



## Table of Contents

Lesson 1: <b>Discovery</b> .....	2
Lesson 2: <b>Assurance of Salvation</b> .....	5
Lesson 3: <b>Assurance of Answered Prayer</b> .....	9
Lesson 4: <b>Assurance of Victory</b> .....	16
Lesson 5: <b>Assurance of Forgiveness</b> .....	20
Lesson 6: <b>Assurance of Guidance</b> .....	24
Lesson 7: <b>Putting Christ First</b> .....	27
Lesson 8: <b>His Strength</b> .....	30
Lesson 9: <b>God's Word</b> .....	33
Lesson 10: <b>Love</b> .....	38
Lesson 11: <b>Water Baptism</b> .....	42
Lesson 12: <b>Holy Communion</b> .....	47
Lesson 13: <b>Giving</b> .....	50
Lesson 14: <b>The Church</b> .....	55
Lesson 15: <b>Good Works</b> .....	59
Lesson 16: <b>Witnessing</b> .....	62
Lesson 17: <b>Ministry</b> .....	66



# Discovery

## Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Have I come to a place in my spiritual life where I know that I have eternal life? That is, do I know for certain that if I were to die today, I would go to heaven?
2. If I were to die today and stand before God, and he were to say to me, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would I say? What are God's requirements for me to get into heaven?

**The central and most important message in all the Bible  
is summed up in the following outline.**

## I. Grace

- A. Heaven is a free gift. Write out **Romans 6:23**.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- B. It is not earned or deserved. Write out **Ephesians 2:8-9**.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

## II. Man

- A. Man is a sinner. Write out **Romans 3:23**.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

- B. Man cannot save himself. Write out **Isaiah 59:2** and **Proverbs 14:12**.

**Isaiah 59:2** – "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."

**Proverbs 14:12** – "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."

### III. God

- A. God is merciful; therefore he doesn't want to punish us. Write out **Jeremiah 31:3**.

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."

- B. God is just; therefore he must punish sin. Write out **Ezekiel 18:4** and **Jeremiah 31:30**.

**Ezekiel 18:4** – "For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son—both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die."

**Jeremiah 31:30** – "Instead, everyone will die for his own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—his own teeth will be set on edge."

### IV. The Lord Jesus Christ

- A. Who he is: Jesus is our Savior, fully God and fully man. Write out **John 1:1, 14**.

**(1)** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." **(14)** "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

- B. What he did: Jesus paid for our sins and purchased a place in heaven for us, which he offers as a free gift. This gift is received by Saving Faith. Write out **1 Peter 2:24** and **Isaiah 53:6**:

**1 Peter 2:24** – "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

**Isaiah 53:6** – "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

### V. Saving Faith

- A. What it is *not*: Saving faith is not mere intellectual belief nor temporary faith. Write out **James 2:19**.

"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder."

- B. What it *is*: Saving faith is trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. Note: Faith is.....
1. Obedience. Write out John 3:36.  
"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."
  2. Repentance. Write out Acts 17:30.  
"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent."
  3. Confession. Write out Romans 10:9.  
"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
  4. Baptism. Write out Acts 2:38:  
"Peter replied, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

## **VI. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Review this lesson and complete the next lesson.
- B. Work on memorizing this important Bible verse:

*"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:11-12)*

- C. Read John 1-3.



# Assurance of Salvation

Review the following verse and check the box after quoting it correctly from memory:  1 John 5:11-12

I have read John 1-3.  Yes  No

Memorize I John 5:11-12:

***"And this is the testimony:  
God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.  
He who has the Son has life;  
he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."***

◆  
***I John 5:11-12***

The verses you will memorize and study in the next five lessons will equip you for your first encounters with the enemy. His first approach is often to cast doubt on the work God has done in your heart. Although you won't hear his audible voice, he will whisper this in your mind: "You don't think you are saved and your sins forgiven just by believing and receiving Christ do you? Surely that is not enough.

What will your answer be? Your only hope of successfully resisting such an attack is to resort to God's Word. What does God say about the matter? That is the important thing for you to know.

On the basis of this "testimony" – God's written Word – you can be convinced you have the Lord Jesus Christ, and with him eternal life. You can thus overcome in this first test of your faith. The attack may recur, but now you can meet it with the Word of God in your heart.

## I. Exploring I John 5:11-12

- A. Who gives eternal life?  
**God.**
- B. Where is eternal life found?  
**In his Son.**

- C. Who has eternal life?  
He who has the son has life.
- D. Who does not have eternal life?  
He who does not have the son.

## II. God's Word — The Bible

- A. What did John say in John 20:31 about why he wrote the book?  
That you would believe, Jesus is the Christ and by believing in him you will have eternal life.
- B. What does the Bible say in John 3:16 about how we receive eternal life?  
To believe in Jesus Christ.

## III. God Loves Us, But Hates Sin

- A. According to Romans 5:8, how has God shown that he loves you?  
While we were still sinners Christ died for us.
- B. What results of man's sinfulness are listed in Isaiah 59:2?
- You're iniquities (sins) have separated you from God.
  - Your sins have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear.
- C. What does John 3:36 say is the difference between the person who believes in Jesus and the one who does not?  
Who ever believes in the son has eternal life but whoever rejects the son will not have eternal life.
- Also read Matt: 7:13 – The narrow gate of salvation.

#### **IV. Doing It God's Way Means Eternal Life—Doing It Man's Way Means Death**

- A. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, why do human efforts always fail to reach God?

We were all saved by grace, not by our works. (God's gift)

- B. In I Peter 3:18, how did Peter explain what God has done to bring men to himself?

Christ died for our sins once and for all, the righteous and the unrighteous.

- C. How did John say a person receives the gift of salvation in John 1:12?

To believe in his name.

#### **V. He Who Has The Son Has Eternal Life**

- A. What did Jesus promise his follower in John 10:27-29?

Listen to my voice and follow me and I will know them and give them everlasting life.

- B. What takes place when a person becomes a Christian, as described in II Corinthians 5:17?

He is a new creature in Christ – (the inside of the person) – the old has gone; the new has come!

C. Which of the following changes have you experienced in your life? (Check the appropriate ones.)

- Inner peace
- Desire to read the Bible
- New awareness of sin
- Attitude changes
- Victory over sin
- Sense of forgiveness
- New love for God
- New concern for others

## VI. Assignment Opportunity

- A. Memorize 1 John 5:11-12
- B. Write out 1 John 5:11-12 from memory.
- C. Apply 1 John 5:11-12. Meditate on 1 John 5:11-12 and consider how to apply it to your life. How do you know that you have eternal life?

**Belief and faith in Christ and the word of God.**

- D. Now take a few moments to thank God for all he has given you in Jesus Christ.
- E. Read John 4-6.



# Assurance of Answered Prayer

Review the following verse and check the box after quoting it correctly from memory:  1 John 5:11-12

I have read John 4-6.  Yes  No

Memorize John 16:24:

***"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."***

***John 16:24***

Another attack of Satan may be to cause you to doubt the effectiveness of prayer. He may whisper to you. "You don't think God is really interested in you? He's far away, and concerned about more important things. Surely you don't think he'll hear your prayers-much less answer them!"

But with Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you have the unique privilege of speaking directly with your heavenly Father through him. God wants you to come confidently into his presence through Christ and to talk to him about everything (look up Philippians 4:6 and Hebrews 4:14-16). He is intensely interested in you and your needs.

In the memory verse for this lesson, John 19:24, Jesus was speaking to his disciples the night before his crucifixion. He did not tell them they had never before asked for anything in prayer. But he said they had not asked in his name. You yourself have probably prayed many times, especially when in trouble. But as a believer in Christ you can ask in Jesus' name, because you belong to him. To ask in his name means to ask in his authority and on his merit. Just as the Father answered Jesus' every prayer, so he will answer you when you ask in Jesus' name.

Memorize the promise, apply its truth, and experience the joy of answered prayer.

## I. Exploring John 16:24

- A. What is prayer?  
*Speaking directly to God*
- B. In whose name should we pray?  
*Jesus Christ*
- C. What results from prayer?
  - *God's answer (yes, no, or wait)*
  - *Our joy will be complete*

## II. When We Ask, We Ask In Jesus' Name

*"Until now you have not asked anything in my name"*

- A. What does Jesus teach about prayer in Matthew 7:7-8?  
**Ask** and it will be given to you, **Seek** and you will find, **Knock** and the door will be open.
- God answers prayer. Ask for God's help; we must seek God out and be persistent in prayer.
- B. What are some important conditions for answered prayer?
1. John 15:7
    - If you remain in me My word will remain in you – remain in fellowship with Christ.
    - We must believe.
    - Internalize the word of God.
  2. 1 John 5:14-15
    - Ask anything according to his will.
    - Have confidence in God, for he is perfect!
- C. What are some hindrances to answered prayer?
1. James 4:3

Ask for the wrong motivation; not seeking God's will, but being self-centered. (God knows our hearts.)
  2. Psalm 66:18

If I cherish sin in my heart the Lord will not listen.
  3. Deuteronomy 1:45 (Isaiah 59:1-2)
    - Your sins have hidden his face from you. (Rebellion against God)
    - You came back and wept before the lord, but he paid no attentions to your weeping and turned a deaf ear to you. (Separation from God—sin)
  4. 1 Peter 3:7

Disregarding God's instruction concerning the husband/wife relationship. (Read Eph. 5:33)

- D. In what four ways does God answer our prayers?
1. His Word
  2. Prayer
  3. Christian Counsel
  4. Circumstances
- E. Does God always answer prayer? Two consistent answers are found in the Bible:
1. Yes, if you ask in the name of Jesus.
  2. No, if there is no forgiveness in your heart.

