Lesson 3 and work through the Bible study.

Lesson 3



OUTLINE OF SESSION 3

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the two verses on “Obedience to Christ,” Romans 12:1 and John 14:21.
- B. Share quiet time thoughts.
- C. Discuss Questions and the Summary of “The Obedient Christian” (pages 31–35), with the leader’s method of *Question-by-Question — Sharing at Random*.
- D. Read the Assignment for Session 4 (page 35).
- E. Before leaving the session, break into groups with each person quoting 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20, Romans 12:1, and John 14:21.
- F. Close in prayer.

I. Scripture Memory Instructions

A. About the Verses — Topic 2: Obedience to Christ

Jesus inseparably links His lordship to our obedience. “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46) By obeying His will in day-to-day living we acknowledge His authority in our lives.

Romans 12:1 — This verse urges us to submit to Christ’s lordship by yielding control of ourselves to Him. Since He has purchased us with the price of His own blood, this is the only reasonable thing to do. As we yield to Him and obey Him, we discover that His will for us is in every way “good, pleasing, and perfect.”

John 14:21 — Jesus said that obedience to His Word is the proof of our love for Him. “Whoever has my commands and obeys them ... loves Me.” But before we can keep His commands, we must have them — that is, we must know what He is saying to us in His Word. This is why His Word, which you will memorize verses on next week, is so important.

B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place Romans 12:1 and John 14:21 in your pack, with Romans 12:1 showing on the outside.
You have learned 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20, and these cards should be placed inside the pack for regular review.
2. Each day repeat the five “Beginning with Christ” verses and the two verses you learned last week.
3. Work on your two new verses as you did in last week. If your *Basic Christian Life* group meets on Sunday, learn the first one on Monday and Tuesday, master the second on Wednesday and Thursday, and review both on Friday and Saturday. When you have learned Romans 12:1, put the card for it inside your pack, and leave John 14:21 on top.
4. Remember, the best time to learn a new verse is either just before going to bed or just after getting up in the morning.
5. Carry the verse pack with you at all times and use spare moments during the day for review and meditation.
6. By the end of the week, check yourself by writing out your new verses or quoting them to someone. Do this before coming to class.

II. Bible Study: **The Obedient Christian, Part B**

The Practice of Obedient Living

The obedient Christian still faces daily struggles with temptation and sin. How can you practice obedience and gain victory over sin? Important areas to consider are temptation, sin, confession, and victory.

1. Discover the source and causes of temptation in the following verses:

a. Who is the tempter? Matthew 4:1–3 _____

b. Who is never the source of temptation? James 1:13

c. What causes you to be drawn into temptation? James 1:14

(Lust is desire especially for what is forbidden.)

2. In Joshua 7:20–21, examine Achan's statement about his disobedience.

a. What factors contributed to his disobedience?

b. At what point could he have prevented his sin?

c. What can you learn from his error?

3. Using the following verses as a guide, write a brief definition of sin. Isaiah 53:6; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4

How does sin differ from temptation? _____

4. Consider 1 Corinthians 10:13.

a. Are the temptations you face different and perhaps more difficult than those faced by others?

b. What limit does God place on temptation?

c. What is God sure to provide when you are tempted?

d. This is a promise to claim. You memorized this verse in *Part 1* as “Assurance of Victory.” Review it again and use it when you are tempted. It will remind you to look for the way out of temptation.

While God offers victory and deliverance, men sin because they often neglect the provision. Known but unconfessed sin grieves God. Although sin does not alter God’s love, it does cause a break in fellowship with Him.

5. John in 1 John 1:9 says you should... (Check the correct answer.)

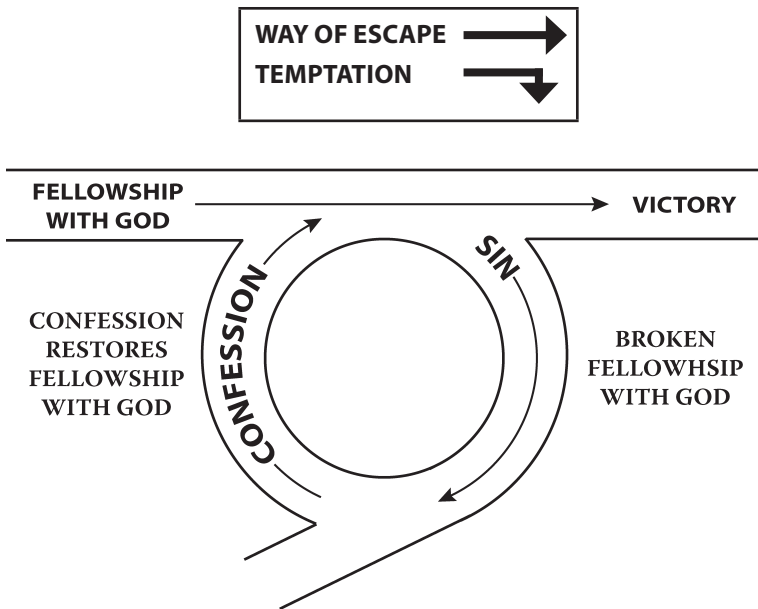
- feel badly about your sin.
- try to do something to make up for your sin.
- confess it to God.
- try to forget about it.

Why is this important? _____

“When God seems far away, guess who moved?”

6. In Psalm 32:5, David prays and confesses his sin. Write this verse in your own words.

The practice of walking in victory can be pictured as follows:



7. In what practical ways can you avoid falling into temptation? Proverbs 4:13–15

8. What two steps will help you walk in victory as indicated in James 4:7?

TO SUBMIT TO GOD you must yield your will to God's will.

TO RESIST THE DEVIL you must use God's provision for victory.

9. These questions about sin and temptation probably remind you of the daily conflict you experience.

a. Review Question 8. What is the root problem in the area you recorded?

b. How does the temptation to disobey God in this area begin to show itself?

c. What steps can you take to avoid these beginnings?

Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of your sinful nature.

~ Galatians 5:16

Summary of “The Obedient Christian”

Your obedience to God is based on the fact that He is your Creator and you are His creation. You obey Him because of who He is. But the life of obedience is also concerned with your own spiritual welfare because God loves you. God reveals His standards through His Word. To the extent that you appropriate God’s provision for victory, you can experience the life of obedience. You are not immune, however, from temptation and sin. Sin does not negate God’s love or your relationship with Him, but it does break your fellowship with Him. Confession of known sin restores fellowship with God once again.



Assignment for Session 4:

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the two verses on “The Word,” 2 Timothy 3:16 and Joshua 1:8.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 4:* Carefully read Lesson 4 and work through the Bible study.

Lesson 4



OUTLINE OF SESSION 4

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the two verses on “The Word,” 2 Timothy 3:16 and Joshua 1:8.
- B. Share quiet time thoughts.
- C. Discuss the Bible study “God’s Word in Your Life,” (pages 38–47), with the leader’s method of *Question-by-Question — Using Prepared Questions*.
- D. Read the Assignment for Session 5 (page 48).
- E. Close in prayer.

I. Scripture Memory Instructions

A. About the Verses — Topic 3: The Word

The Bible in a practical sense is the foundation of the Christian life, since all we know about Jesus Christ, the true Foundation, we learn from the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16 — This verse tells us that all Scripture is inspired by God (literally, God-breathed). Peter put it this way: “Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21). The Scriptures are given to teach, reprove, correct, and train us in righteous living. God did not give us His Word primarily to increase our knowledge, but to govern our conduct.

Joshua 1:8 — This verse promises that those who do what God’s Word says will prosper. And the first step to applying His Word is to meditate on it constantly, mulling it over in our minds. Develop the habit of meditating on the passages you learn in this course with the intention of applying them practically to your life.

B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place 2 Timothy 3:16 and Joshua 1:8 in your pack, with 2 Timothy showing on the outside. The cards for Romans 12:1 and Galatians 2:20 should be inside the pack for regular review.
2. Each day review the verses you have already learned and work on the two new ones. Learn the first one well, before concentrating on the second.
3. You can speed the learning process by thoughtfully writing out a new verse as you begin to work on it.
4. Always say the topic first, then the reference, the verse, and the reference again.
5. By the end of the week write out your two new verses or quote them to someone before coming to class.

II. Bible Study: God’s Word in Your Life

A sword is designed to be used skillfully in battle both as an offensive and a defensive weapon. God has equipped you with a tremendous instrument for spiritual battle: “the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of

God” (Ephesians 6:17). The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to accomplish the work of God.

The great need of the hour among persons spiritually hungry is two-fold: first, to know the Scriptures, apart from which no saving truth will be vouchsafed by our Lord; the second, to be enlightened by the Spirit, apart from whom the Scriptures will not be understood.

~ A. W. Tozer*

A. God’s Word — His Communication to You

The Bible is the most remarkable book ever written. The writing was done by about 40 men of several countries and many occupations. They wrote over a period of approximately 1,500 years and in three languages — Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Yet the Bible has one great theme and central figure — Jesus Christ. All of this would be impossible unless the Bible had one supreme Author — and it did: the Holy Spirit of God.

1. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say about the Scriptures? (Circle the correct answer.)
 - a. Some of the Bible is inspired by God.
 - b. All of it is inspired by God.
 - c. Only the parts that speak to you in a personal way are inspired by God.

Inspired comes from the Greek word meaning “God-breathed.”

The meaning, then, is not that God breathed into the writers, nor that He somehow breathed into the writings to give them their special character, but that what was written by men was breathed out by God. He spoke through them. They were His spokesmen.

~ John R. W. Stott**

2. How was God’s Word given? 2 Peter 1:20–21

*From *The Root of the Righteous* by A. W. Tozer, ©1955 Christian Publications, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Used by permission.

**From *Understanding the Bible* by John R. W. Stott, © 1972 Gospel Light Publications, Glendale, California. Used by permission.

Who, then, helps you understand the Bible? 1 Corinthians 2:12–13

3. How do the following verses describe God's Word?

Matthew 24:35 _____

John 17:17 _____

Hebrews 4:12 _____

4. Examine Psalm 19:7–11 carefully. Use the following chart to aid you in your investigation. You may not have answers in every column for each verse.

Verse	What the Bible is called	Its characteristics	What it will do for me
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			

In the chart above, place a check by the two or three thoughts which impressed you most about the Bible.

THE BIBLE AT A GLANCE (66 BOOKS)

OLD TESTAMENT (39 books)		“The New is in the Old concealed. The Old is in the New revealed.”		NEW TESTAMENT (27 books)	
HISTORY 17 books	POETRY 5 books	PROPHECY 17 books	HISTORY 5 books	TEACHING 21 books	PROPHECY 1 book
Law 1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy History and Government 1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Ruth 4. 1 Samuel 5. 2 Samuel 6. 1 Kings 7. 2 Kings 8. 1 Chronicles 9. 2 Chronicles 10. Ezra 11. Nehemiah 12. Esther	1. Job 2. Psalms 3. Proverbs 4. Ecclesiastes 5. Song of Solomon	Major Prophets 1. Isaiah 2. Jeremiah 3. Lamentations 4. Ezekiel 5. Daniel Minor Prophets 1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah 5. Jonah 6. Micah 7. Nahum 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah 10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi	Gospels 1. Matthew 2. Mark 3. Luke 4. John 5. Acts	Paul's Letters 1. Romans 2. 1 Corinthians 3. 2 Corinthians 4. Galatians 5. Ephesians 6. Philippians 7. Colossians 8. 1 Thessalonians 9. 2 Thessalonians 10. 1 Timothy 11. 2 Timothy 12. Titus 13. Philemon General Letters 1. Hebrews 2. James 3. 1 Peter 4. 2 Peter 5. 1 John 6. 2 John 7. 3 John 8. Jude	Revelation
The Old Testament looks forward to Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. The New Testament is based on the work Christ finished on the Cross. About 400 years between Testaments					

God used 40 different men over a period of 1,500 years (about 1400 BC to AD 90) in writing the Bible — 2 Peter 1:20-21

B. How the Bible Helps You

5. Look up the following verses and summarize some of the ways the Bible is important to you as a Christian.

Jeremiah 15:16 _____

John 5:39 _____

2 Peter 1:4 _____

1 John 2:1 _____

6. Analogy is a form which explains something by comparing it point by point with something similar. In the following verses, what is God's Word compared with? What is the function of these objects?

	Object	Function
Jeremiah 23:29		
Matthew 4:4		
James 1:23–25		

C. Your Responsibility

7. “The Glories of God’s Word” is a title often given to Psalm 119. Nearly every verse of the psalm speaks of His Word, and most give practical application for daily living. Notice the psalmist’s attitudes and actions concerning God’s Word. Beginning with verse 9, fill in the diagram below.

Verse	Attitude	Action
9		Keeping God’s Word pure life
10	Whole heartedly sought God	Prayed — “Do not let me stray”
11		Hid Word in his heart
12		Asked God to teach him
13		

14		
15		
16		

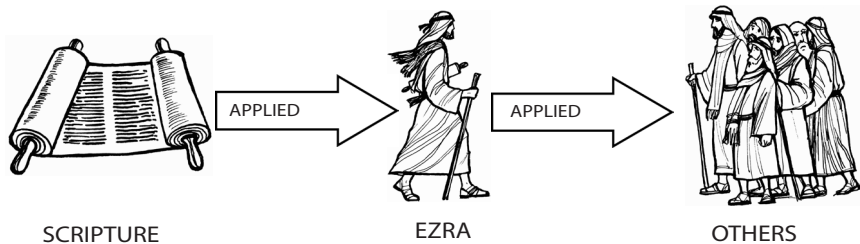
8. According to Jesus in John 8:31, what qualifies a man to be His disciple?

How would you explain these words to another person?

