

# **Basic Christian Life**

## **Part 3: Walking with Christ**

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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# Certificate of Completion

Grades help to reflect a balanced concern for development in the areas of character development, academics, faithfulness in participation and practical involvement.

**This certifies that**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's full name)

**has completed the course *Basic Christian Life*  
successfully including Parts 1, 2 and 3**

Date of course completion \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Course Grade** \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
(In writing)

Facilitator signature \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's name and signature \_\_\_\_\_

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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
<b>SCRIPTURE MEMORY</b>		
"Proclaim Christ," memory verses:		
"All Have Sinned" — Romans 3:23		
"All Have Sinned" — Isaiah 53:6		
"Sin's Penalty" — Romans 6:23		
"Sin's Penalty" — Hebrews 9:27		
"Christ Paid the Penalty" — Romans 5:8		
"Christ Paid the Penalty" — 1 Peter 3:18		
"Salvation Not by Works" — Ephesians 2:8–9		
"Salvation Not by Works" — Titus 3:5		
"Must Receive Christ" — John 1:12		
"Must Receive Christ" — Revelation 3:20		
"Assurance of Salvation" — 1 John 5:13		
"Assurance of Salvation" — John 5:24		
Quoted all of "Proclaim Christ"		

Reviewed all of “Live the New Life,” for 14 consecutive days		
Reviewed all of “Beginning with Christ” for 14 consecutive days		
<b>QUIET TIME</b>		
Completed “Bible Reading Highlights Record” for 28 consecutive days		
<b>TESTIMONY</b>		
Testimony given without notes in less than four minutes in group		
1) Share testimony with an unbeliever.		
2) Share testimony with an unbeliever.		
3) Share testimony with an unbeliever.		
<b>BIBLE STUDY — <i>Walking with Christ</i></b>		
Topic 1 — Maturing in Christ, Parts A & B		
Topic 2 — The Lordship of Christ, Parts A & B		
Topic 3 — Faith and the Promises of God, Parts A & B		
Topic 4 — Knowing God’s Will, Parts A & B		
Topic 5 — Walking as a Servant, Parts A & B		
<b>OTHER</b>		
Meditation exercise (pages 25–27)		
Completed Matthew 6:33 study (pages 90–93)		
Has given the Bridge Illustration clearly to a classmate		
1) Has given the Bridge Illustration to an unbeliever.		
2) Has given the Bridge Illustration to an unbeliever.		
3) Has given the Bridge Illustration to an unbeliever.		
Completed “Priorities, Part A” (pages 94–99)		
<b>LEADER’S CHECK</b>		
Graduated from <i>Part 3</i>		

# Lesson 1



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 1

- A. Go over “A Review of the Goals of *Part 2*” (page 12).
- B. Preview *Part 3* by looking over the “Completion Record” (pages 9–10).
- C. Survey the “Scripture Memory Instructions” (pages 12–15).
- D. Read through “The Topical Memory System” and discuss (pages 15–17).
- E. Do the group exercise “How to Meditate on the Scriptures” (pages 17–22).
- F. Read the Assignment for Session 2 (page 22).
- G. Close the session in prayer.

# I. A Review of the Goals of *BCL Part 2*

The goals of *Part 2* were:

1. To experience a more consistent and meaningful quiet time by...
  - a. combining meaningful Bible reading and prayer.
  - b. succeeding in having 21 consecutive quiet times during *Part 2*.
  - c. recording daily quiet time thoughts and how they impressed you on a “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
  - d. growing in ability to share key quiet time thoughts with others in the group during the course.
2. To quote accurately the five Scripture memory verses of “Beginning with Christ” (the five assurance verses).
3. To memorize the first 12 verses of the “Topical Memory System” successfully. (These 12 verses are correlated with the “Wheel Illustration.”)
4. To study and discuss the article *My Heart Christ’s Home*.
5. To have a half day of prayer after reading and discussing “How to Spend a Day in Prayer.”
6. To complete and discuss the Bible study lessons of “Walking with Christ.”
7. To give a personal salvation testimony in less than four minutes, using notes from a small note card.

## II. Scripture Memory Instructions

(From the *Topical Memory System*)

### A. You’re Under Way...

You’re off to a good start, having completed the first unit of the “Topical Memory System” in *BCL Part 2*. You have begun to enjoy some of the benefits Scripture memory can bring. Now keep up your momentum as you tackle the next 12 verses.

Study these instructions, then each week read the comments “About the Verses” and follow the instructions in the section “Your Weekly Plan.”

## B. What to Expect

The Scripture memory instructions in *BCL Part 2* mentioned three things Scripture memory can help you do — witness effectively, overcome anxiety, and have victory in temptation. In *BCL Part 3* you will learn 12 verses which will greatly contribute to your effectiveness in witnessing.

## C. Use the Buddy System

The Scriptures teach that “as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17), and, “Two are better than one... If one falls down, his friend can help him up” (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10). We all need encouragement in our Christian lives and this surely applies to memorizing Scripture.

Ask someone else in your *Basic Christian Life* group to get together with you outside class to help you review your verses. You may also want to talk over any difficulties you are having, but above all share how God is using the verses in your lives. This will help you succeed in Scripture memory.

## D. Knowledge and Application

Some Christians confuse Bible knowledge with spiritual maturity, assuming that knowing more about the Bible automatically makes them better Christians. This is not necessarily true. The Pharisees knew the Old Testament, yet they were spiritual reprobates. The key to spiritual maturity is *application* of God’s Word to life.

The Apostle Paul addressed the Corinthian believers as fleshly, unspiritual babes in Christ. He had to feed them milk instead of solid spiritual food. They took pride in their wisdom and logic, and could have understood the deeper truths Paul wanted to impart to them. But their lives contradicted what they already knew. Jealousy and strife split their ranks and they behaved like ordinary, unregenerate men. Their lives were too much like those of the pagans in Corinth. What an indictment! They needed to apply the Word to their daily living.

## E. Meditation — an Aid to Application

Meditation and application go together. In order to apply a truth of Scripture we need to take time to meditate on it and allow it to mold our thinking. But ours is a generation on the go. We scarcely take time to eat or sleep properly, let alone taking time for prayerful, reflective thinking.

So we must plan for this time in order to be the quality men and women God wants us to be. One purpose of this course is to teach you how to make meditation a part of your life.

God promises great rewards to those who meditate on His Word and apply it to their lives (read Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:2–3). A key to David's success is found in his statement, "I have *considered* my ways and have *turned* my steps to Your statutes" (Psalm 119:59).

## F. Concentration Helps Memory

When memorizing a verse, give it your whole attention. Your complete concentration is necessary for the verse to make a clear and deep impression on your mind. Satan will do all he can to distract you from memorizing. Ask the Lord to help you concentrate.

1. If you are *tired or sleepy* as you begin your memory work, take a walk or drink a cup of coffee. The long-term answer, of course, is to get more sleep or to schedule your memory work for a time when you are more alert.
2. *Distracting noise* also interferes with concentration. Find a time and place in which noise and distractions are at a minimum.
3. *Emotional tensions* — worry, fear, resentment, frustration, depression — can slow down learning as much as physical tensions. If these are present, confess them to the Lord and ask Him to quiet your heart.

## G. Visualize the Verse

We remember pictures more easily than words or concepts. If you find it difficult to connect a particular verse with its topic and reference, try forming a mental picture of the verse based on its context, content, or some other feature that will help you remember. The picture can become the mental hook you use later to draw the verse from your memory. It helps if you make the image as unusual or striking as possible.

Take the verses in *BCL Part 2* on witnessing, Matthew 4:19 and Romans 1:16, for example. Associate the first verse with Jesus and the second with Paul. Picture Jesus standing on a beach by the Sea of Galilee. Two fishermen are tending their nets when Jesus calls out, "Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Fix this scene in your mind. Associate the picture with the topic of witnessing and with the reference Matthew 4:19.

Paul didn't write the book of Romans from Rome, but since it was to the believers there, you might picture Paul standing in the Roman Forum or

Coliseum crying out to the pagan citizens, “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.” Associate this picture with the topic of witnessing and with the reference Romans 1:16.

Visualizing a verse helps especially if you find it difficult to remember by ordinary means.

### III. The “Topical Memory System” in This Course

You have already learned 17 verses from Series A “Beginning with Christ” and Series B “Live the New Life.” In *Part 3* you will memorize another 12 verses: “Proclaim Christ,” which includes key Scriptures to use in explaining the Gospel to others:

#### C. PROCLAIM CHRIST

All Have Sinned	• Romans 3:23	• Isaiah 53:6
Sin’s Penalty	• Romans 6:23	• Hebrews 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	• Romans 5:8	• 1 Peter 3:18
Salvation Not by Works	• Ephesians 2:8–9	• Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	• John 1:12	• Revelation 3:20
Assurance of Salvation	• 1 John 5:13	• John 5:24

Below are the topics and references for the memory verses you have already learned in *Basic Christian Life*. Along with the twelve verses in Series C, “Proclaim Christ,” you should have these well in hand by the end of *Part 3*. You have accomplished a great deal toward memorizing God’s Word and having it available to use in your own life and in helping others.

#### A. BEGINNING WITH CHRIST

Assurance of Salvation	• 1 John 5:11–12
Assurance of Answered Prayer	• John 16:24

<b>Assurance of Victory</b>	• 1 Corinthians 10:13
<b>Assurance of Forgiveness</b>	• 1 John 1:9
<b>Assurance of Guidance</b>	• Proverbs 3:5–6

## B. LIVE THE NEW LIFE

<b>Christ the Center</b>	• 2 Corinthians 5:17	• Galatians 2:20
<b>Obedience to Christ</b>	• Romans 12:1	• John 14:21
<b>The Word</b>	• 2 Timothy 3:16	• Joshua 1:8
<b>Prayer</b>	• John 15:7	• Philippians 4:6–7
<b>Fellowship</b>	• Matthew 18:20	• Hebrews 10:24–25
<b>Witnessing</b>	• Matthew 4:19	• Romans 1:16

One of the most beneficial reasons for memorizing Scripture verses is that it allows us to meditate on their contents. During this course you will be doing an exercise (pages 17–22) to increase your ability to meditate on passages of Scripture.

An important part of your Scripture memory program should be meditating on verses you have learned. Not only will this enable you to retain them in your memory with accuracy, but as you reflect on and consider their contents, you will receive challenges, encouragement, and motivation for victory over sin. Remember God’s instruction to Joshua: “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” (Joshua 1:8).

Continual review is the key to having a grasp on the verses you already have learned. An excellent goal you could establish would be to know your memory verses so well by the end of *Part 3* that you can not only quote them accurately, but also quickly list the specific topics under Series A and Series B, as well as for the “Beginning with Christ” verses. Plan not only to accomplish your memory assignments each week in *Part 3*, but also to set aside special times when you can quote the topics and references of all the verses you have learned.

Scripture memory and meditation is a strategic part of the discipleship training in which you are involved. You will be feeding your soul and lay-



ing a foundation for future spiritual growth as you dwell on the contents of these classic verses. You will then agree with the psalmist: “Oh, how I love Your law! I meditate on it all day long” (Psalm 119:97).

## IV. How to Meditate on the Scriptures

### A Group Exercise

*Oh, the joys of those who do not follow evil men’s advice, who do not hang around with sinners, scoffing at the things of God: But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on His laws and thinking about ways to follow Him more closely.*

*They are like trees along a river bank bearing luscious fruit each season without fail. Their leaves shall never wither, and all they do shall prosper.*

~ Psalm 1:1–3, LB

### What is Meditation?

Meditation is the act of reflecting on, pondering, musing over, or contemplating. Meditation is not mind-wandering or indulging in “mental drifting,” but it has *form* and an *object*.

When we meditate, we spend a few moments directing our thoughts to a single object or subject. Meditation is thinking with a purpose.

Meditation is *not* a solemn, academic exercise. It requires an attitude of curiosity and expectation leading to exciting discoveries, refreshment of spirit, and transformation of character. It brings reward and benefit.

When we meditate, we purposefully sort through information for clarification, for application, for categorization, and for assimilation.

### Further Insight into Meditation

The Bible is a book of life, a treasure chest of truth...

...reviving the soul,  
...making wise the simple,  
...giving joy to the heart,

...giving light to the eyes,  
...more precious than gold,  
...sweeter than honey...  
and in obeying its teachings there is great reward.

— from Psalm 19:7–11

The abundant wisdom and riches God has provided in His Word are available to every Christian, but they are possessed only by those who diligently dig for them. Meditation and prayer are two keys which unlock this storehouse of God's wisdom as you study. Prayerfully meditating on each verse you look up will help you understand its meaning and its application for your life.

*This book of the Law must never depart from your mouth; **you must meditate on it day and night**, so that you may keep living in accord with all that is written in it; for **then you will make your way successful and then you will prosper**.*

— Joshua 1:8, BERK

## 1 — Paraphrase

During this session you will have opportunity to practice two methods of meditation (1 and 2, on pages 18–21). As part of your homework for next week, you will practice four additional methods of meditation (3–6, pages 25–27).

The first method of meditation you will practice is to *write a paraphrase*. As you attempt to put a verse or passage into your own words, you will understand it more clearly. Some exciting insights can come from writing *your own* paraphrase.

In the lines on pages 19–20 write out 2 Timothy 3:16 in your own words, using the Scriptures on pages 18–19 to help you complete this part of your work. (You may want to use more words in your paraphrase than are in the original verse.)

### VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS AND PARAPHRASES OF 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”(KJV).

“Every Scripture is God-inspired and is helpful for teaching, for refuting error, for giving guidance, and for training others in righteousness”  
(*The Twentieth Century New Testament*).

“Every scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for training with respect to righteousness” (*Wuest*).

“For all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living” (TEV).

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error, for resetting the direction of a man’s life and training him in good living” (PH).

“Every Scripture is God-breathed — given by His inspiration — and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, and for training in righteousness [that is, in holy living, in conformity to God’s will in thought, purpose, and action]” (AMP).

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right” (LB).

“All Scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people’s lives and teaching them to be holy” (JB).

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (NASB).

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (RSV).

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (NIV).

### **A PARAPHRASE OF 2 TIMOTHY 3:16**

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## 2 — Questions

In the lines on pages 21–22 jot down some of the questions and answers that come to mind as you meditate on Hebrews 10:24–25, using the Scriptures below to help you. Begin by asking who, what, where, when, why, or how, or use random questions you may think of.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (RSV).

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meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of His coming back again is drawing near” (LB).

“And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities; not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together (as believers), as is the habit of some people, but admonishing— warning, urging, and encouraging— one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching” (AMP).

“And let us constantly be giving careful attention to one another for the purpose of stimulating one another to love and good works, not letting down on the assembling of ourselves together, even as the custom of certain is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day drawing near” (*Wuest*).

“Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works. Do not stay away from the meetings of the community, as some do, but encourage each other to go; the more so as you see the Day drawing near” (JB).

“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” (NIV).

**QUESTIONS ABOUT HEBREWS 10:24-25**

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery designed for writing.

## Assignment for Session 2:

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the two verses on “All Have Sinned,” Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 2:* Carefully read Lesson 2, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.

# Lesson 2



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 2

- A. Break into verse review groups and review the two verses on “All Have Sinned,” Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6. (Work at getting everything signed that you can on your “Completion Record.”)
- B. Share quiet time thoughts, primarily from the “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Discuss methods 3–6 in your meditation exercises (pages 25–27).
- D. Go over the section “Orientation to Leading Bible Study Discussion Groups” (pages 27–33).
- E. Discuss Questions 1–6 in “Maturing in Christ, Part A” (pages 34–37)
- F. Have an opportunity for someone to share a personal testimony with the group without notes in less than four minutes.
- G. Read the Assignment for Session 3 (page 37).
- H. Assign Bible study leaders for Session 3.
- I. Close in prayer

# I. Scripture Memory Instructions

## A. And Now to Continue...

In this series you again have three things to work with each week:

1. *Your memory materials* — 12 verse cards on the subject “Proclaim Christ.” You will use the same method you used in *Parts 1* and *2*. (Don’t carry all the new cards with you at once. Keep them in a convenient place where they will be accessible each week.)
2. *Comments about the verses* — to help you understand and apply the Scriptures as you learn them.
3. *Your weekly plan* — to help you progress steadily and avoid pitfalls in your daily memory program.