### III. God Does Answer Our Prayer

*"Ask and you shall receive"*

- A. What is characteristic of God's answers to prayer?
1. Jeremiah 33:3 - His Promise. First you must call upon God – God knows things we don't and will let us know.
  2. Ephesians 3:20 – He can do abundantly more than we ask and beyond our comprehension.
- B. Read Matthew 7:9-11. What kind of gifts does God give his children?
- Good gifts!
1. How do you think God would respond to a request for something he knew would be bad for you?  
No!! But if you choose to do what is wrong he will allow it.
  2. What do you think God would do if he knew the answer would be better for you at another time?  
Not now – wait on the Lord though prayer.

### IV. God Can Make Our Joy Complete

*"Your joy will be complete"*

- A. Read Philippians 4:6-7.
1. What is the wrong reaction to have toward difficult circumstances?  
To be anxious or impatient.

2. What is the right response?  
*To pray and present your request to God.*
  3. What is the result of this right response?  
*He will answer your prayers and give you peace.*
- B. According to Philippians 4:7, what results from the peace that comes through prayer? *Our hearts and minds are in God's protective care.*
- C. Read Luke 1:13-14. What resulted when Zechariah and Elizabeth prayed for a son? *God heard their prayers and answered them.*

## V. Develop A Daily Quiet Time

Here are some helpful hints for planning your daily Quiet Time.

### A. Determine the necessity of a Quiet Time.

Decide that this is God's will for you. It's not important, but essential! It is the secret to spiritual success (Jeremiah 29:11-14a; Isaiah 55:6-7; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Philippians 3:7-8).

Why is a Quiet Time so important?

1. *Because ...* apart from him we can do nothing. (John 15:5)
2. *Because ...* it provides strength and stability for our lives. (Isaiah 40:28-31)
3. *Because ...* of the example of Old Testament men. (Psalm 5:3; Exodus 33:11)
4. *Because ...* of the example of Jesus' life. (Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:23; Luke 4:12; Mark 14:32)
5. *Because ...* of the example of godly men and women down through history.
6. *Because ...* God desires our fellowship.

### B. Determine a specific time for your Quiet Time. Begin each day early alone with God. (Mark 1:35)

### C. Determine a specific place for your Quiet Time. Jesus withdrew to a Lonely place, away, and secluded. This is necessary. Allow NO Interruptions! Go to that same place; it's your appointment with God.

- D. Determine to spend the first few minutes practicing God's presence. Maybe only one or two minutes. Just affirm he's there! (Psalm 46:10)
- E. Determine to read the Bible first and then pray. George Mueller did this because he said that he always found something new to praise God for that way. Don't read to teach, read to be challenged and inspired in your own life.

What should you read? Begin with the book of Genesis for your Old Testament portion; read two chapters per day until the book is finished. Pick a section of the New Testament and stay with it, reading it again and again every morning for two solid weeks, or maybe three weeks (Colossians 3, Ephesians 4, John 15, Philippians 2, Galatians 4, Luke 14, John 10, John 6, Romans 8, 2 Timothy 1, Titus 3, etc.).

Make notes, list lists, ask questions. Pray before you read of the Spirit of wisdom and revelation - "Lord, speak to me through these words."

- F. Determine to have a balanced daily prayer life. Here is a simple pattern for praying:

1. Be still for a few moments and thank God for his presence.
2. Pray these four important kinds of prayer (Ephesians 6:18):
  - **ADORATION** – Reflecting on God Himself. Praise him for his love, his power and majesty, and his wonderful gift of Christ.
  - **CONFESSION** – Admitting your sins to God. Be honest and humble. Remember he knows you and loves you still.
  - **THANKSGIVING** – Telling God how grateful you are for everything he has given - even the unpleasant things. Your thankfulness will help you see his purposes.
  - **SUPPLICATION** – Making specific requests, both for others (intercession) and for yourself (petition).

The first letters of these four words form the word "**ACTS**." Use this as a mental guide for practicing a balanced prayer life.

- G. Determine to memorize Scripture on a daily basis. This may come out of the passage you are reading in the New Testament for days at a time.

- H. Determine to keep your appointment with God everyday. Purpose to spend at least 10 minutes with God each day. Here's a simple guide:

<b>.5 Pray for Guidance</b>	Psalm 143:8
<b>.5 Practice his presence</b>	Psalm 46:10
<b>4.0 Read the Bible</b>	Psalm 119:18
<b>2.5 Prayer</b>	
... Adoration	I Chronicles 29:11
... Confession	I John 1:9
... Thanksgiving	Ephesians 5:20
... Supplication	Matthew 7:7
<b>2.5 Bible Memory</b>	
<b>10 Minutes</b>	

## VI. Assignment Opportunity

- A. Memorize John 16:24.
- B. Write out John 16:24 from memory.
- C. Apply John 16:24.

List four specific things you can pray about today. Pause right now and talk to God about them.

- D. Without looking at your notes above, be able to define these four important areas of prayer:
- Adoration
  - Confession
  - Thanksgiving
  - Supplication





# Assurance of Victory

Review the following verse and check the box after quoting it correctly from memory:

- 1 John 5:11-12  
 John 16:24

I have read John 7-9.  Yes  No

Memorize I Corinthians 10:13:

***"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."***

***I Corinthians 10:13***

Still another attack from Satan may be along this line: he will whisper to you, "You have life, all right, but you are a weakling; you have always been a weakling." He will remind you of some sin which has gripped you for years. He will point to something of which you are keenly aware and say, "you are weak and you will not be able to stand against this temptation. You may be able to stand against others, but not this one.

How will you answer him? Will you attempt reason? Will you try to produce your own arguments? Will you run to see what other people say? Or will you resort to the invincible Word of God?

Knowing I Corinthians 10:13 will allow you to ward off this attack. God promises victory. It belongs to you as his child. Believe him and you will see how God does things that are impossible with men. It will thrill you to see the chains of lifetime habits broken by his mighty power.

## I. Exploring I Corinthians 10:13

- A. What is true about every temptation you face?  
*It is common to man.*
- B. Who can give you victory when you are tempted?  
*God.*

- C. Does God remove temptation?  
No it's a part of life.
- D. What Does God do for you?  
He will provide a way out.

## II. You Are Not The Only Person Who Experiences Temptation

*"Temptation.....is common to man."*

- A. Is temptation a sin (Luke 4:1-13; Hebrews 4:15)?  
No. Jesus used scripture to fight away temptation.
- B. What is a major source of temptation that James describes in James 1:13-14?  
Our own evil desires.
- C. Read I John 2:15-16. What are three primary areas of temptation?
  - 1. Lustful eyes.
  - 2. Boasting of things done.
  - 3. Cravings of sinful man.
- D. Read Matthew 4:1-11. What were the three areas in which Jesus was tempted?
  - 1. Hunger – using his power for his own physical needs.
  - 2. Faith – testing God.
  - 3. Power – worshipping Satan.
- E. Read Genesis 3:6. What three aspects of temptation do we see here?
  - 1. Good for food – distrust of God.
  - 2. Desirable for gaining wisdom.
  - 3. Pleasing to the eye.
- F. According to Peter's statement in I Peter 5:8, what is the devil seeking to do when he tempts you?  
To devour you.  
What does this mean? To consume – destroy. Separation from God.

### III. God Will Never Abandon Us

*"God is faithful"*

#### A. Poem: "Footprints in the Sand"

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints. Then he noticed that there were many times along the path of his life that there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. That really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said that once I decided to walk with you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you the most you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious child! I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trials and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Read Isaiah 63:9; Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 33:12, 27; Hebrews 13:5; Isaiah 41:10.

