

THE  
**PURPLE BOOK**

FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

# THE PURPLE BOOK

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Establish in the Word | **Part 1**

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RICE BROOCKS  
STEVE MURRELL

## THE PURPLE BOOK

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FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

# PREFACE

Anyone who wants God's best for their life must begin by building a strong foundation. Jesus said as much when He declared, *"Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built."* (Luke 6:47,48). He then contrasted this wise man with one who was foolish, who heard but failed to act and found himself living in a house built on sand.

Both had their works tested by the storms of life—storms that come even more often in today's uncertain world. And in this real-life game of *Survivor*, only one person is left standing. The large number of damaged and/or collapsed lives in today's church is testimony to the pressing need to once again build strong foundations.

Several years ago I took a team of students to the island of Guam for an evangelistic outreach. Checking into my hotel, I was given what would later prove to be a prophetic sign. "Sir," the clerk said as she handed me my key, *"your room is 911."* Everyone joked about how I would be getting all the emergency calls.

Two days later, one of the century's worst earthquakes—8.2 on the Richter scale—jolted the island. Even more incredible, it lasted for sixty bone-chilling seconds. Inside room 911, the world seemed to explode. The television hurtled to the floor. Slammed from its perch, the sliding glass door shattered into a million pieces.

We ran for the fire escape only to find the route blocked. With nowhere else to go, we stood on the balcony, riding out the most terrifying minute of our lives. With each tremor came a growing certainty that the building would soon collapse. We were about to die!

Suddenly, just as it felt like the hotel would rip in half, all motion ceased. We found a way out and made our way to the street, singing the praises of our God. Never had I found a more humble audience and had an easier time telling strangers about the Lord!

The next day we toured the island to assess the damage. One of the images that stood out was a brand-new hotel now on the verge of collapse. Two of its floors had disintegrated, and the rest of the structure tilted like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Before the quake, it appeared perfectly sound. But the storm of this earthquake revealed what was really there beneath the surface. Because the foundations were faulty, the entire building had to be torn down.

Thankfully, the engineers who designed our hotel did not make the same mistakes. Though it cost them time and money, they took into account the fact that they were building in an earthquake zone, designing and building the foundations accordingly.

There is an important lesson in all of this. We, too, live along a “fault line.” The tectonic plates of sin are pushing hard against us. From the Middle East to our middle schools—everywhere—we see massive upheaval. If we are going to build lives that will stand, not just any foundation will do.

*For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1 CORINTHIANS 3:11

We must dig down deep and tear out everything that is hostile to Christ. We must hear His words—particularly those that deal with the very foundations of faith—and obey.

The book you hold in your hands will teach you these great foundational truths. It will help bring alive the words that the Apostle Paul shared with a young man who was also seeking to build his life upon the rock.



*<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16,17

Most of us like the teaching part. But far fewer of us are thrilled about receiving reproof or correction. The fact is, however, that it is the latter that separates the winners from the losers. There is no way to be equipped for a good work—or a good life—without God’s Word doing a deep work in us. And there is no way to be a disciple without being disciplined. Who has ever heard of a successful athlete, soldier, musician, or scientist who has not subjected themselves to a strict regimen of training and discipline? And so it must be for the children of light.

We are living in one of the greatest times in church history. Technology has drawn the world so tightly together that we can realistically hope to reach every nation and tribe and language with the gospel. But with this great opportunity comes an even greater responsibility. It is vital that the faith we preach is the one that we live out—in all its powerful, life-and-nation-transforming glory.

The early church turned their world upside down. They reached multitudes without jets, computers, the Internet—not even a sound system! What spoke the loudest was their lives. People saw the transforming power of Christ in the men and women who left everything to follow Him. The fault lines that ran through the Roman Empire and the many earthquakes (both literal and spiritual) that followed only tested their foundations and helped them stand when everything else around them came crashing down.

Let us pray for a new generation to come forth, pledging their all, doing their part to help turn the world back to righteousness.

Dr. Rice Broocks  
Co-founder, Every Nation

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# 1 SIN AND SALVATION

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

GENESIS 1:1

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

JOHN 1:3

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

COLOSSIANS 1:16

The earth, humanity—all that we see around us—had a beginning.