## B. About the Verses

### Series C: Proclaim Christ

As witnesses for Jesus Christ we have two things to share — *our testimony* of how we found Christ and what He means to us, and *the Gospel*, God’s plan of salvation. The Gospel includes the facts of men’s need, God’s love for men, and what He did to meet that need.

The topics and verses in this series form a usable outline for presenting the Gospel. They will help you become more skillful in proclaiming Christ.

### Topic 1: All Have Sinned

Today’s complex world faces seemingly insurmountable problems of war, crime, racial strife, and violence of all kinds. Experts search desperately for solutions, but few acknowledge the basic cause. Jesus, however, went to the root of the matter. He said that envy, pride, impurity, immorality, theft, murder, and wickedness are merely results of the real problem — our sinful hearts (Mark 7:20–23). Men will never find a solution to their problems until they agree with God’s diagnosis of the cause — sin.

**Romans 3:23** — The passage around this verse informs us that there is no distinction among men: both Jews and Gentiles have sinned and fallen short of God’s standard of righteousness. Everyone is in the same situation.



*Note:* Occasionally, in order to focus attention on a particular thought, you will memorize a verse that is not a complete sentence. This is another reason why you should read the context of the verses you memorize.

**Isaiah 53:6** — Isaiah stated that every man has willfully turned his back on God, preferring to go his own way. The Bible allows no exception to this (see Romans 3:10–12). Every human is infected by sin.

## C. Your Weekly Plan

1. At the beginning of the week make sure the 12 verses of Series B are *together* with the five “Beginning with Christ” verses.
2. Now place the first two verses of Series C (Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6) on the top of your whole pack. Keep the remaining verses in a place where they will be accessible each week.
3. Each day review the 17 verses in your pack (Series A and B).
4. Reread the steps on “How to Memorize a Verse Effectively” in *BCL Part 1* (pages 16–18). If your group meets on Sunday, learn the first verse on Monday and Tuesday. As soon as you can, say it at least once without looking, then repeat it frequently throughout Monday and Tuesday to fix it firmly in mind.
5. Follow the same steps with the second verse on Wednesday and Thursday and review the first. Review both verses on Friday and Saturday.
6. By the end of the week write out your two new verses from memory or quote them to someone to make sure you have learned them correctly.

## II. Meditation Exercises

During Session 1 you had the opportunity to practice two methods of meditation (1–2). Now you will have the opportunity to practice four more methods of meditation (3–6). Meditation should not be hurried; take your time and enjoy the exercises.

### 3 — Prayer

***Pray over the verse or passage.*** The best things I prayed about while meditating on Romans 12:1 were:

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#### 4 — Emphasizing

*Emphasize different words or phrases.* The best thoughts I had while emphasizing different words in John 15:7 were:

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#### 5 — Cross-references

*Find cross-references.* Other verses which say the same things as John 14:21 are:

Reference \_\_\_\_\_ Thought \_\_\_\_\_

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Reference \_\_\_\_\_ Thought \_\_\_\_\_

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## 6 — Application

**Seek to make *application*.** In considering how Philippians 4:6–7 relates to my own circumstances, I had some of the following thoughts:

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## III. Orientation to Leading Bible Study Discussion Groups

In *Part 3* you will take turns leading the Bible study discussion. With adequate instruction in the basic principles of small group discussion, you can do an effective job of leading.

Three basic aims of Bible study are:

1. *Discovery*: Discovering what the Bible says.
2. *Understanding*: Understanding the meaning of the facts and how they are related to one another.
3. *Application*: Considering how these facts apply to my life — remembering, doing, and using.

The Bible discussion leader asks questions which help each group member become a “discoverer.” The leader is not a teacher. He is a guide and a participant himself. He uses questions that help the group members discover, understand, and apply biblical truths.



**IMPORTANT:** In this method of leading a Bible study discussion, the group does not go through the study question by question, but section by section. Each section of the Bible study has a title heading and two or more questions.

Three types of questions can be asked during a discussion to cause participation, yet allow the leader to maintain some control over the direction the discussion takes. Let's look at these three types of questions, their uses, a format to follow, a leader evaluation checklist, and some errors to avoid.

## A. Three Types of Leader Questions

### 1. Summary-of-Discovery Questions (What Does It Say?)

As you look at the Bible study in this lesson (pages 34–37), you will notice that the title is “Maturing in Christ.” In this lesson you have Part A which has one section titled “Moving toward Maturity.” It includes Questions 1–6. As the leader of a Bible study discussion on this topic, you would use one summary-of-discovery question for this section. Then if you also lead Part B of this topic in the next lesson you would ask a summary-of-discovery question for Questions 1–3, another for Questions 4–8, another for Questions 9–10, and another for Questions 11–14.

The format for preparing a summary-of-discovery question is:

“FROM YOUR STUDY WHAT...

DID YOU DISCOVER...     *(Options)*

DID YOU LEARN...

DID YOU OBSERVE...

IMPRESSED YOU...

ABOUT...?”

*(Put in here the exact wording or a paraphrase of a section title, or you may state the idea of the section title in a fresh, clear way.)*

A summary-of-discovery question for the first section of “Maturing in Christ” would be something like this: “From your study what did you learn about growing in maturity?”

When you ask a summary-of-discovery question, you expect the students to answer by telling something they learned from that particular section. If you were to ask the sample summary-of-discovery question given above, someone might read an answer from Question 5, followed by someone else sharing his answer to Question 3. The summary-of-discovery question draws from the group their answers from a particular section. People share what they discovered from the Bible and what they answered from that section. Using the above format, you should now be able to prepare a summary-of-discovery question for any section in your Bible study.

## **2. Understanding Questions (What Does It Mean?)**

An *understanding question* asks a question about one of the answers to a summary-of-discovery question. In this course, questions are already written out so that you can use them when it is your turn to lead the discussion. Study them as you use them so that later you can learn to develop your own understanding questions.

## **3. Application Questions (What Should I Apply to My Life?)**

Most of your Bible studies contain *application questions* already. This section is only a brief description of application questions. An application question stimulates a person in the group to *apply* a Biblical truth to his life in a practical way. Applications may be made in one of three ways:

- a. *Remembering.* You may want to remember such things as important doctrines, God's attributes, His promises, and verses on the authority and inspiration of the Bible. You may then want to memorize these verses.
- b. *Doing.* You may want to take some action in your life in order to conform to God's standards. This could be correcting some sin, changing an attitude, or claiming a promise.
- c. *Using.* You may want to use something you have learned to help someone else.

(An application may be short-term, or a single application may take several weeks or months to implement.)

## **B. The Specific Use of Summary-of-Discovery Questions, Understanding Questions, and Application Questions**

The following are summary-of-discovery, understanding, and application questions for "Moving toward Maturity," the Bible study in this lesson.

**(Questions 1–6)** “From your study what did you discover about moving toward maturity?”

**(Question 1)** Work together on having all the participants share Scripture references that pertain to the Gospel. Each person should be able to collect a number of good verses on the Gospel.

**(Question 2–b)** “What are some other attributes of a physical child which might parallel a spiritual child?”

**(Question 2–c)** “Not just thinking of the spiritual dimension, what are some of the attributes of maturity you think of in any person?”

**(Question 3)** Ask several to mention some attributes of the old nature. Then ask several to give some attributes of the new nature.

**(Question 4)** Ask several to read their answers to Question 4–e.

**(Question 5)** Ask someone to read the paragraph and box following Question 5.

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



**NOTE:** The first question is the *summary-of-discovery question*, marked **(Questions 1–6)**. Questions 2–b, 2–c, and 6 are *understanding questions*; the other questions are simple procedures for stimulating participation.

To use these prepared questions in leading a discussion of the Bible study, you would start by asking the summary-of-discovery question, “From your study what did you discover about moving toward maturity?” At this point the students would start giving their answers from this section containing Questions 1–6.

You would not use one of your understanding questions until someone had answered one of the questions on which you had prepared an understanding question. For example, when someone has answered Question 2–b in response to your summary-of-discovery question, you could then ask your prepared understanding question for Question 2–b.

Once the understanding question has been discussed, you will then restate the summary-of-discovery question in abbreviated form, something like: “What else did you learn about Moving toward Maturity?” Then people should continue to share their answers for Questions 1–6.

## C. Format for Leading a Discussion

A discussion group leader...

1. *launches*,
2. *guides*, and
3. *summarizes*...

each section of the Bible study discussion.

### 1. **Launch** (getting the group started in discussing the section)

To launch the discussion for a particular section you will use a prepared summary-of-discovery question. This will launch the group into a discussion of what they discovered in that particular section. You will *launch* each section of the Bible study discussion with a prepared summary-of-discovery question.

### 2. **Guide** (keeping the discussion moving and drawing out the principal thoughts)

After the discussion is launched with a summary-of-discovery question, group members should start sharing from their study. At this time you will begin using understanding questions and application questions to develop the meaning, significance, relevance, and application of biblical truths.

Be familiar with all of the prepared understanding questions that are available for your use. Refer to your notes, but don't be tied to them. Decide in advance what you want to emphasize during the discussion. Pray and think about this. You may not want to deal with every question in the study, nor give equal time to every part.

Remember that the goal of understanding questions is to bring the participants to a deeper and clearer understanding of a truth. The discussion must not only lead to knowing *what* the Bible says, but must also lead to understanding what it means and how one fact relates to other facts.

In addition to using your prepared understanding questions and application questions, you will want to use *guiding questions* to draw people out and to stimulate discussion. Some examples of guiding questions:

- “Thank you. Someone else?”
- “What other thoughts?”
- “Who else?”

- “What other insights?”
- “What does someone else think?”
- “Does anyone else want to add something?”

Guiding questions are used in conjunction with summary-of-discovery questions, understanding questions, and application questions to stimulate further discussion.

At the beginning of a Bible study discussion you will usually use many guiding questions to get the discussion moving.

### **3. Summarize** (a brief review, then transition into the next section)

As the leader you determine how long any one section is discussed. You may choose to deal with some sections quickly and to go more thoroughly into others. When you are ready to move on to another section, quickly summarize the section you have just completed, touching only the “mountain tops.” Summarize briefly and clearly.

Summarize what *the group* has discussed, rather than your own insights. You can share your thoughts along with other group members during the discussion, since you are both the leader and a participant. But in the summary, only review — don’t preach.

The summary is a natural transition into the next section. As you complete your summary, go right on to the launching question for the next section.

## **D. Leader Evaluation Checklist**

1. Did you deal with the material?
2. Did you know your material thoroughly enough to have freedom in leading?
3. Did you keep the group from wandering?
4. Did you talk too much?
5. Did you use understanding questions and guiding questions?
6. Did you make the discussion practical?
7. Did you draw everyone into the discussion?
8. Did you lead or were you led?
9. Did a few people monopolize the time or was participation fairly even?
10. Did you stop on time?



## E. Common Errors in Leading Bible Study Group Discussions

1. *Asking an understanding question on a question in the study before someone in the group has answered it.* If, for example, you want to ask an understanding question on Question 5 and no one has answered it, you should ask someone to read his answer to Question 5, and then ask your understanding question.
2. *Not making the questions sound conversational.* Even though you are asking questions which are written down and prepared, it is possible to ask them in a conversational tone. Use your own vocabulary.
3. *Being afraid of silence after asking a question.* Don't be impatient or nervous. You must give the people time to think.
4. *Limiting yourself to asking questions and leading.* The leader is also a participant in the group. He may share his answers and observations, but he must not dominate the study.
5. *Combining two understanding questions in one.* Be careful to ask only one question at a time.
6. *Trying to maintain too much control.* If the group "takes off," don't worry as long as it is in a direction you want to go. You may need to step in from time to time to clarify the direction.
7. *Not explaining what you expect the group to do.* You are in charge. Don't hesitate to call on someone to pray, to ask each person to share his answer to a particular question, to state which direction around the circle you want them to share their answers to a particular question, and to bring the discussion back if it gets too far afield.
8. *Not participating when you feel the group may be wandering.* The leader needs to be a participant and completely involved, even in the tangents.
9. *Asking a question which can be answered either Yes or No.* This type of question hinders discussion. *How* and *Why* questions are excellent. *Who*, *What*, *Where*, and *When* questions can also stimulate discussion.
10. *Asking too complex a question.* State the question simply and clearly.
11. *Tending to stress your own personal application.* The leader should not expect the rest of the group to be impressed deeply with the same things that deeply impressed him.

## IV. Bible Study: Maturing in Christ, Part A

As you continue to walk with Christ, you may wonder what God's plan and purpose is for your life, how you should walk by faith, and what He desires to see in your life. In our Bible study, "Walking with Christ," you will be studying five important steps in your walk with Him:

- Maturing in Christ
- The Lordship of Christ
- Faith and the Promises of God
- Knowing God's Will
- Walking as a Servant

The 21st-century world is characterized by many inventions which meet people's needs quickly and easily. Instant foods, instant communication via telephone and satellite, instant information stored in high speed computers — this is the "now" generation. Christians must remember, however, that there is no such thing as "instant maturity" in the Christian experience. Becoming a Christian begins a lifelong adventure of knowing God better and loving Him more.

*Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remake you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed. Thus you will prove in practice that the will of God is good, acceptable to Him and perfect.*

— Romans 12:2, PH

### Moving toward Maturity

1. You took your first step toward spiritual maturity when you put your faith in Christ. In the space provided, list the important points of the Gospel message, with scriptural references.

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2. Read Ephesians 4:11–16.

a. What is God’s desire for you? Verses 13, 15

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b. What are some characteristics of immature Christians (“children” or “infants”)? Verse 14

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c. According to this passage, what characterizes a spiritually mature person?

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3. Contrast man’s old nature with the Christian’s new nature. Ephesians 4:22–24

Old Nature	New Nature
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

4. Consider 2 Corinthians 3:18.

a. Into whose image are you being changed? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Who brings about this change? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Are you completely changed all at once? \_\_\_\_\_

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d. What is your responsibility? \_\_\_\_\_

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e. What practical activities help you behold Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What do the following verses in Romans tell you about your relationship to Christ?

a. What has already happened to you? Romans 5:8–9

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b. What should you be doing now? Romans 6:19

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c. What can you expect in the future? Romans 8:16–18

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These three aspects of salvation in Christ (justification, sanctification, glorification) are helpful in understanding God's plan for believers.

<b>Justification</b>	<i>Past</i> tense — I have been saved... from the penalty of sin.	My <i>position</i> is in Christ
<b>Sanctification</b>	<i>Present</i> tense — I am being saved... from the power of sin.	My <i>condition</i> is becoming like Christ.
<b>Glorification</b>	<i>Future</i> tense — I will be saved... from the presence of sin.	My <i>expectation</i> is to be like Christ.

6. Think carefully about Colossians 3:2–4. How do these verses relate to the preceding chart?

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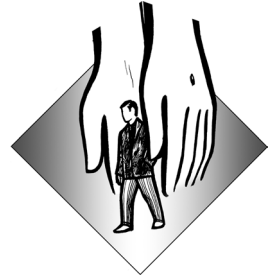


### **Assignment for Session 3:**

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the two verses on “Sin’s Penalty,” Romans 6:23 and Hebrews 9:27.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 3:* Carefully read Lesson 3, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.
4. *Other:* Come to class ready to give your testimony without notes in less than four minutes.



# Lesson 3



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 3

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the two verses on “Sin’s Penalty,” Romans 6:23 and Hebrews 9:27.
- B. Share quiet time thoughts.
- C. Have an opportunity for anyone to give a personal testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
- D. Discuss Questions 1–14 and read the Summary of “Maturing in Christ” (pages 41–45).
- E. A brief critique will be given for each study leader.
- F. Read the Assignment for Session 4 (pages 47–48).
- G. Assign Bible study leaders for Session 4.
- H. Close in prayer.

# I. Scripture Memory Instructions

## A. About the Verses — Topic 2: Sin's Penalty

The fact that every person is a sinner has serious consequences.

**Romans 6:23** — Paul said that sin results in death. All will die physically some day, but all have already died spiritually. Spiritual death is separation from God. This is why even though most people believe in the existence of God, they have no personal fellowship with Him. They are separated from Him by an impassable gulf, which is the result of sin.

God is love, but He is also just. He cannot overlook sin and remain either just or holy. The only thing a holy God can do to sin is judge it. The Bible says, “Whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him [literally, ‘hangs over his head’]” (John 3:36). We may not like to think about it, but the Bible speaks as much of judgment as it does of almost any other topic. We need to know about it.