#### B. What does God do for us, according to II Thessalonians 3:3?

**He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.**

#### C. What does Hebrews 4:15 tell us about Jesus Christ?

**Jesus understand your weaknesses and the temptations we face.**

#### IV. God Will Help Us Escape

##### *"A Way Out"*

- A. According to Jude 24, what is God able to do for us?  
*Keep us from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.*
- B. What are some things we can do to keep temptation from leading into sin?
1. Matthew 6:9, 13 – *Pray.*
  2. Psalm 119:9, 11 – *Read God's Word.*
  3. I John 5:4-5 – *Believe God's Word -- Through Jesus we have overcome the world.*
  4. Hebrews 4:16 – *Pray with confidence.*
  5. James 4:7 – *Submit yourself to God.*
  6. I Peter 5:8-11 – *Practice self control and be alert.*
- C. Why can we be confident that victory over temptation is ours?  
(1 John 4:4)  
*Christ is greater than Satan.*

#### V. Assignment Opportunity

- A. Memorize I Corinthians 10:13.
- B. Write out I Corinthians 10:13 from memory.
- C. Apply I Corinthians 10:13.
1. What is temptation that frequently seizes you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  2. What do you think God's way of escape is? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- D. Read John 10-12.



# Assurance of Forgiveness

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- 1 John 5:11-12
- John 16:24
- 1 Corinthians 10:13

**I have read John 10-12?**       Yes       No

**Memorize 1 John 1:9:**

***"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness."***

***I John 1:9***

Although victory over sin is rightfully yours there will be times when you will miss the way of escape. You will fail and sin against God. Once you do, your enemy will be on the job immediately: "Now you've done it. Aren't you supposed to be a Christian? Christians don't do those things.

But God makes provision in his Word for the failures of his children, as we see in I John 1:9. We receive his full forgiveness as we confess to him our sins. To confess a sin means to uncover it and call it exactly what God calls it. This honest confession must include the willingness to forsake the sin. God promises not only to forgive us, but also to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. What a gracious provision.

## **I. Exploring I John 1:9**

- A. What does God want us to do about our sins?  
**Confess them.**
- B. What does it mean to confess?  
**To admit; to acknowledge.**

- C. In his act of forgiving us, how is God described?  
**Faithful and just.**
- D. What else does God do when we confess our sins?  
**He forgives us and cleanses us – “just as if we had never sinned”!**

## **II. We Must Confess Our Sins**

*"If we confess our sins..."*

- A. According to Romans 3:23, who has sinned?  
**We all have sinned.**
- B. Read I John 1:8, 10. What did John say we should recognize about ourselves?  
**If we say we have not sinned, we deceive ourselves and call God a liar.**
- C. What should be our attitude toward sin?
1. Psalm 139:12-24 - **Don't try to hide it. Look inside yourself frequently for sinful thoughts and deeds.**
  2. Psalm 38:18 - **We should confess our sins**
  3. Psalm 51:1-19 - **To acknowledge that we were born into sin and without Jesus we are lost. Admit our guilt, make no excuses, ask for forgiveness and a fresh start. Desire to do the right thing.**
- D. What should accompany our confession of sin?
1. Proverbs 28:13 - **Renounce (abandon) our sin.**
  2. Acts 2:38 - **Repent and be baptized.**
  3. Acts 3:19 - **Repent and turn to God so that your sins will be wiped out.**

### III. God Will Certainly Forgive Us

*"He is faithful and just and will forgive.....and purify"*

- A. How is God described in Psalm 86:5?  
Forgiving and good, abounding in love.
- B. According to Ephesians 1:7, on what basis are we forgiven?  
Redemption through Christ's blood – Forgiveness of sin by God's grace.
- C. What does Hebrews 10:12 say about Christ's sacrifice?  
One sacrifice for all sins.
- D. Read Hebrews 10:17, Why is it foolish for us to continue to feel guilty about sin?  
Through Christ's blood our sin is completely forgiven, not remembered by God.

### IV. God Wants Us to Forgive Others

- A. According to Ephesians 4:31-32, what should be our attitude toward those who have offended us? **Forgiveness**  
Why? **Because through Christ, God has forgiven us.**
- B. What does Matthew 6:14-15 tell us about forgiveness?  
**If you forgive others of their sins, God will also forgive you of yours. But if you don't forgive others, God won't forgive you.**
- C. What is the message of the parable found in Matthew 18:21-35?  
(The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant)  
**Unlimited forgiveness. God expects us to forgive others (from our heart) just as he has forgiven us!**

**V. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize 1 John 1:9.
- B. Write out 1 John 1:9 from memory.
- C. Apply 1John 1:9.
  - 1. Perhaps as you worked on this lesson, something came to your mind that is hindering your fellowship with God; some sin you have committed for which you have not asked forgiveness. If so, write down what God brought to your mind.
  - 2. Confess this to God, and claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 that he has forgiven your sin. Thank him for his forgiveness.
- D. Read John 13-15.



# Assurance of Guidance

Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:

- 1 John 5:11-12  
 John 16:24

- 1 Corinthians 10:13  
 I John 1:9

I have read John 13-15       Yes       No

Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6:

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."***

***Proverbs 3:5-6***

You may have questions about the future, wondering how this new life of yours is going to work out. What about God's will for your life? Will he really lead you?

God does promise to lead you as you rely on him completely. He can guide you perfectly, for he knows all your needs, and has infinite wisdom, power, and riches to give you the best life possible. He deserves your trust.

## I. Exploring Proverbs 3:5-6

- A. What three things are you told to do?
1. Trust in the Lord.
  2. Lean not on your own understanding.
  3. In all your ways acknowledge him.
- B. When these conditions are met, what are you promised?  
 He will make your path straight – (help and guidance).

## II. We Must Trust In The Lord

*"Trust in the Lord"*

- A. Read Psalm 32:8. What can you trust God to do for you?  
 He will instruct you and teach you the way you should go.

- B. According to Romans 12:1-2, what steps should be taken to experience God's will?

To present your bodies as "living sacrifice" (surrender your total will to God), and not be transformed to this world (compromising with the world's standards).

- C. How is God's will described?

Good, pleasing and perfect.

- D. To whom does God promise blessing in Jeremiah 17:7?

The man who trust in the Lord.

### III. Must Not Trust In Ourselves Alone

*"Lean not on your own understanding"*

- A. What warning does God give in Jeremiah 17:5?

Don't put trust in ourselves or other men, but look to God for guidance.

- B. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. Why should we not limit ourselves to human understanding?

Our thoughts are not God's thoughts. (Man has limited understanding; God's understanding is unlimited!)

- C. What principle, described in John 6:38, did Jesus follow in making decisions?

He followed the Father's will ("the one who sent him") instead of his own.

### IV. Almighty God Must Be First In Our Lives

*"In all your ways acknowledge him"*

- A. List some of the "ways" of your life in which you need to acknowledge God (for example: spending money, your job, leisure time, etc.)

(NOTE: We all have trouble in these areas at one time or another.)

- B. Select one of them, and tell how you can better acknowledge God in this area.

Pray about your area of concern at your time of need, and be in the word at least once a day.

**V. God will guide us if we trust him and acknowledge him in all things**

*"He will make your paths straight"*

- A. What means has God provided for determining his will?
  - 1. Psalm 119:105 – **Lamp to my feet. The bible is the light he is speaking of, without it we are in total darkness.**
  - 2. I Corinthians 2:12 – **We have received the Holy Spirit.**
- B. Read James 1:5. What should you do about situations you don't understand?  
**Ask God for wisdom.**
- C. According to James 1:6-7, how are you to ask?  
**When asking for wisdom, believe – do not doubt!**
- D. What precedes the fulfillment of God's promises, according to Hebrews 10:36?  
**Endurance. (Persevere doing the will of God.)**

**VI. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6.
- B. Write out Proverbs 3:5-6 from memory.
- C. Apply Proverbs 3:5-6.
  - 1. Describe a situation in your life in which you are seeking God's guidance.
  - 2. List ways that show how you can trust God in this situation.
- D. Read John 16-18.



# Putting Christ First

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 16:24     | <input type="checkbox"/> I John 1:9          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6 |  |

**I have read John 16-18**       Yes       No

**Memorize Matthew 6:33:**

***"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well."***

**Matthew 6:33**

God has given us many privileges. But we also have certain responsibilities. The Bible tells us what God expects of us.

Many promises in the Bible are unconditional. But most of those which concern our growth as Christians are conditional upon our obedience to his will. The next several lessons will highlight eight of these responsibilities, which will help you build the foundation for a healthy Christian life.

Who will you live your life for? What has first place in your thought and plans? Jesus often challenged his disciples to consider their commitment to him and his kingdom. He said, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will save it" (Luke 9:23-24).

Following him in this way may mean struggles and trials, but also the privilege of resting in Christ: "Come to Me," Jesus said, "all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

As you memorize and apply Matthew 6:33, seek to know Christ better every day. As you put him, his will, and his work first in your daily life, you will begin to fully experience God's love and care, for he has promised to provide all of your daily needs.