9. From the following verses fill in the remaining blanks.

	Action to take	Why
Psalms 78:5-7	Teach His Word to others	
Acts 17:11		To verify what they were taught
James 1:22		
Revelation 1:3		

10. Ezra is a good example of a man who felt a responsibility toward God's Word. What was his approach to Scripture? Ezra 7:10



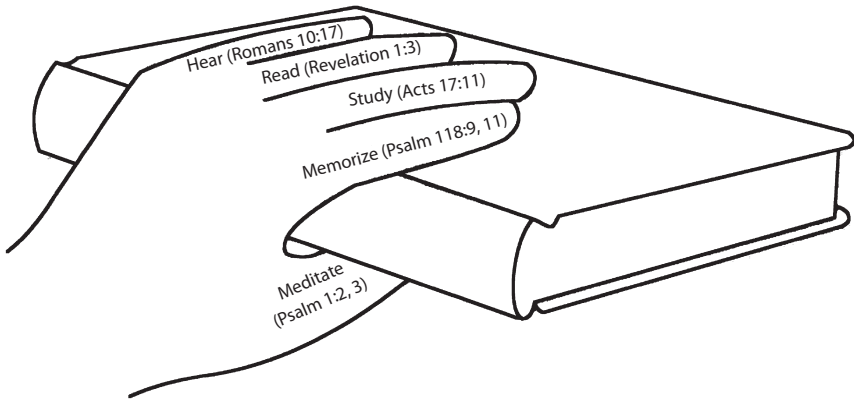
Note the order of Ezra's actions. He applied the Scriptures to his own life before he taught them to others.

11. Reflect carefully on Colossians 3:16.

- a. What practical steps can you take to allow Christ's Word to dwell in you richly? (Examples: Listen to Christian tapes, write out memory verses.)

- b. Number them in the order of effectiveness for yourself.
- c. During the next week, how can you put into practice the first two methods you numbered?

(Admonish means to caution or reprove gently)



You have probably already discovered these methods of Scripture intake which help you get a firm grasp on God's Word.

D. The Importance of Meditation

Meditation is prayerful reflection with a view to understanding and application. The goal is to conform your life to God's will by giving prayerful thought to God's Word and to your life.

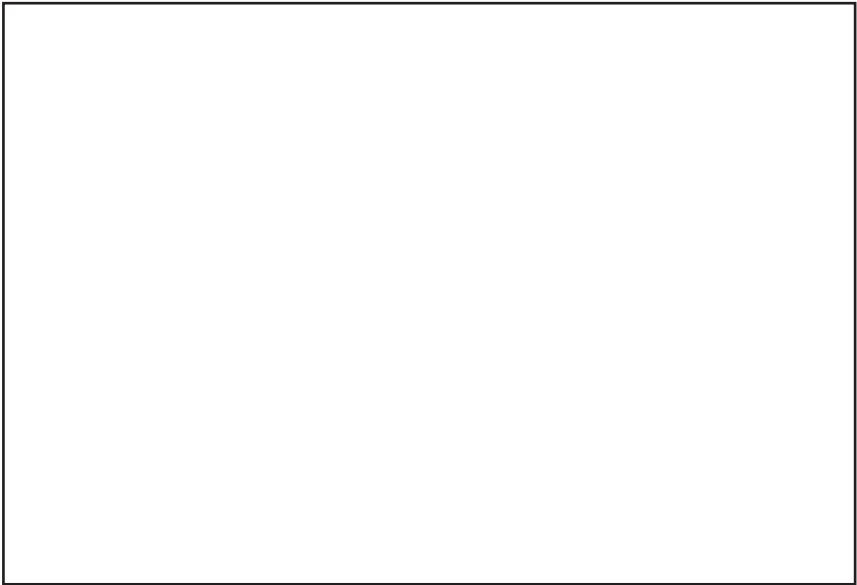
12. From Joshua 1:8, answer the following questions.

- a. What should be the source of your meditation?

- b. Briefly state the relationship between meditation and application.

- c. What are the results of meditation? _____

13. Meditate on Psalm 1. Use the remaining space to record your findings. Here are some questions to help you get started. How is the Christian like a tree? What are the differences between the godly and the ungodly man as to habits, stability, and future? What new ideas from this psalm will help you in your relationship with God?



In the space provided, draw a simple picture that depicts the content of verses 2 and 3.

E. Summary of “God’s Word in Your Life”

God has communicated to man through His Word — the Bible. The Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. Through the Scriptures you can get to know God better, understand His desires for your life, and discover new truths about living for Him. God commands believers to let His Word dwell richly in them. So it is necessary to give yourself wholeheartedly to allowing God’s Word to fill your life. God places great emphasis on the act of meditating on His Word, because effective meditation leads to personal application. Meditation and application will not only help you get into the Bible, but will also allow the Bible to get into you.

III. Leader’s Outline: Questions for “God’s Word in Your Life”

(For Question 1) “What does it mean to you that the Bible was ‘inspired by God’?”

(Question 2, 1 Corinthians 2:12–13) “What would be some examples of the Holy Spirit helping someone understand the Bible?”

(Question 3, Matthew 24:35) “What does it mean that Christ’s words will never pass away?”

(Question 3, John 17:17) “What, to you, are the implications of the word ‘truth’?”

(Question 5, John 5:39) “How can the Old Testament speak of Christ when He hadn’t been born yet?”

(Question 6, Jeremiah 23:29) “How, in real life, do you feel the Word functions like a hammer?”

(Question 8) Ask several to read their answers to the second part of this question.

(Question 12) Ask several to read their answers to part b.

(Question 13) “What insights did you come up with when meditating on Psalm 1?”



Assignment for Session 5:

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the first verse on “Prayer,” John 15:7. Take the “Self-checking Quiz” on pages 50–52.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 5:* Carefully read Lesson 5, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.

Lesson 5



OUTLINE OF SESSION 5

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the first verse on “Prayer,” John 15:7. (Encourage students on getting everything signed that they can on their “Completion Record.”)
- B. Briefly discuss the “Self-checking Quiz” on pages 50–52.
- C. Share quiet time thoughts from your “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- D. Discuss the Bible study “Conversing with God” (pages 53–61) with the leader’s method *Section-by-Section — Using Prepared Questions*.
- E. Read the Assignment for Session 6 (page 63).
- F. Close in prayer.

I. Scripture Memory Instructions

A. About the Verse — Topic 4: Prayer

Direct communication with our heavenly Father is one of the greatest privileges the child of God has. We are urged to come confidently to God in prayer, especially in time of need (see Hebrews 4:16).

John 15:7 — This verse presents two conditions for receiving what we ask in prayer. First, we must abide in Christ, that is, we must maintain unbroken fellowship with Him. Second, we must allow His Word to abide in us, keeping it in our thoughts so it will direct our lives.

B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Follow the same plan as in previous weeks, except that you will add only John 15:7 to your pack, because you will learn only John 15:7 this week.
2. As you review your verses, look only at the topic or the topic and the reference. Don't glance at the first words of the verse as this "help" will actually hinder your later recall of the verse.
3. Write out your new verse by the end of the week or quote it to someone to be sure you have learned it correctly.
4. Take the "Self-checking Quiz."

II. Self-checking Quiz

After you have read the "Scripture Memory Instructions" for Lessons One through Five, this quiz will help you check your grasp of Scripture memory principles. Correct answers appear at the end of the lesson on page 63.

1. Memorizing Scripture is nourishment for your soul and is like stocking the pantry of your heart for future needs.

T **F**

(Circle T for true or F for false.)

2. Match the following. Write the number of the correct answer in the blank space before each statement to complete it.

- ___ a. It is important to follow carefully “Your Weekly Plan” instruction section, because it...
- ___ b. Reading the “About the Verses” comments and looking up the context in your Bible...
- ___ c. The verses you have already learned...
- ___ d. The “fore ‘n aft” rule, saying the reference before and after the verse...
- ___ e. Becoming familiar with the topical outline of the course before learning the verses...
- ___ f. Writing out a verse you are memorizing...
- ___ g. Carrying your verse pack with you at all times...
- ___ h. When reviewing, you should not glance at the first words of the verse, as this...

- (1) helps you understand the verses in their setting and makes them more meaningful and easier to remember and use.
- (2) makes it possible for you to use spare moments for review and meditation.
- (3) gives you “the big picture” and shows you where you are going in Scripture memory.
- (4) helps you progress step by step in your memory work and avoid possible pitfalls.
- (5) hinders your ability to recall the verse later.
- (6) helps you remember where the verses are located in the Bible.
- (7) helps you speed the learning process.
- (8) should be placed inside your verse pack.

3. Why is it important that you have clearly in mind *your own reasons* for memorizing Scripture? (Check the correct answer.)

- ___ a. So you can check them off when these goals have been reached.
- ___ b. So you will take pride in your memory work.
- ___ c. So these reasons will motivate you and help you succeed.

4. Your success in memorizing Scripture depends entirely on your own ability and confidence.

T F

5. Learning the topics with the verses... (Check the correct answer.)
- a. is optional in this course.
 - b. gives you mental hooks with which you can draw a particular verse from memory when you need it.
 - c. is a good mental exercise because it makes learning the verses more difficult.
6. It is best to learn the verses word-perfectly because this... (Check three correct answers.)
- a. teaches you to observe details.
 - b. makes a clearer impression on your mind so that the verses are easier to recall.
 - c. makes your review easier.
 - d. impresses others with your knowledge of Scripture.
 - e. gives you confidence in using your verses.
7. Why is it recommended that you learn only one or two verses a week? (Check three correct answers.)
- a. To give you ample opportunity to look up the context of the verses.
 - b. To keep you from getting through the course too quickly.
 - c. To give you time to meditate on the verses and apply them to your life.
 - d. To help you develop good memory habits and succeed in Scripture memory.
 - e. To give you the scientifically proven optimum rate of learning.
8. An excellent way to get an early start on your daily memory work is to include it as a part of your morning quiet time.

T F

9. The verses in Series A deal with the essential elements of the obedient, Christ-centered life.

T F

III. Bible Study: Conversing with God

Communication is essential for a growing relationship. When you pray, the Holy Spirit helps you know what to say and how to say it (Romans 8:26–27).

The Spirit links Himself with us in our praying and pours His supplications into our own. We may master the technique of prayer and understand its philosophy; we may have unlimited confidence in the veracity and validity of the promises concerning prayer. We may plead them earnestly. But if we ignore the part played by the Holy Spirit, we have failed to use the master key.

~ J. Oswald Sanders *

A. Prayer — Your Communication to God

1. As a believer, you enjoy a relationship with Christ and have been given a special opportunity. What is it and why was it given to you? Hebrews 4:16

2. Because God is the believer's refuge, what are you told to do? Psalm 62:8

How does 1 Thessalonians 5:17 relate to this verse?

3. Different types of prayer are necessary to communicate the variety of thoughts you want to express. Match each reference with the corresponding type of prayer.

*From Spiritual Leadership by J. Oswald Sanders © 1967 Moody Press, Chicago, Ill. Used by permission.

Psalm 38:18 Hebrews 13:15 James 1:5 Ephesians 5:20 1 Samuel 12:23

Praise (for who God is) _____

Thanksgiving (for what He has done) _____

Confession _____

Prayer for others _____

Prayer for personal needs _____

The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. This something else is important — very important and pressing, but still less important and less pressing than prayer.

~ S. D. Gordon

B. The Benefits of Prayer

Not only do Christians have the privilege of talking with God about everything, they also experience great benefits from their communion with God.

4. What common truth do you find in Jeremiah 33:3 and Ephesians 3:20?

5. What result did the psalmist experience when he prayed? Psalm 34:4

What are some fears you can discuss with God?

6. Paul reveals a powerful key to freedom from worry and anxiety in Philippians 4:6–7.

a. What are you to do? _____

b. Why do you feel God is interested in every area of your life?

c. What is God's promise? _____

d. In what area can you immediately begin to apply this truth?

(Supplication means prayer and request)

*Thou art coming to a King;
Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and power are such,
None can ever ask too much!*

~ John Newton

C. Conditions of Prayer

7. What conditions of prayer do you find in the following verses?

Psalm 66:18 _____

Matthew 21:22 _____

John 15:7 _____

John 16:24 _____

1 John 5:14–15 _____

(Abide means to continue, dwell, endure)

Even when conditions are met, it sometimes appears as if God is not answering prayer. But remember that “No” and “Wait” are as much of an answer as “Yes.”

8. Consider Jesus' pattern for prayer in Matthew 6:9–13.

a. How does the prayer begin? Why is this important?

b. Which requests are God-centered? _____

c. Which requests are man-centered? _____

d. In what specific ways can this pattern for praying help you pray?

D. For Whom Do You Pray?

9. What did Paul desire for those who didn't know Christ? Romans 10:1

What did he do about it?

10. Read 1 Timothy 2:1–4. What groups of people should you pray for? Why?

11. What does the Lord desire you to pray for? Matthew 9:37–38

Why do you feel this is important?

12. How do you usually react when you have been intentionally mistreated by someone? Place an “X” by your first response or write it in the space provided if it does not appear on the list.

- To become angry with him
- To think of a way to get even
- To make an excuse for him and try to forget it
- To pray for him
- To forgive but not forget

Examine Luke 6:28, then circle the correct response.

13. Using Paul’s prayer as a guideline, list some requests you could pray for others and for yourself. Ephesians 3:14–21

We should pray when we are in a praying mood, for it would be sinful to neglect so fair an opportunity. We should pray when we are not in a proper mood, for it would be dangerous to remain in so unhealthy a condition.

~ Charles H. Spurgeon

Have you been using a prayer list? A list can help you remember things you might otherwise forget to pray about. It can include:

- your family
- your non-Christian friends and acquaintances
- your pastor and church
- missionaries and Christian workers you know
- those who oppose you
- governmental authorities
- your personal needs

It is encouraging to keep a record of answered prayer. Most people who start doing so regret that they didn't start earlier since it helps them to see how God is working in their lives. Below is an example of how to record prayers that you might want to use for yourself.

PRAYER SHEET

Request	Date	Date	God's Answer

E. Daily Conversation with God

Just as God sought out Adam after Adam's sin, 'Where are you?' (Genesis 3:9), so He is still seeking men today, 'Where are you?' What was true then is true today. God, who restored at great cost the potential for being part of His family, loves you and desires a personal relationship with you. This relationship begins when you accept God's solution to your sin problem by inviting Jesus Christ into your life.

~ Appointment with God*

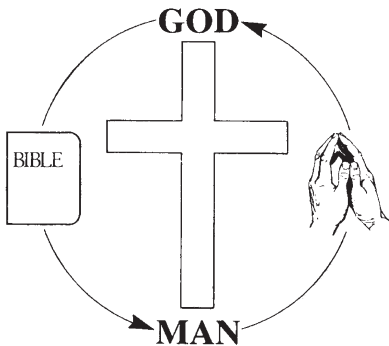
14. What attitudes can you have in coming to God?

Psalm 27:8 _____

Psalm 46:10 _____

Psalm 63:1 _____

What truths are illustrated by this diagram?



