Introduction / Syllabus and Assignments [1]

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Jesus' last words before ascending to heaven were that we are to make disciples of all nations. In order to make disciples, we must first be disciples. How can we be the kind of disciples God can use and bless to make other disciples? This course attempts to answer that question.

1. Introduction	Syllabus and Assignments	1) Pair up with another to form a team. Prepare an **evangelistic Bible study.** Submit a written outline to the professor Invite a few **non-Christians** to the study. Lead the study with a partner observing. Report on the results of the Bible study.
2.	Characteristics of a Disciple	
3.	A Biblical Disciple-Maker	
4.	The Disciple and the Word	
5.	The Disciple and Prayer	
6.	The Disciple and his Time	
7.	The Disciple and his Heart	
8.	The Disciple and his Relationships	
9.	Being a Disciple-Maker (the Mentor)	2) Pair up with another to form a team. Prepare an **establishment Bible study**. Submit a written outline to the professor Invite a few **new believers** to the Bible Lead the study with a partner observing. Report on the results of the Bible study.
10. Small Groups	Discipleship through Small Groups	
11.	Jesus' Small Group of Disciples (1)	
12.	Jesus' Small Group of Disciples (2)	
13.	The Disciple's Ultimate Purpose	
14.	Benefits of Small Group Discipleship	
15. Components	Small Group Participants	
16.	Small Group Aims	3) Pair up with another to form a team. Prepare an **equipping Bible study.** Submit a written outline to the professor. Invite **mature Christians** to the study. Lead the study with a partner observing. Report on the results of the Bible study.
17.	Small Group Activities	
18.	Where Small Grp. Disc. Takes Place	
19.	Leadership Styles	
20.	The Value of Group Bible Study	
21. Bible Study	Methods of Bible Study	
22.	Types of Bible Study	
23.	Structure of the Bible Study	
24. Examples:	of Inductive/Evangelizing Bible Study	
25.	of Inductive/Equipping Bible Study	
26.	of Topical/Evangelizing B.St. (Salv'n.)	
27.	of Topical/Evangelizing Bible Study	
28.	of Topical/Establishing B.St. (Word)	
29.	of Topical/Establishing B.St. (Prayer)	
30.	of Top./Establishing B.St. (Worship)	
31.	of Top./Establishing B.St. (Fellowship)	
32.	of Top./Establish'g B.St. (Witnessing)	
33.	of Topical/Equipping (Clerical Laym'n)	
34.	of Expository/Equipping Bible Study	
35.	of an Equipping Bible Study	
36. Resources	52 Bible Studies (Topical / Establish)	
37.	Spiritual Blessings of the Disciple	
38. Project	Report of your Small Group Study	
	Endnotes	

Characteristics of a Disciple

INTRODUCTION: MANY BELIEVE IN JESUS, BUT A DISCIPLE IS ONE WHO LOVES AND FOLLOWS HIM CLOSELY.

- ***The crowds*** *followed Jesus for food, miracles, healing, deliverance, and political freedom. Were they disciples of Jesus?* *John 6:14-15*
- ***The 12 Apostles*** *gave up their personal lives to live with and follow Jesus. Were they disciples?* *Mt. 4:19*
- *In this lesson and throughout the whole course we will discover the characteristics of a true disciple of Jesus Christ and learn to be true disciples ourselves.*

1. A DISCIPLE LOVES GOD MORE THAN ALL OTHER LOVES. **LUKE 14:26**

1.1. No other love should compete with our love for Jesus. Luke 14:20

1.2. Jesus emphasized this truth with a literary exaggeration. Matthew 10:37

1.2.1. In comparison with Jesus' love, all other loves are like hate.

1.2.2. But we know that we are not actually to hate our families. For example, Peter brought his wife with him in ministry. 1 Corinthians 9:5

1.2.3. And we know we are to take care of our family and relatives. The Bible says that those who don't are "worse than infidels." 1 Timothy 5:8

1.3. The disciple who puts Jesus first in his life will be rewarded. Matt. 6:33, Mark 10:28-30

2. A DISCIPLE TAKES UP HIS CROSS. **LUKE 14:27**

2.1. In the early Church, unlike today, the cross was an object of death. A disciple of Jesus must take up his cross every day. He must give up his life to find it. Luke 9:23; Matthew 10:38-39

2.2. He must deny ourselves and follow after Jesus. Mark 8:34-35

2.3. He must face the world, which is an enemy of the cross and is focused on temporal, earthly pleasures. Philippians 3:18-19

3. A DISCIPLE IS WILLING TO GIVE UP HIS POSSESSIONS. **LUKE 14:33 (MARK 10:21)**

3.1. We are not the owners of our lives; we are merely stewards of them. 1 Corinthians 6:19

3.2. The rich young ruler lacked one thing: he would not give up his possessions. Mark 10:21

3.3. Paul renounced all that was in conflict with Jesus. Philippians 2:8-10

4. A DISCIPLE "STANDS FIRM" IN HIS FAITH IN GOD. **1 CORINTHIANS 16:13, PHILIPPIANS 1:27**

4.1. Disciples study God's teaching and hold on to them. John 8:31

4.2. The one who begins is not necessarily saved; it is the one who finishes the race. Heb. 12:1-3

5. A DISCIPLE SEEKS TO OBEY AND PLEASE GOD BY LIVING A HOLY LIFE.

5.1. God wants and expects His children to live holy lives. 2 Cor. 3:18-19, Phil. 3:7-16, 1 Pet. 1:14-15

5.2. Holiness is the evidence of God's salvation and presence in His children. 1 John 3:6-9

5.3. Holiness of living is evidence that God's children truly love Him. John 14:15, 21

6. A DISCIPLE LOVES OTHER DISCIPLES. **JOHN 13:34-35**

6.1. Disciples love each other. Love is the mark of the Christian. 1 John 4:11, 16

6.2. There are three words in Greek for the word, "love:" "eros, philio, agape." The word used in 1 John, "agape," means selfless love; disciples love with selfless love.

7. A DISCIPLE BEARS MUCH FRUIT. **JOHN 15:8**

7.1. God is the vineyard keeper, and the vine represents believers. John 15:1

7.2. He prunes the branches (disciples) so that they produce more fruit. John 15:2

7.3. The one who does not produce fruit will be burned. John 15:6

7.4. The disciple's fruit must last. John 15:16

7.5. The disciple manifests the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-25

CONCLUSION

- *Jesus calls us to be His disciples – and to make disciples. Unfortunately, not all "Christians" are disciples.*
- *The disciple is disciplined; this means the believer does what his Master wants, not just what he wants.*
- *The disciple obeys God's Word and seeks to do what it says.*
- *The disciple trains his body and his soul with the constant aim to please God.*
- *The disciple is characterized by a selfless life that is totally dedicated to God.*
- *The disciple knows that he has been bought with a price and that his life is not his own, but God's.*
- *Jesus is the Lord of the disciple, that is, the owner and sole possessor of his life.*

A Biblical Disciple Maker - Luke 7:18-35

INTRODUCTION:

Let's look at an example of a biblical disciple maker, John the Baptist, who gave his life to do the will of the Father and to prepare the way for the Son to establish His kingdom in this world.

1. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S DISCIPLES

1.1. John's disciples were loyal to him. When it appeared to them that Jesus was becoming more popular than John, John's disciples encouraged John to do something about it. Luke 7:18

1.2. John sent his disciples to question Jesus. (Remember that John and Jesus knew each other because their mothers were close relatives.) Luke 7:19

1.2.1. The disciples were obedient to John. Luke 7:20

1.2.2. When John sent his disciples to question Jesus was he showing doubt in himself and his ministry or was he demonstrating self-sacrifice?

1.2.2.1. John encouraged his disciples to leave him and follow Jesus. John 1:35-37

1.2.2.2. John was totally free of self-ambition. John 3:30

1.2.2.3. John was in prison while Jesus was active in the ministry. His disciples would have stayed at the prison with him if he hadn't sent them to Jesus.

1.3. The disciples carried out John's assignment and learned from it about Jesus. Luke 7:21-23

1.3.1. Jesus was doing the miracles for which John had prepared his disciples.

1.3.2. Jesus' work testified to who He was (and is).

2. JESUS' TEACHING ON JOHN

2.1. Jesus taught that John was not a reed swayed by the wind. Luke 7:24

2.1.1. Jesus was saying that John was a strong, forceful man of integrity.

2.1.2. John was so bold that he was willing to confront Herod.

2.2. John was not a man dressed in fine clothes. Luke 7:25

2.3. John was more than a prophet. Luke 7:26

2.4. John was the messenger sent to prepare the way for the Messiah to come. Luke 7:27

2.5. John was the greatest among men, according to Jesus. Luke 7:28

2.6. John's ministry gave credibility to Jesus' words. Luke 7:29

2.6.1. People followed Jesus because he spoke well of John. Luke 7:30

3. APPLICATION: WE SHOULD FOLLOW JOHN'S EXAMPLE.

3.1. The disciple-maker trains disciples so they will leave him to do Jesus' ministry.

3.2. The disciple-maker focuses on the ministry of preparing the way for Jesus, not for himself.

3.3. The disciple-maker does not compromise his principles.

3.4. The disciple-maker confronts the sinner when necessary, no matter how highly regarded in society.

3.5. The disciple-maker's ministry speaks well of Jesus, and Jesus speaks well of the disciple-maker's ministry.

3.6. The disciple-maker gives of his life for his disciples.

3.6.1. John was one of the greatest disciple-makers because of what he did for his disciples.

3.6.2. John was one of the greatest disciple-makers because of what Jesus said about him.

4. CHALLENGE:

4.1. Disciple makers must first of all be disciples themselves. We cannot make disciples unless we are ourselves in fact disciples.

4.2. Being a disciple takes discipline and hard work; R. Kent Hughes says in his book Disciplines of a Godly Man, "No discipline no discipleship! No sweat no sainthood!

4.3. The Apostle Paul exhorted his disciple Timothy "Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:7-8

4.4. Paul also wrote, "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training . . . . Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave." 1 Corinthians 9:25-27

4.5. Are we willing to be disciplined, to work hard, to "beat our bodies" to defeat temptation and to live victoriously as Christ's disciples?

The Disciple and the Word [2]

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus knew the Word of God very well and often quoted it and taught from it. Likewise, the true disciple of Jesus should know the Word of God well and should establish his life and ministry upon its precepts.

1. JESUS KNEW THE WORD WELL AND REFERRED TO IT OFTEN AND QUOTED IT OFTEN:

1.1. Even as a young boy of just 12 years of age, Jesus knew the Scriptures well and was able to discuss them with the temple teachers. Luke 2:46-47

1.2. When the devil tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus responded to him by quoting the Word of God. Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

1.3. When the expert in the law tested Jesus with a question about how to inherit eternal life (in Luke 10:25-28) Jesus based His response on the Scriptures, quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.

1.4. It's estimated that Jesus quoted or alluded to the Scriptures 78 times.

2. JESUS' DISCIPLES ALSO KNEW THE SCRIPTURES WELL AND OFTEN QUOTED AND REFERRED TO THEM.

2.1. The New Testament writers included approximately 250 express Old Testament quotations.

2.2. In his letter to the believers in Rome the Apostle Paul included over 80 quotations from the Old Testament Scriptures.

2.3. When Matthew wrote his account of Jesus' life and birth, he included many references to the Old Testament Scriptures. See for example: Matt. 2:6, 2:18 and 3:3.

3. THE SCRIPTURES EXHORT US, GOD'S CHILDREN, TO IMMERSE OURSELVES IN THE WORD OF GOD.

3.1. The Psalms tell us that God's Word is a lamp to guide our feet (our actions, our lives). Ps. 119:105

3.1.1. We find a similar expression in Proverbs. Proverbs 6:23

3.1.2. Peter writes that the word of the prophets are like a light shining in the darkness. 2 Peter 1:19

3.2. We also read in the Psalms that we can keep ourselves pure by living according to the Word. Ps. 119:9

3.3. Knowing God's Word (hiding it in our hearts) helps us resist temptation and sin. Ps. 119:11

3.4. The Bible tells us that God increases our faith when we spend time in the Word. Romans 10:17

4. AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, WE OUGHT TO SIMILARLY IMMERSE OURSELVES IN THE STUDY AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD.

4.1. Every literate disciple should read the Word of God every day. Christians who don't yet read ought to find some way of hearing the Word of God every day or as often as possible.

4.2. Every disciple should "hide the Word of God in their hearts" by memorizing passages that are especially meaningful.

4.3. Following is a list of passages that every disciple should know by heart:

4.3.1. Matthew 24:14
4.3.2. Matthew 28:19-20
4.3.3. Mark 16:15
4.3.4. John 1:12
4.3.5. John 3:3
4.3.6. John 3:16-18
4.3.7. John 14:6
4.3.8. Acts 1:8
4.3.9. Romans 3:23
4.3.10. Romans 5:8
4.3.11. Romans 6:23
4.3.12. Romans 10:9
4.3.13. Romans 12:1
4.3.14. Galatians 5:22-23
4.3.15. Ephesians 6:12
4.3.16. Philippians 4:8
4.3.17. 1 Peter 2:9
4.3.18. 2 Peter 3:11-12
4.3.19. I John 1:9
4.3.20. Micah 6:8

The Disciple and Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

Prayer was (is) very important to Jesus. He spent much time in prayer. Likewise, the true disciple of Jesus should make it a habit to "pray without ceasing." Prayer should be one of the highest priorities in the lives of all disciples.

1. JESUS OFTEN WITHDREW FROM THE CROWDS, AND EVEN FROM HIS DISCIPLES, TO SPEND TIME IN PRAYER:

1.1. Luke 5:16 reads, "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Jesus understood the value of praying and often withdrew to spend time in prayer.

1.2. Luke 6:12 says, "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray ..." Jesus loved to pray outside where He could be alone and quiet in the presence of God and the beauty of nature. Psalm 19:1 reads, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." What better place to commune with our Creator than among the wonders of nature?

1.3. We read in Mark 1:35 that Jesus got up early in the morning, while it was still dark, and went away to a solitary place to pray. Mark 1:35

1.4. Before selecting the 12 apostles, Jesus spent the whole night in prayer. Luke 6:12

2. JESUS ALSO PRAYED IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS.

2.1. Jesus took Peter, John and James up to a mountain to pray together. Luke 9:28

2.2. He taught them to agree in prayer together, and assured them of God's response. Matthew 18:19

3. JESUS PRAYED NOT ONLY FOR HIMSELF BUT FOR OTHERS.

3.1. Jesus prayed for God's blessing upon the children brought to Him. Matthew 19:13-14

3.2. Jesus prayed for Simon Peter. Luke 22:32

3.3. He prayed for His disciples – and for all believers. John 17:9, 20

3.4. Jesus even prayed for those who nailed Him to the cross. Luke 23:34

3.5. Jesus even now continues in prayer, interceding for us before the Father. Hebrews 7:25

4. JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER.

4.1. Jesus taught His disciples to persevere in prayer. Luke 11:5-13; Luke 18:1-5

4.2. Jesus declared that the temple was to be a house of prayer for the nations. Mark 11:17

4.3. He taught His disciples to pray with simple directness, not with vain repetitions. Matthew 6:7

5. JESUS GAVE HIS DISCIPLES (AND US) A MODEL PRAYER. LUKE 11:1-4

5.1. It begins with worship. Luke 11:2

5.2. It continues with supplication for daily needs. Luke 11:3

5.3. It asks for God's forgiveness (and expresses our forgiveness of others). Luke 11:4

5.4. It requests God's strength to overcome temptation. Luke 11:4

6. JESUS PRAYED WITH GREAT PASSION. HEBREWS 5:7

7. WE WHO ARE DISCIPLES OF JESUS SHOULD LIKEWISE COMMIT OURSELVES TO LIVES OF PRAYER:

7.1. The New Testament believers spent much time in prayer together. Acts 1:14

7.2. Psalm 46:10 reads, "Be still, and know that I am God." Sometimes it's important for us to "be still" before God, but the only way to do this, especially in our hectic culture, is to do so alone with God in prayer.