## I. Exploring Matthew 6:33

- A. What are "these things"? (Look up Matthew 6:25-34).  
Money, food, clothes, shelter.
- B. Are these necessities or luxuries? Explain your answer.  
Necessities. Satan will try to put everything before God.
- C. What has God promised to do if you put his interests first in your life?  
God will provide all you need – the necessities in your life.

## II. We Must Put God First In Our Lives

- A. What does God want us to do?
  - 1. Psalm 37:3 – **Trust** in the LORD and **do good**.
  - 2. Psalm 37:4 – **Delight** yourself in the Lord.
  - 3. Psalm 37:5 – **Commit** your ways to the Lord and **trust** him!
- B. From I Samuel 12:24 give one reason for serving the Lord with all your heart.  
Because he has done great things for us!
- C. Read I Samuel 15:22. What does God desire more than sacrifice?  
To obey.
- D. How should we obey God's commands, according to these verses?
  - 1. Psalm 119:34 – **With all our heart**.
  - 2. Psalm 119:60 – **With haste!** (Don't procrastinate.)
- E. In 2 Timothy 3:16, what did Paul say is God's means for training us in righteousness?  
The Scripture.

### III. God Is Able To Provide All That We Need

- A. Read Ephesians 3:20-21. How much do you think God can do for you?  
He is able to do more than we could ever imagine.
- B. Isaiah 40:11. How does God promise to treat his people?  
Like a Shepard – with care, comfort and gentle guidance.
- C. Read Philippians 4:4 and 4:6. List two things we are instructed to practice as believers.
- Rejoice in the Lord
  - Do not be anxious for anything. Rather, with thanksgiving bring your requests to God.
- D. How does Philippians 4:7 describe the result of applying Philippians 4:4 and 4:6?  
Jesus will guard your heart and mind always -- (peace).
- E. What was Paul's attitude towards his circumstances in Philippians 4:11-13?  
Contentment, assurance, confidence.  
  
How was he able to do this?  
Trust and faith in God as provider of all strength.
- F. According to Matthew 6:8, how well does God know your present needs?  
He knows your needs before you ever ask.

### IV. Assignment Opportunity

- A. Memorize Matthew 6:33.
- B. Write out Matthew 6:33 from memory.
- C. Apply Matthew 6:33.

Take a moment to pray that God will help you give his kingdom and his righteousness first priority in all areas of your life. From Matthew 6:25-32, list any needs which you want to trust God for. Claim his promise in Matthew 6:33 for meeting these needs, and pray about them.

Check here when done:

- D. Read John 19-21.



# His Strength

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- 1 John 5:11-12
- John 16:24
- 1 Corinthians 10:13

- I John 1:9
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Matthew 6:33

**I have read John 19-21.**       Yes       No

**Memorize Philippians 4:13:**

***"I can do everything through him  
who gives me strength."***

***Philippians 4:13***

Occasionally you may experience failure and discouragement. But the Scriptures remind us of the Christian's true source of strength. Paul recorded God's promise this way: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9).

Centuries ago, God told his people, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous hand" (Isaiah 41:10). This promise is true for us today.

In all the trials and challenges you face, God's presence can sustain you. We see this promise of God's strength throughout the Scripture, as in Proverbs 18:10—"*The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*"

As you memorize Philippians 4:13, boldly claim the Lord's strength for every challenge and opportunity in your daily life, and watch him work.

## **I. Exploring Philippians 4:13**

- A. List some things you face which you cannot do apart from Christ's strength.
- Handle loss of loved ones
  - Working with people on the job
  - The uncertainties of life's ups and downs

- B. According to this verse, how should you approach these things?  
*With prayer and the strength of Jesus Christ.*

## II. With God, All Things Are Possible

*"I can do everything"*

- A. Read I Corinthians 1:26-31. Why does God often choose "ordinary" people to accomplish great things for him?  
*So that no one will boast before the Lord.*
- B. According to John 15:5, what can we accomplish apart from Christ?  
*Nothing.*
- C. What prerequisite for bearing fruit is listed in John 15:5?  
*"If you remain in me, I will remain in you." A living union with Christ is absolutely necessary. You will stay in him by daily reading his word.*
- D. What additional requirement for bearing fruit is listed in John 15:7?  
*His word remains in you.*
- E. Read II Corinthians 12:9. Should we ever allow a weakness or an inability to cause lasting discouragement?  
*No. "For my grace is sufficient."*
- F. What did Paul thank God for in II Corinthians 2:14?
- *His guidance – ("triumphal procession in Christ")*
  - *Working through us – ("through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him")*
- G. What three gifts from God are listed in II Timothy 1:7?
1. *Spirit of Power*
  2. *Love*
  3. *Self-discipline*

## III. He Is My Enabler

*"Through him who gives me strength"*

- A. How did Moses describe the Lord in Exodus 15:2?  
*My strength ... my song ... my salvation.*

- B. Read Nehemiah 8:10. According to Nehemiah, what is our source of strength?  
*The joy of the Lord.*
- C. How did David describe the Lord in Psalm 18:1?  
*My strength.*
- D. From Psalm 18:2, list the reasons why David thought of God as a source of strength.  
*God was his refuge and a shield from his enemies – (rock, fortress, deliverer, stronghold) – “in whom I take refuge”.*
- E. According to Romans 5:8, what did Christ do for us when we were still sinners.  
*Christ died for us.*
- F. Read Ephesians 3:16-19. How does God strengthen us?  
*Through his spirit, and faith in your heart. (Your faith grows as you daily read his word and spend time in prayer.)*
- G. Read II Timothy 4:16-18. Why did the Lord strengthen Paul?  
*So that the gospel would be heard – (like your testimony).*
- What confidence did Paul gain as a result of this experience?  
*That God will never leave you in your darkest hour.*

#### **IV. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize Philippians 4:13.
- B. Write out Philippians 4:13 from memory.
- C. Apply Philippians 4:13.
- List one activity, project, or task in the next week in which you will need to consciously claim the promise of Philippians 4:13, and actively rely upon Christ's strength.
- D. Read Acts 1-3.



# God's Word

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:11-12      | <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 16:24          | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I John 1:9          |   |

**I have read Acts 1-3.**     Yes     No

**Memorize Psalm 119:9, 11:**

***"How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By living according to your Word.  
I have hidden your Word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you."***

***Psalm 119:9, 11***

By having Scriptures in your heart we can experience victory over sin, and can please God in all areas of life.

As the Apostle Paul said farewell to the believers from Ephesus, he committed them to God's care and reminded them that God's word "can build you up and give you and inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). The Scriptures give us food for spiritual maturity, and prepare us for our eternity with God.

Not having a regular intake of Scripture will stunt our spiritual growth as surely as improper nourishment harms a child. "Like newborn babies," the Apostle Peter wrote, "crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (Peter 2:2).

As you memorize Psalm 119:9, 11, meditate on the ways God's word can build you up, and look for evidence in your life of how he is doing this.

## **I. Exploring Psalm 119:9, 11**

- A. How can you live a pure life?  
**By living according to God's word.**
- B. What will keep you from sin?  
**By hiding God's word in your heart.**

## II. We Must Pursue Purity

*"How can a young man keep his way pure"*

- A. Read II Timothy 3:16-17. What will the Scriptures do in your life?  
God's word will train you for "every good work".  
"... teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."
- B. What will be the end result of what the Scripture does in your life?  
You will be equipped to do good works.
- C. Read Psalm 1:1-6.
  - 1. Whose counsel should you avoid?  
The counsel of the wicked.
  - 2. What attitude should you have towards God's Word?  
Delight in Gods word.
  - 3. How will your life be influenced by God's Word?  
Your life will prosper.

## III. Obedience To God's Word Will Keep Us Pure

*"By living according to Your Word"*

- A. What does Joshua 1:8 teach us to do to live according to God's Word?  
Meditate on Gods word day and night.
- B. What did the psalmist ask God in Psalm 119:19?  
Do not hide your commands from me.
- C. According to verse 93, what had God's precepts done for the writer of Psalm 119?  
Preserved his life.

#### IV. We Need To Hear, Read, Study, Memorize And Meditate On Scripture

*"I have hidden Your Word in my heart"*

- A. Read Psalm 19:7-8 and fill in the lines below.

Verse	What God's Word <i>Is</i>	What god's Word <i>Does</i>
7	Perfect	Revives the soul
7	Trustworthy	Making wise the simple
8	Right	Giving joy to the heart
8	Radiant	Giving light to the eyes

- B. Read Matthew 4:4. Write in your own words what Jesus said about God's Word.

- As you grow in the Lord you must produce or you will become spiritual fat.
- Food itself is not enough. We need God's word to feed our soul.

- C. How can you apply Colossians 3:16?

Let the word of the Lord dwell in you richly. (Prayer and worship – through our words as well as through song/music.)

- D. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7. What did Moses tell the people to do with God's Word?