God declared each phase of creation *good*—until He created the first man, Adam, and said that it was *not good* for him to be alone.

So Eve, the first woman, was created, and the original couple was given everything to enjoy. They were only forbidden to eat the fruit of one tree: the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

The fatal decision that followed and its tragic results have affected all of human history. Humanity would pass down this fatal flaw, this inner corruption, from generation to generation. The power of evil and darkness would have prevailed—except for God’s intervention.

His plan of salvation, of deliverance from evil's power, began to unfold in that very Garden of Eden. **This** is the primary story of the entire Bible.

## LESSON 1

### THE ORIGINAL STORY

1. What was creation like in the beginning? Genesis 1

v. 10 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 12 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 21 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 25 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many commands did God give Adam and Eve?

Genesis 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was God's command to the first human beings?

Genesis 2:16,17 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Genesis 3:1-13 to find out what happened next.

4. How did Adam and Eve respond to God's command?

Genesis 3:6,7 \_\_\_\_\_

5. In light of this, do you think you would have responded any differently?

\_\_\_\_\_

Think about what God attempted to shield Adam and Eve from: the knowledge of evil. What loving parents today do not do everything possible to protect their children from dangerous material—on television, on the Internet, or anywhere else?

6. Who tempted Eve?

Genesis 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit—in essence saying to God, “We don’t need You or Your rules.” They disobeyed God. They **sinned**.

7. How did Adam and Eve react after their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked? Genesis 3:7-10

v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v. 8 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 10 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Why do you think they reacted this way?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. How did God respond to Adam and Eve’s sin?

Genesis 3:8,9 \_\_\_\_\_

Notice the two very different responses to humanity’s sin:

- Humanity covered up and hid from God.
- God sought humanity.

Things have not changed much since the beginning. After thousands of years and billions of people, human beings still hide from God—and God still seeks. This is the starting point for understanding salvation.

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 2

### THE RESULTS OF SIN

The act of disobeying God is called sin. One definition of sin is to “miss the mark,” as when you fail to hit the target in a sporting event.

Obviously, the Bible’s understanding of sin is much more serious than that. In fact, Scripture has a couple different ways of expressing this idea. Sin is sometimes described as a *trespass*, something that involves crossing forbidden lines or boundaries that God sets up for our protection.

The concept of *iniquity* speaks of sin’s most troubling and destructive result: to twist and pervert our inner nature. This is gravely serious because the Bible says God’s nature is *holy*—that is, completely free from evil or defect, absolutely pure in love and goodness.

1. What state does the Bible describe us as being in?

Ephesians 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why is our sin ultimately so serious to God?

Leviticus 11:44 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does iniquity do to our relationship with God?

Isaiah 59:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe sinful humanity’s desperate condition.

Romans 3:9-20, 23 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Describe the impact sin has on our heart.

Jeremiah 17:9 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the *wages of sin*?

Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_

7. What does the Bible say happens after we die?

Hebrews 9:27 \_\_\_\_\_

8. How does the Bible describe eternal judgment?

Matthew 25:41 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 20:11-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 21:8 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What does Paul, the writer of Romans, call himself?

Romans 7:24 \_\_\_\_\_

In Romans 7, Paul describes his own state and cries out on behalf of all humanity with the most important question ever asked: *Who will deliver me from this body of death?* Humanity's deepest need is salvation—not just from the evil in the world, but from the evil in our own hearts.

### Application & Reflection

Obviously God takes sin very seriously. What about you? What do you think you deserve for your sin?

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## LESSON 3

### **GOD'S SOLUTION FOR SIN: JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION**

The penalty for sin is death, both spiritual and physical. God's ultimate solution for sin was foreshadowed in the original story. After Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to hide themselves with their own covering—and humanity has been hiding from God ever since. God, however, provided the real covering, and He did so by spilling the blood of an innocent animal.

The concept of sacrifice (the idea that because of sin, someone has to pay the penalty) is seen throughout the Bible. Sin was forgiven only as a result of shedding blood, a sacrifice offered in the place of sinful human beings. The sacrifice had to be one without defect.

1. What is necessary for the *forgiveness of sins*?

Hebrews 9:22 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did God cover Adam and Eve's first sin?