7.3. We are exhorted in the Bible to pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

7.4. We are exhorted to continue earnestly in prayer, with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2

7.5. We are exhorted to let our requests be known to God. Philippians 4:6-7

7.6. We are exhorted to ask God for strength. Ephesians 3:14-16, 20

7.7. We are exhorted to pray and ask God for His leading. Colossians 4:3

7.8. We are exhorted to pray in the Spirit. Ephesians 6:18

7.9. We are exhorted to pray to overcome temptation. Matthew 26:41

7.10. We are exhorted to pray that God will give us wisdom. James 1:5-6

7.11. We are exhorted to pray for others. 1 Timothy 2:1

8. GOD PROMISES TO HEAR AND ANSWER OUR PRAYERS.

8.1. God hears and answers our prayers when we remain in Him and His words remain in us. Jn. 15:7

8.2. God promises to show us great and mighty things when we call on Him. Jeremiah 33:3

8.3. God honors our prayers when we ask in His name. John 14:14

8.4. God answers the prayer of a righteous person. Psalm 24:3-4; 1 John 3:22; James 5:16

The Disciple and his Time

INTRODUCTION:

In the same way that the heart of a disciple of Jesus belongs to God, the disciple's time similarly belongs to God. And just as God redeems our hearts from the penalty of sin and gives us the gift of eternal life, similarly we are to "redeem the time" so that others will also receive God's eternal life.

1. GOD INSTRUCTS US TO "REDEEM THE TIME, FOR THE DAYS ARE EVIL." EPHESIANS 5:15-16

1.1. To redeem the time means that we are to make the most of our time, or to make the most of every opportunity, to bring glory to God and souls to His salvation.

1.2. The days are evil and people are headed to destruction. Unless God's children redeem the time and make the most of every opportunity the lost will perish and God will not be glorified.

2. TO REDEEM SOMETHING MEANS TO PURCHASE IT OUT OF SOMETHING.

2.1. For example, this is the same word used to describe what Christ did for us when he redeemed us from (purchased us out of) the curse of the law. Galatians 3:13 & 4:5

2.2. It is also the same word as used by Paul in his letter to the Colossians, where he admonished them (and us) to redeem the time. Colossians 4:5

2.3. Time is slipping away. Yesterday is already gone; today will soon be no more. Let us use our days for God's glory. Let us redeem the time and seize every opportunity to declare His love and salvation to those around us!

3. THE GREEK WORD USED BY THE APOSTLE PAUL IN THESE PASSAGES IS THE WORD "KAIROS."

3.1. "Kairos" is different from the other Greek word for time, which is "chronos."

3.2. "Chronos" refers to non-specified time, as in the minutes and hours of each day. "Kairos" is the word to speak of a specific, purposeful time. God ordains the "kairos" of our days. We must seize the "kairos" opportunities God gives us to fulfill His purposes and bring glory to His name.

4. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REDEEM THE TIME?

4.1. Redeeming the time doesn't mean doing more, about cramming more and more activities into our schedules. It means doing the right thing(s).

4.2. The Bible tells us what we already know – that life is brief ("but a vapor"). James 4:4

4.3. Moses asked God to help him make the most of the days of his life. Psalm 90:12

4.4. Our time is a resource given by God – entrusted to us to manage well. Just as we are to be good stewards of our money, so also we are to be good stewards of our time.

4.5. The way we spend our time becomes not just a practical matter of maximum effectiveness; it becomes a spiritual decision.

5. HOW CAN JESUS' DISCIPLES BEST REDEEM THE TIME?

5.1. Again, remember that redeeming the time does not mean being busy. It means being purposeful. It means that we invest our time in activities that will bring glory to God and result in spiritual fruit.

5.2. One valuable practice that helps disciples redeem the time is to pray and ask God's guidance every day for prioritizing the use of their time.

5.3. Another valuable practice is to set goals for that day, for the week, the month, etc.

5.3.1. As with the previous suggestion about prioritizing each day, goals should be established only after asking God in prayer for His guidance. Then the disciple should pray for God's help and strength for the accomplishing of these goals.

5.3.2. Following are some examples of godly goals: to begin each day with at least an hour with God; to share the Gospel with at least ___ people every week; to read the Bible through in one year; to plant at least ___ prayer cells in the coming six months; etc.

5.4. Beginning each day with God – spending time in prayer and in the Word – is a powerful way to redeem the time that God gives His disciples each and every day.

5.5. Having a regular schedule – and honoring the schedule – is a valuable tool for redeeming the time given by God to His disciples.

6. GOD WILL REWARD HIS DISCIPLES WHO REDEEM THE TIME FOR HIS GLORY AND FOR HIS PURPOSES.

6.1. He will reward His disciples in this life with purpose, meaning and "abundant life." John 10:10

6.2. He will reward His disciples in heaven with five crowns:

6.2.1. The Everlasting Crown (Victory) 1 Corinthians 9:25

6.2.2. The Crown of Life. James 1:12; Revelations 2:10

6.2.3. The Crown of the Soul Winner 1 Thessalonians 2:19

6.2.4. The Crown of Righteousness 2 Timothy 4:8

6.2.5. The Crown of Glory 1 Peter 5:4

THE DISCIPLE AND HIS HEART

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible tells us that man looks on (sees) outward appearances but God looks at the heart. He sees who we really are. It doesn't matter to God whether we are tall or short, dark or light, good looking or plain. What matters to God is the condition of our hearts. *1 Samuel 16:7*

1. OUR HEART DETERMINES WHO WE ARE; OUR OUTWARD APPEARANCES DETERMINE WHAT WE LOOK LIKE. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT OUR OUTWARD APPEARANCES?

1.1. The Bible says that our beauty shouldn't come from our clothing and outward appearances, but rather from our "inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:3-4

1.2. In Proverbs we read that beauty is fleeting but that a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.Proverbs 31:30

1.3. Nevertheless, as the Bible says, man looks at outward appearances. As ambassadors of Christ it is important that His disciples give at least some attention to their physical appearance and to basic personal hygiene. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:20

2. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE KIND OF HEART GOD WANTS HIS DISCIPLES TO HAVE?

2.1. God wants us to have pure hearts. Psalm 24:3-4; Matthew 5:8

2.2. In Jesus' Parable of the Sower, He said that "the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." Lk. 8:15

2.3. God wants us to have humble hearts. Luke 18:14; James 4:6

2.4. God wants us to have hearts that are filled with His compassion, goodness and gentleness, hearts that are ready to forgive. Colossians 3:12-13

2.5. God sees our hearts. He sees our motives, our thoughts, our imaginations. He wants us to have pure, humble hearts that are filled with His goodness and grace. Galatians 5:22-25

3. HOW CAN JESUS' DISCIPLES HAVE THE KIND OF HEART THAT HE WANTS US TO HAVE?

3.1. We must daily ask God to forgive our sins and to give us a clean heart. Luke 11:4; Psalm 51:10

3.2. Our hearts can be made pure by spending time with God in His Word. John 15:3; John17:17

3.3. Memorizing Gods' Word gives us the kind of heart God wants His disciples to have. Ps. 119:9-11

3.4. Our hearts are made pure by faith. Acts 15:9

3.5. It helps us have pure hearts when we spend time with others who are pure in heart, just as spending time with the wise helps us be wise. Proverbs 13:20

3.6. It helps to fill our minds with healthy, positive thoughts. Philippians 4:8

4. WHAT GOES INTO OUR MOUTHS DOESN'T MAKE US UNCLEAN; IT'S WHAT COMES OUT OF OUR MOUTHS THAT CAN MAKE US UNCLEAN **MATTHEW 15:11, 18**

4.1. The Bible admonishes us to correct each other, to rebuke, when necessary, and to exhort (to speak words of encouragement to) one another. Ephesians 4:29; 2 Timothy 4:2

4.2. Anger, rage, malice, slander, vulgar language and a lying tongue are displeasing to God. Col. 3:8-9

4.3. Jesus said that what's in our heart will find expression in our words. Luke 6:45

5. IN PROVERBS 4:23 WE READ THAT WE ARE TO GUARD OUR HEARTS. WHY MUST WE DO THIS?

5.1. We must guard our heart because it is the wellspring of life. It is the fountain of our attitudes, values, beliefs, aspirations, and pursuits. Proverbs 4:23

5.2. We must do so because the natural inclination of our hearts is to rebel against God. Prov. 19:3

5.3. We must guard our heart because it is prone to wonder from God. Isaiah 53:6

5.4. We must guard our heart because it is deceitful and beyond cure (without God). Jeremiah 17:9

6. HOW CAN WE DEVELOP THE KIND OF HEART GOD WANTS US TO HAVE?

6.1. We can be thankful. Phil. 4:4-8

6.2. We can be connected to God. Matthew 6:9-13

6.3. We can be focused. Hebrews 10:19-25

6.4. We can be ready. Ephesians 6:12-18

6.5. We can be eager to put God first in all things. Matthew 6:33; Deuteronomy 6:5

6.6. We can be loving. Matthew 7:12; Leviticus 19:18

6.7. We can be fruitful. John 15:1-4

The Disciple and his Relationships

INTRODUCTION:

- *Even though it is difficult for us to understand it, God is the Triune God – three Persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – while at the same time one single God.* *Deuteronomy 6:4*
- *The three Persons of the Trinity are in constant healthy relationship. Likewise, Christ's disciples are to live in healthy relationship with others.*

1. DISCIPLES MUST VALUE AND NURTURE THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR WIFE/HUSBAND.

1.1. The Bible instructs wives to submit to their husbands as to the Lord (Ephesians 5:22), and husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her (Eph. 5:25). Eph. 5:22, 25

1.2. Christ demonstrated His love for the Church by dying for her and now by interceding for her. In the same manner husbands must be willing to die for our brides, to take on their sufferings as our own, and to make intercession for her. Romans 8:34

1.3. Remember that the disciple's marriage – as with everything in the disciple's life – is to bring honor and glory to God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

1.4. Christian marriage is an opportunity for disciples to administer God's grace and love to their spouses.Genesis 2:18

1.5. Christian marriage is God's plan for establishing rule over the earth. Genesis 1:27-28

1.6. Christian marriages communicate a message about the Lord Jesus Christ and about His relationship with His church. Marriage is a manifestation of the Gospel, lived out day by day by the husband and the wife.

1.7. As important as anything else, we must spend time with our spouses, time in which we are fully engaged in deep, meaningful communication with him/her. 1 Peter 3:1, 7

2. DISCIPLES MUST VALUE AND NURTURE THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR CHILDREN.

2.1. Ephesians 6:4 gives us a "do" and a "do not" for parents: Do not exasperate your children. Do bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

2.2. Parents can exasperate and provoke their children by being overly critical, overly strict, unnecessarily irritable, by favoring one child over others and even by being inconsistent.

2.3. Parents should demonstrate the character of God in their relationships with their children (as with everyone else). We should be tender and compassionate, just as our Father in heaven.

2.4. And just as God the Father disciplines us, His disciples, we must lovingly discipline our own children when necessary.

2.5. Proverbs 22:6 says to "Train up a child in the way he should go …" The word for "train" is a word that implies teaching along with correction and discipline.

2.6. We need to restrain (the original word means instruct, correct and confront) our children when they sin. In 1 Samuel we read that Eli didn't restrain his sons and they were destroyed by God.

2.7. As important as anything else, we must spend time with our children, time in which we are fully engaged in deep, meaningful communication with them. Luke 1:17

3. DISCIPLES MUST VALUE AND NURTURE THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR FRIENDS.

3.1. God wants and expects His disciples to live in harmony with others. 1 Peter 3:8-9

3.2. Jonathan's friendship with David illustrates for us that true friends have a mutual bonding and love for each other. 1 Samuel 18:1

3.3. Deep, healthy relationships take time to develop and nurture. 1 Samuel 18:2

3.4. Deep, healthy relationships require a mutual commitment to each other, as illustrated, again, by Jonathan and David. 1 Samuel 18:3-4

3.5. Good friends are loyal, and they encourage each other. 1 Samuel 19:4, 23:16

3.6. Good friends are consistent and faithful. Proverbs 17:17

3.7. God wants us to live in unity with other believers. Ephesians 4:1-3

3.8. Augustine said it well: "In essential, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

3.9. The love we disciples have for one another are a testimony to the world that we are of God and sent by God. John 17:20-24

Being a Disciple-Maker (the Mentor-Mentee Relationship)

INTRODUCTION:

- *Barnabas was a model disciple-maker from whose life we can glean many important lessons. He was a mentor to Paul and John Mark.*
- *Let's look at who he was, where he came from, what he was like, and what he did so that we might imitate his godly example.*

1. WHO WAS JOSEPH, CALLED BARNABAS?

1.1. He was a Levite — Acts 4:36
1.2. He was the uncle of John Mark — Colossians 4:10
1.3. He was a teacher and a missionary. — Acts 13:1-2

2. WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

2.1. He came from Cyprus — Acts 4:36
2.2. He lived in Jerusalem — Acts 9:28
2.3. The Church of Jerusalem later sent him to Antioch — Acts 11:22

3. WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

3.1. The apostles called him "The Son of Encouragement" — Acts 4:36
3.2. He was obedient, generous, and selfless. — Acts 4:37
3.3. He was open to the Lord's will; he was not prejudiced. — Acts 9:27
3.4. He was good, full of the Holy Spirit, and of faith. — Acts 11:24
3.5. He was humble, willing to let others take preeminence. For example, early in the book of Acts when we read about Barnabas and Paul, Barnabas' name is always given first. But then in Acts 13:42 we see a dramatic shift when Paul's name is given first. From that point on Paul's name is always given first when the two are mentioned together. Barnabas was willing that Paul be promoted, in effect, to the leadership position, demonstrating his godly humility. — Acts 13: 7, 42

4. WHAT DID HE DO?

4.1. He accepted Saul when the other Christians in Jerusalem mistrusted and rejected him. — Acts 9:27
4.2. He followed Ananias in discipleship, remained with Saul in Jerusalem, and made him a disciple of Jesus Christ. — 9:28
4.3. He encouraged Gentile Christians in Antioch because he saw the grace of God on them. — 11:23
4.4. When he needed help to train believers in Antioch, he went to Tarsus and looked for Saul. — 11:25
4.5. He brought Saul to Antioch and gave him the opportunity to experience and practice ministry for a whole year, meeting with and teaching the first Gentile Christians with him. — 11:26
4.6. He delivered the offering that Antioch sent to the Church in Jerusalem because of the great famine predicted by Ágabus. — 11:28-30
4.7. He preached the Word with Paul in the synagogues of each village during the 1st missionary journey. — 13:5
4.8. He accepted John Mark when Paul mistrusted the latter. — 15:39
4.9. He gave John Mark the opportunity to grow in ministry. — 1 Peter 5:13
4.10. He produced mature men of faith: Paul and John Mark — Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11

CONCLUSION: WE NEED TO STRIVE TO BE MATURE DISCIPLE-MAKERS LIKE BARNABAS, TRAINING AND DISCIPLING OTHERS.

- *We need to actively evangelize non-believers in our area, as Barnabas did in Cyprus.*
- *We need to establish and disciple new believers as Barnabas (and Paul) did in Antioch.*
- *We need to equip future leaders like Paul and John Mark. We should try to always have one or two mentees that we are mentoring to become future leaders in the Church.*
- *We need to expand the ministries of those we equip by promoting them to positions of leadership, even to the point of possibly taking our place in ministry, just as Barnabas stepped back and enabled Paul to step forward.*

Discipleship through Small Groups

INTRODUCTION:

One of the best ways to disciple others – and to grow together in faith – is to meet together on a regular basis, at least once per week, in small groups to pray, study the Word and to exhort and encourage one another. The next eleven lessons consider how to organize and lead small Bible-study and prayer groups.