*NavPress, © 1973 by The Navigators

15. Examine Luke 10:38–42. You can make several observations from this passage which relate to spending time with Jesus Christ.

a. Contrast the activities of Mary and Martha.

Mary	Martha

b. Which one did Jesus commend and why?

c. Like Martha, you may be easily distracted by many things. What activities might distract you from meeting with God?

d. What can you do to overcome these distractions?

16. From what you have already learned in *Basic Christian Life*, record several reasons why you need to spend daily time with God — meditating on His Word and conversing with Him in prayer.

It is impossible for a believer, no matter what his experience, to keep right with God if he will not take the trouble to spend time with God... Spend plenty of time with God; let other things go, but don't neglect Him.

~ Oswald Chambers*

F. Summary of “Conversing with God”

God has provided prayer as the means of communicating directly with Him. Christ, the great High Priest and Mediator, has made it possible for all Christians to come “boldly to the throne of grace.” Prayer may take many forms of expression, some of which are adoration and praise, thanksgiving, confession, intercession, and supplication. Each of these enables you to draw closer to God. Since you have the potential of two-way communication with God, be careful not to neglect your time with Him. God *desires* your fellowship, and you *need* to grow in your relationship with Him. So regular times alone with God for the purpose of fellowship are vitally necessary.

IV. Leader’s Outline: Questions for “Conversing with God”

Ask one of your group to read aloud the material preceding Question 1.

(Questions 1–3) “What were some of the things that impressed you in your study of the first section, “Prayer — Your Communication to God”?”

(Question 1) Ask several to read their answers to “Why” in the second part of this question.

“What does ‘mercy’ mean to you?”

“What does ‘grace’ mean to you?”

*From *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers. ©1935 Dodd, Mead and Company, New York. Used by permission.

(Question 2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17) “What is the difference between *continuous* and *continual*?”

(Question 3) “What is the difference between *praise* and *thanks-giving*?”

Ask someone to read the quotation following Question 3.

Ask someone to read the title and sentence preceding Question 4.

(Questions 4–6) “What did you discover from your study about the benefits of prayer?”

(Question 5) Ask two or three to read their answers to the second part of this question.

(Questions 5 and 6) “What do you think is the difference between *fear* and *anxiety*?”

(Question 6) “What do you think is the difference between *anxiety* and *responsible concern*?”

(Question 7) “What are some conditions for getting answers to prayer?”

(Psalm 66:18) “What is the difference between a recurring sin and as in we cherish or cling to?”

(John 15:7) “What do you feel the word ‘abide’ means?”

(1 John 5:14–15) “What things can help us pray within God’s will?”

Ask someone to read the paragraph following Question 7.

(Question 8) Ask each person to read his or her answer to the “why” in part a.

Ask several to read their answers to part b.

Ask several to read their answers to part c.

(Questions 9–13) “For whom should we pray?”

(Question 11) Have several read their answers to the first part of this question.

Ask several to read their answers to the second part.

(Question 13) Ask several to read their answers to this question. Each person may share more than once.

(Questions 14–16) “What impressed you in the section on “Daily Conversation with God”?”

(**Question 14**) Ask one or two to explain what they feel the illustration following Question 14 means.

(**Question 16**) Ask several to read some of their answers for this question.

Ask someone to read the quotation following Question 16.

Ask someone to read the Summary on page 63.



Assignment for Session 6:

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the second verse on “Prayer,” Philippians 4:6–7.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 6:* Carefully read Lesson 6 and work through the Bible study.
4. *Other.* Work on getting everything completed that you can on your “Completion Record.”

Correct answers for the Self-Checking Quiz:

1—T	2—a—4	b—1	c—8	d—6	e—3	f—7	g—2	h—5	3—c	4—F	5—b	6—b, c, e	7—a, c, d	8—T	9—T
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Lesson 6



OUTLINE OF SESSION 6

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the second verse on “Prayer,” Philippians 4:6–7. (Work at getting everything signed that you can on your “Completion Record.”)
- B. Share some of your quiet time thoughts, primarily from the “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Discuss the Bible study “Fellowship with Christians” (pages 66–75).
- D. Discuss “Four Effective Methods for Leading a Bible Study Group” (pages 77–78) The leader’s method will be *Section-by-Section—Using Prepared Questions*.
- E. Briefly discuss “Orientation to Understanding Questions” (pages 78–79).
- F. Read the Assignment for Session 7 (page 79).
- G. Close in prayer.

I. Scripture Memory Instructions

A. About the Verse — Topic 4: Prayer

God's antidote for worry is prayer. Nothing is too small or mundane to pray about.

Philippians 4:6–7 — It is a specific kind of praying that God wants: prayer with thanksgiving. Learn to thank God for everything — difficulties as well as blessings — as you overcome anxiety by prayer.

In *Prayer and Praying Men*, E.M. Bounds writes these words about Paul's teaching in the Scriptures on prayer: "First in point of time in all excellence of all duties is prayer. It must be first in all occupations. So exacting and imperative in its import and power is prayer that it stands first among spiritual values. He that prays not, is not at all. He is naught, less than naught. He is below zero, so far as Christ and God and heaven are concerned. ...Defeat and victory lie in this one thing. To make prayer secondary is to discrown it. It is to fetter and destroy prayer. If prayer is put first, then God is put first, and victory is assured. Prayer must either reign in life or must abdicate. Which shall it be?"

B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Put John 15:7 inside your pack with the other verses to be reviewed, and keep Philippians 4:6–7 in the window.
2. Remember to use spare moments during the day to review and meditate.
3. Write out your new verse by the end of the week or quote it to someone to be sure you have learned it correctly.

II. Bible Study: Fellowship with Christians

The Church... is the body of Christ. Every Christian is a member or organ of the body, while Christ Himself is the Head, controlling the body's activities. Not every organ has the same function, but each is necessary for the maximum health and usefulness of the body. Moreover, the whole body is animated by a common life. This is the Holy Spirit. It is His presence which makes the body one.

~ John R. W. Stott*

*From *Basic Christianity* by John R. W. Stott. ©1958 Inter-Varsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois. Used by permission.

A. What Constitutes Biblical Fellowship?

1. Read 1 John 3:1. If you are God's child and He is the Father of all, what does this tell you about your relationship to other believers?

2. "Fellowship" is derived from the Greek word *koinonia*, which means "sharing in common." God has given you much to share. As you examine the verses below, determine what you can share with others and one practical way to share it.

	What to share	A way to share
1 John 4:11, 21		
Galatians 6:2		
Galatians 6:6		
James 5:16		

(*Spiritual* means Spirit-controlled)

3. Recall an incident when you were reluctant to allow someone to share something with you. Did your unwillingness to receive what he offered hinder his attempt at sharing? If so, how?

Sharing involves giving and receiving and both are integral parts of meaningful fellowship.

4. Christians fellowship together on the basis of the fact that they are forgiven sinners. Forgiven, yes, but still sinners. Knowing this fact, what is your responsibility toward your brother when you have offended him? Matthew 5:22–24
-
-
-

(Raca means worthless one, a term of utter contempt)

What is your responsibility when he has offended you? Matthew 18:15–35

Christians can honestly share their lives. You don't have to pretend to be something you are not.

The Church is the only fellowship in the world where the one requirement for membership is the unworthiness of the candidate.

~ Robert B. Munger

5. Picture the following situation. Several Christians are in the same room drinking coffee and eating doughnuts as they discuss last week's championship game. The conversation moves to the subject of "which animal makes the best household pet." Then one of them tells a joke he recently heard. They enjoy a good laugh together, and begin to talk about the weather forecast for tomorrow. As one of them leaves, he says, "It sure is good to have Christian fellowship!"
- a. Is this genuine Christian fellowship? _____
- b. Why or why not? _____
-

- c. Could it be improved? How? _____

B. The Purpose of Fellowship

6. Why is fellowship important?

Proverbs 27:17 _____

Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 _____

7. What is the purpose of meeting together as believers? Hebrews 10:24–25

8. In studying a verse, it is often helpful to locate other verses elsewhere in the Bible which relate directly to the one being examined. The other verses are called cross-references. Hebrews 3:13 is a cross-reference to Hebrews 10:24–25. From this cross-reference, why is it necessary to encourage one another daily?

9. Explain why fellowship is important to you.

C. The Body of Christ

10. God uses the analogy of a body to describe the relationship of believers with one another and with Christ. Who is the Head of the body? Why? Colossians 1:18

11. Each believer is given different but important responsibilities in this spiritual body, the Church. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14–27.

a. Who gave the members their various functions? Verse 18

b. What is His desire? Verse 25 _____

c. What attitudes can lead to disharmony in the body? Verses 15, 16, 21

d. Are there any unnecessary functions (members) in the body? Verses 20–22

12. Think of what happens when you hit your finger with a hammer. How does this affect the entire body?

How can this illustration relate to the spiritual body? 1 Corinthians 12:26

13. The body works together as one unit, yet it has many specialized organs which perform diverse functions. Summarize in a couple of sentences how both unity and diversity can exist together in the body.

14. According to Ephesians 4:2–3, what will preserve unity in the body?

15. Examine your attitudes toward other Christians. Is there someone you find difficult to relate to as another member of Christ's body? Why?

What steps can you take to bring harmony to your relationship with this individual?

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

~ Psalm 133:1

D. The Local Church

16. What activities of the local church in Jerusalem are mentioned in Acts 2:42?

Three distinguishing marks of the Early Church were:
(1) GENEROSITY, (2) PRAYER, (3) POWER.

17. Read Ephesians 4:11–13. Who is to equip (perfect) the saints so they can do the work of the ministry?

What is the ultimate goal of Christian ministry? Verse 13



18. Examine 1 Peter 5:1–5. This passage gives direction to the leaders and members of a “flock.” Using the chart, contrast the right and wrong ways of demonstrating leadership (verses 2–3).

Verse	Right way	Wrong way
2		
2		
3		

What is your responsibility to your spiritual elders? Verse 5

19. In Colossians 4:3–4, Paul requested prayer for his ministry.

a. Paraphrase his request for prayer.

b. Stop for a moment and use this request as a basis for praying for another Christian. Record the person's name here.

c. What is one thing you can do during this coming week to encourage those who are helping you walk with Christ?

20. What instructions are you given concerning the support of those who are appointed to preach and teach? 1 Corinthians 9:11, 14

Are you presently giving back to God part of what He is giving you? What does God want you to do with regard to prayer and financial support for your spiritual leaders?

Each Christian should select his church because he is convinced that within its particular structure he will find the greatest opportunities for spiritual growth, the greatest satisfactions for his human needs, and the greatest chance to be of helpful service to those around him.

~ Billy Graham*

*From *Peace with God* by Billy Graham. ©1953 Doubleday and Company, Inc., New York. Used by permission.

E. Summary of “Fellowship with Christians”

Genuine fellowship is based on the concept of giving to and receiving from other Christians. You can share with others whatever God has given you — forgiveness, possessions, love, His Word, and many other things. God gives fellowship for the purpose of mutual encouragement and growth. He wants Christians to live in unity and harmony with one another. To help us understand how believers are related, God uses the analogy of the body. Jesus Christ is the Head of the body, which is comprised of all believers. All Christians throughout the world belong to Christ’s body, but it is important for you to recognize how God wants you to be related to a smaller, specific group of believers. This smaller group is for the purpose of instruction, sharing, worship, and service. God has given spiritual leaders to help you mature in Christ and to become effective in the ministry.

III. Leader’s Outline: Questions for “Fellowship with Christians”

Ask someone to read the quotation preceding Question 1.

Questions 1–5 “What were some of the insights you gained from the section on “Biblical Fellowship?””

Question 1 “What kind of relationship do you think should exist between brothers and sisters?”

Question 2, Galatians 6:2 “How would you define the attitude we should have in carrying each other’s burdens?”

Galatians 6:6 “Who are some of our teachers to whom this verse would apply?”

James 5:16 “How many of our sins should we discuss with another Christian?”

Question 3 “Would any of you care to share your answer to Question 3? Perhaps what you share will be an encouragement to the rest of us.”

Question 4 “Under what conditions would you wait for a Christian to come and apologize to you?”

Ask someone to read the quotation at the end of Question 4.

Question 5 Take a vote of the whole group on part a, to see how many answered “yes” and how many answered “no.”

Ask several to read their answer to part b.

Ask several to read their answer to part c.

Questions 6–9 “What were some of the things that impressed you in the section on “The Purpose of Fellowship”?”

Question 6, Proverbs 27:17 “How do you feel that we sharpen one another as Christians?”

Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 “What are some examples of two being better than one?”

Question 8 Ask several to read their answers to this question.

Question 9 “Would some of you share your answer to Question 9 with us?”

Questions 10–15 “What were some of the things you discovered from the section “The Body of Christ”?”

Question 11–b “What are some examples of how we care for ourselves?”

“What are some examples of how we can have a part in caring for other Christians?”

Ask several to read their answers to part c.

Question 12 Ask several to read their answers to the first part of this question.

Ask several to read their answers to the second part.

Question 13 Ask all the group members to read their answer to this question.

Questions 13 and 14 “What is the difference between *unity* and *uniformity*?”

Question 14 “Could several of you name one of the attributes from Question 14 and describe how it contributes to unity among a group of believers?”

Questions 16–20 “What impressed you in the section on “The Local Church”?”

Question 17 “What percentage of the ministry should be done by the ‘professional’ Christians and what percentage by laymen?”

Ask several to read their answers to the second part of Question 17.

Ask one or two group members to describe what they feel the diagram following Question 17 means.

Question 19 Ask several to share their answers to part a.

Ask someone to read the quotation following Question 20.

Ask someone to read the Summary on page 75.



STOP: Do not proceed any further in this lesson until directed to do so by your facilitator.

IV. Four Effective Methods for Leading a Bible Study Group

1. Question-by-Question — Sharing in Sequence

In this method, go around the group in order with the first person giving his answer to Question 1, the next person to Question 2, and so on. Other group members are free to make additional comments after an answer has been given by the one responsible for answering that particular question.

This is a good way to get young Christians started in Bible study discussion. It gives them a sense of security and confidence. They can see where the discussion is and where it is going.

2. Question-by-Question — Sharing at Random

In this method the questions are still answered in order, but anyone in the group is free to be the first to answer. The leader may read a question and say, "Who would like to answer this question?" Or he might not read the question but ask instead, "Who would take Question 5 for us?"