**Hebrews 9:27** — Every person has an appointment with death and judgment. The man without Christ cannot escape these imperatives. Everyone must give account of himself to God.

(The sentence in this verse is completed by the following verse. But we are considering here only verse 27.)

## B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place the next two verses of Series C (Romans 6:23 and Hebrews 9:27) in your pack.
2. Repeat your memorized verses every day and work on learning your new verses. Learn the first one before concentrating on the second.
3. Carry your verse pack with you at all times and use spare moments for review.
4. By the end of the week, check yourself by writing out your new verses or quoting them to someone.



## II. *Bible Study*: Maturing in Christ, Part B

### A. Your Starting Point

1. Examine Colossians 2:6–7. How did you begin your life in Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_

How should you continue to grow? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Consider Romans 5:1–5. Because of your justification by faith in Christ, what practical benefits are yours to experience?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Ephesians 1 and list several things which you have “in Christ.”

Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Verse \_\_\_\_\_

### B. The Process of Growth

4. A revealing parallel exists between physical life and spiritual life. What can you learn about this parallel from the following references?

1 Thessalonians 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 5:13–14 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Peter 2:2–3 \_\_\_\_\_

What other illustrations of this parallel do you know?

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5. What things listed in Romans 5:17 can you receive?

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What will this enable you to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Meditate on Romans 6:11–13.

- a. What should you count as true about yourself? Verse 11

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- b. What should be your present relationship to sin? Verse 12

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- c. What must you not allow? Verse 13

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- d. What action should you take? Verse 13

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7. God intends for you to reign in life (Romans 5:17), not for sin to reign in your life (Romans 6:13). What application do these verses suggest for your life?

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8. Paul stated that Christians are saved through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9), but your relationship to God does not end there.

- a. According to Paul, what are you? Ephesians 2:10

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- b. Is God still working in you? \_\_\_\_\_

- c. What is God doing? Philippians 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_

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As you reflect on your life, be thankful for all that God is doing in you. Conflicts in your life should encourage you because they indicate that God is still working in you, changing you to be like Christ. Take a moment to express your gratitude to God for what He *has done*, *is doing*, and *will do* for you.

Our outer person is merely God's frame — the real picture is the inner person which God, the Artist, is still creating.

### C. How to Walk

9. What do the following scriptural guidelines tell you about your walk as a Christian?

Romans 8:4 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Corinthians 5:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:2 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 2:6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Using 1 John 1:6–10, contrast those who walk in fellowship with God and those who do not.

People in Fellowship with God	People Not in Fellowship with God
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

#### **D. The Mature Life**

11. What attitude should a mature Christian possess? Philippians 3:13–15

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. While awaiting eternity with Christ, what should Christians be doing?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What fact can motivate you to do this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. What are some areas in which you can experience spiritual growth?

2 Peter 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:16–17 \_\_\_\_\_

14. Consider 2 Timothy 4:7–8. What statement was Paul able to make concerning his earthly walk with Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did he expectantly await in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **E. Summary of “Maturing in Christ”**

### **Moving toward Maturity**

God intends Christians to mature and become like Jesus Christ. God has saved Christians from the penalty of sin. They are presently engaged in a conflict with sin, but can anticipate a future with Christ free from sin.

### **Your Starting Point**

Faith in Jesus Christ marks the beginning of Christian growth. The believer has God’s resources available to him to help him grow.

### **The Process of Growth**

Spiritual growth is similar to physical growth. It takes time as God works in the believer’s life. Christians should reign in life, recognizing that God is bringing to fulfillment the work which He began in them.

### **How to Walk**

Growing in Christ is similar to walking. Following Christ’s example and led by the Spirit, Christians are to walk in fellowship with Christ in faith and love.

### **The Mature Life**

A mature Christian is one who continues to follow Christ, abounding in His work and experiencing His grace and love. God does not forget the work of the believer and will one day reward him.

# III. Leader's Outline: Questions for "Maturing in Christ, Part B"

(For Bible Study Leader's Use)

## Section A — Your Starting Point

(Questions 1–3) "From your study what impressed you in the section called 'Your Starting Point'?"

(**Question 1**) Ask several to read their answers to the second part of this question.

(**Question 2**) "What were some of the answers you wrote down for Question 2? Perhaps you could share one, and after others have shared, you may give more answers that have not been mentioned yet."

(**Question 3**) Handle this question the same way that you did Question 2.

## Section B — The Process of Growth

(Questions 4–8) "From your study what did you learn about the process of growth?"

(**Question 4, 1 Thessalonians 2:11**) "What do you think of as an exemplary father-child relationship?"

(**1 Timothy 4:8**) "What do you think the words *discipline* or *train* imply?"

(**Hebrews 5:13–14**) "What do you feel must happen to get a person from 'milk' to 'solid food'?"

(**1 Peter 2:2–3**) "What do you feel that verse 3 refers to in saying, 'Now that you have tasted that the Lord is good'?"

Ask several to read their answers to the last part of Question 4.

(**Question 5**) "What are some words or phrases you feel mean about the same thing as *righteousness*?"

Ask several to read their answers to the last part of this question.

(**Question 6–a**) "What do you think it means to be 'dead to sin'?"

"What do you think it means to be 'alive to God in Christ'?"

(**Question 6–b**) “What do you feel it means to ‘not let sin reign’?”

(**Question 8–a**) “What do you think it means that we are ‘God’s workmanship’?”

## Section C — How to Walk

(**Questions 9–10**) “From your study what observations did you make in the section ‘How to Walk’?”

(**Question 9**) “In your mind, what are the implications of the word *walk*?”

(**Question 10**) Go around the group and ask each person to share an answer to the “in fellowship” side of the question. When you have depleted the list on that side, continue on around with the “not in fellowship” side of the question.

## Section D — The Mature Life

(**Questions 11–14**) “From your study what did you learn about the mature life?”

(**Question 11**) “What could be some of the problems of meditating on the past?”

“How can we press toward the future and still live in the present?”

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

Ask several to read their answers to the last part.

(**Question 13**) “In your mind, what does the word *growth* imply?”

(**Question 14**) “To what do you feel the word *fight* refers?”

“Why do you feel the word *race* or *course* is used? To what do you think this word refers?”

Go around the group and ask several to read the various sections of the *Summary*.



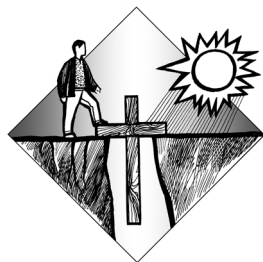
### Assignment for Session 4:

1. *Scripture Memory*: Memorize the two verses on “Christ Paid the Penalty,” Romans 5:8 and 1 Peter 3:18.

2. *Quiet Time:* Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 4:* Carefully read Lesson 4, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.
4. *Testimony:* You need to give your testimony to three different unbelievers within the next few weeks. Pray and ask God to lead you to one person this week that you can share with. Also come to class prepared to give your testimony without notes in less than four minutes.



# Lesson 4



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 4

- A. Share quiet time thoughts.
- B. Break into verse review groups and quote the two verses on “Christ Paid the Penalty,” Romans 5:8 and 1 Peter 3:18.
- C. Have an opportunity for someone to share his testimony without notes.
- D. Have an opportunity to tell about sharing your testimony with someone.
- E. Discuss “The Bridge Illustration” (pages 56–63).
- F. Meet in separate groups for men and women in your Bible study discussion. Discuss Questions in “The Lordship of Christ, Part A” (pages 51–54).
- G. Read the Assignment for Session 5 (pages 63–64).
- H. Assign Bible study leaders for Session 5.
- I. Close in prayer.

# I. Scripture Memory Instructions

## A. About the Verses — Topic 3: Christ Paid the Penalty

Either we must suffer the punishment for our sins and be separated from God throughout eternity, or someone else must pay the penalty so we can go free. Only Jesus Christ, the sinless, perfect God-man, could do this for us.

**Romans 5:8** — Paul said that God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die in our place, even while we were still undeserving sinners. This is pure love and grace.

**1 Peter 3:18** — Peter told why Christ, the Righteous One, died for us, who are the unrighteous ones. He did it “to bring us to God” — to bridge the gulf that separated us from God’s presence and fellowship.

On the cross God placed our sins on His Son. Jesus Christ bore our penalty, which is separation from the Father. That is why Jesus cried, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46) The Father had to turn away from His Son, because in that moment He was made sin for us. Now, instead of our sins, we have Christ’s righteousness imparted to us, and we can enter the presence of God.

## B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place the next two verses (Romans 5:8 and 1 Peter 3:18) in your pack.
2. Learn your new verses and review your memorized verses as you have done before, making sure to repeat all verses at least once each day.
3. Remember, always say the topic first, then the reference, the verse, and the reference again at the end.
4. It will help if you repeat your new verses aloud to yourself as you learn them. Then read the verse to check yourself.
5. By the end of the week check your new verses by writing them out from memory or quoting them to someone else.

## II. Bible Study:

# The Lordship of Christ, Part A

Jesus Christ is Savior *and* Lord!

William Barclay has pointed out that “of all the titles of Jesus the title Lord became by far the most commonly used, widespread, and theologically important. It would hardly be going too far to say that the word *Lord* became a synonym for the name of Jesus.”\*

What does Christ’s lordship mean to you? What areas of your life are affected by His lordship? This sometimes neglected aspect of the Christian experience must be carefully considered by all men and women who want to be His disciples.

### A. The Lord Jesus Christ

1. Titles reveal important information about the person to whom they refer. What are Jesus Christ’s titles in the following verses?

John 13:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:36 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 19:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize what these titles reveal about Jesus Christ:

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2. Jesus Christ is Lord of (connect the following answers with the corresponding references):

creation

Colossians 1:18

the living and the dead

Colossians 1:16–17

all Christians — the Church

Romans 14:9

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\*From *Jesus as They Saw Him* by William Barclay. ©1962 Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., New York.

Christ should have the same place in our hearts that He holds in the universe.

3. Write your own definition of the word *lord* as you feel it applies to Jesus Christ. (A dictionary may aid you here.)

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4. Examine Philippians 2:9–11.

a. How has God exalted Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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b. How will every person exalt Him? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How is the lordship of Christ acknowledged in Revelation 5:12?

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6. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19–20.

a. How did you become God's possession? \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Therefore, what should you do? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, has always existed and always will. Not all people presently acknowledge Him as their Lord, but that does not alter the fact of His lordship. All will someday acknowledge Christ as Lord,

but the privilege of acknowledging and obeying His lordship is possible now. Allow Christ to be the Lord of your life — by a *decision* followed by *daily practice*.

## **B. Acknowledge His Lordship by Decision**

7. What place should Christ hold in a believer's life? Colossians 1:18

Christ is present in all Christians;  
Christ is prominent in some Christians;  
But in only a few Christians is Christ preeminent.

8. What are we commanded to do in Romans 12:1?

Why should you do this? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Check any of the sentences below which apply to you.

- a. I generally think or feel that...

- \_\_\_ Jesus doesn't really understand my problems.  
\_\_\_ He may want me to do something I can't.  
\_\_\_ He may want me to enter a career which I could not enjoy.  
\_\_\_ He will prevent me from getting married.  
\_\_\_ He will take away my enjoyment of possessions, hobbies, or friends.  
\_\_\_ He can help me in the "big" things, but He doesn't care about the little things.

- b. Are there any other fears which have prevented you from giving Christ access to every area of your life?

c. How does the statement in Jeremiah 29:11 dispel these fears?

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*A clear and definite activity of the will is involved in recognizing His lordship, since He is to be Lord of all. By her 'I will' the bride at the marriage altar, ideally, forever enthrones her groom in her affections. In subsequent years she lives out in detail all that was implied in that momentary act of the will. A similar enthronement of Christ can result from a similar act of the will, for the same decision as enthrones Christ automatically dethrones self.*

~ J. Oswald Sanders\*

10. Consider the following questions and check the appropriate box:

	Me	Jesus
Who knows perfectly what is best for my life?		
Who is most able to do what is best for my life?		
Who really desires at all times what is best for my life?		

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

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\*From *Pursuit of the Holy* by J. Oswald Sanders, © 1972 Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan

# III. Leader's Outline: Questions for "The Lordship of Christ, Part A"

(For Bible Study Leader's Use)

Ask someone to read the material preceding Question 1.

## Section A — The Lord Jesus Christ

(Questions 1–6) "From your study what did you discover about the Lord Jesus Christ?"

(Question 1) Ask several to read their answers to the last part of this question.

(Question 2) Ask someone to read the quotation after Question 2.

(Question 3) Ask several to read their answers to this question. You may want to discuss and compare your answers, and together decide on a definition of the word *lord* as your group feels it applies to Jesus Christ.

(Question 4–a) "What do you think it means that Jesus Christ's name is above all other names?"

(Question 5) "What do you think is the key thought in Revelation 5:12?"

(Question 6–a) "What do you feel are the implications of our being bought?"

(Question 6–b) "How do you feel that you can practically go about glorifying God in your body?"

Ask someone to read the paragraph following Question 6.

## Section B — Acknowledge His Lordship by Decision

(Questions 7–11) "From your study what did you discover about making a decision for Christ to be your Lord?"

(Question 7) "What do you feel the word *preeminent* means? What are some synonym words or phrases for it?"

(Question 8) "What does the phrase 'living sacrifice' mean to you?"

Ask several to read their answers to the second part of this question.

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

“Perhaps some of you would feel free to share your answer to the second part of Question 9.” (Be sure not to push them.)

Ask someone to read the quotation following Question 9.

**(Question 10)** Ask several to read their answers to the “why” portion of Question 10.

## **IV. The Bridge Illustration**

### **How to Use “The Bridge” to Communicate the Gospel**

“The Bridge Illustration” is one of many effective methods of presenting the Gospel. It has been used successfully to communicate the Gospel over many years and in many contexts, in groups and person-to-person. You will find it to be a useful and effective tool to add to your “arsenal” of ways to share the Gospel.

Many variations of “The Bridge Illustration” are in use. The presentation described here is one of the most commonly used variations. Your leader may ask you to make adjustments in the format presented here in your workbook. Learn the method he presents, and become skilled in that method. After you have used his method to present the Gospel to several non-Christians, you may also want to make a few adjustments in the format to make it more your own. This illustration will become a sharpened tool in your hands if these adjustments are based on actual experience in communicating the Gospel.

### **A. Flexibility**

“The Bridge Illustration” can take as few as 15 minutes to present, or it can be stretched out to an hour or more. A normal presentation will last 20 to 30 minutes. The flexibility of this presentation is one of its greatest assets. It can be tailored specifically to a person or situation.

### **B. Sensitivity**

The way in which the Holy Spirit leads you to witness will vary in different situations. It is important to be observant and sensitive as you are relating to the person with whom you are sharing “The Bridge.” In any type of ministry situation it is important to pray silently and ask God for guidance and wisdom, and to be able to communicate the Gospel clearly.



## C. The Lead-in

Experience has shown that it is helpful to have a few statements and questions in mind to help open the door for presenting the Gospel. Often an ideal time to share the Gospel is after a person has heard your personal testimony. You first want to get his response to your testimony by saying something like:

“Well, that’s my story. What do you think?”

Or, “Well, that’s my story. What is your reaction to what happened to me?”

A more direct lead-in is: “How about you, Sasha? Have you ever thought much about becoming a Christian?”

If there is time to talk further and the person still shows interest and capacity to hear more, you might say something like, “You know, Sasha, there’s a little diagram that really clarifies this thing of being a real Christian and knowing for certain that you have eternal life. If you have a few more minutes, may I sketch it out for you?” When he says “Yes,” you may proceed.

If you feel the person has heard as much as he can absorb for now, you might say something like: “You know, Sasha, there is a little diagram that really clarifies this thing of being a real Christian and knowing for certain that you have eternal life. When you have 15 or 20 minutes sometime, why don’t we sit down and I will sketch it out for you? OK?” Then at a later date you can get his consent to go through the illustration with him.

In many situations you will find it natural to ask permission to show the illustration without having given your testimony. Some other door-openers are:

- “What if someone walked up to you and said, ‘I want to be sure that I have eternal life with God. I want to be sure that I am a real Christian. What should I do?’ What would you say to him?”
- “Maria, what is your impression of Christianity?”
- “Maria, if someone were to ask you how to become a Christian, what would you tell him?”