1. WE SEE GOD USING SMALL GROUPS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT TO TRAIN AND DISCIPLE HIS PEOPLE.

1.1. When Moses was leading God's people out of captivity in Egypt, his father-in-law Jethro suggested that he divide the people into groups of tens, fifties, hundreds, and thousands, with leaders over each group to share the burden of judging and leading them. Exodus 18

1.1.1. The divisions helped Moses and the other leaders take better care of the people.

1.1.2. As God brought the people out of Egypt, He wanted to cleanse His people of the customs and false religious beliefs of Egypt. For 40 years while the people wandered in the wilderness, God taught and led them through this small-group system.

1.2. The home (a type of small group) was the center of religious instruction.

1.2.1. The Passover Feast was held in the household. Exodus 12:3-29

1.2.2. The people of Israel were taught to teach their religions beliefs to their children in their homes. Deuteronomy 6:5-9

NOTE: *The people also gathered in large assemblies to hear the Word of God. A combination of small and large group teaching seems to have met the needs of the Israelites. Leviticus 8:3; Number 1:18; Joshua 18:18*

2. NEW TESTAMENT SMALL GROUPS

2.1. Jesus lived with and taught a small group of 12. Luke 6:12-16

2.1.1. Jesus made optimal use of the small group as an effective educational setting to help his disciples grow.

2.1.2. Within the group of 12, Jesus ministered more intimately to three. Matthew 17:1

2.2. The Early Church's small groups

2.2.1. Home gatherings, as small groups, are continually in the New Testament.

2.2.2. The disciples put into practice what they had learned in the small group with Jesus. After Peter's Pentecost sermon, the church grew explosively from 120 people (Acts 1:15) to 3000 (Acts 2:41). Acts 2:42-46 describes a two-pronged pattern of believers gathering in both large group meetings and in small home groups.

2.2.3. The small home groups complemented the large group meetings held in the temple courts. The two formats were not competing.

2.2.4. A wind filled the whole house where they were sitting. Acts 2:2

2.2.5. They broke bread in their homes. Acts 2:46

2.2.6. They never stopped teaching from house to house. Acts 5:42

2.2.7. Peter brought the message to the Gentiles for the first time in the home of Cornelius. Acts 10:22-24

2.2.8. Many people had gathered and were praying in a house. Acts 12:12

2.2.9. Paul taught from house to house. Acts 20:20

2.2.10. Paul stayed in his house and welcomed all who came to him. Acts 28:30

2.2.11. The Church met at the house of Priscilla and Aquila. Romans 16:5, 1 Corinthians 16:19

2.2.12. The Church met at the house of Nympha. Colossians 4:15

2.2.13. The Church met at the house of Apphia. Philemon 1:2

Jesus' Small Group of Disciples – Part 1 [3]

INTRODUCTION:

The master disciple-maker was Jesus. He progressively built His ministry around a small group of disciples. The following two lessons present nine powerful principles of discipleship, modeled by Jesus.

3. INCARNATION: THE CREATOR GOD OF THE WHOLE UNIVERSE BECAME A MAN AND TOOK UPON HIMSELF THE ROLE OF A SERVANT. SUCH A PERSON WILL NEVER LACK OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE DISCIPLES. JOHN 1:1, 14

3.1. Jesus did the opposite of what people would do. People almost always try to exalt themselves to gain as much power, comfort, security and fame as possible. Jesus left all that to come to this world as a helpless baby. Philippians 2:6-7

3.2. Not only did Jesus – the King and Creator of the whole universe – come to this world as a baby but He humbled Himself as a lowly servant, washing His disciples' feet. John 13:1-16

3.3. Christ's disciples must be willing to serve others, as Jesus served His disciples. Mt. 20:16

4. SELECTION: AS JESUS MINISTERED TO THE CROWDS, HE INCREASINGLY FOCUSED ON TEACHING AND WORKING WITH A SELECT GROUP OF DISCIPLES. LUKE 6:13

4.1. Jesus chose men who were teachable and available to follow Him. He did not focus on their outward qualifications (wealth, education, social status, etc).

4.1.1. Two of the men he chose had been followers of John the Baptist.

4.1.2. Jesus began His evangelism by saying: "Come, follow me." Matthew 4:19

4.1.3. When Nathaniel was skeptical, Philip didn't force it. He simply brought him to Jesus.

4.2. Jesus did not begin with the religious leaders. Jerusalem had 20,000 temple leaders, but not one is known to have become a Christ-follower until Acts 6.

4.3. In the end, about 500 people believed in Him. But within the 500 were the 70 whom Jesus sent out; and within the 70 were the 12 Apostles; within the 12 were the 3 with whom He was especially close.

4.4. Some suggestions for selection of our small group:

4.4.1. We too must focus our ministries on a select number of "disciples," even as we continue to minister to larger numbers as well.

4.4.2. A few such learners are within our midst. Concentrate on a few.

4.4.3. Get specific and practical: Look for learners, pray for workers.

4.4.4. Look for FAT candidates (Faithful, Able, Teachable).

4.5. Small groups offer a positive learning experience because there is often more opportunity for everyone to participate in a small group than in a bigger group.

4.5.1. Working with small groups provides the time to focus on developing the gifts and talents of a few.

4.5.2. A church with a big church staff is not necessarily the most effective in discipleship.

5. ASSOCIATION: JESUS STAYED WITH HIS DISCIPLES. (HE WAS SELDOM ALONE, EXCEPT TO PRAY.)

5.1. We dare not neglect this principle of discipleship training: Spend time (associate) with your disciples.

5.2. Disciples are made, not born. Build people by being with them. Matthew 28:20

5.3. Don't lose any time; spend time together, eating meals, traveling, visiting the sick, anywhere.

5.4. As disciples of Christ, we must spend time with Him (vertical relationship) and with others (horizontal relationships), especially our disciples.

5.5. It shouldn't be forgotten that our closest disciples are our own family members. A disciple of Christ must not neglect spending quality time with his own wife and children.

6. COMMITMENT: OBEDIENCE IS THE WAY TO CONSECRATION. TO OBEY IS TO LEARN. IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP ON LEARNING. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHARACTER AND PURPOSE COMES FROM OBEDIENCE.

6.1. Jesus expected obedience and loyalty from those He called in His group: "Follow me." Matthew 9:9

6.2. One cannot be a leader without first being a follower; Jesus' obeyed His Father above all else.

6.3. We must also stress obedience at any cost. We must adjust our schedules to Him and His plan, not the reverse. We must cease to be complacent about the commands of Christ.

7. IMPARTATION: JESUS GAVE HIS SPIRIT TO INDWELL AND EQUIP DISCIPLES. JOHN 20:22; ACTS 2:1-4

7.1. As Christ's disciples, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit. John 14:16

7.2. As we are filled with the Spirit we can model the Spirit-filled life for our disciples.

7.3. Only as we are filled with Christ and His Spirit will we be properly motivated. Only then will we possess the power to do His will and to make Him known. Only then will we demonstrate the self-sacrificing spirit needed for ministry and for discipling.

Jesus' Small Group of Disciples – Part 2

8. DEMONSTRATION: DISCIPLES NEED TO MODEL THE LIFE OF CHRIST. JOHN 13:15

8.1. Jesus showed His disciples how to live and minister. The disciples observed in Him the life they were to live and teach. Every situation and encounter became a teaching opportunity.

8.1.1. For example, seeing Jesus praying provoked the disciples to ask Him to teach them how to pray. Luke 11:1

8.1.2. The disciples were impressed with His knowledge of the Scriptures; as Jesus taught, they saw the Scriptures fulfilled in His life.

8.1.3. Jesus' social concerns surfaced in His preaching about the coming of God's kingdom.

8.2. The disciples watched Jesus as He won others to Himself. For example: Jesus gives us an evangelistic model in his response to Zaccheus: Luke 19:1-10

8.2.1. Jesus was alert to Zaccheus' interest: "Jesus looked up and saw him."

8.2.2. Jesus invited him to Himself: "Come down."

8.2.3. Jesus was ready to spend time with him: "I want to go home with you."

8.2.4. Jesus expressed His love: "The Son of man has come to save that which was lost."

8.3. We must demonstrate discipleship through our life. We must be with those whom we want to lead. We must:

8.3.1. pray with them,

8.3.2. help them study the Scriptures,

8.3.3. take them evangelizing and on pastoral visits,

8.3.4. let them see our faults and weaknesses; many learn more from failure than success.

9. DELEGATION: JESUS GAVE THEM SOMETHING TO DO. GIVING PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS IS THE BEST TRAINING. HE NEVER LOST SIGHT THAT HE WAS TRAINING THEM FOR THE MINISTRY. MATHEW 4:19

9.1. In the first year with Jesus, the disciples did little more than observe Him. But as He instructed them He progressively gave them more to do.

9.2. He sent them on their mission two by two.

9.3. We must follow Jesus' example by involving our disciples in ministry:

9.3.1. Give them specific work assignments leading to direct involvement.

9.3.2. Teach and train while you are ministering together.

9.3.3. Help them learn to exercise their spiritual gifts.

10. SUPERVISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY: JESUS KEPT IN TOUCH WITH AND OBSERVED HIS DISCIPLES.

10.1. He was constantly aware of their thinking and their actions. Mk. 8:17

10.2. He gathered them after their outreach excursion to hear their ministry reports. Luke 10:17-20

10.3. Jesus rejoiced in the effective ministry of His disciples.

10.4. He taught them the right reason for their rejoicing: "because your name is written in the book of life;" that is what matters.

10.5. We must keep watch on our disciples. For example, we must continually remind them:

10.5.1. They were not to rejoice based on their earthly circumstances, their situation, but instead that they were God's children—and His servants and disciples.

10.5.2. They were to beware of the sin of self-pity when things were difficult.

10.5.3. They were to remember that it does not matter if others don't appreciate our labor. God sees; we must work for the day when He tells us "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

10.6. Prayer was uppermost in Jesus' mind for providing them the right supervision: John 17

10.6.1. He prayed for the disciples to be protected so that they may be one. Jn. 17:11

10.6.2. He prayed that they would have the full measure of joy. Jn. 17:13

10.6.3. He prayed that they would be protected from the evil one. Jn. 17:15

10.6.4. He prayed that they would be sanctified. Jn. 17:17

11. REPRODUCTION: JESUS WANTED HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY TO BE REPRODUCED IN AND THROUGH HIS DISCIPLES, AND INTO THE LIVES OF OTHERS. MULTIPLICATION WAS THE ULTIMATE END.

11.1. Jesus admonishes and expects His disciples to have fruitful lives. Jn. 15:16

11.2. Jesus expects His disciples not only to reproduce, but also to multiply.

11.3. We must transmit the vision of reproduction and multiplication into our group. Making disciples into disciple-makers should be our goal.

11.4. The big question should be: "Is our fruit bearing fruit?" We're not asking only about the number of new believers, but also if those being won are winning others.

11.5. There are certainly special calls and special gifts, but all must bear responsibility for spiritual reproduction. Mt. 28:20

The Disciple's Ultimate Purpose in Life

INTRODUCTION:

God has given us life so that we might fulfill His ultimate purpose for us. What is that purpose? It is to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. How does that purpose relate to the way we live? God's ultimate purpose for us should shape the way we worship and serve Him together. *Mt. 22:37-39*

1. SOME WORSHIP GROUPS ARE VERY INFORMAL AND PERSONAL.

1.1. There is little structure and the leaders maintain a relaxed style.

1.2. There's an emphasis on the group itself, and on building up the believers in the group.

2. SOME GROUPS ARE MORE FORMAL AND TASK-ORIENTED.

2.1. There's a formal structure and the leadership is more directive. Ministries are more structured.

2.2. Pre-determined purposes are well defined and there's a specific agenda with no surprises.

3. REGARDLESS OF THE STYLE, EACH GROUP MUST ASK ITSELF HOW IT CAN BEST DETERMINE AND FULFILL GOD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE FOR HIS CHILDREN, WHICH IS LOVING GOD. MT. 22:37-38

3.1. **Fulfilling our ultimate purpose:** How can each group of disciples (every small group) best fulfill God's command that His children love Him with all their heart, soul and mind?

3.2. **Nature of persons:** What kind of people are in the small group? Are they highly educated or generally uneducated? Are they urban or rural? Are they generally old or young? Every kind of person has different kinds of special gifts and abilities. How can their particular gifts, strengths and abilities best serve the kingdom of God?

3.3. **Group aims:** Are the group's aims in line with God's ultimate purpose for our lives and with the nature of the believers in the group?

3.4. **Group methods:** Which methods will likely best accomplish the aims of the group?

3.5. **Practical implications:** What are the practical implications of our understanding about group methods and aims?

4. ONCE THE GROUP HAS DEFINED HOW THEY CAN FULFILL GOD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE, THEY MUST ASK HOW THEY CAN BEST FULFILL GOD'S SECOND PURPOSE, WHICH IS LOVING THEIR NEIGHBORS AS THEMSELVES. MT. 22:39

4.1. Looking within the group:

4.1.1. Are the members of the group growing in their faith and in their love for God and for others?

4.1.2. Are they growing in their ministry skills and in the fruitful use of their spiritual gifts?

4.1.3. Is there an atmosphere of caring and openness among the believers?

4.2. Looking beyond (outside) the group:

4.2.1. Is the group growing numerically?

4.2.2. Are more disciples being recruited, trained and sent out?

5. THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE

5.1. Our ultimate purpose is to <u>love</u> the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and strength. Dt. 6:5

5.2. Whether we eat or drink, whatever we do, do all to the <u>glory</u> of God. 1 Cor. 10:31

5.3. We are to count all things as loss but for the excellence of the <u>knowledge</u> of Christ. Phil. 3:8

5.4. We are to <u>worship</u> the Lord in the beauty of His holiness. 1 Chr. 16:29

5.5. Let everything that has breath <u>praise</u> the Lord. Ps.150:6

6. QUESTIONS

6.1. Think about your small group experiences. Did the groups have a purpose? What was it?

6.2. What groups do you know that were not guided by the ultimate purpose – loving God. What did they see as their purpose?

6.3. If you are in a small group now, how is it contributing to your ultimate purpose for living? If it isn't, how could you help to clarify its purpose?

Benefits of Small Group Discipleship

INTRODUCTION:

The Great Commission commands us to make disciples. We do this by evangelizing, by teaching, by correcting when necessary, and by establishing new churches in which to receive and nurture the ever-growing number of new believers. Working with and discipling a small of believers can be a greatly-blessed and beneficial investment of our time.

1. SMALL GROUPS FACILITATE SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

1.1. God created us to thrive in community; small groups help us "fan the flames" of God's Spirit.
1.2. Being in a small group is hardly optional; people belong to small groups of all kinds.
1.3. It makes sense to have a small group that studies the Bible and to make a commitment to a group whose goal is growing in Christ.
1.4. Our spiritual gifts often lie dormant and are not used in large groups. They have more opportunity for use and development in small groups.
1.5. In most churches, people don't have an opportunity to discuss their real concerns; small groups offer this opportunity.

2. SMALL GROUPS FACILITATE A SENSE OF BELONGING.

2.1. We find ourselves drawn to groups where we can establish healthy relationships.
2.2. A small group is where you are missed if you don't come.
2.3. Our modern society is dehumanizing and contributes to a growing sense of alienation; healthy small groups can meet a growing hunger for belonging.

