



A LIFE of
VICTORY
SERIES

How to Walk with God

SIX BIBLE STUDY LESSONS
FOR GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

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FOR GROUP DISCIPLESHIP



EVERY NATION
P R O D U C T I O N S

HOW TO WALK WITH GOD

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How to Use this Material

In Victory, the primary venue for discipleship happens in a small group. It is called a Victory group. We strongly encourage everyone to be involved since these groups are specifically designed to help disciples grow spiritually.

A Victory group meeting has three sections: **Connect**, **Word**, and **Prayer**, and ideally lasts from forty to sixty minutes.

CONNECT (5-10 minutes)

Victory group meetings begin with a time to relate with one another. Depending on the people who comprise the group, this can be done through a variety of ways:

- Fun—such as an icebreaker activity
- Answered prayers—sharing of testimonies and updates
- Questions—such as those provided in the material, learning each other's personal stories, and sharing feedback from the weekly message

Effective Questions During the Connect Portion:

- Are deliberately friendly to first-timers
- Ask for opinion or experiences
- Require no Bible knowledge
- Have no right or wrong answer
- Are not controversial
- Are preferably connected to the meeting's topic

WORD (20-30 minutes)

Teach the truth and relevance of God's Word for life application. The Victory group meeting is not primarily a Bible study. Although teaching and explanation of Scripture is involved, the goal is to minister, not finish a material.

There is no need teach all the points in a material.

Within this section, we look at what the Bible says, its relevance to us today, and its application in our lives.

What: *What does the Bible say?*

Communicate and impart biblical truth clearly and concisely

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16,17

Tips for Sharing the Word Effectively

- Let the Bible speak for itself.
- Use illustrations and tell stories to explain Bible verses.
- When entertaining clarifications, be watchful not to allow the discussion to go off-tangent.
- The primary goal is to minister to the needs of the people, not to finish a Bible lesson.
- Be led by the Spirit when using the material.

So What: *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

Give participants the opportunity to discuss how the Word impacts the way they live.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

ROMANS 12:2

Now What: *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

Our primary reason for sharing the Bible is so that people will know who God is and what He has done. In doing so, the participants will begin to discover who they are and what they should do.

If it is a promise, teach them to claim it. If it is a command or a principle, encourage them to put it to action by God's grace. If it is a truth, let them embrace it willingly and not under compulsion. Allow God's grace and love to win them by the way you teach God's Word.

Encourage specific, measurable action steps that are consistent with the life change that the Scripture is bringing about. We do not command people, but we spur them on toward love and good deeds.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.

Do what it says. JAMES 1:22

Tips for Life-Changing Application

- You may choose one of the "So What" and "Now What" questions or you may add your own.
- An effective standby application question is: "What one action step are you going to take as a result of what you heard today?"
- Designate who will be the first to answer the question asked.
- Do not allow someone to argue or be critical of others.
- Remind everyone to apply the lesson to their own lives, not to someone else's.
- Ask God for wisdom to know when to balance or correct strange or unbiblical applications. Insensitive correction or criticism can kill the group, as can unchecked heresy.
- Remind everyone that transformation is God's work, not ours, and our obedience is a response to who He is and His love for us. It is God's grace that enables us to apply and obey His Word.

PRAY (15-20 minutes)

Prayer is the most important part of the Victory group meeting. Make sure you have plenty of time left so your prayer time is not rushed. This is not a “closing prayer,” but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God. This is where the action is. The goal is to create a venue where people will see God move on their behalf.

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.” MATTHEW 18:19

Tips for Powerful Prayer

- Listen to the Holy Spirit carefully during the Connect and Word sections for things that may need prayer.
- Spend your time praying for one another, not sharing and discussing prayer requests.
- Keep your prayers simple, sincere, and short. Most non-believers have never heard an ordinary Christian just talk to God and will be touched by the sincerity and simplicity of the prayer.
- Pray, don’t preach. Pray in simple and short sentences, not long “sermon prayers.”
- Use conversational prayer, not complicated or profound, intercessory prayer.
- Expect God to answer your prayers.