## D. Presentation

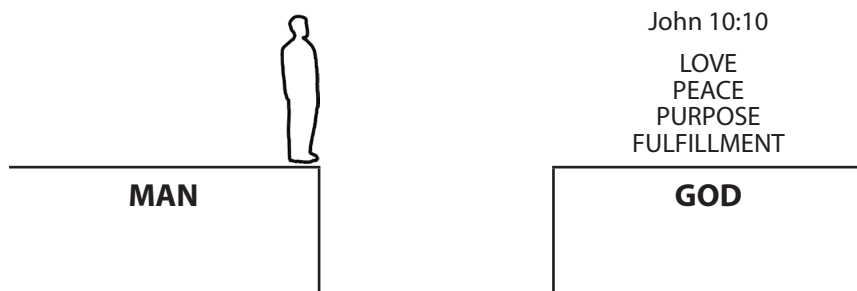
Note the development of “The Bridge Illustration” in the drawings that follow. The written material is only the suggested verbal content for your own presentation. When giving “The Bridge,” use your own words for expressing the content.

You will need to convey four concepts as you draw out “The Bridge”:

1. **God’s Love**
2. **Man’s Problem**
3. **God’s Remedy**
4. **Man’s Response**

The following six pictures show how your illustration will look at various stages of development as you show these concepts. You will actually draw only *one* picture, using the stages given, and will draw in the various items as you talk about them.

## 1. **God’s Love**



The Bible teaches us that God is love and that He loves us. He desires that we experience an abundant life. This would include such things as love, peace, purpose, and fulfillment.

Jesus, speaking about His purpose for coming to earth, said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10).

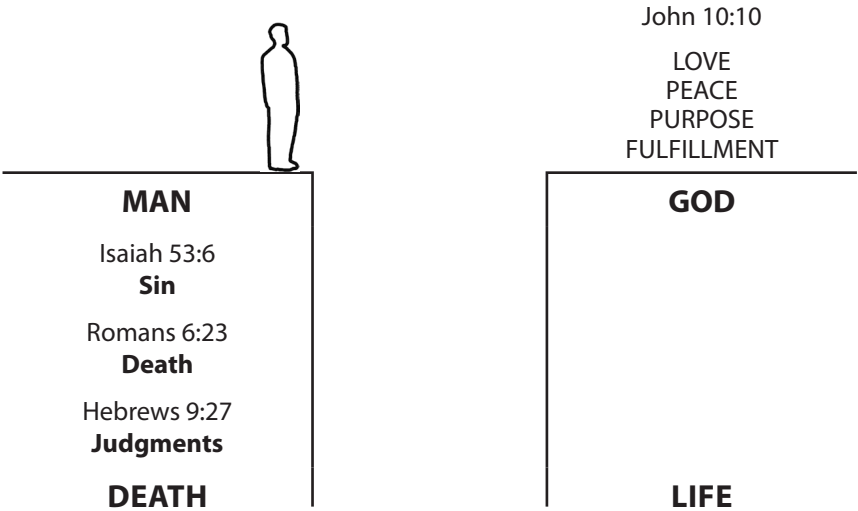
In the beginning, when God put man on earth, God and man had a relationship which produced an abundant life.

## 2. **Man’s Problem**

But God did not create man like a robot who would automatically love and have fellowship with Him in return. He gave man a will and the freedom of choice.

Man could keep God’s commandments or he could live his life apart from God. Man chose to go his own way. This resulted in a separation between God and man. God is completely holy and perfect, while man is sinful and imperfect. The Bible says, “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each

of us has turned to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6). People continue to go their own way today. And this applies to all men. Each one of us is guilty. All of us have made decisions and done actions and had thoughts that were contrary to what God desires. We have been like wandering sheep.



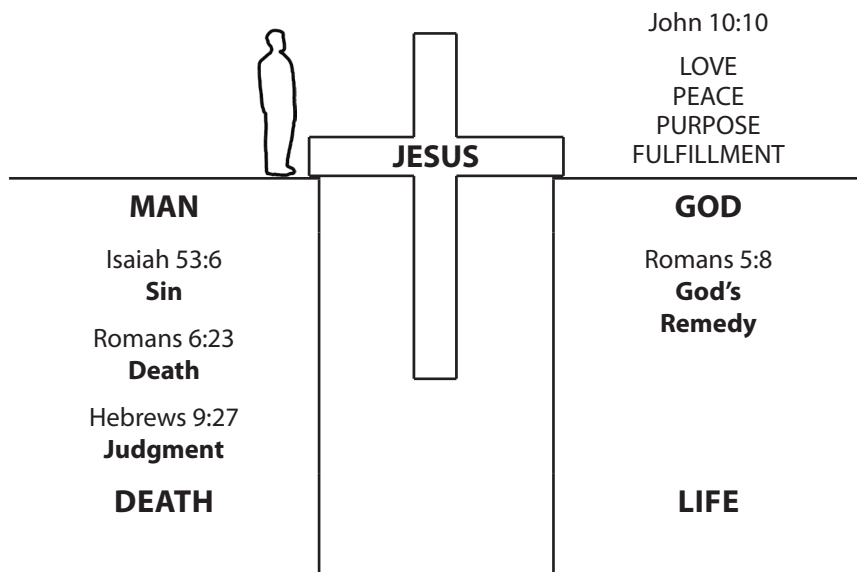
The result of turning away from God and doing things that are displeasing to God is spiritual death — eternal death. The Bible also says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). For now we will just look at the first half of this verse. Paul states here that the consequences or payment we receive in return for our sins is eternal death. So you can see that on man’s side we have eternal death, and on God’s side there is eternal life. The last part of this verse talks about the free gift of God being eternal life, and that will become clearer as we develop this diagram. For now, we seem to be stuck on the death side.

(Next read Hebrews 9:27.) You can see as we look at this verse that each of us will die physically, and after we die physically we will face judgment. The Bible teaches that there will be a day of judgment when God will judge the actions and thoughts of every man and woman.

So you can see that on man’s side we have sinned, and the penalty of those sins is eternal death. Also we see that the consequence of our sins is for us to face the judgment of God. This gives a pretty dismal picture of our situation on this side of the chasm that separates us from God.

### 3. God's Remedy

In spite of the fact that we have turned our backs on God and have disobeyed Him, God still loves us and desires that we know Him personally so that He can bless us.



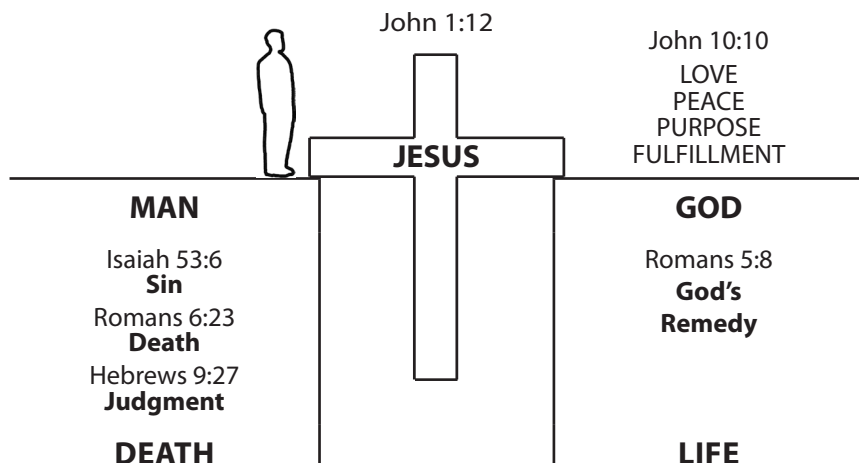
Only one adequate bridge can cross the gulf that exists between man and God, and that bridge is through Jesus Christ and His death on the cross.

The Bible also says, "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The Bible teaches that when He died on the cross, He died in our place. He paid the penalty and the judgment for our sins so we could be forgiven for all our wrongdoings. The slate could be wiped clean.

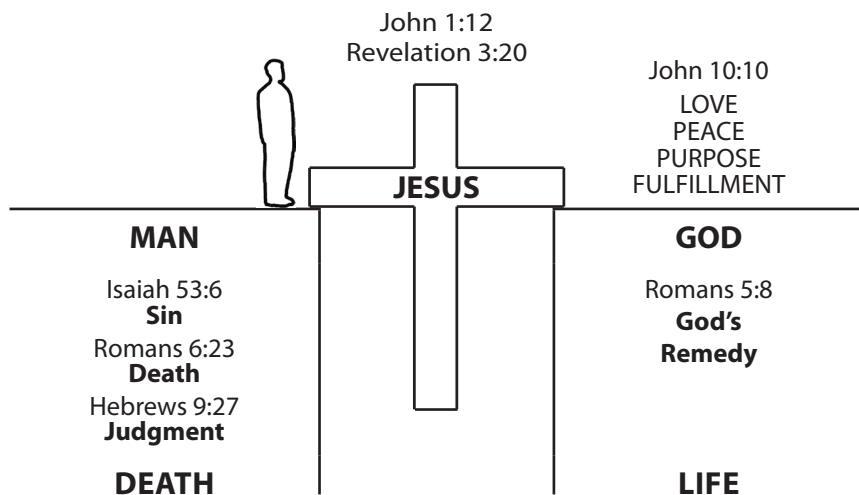
### 4. Man's Response

Christ has made it possible for us to cross over to God's side and experience the full life He wants us to have. But we are not automatically on God's side. We need to take action; we need to ask God's forgiveness and ask Jesus Christ into our lives.

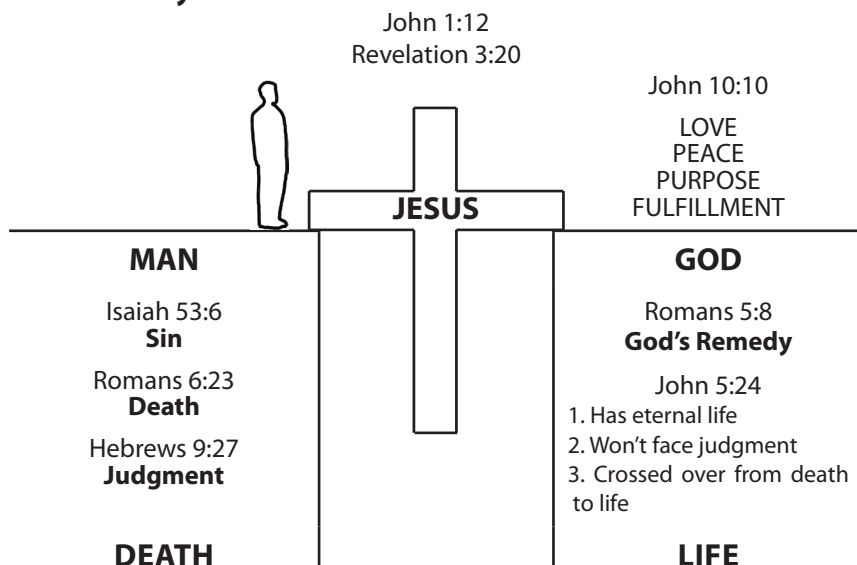


The Bible says, “Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). We “reach out” to God through prayer and receive the gift of eternal life.

Now let’s add another verse here (Revelation 3:20) that goes right along with John 1:12. This is Jesus Christ talking. (After the verse is read, you would continue.) So the door on which Jesus is knocking is the very center of our lives — the heart, the core, the innermost part of our lives. He is knocking and would like to come into our lives. So He wants us to open the door and invite Him in.



## 5. Summary



Let's take a look at John 5:24. This statement of Jesus summarizes all we have talked about. "I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word [the things we have been discussing here] and believes Him who sent Me [*believe* means to receive, that is, to invite Christ into our lives] has eternal life [a present possession] and will not be condemned [judgment]; he has crossed over from death to life."

## E. Immediate Follow-through

Here is a possible immediate follow-through procedure after you have presented "The Bridge Illustration:"

1. "Does this make sense to you?"
2. "Do you have any questions about it?"
3. "Where would you place yourself in this illustration? On the left side or on the right side?" (If he says, "On the right side," you might ask him when he received Christ. Ask him to relate the specifics.)
4. If he points to the left side of the chasm, say, "Is there any reason why you shouldn't cross over to God's side and be certain of eternal life?"
5. If he has no reason and is ready to receive Christ, say, "Could we pray together?" Have the non-Christian pray first, then you pray. If he is

hesitant, you might pray a prayer for him and ask him to repeat the phrases and sentences after you.

An example of a prayer for salvation is: “Dear Lord, I know I have done wrong and broken Your laws. I believe You died for my wrongdoing. I ask You to forgive me of all my sins. I want to turn from them. Please come into my life as You said You would. I trust You as Savior and want to follow You as Lord.”

## F. Practical Suggestions

1. Do not memorize “The Bridge Illustration.” Learn the principles, ideas, verses, and key sentences. Make it your own.
2. Make an outline of the presentation as you would like to give it, and practice giving it to another Christian.
3. Draw the illustration as you talk. This is an attention-getter.
4. Use your Bible rather than quote verses, if possible, or have the non-Christian read them out of the Bible.
5. Ask questions along the way to get the non-Christian involved:
  - a. “Have you ever met anyone who was perfect?” (concerning sin)
  - b. “Are you familiar with the death of Christ as taught in the Bible?”
  - c. “What do the words *eternal life* mean to you?”
6. If the non-Christian brings up objections during your presentation, you might say, “That’s a good question. For the sake of continuity, may I try to answer that after completing the illustration?”
7. The ultimate goal is to bring a person to salvation in Christ. Proceed as far as the Holy Spirit gives you freedom. If the non-Christian is open to receive Christ, then have him pray. And then follow up.



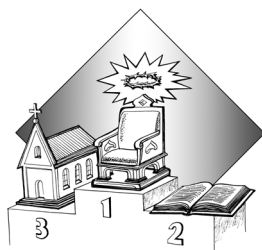
### Assignment for Session 5:

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the first verse on “Salvation Not by Works,” Ephesians 2:8–9.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 5:* Carefully read Lesson 5, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.

4. *Testimony:* Come to class prepared to give your testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
5. *Other:* Come prepared to present “The Bridge Illustration.”



# Lesson 5



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 5

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the first verse on “Salvation Not by Works,” Ephesians 2:8–9.
- B. Share quiet time thoughts from your “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Have an opportunity for another person to share a personal testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
- D. Have an opportunity to tell about sharing your testimony with someone.
- E. Practice giving “The Bridge Illustration.”
- F. Discuss Bible Study Questions and the Summary of “The Lordship of Christ” (pages 66–71).
- G. Read the Assignment for Session 6 (page 72).
- H. Assign Bible study leaders for Session 6.
- I. Close in prayer.

# I. Scripture Memory Instructions

## A. About the Verse — Topic 4: Salvation Not by Works

Most people have the idea that their eternal destiny will be decided by their good deeds being weighed against their bad ones. So they try to earn or solicit God's mercy by good and charitable acts that will blind Him to their faults.

**Ephesians 2:8–9** — Paul made it clear that salvation is not by our works, but only by God's grace — His unearned and unmerited favor. Salvation is a gift we receive by faith. If we could work for it, we could then boast that we had attained it, but God alone will receive the glory for saving us.

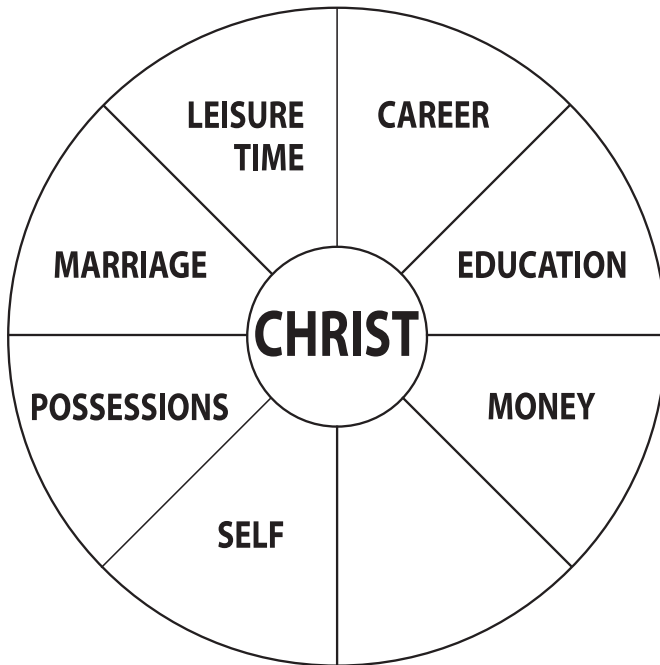
## B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place the next verse Ephesians 2:8–9 in your verse pack. You will learn only Ephesians 2:8–9 this week, and will learn Titus 3:5 next week.
2. You have a full week to memorize one verse, so spend the rest of your time reviewing your other verses. If you haven't already, try working on your new verse during your morning quiet time, meditating on its meaning.
3. Strive for word perfection, and check your new verse by the end of the week by writing it out or quoting it to someone else.