3. SMALL GROUPS FACILITATE ENCOURAGEMENT OF BELIEVERS IN THEIR CHRISTIAN WALK.

3.1. John Wesley wrote the following about encouragement in small-groups fellowship:

"Many now happily experienced that Christian fellowship which they had not so much an idea before. They began to 'bear one another's burdens' and naturally to 'care for each other.' As they had daily a more intimate acquaintance with each other, so they had a more endeared affection for each other."

3.2. The small group is like a family unit, caring for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

4. SMALL GROUPS FACILITATE APPLICATION OF THE WORD OF GOD TO INDIVIDUALS' LIVES.

4.1. The application of Scripture is specific and individual in the small group, while in the sanctuary, application is general and there is little feedback.
4.2. Small groups encourage believers to read and study their Bibles. Further, they offer the opportunity for illiterates to hear the reading of the Word and to participate in discussion about the application of its truths to their daily lives.

5. SMALL GROUPS FACILITATE PERSONAL INTERACTION BETWEEN BELIEVERS.

5.1. Small groups are more personal; the whole family gets involved. The focus becomes person-to-person; people look at each other face-to-face and trust grows. Prob. 27:17
5.2. Small groups provide settings where sustained, personal interaction can take place.
5.3. Large groups cannot give answers to questions; small groups "scratch where it itches."

6. SMALL GROUPS FACILITATE OUTREACH.

6.1. Whether meeting in homes, a classroom, in a shop or office, etc., small groups meet in more familiar, "neutral" non-threatening places; many unbelievers are far more likely to come to such a place than to a church building.
6.2. People who would never go to a church building are more likely accept an invitation to your home.
6.3. Small groups offer <u>continuing</u> exposure to Christianity in the neighborhood.
6.4. Believers in small groups help each other witness; the interaction between believers and non-believers brings issues into focus.

7. QUESTIONS:

7.1. Has there been a time when you tried to walk alone without the help of other believers?
7.2. Describe a time when the help of other Christians has been a means of grace to you.
7.3. Identify some of the markers in your life when you have experienced significant spiritual growth. Did other believers have a part in that growth?
7.4. Does your small group provide benefits described here? If not, what can you do?
7.5. What pitfalls have you experienced in small groups?
7.6. What safeguards can help you to avoid these in the future?

Small Group Participants

INTRODUCTION:

The way we think about others will determine how we minister to them. As we consider how to best train and form disciples we need to have a biblical and godly attitude about those with whom we work.

1. WHAT IS MAN'S NATURE? THERE IS BOTH GOODNESS AND EVIL.

1.1. Man is basically good; we are created in the image of God Gen. 1:27

1.1.1. Recent trends in psychology argue for man's goodness. (For example, even an unbeliever is capable of sacrificing his life to save the life of a child.)

1.1.2. God's image in man gives man a degree of basic goodness, love, and harmony.

1.2. But though man is basically good, he is at the same time intrinsically sinful. Rom. 7:18

1.2.1. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, all men fell from grace.

1.2.2. Apart from God's Spirit, man is capable of losing all internal moral standards.

1.2.3. Apart from God's Spirit, man is capable of awful acts of injustice and inhumanity.

2. WHAT WILL OUR ATTITUDE BE ABOUT PEOPLE'S BASIC NATURE AS WE DISCIPLE OTHERS?

2.1. If we see men and women as created in the image of God:

2.1.1. We can assume that goodness will manifest itself in their lives if they are nurtured and given the right conditions, for they have direct access to God Himself for strength and guidance for their daily lives. 1 Peter 2:5, 9

2.1.2. We can anticipate that the Spirit of God in His disciples will grant wisdom and grace to His disciples in your spiritual care.

2.1.3. We can expect God's children to walk as ambassadors of the King of kings, and to grow in the grace of God. 2 Corinthians 5:20

2.1.4. But we should never ignore the power of sin, lest the group fall prey to faulty beliefs and/or false doctrine, nor should we hesitate to give guidance and direction when needed.

2.2. On the other hand, if we see men and women principally as fallen from grace:

2.2.1. We may incorrectly judge the believer to be unable to understand or apply Scripture.

2.2.2. We may unjustly feel a need to tightly control the group with rewards and punishments.

2.2.3. We may focus inordinately on the training of outward behavior rather than on the inner (spiritual) development of the believers.

2.2.4. We may impose a controlled curriculum on small groups.

2.2.5. We may value a lecture by an "expert" more highly than the insights of a group.

2.2.6. We may wrongly conclude that the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers has little relevance.

2.2.7. We may insist on excessive rules of behavior for Church people (legalism).

2.2.8. We may become overly preoccupied with whether or not those in our small groups are obeying all the rules that we establish.

3. WHAT ARE THE BASIC NEEDS OF BELIEVERS IN THE FLOCK?

3.1. They need to be taught the truth about God and about themselves:

3.1.1. We are fallen and selfish. Rom. 3:23

3.1.2. We have the potential to be like Christ. Eph. 4:13

3.1.3. Through God's redemption He makes bad people good. Rev. 5:9

3.1.4. God uses believers, as imperfect as we are, to fulfill His purposes and to bring glory to Him. Rom. 15:6

3.2. They need to be taught that they can trust the Bible, the Word of God.

3.2.1. The Bible is the only authoritative teaching about God and His creation.

3.2.2. God's truth in His Word never contradicts itself, nor does it contradict His truth in His world. (All truth is God's truth.)

4. QUESTIONS:

4.1. What implications do the creation and fall have for us in the understanding of our nature? (see point 1.2)

4.2. What might these implications mean for small group practice? (see points 2.1 and 2.2).

4.3. As you observe groups of different ages, what are their differing abilities and relative strengths?

4.4. If growth takes place through social interaction, how can small groups be effective promoters of growth?

Small Group Aims

INTRODUCTION:

The most important aim of believers – and therefore of small groups as well – is to love God and to glorify Him forever. "Keeping the main thing the main thing" will help give direction and purpose to small groups as they meet and grow in Christ together. *Matt. 22:37-38*

1. THE ULTIMATE, HIGHEST AIM OF GOD'S CHILDREN IS TO LOVE AND GLORIFY THE FATHER.

1.1. Making disciples is a secondary aim of small groups.

1.1.1. Jesus told us to make disciples, but don't forget that the first and greatest commandment is to love God (and to glorify Him forever).

1.1.2. Our goal in ministry must be to love God and to help others to love God more fully.

1.2. Relationships are not the primary aim. Mt. 22:39

1.2.1. Loving others is important, and our Christian unity demonstrates God's love to unbelievers. But never forget that loving others is the second command, not the first.

1.2.2. Disciples need loving, caring relationships in order to survive the perils of the spiritual road. Therefore, our Christian fellowship must be active and goal oriented.

1.2.3. We must care deeply about those who don't follow the King, but our first love and desire must be for God.

1.3. Study of the Word is not the ultimate goal.

1.3.1. Just as travelers study a map in order to determine which direction to go to reach their destination; disciples study the Word of God in order to reach heaven.

1.3.2. We study the Word in small groups, with the aim of helping disciples make progress toward the primary goal of loving God.

1.4. Don't be misled by other goals and tasks which, while important, are still only secondary to the primary aim of loving God:

1.4.1. Evangelism, discipleship, church growth, and social actions are all important but we must not let any of these distract us from the ultimate aim of loving God.

1.4.2. Ministry efficiency and fruitfulness are sometimes trumpeted by "management experts," but these too are only secondary goals.

2. GROUP AIMS

2.1. Our most important goal in our leadership of small groups should be to help disciples learn to love God more and more and to glorify Him forever.

2.2. A secondary aim is to build a sense of community among the members.

2.2.1. Small group members must learn to put kingdom goals ahead of their own self-seeking aspirations of personal gain.

2.2.2. As believers bond together in Christian community, they help and encourage each other to reach their goals and dreams.

3. INDIVIDUAL AIMS

3.1. As disciples grow in Christian maturity and holiness, they gradually learn to overcome the temptations of this world.

3.2. As disciples grow in Christian maturity and holiness, the Spirit of God in them gradually produces His fruit in their lives. Gal. 5:22-23

3.3. Disciples become more and more like Christ as they crucify the sinful nature. Gal. 2:20

3.4. Disciples must be equipped to defend themselves against the Evil One.

3.5. Disciples are working behind enemy lines seeking to reclaim land for the coming King.

3.6. They exhort and encourage other disciples to join them.

Small Group Activities

INTRODUCTION:

So far we've studied the nature of small groups in the Bible, the way Jesus worked primarily with a small group, how God's ultimate purpose for His children should shape our small groups, and what our thinking should be about those with whom we work in small groups. In today's lesson we'll study the kinds of activities we should try to develop in and through our small groups.

1. ONCE AGAIN, REMEMBER THAT THE FIRST, MOST IMPORTANT COMMAND FOR GOD'S CHILDREN IS TO FIRST LOVE GOD, THEN TO LOVE OTHERS.

1.1. Jesus said all the commandments could be summarized in these two commands. Mt. 22:37, 39
1.2. Without love, disciples cannot survive the trials and challenges of this world.
1.3. Small groups are ideal settings for developing, practicing and demonstrating godly love.
1.4. Disciples in groups don't have uniforms, pins, distinguishing hairstyles, or special handshakes. Their distinguishing characteristic is love: This is not just "fellowship;" this is Jesus' love.
1.5. This is love that motivates members to sacrifice, to take up their cross, to reach out to the lost, to look out for each other.
1.6. Love is central to God's children; without it, all efforts are vain. The most important activities of small groups should be activities that express this godly love to one another. 1 Cor. 13:1

2. THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY OF SMALL GROUPS IS TO STUDY THE BIBLE.

2.1. Without Bible study, disciples lose their way. 119:105
2.2. Our first discipline for knowing God is Bible study; Paul praised the Bereans for this. Acts 17:11
2.3. We meet together as equals around the Word; the Bible should guide every group meeting.
2.4. It does not need to dominate every group, but it does need to be a part of every group.

3. THE THIRD ACTIVITY FOR SMALL GROUPS IS TO TALK TO GOD IN PRAYER.

3.1. Through prayer, disciples have access to God's supernatural assistance. John 15:7
3.2. Our wishes cannot produce results; our prayers can. A wish is a pebble thrown by a child; a prayer is a rocket launched. Matthew 7:7-8
3.3. We do not pray only for our needs, but we make our requests known. Thanksgiving is commanded: There are blessings and victories through answers to prayer. Phil. 4:6
3.4. Disciples cannot fight alone; we must ask God for His supernatural help. Eph. 6:10-18
3.5. Disciples realize that God asks them to do difficult things when they start to obey. But as we trust in God and abide in Him in prayer He gives us the strength to do His will. Phil. 4:13
3.6. Giving praise to God in prayer is a healthy dimension for every small group as we meditate on God's character and qualities.
3.7. Small groups are workshops for prayer, where we practice and learn a life of prayer.

4. THE FOURTH ACTIVITY OF SMALL GROUPS IS TO POINT OTHERS TO CHRIST.

4.1. Without evangelism, disciples become self-centered and fall short of God's plan.
4.2. The normal tendency in small groups is to become inward-looking, to be concerned about each other, to the exclusion of those outside the group.
4.3. The normal tendency is to ignore the command God has given to be light and salt to the world. Matt. 5:13-16
4.4. Evangelism grows out of a genuine love for lost people. Every group should be concerned about the lost as we reconcile them with God. 2 Cor. 5:18
4.5. Not every one needs to be directly involved in evangelism. Some need to pray, others give money, others give their time, for evangelism and missions.
4.6. Service and outreach will contribute to the spread of God's kingdom on the earth.
4.7. Witnessing strengthens each member's personal walk with God, giving new vitality and balance to the group, and enhances the unity of the group.

5. QUESTIONS

5.1. How is group prayer and Bible study different from individual prayer and study?
5.2. Have you experienced any tensions between personal goals and group goals? If so, how did you resolve the tension?
5.3. Think about the health of your small group. Does it include the four aims that characterize a healthy group? If not, what can you do to encourage a healthy balance?

Where Small Group Discipleship can Take Place

INTRODUCTION:

The Great Commission commands us to make disciples. We do this by evangelizing, by teaching, by correcting when necessary, and by establishing new worship groups and churches in which to receive and nurture the ever-growing number of new believers. Where can these groups meet?

1. THE PROCESS OF DISCIPLESHIP TAKES PLACE WHEREVER BELIEVERS GATHER.

1.1. Discipleship in the New Testament often took place at a worship or religious center:

- 1.1.1. In the temple at Jerusalem — Acts 2:46
- 1.1.2. In Solomon's Place — Acts 5:12
- 1.1.3. In synagogues (at Thesalonica and elsewhere), until the believers were chased out by unbelieving Jews. — Acts 17:1-2
- 1.1.4. In the upper room (at Troas) — Ac. 20:7-8

1.2. Far more often in the New Testament, discipleship took place in homes. We see the following elements of discipleship taking place in homes:

- 1.2.1. Breaking bread (which refers to the practice of Holy Communion) — Ac. 2:46
- 1.2.2. House meetings — Ac. 5:42
- 1.2.3. The miracle at Ananias' home — Ac. 9:17-19
- 1.2.4. The conversion of a Roman citizen — Ac. 10:22-23
- 1.2.5. The prayer meeting at Mary's home — Ac. 12:12
- 1.2.6. The conversion of the jailor — Ac. 16:30-34
- 1.2.7. Breaking bread (Communion) and proclamation (preaching and teaching) of the Word in the upper room of what was most likely a house in Troas. — Ac. 20:8
- 1.2.8. Preaching and teaching at Paul's home — Ac. 28:30
- 1.2.9. Church in the home of Pricilla and Aquila — 1 Cor. 16:19
- 1.2.10. Church in the home of Nympha — Col. 4:15
- 1.2.11. Church in the home of Apphia — Philemon 2

2. THERE ARE MANY ADVANTAGES (AND SOME DISADVANTAGES) IN HOME MEETINGS.

2.1. There is more freedom in home meetings than in the temple, with more opportunity for exchanges of ideas.

2.2. Families are less fragmented in home meetings than often in the temple.

2.3. Neighbors are often more attracted to home meetings, and the meetings are more accessible to them, than the temple.

2.4. More lay believers can be trained and mobilized for ministry—and for the development of their spiritual gifts—by worshiping and meeting in homes.

2.5. Financial benefit: meeting in homes is far less expensive than the cost of purchasing land and building church buildings. And relying on lay leadership is far less expensive than paying salaries of pastors and other church staff.

2.6. A disadvantage is that incorrect doctrines can spread unchecked in home meetings. (This possible weakness is countered by providing regular teaching and training to the lay leaders of the home groups.)

2.7. A second disadvantage is that home meetings can occasionally lead to a splintering of the Christian community as different home groups lose contact with those in other home groups. (This possible disadvantage is countered by scheduling occasional services and events in which all the believers of the different house churches come together in one place to worship and celebrate their faith and love for God.)

3. CONCLUSION

3.1. The edifice is spiritual, not material, with no accent on a building. — Jn.4:21-24

3.2. God's children are the temple of God, regardless of what kind of building we meet in. — I Cor. 6:19

3.3. The primary Christian meeting place in the New Testament was the home.

3.4. We need to emulate this Biblical model in our worship and discipleship today. We would do well to use our homes for Bible studies, for preaching the Word, for prayer meetings, and for breaking bread (Holy Communion) together.

Leadership Styles for Small Groups

INTRODUCTION:

Some leaders speak loudly, others speak with a soft, quiet voice. Some are very energetic, others are calm. God and our environment have made us each differently. Our different styles and personalities will naturally impact our leadership style. Regardless of our style, we are to be godly in our leadership.

1. DIFFERENT LEADERS HAVE DIFFERENT LEADERSHIP STYLES.

1.1. A balanced leadership style must be adopted.
- 1.1.1. Some leaders are too authoritarian. (They exercise too much control.)
- 1.1.2. Some are too "laissez-faire." (They don't exercise enough control.)