A danger of this approach is that some may dominate the discussion while others sit back quietly. Sometimes the leader may need to ask a quieter person, "Ivan, would you be willing to answer Question 6 for us please?"

3. Question-by-Question — Using Prepared Questions

In this method you may either share in sequence or at random. In addition to what is done in methods 1 and 2, the leader has prepared additional questions to ask about some of the answers. These “understanding questions” draw out a deeper response and often stimulate a more exciting discussion than methods 1 and 2. You will learn more about understanding questions on pages 78–79.

4. Section-by-Section — Using Prepared Questions

In this method the emphasis is more on the group than the leader. The discussion is usually open and spontaneous, within the boundaries of the lesson content.

The leader first asks what the group has gotten out of a whole section. For Lesson 5 of your Bible study “Conversing with God” he might ask, “From your study, what did you discover are some of the benefits of prayer?” Then anyone may answer something that impressed him in Questions 4–6. The leader will also have some prepared questions to ask the group, which will deepen understanding and stimulate personal application.

It is important that the members of the group come to this type of discussion with their lessons prepared. Any of the question-by-question methods may be applied when some of the members are not prepared. It is very difficult, however, for someone to discuss a Bible study section if he does not have all his answers completed.

V. Orientation to Understanding Questions

A. Understanding Questions

1. An understanding question asks a question about previous answers.
2. An understanding question accomplishes one or more of these three things:
 - a. It causes active discussion.
 - b. It enables the leader to emphasize a point.
 - c. It enables the leader to clarify an issue which he feels the discussion group members might misinterpret or misunderstand,

3. An understanding question may be asked about **relationships**. “What is the relationship between the Scriptures and prayer?” (“Conversing with God,” Lesson 5, Question 14)
4. Another type of understanding question is about **differences**: “What do you feel is the difference between thanksgiving and praise?” (“Conversing with God,” Lesson 5, Question 3)
5. A **synonym question** is another understanding question: “What does the word *mercy* mean to you? What are some words or phrases which describe mercy?” (“Conversing with God,” Lesson 5, Question 1)
6. Asking the group to **illustrate a truth** creates another understanding question: “What would be some evidences of a person being self-ish or self-centered?” (“Fellowship with Christians,” Lesson 6, Question 11c)

B. Be a Prepared, Sensitive Leader

It is difficult to ask effective understanding questions offhandedly, so it is important for a leader to *carefully prepare understanding questions in advance*. A leader should always prepare many more understanding questions than he expects to use in the discussion so he can select from them. The leader should pray that he will be able to ask understanding questions that are appropriate for the way the Holy Spirit is leading the discussion.

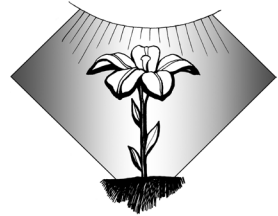
It is often possible to discern the greatest areas of interest or needs in the group. By asking understanding questions in these areas, the leader stimulates valuable discussions which are a blessing and help to everyone involved.



Assignment for Session 7:

1. *Scripture Memory*. Memorize the first verse on “Fellowship,” Matthew 18:20.
2. *Quiet Time*: Continue reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 7*: Carefully read Lesson 7 and work through the Bible study.

Lesson 7



OUTLINE OF SESSION 7

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the first verse on “Fellowship,” Matthew 18:20. (Work at getting more items completed and signed on your “Completion Record.”)
- B. Discuss the Bible study “Witnessing for Christ” (pages 82–89).
- C. Discuss how to go about preparing an effective personal testimony.
 - 1. Go over the material studied, “Why Prepare a Personal Testimony” and “Preparing a Personal Testimony — General Comments” (pages 91–93).
 - 2. Study “The Grape Illustration” (page 95).
 - 3. Read “Helps for Preparing Your Personal Testimony” (pages 93–97).
 - 4. Study “Two Testimony Formats” (pages 97–98).
 - 5. Listen to a personal testimony.
- D. Discuss a tentative time and place for Sessions 9 and 12.
- E. Read the Assignment for Session 8 (page 98).
- F. Close in prayer.

I. Scripture Memory Instructions

A. About the Verse — Topic 5: Fellowship

The Christian who is obedient to Christ will actively seek fellowship with other believers — individually, in small groups, and in the church. As members of one body, we depend on one another. You are discovering in your Basic Christian Life group the valuable contribution to your life that other believers can make. This is according to God’s design: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27); “You are... fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household (Ephesians 2:19).

Matthew 18:20 — This verse explains that true Christian fellowship is centered around the Lord Jesus Christ. It is more than just socializing. He Himself promised to be present with us when we get together with other believers for such fellowship.

B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place Matthew 18:20 and Hebrews 10:24–25 in the window of your pack. You will learn only Matthew 18:20 this week, and Hebrews 10:24–25 next week.
2. Continue a daily review of the verses in the inside sections of your pack.
3. Keep your memory habits sharp by learning topics and references with the verses and learning them word-perfectly. Use your spare moments for review and meditation.

II. Bible Study: Witnessing for Christ

It is the Holy Spirit, not we, who converts an individual. We, the privileged ambassadors of Jesus Christ, can communicate a verbal message; we can demonstrate through our personality and life what the grace of Jesus Christ can accomplish... But let us never naively think that we have converted a soul and brought him to Jesus Christ. ...No one calls Jesus Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

~ Paul Little*

*From *How to Give Away Your Faith* by Paul Little. 1966 Interspersity Press.

A. The Challenge

1. In Mark 5:19, you'll discover Jesus' desire concerning a man He has healed.

a. Where did He send him? _____

b. What did He tell him to do? _____

c. Why do you suppose Jesus gave these particular instructions?

2. When you think about speaking of Christ, how do you react? (Either check a given sentence or write one of your own.)

___ I find it difficult to speak of such a personal matter.

___ I do not speak unless someone asks me.

___ I find it easy to talk to friends about Christ, but not people I don't know.

___ I find it easy to talk to strangers about Christ, but not close friends.

___ I often find myself talking to people about Christ, and I enjoy it very much.

How would Peter have answered this question? Acts 4:20

3. Sometimes you may feel as though you "need to know all the answers" before you can be an effective witness for Christ. What would you share with others? 1 John 1:3

And for what purpose? _____

-
-
4. Contrast the difference in the lives of the people in the chart.

People	How did they act?	Why did they act this way?
The Authorities (John 12:42–43)		
Paul (Romans 1:15–16)		

5. Carefully examine 2 Corinthians 5:9–14. In this section Paul lists several motivations and reasons for witnessing for Christ. List those you discover.

Verse 9 _____

Verse 10 _____

Verse 11 _____

Verse 14 _____

Witnessing is taking a good look at the Lord Jesus and then telling others what you've seen.

~ Lorne Sanny

B. How Do You Become an Effective Witness?

God hasn't engaged many of us to be lawyers, but He has summoned all of us as witnesses.

~ Anonymous

Witnessing is not merely an activity — it is a way of life. Christians don't *do* witnessing; they are witnesses — good or bad. Concentrate on improving your witness for Jesus Christ.

Witness by Love

6. As you consider the qualities of love mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:4–7, which three do you feel would help you become a more effective witness for Christ?

7. Read John 13:34–35. Imagine yourself as one of the apostles, and Jesus has just finished making this statement. What immediately comes to your mind?

Why do you think Jesus gave this command?

Some people never read the Bible and seldom attend church. If you want them to know what Christ can do for them, let them see what Christ has done for you.

Witness by Life

8. What can be the results of your good works? Matthew 5:16

9. Read 2 Corinthians 3:1–3. What did Paul say was true of the Corinthians?

Do you think people notice your life and consider it a witness for Jesus? Why or why not?

*You are writing a Gospel, a chapter each day,
by the deeds that you do and the words that you say.
Men read what you write — distorted or true;
What is the Gospel according to you?*

Witness by Word

10. Peter gives you both a challenge and an instruction with regard to witnessing. 1 Peter 3:15

THE CHALLENGE: _____

THE INSTRUCTION: _____

11. Paul states some important facts about witnessing for Christ in 1 Corinthians 2:4–5. Paraphrase these verses.

12. The blind man whom Jesus healed had little or no theological training, but he was able to relate simply and effectively the facts of his experience. What did he say? John 9:25

Can you make a statement similar to that of the healed blind man?
How would you say it in your own words?

I cannot, by being good, tell men of Jesus' atoning death and resurrection, nor of my faith in His divinity. The emphasis is too much on me, and too little on Him.

~ Samuel Shoemaker*

C. Paul's Story

Though frequently imprisoned for preaching the Gospel, the Apostle Paul continued to relate the story of his conversion to Christ whenever he had an opportunity. Read the account of his witness to King Agrippa and his royal party in Acts 26:1–29, then answer the following questions.

13. How did Paul begin his story? Verses 2–3

14. What characterized his background? Verses 4–5, 9–11

(Blaspheme means to speak evil or contemptuously of God or sacred things)

*From *Extraordinary Living for Ordinary Men* by Samuel Shoemaker, ©1965 Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Used by permission.

15. What reversed the direction of Paul's life? Verses 12–15

16. How did Paul explain the Gospel? Verse 23

What is the Gospel?

Simply that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

— 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

17. What did Paul ask Agrippa? Why is this question important? Verse 27

D. Your Story

In Sessions 7–10 you will work on preparing your own personal testimony. When you have mastered your presentation and are ready to give it to non-Christians, remember that you do not have the power in yourself to convince anyone of spiritual truth. The Holy Spirit convicts unbelievers of their need to know Christ (John 16:8). As you pray for those with

whom you desire to share your testimony, be sure to ask God to honor the proclamation of His Word, to convince people of their need, and to strengthen you as you share the Gospel. (You will learn more about helping others find Christ in *Part 3*.)

I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that and I had not given them one shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed.

~ Patrick Henry's Will

E. Summary of “Witnessing for Christ”

God has summoned each Christian to be a witness of what he has “seen and heard” (1 John 1:3). Witnessing is a style of living — you are a witness at all times. Loving others is a most practical way to communicate the love of Christ and your genuine concern. You also witness by your life. Actions are often more revealing than words. Your actions, however, are not sufficient to communicate to another the message of the Gospel of Christ. You need to witness by your words — to identify openly with Jesus Christ and speak to others the message of how man can be reconciled to God. One very effective means of communicating to another person is the story of how God has worked in your life.

III. Leader’s Outline: Questions for “Witnessing for Christ”

Ask someone to read the quotation preceding Question 1.

(Questions 1–5) “What are some of the things that impressed you in the section dealing with the challenge to witness?”

(Question 1) Have several read their answers to part c.

(Question 2) Ask several to tell which sentences they checked.

“When you witnessed in the past, what motivated you?”

(Question 3) Ask several to share their answers to the “what purpose” part of this question.

(Question 5, verse 11) “What do you believe the phrase ‘fear of the Lord’ refers to in this verse?”

(Verse 14) “How do you feel the love of Christ controls us in witnessing?”

Ask someone to read the quotation following Question 5.

Ask someone to read the quotation and paragraph preceding Question 6.

(Questions 6 and 7) “From your study, what impressed you from the section “Witness by Love”?”

(Question 6) Ask several to read their answers to this question.

(Question 7) Ask several to read their answers to part a.

Ask several to read their answers to part b.

(Questions 8 and 9) “From your study, what impressed you from the section “Witness by Life”?”

(Question 8) “What do you think good works are?”

(Question 9) Ask several to read their answers to part a.

Ask several to read their answers to part b.

Ask someone to read the quotation following Question 9.

(Questions 10–12) “From your study, what impressed you in the section “Witness by Word”?”

(Question 10) “What relationship do you see between Christ’s lordship in our lives and our effectiveness in witnessing?”

“How would you further describe the attitude of heart which we should have as we witness?”

(Question 11) Have each person in the group share his answer to this question.

(Question 12) Ask one or two to read their answers to the first part of this question.

Ask as many as want to share their answers to the second part.

Ask someone to read the paragraph preceding Question 13.

(Questions 13–17) “As you studied this section relating to Paul’s testimony, what did you observe?”

(Question 13) “What are some ways we could do today what Paul did in verses 2 and 3?”

(Question 14) “What from Paul’s testimony discloses both the good and bad sides of his pre-Christian life?”

(Question 17) Have one or two of your group read their answers to this question.

Ask someone to read the paragraph and quotation under *Your Story*.

Ask someone to read the Summary on page 89.

IV. Why Prepare a Personal Testimony?

In his first letter the Apostle Peter challenges us in this manner: “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15).

One of the most effective tools you have for sharing your faith is the story of how Jesus Christ gave you eternal life and how He has enriched your life. The Apostle John wrote, “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard” (1 John 1:3). John was testifying of his relationship to Jesus Christ.

When the Apostle Paul stood before King Agrippa (Acts 26), he told him simply, logically, and clearly about his life *before* salvation, *how* he met Christ, and what his life was like *after* conversion. Paul’s testimony takes three or four minutes to read aloud in a conversational manner.

Although you will be writing your testimony, the purpose is not to memorize it and give it verbatim. The purpose is to help you express your experience with words so your hearer can understand what has happened to you. The choice of the right words, the flow of your story, and knowing how to begin and how to end are all important.

As you begin this project, ask the Lord for wisdom and insight in just how to share your story. Be open to suggestions from your leader.

Many graduates of *Basic Christian Life* have said that the work on the testimony was one of the most beneficial parts of their training. They have helped many others come to Christ simply because time was taken to sharpen this tool — having “an answer to everyone.”

Trust God and work hard. Give time, thought, and prayer to this important part of your training in discipleship.

V. Preparing a Personal Testimony: General Comments

Hopefully this work will be completed at the special three-to-four-hour workshop during Session 9. Some time will be given in Session 10 for sharing completed testimonies and finishing up the few testimonies not completed in Session 9.

A. Primary Aim

The primary aim is for you to complete and present your personal salvation testimony from an outline on a small note card or piece of paper.

B. Number of Drafts

The amount of time and effort it will take each of you to prepare your personal testimony will vary greatly. This has little to do with your intelligence or spirituality. It is the result of the complexity of your story. Some testimonies are extremely difficult to communicate clearly. Some have to be condensed to proper length. Others need to be expanded. So there are many factors which influence how long it will take you to complete your written personal testimony. If yours comes quickly and easily, don't be proud. And if the preparation seems to be more difficult for you than others, don't be discouraged. Be consistent in prayer for yourself and your fellow students.