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¹⁷I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

EPHESIANS 3:17-19

WHAT

Paul prayed that Christians would know and understand the magnitude of God’s love. Few people ever really comprehend how much God loves them. One of the central themes of the Bible is God’s love for man. By studying the Bible, we can understand the height, depth, width, and breadth of God’s love for us.

1 God’s love is everlasting.

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.” JEREMIAH 31:3

It is quite common today for people to “fall in love” and in a few short years, weeks, or even days, they fall out of love. Soon enough, they fall in love again. In contrast to human love, which is often only temporary, God’s love is eternal. It lasts forever. It does not fade with time.

Define

“everlasting.”

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2 God’s love is for sinners.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ROMANS 5:8

Many times, we think God only loves us when we are properly performing our religious duties. We assume that the more religious we act, the more God loves us. The Bible teaches just the opposite. God's greatest demonstration of love was not in response to our righteousness. Rather, it was in response to our rebellion.

What is
a sinner?

3 God's love is great.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! ¹ JOHN 3:1

Tragically, many have grown up in families where one child was shown more love than the others. The not-so-favored child may have felt some degree of love—just not as much as the other children. God's family is not like that. His love is not great toward some and barely existent toward others. Rather, His love has been richly lavished on all His children.

How does
God lavish
His love on you?

4**God's love is constant.**

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . ³⁷No . . . ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God . . . ROMANS 8:35,37-39

It is easy to feel that God loves us when things are going well—in times of prosperity, health, and peace. But what about in times of lack, persecution, and doubt? During tough times, many of us wrongly feel that we are separated from God's love. We must settle once and for all that God loves us. The proof of His love is not found in our present circumstances, but in what He did on the cross for us 2,000 years ago.

What circumstances did Paul experience and how did he respond to these, knowing the constancy of God's love?

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SO WHAT

- How does God's love differ from our love? How does God's love make you feel?
- Why do you think God loves us, even though we are sinners? What does His love say about who He is?
- How does the constancy of God's love make you feel? How does this affect your life, and how does this challenge your view of love?

NOW WHAT

- Are you convinced that God loves you? All the time, as much as He loves those around you? What can you do to know and experience His love more this week?
- How do you respond to God's love? How do you express this every day?
- Are you currently in a difficult situation? What can you do to further understand the constancy and greatness of God's love for you?

-
- Thank God for His great love expressed through Jesus' death on the cross. Express your gratitude for God's love.
 - Pray that you would have a greater understanding of and confidence based on God's love for you.
 - Ask God to use you to express His love to those around you, especially those who do not know Him yet. Pray for specific people so that they would know that God loves them.

2

The Love of a Father

CONNECT

- What is one of your best memories as a child?
- How do you celebrate special holidays or family milestones?
- What discipline did you sometimes hate as a child but have now come to appreciate?

⁵And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” HEBREWS 12:5,6

WHAT

Because of God’s great love for us, He protects us and provides for us. He saves and blesses us not because of how much we love Him, but because of how much He loves us. While we joyfully accept these expressions of His love, we often misunderstand another important manifestation of divine love: Discipline.

1

Discipline should not be taken too lightly, nor should it be a cause of discouragement.

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you . . .” HEBREWS 12:5

Some Christians tend to take God’s discipline too lightly. Others receive His discipline as rejection and feel like complete failures. As we grow up in Christ, we must learn to avoid both of these dangerous extremes.

How do people make light of the Lord’s discipline?

2

Discipline is proof of God’s love.

¹¹My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline and do not resent his rebuke, ¹²because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. PROVERBS 3:11,12

The rebuke, correction, and discipline of the Lord in our lives is proof of His love for us. He loves us too much to tolerate sinful habits and ungodly attitudes that will ultimately destroy us.

How has God rebuked and disciplined you?