1.2. A balanced ministry priority must be determined.
- 1.2.1. Some groups are too task-oriented. (They are "all work, no play.")
- 1.2.2. Some groups over-emphasize the building of relationships. (These people love to get together and encourage one-another, but there's too little Bible study and prayer.)

1.3. The group focus must be balanced.
- 1.3.1. In some groups there isn't enough unity; individuals come and go and share nothing in common except the small group.
- 1.3.2. Some groups are overly-close, to the exclusion of any others. They have no friends outside the group and don't welcome new members into the group.

2. ALL CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO BE LEADERS IN SOME AREA(S).

2.1. All believers have spiritual gifts and are responsible to practice leadership in their area(s) of spiritual gifting. Eph. 4:7-13
- 2.1.1. All believers are called to take the lead in using their gifts for the common good.
- 2.1.2. No believer in the group should be without a ministry responsibility.

2.2. Influence – good or bad – is a form of leadership. We all influence others in some way.

2.3. God calls his children a "holy and royal priesthood." As priests, all believers are to lead others into healthy relationship with God. I Peter 2:9
- 2.3.1. Believers don't have to be ordained leaders to approach God and serve others.
- 2.3.2. Each disciple has the responsibility to warn, encourage, and strengthen other disciples.
- 2.3.3. Each member must be on the alert for ways to help others.

2.4. Certain believers have a special spiritual gift of leadership. Rom. 12:8

2.5. Designated leaders may have special organizational responsibilities.

2.6. Disciples don't blindly follow a leader, lest they be fooled by a false prophet. 1 John 4:1

2.7. No disciple can be excused for wandering; all are accountable for their own actions to God.

3. CHRISTIAN LEADERS ARE TO BE SERVANT-LEADERS.

3.1. Christian leaders are not bosses. Rather, they are servant leaders. Leadership among God's people is not to be modeled after the world's patterns. Luke 22:26

3.2. We ought to follow Jesus' leadership style. His teaching and leading was especially compelling because He led by example. (He modeled what He taught.)
- 3.2.1. He taught the importance of prayer by praying regularly Himself.
- 3.2.2. He taught servant-leadership by washing the disciples' feet.

3.3. The 'Good Shepherd' leader knows and calls those of his flock by name. Jn. 10:3

3.4. The 'Good Shepherd' never drives His sheep with a whip; the sheep follow voluntarily. Mt. 20:28

4. TEACHING IN THE WORD ABOUT LEADERSHIP:

4.1. The home of the leader was to be a model of leadership. 1 Tim. 3:1-3

4.2. Elders were to <u>model</u> hospitality in their homes. I Tim. 3:2

4.3. N.T. leaders were to have an ability to teach. 1 Tim.3:2

4.4. Leaders hold firmly to good doctrine. Titus 1:9

5. LEADERSHIP ROLE AND SPIRITUAL VISION:

5.1. Leaders have a vision for their group; disciples want a sense of direction and destination.

5.2. Leaders are concerned with the believers' inner character, not just short-term activity.

5.3. Leaders have a vision for eternal goals: Important things in life are not measurable; 2Co. 4:17

6. QUESTIONS

6.1. What kind of leadership styles have you observed in groups you have been a part of?

6.2. How did these help or hinder the growth of group members?

6.3. What is your role in your small group? How does your role benefit the group?

6.4. Do you agree that all Christians are leaders?

6.5. How are you taking initiative to help others in the group?

6.6. How might the doctrine of "the priesthood of all believers" impact your group?

The Value of Group Bible Study

INTRODUCTION:

This lesson explains why studying the Bible is so very, very beneficial, valuable and important.

1. THE BIBLE IS GOD-BREATHED AND USEFUL FOR APPLICATION TO OUR LIVES.

1.1. God instructs His children in His Word. 2 Tim. 3:16

1.2. God's character is revealed in Scripture, teaching us how to live.

1.2.1. God's character is especially evident in the Ten Commandments.

1.2.2. God's character is also evident in His terrible wrath over sin and injustice.

1.2.3. His character is also evident through His unending patience and love for His children.

1.3. Learning God's Word helps us resist temptation to sin. Psalm 119:11

2. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S TRUTH AND CONTAINS NO ERRORS.

2.1. Disciples study the Word to know and apply God's truth to their lives.

2.2. Disciples study to understand experiences and to gain insights for life ahead.

2.3. The Good News of God's love and salvation is contrasted with the bad news of our sin.

3. AS WE STUDY GOD'S WORD IN GROUPS, WE CAN TOGETHER APPLY THE SCRIPTURES TO THE NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP.

3.1. The task is to discover the link between what God says and the needs in our lives.

3.2. This is how Jesus began His teaching. He would start with a specific situation in one's life then apply God's truth to that life situation.

3.2.1. He didn't immediately tell Nicodemus how to be born again. John 3

3.2.2. He didn't immediately tell the woman at the well that He was the Messiah. He first answered her queries and addressed her need (water) before addressing her heart need (spiritual forgiveness). John 4

3.2.3. He didn't tell the parable of the Good Samaritan (which illustrates God's command to love our neighbors) until He was asked how to inherit eternal life.

3.2.4. When Jesus initiated a discussion, he often began with a comment that perplexed his disciples and then followed up with a series of queries rather than answers.

3.2.5. Jesus most often began with a life problem and then applied God's truth to that situation.

3.3. People grow most rapidly in character and holiness when they struggle through significant problems.

3.3.1. God uses the problems and trials in our lives to stimulate spiritual growth. James 1:2-4

3.3.2. When our lives get out of step with the standards of God's Word, the Holy Spirit convicts us and draws us back into fellowship with God. John 16:8-11

4. AS WE STUDY GOD'S WORD TOGETHER WITH OTHER DISCIPLES, WE CAN CORRECT EACH OTHER WHEN NECESSARY.

4.1. Sometimes we can misunderstand what the Word of God is saying about our particular situation, which can lead to dangerous misinterpretation. When we share such erroneous thinking in a group situation our brothers and sisters in Christ can correct us.

4.2. In the same way, we can bring correction and even proper balance to our brothers and sisters in their interpretation of the Word.

5. APPLYING GOD'S TRUTH TO OUR LIVES:

5.1. Bible knowledge can be applied to our daily lives by asking questions such as the following:

5.1.1. What difference should this passage make in my life?

5.1.2. What would happen if I put this principle into practice?

5.1.3. What should I do about what I have learned in this passage?

5.2. The correct application of Scripture will do two things.

5.2.1. It will change our heart: internal change must take place first. This is how Christ gives us godly character. Psalm 139: 24; Romans 12:1-2

5.2.2. It will change behavior: this external change inevitably comes once we've been internally transformed. This is how Christ teaches us obedience. Matthew 5:16

5.3. Application of Bible truth is a supernatural process; sinners cannot apply it on their own.

Methods of Bible Study

INTRODUCTION:

In the last lesson we learned that studying the Bible with others is a highly valuable activity of small groups – and it is one of the most valuable ways to disciple others. There are two basic kinds of Bible study: deductive and inductive. This lesson will describe each then study in more detail the nature and benefits of inductive Bible study.

1. DEDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY: A PREMISE IS SUPPORTED FROM VARIOUS PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE.

1.1. An example of this would be the following:
- 1.1.1. Premise: "God is holy."
- 1.1.2. Proven: Ex.15:11; 1 Sam.6:20; Ps.99:9; Is.6:3; Eze.39:7; Hab.1:13; Rev.4:8; Rev.16:4.

1.2. This is called a topical or thematic study, in which multiple passages on a common theme are studied briefly.

2. INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

2.1. In Inductive Bible Studies, Christian lessons, truth and principles emerge from the study of <u>one</u> text.

2.2. The goal is to discover what the text says about itself. It encourages interpretation of a text within its context. No outside commentaries are used.

2.3. There are four basic steps in this method of Bible Study:
- 2.3.1. Initial reading
- 2.3.2. Observations: Ask what the text says.
  - 2.3.2.1. Who? Authors, readers, characters?
    - a. Who wrote it?
    - b. Whom is it about?
    - c. To whom is it written?
  - 2.3.2.2. What? Context and Meaning?
    - a. What is the passage about?
    - b. What type of literature is it?
    - c. What is the meaning of individual words?
  - 2.3.2.3. When? Setting?
    - a. When was the passage written?
    - b. When does the scene take place?
  - 2.3.2.4. Where? Setting?
    - a. Where was the passage written?
    - b. Where does the scene take place?
  - 2.3.2.5. Why? Purpose?
    - a. Why was it written?
    - b. Why did this situation come about?
  - 2.3.2.6. How?
    - a. How was it written?
    - b. How did this situation come about?
- 2.3.3. Interpretation - What does it mean?
  - 2.3.3.1. What did the passage mean to the original readers?
  - 2.3.3.2. What is the main point or teaching of the passage?
  - 2.3.3.3. How does it compare with other Bible passages?
  - 2.3.3.4. What is the general principle?
  - 2.3.3.5. What does this tell us about ...?
  - 2.3.3.6. What is meant by ...?
- 2.3.4. Application - What does it mean to you?
  - 2.3.4.1. What is an equivalent situation today to that of the original readers?
  - 2.3.4.2. Does the passage have specific teaching about God, man, world, church ...?
  - 2.3.4.3. Is there an example, a warning, or a promise?
  - 2.3.4.4. How should your life be changed by what the passage says?
  - 2.3.4.5. In what ways do you need what has been said?
  - 2.3.4.6. Action: What are you going to do about it? Is there any action to be taken?
  - 2.3.4.7. Does the passage lead to prayer or praise?
  - 2.3.4.8. What area of your life will be different this week?
  - 2.3.4.9. What's the difference between the biblical standard and what you are doing?

Types of Bible Study

INTRODUCTION:

There are many different types of Bible study. The following lesson will examine these different types and conclude with some general observations to help you in your leadership of Bible studies.

1. TWO SUGGESTED GOALS OF BIBLE STUDIES:

1.1. The first suggested goal is to encourage believers with the hope and promise of heaven:

C.S. Lewis said: "A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next."

1.2. The second suggested goal is to train and disciple disciples. There are four phases in the process of winning and discipling believers:

- 1.2.1. **Evangelizing** non-believers — Mk. 16:15
- 1.2.2. **Establishing** new believers in their newfound faith — Col. 2:6-7
- 1.2.3. **Equipping** the saints (those who are established) for service — Eph. 4:11-12
- 1.2.4. **Expanding** the leadership (training up future leaders) — Mk 3:14, 2 Tim. 2:2

2. THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF BIBLE STUDY, DEPENDING ON THEIR CONTENT:

2.1. Evangelistic Bible study (Bible studies that encourage non-believers to give their hearts to God):
- 2.1.1. Examples (1) You Must be Born Again, (2) The Prodigal Son

2.2. Bible study that teach about a certain doctrine:
- 2.2.1. Examples - (1) How to be Sanctified, (2) Christ's Second Coming

2.3. Bible study about ethical questions of the day:
- 2.3.1. Examples - (1) What the Bible says about Abortion, (2) What the Bible says about divorce

2.4. A study of a book of the Bible (from beginning to end):
- 2.4.1. Examples - (1) Genesis, (2) Thessalonians

2.5. A Bible study on a theological issue:
- 2.5.1. Examples - (1) God the Father, (2) The Trinity

2.6. Bible study about a particular word used in the Bible:
- 2.6.1. Examples - (1) "Evangelism" (2) "Sanctified"

2.7. Biographical Bible studies:
- 2.7.1. Examples - (1) The Life of Abraham, (2) The Life of Moses

2.8. A Bible study about a particular life situation:
- 2.8.1. Examples - (1) What the Bible says about Death, (2) Wounded hearts

2.9. Explanatory (Bible studies that present practical teaching on a specific topic):
- 2.9.1. Examples - (1) How to present the Gospel, (2) How to be born again

2.10. Illustrative:
- 2.10.1. Examples - (1) Moses' rod, (2) Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac

2.11. Argumentative:
- 2.11.1. Examples - (1) The Holy Spirit is not a force, (2) Jesus is not just a man.

2.12. Persuasive:
- 2.12.1. Examples - (1) You must be born again, (2) You have lost your first love.

Structure of the Bible Study

INTRODUCTION:

We learned in the last lesson that there are different types of Bible studies based on their content. In today's lesson we'll learn that there are different kinds of Bible study based on how the particular portions of the Bible are studied.

1. **TOPICAL - CHOOSE A THEME AND DEVELOP IT WITH RELATED BIBLE VERSES.**
   - 1.1. Example: Justification (Romans 3:23-30, 4:5, 5:1,9; Galatians 2:16, etc.)
   - 1.2. Example: Assurance (John 3:36; Romans 8:32; Colossians 2:13, etc.)
2. **TEXTUAL - AN OUTLINE FROM 1-3 VERSES, WITH COMMENTARY, ILLUSTRATIONS & APPLICATION.**
   - 2.1. Example: John 3:16
     - 2.1.1. Compassion - God so loved the world
     - 2.1.2. Sacrifice - He gave His only Son
     - 2.1.3. Condition - Whosoever believes in Him
     - 2.1.4. Promise - He will not perish, but have eternal life.
   - 2.2. Example: Matthew 28:19-20
     - 2.2.1. Commandment - Make disciples
     - 2.2.2. Location - Of all nations
     - 2.2.3. Procedure - Going, Baptizing, Teaching
     - 2.2.4. Promise - I am with you always
3. **TOPICAL-TEXTUAL - DEVELOP A THEME, BASED ON AN OUTLINE FOUND IN ONE OR TWO VERSES, USING SUPPORTING VERSES FOUND ELSEWHERE IN SCRIPTURE.**
   - 3.1. Example: Mt. 4:19 - The call
     - 3.1.1. To follow Jesus
     - 3.1.2. To become fishers of men
   - 3.2. Example: John 1:12 - The invitation
     - 3.2.1. Reception
     - 3.2.2. Condition
     - 3.2.3. Adoption
4. **EXPOSITORY - OUTLINE AND EXPOSE A TEXT WITHIN ITS CONTEXT, DERIVING THE MEANING FROM THE PASSAGE ONLY, WITH COMMENTARY AND ILLUSTRATIONS TO SHED LIGHT ON MEANING.**
   - 4.1. Example: Leviticus 25 - Redemption
   - 4.2. Example: Deuteronomy 26 - Offering (example given in Proclamation course)
5. **MULTIPLE - PREPARE MULTIPLE LESSONS, BASED ON THE SAME PASSAGE, EXAMINING ITS MEANING FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND TIMES.**
   - 5.1. Example: The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32
     - 5.1.1. The younger son
     - 5.1.2. The eldest son
     - 5.1.3. The loving father
   - 5.2. Example: Jesus' entry into Jerusalem Luke 19:28 ff
     - 5.2.1. Jesus
     - 5.2.2. The disciples
     - 5.2.3. The crowd
     - 5.2.4. The Romans
6. **DELIVERY OF THE BIBLE STUDY**
   - 6.1. From a manuscript (the leader reads the sermon or Bible study from a manuscript)
   - 6.2. Memorized (the leader recites by heart the lesson. Some of the best preachers memorize every word of their messages, for optimum delivery.)
   - 6.3. Notes – Guided Discussion (The leader has perhaps twenty to forty lines of notes to help him lead the Bible study, even while it allows him to ask occasional questions and receive some feedback / discussion.)
   - 6.4. Impromptu – Spontaneous Discussion (The leader suggests a passage to be studied, then after it is read he gives an opportunity for discussion about the passage.)

THE FOLLOWING LESSONS WILL GIVE SOME EXAMPLES OF BIBLE STUDIES WITH DIFFERENT STRUCTURES AND DIFFERENT AIMS.