C. Difficult but Rewarding

Many students find this work on the personal testimony the most difficult part of the course, and sometimes the most discouraging. On the other hand, many students find it to be the most profitable and stimulating part of the course. Your attitude and how aggressively you do your work can make all the difference. Work hard! Pray for God's wisdom and guidance!

D. Workshops

Session 9 is a three-to-four-hour workshop. Come prepared, rested, and having prayed about the workshop. If the class is large or there are some complex testimonies, a second workshop may need to be scheduled.

E. Congratulations!

You are to be commended for your perseverance in completing *Part 1* of *Basic Christian Life* and proceeding successfully to this point in *Part 2*.

The Lord has helped you reach some difficult and meaningful milestones in your spiritual growth and maturity. By God's grace you will soon be a graduate of *Part 2*, walking closer to Him and being better prepared to serve God wherever He wants to use you for His cause.



STOP: Do not proceed any further in this lesson until directed to do so by your facilitator.

VI. Helps for Preparing Your Personal Testimony

Testimonies can be prepared on many subjects and tailored for various audiences. The testimony you will prepare during this course...

- will be designed to give to a non-Christian.
- will be best suited for sharing one-on-one or in a small group.
- will serve as a “door opener,” not a “convincing tool.”

Many people are not ready to be convinced that they need Christ, but can often be led to talk about the Gospel after an inoffensive presentation of a personal testimony.

A. The General Outline of a Personal Testimony

1. *Before* — a short sketch of what your life was like before you became a Christian.
2. *How* — how, specifically, you took the step of becoming a Christian.
3. *After* — relating to the changes in your life.

B. Guidelines for Preparing the More Specific Content

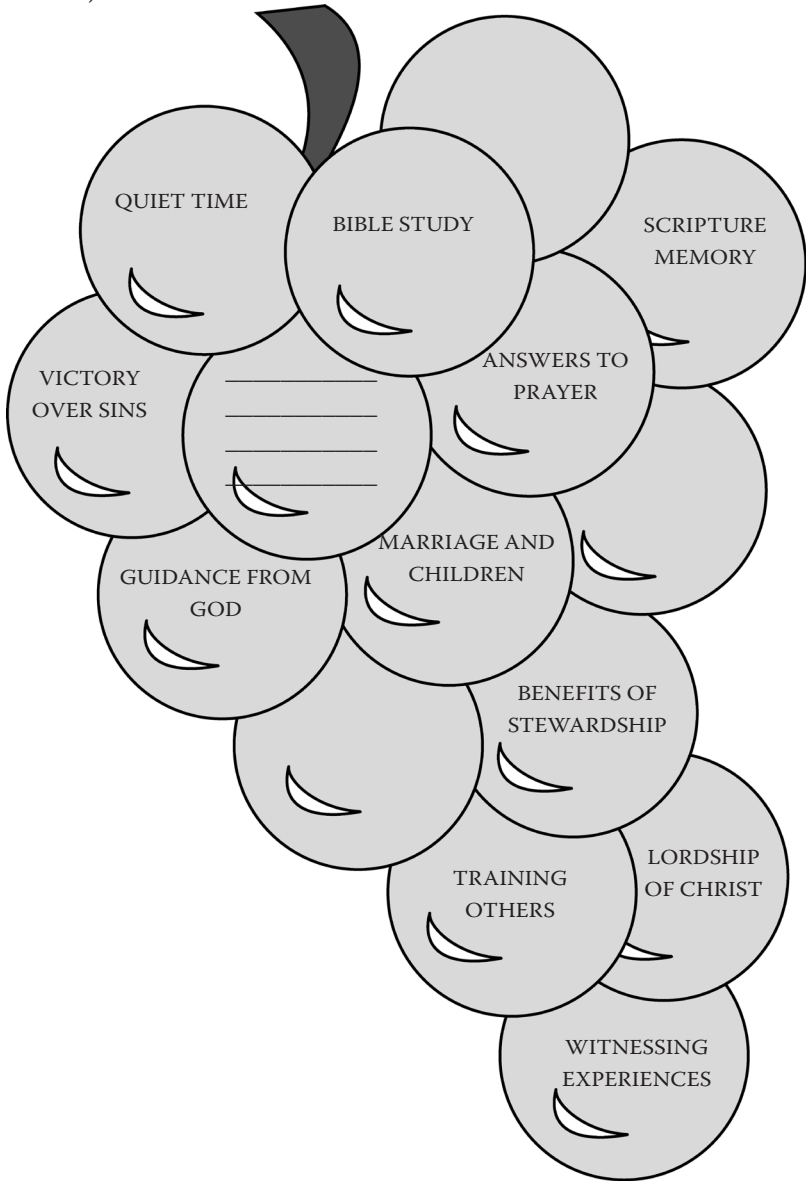
1. *Make it sound conversational.* Prepare it to be spoken. Avoid literary sounding statements like, “I viewed the crimson sunset and pondered.” Use your informal vocabulary.
2. *Say “I” and “me,” not “you” (share, don’t preach).* This helps keep the testimony warm and personal. People like to hear experiences of others told in the first person.
3. *Avoid religious words, phrases, and jargon.*

Religious Words	Possible Substitutes
Believe	Invited Christ to come into my life through prayer
Sin	Disobedience, breaking God's laws, turned my back on God
Went forward	Decided to turn my life over to God
Under the blood	God forgave me of my failures
Accepted Christ	(Same as <i>believe</i>)
Saved	Became a Christian, delivered from the consequences of disobedience
Prayed through	Sincerely prayed
Christian	Committed Christian, real Christian

4. *Generalize so more people can identify with your story.* Don't name specific churches, denominations, or groups. Avoid using dates and ages. (Poor: "I was seven years old when I became a Christian." "We moved to the city in 1976.")
5. *Include some humor and human interest.* When a person smiles or laughs, it reduces tension. Humor is disarming and increases attention.
6. *One or two word pictures increase interest.* Don't just say "I grew up on my folks' farm." You might briefly describe the farm so a person listening can visualize it.
7. *In the "before," include both good and bad aspects of your life.* Have a cushion of interesting non-spiritual material at the beginning.
 - a. Examples of "good aspects" — wanted to excel, desire for education, concern for others, hard-working.
 - b. Examples of "bad aspects" — selfish, inferiority complex, get ahead at any cost, temper, greed for finances.
8. *In the "how"...*
 - a. Communicate the Gospel clearly and briefly. You need to include:
 - (1) The fact of sin
 - (2) the penalty of sin
 - (3) Christ's payment of the penalty

THE GRAPE ILLUSTRATION

(Various types of testimonies one can accumulate through christian experience.)



- (4) The requirement to receive Christ
 - b. Make the Bible the authority.
 - (1) Poor: “Ivan shared with me that I had failed and needed forgiveness.”
 - (2) Good: “Ivan shared with me that the Bible said...”
 - c. Use the word *pray* when referring to receiving Christ. The word *pray* communicates what a person needs to do. (Good: “I prayed and asked Christ to come into my life and give me the gift of eternal life.”)
9. *In the “after” rapidly conclude with two or three personal benefits of becoming a Christian.* (These may be current benefits.) The last sentence of your testimony should be something like, “But the greatest benefit is that I know I have eternal life.” The listener often comments on the last thing you say in your testimony. If the listener’s comment is on eternal life, the door is open for presenting the Gospel to him.
 10. *Avoid dogmatic statements which skeptics can question.* Some examples are:
 - a. Poor: “I prayed and I know Christ came in.”
 - b. Poor: “God has given me a wonderful husband (or wife or three children).”
 - c. Good: “I prayed and asked Christ into my life. Since then I have experienced peace. ...”
 11. *Sound adult, not juvenile.* Reflect an adult point of view even if you were converted at an early age.
 - a. Poor: “My dad helped me understand about Jesus.”
 - b. Good: “I had great talks with my parents. One day dad and I discussed in some detail who Jesus Christ really is.”
 12. *Simplify — reduce “clutter.”* Mention only a limited number of people you know and such things as moves, meetings, and jobs you have had. Use only first names when possible.
 - a. Poor: “Ivan Ivanovich, Peter Smirnov, and his cousin Alexei Romanuk came by my office ...”
 - b. Good: “Ivan Ivanovich and two other men talked to me at work one day...”
 - c. Combine information like, “After living in five states and attending six universities, I found myself at my first engineering job.”

C. The Sequence of Your Preparation

1. Before you begin writing, pray for God's help. Look to Him for wisdom and insight as you work on your testimony.
2. Accumulate brief notes on three separate sheets of paper labeled BEFORE, HOW, and AFTER.
3. Write out your first draft, using your notes from the three sheets of paper. (It will usually take about five minutes to read it.) Apply the 12 guidelines.
4. Make improvements on the long draft (your leader will do most of the work in helping you accomplish this).
5. Cut your draft down to between two-and-one-half and three minutes when you read it (your leader will help you here as well).
6. Outline your presentation on a small note card or a piece of paper that is only $\frac{1}{4}$ A-4 size. Learn to give the testimony using only your outline (your leader will help you here too).
7. Learn to give your testimony in three to four minutes without the outline. (**NOTE:** Points 1–6 will be accomplished in this course. Point 7 will be in *Part 3*.)

VII. Two Testimony Formats

A. Chronological

In this approach you tell your story in the chronological sequence in which it happened.



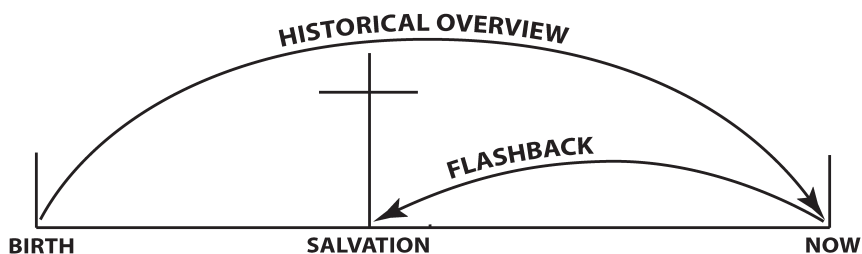
You might use this format:

1. If you were converted later in life.
2. If you have enough interesting material to share prior to your conversion.

3. If your conversion experience takes up most of your testimony because of the vitality and impact of the *how*. The *before* would then be relatively short.

B. Overview/Flashback

In this approach you give an interesting, rapid overview of your life right up to the present. This overview takes the place of the *before* in your testimony.



Then flash back to the spiritual dimension of your life. The flashback may go directly back to the *how* or just before the *how*. This means that some *before* might end up in your flashback. You might use this format:

1. If you came to Christ at an early age.
2. If you had a drab early life, but have had a more interesting adult life.
3. If your *how* is very short.



Assignment for Session 8:

1. *Scripture Memory*: Memorize the second verse on “Fellowship,” Hebrews 10:24–25.
2. *Quiet Time*: Continue reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 8*: There is very little reading to do in this lesson ahead of time. Instead you will work on your personal testimony. *Personal Testimony*: Spend a minimum of 45 minutes in completing parts 1 and 2 in “The Sequence of Your Preparation” (page 97). Accumulate brief notes on three sheets of paper labeled BEFORE, HOW, and AFTER. *Be sure to bring these with you to class next week.*

Lesson 8



OUTLINE OF SESSION 8

- A. Share your quiet time thoughts from the “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- B. Break into verse review groups and quote the second verse on “Fellowship,” Hebrews 10:24–25.
- C. Read and discuss “Common Pitfalls in Initial Testimony Preparation” (pages 100–101).
- D. Read and discuss “Testimony Workshop Outline” (pages 101–102).
- E. Share and discuss your work on the three pages of notes on BEFORE, HOW, and AFTER.
- F. Read the Assignment for Session 9 (page 102).
- G. Close in prayer.

I. Scripture Memory Instructions

A. About the Verse — Topic 5: Fellowship

We all need the mutual encouragement, admonition, and sharpening that Christian fellowship uniquely offers. The first-century believers saw this fellowship as essential: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42).

Hebrews 10:24–25 — This verse teaches that we should encourage one another to love and good works through regular fellowship. Our faith and obedience to Christ can be stimulated by fellowship with other believers, as can theirs by fellowship with us.

B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place Hebrews 10:24–25 in your pack with the other verses to be reviewed.
2. Your goal should be to repeat each verse in your pack *once* a day. However, the more time you spend on your verses the more you will profit.
3. Check your new verse by writing it out or quoting it to someone by the end of the week.



STOP: Do not proceed any further in this lesson until directed to do so by your facilitator.

II. Common Pitfalls in Initial Testimony Preparation

A. Too Cautious on the First Draft

Many people have a tendency to be too particular on the rough drafts. You are not attempting to make a perfect presentation the first time. *Get something on paper!*

Get a lot on paper! (It is easier to cut something down than to expand it.) The leader and the rest of the class will help you make improvements on your work during the following weeks. (This will be explained under “Testimony Workshop Outline.”)

B. Too Much Reminiscing

1. Some become depressed because of too much introspection or review of past unhappy experiences.
2. Some have the tendency to “replay” and “relive” past events so much that the actual written work gets left undone.
3. Some become too preoccupied with trying to reconcile old conflicts.

C. Introducing Spiritual Material Too Soon

Starting with spiritual and Christian material too early in the testimony is not good. Let the prospect get acquainted with you as a person first. Also, the content may be too spiritually oriented all the way through. Let the prospect get to know you as another human being.

D. Worrying Too Much about When You Were Converted

Often, there are several possible times when an individual may have been converted. The group and the leader can help you sort this out from your own experience. As you ponder this matter, you will often come up with new insights about yourself. If your situation is particularly complicated, the leader or another qualified person can help you analyze your experience in more detail. In the meantime, put in writing the things that are clear to you.

E. Procrastinating Because It Is a Hard Assignment

It will definitely take you several intense hours of work to complete this project. Putting it off will not make it easier. *The sooner you jump into the work, the sooner you will be enjoying the finished product!*

III. Testimony Workshop Outline

A. First draft completed.

Come to the workshop (Session 9) with your first draft completed and in hand.

B. Leader’s comments.

At the workshop your leader will comment on your first draft. He will point out its strong points and make suggestions for improvement.

C. Make the adjustments

And have your leader listen to your next draft.

D. Leader's suggestions

The leader will again make suggestions (let him do most of the work for you).