## II. Bible Study: The Lordship of Christ, Part B

### Acknowledge His Lordship in Practice

1. Good intentions don't guarantee good results. A good start does not ensure a strong finish — decision is only the beginning. Once you have decided to acknowledge the lordship of Christ in your life, you will prove that He *is* Lord by submitting to Him hour by hour and obeying Him in the daily affairs of life. Some of these areas are represented in the following illustration.



Take a few moments to evaluate your practice of the lordship of Jesus Christ. A good way to determine if Christ is in control of your life is to ask, “Am I willing to do whatever Christ desires in this area?” or “Will I be able to thank God for whatever may happen in this area?”

- a. Are there any areas in the illustration which you are not allowing Christ to control?

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- b. Are there any additional areas which you are not allowing Christ to control?

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- c. What can you do in these areas to acknowledge Christ's lordship?

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We should not be concerned about what we would do for the Lord if we only had more money, time, or education. Instead, we must decide what we will do with the things we have now. And what really matters is not who or what we are, but whether Christ controls us.

2. Whenever you assume control of your life, you will soon become unhappy and anxious. What did Peter say you can do? 1 Peter 5:6–7

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Based on this verse, draw this man's solution in the box provided.



3. What can happen if cares and worries are not committed to Christ? Mark 4:18–19

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How do you think this takes place? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What three things is the person who decides to follow Christ called to do? Luke 9:23

The action to take	What this means in your own words

5. Read Colossians 3:23–24. Paul said that the Christian should (underline the best answer and explain why it is better than the other two):
- Serve Christ more sincerely than he serves people.
  - Not try to mix his religion and his everyday life.
  - Do ordinary tasks wholeheartedly because he is really serving Christ.

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6. According to Luke 6:46, what is a good way to evaluate if Christ is truly Lord of your life?

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7. Read Luke 18:28–30.

a. What had the apostles done? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How did Jesus respond? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What does the lordship of Christ mean to you personally?

## **Summary of “The Lordship of Christ”**

### **The Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is declared to be Lord by God in the Scriptures. He is worthy to be Lord because of who He is, not merely because of what He has done.

### **Acknowledge His Lordship by Decision**

Although Jesus Christ is Lord, He does not hold a preeminent place in the heart of every believer. In order to enthrone Christ in his heart, the Christian must decide to present himself to Christ and to allow Him to reign over his life.

## **Acknowledge His Lordship in Practice**

Various areas of a believer's life may not be subject to the control of Christ. The Christian should submit these areas to Christ and continue to recognize that Christ's control of his life is for his own welfare and joy.

# **III. Leader's Outline: Questions for "The Lordship of Christ, Part B"**

**(For Bible Study Leader's Use)**

## **Acknowledge His Lordship in Practice**

Ask someone to read the paragraph above the illustration before Question 1.

**(Questions 1–8)** "From your study what impressed you about making Christ your Lord practically?"

**(Question 1)** "Perhaps some of you would be willing to share some of your answers to Questions 1–a or 1–b."

Ask someone to read the paragraph following Question 1.

**(Question 2)** Ask several to show or describe their drawings in the box after this question.

**(Question 3)** "What do you think the expression 'the Word is choked' means?"

Ask several to read their answers to the last part of this question.

**(Question 4)** Ask someone to read his three answers to the "action" side of the question. Ask if others have different answers. After you have decided together on the three answers, ask several to read what they have written on the "What this means" side of the question.

**(Question 5)** Ask one or two to read what they have underlined in this question.

Ask several to read their "why" answers in Question 5.

**(Question 6)** "What do you think it means that you are to do what He says?"

**(Question 7)** Ask someone to read his answer to Question 7–a, then ask several to read their answers to Question 7–b.

(*Question 8*) Ask each person to read his answer to this question.  
Ask three people to share the reading of the Summary.



**Assignment for Session 6:**

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the second verse on “Salvation Not by Works,” Titus 3:5.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 6:* Carefully read Lesson 6, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.
4. *Other:* Come prepared to present “The Bridge Illustration.”



# Lesson 6



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 6

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the second verse on “Salvation Not by Works,” Titus 3:5.
- B. Share some of your quiet time thoughts from the “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Have an opportunity to tell about sharing your testimony with someone.
- D. Practice giving “The Bridge Illustration.”
- E. Discuss Questions in “Faith and the Promises of God, Part A” (pages 74–79).
- F. Read the Assignment for Session 7 (page 80).
- G. Assign Bible study leaders for Session 7.
- H. Close in prayer.

# I. Scripture Memory Instructions

## A. About the Verse — Topic 4: Salvation Not by Works

Many people try to earn standing with God through their own efforts. But this is wholly impossible, for Isaiah clearly stated, “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). Even “doing our best” could never meet God’s standard of righteousness. The Apostle John wrote, “This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). And the Prophet Habakkuk said to the Lord, “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil” (Habakkuk 1:13). God’s holiness is awesome.

**Titus 3:5** — Here again Paul stated that we are not saved by our own efforts, but by God’s merciful action. This is hard for the natural man to accept. It goes against his independent nature and his do-it-yourself philosophy of life. To be saved means we are cleansed of our sins and born anew spiritually. This is a work of the Holy Spirit, who effects regeneration in us. He washes us clean.

## B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Put Titus 3:5 in your pack on the top of the other verses to be reviewed.
2. You again have a full week to memorize this verse, so spend some time reviewing your previously memorized verses.
3. Read the context of your new verse in your Bible to help you understand it in its setting.
4. Strive for word perfection, and check your new verse by the end of the week by writing it out or quoting it to someone.

## II. Bible Study: Faith and the Promises of God, Part A

A group of people once asked Jesus how they could do the work of God. Jesus replied, “The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent” (John 6:29). God desires belief and faith from individuals, for “without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6).

But often in modern society faith is nothing more than wishful thinking — “I hope everything works out all right. I have ‘faith’ that it will.” The Biblical concept of faith far surpasses this superficial approach and is a vital necessity for walking with Christ.

## A. Walking by Faith

1. How does faith relate to the *beginning* of the Christian life? Ephesians 2:8–9

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You received Christ by faith, how then should you live? Colossians 2:6

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2. How would you define faith from:

Acts 27:25 \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 4:20–21 \_\_\_\_\_

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Hebrews 11:1 \_\_\_\_\_

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*Faith is the assurance that the thing which God has said in His Word is true, and that God will act according to what He has said in His Word. ...Faith is not a matter of impressions, nor of probabilities, nor of appearances.*

~ George Muller\*

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\*As quoted in *George Muller, Man of Faith* by Basil Miller. ©1972 Bethany Fellowship, Inc., Minneapolis.

3. What does faith make possible? Match the following.

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| ___ Hope, joy, peace | a. Matthew 21:22  |
| ___ Answered prayer  | b. Romans 15:13   |
| ___ Power over Satan | c. Ephesians 3:12 |
| ___ Access to God    | d. Ephesians 6:16 |

4. State the principle of 2 Corinthians 5:7 in your own words, and give an example of how you can apply it.

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5. What sin can exclude you from seeing God work? Matthew 13:58

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The opposite of faith is not doubt; it is unbelief. Doubt only needs more facts. Unbelief is disobedience and refuses to act in accordance with what God has declared.

## **B. Objects of Faith**

6. What are some of the unworthy objects in which people may place their faith?

Psalms 33:16–17 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 146:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 28:26 \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah 9:23 \_\_\_\_\_

Place an “x” by those you find yourself most likely to depend on. What do you feel is the inevitable result of placing faith in these objects?

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7. Who should be the object of your faith? Mark 11:22

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8. Using the previous two questions as a guideline, describe what the following illustration is attempting to communicate.

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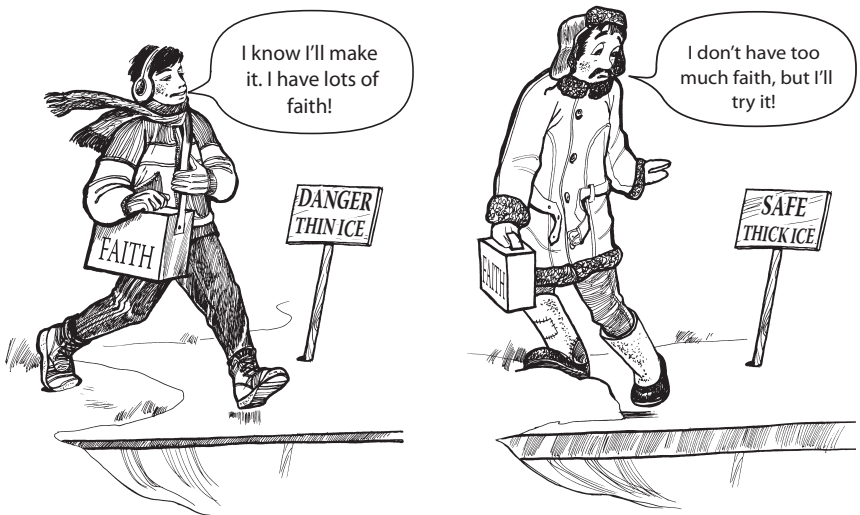
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9. Your confidence and faith in God are built on your knowledge of who God is and what He is like. What verses about God’s nature and character have been significant to you?

Verse	What This Shows You about God



### C. Examples of Faith

10. Hebrews 11 is a key chapter on faith. As you read through the chapter, note what things were accomplished by faith.

- a. Which of the things accomplished by faith do you consider to be the most significant?

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- b. Why did you choose this? \_\_\_\_\_

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## III. Leader's Outline: Questions for "Faith and the Promises of God, Part A"

(For Bible Study Leader's Use)

Ask someone to read the two paragraphs preceding Question 1.

### Section A — Walking by Faith

(Questions 1–5) "From your study what did you learn about walking by faith?"

(*Question 2*) Ask several to read their answers to each of the sub-points of this question. Discuss one Scripture reference at a time.

Ask someone to read the quotation following this question.

(*Question 4*) Ask several to read their answers to this question.

(*Question 5*) Ask someone to read his answer to this question and the paragraph following it.

### Section B — Objects of Faith

(Questions 6–9) "From your study what did you learn about the objects of faith?"

(**Question 6**) Ask several to tell what they marked an “X” by in this question.

(**Question 8**) “What did the two illustrations in this question communicate to you?”

(**Question 9**) “What are some of the verses and comments you listed for this question?”

## Section C — Examples of Faith

(**Question 10**) “From your study what did you learn from Biblical examples of faith?”

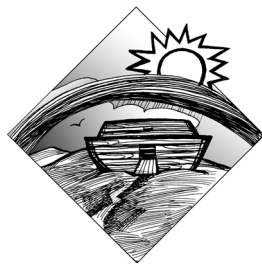


### Assignment for Session 7:

1. *Scripture Memory*: Memorize the first verse on “Must Receive Christ,” John 1:12.
2. *Quiet Time*: Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 7*: Carefully read Lesson 7, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.
4. *Testimony*: Come to class prepared to give your testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
5. *Other*: Come prepared to present “The Bridge Illustration.”



# Lesson 7



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 7

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the first verse on “Must Receive Christ,” John 1:12.
- B. Share some quiet time thoughts from the “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Have an opportunity for someone to share a personal testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
- D. Practice giving “The Bridge Illustration.”
- E. Discuss Bible Study Questions and the Summary of “Faith and the Promises of God” (pages 82–87).
- F. Read the Assignment for Session 8 (page 88).
- G. Close in prayer.

# I. Scripture Memory Instructions

## A. About the Verse — Topic 5: Must Receive Christ

The New Testament teaches that we are saved solely by believing in Jesus Christ. Nothing else is required. Today, *believe* often means merely to give mental assent. Many say, “Oh yes, I believe in God.” But in the Bible *believe* means completely trusting and resolutely committing oneself to Jesus Christ as Savior from sin. Paul wrote, “For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith’” (Romans 1:17). In your memory verse for this week, believing is expressed by the term *receive*.

**John 1:12** — John equated receiving Jesus Christ with believing on Him. This is how one becomes a son, or child, of God.

Everyone is familiar with the act of receiving a gift. One simply takes it and thanks the person who gave it, and then enjoys the gift.

## B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place John 1:12 on the top of your verse pack.
2. By now you have learned the importance of starting promptly each week to learn your new verse on the first day. This is important even when you have only one verse to memorize.
3. Learn your new verse and review your old ones as you have been doing.
4. At the end of the week check your new verse by writing it out or quoting it to someone else.

## II. Bible Study: Faith and the Promises of God, Part B

### A. The Promises of God

1. Think of a specific situation when someone promised you something.
  - a. How did you evaluate whether or not that person would keep his promise?

b. Did he keep it? \_\_\_\_\_

c. How does this affect your attitude toward his future promises?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. God also makes certain promises to you. What does Scripture say about the words of God?

1 Kings 8:56 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 89:34 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 55:11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think God's promises are trustworthy?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## B. Promises to Claim

4. Fill in the following chart.

Verse	Promise	Condition, if any
John 15:7		
Lamentations 3:22–23		
Romans 8:28		
Galatians 6:7		

*“Faith always attaches itself to what God has said or promised. When an honorable man says anything, he also does it; on the back of the saying follows the doing. So also it is with God; when He would do anything, He says so first in His Word.”*

~ Andrew Murray\*

5. Why do you feel God places conditions on some promises?

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6. What is God’s attitude about fulfilling His promises to you? 2 Corinthians 1:20

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What should your attitude be in claiming God’s promises? Hebrews 6:12

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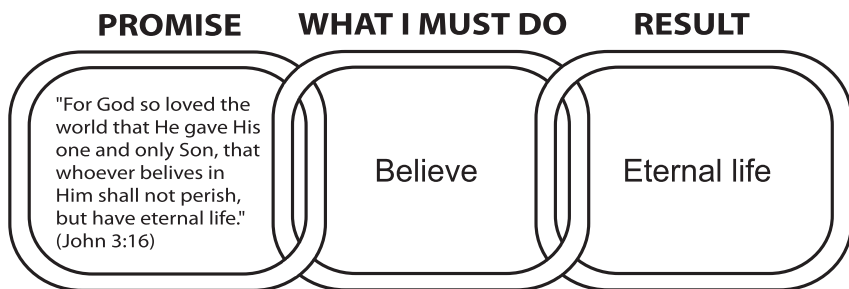
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It is helpful and encouraging to note God’s promises. You may want to keep a list of these promises, their conditions, and their results. God’s promises often form a “chain” like the example above.

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\*From *The New Life* by Andrew Murray. ©1965 Bethany Fellowship, Inc., Minneapolis.



7. Discover how Jehoshaphat utilized the promises of God. Read 2 Chronicles 20.

a. What was the first thing Jehoshaphat did? Verses 3, 6–12

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b. How did God answer him? Verse 15

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c. Was this a promise?

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d. What was his next response? Verse 18

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e. What shows that Jehoshaphat believed God's promise?

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f. How did he encourage others? Verse 20

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g. What was the result? Verses 22, 27

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8. What is one promise you have discovered in your Bible reading?

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Specifically, how has this promise helped you? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **C. Summary of “Faith and the Promises of God”**

### **Walking by Faith**

Faith is based on the certain Word of God. Believing God and His Word gives the Christian the experience of hope, joy, peace, answered prayer, and the fulfillment of many other promises of God.

### **Objects of Faith**

People may entrust their lives to a number of objects which will ultimately fail. The only worthy object of faith is God and His Word.

### **Examples of Faith**

Many things have been accomplished by faith. To you, what is the most significant example from Hebrews 11?

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### **The Promises of God**

God is a faithful Promiser whose words never fail. God does what He says He will do because He is faithful to His Word.