Impress the word upon your heart and your children's throughout each day.

- E. What is a practical way you can talk about the Bible with others?

Apply scripture to your day to day activities and circumstances. Apply scripture to ideas, attitudes, situations at home or at work.

- F. The "Word Hand" shows us the five methods of learning from the Bible. Each of these methods are vitally important to our Christian growth. Imagine a hand holding the Bible with the five fingers labeled as follows:

1. Hearing the Word from godly pastors and teachers provides us insight into others' study of the word as well as stimulating our own appetites for the Word. (Romans 10:17)

2. Reading the Bible gives us an overall picture of God's Word. Many find helpful a daily reading program, which takes them systematically through the Bible. (Revelation 1:3)
3. Studying the Scriptures leads us into personal discoveries of God's truths. Writing down these discoveries help us organize and remember them better. (Acts 17:11)
4. Memorizing God's Word enables us to use the "sword of the Spirit" to overcome Satan and temptations....to have it readily available for witnessing or helping others with a "word in season."  
(Psalm 119:9, 11)
5. Meditating on God's Word is used in conjunction with each of the other four methods. It is the thumb of the Word Hand. Only as we meditate on God's Word—thinking of its meaning and application to our lives—will we discover its transforming power at work in us.  
(Psalm 1:2-3)

#### **V. God's Word Will Keep Us From Sin, Sin Will Keep Us From God's Word**

*"That I might not sin against you"*

- A. What is the Word of God able to do in your heart, according to Hebrews 4:12?  
*The word of God judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*
- B. What results of abiding in God's Word are mentioned in John 8:31-32?  
*If you know the truth it will set you free.*
- C. Read James 1:22-25. Describe the person who forgets what he sees in God's Word.  
*He is fooling himself, and his relationship with God is worthless. This passage describes a person who looks at his face in the mirror, then immediately forgets what he looks like.*
- D. How did James say we should respond to the Word of God?  
*Do not merely listen to the word of God. Do what it says!  
Faith without works is dead.*

## **VI. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize Psalm 119:9, 11.
- B. Write out Psalm 119:9, 11 from memory.
- C. Apply Psalm 119:9, 11.
  - 1. Select one of the verses you have already memorized which you need to apply this week. Now, write a prayer request based on this need.
  - 2. Take a moment to pray and ask God to help you carry out your application of Scripture.
- D. Read Acts 4-6.



# Love

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:11-12      | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9, 11  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 16:24          | <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I John 1:9          | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:13 |

**I have read Acts 4-6.**    Yes    No

**Memorize John 13:34-35:**

***"A new commandment I give you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
All men will know that you are my disciples  
if you love one another."***

◆  
***John 13:34-35***

What is love? John said, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (I John 4:10). God is the source of love, and also the perfect example of what love is. God is love.

His love is sacrificial. Christ's death is an eternal reminder of this. God's love is also unconditional. You never have to worry about it diminishing. It is not dependent on our worthiness to receive it, for no one deserves God's love—and yet he loves everyone.

"Dear friends," John wrote, "since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (I John 4:11). As you memorize John 13:34-35, think of some ways you can show God's love to others.

## **I. Exploring John 13:34-35**

- A. What is Christ's new commandment?  
**To love one another as I have loved you.**
- B. Whose example of love are we to follow?  
**Jesus Christ's.**
- C. What will result when Christians show one another the same kind of love Jesus extends to us?  
**We show others that we are true followers of Jesus Christ.**

## II. We Are Commanded To Love One Another

*"Love one another"*

- A. What commandments does Christ emphasize in Matthew 22:37-39?
- "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
  - "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- B. Read I John 4:7. Who is the source of love?  
God.
- C. What does God love, according to John 3:16?  
The world – everyone!
- D. What does I John 3:16 say about love?  
We should be willing to lay our lives down for one another, just as Christ did for us.
- E. What is the result of obeying God's Word, according to I Peter 1:22?  
To purify yourself & to love one another.
- F. How does Peter say we are to love one another?  
Deeply, from the heart.

## III. We Are To Love As Jesus Loves

*"As I have loved you"*

- A. Read John 15:12-13. How did Jesus demonstrate his love?  
Christ laid down his life for us.
- B. Read I John 2:5. How did John say God's love is shown in our lives?  
Obedience to God's word.
- C. From I John 2:6, what indicates that an individual is rightly related to Jesus Christ?  
Who ever claims to live with him must walk as Jesus did.

- D. In Galatians 5:13, how did Paul teach Christians to exercise freedom?  
Not to abuse our freedom to indulge our sinful nature, but to serve one another in love.
- E. Read I John 4:10 and describe God's love.  
He loved us so much that he sent his only son as a living sacrifice for us (to take our place).
- F. Read John 13:1-17. Before Jesus gave his followers a new command to love one another (John 13:34-35), how did he demonstrate his love to them?  
By washing their feet as a servant would, yet out of love.

#### **IV. Our Love Must Be Recognizable**

*"You must love one another"*

- A. Read I John 3:16-18. From verse 17, describe a practical way we are taught to love our brothers.  
If we see our brother in need, we should do what we can to help him (in practical ways).
- B. From I John 3:18, describe the kind of love we should express to others.  
Love not only with words but also with actions and in truth.
- C. Read I Corinthians 13. From verses 4-7, list ways you can become more loving, and use this for prayer.  
Patience, kindness, without envy, not boastful, not proud, not rude, not selfish, slow to anger, no record of wrongs, hate evil, rejoice in truth, protective, trusting, full of hope and perseverance.

#### **V. Our Love To One Another Will Prove Our Love For God**

*"All men will know that you are My disciples"*

- A. Write out John 13:35 in your own words.  
Our proactive, undying love for each other will be noticed and recognized by everyone as being followers of Christ.
- B. Read I John 4:20-21. What is being said in these two verses?  
Whoever loves God must also love his brother. If we claim to love God and don't show love towards one another, then we prove ourselves to be liars.

## **VI. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize John 13:34-35.
- B. Write out John 13:34-35 from memory.
- C. Read Acts 7-9.



# Water Baptism

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:11-12      | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 16:24          | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9, 11  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I John 1:9          | <input type="checkbox"/> John 13:34-35    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6      |   |

**I have read Acts 7-9.**    Yes    No

**Memorize Matthew 28:18-20:**

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

***Matthew 28:18-20***

When considering water baptism, many people wonder why it is so important. "Why should I be baptized," they say, "I have accepted Jesus Christ into my life and have received the free gift of eternal life by believing in him alone. Isn't that all I need to do? Certainly believing in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation is what we must do in order to have eternal life (Acts 16:31). But once we have genuinely done this, we will also want to obey him completely (I John 2:5-6). This includes God's instruction regarding water baptism. His Word speaks specifically about the importance of us being water baptized. Let's explore this important truth together.

## **I. Exploring Matthew 28:18-20**

- A. Who made this command? **Jesus**
- B. What is a disciple? **A disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ.**
- C. What is one important thing every disciple has done?  
**Follow Jesus' example to be water baptized.**
- D. In whose name? **The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

## II. What Does It Mean To Be Water Baptized?

- A. How does Romans 6:3-4 answer this question?

It signifies that we are now dead to our old, sinful lives, and now, through Jesus have a new life.

In water baptism the believer publicly acknowledges his acceptance of all that Christ has done for him. As Christ died, was buried and was raised again for the salvation of sinners, so the believer in baptism declared his own death to sin, the burial of the old sinful nature, and his resurrection to a new life in Christ. Baptism is our testimony that we have died to the old self, we have buried it and have risen to a new life.

- B. According to Acts 2:38, water baptism is meaningless unless one first

Repents!!

- C. What does this mean?

Turn from our sinful ways – complete turnaround!

## III. Keys To Understanding Water Baptism

- A. What is a good definition for water baptism? Water Baptism is the outward evidence of an inward change.

- B. When endeavoring to understand water baptism, the reason for being water baptized is much more important than the method to be baptized.

1. Again, the reason for being baptized is:

To wash away the **old** and bring out the **new**.

2. Water baptism does not save us. (Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; I John 1:9; Hebrews 9:22)

3. And the biblical example for water baptism is Jesus Christ. (John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39; Romans 6:3-4; Matthew 3:16).

- C. With the above in mind, what does the Bible teach concerning infant baptism? (Keep in mind Acts 2:38; 4:12.)

It is *not* biblical. You need to be "of age" to understand and choose to be baptized.

- D. What if I was baptized without personally believing in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior? (Read Mark 16:16; John 3:3-6)

Baptism alone does not buy you a ticket into heaven. Read John 3:3-6.

#### **IV. What Biblical Examples For Water Baptism Do We Have?**

- A. Matthew 3:13-17 – Jesus was baptized.
- B. John 3:23 – John the Baptist baptized many people.
- C. Acts 8:36-39 – Philip baptized the eunuch.
- D. Acts 9:18 – Saul (Paul) was baptized.
- E. Acts 10:48 – Gentile believers at Cornelius' house were baptized.
- F. Acts 16:33 – The jailer and his whole family.