E. Repeat this procedure

Repeat this procedure (points C and D above) until your testimony is completed. (This completes points 4 and 5 in "The Sequence of Your Preparation" on page 97.)

F. Outline

When your leader agrees that your written testimony is in final form, outline it on a small note card as below.

1. Make a list of key topics from your final written testimony.
2. Condense the key topics list.
3. Practice giving your testimony from the key topics list.
4. Seek to condense the key topics list even more.
5. Put this shorter outline on a small note card, or a ¼ piece of paper.
6. Practice giving your testimony from the small note card.
7. From the small note card, give your testimony to your leader.



Assignment for Session 9:

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the first verse on "Witnessing," Matthew 4:19.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 9:* Read Lesson 9. *Personal Testimony:* Write out a first draft of your testimony, using your notes from the three sheets of paper. *Be sure to bring this draft with you to Session 9.* Session 9 is an extended class of three to four hours. It is a workshop for intensive work on personal testimony preparation. Come rested and ready to work. Pray for God's wisdom for you, the other students, and your leader.
4. *Other:* Work on getting everything completed that you can and ready to be signed on your "Completion Record."

Lesson 9



OUTLINE OF SESSION 9

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the first verse on “Witnessing,” Matthew 4:19.
- B. Read the Assignment for Session 10 (page 104).
- C. Have prayer.
- D. Proceed into your extended class session for doing personal testimony preparation.

Scripture Memory Instructions

A. About the Verse — Topic 6: Witnessing

God has given Christians the privilege and responsibility of reaching those who are without Christ. We are on earth to be His witnesses.

Matthew 4:19 — Jesus challenged two fishermen with the infinitely greater value of fishing for men. Whatever our occupation, Jesus wants us to follow Him and be involved with Him in reaching others with the Gospel.

B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place Matthew 4:19 in your verse pack.
2. By the end of the week, write out this verse or quote it to someone before coming to class.



Assignment For Session 10:

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the second verse on “Witnessing,” Romans 1:16. Diligently polish up all the verses you know.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 10:* Carefully read Lesson 10, answering the questions. *Personal Testimony:* Come prepared to give your testimony to the class from the outline on your small note card.

Lesson 10



OUTLINE OF SESSION 10

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the second verse on “Witnessing,” Romans 1:16.
- B. Share some quiet time thoughts, primarily from your “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Confirm the time and place for Session 12 — your half day of prayer. (This will be discussed more in Session 11.)
- D. Discuss *My Heart Christ’s Home* (pages 106–114).
- E. Take the opportunity to give personal testimonies.
- F. Work on completing personal testimonies if necessary.
- G. Discuss opportunities to take *Basic Christian Life Part 3*.
- H. Read the Assignment for Session 11 (page 119).
- I. Close in prayer.

I. Scripture Memory Instructions

A. About the Verse — Topic 6: Witnessing

As witnesses of Jesus Christ, we must overcome our natural fear of speaking out for Him.

Romans 1:16 — We should unashamedly share the Gospel, God’s power to save, which is the only real answer to men’s needs. Jesus said, “Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before My Father in heaven” (Matthew 10:32).

The phrase, “first for the Jew, then for the Gentile,” means that the Gospel is for all people (Romans 1:16) and has universal meaning.

B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Continue reviewing your memorized verses, and learn Romans 1:16.
2. Occasionally have someone check you on all your memorized verses to be sure you have not unconsciously memorized mistakes into them. Have the person give you the topics or the topics and references. This can be a time of mutual blessing and it can challenge him if he is not memorizing Scripture.
3. After you have learned Romans 1:16, all 12 cards of Series A should be in your pack, along with the five Beginning with Christ verse cards. You have now completed the first portion of the TMS.



Carefully read and mark *My Heart Christ’s Home*. Read the introduction to “A Discussion of *My Heart Christ’s Home*.” Briefly write in what you feel is the significance of each of the rooms and the title transfer.

II. My Heart Christ’s Home

Robert Boyd Munger

In Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians, we find these words: “That [God] would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith” (Ephesians 3:16). Or, as another has translated, “That Christ may settle down and be at home in your hearts by faith.”

Without question one of the most remarkable Christian doctrines is that Jesus Christ Himself through the presence of the Holy Spirit will actually enter a heart, settle down and be at home there. Christ will make the human heart His abode.

Our Lord said to His disciples, “If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him” (John 14:23). It was difficult for them to understand what He was saying. How was it possible for Him to make His abode with them in this sense?

It is interesting that our Lord used the same word here that He gave them in the first part of the fourteenth chapter of John: “I go to prepare a place for you... that where I am, ye may be also.” Our Lord was promising His disciples that, just as He was going to heaven to prepare a place for them and would welcome them one day, now it would be possible for them to prepare a place for Him in their hearts and He would come and make His abode with them.

They could not understand this. How could it be?

Then came Pentecost. The Spirit of the living Christ was given to the church and they understood. God did not dwell in Herod’s temple in Jerusalem! God did not dwell in a temple made with hands; but now, through the miracle of the outpoured Spirit, God would dwell in human hearts. The body of the believer would be the temple of the living God and the human heart would be the home of Jesus Christ. It is difficult for me to think of a higher privilege than to make for Christ a home in my heart, to welcome, to serve, to please, to fellowship with Him there. One evening that I shall never forget, I invited Him into my heart. What an entrance He made! It was not a spectacular, emotional thing, but very real. It was at the very center of my life. He came into the darkness of my heart and turned on the light. He built a fire in the cold hearth and banished the chill. He started music where there had been stillness and He filled the emptiness with His own loving, wonderful fellowship. I have never regretted opening the door to Christ and I never will — not into eternity!

This, of course, is the first step in making the heart Christ’s home. He has said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20). If you are interested in making your life an abode of the living God, let me encourage you to invite Christ into your heart and He will surely come.

After Christ entered my heart and in the joy of that new-found relationship, I said to Him, “Lord, I want this heart of mine to be Yours. I want to have You settle down here and be perfectly at home. Everything I have belongs to You. Let me show You around and introduce You to the various features of the home that You may be more comfortable and that we may have fuller fellowship together.” He was very glad to come, of course, and happier still to be given a place in the heart.

1. The Library

The first room was the study — the library. Let us call it the study of the mind. Now in my home this room of the mind is a very small room with very thick walls. But it is an important room. In a sense, it is the control room of the house. He entered with me and looked around at the books in the bookcase, the magazines upon the table, the pictures on the wall. As I followed His gaze, I became uncomfortable. Strangely enough, I had not felt badly about this before, but now that He was there looking at these things I was embarrassed. There were some books there that His eyes were too pure to behold. There was a lot of trash and literature on the table that a Christian had no business reading and as for the pictures on the wall — the imaginations and thoughts of my mind — these were shameful.

I turned to Him and said, “Master, I know that this room needs a radical alteration. Will You help me make it what it ought to be — to bring every thought into captivity to You?”

“Surely,” He said. “Gladly will I help you. That is one reason I am here. First of all, take all the things that you are reading and seeing which are not helpful, pure, good and true, and throw them out! Now put on the empty shelves the books of the Bible. Fill the library with Scriptures and meditate on them day and night. As for the pictures on the wall, you will have difficulty controlling these images, but here is an aid.” He gave me a full-sized portrait of Himself. “Hang this centrally,” He said, “on the wall of the mind.” I did and I have discovered through the years that when my thoughts are centered upon Christ Himself, His purity and power cause impure imaginations to retreat. So He has helped me to bring my thoughts into captivity.

May I suggest to you if you have difficulty with this little room of the mind, that you bring Christ in there. Pack it full with the Word of God, meditate upon it and keep before it ever the immediate presence of the Lord Jesus.

2. The Dining Room

From the study we went into the dining room, the room of appetites and desires. Now this was a very large room. I spent a good deal of time in the dining room and much effort in satisfying my wants.

I said to Him, “This is a very commodious room and I am quite sure You will be pleased with what we serve here.”

He seated Himself at the table with me and asked, “What is on the menu for dinner?”

“Well,” I said, “my favorite dishes: old bones, corn husks, sour cabbage, leeks, onions and garlic right out of Egypt.” These were the things I liked — worldly fare. I suppose there was nothing radically wrong in any particular item, but it was not the food that should satisfy the life of a real Christian. When the food was placed before Him, He said nothing about it. However, I observed that He did not eat it, and I said to Him, somewhat disturbed, “Savior, You don’t care for the food that is placed before You? What is the trouble?”

He answered, “I have meat to eat that ye know not of. My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me.” He looked at me again and said, “If you want food that really satisfies you, seek the will of the Father, not your own pleasures, not your own desires, not your own satisfaction. Seek to please Me, and that food will satisfy you.” And there about the table He gave me a taste of doing God’s will. What a flavor! There is no food like it in all the world. It alone satisfies. Everything else is dissatisfying in the end.

Now if Christ is in your heart, and I trust He is, what kind of food are you serving Him and what kind of food are you eating yourself? Are you living for the lust of the flesh and the pride of life — selfishly? Or are you choosing God’s will for your meat and drink?

3. The Drawing Room

We walked next into the drawing room. This room was rather intimate and comfortable. I liked it. It had a fireplace, overstuffed chairs, a bookcase, sofa, and a quiet atmosphere.

He also seemed pleased with it. He said, “This is indeed a delightful room. Let us come here often. It is secluded and quiet and we can have fellowship together.”

Well, naturally, as a young Christian I was thrilled. I could not think of anything I would rather do than have a few minutes apart with Christ in intimate comradeship.

He promised, "I will be here every morning early. Meet with Me here and we will start the day together." So, morning after morning, I would come downstairs to the drawing room and He would take a book of the Bible from the bookcase. He would open it and then we would read together. He would tell me of its riches and unfold to me its truths. He would make my heart warm as He revealed His love and His grace toward me. They were wonderful hours together. In fact, we called the drawing room the "withdrawing room." It was a period when we had our quiet time together.

But little by little, under the pressure of many responsibilities, this time began to be shortened. Why, I don't know, but I thought I was just too busy to spend time with Christ. This was not intentional, you understand; it just happened that way. Finally, not only was the time shortened, but I began to miss a day now and then. It was examinations time at the university. Then it was some other urgent emergency. I would miss it two days in a row and often more.

I remember one morning when I was in a hurry, rushing down the steps, eager to be on my way.

As I passed the drawing room, the door was ajar. Looking in I saw a fire in the fireplace and the Lord sitting there. Suddenly in dismay, I thought to myself, "He was my guest. I had invited Him into my heart! He had come as Lord of my home. And yet here I am neglecting Him." I turned and went in. With downcast glance I said, "Blessed Master, forgive me. Have You been here all these mornings?"

"Yes," He said, "I told you I would be here every morning to meet with you." Then I was even more ashamed. He had been faithful in spite of my faithlessness. I asked His forgiveness and He readily forgave me, as He does when we are truly penitent.

He said, "The trouble with you is this: You have been thinking of the quiet time, of the Bible study and prayer time, as a factor in your own spiritual progress, but you have forgotten that this hour means something to Me also. Remember, I love you. I have redeemed you at a great cost. I desire your fellowship. Now," He said, "do not neglect this hour if only for My sake. Whatever else may be your desire, remember I want your fellowship!"

You know, the truth that Christ wants my fellowship, that He loves me, wants me to be with Him, wants to be with me and waits for me, has

done more to transform my quiet time with God than any other single fact. Don't let Christ wait alone in the drawing room of your heart, but every day find some time when, with the Word of God and in prayer, you may fellowship with Him.

4. The Workshop

Before long He asked, "Do you have a workshop in your home?" Down in the basement of the home of my heart I had a workbench and some equipment, but I was not doing much with it. Once in a while I would go down and fuss around with a few little gadgets, but I wasn't producing anything substantial or worthwhile.

I led Him down there.

He looked over the workbench and what little talents and skills I had. He said, "This is quite well furnished. What are you producing with your life for the Kingdom of God?" He looked at one or two of the little toys that I had thrown together on the bench and He held one up to me. "Are these little toys all that you are producing in your Christian life?"

"Well," I said, "Lord, that is the best I can do. I know it isn't much and I really want to do more, but after all, I have no skill or strength."

"Would you like to do better?" he asked.

"Certainly," I replied.

"All right. Let Me have your hands. Now relax in Me and let My Spirit work through you. I know you are unskilled and clumsy and awkward, but the Spirit is the Master-worker and if He controls your hands and your heart He will work through you." And so, stepping around behind me and putting His great strong hands over mine, controlling the tools with His skillful fingers, He began to work through me.

There's much more that I must still learn and I am very far from satisfied with the product that is being turned out, but I do know that whatever has been produced for God has been through His strong hand and through the power of His Spirit in me.

Do not become discouraged because you cannot do much for God. Your ability is not the fundamental condition. It is He who is controlling your fingers and upon whom you are relying. Give your talents and gifts to God and He will do things with them that will surprise you.

5. The Rumpus Room

I remember the time He inquired about the playroom. I was hoping He would not ask me about that. There were certain associations and friendships, activities and amusements that I wanted to keep for myself. I did not think Christ would enjoy them or approve of them, so I evaded the question.

But there came an evening when I was leaving to join some companions — I was in college at the time — and as I was about to cross the threshold, He stopped me with a glance. “Are you going out?”

I answered, “Yes.”

“Good,” He said, “I would like to go with you.”

“Oh,” I replied rather awkwardly. I don’t think, Lord, that You would really want to go with us. Let’s go out tomorrow night. Tomorrow night we will go to prayer meeting, but tonight I have another appointment.”

He said, “That’s all right. Only I thought when I came into your home we were going to do everything together. We were going to be partners. I want you to know that I am willing to go with you.”

“Well,” I said, “we will go some place together tomorrow night.”

But that evening I spent some miserable hours. I felt wretched. What kind of a friend was I to Christ, when I was deliberately leaving Him out of my associations, doing things and going places that I knew very well He would not enjoy? When I returned that evening, there was a light in His room and I went up to talk it over with Him. I said, “Lord, I have learned my lesson. I cannot have a good time without You. We will do everything together from now on.”

Then we went down into the rumpus room of the house and He transformed it. He brought into life real joy, real happiness, real satisfaction, real friendship. Laughter and music have been ringing in the house ever since.

6. The Hall Closet

There is just one more matter that I might share with you. One day I found Him waiting for me at the door. There was an arresting look in His eye. He said to me as I entered, “There is a peculiar odor in the house. There is something dead around here. It’s upstairs. I think it is in the hall closet.” As soon as He said the words, I knew what He was talking about.