## Promises to Claim

Christians should avail themselves of the opportunity to claim God's promises, for God desires to respond to a claimed promise.

# III. Leader's Outline: Questions for "Faith and the Promises of God, Part B"

(For the Bible Study Leader's Use)

## Section A—The Promises of God

(Questions 1–3) "From your study what did you learn about the promises of God?"

(Question 1) Ask several to read their answers to Question 1–a.

(Question 3) Ask several to read their answers to this question.

Ask someone to read the quotation following this question.

## Section B — Promises to Claim

(Questions 4–8) "From your study what did you discover about claiming God's promises?"

(Question 5) Ask several to read their answers to this question.

(Question 6, *Hebrews 6:12*) "How do you think *patience* is a part of claiming the promises of God?"

Ask someone to read the paragraph after this question.

"What do you feel the diagram after this question is communicating?"

(Question 7) "What impressed you from 2 Chronicles 20 about Jehoshaphat?"

(Question 8) Ask several to share both of their answers to this question.

Ask someone to read the quotation after this question.

Ask several people to read the various sections of the Summary.



### **Assignment for Session 8:**

1. *Scripture Memory:* Memorize the second verse on “Must Receive Christ,” Revelation 3:20.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 8:* Carefully read Lesson 8 and answer the questions.
4. *Other:* Explain “Bridge Illustration” to an unbeliever.



# Lesson 8



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 8

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the second verse on “Must Receive Christ,” Revelation 3:20.
- B. Share quiet time thoughts from the “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Have an opportunity for another individual to share his personal testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
- D. Have a time for individuals to tell about how they shared “The Bridge Illustration.”
- E. Discuss the “Verse Analysis of Matthew 6:33” (pages 90–93).
- F. Discuss “Priorities, Part A” (pages 94–99).
- G. Read the Assignment for Session 9 (page 99).
- H. Close in prayer.

# I. Scripture Memory Instructions

## A. About the Verse — Topic 5: Must Receive Christ

Faith in the Bible requires a positive action; believing means doing something. In your memory verse for this week, believing is expressed by the phrase *open the door*, which is a deliberate action.

**Revelation 3:20** — Jesus Christ is pictured knocking at a door. He wants to come in and have fellowship with the person inside. This is a picture of everyone's heart or life in which Jesus Christ stands on the outside. He knocks and continues to say, "If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will go in." He will not force open the door of our hearts. By an act of the will, through faith, we open the door and invite Him in to be our Savior and our Lord. If we open the door, He has promised to come in and have fellowship with us. He has promised to satisfy us: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). And He will always receive those who come to Him: "Whoever comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). He is ready for us to come to Him.

## B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place Revelation 3:20 in your pack with the other verses to be reviewed keeping it on top.
2. If you are not sure of the meaning of any words in your verses, look them up in a good dictionary.
3. Reread the "Scripture Memory Instructions" in Lesson One in both *BCL, Part 2* (pages 10–15) and in this course (pages 12–15) to keep the underlying principles of Scripture memory well in mind.
4. At the end of the week check your new verse by writing it out or quoting it to someone else.

# II. Verse Analysis of Matthew 6:33

## Preparation for a Discussion on Priorities

This study is foundational for the discussion on priorities in Lesson 8–10. After reading the context of Matthew 6:33 aloud twice, you will take these steps to analyze it:

1. Paraphrase the verse
2. Study the context
3. Find cross-references
4. Write down real or potential problems
5. Make a personal application

☐ I have read Matthew 6:19–34 aloud twice. (Check when completed.)

1. **Paraphrase.** Paraphrase Matthew 6:33 in your own words. Consult the translations in the box below to stimulate your thinking.

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you (KJV).*

*But seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you (NASB).*

*Set your hearts on His kingdom first, and on His righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well (JB).*

*But seek for (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom, and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right], and then all these things taken together will be given you besides (AMP).*

*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well (RSV).*

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2. **Context.** Summarize the key thoughts in Matthew 6:25–32, and 6:34. Do *not* include verse 33.

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3. **Cross-references.** What is the thought contained in the following verses that is similar to Matthew 6:33?

Deuteronomy 28:2 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Chronicles 26:5 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Chronicles 31:20–21 \_\_\_\_\_

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Psalms 84:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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4. **Problems.**

- a. Define *righteousness* and *kingdom of God* in the following spaces. You will want to use a dictionary, Bible dictionary, encyclopedia, or commentary in preparing your definitions. You may need to check with your CBLT Center or with a friend who has these resource books.

Righteousness \_\_\_\_\_

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Kingdom of God \_\_\_\_\_

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b. What do you feel is the implication of the word *seek*?

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c. This verse opens with the word *but*. As you compare verse 33 with verses 31–32, what contrast does the word *but* imply?

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5. **Application.** What is one application of Matthew 6:33 that you can make to your own life?

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### III. Priorities, Part A

Priorities have to do with *order* and *importance*. A priority list includes things in order of their importance.

Why do we feel one thing is more important than another? It depends on what we want and what we would like to accomplish — what our goals and desires are. We all have goals and desires and these influence our choices.

A Christian's priorities should be based on God's will for his life as revealed in the Scriptures. Jesus gave us the injunction, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). That which pertains to God's kingdom has priority over our physical needs according to the context of the Sermon on the Mount.

To have the right *priorities*, we must have the right *goals*. From the following passages, write the goals and desires these men had or exhorted others to have.

David (Psalm 27:4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Joshua (Joshua 24:15) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus (John 4:34) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Paul (Romans 12:2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Colossians 1:28–29) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

John (3 John 4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

As committed Christians, we should "imitate their faith."

*Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.*

~ Hebrews 13:7

A. Goals

The goals for our lives, on which our priorities should be based, can be divided into two areas: (1) what we are to *be* — *Christlikeness* (Romans 8:29) and (2) what we are to *do* — *serving* (Galatians 6:9–10).

1. Christlikeness

Make a list of the characteristics of Christlikeness from the following passages (please use a translation, not a paraphrase):

Galatians 5:22–23	Matthew 5:3–10
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
9.	

Make a list of what you feel are the five most important characteristics of Christlikeness from the above lists:

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	

2. Serving

Serving means helping at the point of need. This may mean offering aid or advice; it could also mean admonishing a friend, sharing the Gospel, or helping someone memorize Scripture.

We may serve others in many ways. Match the principles with the Scripture references:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| ___ Mark 9:41       | 1. Doing humble tasks for God's children.     |
| ___ John 13:14–16   | 2. Caring for widows.                         |
| ___ Acts 6:1–3      | 3. Helping meet material or financial needs.  |
| ___ Ephesians 4:12  | 4. Praying for others.                        |
| ___ Ephesians 6:5–7 | 5. Building up other Christians.              |
| ___ Colossians 4:12 | 6. Being thorough and hardworking on the job. |
| ___ 1 Timothy 5:17  | 7. Giving a drink of cold water.              |
| ___ 1 John 3:17–18  | 8. Preaching and teaching the Word of God.    |

### 3. Pitfalls to Avoid in Serving

Maybe you have heard the expression “the good is the enemy of the best.” This can be especially true in “serving others.” The following scriptural accounts will illustrate this truth.

1. Read Luke 10:38–42.

- a. What choice did Mary make? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. What choice did Martha make? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. Which choice did Jesus say was best? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. Why was it the best? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Acts 6:1–4.

- a. State the problem: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. What choice did the apostles make? \_\_\_\_\_



- 
- 
- c. Why did they make this choice? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

Even though the apostles chose to minister the Word of God instead of directly meeting material needs, they still felt responsible and saw to it that others met these needs. Working by priority does not mean neglecting responsibility.

The greatest service you can render to a person is to bring him into a right relationship with Jesus Christ. This could be helping someone come to salvation in Christ, or ministering to the spiritual development of a Christian.

“Seeking the kingdom of God first” has to do with glorifying God in the lives of individuals. So your highest concern in serving Christ is to minister to spiritual needs, and then to other needs which they may have. At times it might be necessary to minister to the material or physical needs before you can minister to spiritual needs.

## **B. Guidelines for Setting and Fulfilling Priorities**

1. Priorities come into focus only when we exercise the *power of choice*. In the illustrations of Luke 10:38–42 and Acts 6:1–4, choices were made. Often in life choices have been made for us: by God, by governments, by parents, by physical limitations. But wherever we can choose, we are responsible for the choices we make. Slaves, for example, had little power of choice. Yet in the first century the Gospel spread rapidly among them.
2. One of the greatest hindrances to doing God’s will is *lack of planning*. Most of us have about 40 unplanned hours a week where we must choose how we will use our time. Take time to plan prayerfully with Matthew 6:33 as your guide. For example, plan how you will use a free evening or a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.
3. Here is a plan that can streamline your life:
  - a. Make one list of things you ought to do, things you need to do, and things you want to do.

- b. Pray for sensitivity to His Spirit in evaluating your list.
  - c. Then number the items (1, 2, 3, etc.) in the order of their importance in the light of Matthew 6:33.
  - d. Determine before God that you will do Number 1 before you do any other item on the list. When Number 1 is completed, go on to Number 2, and so on through your list. Your list will need to be revised periodically because new things are coming into our lives constantly. Many people make a new list every morning.
4. *Determination and perseverance* are two necessary ingredients for living according to priorities. Your flesh will often rebel against doing what you should do. Paul said, “I beat my body and make it my slave” (1 Corinthians 9:27). In other words, he is saying, “I make it do what it *should* do, not what it wants to do.”
  5. While we acknowledge that determination and perseverance are necessary ingredients for living by priorities, we must also acknowledge that *God must give blessing and grace* for our efforts to really count (see 2 Corinthians 3:5; John 15:5; Zechariah 4:6).
  6. In the Book of James we are taught that when we have made our plans, we must learn to say, “If the Lord wills, we will carry them out” (see James 4:13–16). God at times has plans for us of which we know nothing. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (see Isaiah 55:9), so don’t get “bent out of shape” when interruptions come, but rather *submit to Him* with thanksgiving *in all your circumstances* (see Romans 8:28; Psalm 115:3).
  7. On the other hand, *people will control our lives if we let them*. At one point in His ministry people were making plans for Jesus (see Luke 4:42–44), but He would not submit to them. He said He had to do what His Father sent Him to do. Knowing what God wants you to do will enable you to discern when to submit to the desires of well-meaning people and when to say no graciously.
  8. In order to improve in making right choices based on God’s goals for our lives, we must often reconsider these goals and evaluate whether we are making right choices. Human nature tends to lead us away from our goals. *A half day alone with God* regularly is excellent for helping keep us on target.

9. In today's world it is almost impossible to get everything done that we would like to or even what we feel we need to. *Working by priority does not mean you will get everything done that you would like to.* It does mean you will get the most important things done. Jesus said, "I have brought You [God the Father] glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do" (John 17:4). Yet there was much more He could have done. Let us learn from Jesus' example — live by God's priorities for our lives and commit to Him the things we are unable to do.

## C. Conclusion

Many of our priorities are often based on selfish desires. The flesh makes it difficult therefore to relate our priorities to God's plan for our life, because that involves sacrifice.

Do you want God to be "first" in your life? Then working on His purposes and priorities will be a lifelong process. Don't be discouraged when you fail, but instead make periodic evaluations, such as regularly spending a half day in prayer and meditation. Remember the Lord's admonition, "Seek FIRST His kingdom!"



### Assignment For Session 9:

1. *Scripture Memory:* Study Memorize the first verse on "Assurance of Salvation," 1 John 5:13.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 9:* Carefully read Lesson 9, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.
4. *Testimony:* Come to class prepared to give your testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
5. *Other:* Explain "Bridge Illustration" to an unbeliever.



# Lesson 9



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 9

- A. Share some quiet time thoughts from the “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- B. Break into verse review groups and quote the first verse on “Assurance of Salvation,” 1 John 5:13.
- C. Have an opportunity for another individual to share a personal testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
- D. Have time for individuals to tell about how they shared “The Bridge Illustration.”
- E. Discuss “Priorities, Part B” (pages 102–104).
- F. Discuss Questions in “Knowing God’s Will, Part A” (pages 104–107).
- G. A brief critique of each study leader will be given.
- H. Read the Assignment for Session 10 (page 108).
- I. Assign Bible study leaders for Session 10.
- J. Have prayer.

# I. Scripture Memory Instructions

## A. About the Verse — Topic 6: Assurance of Salvation

It is impossible to build a solid structure on a shaky foundation. *And it is impossible to grow in the Christian life properly if one is unsure of his salvation.* Some Christians do not believe they can know they have eternal life. Others gauge the assurance of their salvation by their feelings, a most unstable foundation. But God wants us to *know* we have eternal life.

**1 John 5:13** — John stated clearly that his primary objective in this epistle was to help those who believe in Jesus Christ to know that they have eternal life.

But how can we know? One evidence is our desire to please God, resulting from the Holy Spirit's residence in our bodies. Other evidences of new life in Christ are the desires to read His Word, to commune with Him in prayer, to fellowship with other believers, and to tell others of Him. But the foundation on which all evidences rest is the promise of His Word.

## B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place 1 John 5:13 in your pack.
2. You are again learning only one verse this week, so take the time to review all your previously memorized verses.
3. Don't forget to take time to meditate on your verses and apply them to your life. For suggestions on how this is done, review pages 17–21.
4. Check your new verse by writing it out or quoting it to another person.

# II. Priorities, Part B

## A. Single Adults: Invest Your Life Wisely

(All students will discuss this section.)

If you are a single adult, you have special benefits and advantages that enable you to make a significant contribution to what God desires to accomplish in the world today.

A large segment of the adult population is single. Single people are often mobile and flexible in where they can go and what they can do. They have

more time for Bible intake and spiritual growth than most married people. They usually are less hindered in reaching out to others and in pursuing spiritual and general personal development. This, however, is not true for a single parent with the responsibility of caring for children.

Invest your single life wisely! Become all that God wants you to be and use the leverage of your situation to make your impact for Christ. God may lead you out of your single circumstances one day, or He may best be able to work in and through you if you remain single throughout life. Your responsibility is to follow Christ wholeheartedly and to trust Him for a fulfilling and significant future.

## **B. Priority of God**

“An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord’s affairs — how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world — how he can please his wife” (1 Corinthians 7:32–33).

For every Christian, whether single or married, God must be the first priority. E. M. Bounds’ classic statement, “To be little with God is to be little for God,” captures the idea of this priority. Not that we spend time with God so we will have a ministry. We spend time with God because He greatly desires our fellowship. He longs to be with us, for we are “the kind of worshipers the Father seeks” (John 4:23). In His presence we grow in godliness and the reality of our relationship with God becomes apparent to those around us. “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).

Occasionally large blocks of time with God should supplement your regular devotional times. Become strong in your grasp of the Word of God through Scripture memory and Bible study. Pray regularly that God will give you wisdom in applying the Word to your life. If you have a grasp on the great truths of the Bible, you will frequently find yourself in places of effective ministry. In time, your life will touch the lives of many.

## **C. Discover the Mind of God for You**

Stabilizing your walk with God must be first. You may then consider what God’s will is for your use of the rest of your available time.

Your job usually takes at least 40 hours of your week. Make sure you enjoy your work and are not begrudging the time you spend there. Deter-

mine how you will use the rest of your time. How much will you pursue “getting ahead” in your job? Should you be working into another line of work? How much should you work at keeping communication open with old friends? You will want to stay close to parents and brothers and sisters by correspondence, phone calls, and occasional visits, but still pursue what God has called you to do.

How much further education should you pursue? How much time with friends, neighbors, or roommates? What kind of ministry load can you carry and still have time off and avoid excessive pressure and stress? God can lead you, so make these issues a matter of prayer and give adequate time for planning and evaluation.

You can be a choice servant of God! Use your singleness well.

### **III. Bible Study:**

## **Knowing God’s Will, Part A**

Christians often wonder what God wants them to do concerning their desires and plans. It seems as though God’s will is hidden in a buried treasure chest and we have only small portions of the map to find its location. But is this true? Is God keeping His plans from you as some hidden secret, or is He interested in having you follow Him so that He can lead you step by step?

A passage of Scripture which deals with this area is Proverbs 3:5–6, which you memorized in *BCL Part 1*. (Review that verse right now and check this box when you can quote it word-perfectly ☐) This passage clears up any misconceptions about knowing God’s will. Meditate on it carefully.