#### **V. Summary: Why Should I Be Baptized?**

- A. Jesus was baptized, and he's our example! (Matthew 3:13-17)
- B. Jesus commanded it, and he's our Lord! (Matthew 28:19)
- C. Every believer was in the book of Acts!
- D. It is the outward picture of the inward reality of my death to sin and resurrection of life! (Romans 6:3-4)
- E. I am not a disciple until I have been baptized. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- F. The great Apostle Paul was baptized. (Acts 9:18)
- G. It is proof to God that my faith is valid.
- H. Because it is the only outward act that fully represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Romans 6:3-4)

## **VI. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize Matthew 28:18-20.
- B. Write out Matthew 28:18-20 from memory.
- C. Apply Matthew 28:18-20.
  - 1. Make arrangements to be baptized soon.
  - 2. Tell someone else about Jesus Christ this week and help them become a disciple of his.
- D. Read Acts 10-12.

**- WATER BAPTISM APPLICATION -**

In water baptism, the believer publicly acknowledges his acceptance of all that Christ has done for him. As Christ died, was buried and rose again from the dead for the salvation of sinners, so the believer in baptism declares his own death to sin, the burial of the old sinful nature and his resurrection to new life in Christ. Baptism is our testimony that we have died to the old self, we have buried it, and have risen to a new life.

**Please read the following scriptures:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 3:13-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28:19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 10:48      | <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:23     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 8:36-39    | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:3-4  |

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Birth Date

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Place of Birth (City, State)

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Date Baptized



# Holy Communion

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:11-12      | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 16:24          | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9, 11  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I John 1:9          | <input type="checkbox"/> John 13:34-35    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6      | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28:18-20 |

**I have read Acts 10-12.**       Yes       No

**Memorize I Corinthians 11:26:**

***"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."***

***I Corinthians 11:26***

Holy Communion is an important celebration in the life of a Christian. Even though it is not directly connected to our salvation, the Lord initiated this ordinance so that we would remember the importance of his death and anticipate his Second Coming. In Luke 22:19, Jesus commanded all Christians to partake of the Lord's Supper (Communion). He said, "...do this in remembrance of Me." As we seek to obey the Lord's command, it is important for us learn more about Holy Communion.

## **I. Exploring I Corinthians 11:26**

- A. What are the two elements of communion?
1. **Bread**
  2. **Cup**
- B. What does this verse proclaim?  
**The Lords death until he comes.**
- C. Is there a future promise here? **Yes.** If so, what is it? **His return.**

## II. The Passover Feast Became The Lord's Supper

- A. Read Luke 22:8. On what occasion did Jesus introduce the Holy Communion?  
**The Passover.**
- B. We read about the first Passover in Exodus 12:1-13, 29-30.
1. What was slain at the first Passover?  
**Lamb.**
  2. What part of this animal was the most important?  
**The blood – (because blood signifies life).**
  3. What happened to the Egyptian families?  
**They lost their first born – both children and livestock.**
  4. What happened to the Israelite families who were “protected”?  
**No one was hurt.**
  5. What was their “protection?”  
**The blood from the sacrificed lamb was put on the sides and tops of the doorframes on the houses where they ate the lambs.**
- C. According to John 1:29, who is the Christian's Passover Lamb?  
**Jesus Christ.**
- D. How does John 1:29 relate to the first Passover?  
**His blood covers the sins of the world – sin sacrifice.**

## III. The Elements Of Communion

- A. The Bread.
1. According to John 6:33, from where did the “Bread of Life” come?  
**Came down from God in heaven.**
  2. What does the broken bread represent in I Corinthians 11:24?  
**Jesus' body.**
  3. Read the following verses and notice that Jesus was beaten, spit upon, and had to wear a crown of thorns. (John 19:2-3; Mark 15:17-20; Matthew 27:28-31; Isaiah 53:5.) Let's remember what he endured for us on the cross.

- B. The Cup.
1. According to Matthew 26:28, what did the cup represent?  
**A covenant – the forgiveness of sins.**
  2. How does the cup relate to the first Passover?  
**His blood cover our sins / the blood of the lamb.**
  3. What does Hebrews 9:22 say is necessary for forgiveness?  
**The shedding of blood was needed for the cleansing of sins.**

#### **IV. Warning Against Sacrilege**

- A. In I Corinthians 11:28, what should be done before a person partakes of Holy Communion?  
**Examine yourself and make sure that you are in right relationship with God. (There are consequences of *not* being right with God before taking communion. It is better not to partake if you are not in right relationship with God.)**
- B. Why is this so important? (Read verses 27 & 29.)  
**If you are not in right relationship with God, you will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord, bringing judgment on yourself.**

#### **V. Summary**

- A. The two ordinances of the church are Water Baptism and Holy Communion.
- B. The two elements of Holy Communion are the Bread and the Cup.

#### **VI. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize 1 Corinthians 11:26.
- B. Write out 1 Corinthians 11:26 from memory.
- C. Read Acts 13-15.



# Giving

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:11-12      | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:13    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 16:24          | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9, 11     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 13:34-35       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I John 1:9          | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28:18-20    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6      | <input type="checkbox"/> I Corinthians 11:26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33        |  |

**I have read Acts 13-15.**       Yes       No

**Memorize 2 Corinthians 9:7:**

***"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."***

***2 Corinthians 9:7***

God has inexhaustible riches for his children. We are heirs to all he possesses, for "if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ." (Romans 8:17)

God is eager to share these riches with us: "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also along with him, graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

Everything you have is from God. You can show your gratitude to God by generously giving yourself—your time, your possessions, your talent, and your money—to those who have needs.

Giving is sharing what God has given to us. We cannot give more than God will give back to us. Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38)

As you memorize II Corinthians 9:7, think of specific and practical ways to share with others what God has freely given to you.

## **I. Exploring II Corinthians 9:7**

- A. What attitudes toward giving are pleasing to God?  
Cheerful, willing – our choice.
- B. What attitudes should you avoid?  
Being a reluctant giver, resentful, giving grudgingly or for selfish purposes.

## **II. What Are The 5 T's In Stewardship?**

**Time** (Psalm 90:2; Ephesians 5:15-17)

**Talents** (Matthew 25:14-30)

**Treasures** (Matthew 6:1-4; 19:16-22)

**Temple** (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

**Testimony** (Ephesians 6:19)

## **III. Each Man Should Give What He Has Decided**

- A. Paraphrase II Corinthians 9:6.  
The more you give, the more you will receive. You only get out of life what you're willing to give.
- B. What did Jesus say about spiritual treasure and material wealth in Matthew 6:19-21?  
There is a direct correlation to the things we treasure and the attitude of our heart. The things we treasure show where our heart is. Our goal should not be to store up a lot of earthly treasure, rather store up treasure in heaven.
- C. What warning did Jesus give in Luke 12:15?  
Beware of every form of greed.

- D. Why do you think Jesus issued these warnings?  
To keep us focused on God's priorities and not our own.
- E. How does one become rich toward God according to Luke 12:15-21?  
Build up your treasure in heaven not here on earth.
- F. According to Acts 20:35, what did Jesus say about giving?  
It is more blessed to give than to receive.
- G. What does Malachi 3:8-10 teach?  
Do not rob God by not tithing and giving offerings. Test God by being obedient in giving and see how much he blesses you!

#### **IV. Not Reluctantly Or Under Compulsion**

- A. Read Matthew 6:1-4 and describe the manner of giving that God blesses.  
Give quietly ("in secret"); don't brag about your giving.
- B. Read Exodus 35:4-5. What attitude does God desire us to have as we give?  
With a willing heart.
- C. In I Chronicles 29:9, what was the people's response after they gave to God? They rejoiced!  
How had they given? Willingly.
- D. Read II Corinthians 8:9. How should Jesus' example motivate us to give liberally?  
He was rich and became poor for us.
- E. In I Corinthians 16:2, what plan did Paul propose to regular giving?  
The first day of each week in proportion to his income.

#### **V. God Loves Cheerful Givers**

- A. Read Luke 21:1-4. How did Jesus view the widow's small gift?  
Jesus said the widow gave "more than all the others". She gave out of poverty (all she had to live on), not out of wealth like all the others.

- B. Read II Corinthians 9:8-15. What is promised to those who give cheerfully (verse 8)?  
You will receive all you need at all times and abound in every good work.
- C. What will God do for generous givers (verses 10-11)?  
God will bless you so that you can bless others.
- D. From Philippians 4:18-19, list some results of giving to others.  
God will repay you in full and meet all your needs.
- E. What is the major point being taught in Deuteronomy 14:22-23?  
The first tenth of everything ("tithe") should be given to God.