Example of an Inductive/Evangelizing Bible Study:

INTRODUCTION:

The following sermon outlines can be used as Bible studies in the church (for example, in Sunday School classes) or in the home (such as in a cell group studying the Bible).

John 3:1-21 – A New Birth [4]

1. CONSIDERATION – TEACHERS MAY READ OR TALK ABOUT THE POINTS BELOW.

1.1. Many people do not really know what the phrase, "born again" really means? The mass-media, politicians, singers, and nominal Christians may think they know what it means, but they do not really understand it in its historical context. It is not a new term. Jesus Himself used it centuries ago in a private conversation with a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus.

1.2. What feelings does the phrase "born again" bring to your mind?

2. OBSERVATION – TEACHERS SHOULD ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AFTER THE BIBLE PASSAGE HAS BEEN READ.

2.1. Read John 3:1-3.

2.1.1. What steps had Nicodemus already taken that would prepare him to receive what Jesus said?

2.1.2. What reasons did Nicodemus have to be surprised at Christ's response to him?

2.2. Read John 3:3-15.

2.2.1. What phrases here show that being born again is important?

2.2.2. What patterns from nature did Jesus use to help Nicodemus understand?

2.2.3. What spiritual truths do these natural happenings illustrate?

2.3. Look up Numbers 21:6-9.

2.3.1. How might this incident in Jewish history help Nicodemus understand Christ and his message?

2.3.2. If you were Nicodemus, what further questions would you want to ask Jesus at this point?

2.4. Read John 3:16-21. Look carefully at John 3:16.

2.4.1. Many theologians call this verse "the Christian message in a nutshell."

2.4.2. What can you know about Christianity from this verse? Think about the meaning of each word or phrase.

2.4.3. Does a person start out right or wrong with God? Why?

2.4.4. In what two ways can a person respond to Jesus?

2.4.5. What is the result of each of these two responses?

2.4.6. What reasons did Jesus give for a person not choosing to believe in Him?

2.4.7. Verse 19 suggest that one reason people choose not to believe in Jesus is that "Men loved darkness." What is comfortable about physical darkness?

2.4.8. Why might similar attractions cause people to enjoy spiritual darkness?

3. INTERPRETATION

3.1. People sometimes criticize Christianity as a "one-way Gospel." What phrases from the passage suggest that there is only one way to God?

3.2. If what Jesus says in John 3 is "the truth," how must a person come into a right relationship with God?

3.3. Do you think that "born again" is still a good term for someone who has lived in spiritual darkness and now experiences a right relationship with God? Why?

3.4. Why might this new relationship with God seem like new birth to someone who has lived in spiritual darkness?

4. APPLICATION

4.1. What does the new birth mean to you?

4.2. How have you benefited from the new birth?

4.3. What will you change in your life because of the meaning of the new birth?

Example of an Inductive/Equipping Bible Study:
2 Corinthians 1:1-11 - Comforted to Comfort [5]

1. **CONSIDERATION – TEACHERS MAY READ OR TALK ABOUT THE POINTS BELOW.**
   1.1. One of the most difficult kinds of letters to write is a "sympathy note." Have you noticed that the most comforting notes are often written by those who have had firsthand experience with sorrow themselves? In this letter, Paul writes to suffering people from the perspective of one who has also suffered. Paul sees a direct correlation between his suffering and the comfort he offers.
   1.2. Describe a time when you were comforted by someone or a time when you were a means of comfort to another person.
2. **OBSERVATION – TEACHERS SHOULD ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AFTER THE BIBLE PASSAGE HAS BEEN READ.**
   2.1. What authority does Paul claim as he writes this letter? (verse 1)
   2.2. In what ways are "grace and peace" (verse 2) a summary of the Good News and of ultimate comfort?
   2.3. How does Paul's description of God (verse 3) help you to understand His nature?
   2.4. What principles about suffering and comfort can you learn from verses 4-7?
   2.5. What practical examples of these principles have you experienced?
3. **INTERPRETATION**
   3.1. How does Paul's description of his suffering make you feel (verses 8-11)?
   3.2. What had Paul learned about himself through his suffering? About God?
   3.3. What confidence does Paul affirm (verse 10)?
   3.4. What help does Paul need from the Corinthians?
   3.5. What will be the result of this help?
4. **APPLICATION – TEACHERS SHOULD ASK THE FOLLOWING AND ALLOW THE STUDENTS TO GIVE THEIR ANSWERS FROM THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE.**
   4.1. Can you think of a time when God helped you not only to endure suffering but also to experience benefits from it?
   4.2. Where are you right now in terms of comfort -- are you experiencing comfort, giving comfort, or in need of comfort?
   4.3. What does this passage suggest for your needs?
   4.4. Pray together, asking God to help you set your hope on him (verse 10) and to make your life a comfort to someone who is suffering.
   4.5. Identify individuals within your group or outside of it who need your prayers for comfort or deliverance (verses 10-11).

Five Examples of Topical/Evangelizing Bible Studies:
Salvation Plan Outlines [6]

INTRODUCTION:

The following five Salvation Plan outlines can be used for Bible studies or even for evangelistic messages.

1. STEPS TO HEAVEN

1.1.	We must recognize your sin	Romans 3:23
1.2.	We must repent of your sin	Acts 3:19
1.3.	We must confess your sin.	1 John 1:9
1.4.	We must forsake your sin.	Isaiah 55:7
1.5.	We must confess Christ.	Romans 10:9
1.6.	We must receive Christ.	John 1:12

2. THE ROMAN ROAD

2.1.	We must recognize our guilt.	Romans 3:19
2.2.	We must have faith in Christ.	Romans 3:22
2.3.	We must acknowledge we are a sinner.	Romans 3:23
2.4.	We must believe that God justifies us by Christ.	Romans 3:24
2.5.	We must believe that His blood covers our sins.	Romans 3:25
2.6.	We must believe that Christ justifies us by faith.	Romans 3:26
2.7.	We must confess and believe in His resurrection.	Romans 10:9

3. THE TRANSFORMED LIFE

3.1.	You must recognize your sin.	Romans 3:23
3.2.	You must choose between death or life.	Romans 6:23
3.3.	You must choose His life and His blood.	Romans 5:8-9
3.4.	You must choose to confess and believe.	Romans 10:9
3.5.	You must choose salvation.	Romans 10:13

4. JESUS

4.1.	Jesus is the Door.	John 10:9
4.2.	Jesus is the Life.	John 10:10
4.3.	Jesus is the Shepherd who gives His life.	John 10:11,15
4.4.	Jesus is the Christ who gives eternal life.	John 10:24-28
4.5.	Jesus is the Resurrection for the one who believes.	John 11:25-26
4.6.	Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life.	John 14:6

5. LIFE IN CHRIST

5.1.	We must Die to self.	2 Cor. 5:14
5.2.	We must Be in Christ.	2 Cor. 5:15
5.3.	We must Become a new creature.	2 Cor. 5:17
5.4.	We must Be reconciled with Christ.	2 Cor. 5:18
5.5.	We must Be an ambassador for Christ.	2 Cor. 5:20
5.6.	We must Reflect the righteousness of God.	2 Cor. 5:21
5.7.	We must Accept this favorable day of salvation.	2 Cor. 6:2

APPLICATION: WHAT OUTLINE WOULD YOU CHOOSE? (EACH STUDENT CAN BE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP HIS OWN OUTLINE.)

5.8.
5.9.
5.10.
5.11.

Two Examples of Topical/Evangelizing Bible Studies:

The New Birth

1. WHAT IS THE NEW BIRTH?

1.1.	John 3:6	It is a spiritual birth.
1.2.	Romans 6:4-5	It is a burial and a resurrection.
1.3.	2 Corinthians 5:17	It is a transformation.

2. WHY IS THE NEW BIRTH NECESSARY?

2.1.	Romans 3:10	Because no one is righteous.
2.2.	Romans 8:7-8	Because we cannot please God.
2.3.	Hebrews 9:27	Because there is a judgment after death.

3. WHO IS THE NEW BIRTH FOR?

3.1.	Matthew 18:3	It is for those who come like children.
3.2.	John 1:12	It is for those who receive Him.
3.3.	John 3:16	It is for whoever believes.

4. WHEN AND WHERE CAN THE NEW BIRTH OCCUR?

4.1.	2 Corinthians 6:2	Now
4.2.	Hebrews 13:5	Anywhere

5. HOW IS THE NEW BIRTH ACCOMPLISHED?

5.1.	John 3:6-8	It is accomplished as a rushing wind.
5.2.	Titus 3:5	It is accomplished according to His mercy.
5.3.	John 5:1	It is accomplished by believing that Jesus is the Son of God.

6. HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE BORN AGAIN?

6.1.	Romans 8:16	God's spirit bears witness to our spirit.
6.2.	Peter 1:23	By the Word of God.
6.3.	John 1:7	By walking in the light.
6.4.	John 5:18	By keeping ourselves from sin.

Jesus Christ

1. WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

1.1.	John 1:1,14	He is God in the flesh.
1.2.	John 10:30	He is one with the Father.
1.3.	John 20:28	He is Lord and God.
1.4.	Colossians 1:15	He is the image of the invisible God.

2. WHO CAN ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST?

2.1.	John 3:16	Whoever believes in Him
2.2.	Romans 10:9	Whoever confesses Him and believes in Him

3. WHY DOES MAN NEED JESUS CHRIST?

3.1.	John 14:1-6	He is preparing a place for us in heaven.
3.2.	Acts 4:12	There is salvation in no other.
3.3.	Romans 5:12	All men have sinned.
3.4.	Ephesians 2:1	Man is under Satan's control.
3.5.	Hebrews 9:27	Man must die, then face judgment.
3.6.	John 1:7	Jesus' blood cleanses us from all sins.

4. WHEN AND WHERE CAN ONE MEET JESUS CHRIST?

4.1.	2 Corinthians 6:2	Now is the favorable time.
4.2.	Revelation 3:20	Anywhere, at the door of your heart

5. HOW DOES MAN COME TO JESUS CHRIST?

5.1.	Luke 5:32	Repent of your sins.
5.2.	Luke 19:10	Recognize that you are lost.
5.3.	Romans 3:10	Confess that you are not righteous.
5.4.	Romans 5:8	Come to Him as you are.

6. HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE MET HIM?

6.1.	Romans 8:14, 16-17	The Spirit of God tells me.
6.2.	2 Corinthians 5:17	I am a new creature.
6.3.	John 5:10	I have the witness in myself.

Example of a Topical/Establishing Bible Study:
The Word of God [7]

INTRODUCTION:

- God is the author of the Bible, and He has used holy men to write it.
- The Bible was given to us for our spiritual growth. If we read it carefully and understand it, it will enrich our lives.
- We must yield to its message and respond in obedience to benefit from it.

1. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1.1. If we do not eat for a day, what happens? If we do not eat for two days? A week?
1.2. Why do we eat? Why do we read the Word of God?
1.3. Do you know people who do not read the Word of God? How is their life?
1.4. Do you know people who read the Word of God regularly? How is their life?

2. ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

(THE BOX BELOW – AND IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SIX LESSONS – CAN BE USED AS DAILY DEVOTIONS GUIDES. EACH NUMBER REPRESENTS A DAY OF THE WEEK; IE. # 1 EQUALS MONDAY, # 2 EQUALS TUESDAY, ETC.)

1. What is the Word?	
Dt. 8:3 (Mt. 4:4)	Food
Ps. 119:105 (Pr. 6:23)	Lamp
Je. 23:29	Fire / Hammer
Jn. 1	Jesus
Jn. 6:63	Spirit / Life
Ro. 1:16	Power of God
Ep. 6:17 (He. 4:12)	Sword of Spirit
1 Pe. 1:25; 2:2	Milk
What to do with it?	
Dt. 11:18-19	Memorize, teach
Jos. 1:8	Meditate
Jos. 23:6	Observe, practice
Ps. 126:5-6	Sow
Is. 34:16 (Jn. 5:39)	Consult, read
Col. 3:16	Instruct, exhort
Ja. 1:22-25	Put into practice
2. Who gave it to us?	
Jn. 1:14	Jesus
Ac. 1:16	Holy Spirit
2 Ti. 3:16	God
2 Pe. 1:20-21	Spirit and men
3. How is it applied?	
Dt. 4:2 (Dt. 12:32)	Without change
Ps. 119:47, 97, 140	With love
Ac. 17:11	With verification
1 Pe. 1:22	With obedience
1 Ti. 1:8	Properly
How is the Word described?	
Ps. 19:7-11	Perfect, true
Ro. 7:12	Holy, just, good
4. Why did God give the Word?	
Jn. 20:31	To have life
Ro. 15:4	To have hope
1 Cor. 10:11	For instruction
1 Jn. 5:13	For assurance
Why read the Word?	
Dt. 17:19-20	To fear God
Jos. 1:8	To succeed
Ps. 119:9 (Jn. 15:3)	To be pure
Ps. 119:11	To avoid sin
Ep. 5:26	To be sanctified
2 Ti. 2:15-17	To be approved
5. Where is the Word?	
Dt. 6:6 (Dt. 11:11:18; Lu. 2:51)	In our hearts
Dt. 11:19	In the home
Jn. 1:14	In our midst
6. When do we apply it?	
Dt. 11:19	All the time
Dt. 17:19	Every day
Jos. 1:8	Day and night
When does the Word end?	
Ps. 119:89 (Is. 40:8; Mt. 5:18)	Never

3. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

3.1. How has God talked to you during this study?
3.2. Do you have a Bible? What will you do with it?
3.3. What is your Bible reading plan?
3.4. What is God telling you to change in your life through this study?

Example of a Topical/Establishing Bible Study:

Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

- Prayer is conversation with God.
- We must know Him personally to pray to Him as we should.
- God invites us to pray; in fact, He strongly exhorts us to come to Him in prayer.
- There are many aspects to prayer: praise, thanksgiving, confession, intercession, and personal requests.
- We must pray with perseverance and faith, seeking the kingdom of God and expecting great results.

1. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1.1. What is the difference between intimate and cold communication between spouses?
1.2. Do you know people who do not get along? Is lack of communication one of the reasons?
1.3. What is communication like between people in a healthy relationship?

2. ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

1. What is prayer?		**3. How should we pray?**	
Gen. 32:9-12	Requests	Ex. 19:5	Listening to His voice
1 Chr. 29:10-19	Praise	2 Chr. 7:14	Humble and seeking
2 Chr. 1:7-12	Request	Mt. 6:7	Secret, no repetition
Ps. 51	Confession	Mt. 17:20	With faith
Mt. 6:9-13 (Lu.11:2-4)	Praise, request, confess	Lu. 11:5-13	With perseverance
Lu. 1:46-55 (1Th.5:18)	Praise and thanksgiving	Jn. 16:24	In the name of Jesus
Jn. 17 (Ep.1:15-23)	Intercession	Ac. 6:4	With application
What are the obstacles?		Ep. 6:18	Through the Spirit
Ps. 66:18 (Is. 59:1-2)	Iniquity	Ph. 4:6-7	Not troubled, asking
Jn. 15:7	Non-unity , disobedience	**4. Why should we pray?**	
Ja. 1:6-7	Doubt	Ps. 20:1	Because of distress
Ja. 4:2-3	Passivity and bad motives	Je. 33:3	Because of unknown
Jn. 3:21-22	Bad conscience, no trust	Mt. 7:7-11	Receive, find, invited
2. Who prays?		1 Jn. 1:9	For forgiveness of sins
2 Chr. 7:14	The people of God	**5. Where to pray?**	
Mt. 7:8	Whoever	Ps. 63:1	In the desert
Jn. 1:12 (Ro. 8:14-15)	Whoever received Jesus	Mt. 6:6	In our room
R. 8:26-27	The Holy Spirit	Ac. 4:31	Place we gather
Ja. 1:5	He who lacks wisdom	**6. When should we pray?**	
		Ps. 55:18	Morning, noon, night
		Ps. 63:7	Watches of the night
		Ep. 6:18	On all occasions
		1 Th. 5:17	Without ceasing

3. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

3.1. How has God spoken to you during this study?
3.2. Where do you like to pray? Why?
3.3. How could you encourage others to pray?
3.4. What responses to prayer have you already seen?
3.5. What will you change because of this study?