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3

Discipline is proof of God’s acceptance.

“... the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts ...” HEBREWS 12:6

God disciplines everyone He has accepted as His own child. Therefore discipline is a sign of acceptance, not rejection.

What does acceptance mean?

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4

Discipline is proof that we are God's children.

Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. DEUTERONOMY 8:5

(SEE ALSO HEBREWS 12:7,8.)

You cannot discipline your neighbor's children, no matter how much they need it. Why? Because they are not in your family. Discipline is for family members only. Likewise, divine discipline is only for those who are part of God's family.

How did your father discipline you? What does it mean to be God's child?

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SO WHAT

- How does your view of discipline differ from God's? Why do you think discipline is a divine manifestation of God's love?
- How can you be careful not to take the Lord's discipline too lightly or get discouraged by it?
- How do you feel about God's love? How do you feel about His discipline? How does God want you to view His love and discipline?

NOW WHAT

- In what area do you think the Lord is disciplining you? What do you think He wants you to learn or understand?
- How can you respond to God's discipline in a way that honors Him?
- Do you believe God has accepted you as His child? Why or why not? What can you do to understand and appreciate His love more this week?

-
- Thank God for His love, acceptance, and discipline, even though His discipline may be painful or inconvenient.
 - Ask God to help you respond to His discipline in a godly manner. Pray that He would transform you daily to become the person He has called you to be.
 - Pray for those you know who are not part of God's family yet. Ask the Lord to draw them in and pray for their salvation. Believe God for opportunities to show them God's love.

3

The Abundance of Grace

CONNECT

- Tell us about your favorite movie. What do you like about it?
- What is one bad habit you wish you can break? Why?
- Who is one of the most gracious people you know? Recall a specific instance explaining this.

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ROMANS 5:17

WHAT

The Christian should not live a life of constant oppression, depression, and hopelessness. Because God has given the abundance of His grace, we can reign over whatever adverse circumstances come our way. Because of His grace, we can and should live victorious lives in Christ. Following are four benefits of God's grace in our lives.

1 We are saved by grace.

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. EPHESIANS 2:8,9

(SEE ALSO ROMANS 11:6.)

The victorious Christian life begins when we accept that salvation is only by the grace of God, not by our good works. Grace means we are saved because of what God did for us, not what we do for Him.

What did God do for us that ensures our salvation?

What did we do for God to deserve salvation?

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2

We can overcome weakness through grace.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

What are your weaknesses?
How has God's grace been sufficient? What does "sufficient" mean?

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3

We can have victory over sin through grace.

For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. ROMANS 6:14

¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. TITUS 2:11,12

What does grace teach us to say "no" to?

What is a "master?" Why should sin not be our master? Who is our master?

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4

All our needs can be met through grace.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

How has God's grace supplied your needs?

What does it mean to have all that you need?

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SO WHAT

- According to the Bible, what is grace? How does God's grace differ from your understanding of grace?
- How does grace enable you to overcome weakness and sin? What do you think a person full of God's grace looks like?
- Why do you think God's grace is described as abundant, rich, and all-sufficient?

NOW WHAT

- Have you been saved by God's grace? If not, would you like to receive His grace and gift of eternal life, and begin living for Him today?
- Are there sinful habits, actions, or attitudes in your life that you need God's grace to say "no" to? How can you walk in repentance and faith to overcome these this week?
- Do you have a biblical understanding of grace? What can you do to appreciate and further understand His grace this coming week?

-
- Thank God for His all-sufficient, abundant, and saving grace.
 - Appropriate God's grace over your life in your specific situation. Whether it is a weakness, sin, or a difficult circumstance, ask God for His grace to flood your life and fill you to the overflowing. Believe that every need you have will be met through His grace.
 - Pray for your family and friends who have not yet received God's saving grace for their lives. Pray for their salvation and that they would surrender their lives to Jesus Christ.