### **A. The Revealed Will of God**

1. What should be one of your desires as a follower of Christ? Ephesians 5:17

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2. What does God promise you concerning His will for your life?  
Psalm 32:8

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3. What does God reveal about His will for you in the following verses?

1 Thessalonians 4:3 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Thessalonians 5:18 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Peter 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What was the psalmist's attitude toward God's will in Psalm 40:8?

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What actions help produce this attitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Who is your source of strength to do God's will?

Philippians 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:5 \_\_\_\_\_

*The will of God is not like a magic package let down from heaven by a string... The will of God is far more like a scroll that unrolls every day... the will of God is something to be discerned and lived out every day of our lives. It is not something to be grasped as a package once for all. Our call, therefore, is basically not to follow a plan or a blueprint, or to go to a place or take up a work, but rather to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.*

~ Paul Little\*

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\*From *Affirming the Will of God* by Paul Little. ©1971 Inter-Varsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois.

In the Scriptures Christians have all the guidance they need in order to live for Jesus Christ. However, there are certain specific decisions which must be made even though the Bible does not give specific instructions. In these cases, a Christian should apply the *principles* of decision-making which are contained in God's Word.

## **B. Principles of Decision-making**

There are 3 areas that involve principles for decision-making. We will cover "Objectives from God's Word" in this lesson and will continue with these principles in the Bible study in the Lesson 10 also covering "Obedience to God" and "Openness to God's Leading."

### **Objectives from God's Word**

God has given particular commandments which can help you make decisions concerning your activities. If a particular course of action is inconsistent with God's Word, then you know that it is not His will for you.

6. Using the following verses, state in your own words some of God's objectives for you. God wants you to...

Matthew 6:33 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 22:37–39 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 28:18–20 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Ask yourself some questions based on these and similar verses to determine your course of action:

- a. Am I putting God's desire ahead of my own?
- b. Will it help me to love God and others more?
- c. How does this action relate to my personal involvement in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission?
- d. Will this help me lead a more holy life?
- e. Will this course of action increase my personal knowledge of Christ?

Honestly answering these questions will help you make a decision that is in accordance with God's Word.

7. Using the following verses, develop questions that will help you discern God's will.

1 Corinthians 6:12 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 8:9 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 10:31 \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. Leader's Outline: Questions for "Knowing God's Will, Part A"

(For Bible Study Leader's Use)

Ask someone to read the material at the beginning of the chapter.

### Section A — The Revealed Will of God

(Questions 1–5) "From your study what did you discover about the revealed will of God?"

(*Question 1*) "How long-range might understanding God's will be?"

(*Question 3, 1 Thessalonians 4:3*) "In your mind, what do you think *sanctification* is?" (You may want to refer back to the box on page 36 of your Bible study.)

(*1 Thessalonians 5:18*) "How do you feel you can sincerely give thanks for difficult and hard things in life?"

(*1 Peter 2:15*) "Who specifically do you feel are the foolish men?"

(*Question 4*) "What would be another word or phrase that describes being *delighted* to do God's will?"

"Does the second part of Psalm 40:8 refer to Scripture memory or something else?"

(*Question 5*) Ask someone to read the quotation after this question.

Ask someone else to read the last paragraph in this section.

## Section B — Principles of Decision-making

(NOTE: This part contains three subsections, and each will be treated as a major section of your study — in relation to decision-making. The second 2 parts are in the next lesson.)

Ask someone to read the paragraph preceding Question 6.

(Questions 6–7) “From your study what did you learn about principles in God’s Word for decision-making?”

(Question 6, *Matthew 6:33*) “What are some of the possible things it could mean to seek God’s kingdom?”

(*Matthew 28:18–20*) “How does evangelism fit into this passage?”

“How does the maturing of Christians fit into this passage?”

(1 *Peter 1:15*) “What are some specific areas of life in which you can work on holiness?”

(2 *Peter 3:18*) “How do you grow in knowledge?”

“How do you grow in grace?”

Ask someone to read the material following this question.

(Question 7) Ask several to read their answers to each of the parts of this question.

*“Do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.”*

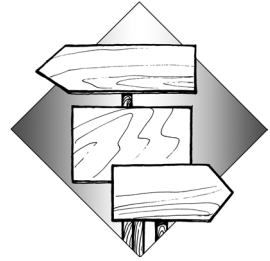
— Ephesians 5:17



### Assignment for Session 10:

1. *Scripture Memory*: Memorize the second verse on “Assurance of Salvation,” John 5:24.
2. *Quiet Time*: Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 10*: Carefully read Lesson 10, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.
4. *Testimony*: Come to class prepared to give your testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
5. *Other*: Explain “Bridge Illustration” to an unbeliever.

# Lesson 10



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 10

- A. Break into verse review groups and quote the second verse on “Assurance of Salvation,” John 5:24.
- B. Share some quiet time thoughts from your “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Have an opportunity for someone to share a personal testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
- D. Have a time for individuals to tell about how they shared “The Bridge Illustration.”
- E. Discuss “Priorities, Part C” (pages 110–114).
- F. Discuss Questions and the chart in “Knowing God’s Will, Part B” (pages 115–121).
- G. Read the Assignment for Session 11 (page 122).
- H. Close in prayer.

# I. Scripture Memory Instructions

## A. About the Verse — Topic 6: Assurance of Salvation

From the time we are born, we want assurances — that we are loved, that we will be provided for, that we belong. God wants us to have the same kind of assurances when we come to Christ. He wants us to know we have eternal life.

**John 5:24** — Jesus said if we hear His Word and believe on the Father through Him, we have eternal life. This eternal life is *a present possession*. We will never have to stand judgment for our sins — for in the moment we believe, we pass from spiritual death to spiritual life. The primary basis for assurance of salvation is to believe what God says about it.

## B. Your Weekly Plan

1. Place John 5:24 on the top of your verse pack.
2. You have a full week to memorize this one verse, so use your other time to review your previously memorized verses.
3. You now have 29 verses in your pack — the maximum number you will carry at any one time. If you get an early start and use spare moments during the day, you should have no difficulty reviewing 29 verses each day.
4. At the end of the week check your new verse by writing it out or quoting it to someone else.

# II. Priorities, Part C

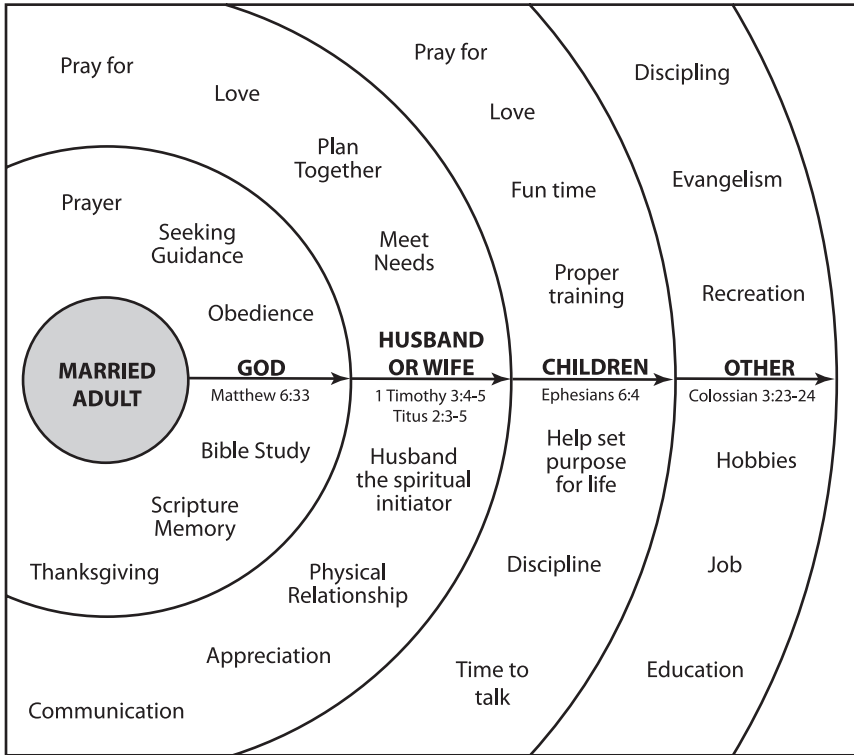
## A. Married Adults: Circles of Priority

(All students will discuss this section.)

The illustration below, “Circles of Priority,” helps give a visual picture of some of the most common areas of responsibilities.

Each inner circle needs to be fairly well in order before you can be effective in the next circle out. The inner circles are of higher priority. Yet you will want to work toward balance in all areas of life right from the beginning.

## CIRCLES OF PRIORITY

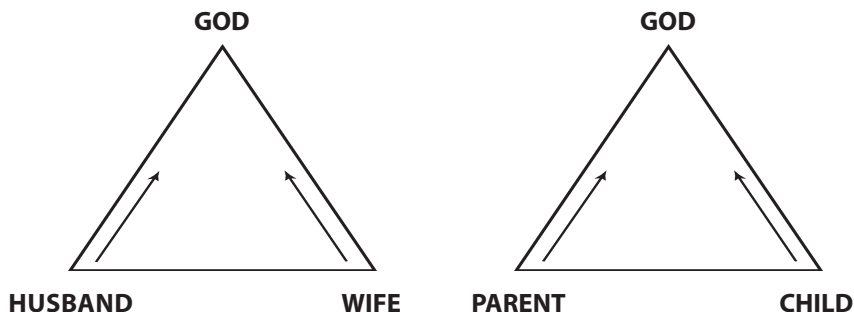


Ultimately you must determine in your own heart and mind what is priority for you in a given week or in a given day. God has given each of us basic responsibilities we cannot neglect. We must, therefore, give these responsibilities extra weight when considering our schedules.

The inner circles must be in good repair before optimum influence for Christ will be felt in the circles further out.

### B. Priority of God

Before we can be significantly effective for Christ, we must be spending consistent, meaningful time with God. He is to be our first priority (Matthew 6:33). “He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and *to walk humbly with your God*” (Micah 6:8).



The triangle diagram shows that the closer a husband and wife become to God, the closer they will be to each other.

This is also true between parents and children.

As you pursue God Himself, additional blessings and benefits become yours from being close to God and walking in fellowship with Him. “As for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge” (Psalm 73:28). “The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him” (Psalm 145:18–19).

### **C. Priority of Husband or Wife**

Having a close vital relationship with God increases the probability of having a close vital relationship with your spouse. And having a good relationship in your marriage increases the probability of having a good relationship with your child. Priority does not imply neglect. It implies emphasis. Continue to work on your marriage.

#### **1. Wives**

Are you praying for your husband? Are you helping him to become more and more the leader and decision-maker in your home? Are you adapting to him or is he forced to adapt to you? Are you a student of your husband, learning his moods, likes and dislikes, and strengths and weaknesses? Do you support and encourage him in what he feels led to pursue in life?

#### **2. Husbands**

Are you praying for your wife? Are you seeing that she gets time away from the home and the children? Are you helping around the house



where you can? Do you express sincere appreciation? Are you keeping her informed about what you are thinking and planning? Do you say, “Thank you”? Are you a student of how to raise children or are you leaving all of that up to your wife? Do you pray together? Are you seeing that there is adequate time to talk and communicate? Are you meeting her spiritual, physical, and emotional needs as well as financial ones?

You will have your greatest effectiveness in furthering the purposes of God in the world if you put God first and give your spouse a strong second priority.

## **D. Priority of Children**

A Christian leader once asked a group of men, “Do you know what is the greatest thing you can do for your children?” He paused and then said simply and directly, “Love your wife!” Hopefully this presupposes putting the Lord first in one’s life. Yet we can be walking close to God and relating beautifully to our spouses, but not applying Biblical principles to our children.

Another problem is bypassing our children for “the ministry,” only to find that we have not prepared our children for life or helped them become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Find a good Christian book or seminar on how to raise children. Time must be given to knowing the skills required to handle this responsibility well. Study must be followed by prayerful application. Do you have this area well in hand? Do you and your spouse agree on goals for your children? Have you mutually agreed on the principles and methods for how your family operates?

## **E. Family Witness**

The best springboard for a great influence for Christ in the lives of many people may be simply sharing the Biblical principles that work in your marriage and in raising your children.

Credibility in the family must precede expansion of spiritual influence. “If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?” (1 Timothy 3:5) Not that you must have everything in order in every dimension of your family life, but you must be giving a high priority to getting your own house in order. Your home will become either a springboard to greater ministry or a millstone around your neck.

“For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what He has promised him” (Genesis 18:19). Because of Abraham’s faithfulness in the management of his family, God was able to prosper him spiritually.

## **F. Other Priorities**

### **1. Job**

Your secular job takes up many hours each week. But it is a place where you can use your God-given skills and abilities. It supplies funds which can be invested to further the cause of Jesus Christ, as well as finances to meet your personal and family needs.

The job can also be your point of contact and friendship with a number of non-Christians who can come to Christ and be discipled. You should do this, of course, without using “company time.” Your work should be done “heartily as to the Lord,” and so provide an open door for ministry as well as a source of provision and a sense of accomplishment.

### **2. Church**

The local assembly of believers is important. It is a place for both intake and output. For those with outside ministries in their neighborhood or with selected couples, it is often best to take only one responsibility in the local church and to do it well.

Teaching a Bible study group can be not only an opportunity for ministry but also a context within which to grow in your ability to motivate others and to communicate Biblical truth clearly.

Pray for God’s leading. Plan to be both taking in and giving out as you meet with other believers each week.

### **3. Miscellaneous**

Are you reading books or pursuing a hobby that will make you a more interesting person to be around? Are you getting adequate exercise and getting time for rest and recreation? Are you continuing to acquire knowledge and skill that develops you as a person and as a Christian?

# III. Bible Study:

## Knowing God's Will, Part B

### A. Principles of Decision-Making (continued)

We have already talked about "Objectives from God's Word" last week. Now we will continue with other principles involved in the process of decision-making.

#### Obedience to God

If you refuse to obey God in what He has already shown you, will God give you further direction? Obedience to the known will of God is important in receiving further guidance.

1. How do you gain an understanding of God's will?

Psalm 37:31 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:105, 130 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What other action can you take to learn God's will?

Psalm 143:8 \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Psalm 25:4–5 is a prayer of David concerning God's direction for his life. As you write this prayer in your own words, use it as a prayer of your own heart.

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4. What conditions are given in Romans 12:1–2 for finding God's will?

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5. Whose guidance have you been promised as you seek direction from God? John 16:13

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6. Read Psalm 27:14 and Isaiah 30:18. How does “waiting on the Lord” relate to knowing God’s will? How do you do it?

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Satan rushes men — God guides them.

### **Openness to God’s Leading**

Many difficulties in determining the Lord’s will are overcome when you are ready to do His will, whatever it may be.

7. You may not always know all of the possible alternatives in determining what to do. What is a means by which you can gather additional information? Proverbs 15:22

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Counsel should be obtained from mature Christians who themselves are committed to the will of God and know you well. It helps to talk with others who have previously made decisions in matters you are presently experiencing.

8. Explain the principle Jesus used in answering those who were questioning Him. John 7:17

How does this apply to knowing God's will? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. When you know what God wants you to do, how should you do it?  
Ephesians 6:6

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10. What are some other factors which can help you discern God's leading? Match the following verses with the appropriate factors.

- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| ___ Careful and wise thinking | a. Colossians 3:15     |
| ___ Inner spiritual peace     | b. Philippians 1:12–14 |
| ___ Particular circumstances  | c. Ephesians 5:15–17   |

What possible dangers exist in relying *only* on these things?

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### C. Principles in Practice

11. Some passages in the Bible illustrate factors which affect sound judgment. Examine the following examples and ask yourself these questions: What was the issue to be decided? What decisions were made? What was the influencing factor in making either the right or wrong decision?

Person	Passage	Issue	Decisions	Factors
Gideon	Judges 6:25–28			
Moses	Hebrews 11:25–26			
Demas	2 Timothy 4:10			



12. The following chart may be helpful in determining God's will for a particular decision you now face.

Decision I am facing: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Objectives in Living	Yes	No	Neu- tral
Am I putting God's desire ahead of my own?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will it help me to love God and others more?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will it help me to fulfill the Great Commission?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will it help me lead a more holy life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will it help me further my Christian training?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other questions: \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Obedience to God**

What factors from God's Word affect this decision?