## VI. How Do I Give?

Giving is an act of worship. You can give without worshipping, but you cannot worship without giving. God has laid down clear principles on how we should give.

- A. Willingly  
Exodus 25:2 – "...That they take for me an offering from every man whose heart make him willing..."
- B. Cheerfully  
II Corinthians 9:7 – "...For God loves a cheerful giver."
- C. Regularly  
I Corinthians 16:2 – "...On the first day of every week each of you is to put something aside."
- D. Faithfully  
II Corinthians 9:8 – "...God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that you may always have enough..."
- E. Sacrificially  
II Samuel 24:24 – "...I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing."
- F. Bountifully  
II Corinthians 9:6 – "...He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."
- G. Expectantly  
Luke 6:38 – "Give and it will be given you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

## **VII. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- B. Write out 2 Corinthians 9:7 from memory.
- C. Apply 2 Corinthians 9:7.
  - 1. What has God given you that you can share with others?
  - 2. Consider your giving in the past. What is a specific way you could increase your giving to God's work or to those in need?
- D. Read Acts 16-18.



# The Church

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:11-12      | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:13    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 16:24          | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9, 11     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 13:34-35       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I John 1:9          | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28:18-20    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6      | <input type="checkbox"/> I Corinthians 11:26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33        | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 9:7   |

**I have read Acts 16-18.**       Yes       No

**Memorize Psalm 122:1:**

***"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' "***

***Psalm 122:1***

The Church is made up of all true Christians everywhere—and it includes many thousands of local churches. God instituted these local churches to help Christians grow spiritually. You will have fellowship with other believers there—including opportunities to serve and encourage them. You will receive “training in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:16) as God’s Word is preached and taught in the local church.

Scripture teaches us to seek out this kind of fellowship: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

## **I. Exploring Psalm 122:1**

A. What is a good attitude to have in a worship service?

**Rejoice**

B. What do you think made David glad as he considered going to the house of the Lord?

- **Worshipping the Lord in his house**
- **Reflecting on all that the Lord had done for him**

## II. Answers To Common Objections

How would you respond to the following statements?

- A. "I will not attend church because there are too many hypocrites in church!"

That's why you should go! Every one of us are hypocrites to some degree. We should focus on God, not on other church attendees.

- B. "I don't have to attend church... I can watch it on T.V. instead!"

Hebrews 10:25 says that we should not give up meeting together, because we need to encourage one another.

- C. "I believe in God, but I don't believe I need to attend church!"

The people are the church. We need to be together for teaching, learning praying, and fellowship. By attending church, this helps us strengthen our relationship with God. We also need accountability with other believers.

- D. "Why do you think it is important for me to attend church?"

Jesus instructs us to continue meeting together.

## III. "I Rejoiced"

- A. Read Acts 2:42-47. How did the early Christians respond to the nurture and fellowship they enjoyed?

They were of one heart in prayer, food and fellowship.

- B. Why could Paul say in I Thessalonians 1:2-3 that he was joyful about the growth of the local church at Thessalonica?

Your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by the hope in Jesus Christ. They were walking the talk!

- C. Christians made him joyful. Read I Thessalonians 2:13 and explain the reason for Paul's joy.

When you receive the word of God, you believe it's from God and not man. Childlike faith. They believed Paul's gospel as from God.

#### IV. "Let Us Go To The House Of The Lord."

- A. What did Jesus promise in Matthew 18:19-20 to those who gather in his name?  
That he will be with them and answer their prayers.
- B. Paul experienced one of the Church's main purposes in Ephesians 4:11-12. Write out these verses in your own words.  
God uses every member of the body of Christ. God has given every one of us a talent to minister to one another.
- C. Read Ephesians 4:13-15. What will be the result in our lives when the Church's ministry follows the pattern described in Ephesians 4:11-12?  
Maturity; attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.  
As you grow in the Lord, you will grow more and more steadfast in your faith, able to fight spiritual battles and recognize truth from worldly schemes.
- D. According to Ephesians 4:11-15, who in addition to the pastor is responsible for the growth of Christians in a local congregation?  
We are all responsible as members of the body of Christ.
- E. According to Ephesians 4:11-15, how is the body of Christ built up?  
Speaking in truth and love. Each member doing their part – exercising their spiritual gifts.
- F. In I Thessalonians 5:12, how did Paul say we should regard our Christian leaders?  
With respect. Hold them in the highest regard and love them, living in peace with one another.
- G. How should we follow the example of our spiritual leaders, according to Hebrews 13:7?  
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
- H. Read Colossians 1:13-20. Who is the head of the Church?  
Jesus Christ.
- I. How did Paul describe the church in Colossians 1:18?  
The body.

- J. What is the result of hearing God's Word proclaimed, according to Romans 10:17.  
Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.
- K. Read Romans 12:3-16. Summarize what this passage teaches about relationships within the body of Christ.  
Love one another as Christ would, put each other first, showing sincere love. Each member is just as important as the other.
- L. What did Paul long for among the Christians of Rome, according to Romans 15:5-6?  
A spirit of unity so that God's glory would be seen.
- M. What did Jesus especially pray for all believers in John 17:20-23?  
That they all be as one so that the world may believe in me.

**V. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize Psalm 122:1.
- B. Write out Psalm 122:1 from memory.
- C. Apply Psalm 122:1.
1. Prayerfully review your study, especially the Scripture passages and ideas which were most helpful to you personally. Write a short paragraph on why the church is important to your spiritual growth.
  2. How can you better serve your local church?
- D. Read Acts 19-21.



# Good Works

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:11-12      | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9, 11     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 16:24          | <input type="checkbox"/> John 13:34-35       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28:18-20    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I John 1:9          | <input type="checkbox"/> I Corinthians 11:26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6      | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 9:7   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33        | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 122:1         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:13    |  |

**I have read Acts 19-21.**       Yes     No

**Memorize Ephesians 1:10:**

***"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."***

-----◆-----  
***Ephesians 2:10***

Your salvation wasn't earned by your good deeds. We are all saved by faith, and not by good works (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Nevertheless God wants your life now to be filled with good works—doing what is right and helpful to others. In this we are to follow the example of Jesus, who "went around doing good" (Acts 10:38).

**It is faith alone that saves, but the faith that saves is never alone.**

Paul wrote that believers should be "careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone" (Titus 3:8). As you seek to do God's will through good works, you—and others through you—will profit. And God will be glorified! He has good works planned especially for you to accomplish.

## **I. Exploring Ephesians 2:10**

- A. What do you think God's workmanship means?  
**His creation – God's work of art!**
- B. What are we created for?  
**To do good works.**
- C. What are good works?  
**Spreading God's word and building each other up. Jesus is our supreme example.**

## II. "For We Are God's Workmanship"

- A. Read Titus 3:8. Who should do good works?  
*Those who have trusted in the Lord.*
- B. Who should benefit from good works?  
*Everyone.*
- C. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, why don't good works have a part in our salvation?  
*We were saved by grace and grace alone, so that man could not boast.*
- D. Paraphrase Titus 3:14.  
*We must always look forward and always be doing what is good in the eyes of the Lord – be an example for Christ and live productive lives.*
- E. What should be the result of our good works, according to Matthew 5:14-16?  
*A living testimony. Your light will shine and your good works will bring praises to the Lord.*
- F. Read Colossians 3:17. As we do good works, who do we represent?  
*Jesus Christ.*

## III. "To Do Good Works"

- A. What were the following Christians commended for, and what did it cost each of them?
1. Dorcas (Acts 9:36) – *Helping the sick and needy.*  
*Cost: She always put her needs last and in the end she got sick and died.*
  2. Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2) – *A servant of the church by helping the poor and sick.*  
*Cost: Self sacrifice.*
  3. Epaphras (Colossians 4:12) – *A prayer warrior for the lord for the saints.*  
*Cost: Time, wrestling in prayer.*

- B. Read Matthew 25:31-46. List several practical ways in which you can serve Christ by doing good to others.  
*Encourage, love, feed the hungry, welcome strangers, clothe the unclothed, help the sick, etc.*
- C. In I Peter 2:12, what did Peter say would make non-Christians glorify God?  
*They see your good deeds.*
- D. To whom should we do good, according to Galatians 6:10?  
*To all, especially those who belong to the family of believers.*
- E. What ways for doing good are mentioned in the following passages?
1. Romans 12:13 – *Sharing, patience, hospitality.*
  2. II Corinthians 9:7-8 – *To give cheerfully.*
  3. James 1:27 – *To help orphans and widows.*
- F. In James 2:15-16 what did James say proves our true concern for those in need.  
*Take action!*
- G. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What equips a Christian for every good work?  
*Scripture – for teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness. Man will be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

#### **IV. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize Ephesians 2:10.
- B. Write out Ephesians 2:10 from memory.
- C. Apply Ephesians 2:10.
1. Prayerfully review your study and list several practical good works you could do for someone.
  2. Now write the name of one person for whom you would like to do a good work this week, and circle in your list above the thing you would like to do for this person.
- D. Read Acts 22-24.