4

The Life of Faith

CONNECT

- Tell us about one person you really admire. What do you like and respect about him or her?
- What is one thing you want to be known for? Why?
- Who is one of the people you are closest to? What do you appreciate about this person?

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." ROMANS 1:17

WHAT

We can stand righteous before a holy God because of what He did for us, not what we do for Him. Real righteousness is based on faith, not on works. Five hundred years ago when a frustrated German monk figured out that "the righteous will live by faith" and not by works, the whole course of church history changed dramatically. Likewise, when we learn to "live by faith" and not by works, our spiritual lives will never be the same. Following are three foundations of living by faith.

1 **We are saved by faith, not by good works.**

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. ROMANS 10:9

We are not saved by what we do, but by trusting in what Christ has already done for us. Eternal salvation is based on what we believe, not on what we do. This is the starting point of Christian faith.

If good works could save us, what should we do then?

2 **We have peace with God by faith, not by obeying religious rules.**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 5:1

Peace with God means we have freedom from constant guilt, spiritual inferiority, feeling like we never do enough, and the fear of death. Peace with God can never be attained through keeping religious rules, doing good deeds, or joining religious organizations. Peace only comes through putting faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. Our works add nothing to what He has already done for us.

What does it mean to be justified?

3 Our relationship with God is through faith, not through keeping the law.

Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

PHILIPPIANS 3:9

Paul tried in vain to establish his own righteousness by diligently keeping the law. He finally came to the point of accepting that no matter how hard he tried, he would forever fall short of God's standard. He realized that righteousness comes through faith in Christ, not through faith in one's ability to keep the law.

Why can we never be righteous through the law?

SO WHAT

- How would it look to live by faith today? Why do you think the Bible tells us that “the righteous will live by faith?”
- Why does justification produce peace?
- How do some people try to please God through their own religious works? What does the Bible say about this?

NOW WHAT

- Do you believe you have been saved by grace, through faith? Are you still trusting in your own religious good works for salvation, peace, and relationship with God? Would you like to put your faith in what Christ did on the cross today?
- Do you have peace of mind? How can you live in freedom from guilt, spiritual rejection, and the fear of death? How can you have greater peace this week?
- What can you do to live by faith every day? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

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- Thank God for what Christ did on the cross—for His love, forgiveness, redemption, justification, and peace.
 - Pray that you would live by faith, not by what you see, not by your own good works. Ask God for His peace to fill you.
 - Pray for your family and friends who do not know Christ yet, that they will trust in Him more than their own good works.

5

Mountain- Moving Faith

CONNECT

- Do you like sports? Which sport do you enjoy or which team do you like cheering for? Why?
- What is one of the most difficult things you have ever had to do? What did it feel like?
- Tell us about a time when a friend or family member made a promise they could not keep. How did you respond?

For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 1 JOHN 5:4

WHAT

The Christian life is a fight. It is filled with obstacles that we must overcome. The good news is that everyone born of God can be an overcomer! Not just the pastor or Victory group leader, but every child of God! The key to victory is faith.

1

Faith believes nothing is impossible with God.

"I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." MATTHEW 17:20

The real issue is not how tall the mountain is, or how tiny our faith is in comparison to the mountain. The real issue of faith is how big our God is. Even if our faith is as small as a mustard seed, if it is connected to a big God, nothing will be impossible.

What are some "impossible-to-move" mountains that you have faced in life?

2

Faith believes God is able to keep all His promises.

¹⁹Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also

dead. ²⁰Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

ROMANS 4:19-21

The circumstances told Abraham he was too old to father a child. Medical experts would have told him he was too old. His wife laughed at the idea. But his faith told him that his God was able to keep His promises. Faith focuses on the power of God, not on the size of the problem.

What is a "promise"? Why is it impossible for God to break His promise?

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3 Faith believes God is a rewarder.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

HEBREWS 11:6

Many Christians know God as Lord, Savior, and Father, but not as "rewarder." Hebrews tells us that we must believe that He is a rewarder. This is the starting point of great faith.