Example of a Topical/Establishing Bible Study:
Worship

INTRODUCTION:

- God is the reason for our worship.
- He is our creator, and He invites us to have a relationship with Him.
- We can express our love in personal devotions or in the worship service of the Church.
- We worship Him by our songs, prayers, preaching, offerings, and service.
- Our attitude should be one of high quality, based on love and truth.

1. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1.1. What is the worship like in your local church? And in your personal devotions?
1.2. Do you know people who have abandoned the worship service – people who no longer come to the weekly worship service? Why?
1.3. Do you know people who attend worship services faithfully? Why do they attend so faithfully?

2. ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

1. What is worship?		**3. How do we worship?**	
Ne. 8:1-12	Reading the Word	Le. 10:1-3	Sanctified
Ps. 95:3-7	Celebrating	Ps. 29:2	Bowing
Ps. 138	Singing, thanking	Ps. 84:1-2	Sighing
Ps. 150 (Ps. 147:1)	Praise	Ps. 89:7	Singing, dancing
Dt. 26 (1 Chr. 16:29)	Giving	Ps. 95:6	Humbly
Ac. 2:37-39	Repentance	Ec. 5:1	Holding the tongue
Ac. 4:32-35	Unity, sharing,	Ha. 2:20	In silence
Ac. 6:1-7	Prayer, service	Jn. 4:20-24	In Spirit, truth
1 Co. 11:23-29	Communion	**4. Why should we worship?**	
Col. 2:10-12	Baptism	Ps. 84:5	To be happy
What are obstacles to it?		Ps. 95:7	We are His people.
Dt. 11:16 (Ac. 17:29)	Idolatry	**5. Where do we worship?**	
2. Who worships?		Dt. 12:5	In place He chooses
Ps. 27:4	Me	Lu. 2:37 (Lu. 4:16)	In the temple
Mi. 4:2	Nations	Jn. 4:21	Anywhere
Rev. 4:10 (Rev. 11:16)	24 Elders	**6. When should we worship?**	
Rev. 17:11	Angels	Ep. 5:18-20	At all times
Who do we worship?		Hebrews 13:15	Continually
Mt. 2:11 (Mt. 14:33)	Jesus	Psalms 146:1-2	As long as we live
Mt. 4:10	God		

3. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

3.1. How has God spoken to you during this study?
3.2. What will you change concerning your worship in the church and in devotions?
3.3. How will you encourage others to participate in the worship service?

Example of a Topical/Establishing Bible Study:
Fellowship

INTRODUCTION:

- We have fellowship with God, His Son, and the saints of the Church.
- Christ is the true source of our fellowship, and we show it when we are with the other members of His Church.
- We all make up the body, each one having spiritual gifts and a given ministry.
- It is up to us to discover our place and to put our gifts to use in serving His body.

1. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1.1. If we separate a hot coal from the fire, what will happen to it?
1.2. When a member of the body hurts, how does it affect the other members?
1.3. What is your church doing for its members?

2. ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

1. What is fellowship?	
Ro.12:5-8 (1 Co.12:4 -31)	The body
1 Pe. 3:8-9	Unity
What are different aspects?	
1 Co. 16:1-3	Sharing
2 Co. 1:1-4	Comforting
Ga. 6:6	Teaching
What are some obstacles?	
1 Co. 1:10-13	Division
He. 10:24-25	Forsaking
Ja. 2:1-4	Favoritism
2. Who should fellowship?	
Jn. 15:5	Attached to Him
1 Co. 1:9	Fellowshipers
Jn. 17:20	Believers
3. How are we to fellowship?	
Mt. 18:20	In His name
Ac. 2:44-47	Gathered together
Ac. 4:32-35	With one heart
Ro. 15:25-27	Helping poor
1 Co. 13:1-8	With love
Ph. 2:1-8	With unity
1 Jn. 1:7	Walking in light
4. Why do we fellowship?	
Jn. 17:21	For unity
Ac. 2:47	For salvation
5. Where fellowship?	
Mt. 18:20	Where 2 or 3 gather
Ac. 2:46	The temple or home
6. When do we fellowship?	
Lu. 24:32	Scripture is explained
Ac. 2:46	Every day

3. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

3.1. How has God spoken to you during this study?
3.2. What are some of your spiritual gifts?
3.3. Which of your gifts do you use for ministry?
3.4. What can you do to encourage unity in the body of Christ?
3.5. What will you change because of this study?

Example of a Topical/Establishing Bible Study:
Witnessing

INTRODUCTION:

- The first Christians were active witnesses of the reality of Jesus Christ.
- They took the Great Commission seriously, and Christ gave them power to fulfill their mission.
- The Holy Spirit also gives us the ability and the power to testify, and He touches the heart of those to whom we speak.
- We proclaim that Jesus is the God-man who sacrificed Himself for us in order to forgive our sins and give us eternal life.
- This same Christ calls us to saving faith.
- The life of a witness is therefore a full-time commitment.
- We must repent of our sins, grow in our faith, be sure of our message, and pray for those to whom we should talk to about Jesus.

1. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1.1. What would you think of a man who looked on passively while a poor blind man who lost his way walked towards a cliff and fell off to his death.

1.2. Does a hunter remain at home when he hunts for game? Does a fisherman wait at home for the fish to come to him? Where does a witness go when he wants to win souls for Christ?

1.3. What is the difference between a judge, a lawyer (an advocate), and a witness?

1.4. What is your best memory of presenting your personal testimony?

2. ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

1. What is witness?	
Mt. 16:13-17	Talking about Jesus
Mk. 5:19	All that the Lord does
Jn. 3:5-8	Message of new birth
Jn. 4:5-29	Message of living water
Ac. 4:20	What is seen and heard
Ac. 17:16-34	Dialogue in the temple
2 Co. 3:2-3	Jesus' letter in heart
1 Th. 1:8	The echo of the Word
What are aspects of it?	
Ex. 34:7	God punishes sin.
Jn. 3:16	God sacrificed Himself.
Ac. 16:31	Believers will be saved.
Ro. 6:23	All have sinned.
2 Co. 5:18-21	Jesus reconciled us.
Ep. 2:8-9	We are saved by grace.
What are obstacles to it?	
Mt. 16:7-8	Lack of faith
2. Who witnesses?	
Ac. 1:8	Disciples of Jesus
Ac. 8:4-8	Ordinary Christians
3. How do we witness?	
Mt. 28:18-20	Go, baptize, teach
Ac. 1:8	H.S. upon us
Ac. 4:31	Filled with Spirit
Ep. 4:20-24	Righteous and holy
1 Pe. 2:11-12	Abstaining from flesh
1 Pe. 3:15	Gently and respectfully
4. Why do we witness?	
Mt. 5:16	To glorify God
Mt. 11:27-30	To reveal the Father
Jn. 15:16	To bear lasting fruit
Col. 2:13-14	To be resurrected
5. Where do we witness?	
Mt. 28:19-20	In all nations
Mk. 16:15	In the whole world
Ac. 1:8	To the ends of the earth
6. When do we witness?	
1 Pe. 3:15	Always

3. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

3.1. How has God spoken to you during this study?

3.2. How could you encourage others to witness?

3.3. What will you change because of this study?

Example of a Topical/Equipping Bible Study:
The Clerical Layman

INTRODUCTION:

- All believers are laity, because the original Greek word, *laos*, from which "laity" is derived, refers to all those who are people of God. Consequently, all believers share the responsibility to make disciples.
- The radical distinction existing today in our thinking between pastors and the laity is not biblical. The erroneous thinking developed in the 2nd and following centuries.
- The confusion over the separation of the laity and the clergy was accentuated when Constantine (in the fourth century) declared all pagans of the Roman Empire to be people of God.
- Everyone in the Church is a clergyman or an heir of God; not everyone in the church is a leader.
- The establishment of a professional clergy had a strong negative effect on the Church.
- The creation of such roles has confused our understanding of the priesthood of all believers and often has nullified our sense of responsibility for ministry.
- Many Christians feel quite content to pay others to do the work of the Church. They wrongly assume that they have no obligation to participate in the work of the Kingdom of God beyond attending the Sunday service.

1. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1.1. What do people think a clergyman is? A layman? Are these notions biblical?
1.2. Who works more in your church? Leaders or the congregation? Is this biblical?
1.3. In your opinion, what are the signs of a healthy church?

2. ANALYSIS

1. **What is the inheritance?**	
Acts 26:18	They may receive a place among those sanctified by faith in me (Christ).
Titus 3:6-7	Christ saved us that we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.
Hebrews 9:15	Those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance
James 2:5	Has God not chosen the poor to inherit the kingdom He promised?
2. Who is (not) the heir?	
Acts 8:21	You have no part or share in this ministry because your heart is not right.
Acts 20:32	God can give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
Romans 8:16-17	If we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.
Galatians 3:18	God gave the inheritance to Abraham through a promise.
Galatians 3:29	If you belong to Christ, you are heirs according to the promise
Galatians 4:1,7	Since you are a son, God has made you an heir.
3. How do we receive it?	
Romans 4:13-14	The heir of the world through the righteousness which comes by faith
Ephesians 1:11	In Him, we were also made heirs
Hebrews 11:7	By faith, Noah became heir of the righteousness which comes from faith.
1 Peter 5:3	Not lording it over those entrusted to you
4. Why do we receive it?	
Colossians 1:12	The Father has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints
Hebrews 6:17	God wanted to make the nature of His promise clear to His heirs.
Colossians 3:24	You know that you will receive an inheritance
5. Where is it?	
1 Peter 1:4	An inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade--kept in heaven for you
6. When do we receive it?	
Hebrews 11:8	When you are called to leave your old life, and you obey, like Abraham

3. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

3.1. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. Are you part of a royal priesthood? What are you to do as priest?
3.2. What can you do to help spectators in the church become players in the church?
3.3. What changes will you make in your life because of what God has shown you in this study?

Example of an Expository/Equipping Bible Study:

Offering

INTRODUCTION:

- The text is Deuteronomy 26 with support from other passages; the theme is offering.
- We have many resources at our disposal: life, time, money, possessions, family
- We limit God's work in us when we believe that our resources belong to us exclusively.
- In reality, everything belongs to God, and we are stewards of what He loans us.

1. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1.1. Do you know people who give a lot to God? What is their life like?
1.2. Do you know people who do not give a lot to God? What is their life like?
1.3. You resemble which type of the two? Which would you like to resemble?

2. ANALYSIS QUESTIONS — DEUTERONOMY 26

1. Who gives offering?	
You	26:1
The heads of the family	Ne. 7:70
The churches	Acts 8:1
The disciples	Acts 11:29
When is offering given?	
The day of inheritance	26:1
Offering, ask blessings	26:15
The first day of the week	1 Cor. 16:2
In the midst of trials	2 Cor. 8:2-3
2. What is offered?	
First fruits God gives you	26:2, 10
The tithe	26:12; Ge.14:20; Ma.3:7-10
Your children	Ge. 22:9
All sorts of objects	Ex. 35:22
More than is necessary	Ex. 36:6
Of what you depend on	Le. 21:4; Mk. 12:44
Gifts	Dt. 15:14
More than you planned	1 Chr. 29:3
A broken heart	Ps. 51:19
Of your possessions	Pr. 3:9
Clothing	Is. 58:7
Your house	Is. 58:7
Of your riches	Mi. 4:13
Thing you are lacking	Mk. 10:21; Lu. 18:22
Your time	Lu. 10:34-35
Your knowledge	Lu. 10:34-35
Your money	Lu. 10:34-35
What is within	Lu. 11:41
Temporal things	Lu. 12:33
Your body	Rm. 12:1-2
3. Where is it given?	
In the sanctuary	26:2
In your land	Deu. 15:2
In the storehouse	Mal. 3:10
On the road	Luc. 10:10, 34-35

4. How is it given?	
Advance Preparation	26:2
Joy	26:11; 2 Cor. 9:7
Discipline	26:13
Integrity	26:14; Mal. 1:6-14
According to means	16:17; Ac 11:29
Anonymously	Ruth 2:15
Spontaneously	Is. 1:6
Sincerely	Ex. 25:2; Ex. 35:5
With a willing spirit	Ex. 35:5; 2 Co. 8:12
With discretion	Matthew 6:1-4
Freely	Matthew 10:8
With common goal	Acts 4:34-35
Honestly	Acts 5:1-11
Simply	Rm. 12:8
Lovingly	1 Cor. 13:3
Generously	Heb. 13:16; 1 Tim. 6:18
5. Who is it given to?	
To the priest	26:3
To God	26:4,10
To the foreigner	26:12
To our enemy	Pro. 25:21
To those who ask	Mat. 5:42
To the one in need	Luk. 10:34-35
To the weak	Acts 20:35
To the saints	Rom. 12:13; Gal. 6:10
To God's workers	Phi. 4:16
6. Why is it given?	
His deliverance	26:3, 7-8
His commandment	26:16; Lu. 6:38
His contract with us	26:17-19
Repentance	Luk. 19:8
food in the Church	Mal. 3:10
So that others give	Luk. 6:38
For brothers, sisters	Acts 2:45

3. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

3.1. How has God spoken to you during this study?
3.2. How can you encourage others to give offerings as they should?
3.3. What will you change because of this study?

Example of an Equipping Bible Study (from a whole book of the Bible): Nehemiah, A Biblical Strategist

Key Verse - Nehemiah 3:20 - "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding."