# Witnessing

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:11-12      | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9, 11     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 16:24          | <input type="checkbox"/> John 13:34-35       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28:18-20    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I John 1:9          | <input type="checkbox"/> I Corinthians 11:26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6      | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 9:7   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33        | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 122:1         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:13    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 2:10      |

**I have read Acts 22-24.**       Yes       No

**Memorize Mark 5:19:**

***"Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."***

***Mark 5:19***

What could you tell someone about how your life has changed because of Christ? Have you thought about how to give a clear explanation of your faith? Peter wrote, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that have" (I Peter 3:15).

As someone who has experienced God's saving love, you have much to share. In Mark 5 we read how Jesus encountered a man who was demon-possessed and living in tombs. With power Jesus healed the man.

As Jesus was leaving, the man begged him to let him come along. Jesus' reply—the memory verse for this lesson—was that the man should instead return home and share his new-found life with others. The man did so, and we read Mark 5:20 that "all people were amazed."

We too were living in the "tombs" of deadly sin before we accepted Christ as our Savior. And so we also have good news to tell others!

## I. Exploring Mark 5:19

- A. What did Jesus tell this man to share with members of his family?  
Tell them what the Lord has done for you and mercy given.
- B. Read Mark 5:2-5 and 5:15. What impact do you think this man's changed life would have on his family?  
After getting over any initial shock, disbelief, fear, or suspicion; they most likely gained a deep appreciation and amazement for what Christ did, and possibly became followers of Christ themselves.

## II. "Tell Them How Much The Lord Has Done For You"

- A. Read II Corinthians 5:20. What does God say we are?  
Christ Ambassadors.
- B. In Acts 4:18-20, Peter and John were ordered not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. Why did Peter and John say they could not obey this order (verse 20)?  
Placing God first, they could not keep silent to what they have seen and heard.
- C. Write a paragraph summarizing the most important things you believe the Lord has done for you.  
(Discuss your testimony with others!)
- D. Read Romans 1:16. Why can we have confidence in speaking to others about the good news of Jesus Christ?  
As believers of Jesus Christ, we have the Holy Spirit in us. It is his power that we can boast about!

### III. Tell Them...How He Has Had Mercy On You"

A. What important facts do you see in these verses about why and how God saved you?

1. Romans 3:23 – We are all sinners and cannot be saved by our works. God's grace alone saves.
2. Romans 6:23 – Unless we are saved through Jesus Christ, we will never enter heaven. We are given this free gift of salvation, which we need to make a choice to accept.
3. Romans 5:8 – God gave his only son as an offering for our sins.
4. John 1:12 – By receiving and believing in his name, we gain the right to be called his children!

B. Describe in your own words the truth of Romans 5:1 as you have experienced it in your life.

God gives us the kind of peace that can only come from the slate being wiped clean. Justified by faith ... "just as if we had never sinned". Because of this, we can now come boldly to God.

C. How did Paul summarize the gospel in I Corinthians 15:3-4?

According to scriptures ... Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. By this gospel, you are saved.

D. You are sure to receive a variety of responses as you share your faith with others. Many will raise objections to the gospel, and you will not recognize their need of Christ. Read the Scriptures listed below and tell how they apply to the following objections.

1. "I'm basically a good person." (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5)  
Works will not get you into heaven. Salvation is a free gift.
2. "People from all religions will make it to heaven." (John 14:6, Acts 4:12)  
There is only one-way to heaven and it's through Jesus Christ.
3. "What about all the Christians I know who are hypocrites?" (Romans 14:12)  
Every one of us will give an account of himself before God.
4. "I'll become a Christian someday." (II Corinthians 6:2, James 4:14)  
God is here today! Tomorrow might be too late!

- E. What did Paul request prayer for regarding his witnessing to others (Colossians 4:3-4)?

Opportunity and clarity.

“Pray that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.”

#### **IV. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize Mark 5:19.
- B. Write out Mark 5:19 from memory:
- C. Apply Mark 5:19:
1. In the lines below, write the names of some people you would like to witness to about what Christ has done for you.
  2. Begin to pray regularly for these people, and plan a time you could share the gospel with at least one of them. Briefly describe your plan here.
- D. Read Acts 25- 28.



# Ministry

**Review the following verses and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:11-12      | <input type="checkbox"/> John 13:34-35       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 16:24          | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28:18-20    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> I Corinthians 11:26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I John 1:9          | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 9:7   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6      | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 122:1         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 2:10      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:13    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 5:19           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9, 11     |  |

**I have read Acts 25-28.**       Yes       No

**Memorize Ephesians 4:11-12:**

***"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."***

***Ephesians 4:11-12***

Did you know that every believer of Christ is a minister? You as a disciple of Jesus are called to be a minister! The Bible says you are uniquely gifted for ministry! Do you know what gift(s) God has given you? Your task, as a child of God, is to discover your gift with the help of your pastor. Once you have discovered your gift, you must develop it by using it in ministry and by receiving training from your pastor and church. Finally, the Lord Jesus Christ wants to employ and deploy you in his *life-saving* mission. God has something very special for you to do. How exciting! Don't miss it!!! Remember...discover your gift(s), develop it, and be deployed as a minister of the KING!

As you study this lesson, pray that God will show you what he desires you to do for his glory.

## **I. Exploring Ephesians 4:11 & 12**

- A. Who did God give to his Church?  
*Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.*
- B. Why did God give these gifts to his Church?  
*To prepare Gods people for works of service.*

- C. What is the intended end result?  
So that the body of Christ would be built up.

## II. The Christian Life Is Spelled S-E-R-V-A-N-T!

- A. According to Philippians 2:5, whose attitude are we to mirror?  
Jesus Christ.
- B. How is his attitude and commitment described in Philippians 2:6-11?  
• Humble / Committed -- He humbled himself even unto death  
• As a servant – Made in human likeness
- C. What lesson does Jesus teach his disciples in Mark 10:35-45?  
To reach the top, you must be first willing to serve at the bottom.
- D. According to Genesis 12:2, what was Abraham (and every believer) blessed to be?  
A blessing.
- E. What does Matthew 20:26-28 have to say about one's path to greatness?  
Must be a servant to people.  
Who is our ultimate example (note verse 28)?  
Jesus Christ.
- F. Read Matthew 25:14-30. What does the "Parable of the Talents" teach us about how we should invest ourselves in God's work.  
God requires us to be active in the talents he gave us. If we bury them, we will lose them. If you are faithful with the talents God gives you, he will multiply your gifts – reward you for your faithfulness.
- G. What does the Bible prepare us for? Note 2 Timothy 3:16-17.  
To be thoroughly equipped for doing God's work.

### III. God Has Called & Gifted You To Serve

- A. How are we to offer ourselves according to Romans 12:1?

As "living sacrifices", not to conform to this world.

What does this mean?

Not living according to society's standards. Be transformed by daily prayer and reading the Bible – "renewing of your mind".

- B. What does Romans 12:4-5 have to say about our function and responsibility in the Body of Christ?

Each one of us has a responsibility to help, teach and minister to each other.

- C. List the gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-8 and compare them with the gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11 and I Corinthians 12:7-11.

Romans 12:6-8	Ephesians 4:11	I Corinthians 12:7-11
prophesying	apostles	message of wisdom
serving	prophets	message of knowledge
teaching	evangelists	faith
encouraging	pastors	gifts of healing
contributing to the needs of others	teachers	miraculous powers
leadership		prophecy
showing mercy		distinguishing between spirits
		speaking in different kinds of tongues
		interpretation of tongues

Do you feel that God has given you one of these gifts? Which one? Discuss this with your pastor.

- D. According to I Corinthians 12, how is the Body of Christ, his Church, to operate?

As one body – in concert with one another.

- E. What are we to do with the gift God has given us (I Peter 4:10)?

To serve others.

- F. Read Ephesians 4:16. What is the only way that the Body of Christ will grow and mature?

Working together in love – supporting each other.

#### **IV. Assignment Opportunity**

- A. Memorize Ephesians 4:11-12.
- B. Write out Ephesians 4:11-12 from memory.
- C. Complete the Ministry Opportunities Interest Survey and submit it to your pastor.
- D. Schedule a time to meet with your pastor and take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory Questionnaire. You will find this most helpful in your gift discovery, development, and deployment process.
- E. Pray daily for the ministry God has led or will lead you into.
- F. Minister faithfully as a servant of Jesus Christ and allow your God-given gifts to be used for his glory!
- G. Read the rest of the New Testament, making special note of all the "ministry" in which the first Christians involved themselves.

**God Bless You!**