What is a "reward"? Why are rewards given? Have you ever received a reward? What? Why?

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SO WHAT

- How does your view of God affect your situation? How do you think your view of God needs to change? Do you believe that nothing is impossible with Him?
- How does God as a promise-keeper differ from you and those who have made promises to you? How does God's unchanging and faithful nature make you feel?
- Why do you think the Bible tells us we must believe that God is a rewarder?

NOW WHAT

- Do you have mountain-moving faith? How do you think you can have greater faith? When you face a mountain, how can you respond in a way that honors God?
- What are some "impossible" situations you are facing? What are some promises you are still waiting on God to fulfill? Are you fully persuaded that God has enough power to do what He promised? What will you do while waiting and to help you not give up hope?
- Do you know someone who is facing a big mountain and needs great faith? How can you be an encouragement to them this week?

-
- Thank God for who He is, that He is faithful, all-powerful, and a promise-keeping God.
 - Believe God for His promises to be fulfilled in your life, for your family, in your job, and through your ministry. Pray specifically for your current situation. Ask God for mountain-moving faith. Do not give up!
 - Pray for those you know who are facing tough situations. Ask God that they will be strengthened in their faith and see His promises fulfilled in their lives.

6

The Shield of Faith

CONNECT

- How do you find out what is in the news? What or who is your source of current affairs or breaking news?
- What is one of the most recent books you have read? Why did you read it?
- What is one thing you hope will happen in the next twelve months?

Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

EPHESIANS 6:16

WHAT

Faith is an integral part of the armor of the Christian. The shield of faith has the power to protect us from every attack of the devil. In order to effectively use our shield of faith, we must understand how it works in conjunction with hope, the Word, love, and action.

1 Faith and Hope

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. HEBREWS 11:1

Faith is the power that makes our hopes and dreams become reality. Hope without faith causes great frustration. Faith without hope is like a dart player who does not know where the dart board is. He is dangerous because he randomly throws darts all over the place.

What is your greatest hope? Are you sure it will become a reality? Why?

2 Faith and the Word

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

ROMANS 10:17

Why is it that some people seem to have great faith and others little faith? God's Word is the key to strong faith. Just as proper diet and exercise produce a stronger body, reading, studying, and obeying the Bible cause faith to grow strong.

How does
faith come?

3 Faith and Love

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. GALATIANS 5:6

Faith that expresses itself through arrogance, selfishness, and anger is not true faith at all. Faith is founded on God’s love for us. It grows as our love for God grows, and it spreads as we learn to love others.

How does faith
express itself
through love?

4 Faith and Action

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. JAMES 2:17

Inactive faith is false faith. Faith is only as alive as it is active. Faith that only stays in the mind, but is never translated into real life, is not Bible faith. But when faith is put into practice, it becomes a powerful force.

How can
you know if
something is
dead? How can
you know if
faith is dead?

SO WHAT

- What do you think it means to take up the shield of faith?
- How does God's Word strengthen your faith? How do you think God wants us to prioritize His Word?
- Why is it important for faith to express itself through love? How have you seen other people express faith through love?

NOW WHAT

- How can you put on your shield of faith every day? How can you apply what you have learned today?
- How often do you read the Bible? Do you have a systematic plan of study? How can you go deeper in God's Word this week?
- Is your faith active and real? What can you do to further activate your faith this week?

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- Thank God for His shield of faith, that through it you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
 - Ask God to reveal Himself to you in greater ways through His Word.
 - Pray that your faith would continue to grow, that your faith would be expressed through love, that you would not lose hope, and that your faith would be alive and active.

. . . And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

MICAH 6:8

How to Walk with God is a series of six materials for group discipleship designed to help disciples walk with God consistently and grow in relationship with Him.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- God is Love
- The Love of a Father
- The Abundance of Grace
- The Life of Faith
- Mountain-Moving Faith
- The Shield of Faith



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