1.	**REVELATION**	**DISCOVERY**
1.1.	Research (Nehemiah 1:2)	"I questioned them."
1.2.	Sadness (Neh. 1:4)	"I sat down and wept."
1.3.	Prayer (Neh. 1:5-11)	"I mourned, fasted, and prayed."
2.	**ORGANIZATION**	**PREPARATION**
2.1.	Meeting (Neh. 2:1-2)	"I took the wine and gave it to the king."
2.2.	Proposal (Neh. 2:3-5)	"Let him send me to the city in Judah."
2.3.	Schedule (Neh. 2:6)	"I set a time."
2.4.	Precautions (Neh. 2:7-10)	"May I have letters ..."
2.5.	Inspection (Neh. 2:11-16)	"examining the walls of Jerusalem"
2.6.	Recruiting (Neh. 2:17-18)	"Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem"
2.7.	Faith (Neh. 2:20)	"The God of heaven will give us success."
3.	**ACTION**	**IMPLEMENTATION**
3.1.	Mobilization (partial) (Neh. 3:5)	"their nobles would not ... work"
3.2.	Job Assignments (Neh. 3:2-12, 16-31)	"Next to ..." "Adjoining this ...."
4.	**OPPOSITION**	**JEW, AMMONITE, ARAB (SANBALLAT, TOBIAH, GESHEM, NOADIA)**
4.1.	Negative reaction (Neh. 2:10)	"they were very much disturbed ..."
4.2.	Mockery (Neh. 2:19)	"they mocked and ridiculed us ..."
4.3.	Distrust (Neh. 2:19)	"Are you rebelling against the king?"
4.4.	Anger (Neh. 4:1, 7)	"he became angry ..."
4.5.	Intrigues (Neh. 4:8)	"they all plotted together ..."
4.6.	Defense (Neh. 4:16-17)	"half were equipped with spears ..."
4.7.	Deceit (Neh. 6:2)	"Come, let us meet together ..."
4.8.	False accusations (Neh. 6:6)	"It is reported among the nations ..."
4.9.	Threats (Neh. 6:10)	"men are coming to kill you ..."
5.	**RESTITUTION**	**ENCOURAGEMENT**
5.1.	Complaints (Neh. 5:1)	"Men and their wives raised a great outcry ..."
5.2.	Injustices (Neh. 5:7)	"You are exacting usury from your countrymen."
5.3.	Sacrifice (Neh. 5:14, 18)	"did not eat the food allotted to the governor."
5.4.	Participation (Neh. 5:16)	"I devoted myself to work on this wall ..."
5.5.	Vision (Neh. 5:19)	"all I have done for these people ..."
6.	**RESULTS**	**REPORT**
6.1.	Success (Neh. 6:15)	"the wall was completed ... in 52 days."
6.2.	Confidence (Neh. 6:16, 11:2)	" men volunteered to live in Jerusalem ..."
6.3.	Small beginnings (Neh. 7:4)	"homes had not yet been rebuilt ..."
6.4.	Statistics (Neh. 7:5; 66-73; 10:1-27)	"registration by family ..."
6.5.	Revival (Neh. 8:1)	"All the people assembled as one man ..."
6.5.1.	Attention (Neh. 8:2-3)	First reading of Scripture
6.5.2.	Adoration (Neh. 8:6)	Collective worship
6.5.3.	Destitution (Neh. 8:9)	Repentance
6.5.4.	Celebration (Neh. 8:10)	Joy
6.5.5.	Proclamation (Neh. 8:15)	Publication
6.5.6.	Digestion (Neh. 8:18)	Regular reading
6.5.7.	Congregation (Neh. 8:18)	Assembly
6.5.8.	Separation (Neh. 9:2)	Setting apart
6.5.9.	Confession (Neh. 9:2-37)	Admitting sin
6.5.10.	Resolution ((Neh. 10:28-39)	Taking offerings
7.	**VERIFICATION**	**EVALUATION**
7.1.	Backsliders (Neh. 13:4-5)	"Eliashib was closely associated with Tobiah"
7.2.	Return visit (Neh. 13:6-7)	"I asked his permission and came back ..."
7.3.	Discovery (Neh. 13:7)	"providing Tobiah with a room in God's house"
7.4.	Restoration (Neh. 13:8-10)	"I gave orders to purify the rooms ..."
7.5.	Reformation (Neh. 13:12-31)	"I stationed them at their posts ..."

TOPICAL/ESTABLISHING: 52 BIBLE SUBJECTS [8]

WEEK	1ST DAY	2ND DAY	3RD DAY	4TH DAY	5TH DAY	6TH DAY
QUESTION	***WHAT?***	***WHO?***	***WHY?***	***HOW?***	***WHERE?***	***WHEN?***
1. WORD	DT. 8:3	2 PE.1:20-21	PS. 119:11	1 PE. 1:22	DT. 6:6	JOS. 1:8
2. PRAYER	MT. 6:9-13	2 CH. 7:14	MT. 7:7-11	MT. 6:7	MT. 6:6	1 TH. 5:17
3. WORSHIP	PS. 138	PS. 27:4	PS. 95:7	JN. 4:20-24	DT. 10:12	EP.5:18-19
4. FELLOWSHIP	1 PE. 3:8-9	1 CO. 1:9	JN. 17:21	AC. 4:32-35	AC. 2:46	AC. 2:46
5. WITNESS	AC. 4:20	AC. 1:8	JN. 15:16	EP. 4:20-24	AC. 1:8	1 PE. 3:15
6. GRACE	1 TI. 1:13-14	1 PE. 5:5	RM. 3:24	EP. 2:8	HE. 4:16	RM. 11:5
7. SIN	RM. 14:23	RM. 3:23	GN. 3:5-6	IS. 53:6	LU. 6:44	JOB. 24:16
8. GOD	GN. 1:1-27	1 JN. 4:7-8	GN. 1:31	HAB. 1:13	JN. 4:21	GN. 1:1
9. CHRIST	TITUS 3:5	RM. 9:5	1 JN. 4:14	JN. 1:1-14	JN. 14:20	2 CO. 5:17
10. FAITH	HE. 11:1	AC. 16:31	RM. 5:1	RM. 10:9-10	1 SA. 16:7	RM. 3:36
11. PROMISES	2 CO. 1:20	2 PE. 1:4	RM. 4:21	1 RO. 8:56	IS. 34:16	TITUS 1:2
12. BLESSINGS	JOS. 8:34	PR. 10:6	MT. 5:3-11	PS. 2:12	EZ. 34:26	RM. 12:14
13. ASSURANCE	JN. 5:24	HE. 10:23	JN. 3:21	RM. 8:1	1 JN. 3:19	LU. 19:9
14. SALVATION	RM. 6:23	RM. 10:13	EP. 2:8-9	JN. 3:5-8	ZEPH. 3:17	2 CO. 6:2
15. JUSTIFICATION	GN. 15:6	RM. 3:22	RM. 5:8	RM. 3:22	RM. 3:26	COL. 2:14
16. REGENERATION	2 CO. 5:17	1 JN. 5:1	2 CO. 4:11	TITUS 3:5	EZE. 36:26	1 JN. 5:1
17. ADOPTION	RM.8:15-17	GA. 3:26	EP. 1:4 -7	1 JN. 3:1-2	GAL. 4:5-6	JN. 1:12
18. PRESENCE	1 CO. 6:19	GN. 28:15	AC. 17:28	AC. 18:10	MT. 18:20	DT. 20:1
19. PROTECTION	PS. 91:4	2 CH. 16:9	JN. 17:11	PS. 34:7	GN. 28:15	PS. 121:4
20. LIBERTY	RM. 8:2	JN. 8:36	RM. 8:21	JA. 1:25	2 COR 3:17	JN. 8:30-32
21. HOLY SPIRIT	JN. 14:26	JN. 15:26	JN. 15:26	LU. 11:13	1 CO. 3:16	AC. 2:38
22. MIRACLES	JN. 10:25	JN. 11:47	HE. 2:4	JN. 3:2	AC. 2:22	JN. 9:4
23. GIFTS	JA. 1:17	1 CO. 12:11	EP. 4:11-12	2 TI. 1:6	EP. 4:8	1 CO. 12:31
24. OMNIPOTENCE	JOB 42:2	PS. 115:3	2 CH. 25:8	MT. 19:26	RM. 16:25	IS. 43:13
25. OMNISCIENCE	PS. 147:5	JA. 1:5	RM. 11:36	HE. 4:13	COL. 2:2-3	REV. 22:13
26. SOVEREIGNTY	EP. 1:19	AC. 17:24	2 CH. 20:6	DA. 4:35	DT. 4:39	MT. 6:13
27. BIRTH	JN. 1:13	1 PE. 1:23	JN. 3:3	1 JN. 5:1	2 CO. 3:3	2 CO. 5:17
28. DEATH	PR. 21:16	JN. 6:53	EP. 2:1	JA. 1:15	REV. 21:8	GN. 2:17
29. RESURRECTION	LU. 20:36	JN. 11:25	1 CO. 15:14	JN. 5:25	EP. 5:14	1 CO. 15:52
30. RETURN	MT. 26:64	HE. 9:28	JN. 14:3	AC. 1:11	1 TH. 4:16	MT. 24:36
31. JUDGMENT	RM. 14:10	RM. 2:16	2 CO. 5:10	REV. 21:27	REV. 20:15	REV.20:11-12
32. JUSTICE	RM. 2:2	PS. 145:17	REV. 15:4	DT. 32:4	PS. 97:2	ZEPH.. 3:5
33. TRIALS	MAL. 3:3	PS. 17:3	LU. 6:48	1 CO. 3:13	DT. 8:2	JA. 5:7
34. APOSTASY	HE. 3:12	1 JN. 2:19	MK. 4:17	2 TI. 4:10	AC. 7:39	1 TI. 4:1
35. REWARDS	1 CO. 3:8	HE. 11:6	2 CO. 9:6	COL. 3:24	MT. 5:12	MT. 16:27
36. ANGELS	MT. 13:39	MT. 13:39	PS. 103:20	PS. 91:11	MT. 18:10	MT. 25:31
37. HEAVEN	AC. 7:49	MT. 13:43	JN. 14:2	PH. 3:20	PS. 103:11	LU. 23:43
38. HELL	MT. 25:46	REV. 20:15	MT. 25:41	MK. 9:43	MT. 13:42	REV.20:11-15
39. CHURCH	1 CO. 12:27	1 CO. 12:13	MT. 16:18	EP. 2:20	PH. 2:15	AC. 2:47
40. OFFERING	PR. 3:9	AC. 11:29	MAL. 3:10	RM. 12:8	MAL. 3:10	1 CO. 16:12
41. HOLINESS	REV. 22:11	1 PE. 1:15-16	HE. 12:14	2 CO. 7:1	LU. 1:75	LU. 1:75
42. MINISTRY	MK. 13:34	1 CO. 15:58	IS. 50:4	1 CO.16:15-16	2 CH. 28:15	MK. 1:18
43. LOVE	1 JN. 5:3	JN. 14:23-24	JN. 15:12	MK. 12:30	GA. 5:22	DT. 30:16
44. JOY	GA. 5:22	JN. 15:11	IS. 61:10	JN. 16:24	PS. 16:11	PH. 4:4
45. PRAISE	REV. 5:11-12	REV. 19:5	1 PE. 2:9	HE. 13:15	AC. 2:46-47	PS. 35:28
46. MODERATION	1 CO. 7:31	2 TI. 4:5	PH. 4:5	EC. 7:16-17	RM. 12:17	RM. 13:13
47. SUFFERING	RM. 8:18	HE. 12:5	HE. 12:10	1 PE. 4:16	JOB 23:10	2 CO. 4:17
48. WITCHCRAFT	RM. 1:23	MAL. 3:5	EX. 20:3	DT. 18:12	REV. 21:8	HE. 4:7
49. LYING	PR. 12:22	1 JN. 2:22	JN. 8:44	EP. 4:25	REV. 21:8	PS. 101:7
50. HATE	1 JN. 3:15	1 JN. 2:9	JN. 15:18	PS. 97:10	JN. 19:6	GN. 37:4
51. ADULTERY	LE. 18:20	1 CO. 6:10	HE. 13:4	1 CO. 7:2	MT. 15:19	MT. 5:28
52. DRUNKENNESS	PR. 23:29-30	1 CO. 6:10	PR. 20:1	EP. 5:18	PR. 23:20	RM. 13:13

Spiritual Blessings for the Disciple

		GOD has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.	Eph. 1:3
1.	**ELECTION**	He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world…	Eph. 1:4
A.	Holiness	that we should be holy and blameless before Him.	Eph. 1:4; 1Th. 4:7
B.	Predestination	In love He predestined us…	Eph. 1:5; Rom. 8:29
C.	Adoption	for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ… (Gal. 4:4-5)	Eph. 1:5; Rom. 8:15
D.	His will	according to the purpose of His will.	Eph. 1:5,11; Luk. 22:42
2.	**REDEMPTION**	In Him we have redemption through his blood…	Eph. 1:7
3.	FORGIVENESS	forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace.	Eph. 1:7
A.	Slavery	One of his brothers may redeem Him (48)	Lev. 25:47-49
B.	Two Masters	you are slaves … either of sin … or of obedience…	Rom. 6:16
C.	The Bad Master	escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured...	2Ti.2:26, 2Pe.2:19
D.	Man's Inability	Truly no man can ransom another or give to God the price	Psa. 49:7-9
E.	Freedom in Jesus	So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.	John 8:36
4.	**INHERITANCE**	In Him we obtained an inheritance, having been predestined	Eph. 1:11
A.	Riches	…to know the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,	Eph. 1:18
B.	Bad works	If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss…	1Co.3:15, 2Jo. 8
C.	Bad Steward	The younger … squandered his property in reckless living.	Luk 15:12-13
5.	**SEAL OF HOLY SPIRIT**	In Him, (you) were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.	Eph. 1:13
A.	Voluntary Slave	But if your servant says "I do not want to leave you, …"	Deu. 15:12-17
B.	White Stone	… with a new name written on the stone.	Rev. 2:17
C.	Circumcision	In Him also you were circumcised	Col. 2:11
6.	**STRENGTH**	…working of his great strength that he worked in Christ	Eph. 1:19-20
A.	Declaration of Sin	I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord…	Mic. 3:8
B.	His Witness	You will receive power … and you will be my witnesses	Act. 1:8
C.	His Righteousness	I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you…	Isa. 41:10
D.	My Weakness	my power is made perfect in weakness…	2Co. 12:9-10
7.	**GOOD WORKS**	…created in Christ Jesus for good works.	Eph. 2:10
A.	Inability of Man	…not a result of works, so that no one may boast.	Eph. 2:9
B.	Gift of God	it is the gift of God.	Eph. 2:8
D.	Undeserved Salvation	he saved us, not because of works done by us…	Tit 3:5
8.	**RELATIONSHIP**	in Christ Jesus you […] have been brought near.	Eph. 2:13; 3:12
A.	Access	through him we have access in one Spirit to the Father.	Eph. 2:18; Heb. 4:15
B.	Freedom	we have confidence to enter the holy places…	Heb. 10:19
9.	**BUILDING**	…in whom the whole structure, being joined together…	Eph. 2:21
A.	God's Temple	…grows into a holy temple in the Lord.	Eph. 2:21; 1Co. 6:19
B.	Cornerstone	Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone…	Eph. 2:20
C.	Living Stones	you like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house.	1Pe. 2:5
10	**DWELLING**	22 In him you are being built together into a dwelling place	Eph. 2:22
A.	God's Spirit	…you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you	1Co. 3:16
C.	God's Residence	I will make my dwelling among them…	2Co. 6:16
D.	God's Companionship	I will … walk among them.	2Co. 6:16
E.	God's Property	I will be their God, and they shall be my people.	2Co. 6:16

CONCLUSION

- *Have you been chosen, redeemed, forgiven, and freed to be His friend and slave?*
- *Are you saved from your sins, adopted as His child, and offered a share in His inheritance?*
- *Have you stopped living on your strength and received His strength to do good works?*
- *Have you received access to the Father by inviting His Spirit to live in you and take control?*

Report of Your Small Group Bible Study

Each student is required to lead at least one Bible study during the course of the semester. The information in the following form should be reported by the student, signed by him and a witness, and submitted to the teacher of this course.

1. Bible Study leader's name _____
2. Witness' name _____
3. Place _____
4. Date _____
5. Time _____
6. Duration _____
7. People present _____
8. Biblical texts _____
9. Title of study _____
10. Theme of study _____
11. Type and theme of study _____
12. Literature given _____
13. Major points of the Bible study:
    7.6.
    7.7.
    7.8.
    7.9.
    7.10.
14. Leader's evaluation
    - Weak points
    - Strong points
    - Other remarks
15. Witness' evaluation
    - Weak points
    - Strong points
    - Other remarks
16. Participant's comments
    - Weak points
    - Strong points
    - Other remarks

ENDNOTES:

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[1] *Many lessons in this course are based on materials on discipleship by a variety of practitioners, including Dr. Dale C. Garside, Dr. Jim and Carol Plueddemann (and their book, Pilgrims in Progress: Growing through Groups), and Dr. Robert Coleman (The Master Plan of Discipleship).*

[2] *This lesson and the next four are by Rev. Paul Braun*

[3] *Dr. Robert Coleman, The Master Plan of Evangelism, notes taken on his lectures in Monrovia, Liberia in 1989 and Kinshasa, Zaire in 1990.*

[4] *By Carol Nystrom*

[5] *By Dr. Jim Plueddemann*

[6] *This lesson and the next two are from Stowe Alliance Church, USA*

[7] *This lesson and the next seven are sermon outlines developed by Dr. Dale Garside*

[8] *By Drs. Willys Braun and Dale Garside*