Yes, there was a small hall closet up there on the landing, just a few feet square, and in that closet behind lock and key I had one or two little personal things that I did not want Christ to see. I knew they were dead and rotting things. And yet I loved them, and I wanted them so for myself that I was afraid to admit that they were there. I went up the stairs with Him and as we mounted, the odor became stronger and stronger. He pointed at the door and said, "It's in there! Some dead thing!"

I was angry. That's the only way I can put it. I had given Him access to the library, the dining room, the drawing room, the workshop, the rumpus room, and now He was asking me about a little two-by-four closet. I said inwardly, "This is too much. I am not going to give Him the key."

"Well," He said, reading my thoughts, "If you think I am going to stay up here on the second floor with this odor, you are mistaken. I will take My bed out on the back porch. I'm certainly not going to put up with that." And I saw Him start down the stairs.

When you have come to know and love Christ, the worst thing that can happen is to sense His fellowship retreating from you. I had to surrender. "I'll give you the key," I said sadly, "but you'll have to open the closet. You'll have to clean it out. I haven't the strength to do it."

"I know," He said, "I know you haven't. Just give Me the key. Just authorize Me to take care of that closet and I will." So, with trembling fingers I passed the key over to Him. He took it from my hand, walked over to the door, opened it, entered it, took out all the putrefying stuff that was rotting there and threw it away. Then He cleansed the closet, painted it, fixed it up, doing it all in a moment's time. Oh, what victory and release to have that dead thing out of my life!

7. Transferring the Title

Then a thought came to me. I said to myself, "I have been trying to keep this heart of mine clear for Christ. I start on one room and no sooner have I cleaned that than another room is dirty. I begin on the second room and the first room becomes dusty again. I am so tired and weary trying to maintain a clean heart and an obedient life. I just am not up to it!" So I ventured a question: "Lord, is there any chance that You would take over the responsibility of the whole house and operate it for me and with me just as You did that closet? Would you take the responsibility to keep my heart what it ought to be and my life where it ought to be?"

I could see His face light up as He replied, “Certainly, that is what I came to do. You cannot be a victorious Christian in your own strength. That is impossible. Let Me do it through you and for you. That is the way. But,” He added slowly, “I am not owner of this house. I am just a guest. I have no authority to proceed since the property is not Mine.”

I saw it in a minute and dropping to my knees, I said, “Lord, You have been a guest, and I have been the host. From now on I am going to be the servant. You are going to be the Lord.” Running as fast as I could to the strong box, I took out the title deed to the house describing its assets and liabilities, its situation and condition. Then returning to Him, I eagerly signed it over to belong to Him alone for time and eternity. “Here it is, all that I am and have forever. Now You run the house. I’ll just remain with You as houseboy and friend.”

He took my life that day and I can give you my word, there is no better way to live the Christian life. He knows how to keep it in shape and deep peace settles down on the soul. May Christ settle down and be at home in your heart as Lord of all.

I am the Lord’s! O joy beyond expression,
O sweet response to voice of love Divine;
Faith’s joyous “Yes” to the assuring whisper,
“Fear not! I have redeemed thee; thou art Mine.”

I am the Lord’s! It is the glad confession
Wherewith the Bride recalls the happy day,
When love’s “I will” accepted Him forever,
“The Lord’s,” to love, to honor and obey.

I am the Lord’s! Yet teach me all it meaneth,
All it involves of love and loyalty,
Of holy service, absolute surrender,
And unreserved obedience unto Thee.

I am the Lord’s! Yes; body, soul and spirit,
O seal them irrecoverably Thine:
As Thou, Beloved, in Thy grace and fulness
Forever and forever more art mine.

by Lucy A. Bennett from Hymns (*InterVarsity Press*)

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III. A Discussion of *My Heart Christ's Home*

A. Introduction

Certainly acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord is a surrender that every Christian at some point must make. Verses that imply this important issue are:

Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.

— Joshua 24:15

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — which is your spiritual worship.

— Romans 12:1

It is also true that Christ, as we allow Him, will increasingly take over our lives and gradually come to completely control them. This is the theme of *My Heart Christ's Home*. The following verses emphasize these concepts:

I don't mean to say I am perfect. I haven't learned all I should even yet, but I keep working toward that day when I finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be.

— Philippians 3:12, LB

Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.

— Exodus 23:30

You are leaving a brand new kind of life that is continually learning more and more of what is right, and trying constantly to be more and more like Christ who created this new life within you.

— Colossians 3:10, LB

But we Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him.

— 2 Corinthians 3:18, LB

Grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

— 2 Peter 3:18, LB

Let us acknowledge the Lord: let us press on to acknowledge Him. As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.

— Hosea 6:3

B. Discussion Material

What were the issues involved in the following topics in the material you read in *My Heart Christ's Home*?

1. The Library

2. The Dining Room

3. The Drawing Room

4. The Workshop

5. The Rumpus Room

6. The Hall Closet

7. Transferring the Title



Assignment for Session 11:

1. *Scripture Memory:* No new memory verses are assigned for next time. Diligently polish up all the verses you know.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue reading, marking, and recording.
3. Lesson 11: Carefully read Lesson 11.
4. You should now begin to share your testimony with people who have not accepted Christ. Share your testimony with *at least* one person this week.
5. *Other:* Be sure to have everything signed that you can on your “Completion Record” at the next class session.

Lesson 11



OUTLINE OF SESSION 11

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote *all* the verses you have learned in *BCL Part 2*. Work at getting everything you can signed on your “Completion Record.”
- B. Share some quiet time thoughts from your “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Share your experience in giving your testimony.
- D. Take the opportunity to give completed testimonies from a small note card outline.
- E. Discuss *How to Spend a Day in Prayer* (pages 122–130), the section “Why A Day of Prayer?” (pages 131–132), and “Divide the Day into Three Parts” (page 132).
- F. Discuss “How to Stay Awake and Alert” and “How to Make a Worry List” (pages 132–133).
- G. Discuss “A Checklist for a Day in Prayer” (pages 133–134).
- H. Discuss “How to Take Notes during a Half Day of Prayer” (pages 134–135).
- I. Read the Assignment for Session 12 (page 135).
- J. Close in prayer.



Study and mark *How to Spend a Day in Prayer*. Give careful thought to how you will apply these principles in Session 12.

I. How to Spend a Day in Prayer

Lorne C. Sanny

God's acquaintance is not made hurriedly. He does not bestow His gifts on the casual or hasty comer and goer. To be much alone with God is the secret of knowing Him and of influence with Him.

~ E. M. Bounds

"I never thought a day could make such a difference," a friend said to me. "My relationship to everyone seems improved." "Why don't I do it more often?"

Comments like these come from those who set aside a personal day of prayer.

With so many activities — important ones — clamoring for our time, real prayer is considered more a luxury than a necessity. How much more so spending a *day* in prayer!

The Bible gives us three time-guides for personal prayer. There is the command to "pray without ceasing" — the spirit of prayer — keeping so in tune with God that we can lift our hearts in request or praise anytime through the day.

There is also the practice of a quiet time or morning watch — seen in the life of David (Psalm 5:3), of Daniel (6:10), and of the Lord Jesus (Mark 1:35). This daily time specified for meditation in the Word of God and prayer is indispensable to the growing, healthy Christian.

Avail yourself of the greatest privilege this side of heaven. Jesus Christ died to make this communion and communication with the Father possible.

~ Billy Graham

Then there are examples in the Scripture of extended time given to prayer alone. Jesus spent whole nights praying. Nehemiah prayed "certain days" upon hearing of the plight of Jerusalem. Three times Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights alone with God.

A. Learning from God

I believe it was in these special times of prayer that God made known His ways and His plans to Moses (Psalm 103:7). He allowed Moses to look through a chink in the fence and gain special insights, while the rank-and-file Israelites saw only the *acts* of God as they unfolded day by day.

Once I remarked to Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators, “You impress me as one who feels he is a man of destiny, one destined to be used of God.”

“I don’t think that’s the case,” he replied, “but I know this. God *has* given me some promises that I know He will fulfill.” During earlier years Dawson spent countless protracted times alone with God, and out of these times the Navigator work grew — not by methods or principles, but by promises given to him from the Word.

Prayer is a powerful thing, for God has bound and tied Himself thereto.

~ Martin Luther

In my own life one of the most refreshing and stabilizing factors, as well as the means for new direction or confirmation of the will of God, has been those extended times of prayer — in the neighborhood park in Seattle, on a hill behind the Navigator home in Southern California, or out in the Garden of the Gods here in Colorado Springs.

These special prayer times can become anchor points in your life, times when you “drive a stake” as a landmark and go on from there. Your daily quiet time is more effective as you pray into day-by-day reality some of the things the Lord speaks to your heart in protracted times of prayer. The quiet time in turn is the foundation for “praying without ceasing,” going through the day in communion with God.

Perhaps you haven’t spent a protracted time in prayer because you haven’t recognized the need for it. Or maybe you aren’t sure what you would do with a whole day on your hands *just to pray*.

B. Why a Day of Prayer?

Why take this time from a busy life? What is it for?

1. *For extended fellowship with God* — beyond your morning devotions. It means just plain being with and thinking about God. God has called us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9). Like many personal relationships, this fellowship is nurtured

by spending time together. God takes special note of times when His people reverence Him and *think upon His Name* (Malachi 3:16).

2. *For a renewed perspective.* Like flying over the battlefield in a reconnaissance plane, a day of prayer gives opportunity to think of the world from God's point of view. Especially when going through some difficulty we need this perspective to sharpen our vision of the unseen, and to let the immediate, tangible things drop into proper place. Our spiritual defenses are strengthened while "we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For... what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).
3. *For catching up on intercession.* There are non-Christian friends and relatives to bring before the Lord, missionaries on various fields, our pastors, our neighbors and Christian associates, our government leaders — to name a few. Influencing people and changing events through prayer is well known among Christians but too little practiced. And as times become more serious around us, we need to reconsider the value of personal prayer, both to accomplish and to deter.
4. *For prayerful consideration of our own lives before the Lord* — personal inventory and evaluation. You will especially want to take a day of prayer when facing important decisions, as well as on a periodic basis. On such a day you can evaluate where you are in relation to your goals, and get direction from the Lord through His Word. Promises are there for you and me, just as they have been for Hudson Taylor or George Mueller or Dawson Trotman. And it is in our times alone with God that He gives inner assurance of His promises to us.
5. *For adequate preparation.* Nehemiah, after spending "certain days" seeking the Lord in prayer, was called in before the king. "Then the king said unto me, 'For what dost thou make request?' So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, 'If it please the king...'" — and he outlined his plan (Nehemiah 2:4–5, KJV). Then Nehemiah says, "I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem" (2:12). When did God put in his heart this plan? I believe it was when he fasted and prayed and waited on God. Then when the day came for action, he was ready.

I heard a boy ask a pilot if it didn't take quick thinking to land his plane when something went wrong. The pilot answered that no, he knew at all times where he would put down if something went wrong. He had that thought out ahead of time.

So it should be in our Christian life. If God has given us plans and purposes in those times alone, we will be ready when opportunity comes to move right into it. We won't have to say, "I'm not prepared." The reason many Christians are dead to opportunities is not because they are not mentally alert, but they are simply unprepared in heart. Preparation is made when we get alone with God.

C. Pray on the Basis of God's Word

Daniel said, "In the first year of his reign [the reign of Darius], I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with Him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed" (Daniel 9:2-4).

He understood by the Scriptures what was to come. And as a result of his exposure to the Word of God, he prayed. It has been said that God purposes, therefore He promises. And we can add, "Therefore I pray the promises, so that God's purposes might come to reality." God purposed to do something, and He promised it, therefore Daniel prayed. This was Daniel's part in completing the circuit, like an electrical circuit, so that the power could flow through.

Your day alone with the Lord isn't a matter of sitting out on a rock like the statue of *The Thinker* and taking whatever thoughts come to your mind. That's not safe. It should be a day exposed to God's Word, and then His Word leads you into prayer. You will end the day worse than you started if all you do is engage in introspection, thinking of yourself and your own problems. It isn't your estimate of yourself that counts anyway. It's God's estimate. And He will reveal His estimate to you by the Holy Spirit through His Word, the open Bible. And then the Word leads into prayer.

D. How to Go about It

How do you go about it? Having set aside a day or portion of a day for prayer, pack a lunch and start out. Find a place where you can be alone, away from distractions. This may be a wooded area near home, or your backyard. An outdoor spot is excellent if you can find it; but don't get sidetracked into nature studies and fritter away your time. If you find yourself watching the squirrels or the ants, direct your observation by reading Psalm 104 and meditating on the power of God in creation.

Take along a Bible, a notebook and pencil, a hymnbook, and perhaps a devotional book. I like to have with me the booklet *Power Through Prayer* by E. M. Bounds and read a chapter or two as a challenge to the strategic value of prayer. Or I sometimes take Horatius Bonar's *Words to Winners of Souls*, or a missionary biography like *Behind the Ranges* by Mary C. Taylor, which records the prayer victories of J. O. Fraser in inland China.

Even if you have all day, you will want to use it profitably. So lose no time in starting, and start purposefully.

E. Wait on the Lord

Divide the day into three parts: waiting on the Lord, prayer for others, and prayer for yourself.

As you *wait on the Lord*, don't hurry. You will miss the point if you look for some mystical or ecstatic experience. Just seek the Lord, waiting on *Him*. Isaiah 40:31 promises that those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Psalm 27:14 is one of dozens of verses which mention waiting on Him. Psalm 62:5 says, "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him."

Wait on Him first *to realize His presence*. Read through a passage like Psalm 139, grasping the truth of His presence with you as you read each verse. Ponder the impossibility of being anywhere in the universe where He is not. Often we are like Jacob when he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not" (Genesis 28:16, KJV).

Wait on Him also *for cleansing*. The last two verses of Psalm 139 lead you into this. Ask God to search your heart as these verses suggest. When we search our own hearts it can lead to imaginations, morbid introspection, or anything the enemy may want to throw before us. But when the Holy Spirit searches He will bring

to your attention that which should be confessed and cleansed. Psalms 51 and 32, David's songs of confession, will help you. Stand upon the firm ground of 1 John 1:9 and claim God's faithfulness to forgive whatever specific thing you confess.