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**3. Openness to God's Leading**

Alternatives	Advantages	Disadvantages
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<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**4. Other**

Counsel from mature Christians who know me well:

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Inner peace factor: \_\_\_\_\_



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Circumstances: \_\_\_\_\_

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## IV. Leader's Outline: Questions for "Knowing God's Will, Part B"

(For Bible Study Leader's Use)

### Section A — Principles of Decision-making (Continued)

Ask someone to read the paragraph preceding Question 1.

**(Questions 1–6)** "From your study what did you learn about obeying God as it applies to decision-making?"

*(Question 1, Psalm 119:105,130)* "How do you feel meditation differs from reading and study?"

*(Question 2, Psalm 143:8)* "How frequently do you feel you should be praying for guidance from God?"

*(James 1:5)* "How do you feel that wisdom fits into knowing God's will?"

*(Question 3)* Ask several to read their answers to this question.

*(Question 4)* Ask several to read their answers to this question.

*(Question 6)* Ask several to read their answers to the "How do you do it?" part of this question.

Ask someone to read the statement that follows this question.

Ask someone to read the paragraph that precedes Question 7.

**(Questions 7–10)** "From your study what did you discover about being open to God's leading as it pertains to decision-making?"

**(Question 7)** “How is conflicting counsel of any value to you?”

Ask someone to read the paragraph that follows this question.

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

Ask several to read their answers to the second part.

**(Question 9)** “What does it mean to you that someone does something *from the heart*?”

**(Question 10)** Ask someone to read his answer to the first part of this question.

Ask several to read their answers to the second part.

## Section B — Principles in Practice

**(Question 11)** Ask someone to read this question.

**(Judges 6:25–28)** Ask two or three to read their answers for “Gideon.”

**(Hebrews 11:25–26)** Ask two or three to read their answers for “Moses.”

**(2 Timothy 4:10)** Ask two or three to read their answers for “Demas.”

**(Question 12)** Ask several to read what they wrote down using the form that follows this question. (**NOTE** that the students will need to fill out the information on this form concerning a decision they are facing before this “Knowing God’s Will” can be signed off as complete.)

*“You have made known to me the path of life.”*

— Psalm 16:11



### Assignment for Session 11:

1. *Scripture Memory:* Work on any requirements not yet completed.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 11:* Carefully read Lesson 11 answering the questions to the Bible study.
4. *Other:* Come prepared to present “The Bridge Illustration.”

# Lesson 11



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 11

- A. Share some quiet time thoughts from the “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- B. Break into verse review groups and quote *all* the verses learned in *BCL Part 3*.
- C. Practice giving “The Bridge Illustration.”
- D. Discuss Questions in “Walking as a Servant, Part A” (pages 124–127).
- E. Read the Assignment for Session 12 (page 129).
- F. Close in prayer.

# I. Bible Study:

## Walking as a Servant, Part A

Serving is one of the greatest challenges in the life of discipleship. Everyone enjoys being served, but few make an effort to serve others. People don't mind being *called* servants, but they do mind being *treated* as servants. The mature Christian is marked by what he will do for others without expecting anything in return.

### A. Christ Your Example

1. What was Christ's purpose in coming to this world? Mark 10:45

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2. What are some ways in which Jesus served people?

Matthew 9:35 \_\_\_\_\_

John 13:3–5 \_\_\_\_\_

*The Son of God became the servant of God in order to fulfill the mission of God.*

~ J. Oswald Sanders\*

3. Read Philippians 2:5–8.

a. Whose example are you to follow? Verse 5 \_\_\_\_\_

b. What position did Christ take? Verse 7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. How did He demonstrate His servanthood? Verses 7–8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\*From *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders. ©1967 Moody Press, Chicago.

4. An application for your life is found in Philippians 2:3–4.
- a. What are you told to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Can you think of any situation in which you are not practicing this attitude of living?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What can you *do* to correct this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **B. Christ's Desire for You**

5. Read Mark 1:31.
- a. After Jesus had served Peter's mother-in-law by healing her, what was her immediate response?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Why do you think she did this? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. In what ways has Christ helped you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What should your response be? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Whom should you desire to serve?
- John 12:26 \_\_\_\_\_
- Galatians 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- Galatians 6:10 \_\_\_\_\_

7. During Christ's last time with the disciples before His death, several things were revealed about a serving attitude. Luke 22:24–27

a. What were the disciples arguing about? Verse 24 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. How did Jesus demonstrate His humility? Verse 27 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. How should Christ's followers conduct themselves? Verse 26

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. How is this contrary to the way the "world" operates? Verse 25

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Jesus' life was always an example of servanthood. The incident in John 13:1–15 reveals much about Jesus' attitude in serving. List several lessons you can learn from this passage.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## C. Giving Yourself

Christians have been set free in Christ — not to do whatever they please, but to serve. Believers have been set free from sin to serve righteousness (Romans 6:18–19), set free from Satan to serve God (1 Peter 2:16), set free from self to serve others (Galatians 5:13). Christians are no longer under obligation to serve the things of the old life, but free to serve voluntarily the things of the new life.

9. What did Paul call himself? 2 Corinthians 4:5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did this basic attitude manifest itself? 2 Corinthians 12:15

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. List several qualities of a good servant.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This week ask someone for his definition of a Christian servant.  
Record his answer here:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## II. Leader's Outline: Questions for "Walking as a Servant, Part A"

(For Bible Study Leader's Use)

Ask someone to read the material preceding Question 1.

### Section A — Christ Your Example

(Questions 1–4) "From your study what impressed you about Christ's example of being a servant?"

(Question 1) "What is the relationship between these two purposes for which Jesus came?" (That is, to serve and to die)

Ask someone to read the quotation following Question 2.

(Question 3–c) Ask several to read their answers to this question.

(Question 4) Ask a few to volunteer to read what they wrote down for this question.

### Section B — Christ's Desire for You

(Questions 5–8) "What did you learn from your study about Christ's desire to be your servant?"

(Question 5) Ask one or two people to read their answers to this question.

(Question 7) Ask various ones to answer each of the subpoints in this question.

(Question 8) Go around the circle and ask each person to share one of the lessons he has learned. Continue around the group until all the observations have been depleted.

### Section C — Giving Yourself

(Questions 9–10) "What impressed you in the section on giving yourself?"

(Question 9) After the first part of this question has been answered, ask several to read their answers to the second part.

(Question 10) Ask the group to join in with items from their list of a servant's qualities.



Ask several to read their answers to the second part of this question.



**Assignment for Session 12:**

1. *Scripture Memory:* Work on getting any final memory requirements completed.
2. *Quiet Time:* Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording.
3. *Lesson 12:* Carefully read Lesson 12, answer the questions and work through the Bible study.



# Lesson 12



## OUTLINE OF SESSION 12

- A. Break into verse review groups, and get anything signed that you can on your “Completion Record.”
- B. Share some quiet time thoughts from the “Bible Reading Highlights Record.”
- C. Discuss Questions and the Summary of “Walking as a Servant” (pages 132–136).
- D. Close in conversational prayer.

# **I. Bible Study:**

## **Walking as a Servant, Part B**

### **A. Keys to Becoming a Servant**

#### **Being Humble**

1. What must you continually keep in mind? John 13:13, 16

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2. As a servant you could become proud of your serving. What is the guideline to keep you from doing this? Luke 17:10

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#### **Observing and Meeting the Needs of Others**

3. The servant is observant. “Ears that hear and eyes that see — the Lord has made them both” (Proverbs 20:12). God intends for you to use what He has given you to listen and observe.

- a. How could you become a better listener? \_\_\_\_\_

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- b. How could you become a better observer? \_\_\_\_\_

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(Read Proverbs 24:30–34 for an example of a man who learned by observation.)

4. What needs of others are you aware of which you could help meet?

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Read Proverbs 3:27 and 1 John 3:17. What do these verses tell you to do?

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### Evaluating Your Serving

5. Stop for a moment and evaluate your serving.
  - a. Give an example of when you served another person.  

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  - b. Can you think of an example when you failed to serve another person although you were aware of a need?  

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  - c. In your opinion, why did you serve one time and not the other?  

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6. Why is it important to serve in the “little” things? Luke 16:10  

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*Simple tasks, faithfully done and persisted in, bring their own reward, and are mosaics being laid in the pavement of success.\**

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\*From *God Calling*, A. J. Russell, editor. Dodd, Mead and Company, New York.

## B. A Servant Gives

One of the most tangible ways to serve others is to meet their material and financial needs. God knows that if you are willing to give of that which is tangible, you will be better able to give of that which is intangible — your time, your experience, your love, your life. Giving is an integral part of the servant's life.

7. What principles provide a foundation for New Testament giving?

2 Corinthians 8:9 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 9:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What promises does God make to those who give?

Luke 6:38 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. According to the verses in the following chart, to whom should you give? For each verse can you think of a specific person to whom you could give?

Reference	To whom I should give	Specific person to whom I can give
Proverbs 19:17		
1 Corinthians 9:14		
Galatians 6:6		
James 2:15–16		

10. Evaluate your giving.

a. Do you have a plan? \_\_\_\_\_

b. To whom are you giving presently? \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Do you need to change any of your giving practices? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what will you do? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **C. Summary of “Walking as A Servant”**

### **Christ Your Example**

Jesus Christ was not obligated to become a servant, but He did so voluntarily. While on earth, Jesus served people in a variety of ways, giving of Himself to meet people’s needs.

### **Christ’s Desire for You**

Christ has helped all believers, and their response should be to serve Him. Believers should also serve others, including their spiritual leaders.

### **Giving Yourself**

Since Christ desires all Christians to serve others, the believer must die to “self” in order to live for others. Christians are free to be servants and can demonstrate servanthood in numerous ways.

### **Keys to Becoming a Servant**

To become a servant, a Christian must recognize that he is under Christ’s authority to serve. He should become increasingly aware of others’ needs and do whatever he can to meet them. A periodic evaluation of how well he is serving can prompt him to become a better servant.

### **A Servant Gives**

A server is a giver — not only of himself, but also of his material and financial possessions. God uses Christians to supply the needs of others

and He promises to bless the givers richly. Each Christian should arrive at a personal plan for giving that is based on scriptural principles.

## **II. Leader's Outline: Questions for "Walking as a Servant, Part B"**

**(For Bible Study Leader's Use)**

### **Section A — Keys to Becoming a Servant**

**(Questions 1–6)** "From your study what did you discover were the keys to becoming a servant?"

**(Question 2)** "Why are we not worthy of commendation for being a good servant?"

**(Question 3)** Ask someone to read the statement at the beginning of this question.

Ask several to read their answers to this question.

**(Question 4)** Ask for volunteers to read their answers to the first part of this question.

**(Question 5)** Ask for volunteers to share their answers to each part of this question.

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

Ask someone to read the quotation following this question.

### **Section B — A Servant Gives**

Ask someone to read the paragraph preceding these questions.

**(Questions 7–10)** "What impressed you about the responsibility of a servant?"

Ask several in the group to read the sections in the Summary of "Walking as a Servant".



# Developing as a Disciple

In the three parts of *Basic Christian Life* you have taken significant steps toward becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Your Christian life and ministry have been enhanced by:

- A regularity in Scripture memory — you have now memorized 29 verses.
- A regularity in your quiet time — you are reading, marking, and recording Scripture on a daily basis.
- A regularity in your Bible study — you have completed 17 topical lessons in question-and-answer type Bible study.
- A giving of your personal testimony, which you have written out and are able to give in under four minutes.
- Praying conversationally and knowing how to spend extended time with God in a half day of prayer.
- Being confronted with, submitting to, and living under the lordship of Christ.
- Learning how to meditate on the Scriptures.

- Beginning to lead Bible study discussion groups.
- Learning how to recognize and set priorities in your life.

We have included 3 more series of Bible verses for you to memorize. They are under the topics: D. “Rely on God’s Resources,” E. “Be Christ’s Disciple,” F. “Grow in Christlikeness.” Now that you have started on a pattern of hiding God’s Word in your heart, don’t stop. Continue to review the verses you have learned and use these sets of verses to continue developing in your Christian life. The best challenge for you is to find a partner to memorize with and also to challenge each other on continuing with a regular quiet time, sharing your testimony with unbelievers, and the other Christian disciplines that you have been learning. Don’t stop now! God wants to do great things in your life! Look to the next challenge!

#### D. RELY ON GOD’S RESOURCES

<b>His Spirit</b>	• 1 Corinthians 3:16	• 1 Corinthians 2:12
<b>His Strength</b>	• Isaiah 41:10	• Philippians 4:13
<b>His Faithfulness</b>	• Lamentations 3:22, 23	• Numbers 23:19
<b>His Peace</b>	• Isaiah 26:3	• 1 Peter 5:7
<b>His Provision</b>	• Romans 8:32	• Philippians 4:19
<b>His Help in Temptation</b>	• Hebrews 2:18	• Psalms 119:9, 11

#### E. BE CHRIST’S DISCIPLE

<b>Put Christ First</b>	• Matthew 6:33	• Luke 9:23
<b>Separate from the World</b>	• 1 John 2:15, 16	• Romans 12:2
<b>Be Steadfast</b>	• 1 Corinthians 15:58	• Hebrews 12:3
<b>Serve Others</b>	• Mark 10:45	• 2 Corinthians 4:5
<b>Give Generously</b>	• Proverbs 3:9, 10	• 2 Corinthians 2:6, 7
<b>Develop World Vision</b>	• Acts 1:8	• Matthew 28:19, 20

## F. GROW IN CHRISTLIKENESS

<b>Love</b>	• John 13:34, 35	• 1 John 3:18
<b>Humility</b>	• Philippians 2:3, 4	• 1 Peter 5:5, 6
<b>Purity</b>	• Ephesians 5:3	• 1 Peter 2:11
<b>Honesty</b>	• Leviticus 19:11	• Acts 24:16
<b>Faith</b>	• Hebrews 11:6	• Romans 4:20, 21
<b>Good Works</b>	• Galatians 6:9, 10	• Matthew 5:16



# Bible Reading Highlights Record

*“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

**O**n the following pages you will find enough “Bible Reading Highlight Records” to last through *BCL Part 3*, plus extra copies. You may want to take out one of the “Bible Reading Highlights Records” before writing on it and reproduce several copies on a photocopier.

## BIBLE READING HIGHLIGHTS RECORD

Translation \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Sunday**      Date \_\_\_\_\_ All I read today \_\_\_\_\_

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# Proclaim Christ

APPENDIX



**T**hese verses have been prepared for you as the others so you may photocopy them or cut them out of your book and laminate them. You have already learned 29 verses. It is important that you continue to review them. However, don't carry them all with you at once. You should have a special box that you can put them into, and then keep rotating a different series for review every week.



## C. PROCLAIM CHRIST

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>All Have Sinned</b></p> <p>Romans 3:23</p> <p>For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Romans 3:23</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-1 Proclaim Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>All Have Sinned</b></p> <p>Isaiah 53:6</p> <p>We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Isaiah 53:6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-2 Proclaim Christ</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sin's Penalty</b></p> <p>Romans 6:23</p> <p>For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Romans 6:23</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-3 Proclaim Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sin's Penalty</b></p> <p>Hebrews 9:27</p> <p>Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Hebrews 9:27</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-4 Proclaim Christ</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christ Paid the Penalty</b></p> <p>Romans 5:8</p> <p>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Romans 5:8</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-5 Proclaim Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christ Paid the Penalty</b></p> <p>1 Peter 3:18</p> <p>For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 Peter 3:18</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-6 Proclaim Christ</p>



## C. PROCLAIM CHRIST

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Salvation Not by Works</b></p> <p>Ephesians 2:8–9</p> <p>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ephesians 2:8–9</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-7 Proclaim Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Salvation Not by Works</b></p> <p>Titus 3:5</p> <p>6Not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Titus 3:5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-8 Proclaim Christ</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Must Receive Christ</b></p> <p>John 1:12</p> <p>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 1:12</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-9 Proclaim Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Must Receive Christ</b></p> <p>Revelation 3:20</p> <p>I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Revelation 3:20</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-10 Proclaim Christ</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assurance of Salvation</b></p> <p>1 John 5:13</p> <p>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 John 5:13</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-11 Proclaim Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assurance of Salvation</b></p> <p>John 5:24</p> <p>I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 5:24</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C-12 Proclaim Christ</p>