If you realize you've sinned against a brother, make a note of it so you won't forget to set it right. Otherwise, the rest of the day will be hin-

God's acquaintance is not made hurriedly. He does not bestow His gifts on the casual or hasty comer and goer. To be much alone with God is the secret of knowing Him and of influencing with Him.

~ E. M. Bounds

dered. God won't be speaking to you if there is something between you and someone else that you haven't planned to take care of at the earliest possible moment.

As you wait on God, ask for the power of concentration. Bring yourself back from daydreaming.

Next, wait on God *to worship Him*. Psalms 103, 111, and 145 are wonderful portions to follow as you praise the Lord for the greatness of His power. Most of the psalms are prayers. Or turn to Revelation, chapters 4 and 5, and use them in your praise to Him. There is no better way to pray scripturally than to pray Scripture.

If you brought a hymnbook you can sing to the Lord. Some wonderful hymns have been written that put into words what we could scarcely express ourselves. Maybe you don't sing very well — then be sure you're out of earshot of someone else and “make a joyful noise unto the Lord.” *He* will appreciate it.

This will lead you naturally into thanksgiving. Reflect upon the wonderful things God has done for you and thank Him for these — for your own salvation and spiritual blessings, for your family, friends, and opportunities. Go beyond that which you thank the Lord for daily and take time to express appreciation to Him for countless things He's given.

F. Prayer for Others

Now is the time for the unhurried, more detailed prayer for others that you don't get to ordinarily. Remember people in addition to those for whom you usually pray. Trace your way around the world, praying for people by countries.

Here are three suggestions as to what to pray:

First, ask specific things for them. Perhaps you remember or have jotted down various needs people have mentioned. Use requests from missionary prayer letters. Pray for spiritual strength, courage, physical stamina, mental alertness, and so on. Imagine yourself in the situations where these people are and pray accordingly.

Second, look up some of the prayers in Scripture. Pray what Paul prayed for other people in the first chapter of Philippians and Colossians, and in the first and third chapters of Ephesians. This will help you advance in

your prayer from the stage of “Lord, bless so and so and help them to do such and such.”

Third, ask for others what you are praying for yourself. Desire for them what the Lord has shown *you*.

If you pray a certain verse or promise of Scripture for a person you may want to put the reference by his name on your prayer list, and use this verse as you pray for that person the next time. Then use it for thanksgiving as you see the Lord answer.

G. Prayer for Yourself

The third part of your day will be pray for yourself. If you are facing an important decision you may want to put this before prayer for others.

Again, let your prayer be ordered by Scripture and ask the Lord for understanding according to Psalm 119:18. Meditate upon verses of Scripture you have memorized or promises you have previously claimed from the Word. Reading a whole book of the Bible through, perhaps aloud, is a good idea. Consider how it might apply to your life.

In prayer for yourself, 1 Chronicles 4:10 is one good example to follow. Jabez prayed, “Oh that You would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let Your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” That’s prayer for your personal life, for your growth, for God’s presence, and for God’s protection. Jabez prayed in the will of God and God granted his request.

“Lord, what do *You* think of my life?” is the attitude of this portion of your day of prayer. Consider your main objectives in the light of what you know to be God’s will for you. Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work” (John 4:34). Do you want to do God’s will more than anything else?

Then consider your activities — what you *do* — in the context of your objectives. God may speak to you about rearranging your schedule, cutting out certain activities that are good but not best, or some things that are entanglements or impediments to progress. Strip them off. You may be convicted about how you spend your evenings or Saturdays, when you could use the time to advantage and still get the recreation you need.

As you pray, record your thoughts on your activities and use of time, and plan for better scheduling. Perhaps the need for better preparation for

your Sunday school class or a personal visit with an individual will come to your mind. Or the Lord may impress you to do something special for someone. Make a note of it.

During this part of your day, bring up any problems or decisions you are facing and seek the mind of God on them. It helps to list the factors involved in these decisions or problems. Pray over these factors and look into the Scriptures for guidance. You may be led to a promise or direction from the passages with which you have already filled your mind during the day.

After prayer, you may reach some definite conclusions upon which you can base firm convictions. It should be your aim in a day of prayer to come away with some conclusions and specific direction — some stakes driven. However, do not be discouraged if this is not the case. It may not be God's time for a conclusive answer to your problem. And you may discover that your real need was not to know the next step but to have a new revelation of God Himself.

In looking for promises to claim there's no need to thumb through looking for new or startling ones. Just start with the promises you already know. If you have been through the "Topical Memory System," start by meditating on the verses in the "Rely on God's Resources" section. Chew over some old familiar promises the Lord has given you before, ones you remember as you think back. Pray about applying these verses to your life.

I have found some of the greatest blessings from a new realization of promises I already knew. And the familiar promises may lead you to others. The Bible is full of them.

You may want to mark or underline in your Bible the promises the Lord gives during these protracted times alone, and put the date and a word or two in the margin beside them.

Variety is important during your day of prayer. Read a while, pray a while, then walk around. A friend of mine paces the floor of his room for his prayer time. Rather than get cramped in one position, take a walk and stretch; get some variety.

As outside things pop into your mind, simply incorporate those items into prayer. If it's some business item you must not forget, jot it down. Have you noticed how many things come to mind while you are sitting in church? It will be natural for things to occur to you during your prayer day that you should have done, so put them down, pray about them and

plan how you can take care of them and when. Don't just push them aside or they will plague you the rest of the day.

At the end of the day summarize in your notebook some things God has spoken to you about. This will be profitable to refer to later.

H. Two Questions

The result of your day of prayer should be answers to the two questions Paul asked the Lord on the Damascus road (Acts 22:6–10). Paul's first question was, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord replied, "I am Jesus." You will be seeking to know Him, to find out who He is. The second question Paul asked was, "What shall I do, Lord?" The Lord answered him specifically. This should be answered or reconfirmed for you in that part of the day when you unhurriedly seek His will for you.

Don't think you must end the day with some new discovery or extraordinary experience. Wait on God and expose yourself to His Word. Looking for a new experience or insight you can share with someone when you get back will get you off the track. True, you may gain some new insight, but often this can just take your attention from the real business. The test of such a day is not how exhilarated we are when the day is over but how it works into life tomorrow. If we have really exposed ourselves to the Word and come into contact with God, it will affect our daily life.

Days of prayer don't just happen. Besides the attempts of our enemy Satan to keep us from praying, the world around us has plenty to offer to fill our time. So we have to *make* time. Plan ahead — the first of every other month, or once a quarter.

God bless you as you do this — and do it soon! You too will probably ask yourself, "Why not more often?"

"I love the Lord, for He heard my voice;
He heard my cry for mercy.
Because He turned His ear to me,
I will call on Him as long as I live.
...I will sacrifice a thank offering to You
and call on the name of the Lord."

— Psalm 116:1–2,17



STOP: Do not proceed any further in this lesson until directed to do so by your facilitator.

II. Why a Day of Prayer?

(Notes from your group discussion)

1. For Extended Fellowship with God

2. For a Renewed Perspective

3. For Additional Intercession

4. For Personal Inventory and Evaluation

5. For Adequate Preparation

III. Divide the Day into Three Parts

A. **Wait on the Lord**

1. To realize His presence.
2. To be cleansed.
3. To worship Him.

B. **Pray for Others**

1. Ask specific things for them.
2. Use Paul's prayers for others.
3. Ask for others what you are praying for yourself.

C. **Pray for Yourself**

IV. How to Stay Awake and Alert

1. Get adequate rest the two nights before your day of prayer.
2. Change positions — sit a while, walk around, sit, walk, and so on.
3. Have a variety in what you do. Read the Scriptures a while, pray a while, plan or organize a while, and so on.
4. Pray aloud — in a whisper or soft voice. Sometimes thinking aloud also helps.

V. How to Make a Worry List

1. Give some thought to current conflicts, problems, concerns, or frustrations. List anything that is "bugging" you. Number each of these items. No matter how small an item is, if it is of concern to you, list it. Ask God to reveal to you anything else which is a point of concern.
2. Every worry that you have in the world should be on that piece of paper. Nothing else should concern you — it is all there! When you are satisfied that all of your concerns have been listed, go on to step 3.

3. Go through the list item by item. On each item you will conclude that you can do nothing about it because it is past or beyond your control, or that you can do something to resolve that issue.

If there is nothing you can do about a given item, then spend some time in prayer about it. If you feel that you can take action on a particular item, you should also pray about it, then make a “do list” of things you plan to do specifically to help resolve it. After you have gone through many of these concerns, you will have several items on a “do list.”

As a result of your day of prayer, you will also come up with other things which should go on this “do list.”

4. You may want to burn or destroy the “worry list” if it has some rather personal or pointed items which could be embarrassing or awkward if others were to read them.

It is not uncommon for an individual to have around 20 items on a “worry list” when it is compiled on a monthly basis.

VI. A Checklist for a Day of Prayer

A. Essential

1. A Bible — perhaps the one you read regularly
2. A notebook or paper for taking notes
3. Pens or pencils
4. A clock or watch

B. Helpful

1. Prayer letters from missionaries and Christian workers
2. A devotional book focused on prayer
3. A bag lunch and beverage
4. Your current prayer list
5. Memory cards — to put in some extra review and meditation time or to pray over these verses
6. Your “Bible Reading Highlights Record” for recent months — to look for trends in God’s dealing with you
7. Comfortable clothing

C. Optional

1. A calendar of the months ahead
2. A hymn book
3. Notes from your last day in prayer
4. Your list of objectives or goals
5. Family or personal budget
6. Facts about a decision you are making
7. Reading glasses
8. A copy of your weekly schedule
9. Sweater or coat in cooler weather

VII. Sample: How to Take Notes During a Half Day of Prayer

1:15 — 1:45	John 14–16 14:3 Heaven is still being prepared 14:13 Jesus’ involvement in prayer 14:15, 21 Obey!! (15:7, 10) 16:26 “Then you shall present your petitions in my name.”	30 min
1:45–1:50	Confession time	5 min
1:50–1:00	Reviewing “How to Spend a Day in Prayer”	10 min
2:00 — 2:15	Psalm 145 — Reading, Praise, Worship 145:3, 6 We have a great God!! 145:4 He will work with my children 145:9 I’m thankful for God’s mercy! 145:15 God meet needs — He has met mine! 145:17 I want to grow in holiness	15 min
2:15–3:00	Making a “Worry List” (prayer and do list)	45 min
3:00–3:20	Prayer for other people	20 min.

Do List:

1. Organize prayer pages
2. Apologize to _____ about _____
3. Clean out car trunk

4:00–4:20

Conclusion:

20 min

1. Quiet time and memory review must be daily thing I “never” miss!
2. Pray and work towards a balanced life!!



Assignment for Session 12:

1. Share your testimony with another person who is without Christ this week. Pray and ask God to lead you to someone.
2. Come rested, alert, and eager to spend a half day with the Lord. Carefully look over the checklist on pages 134–135.

Lesson 12



OUTLINE OF SESSION 12

- A. Meet together for a brief orientation (10 minutes or less).
- B. Scatter and spend individual time alone with God (3 hours and 20 minutes).
- C. Come back together again to share what each one has done during his time alone and his observations on this experience (30 minutes).

The Challenge Continues...

In the second part of *Basic Christian Life* you have further developed your walk with Christ by:

- Learning how to prepare and present your personal testimony of Christ's work in your life;
- Learning how to spend extended periods of time alone with God, and spending a half day in prayer;
- Reading about and discussing how Christ must be the Lord of our lives;
- Memorizing 12 key verses on critically important aspects of a balanced Christian life;
- Studying scriptural principles for living a Spirit-filled life.

In *Part Three* you will find more challenges to deepening your Christian life. You will continue your growth by:

- Learning how to meditate on the Scriptures;
- Learning how to use "The Bridge Illustration" to communicate the Gospel;
- Memorizing 12 key verses to use in presenting the Gospel;
- Studying key principles for walking with Christ.

Bible Reading Highlights Record

The word "APPENDIX" is written vertically in a light gray font, centered behind the main title. To the right of the title is a large, light gray letter "A" with a white triangle inside it.

“Happy are those who keep My ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not refuse it. Happy is the man listening to Me, watching daily at My gates, keeping watch at My doorposts.”

— Proverbs 8:32–34, BERK

On the following pages you will find enough “Bible Reading Highlights Records” to last through *BCL Part 2*, plus extra copies. You may also want to copy one of the sheets on a photocopier before writing on it, to give you more copies.

BIBLE READING HIGHLIGHTS RECORD

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Live the New Life

APPENDIX

B

On the next page you will find the verses of the “Live the New Life” series. You may either make a photocopy of them, or cut out the whole page. If possible, have the verses laminated (plastic coated). This service is usually available in shops that handle large quantities of photocopies. You may want to ask the person leading this course to help you find such a place. Laminating your verses will ensure that they last long even though you will be using them frequently. If you cannot have them laminated then glue them to a stiff piece of paper or cardboard so that they will be sturdier.

Prepare your verses well because you will want to use them for a long time!

<p style="text-align: center;">Christ the Center</p> <p>2 Corinthians 5:17</p> <p>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2 Corinthians 5:17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-1 Live the New Life</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Christ the Center</p> <p>Galatians 2:20</p> <p>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Galatians 2:20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-2 Live the New Life</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Obedience to Christ</p> <p>Romans 12:1</p> <p>Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Romans 12:1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-3 Live the New Life</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Obedience to Christ</p> <p>John 14:21</p> <p>Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 14:21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-4 Live the New Life</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Word</p> <p>2 Timothy 3:16</p> <p>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2 Timothy 3:16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-5 Live the New Life</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Word</p> <p>Joshua 1:8</p> <p>Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Joshua 1:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-6 Live the New Life</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer</p> <p>John 15:7</p> <p>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 15:7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-7 Live the New Life</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer</p> <p>Philippians 4:6–7</p> <p>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Philippians 4:6–7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-8 Live the New Life</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fellowship</p> <p>Matthew 18:20</p> <p>For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Matthew 18:20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-9 Live the New Life</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fellowship</p> <p>Hebrews 10:24–25</p> <p>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Hebrews 10:24–25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-10 Live the New Life</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Witnessing</p> <p>Matthew 4:19</p> <p>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Matthew 4:19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-11 Live the New Life</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Witnessing</p> <p>Romans 1:16</p> <p>I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Romans 1:16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B-12 Live the New Life</p>