Genesis 3:21 \_\_\_\_\_

3. How were "impure" things *purified*?

Hebrews 9:22 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Can the blood of animals ultimately take away our sins?

Hebrews 10:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Read Isaiah 53.

5. Why would the promised Savior be *pierced* and *crushed*?

Isaiah 53:5 \_\_\_\_\_

6. How does the prophet Isaiah say we will be healed?

Isaiah 53:5 \_\_\_\_\_



7. What did the prophet Isaiah predict the Lord would do?  
Isaiah 53:6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did John the Baptist, the last great prophet before Jesus, introduce Jesus publicly?  
John 1:29 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What does Jesus' blood—His sacrificial death—do for us?  
Romans 5:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ephesians 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ephesians 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 John 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
Revelation 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_
10. What did Jesus do for us on the cross?  
1 Corinthians 15:3,4 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Corinthians 5:21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Galatians 3:13,14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Peter 2:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. According to the Bible, what makes Jesus unique that He can do this for us?  
John 1:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 1:15-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hebrews 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus' blood—His sacrificial death—is God's solution for humanity's sin. He pays the penalty for your sin. He wants to wipe the slate clean—forgiveness. But Jesus didn't just stay in the grave. He rose from the dead.

12. What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection? What if there was no resurrection? 1 Corinthians 15:14-19

v. 14 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 15 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 16 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 19 \_\_\_\_\_

What makes God's gift of grace so costly is that Jesus paid for it with His life. What makes it so powerful is that He came back from the dead—proving that He is the Son of God and showing that God accepted His sacrifice as payment for our sin.

*<sup>24</sup> . . . It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup>who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

ROMANS 4:24,25

God's law demands that sin be punished by death. Year in and year out, innocent animals would die in the place of God's people, reminding them that sin is costly. However, God's plan was to send His ultimate sacrifice, Jesus Christ, as a "lamb" to be offered for the sins of the whole world. Even more amazing is the fact that the Bible calls Jesus *Immanuel*, which means "God with us." God became a man in Jesus Christ and died for the sins of His own creation.

## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 4

### RECEIVING GOD'S GIFT: A NEW HEART

As a result of receiving God's sacrifice, Jesus Christ, as the payment for our sins, we not only experience forgiveness from the past, but we are given a new heart and a new life as God's children.

1. What did God promise He would give His people?

Ezekiel 36:26 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does God do when He rescues us from our state of spiritual death?

Ephesians 2:4-6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What happens when we receive Jesus as Lord and Savior?

John 1:12,13 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Jesus say must happen before we can enter the kingdom of God?

John 3:3-7 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What do the following passages tell you about being *born again* or *born of God*?

John 1:12,13 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:23 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What does Paul say about those who are *in Christ*?

2 Corinthians 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the destiny of those who are *born of God*?

1 John 5:4 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What would you do if someone could offer you a brand-new start in life? Have you received God's gift of new life?

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## LESSON 5

### GRACE THROUGH FAITH

It is critical to understand that we cannot save ourselves. The foundation of our faith is Jesus' death and resurrection. That's what paid the penalty for our sins. As a result of God's work in Jesus, we are a new people with a new heart and a new Lord.

1. Is it possible to be saved **by** the good things we do—our works? How are we saved?

Ephesians 2:8,9 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Does God save us **because** of the good things we do? If not, why does He save us?  
Titus 3:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does God's grace train us to do?  
Titus 2:11,12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Shall we continue to sin because of God's forgiveness and grace?  
Romans 6:15 \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are we created for as new Christians?  
Ephesians 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Jesus say to those who believed in Him?  
Matthew 16:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

As we have learned in this chapter, we are spiritually dead and cannot save ourselves. Regardless of who we are, we need a Savior. Jesus Christ is the only true Savior. By receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord, we can be delivered from the power of sin and its consequences. Our salvation is based on what Jesus did for us, not on our own efforts.

We must therefore . . .

**Realize** that we are sinners without excuse (Romans 1:20) and that it is only through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we can be saved.

**Respond** by turning from sin and putting our faith in Him and then following Him as Lord.

In the next two chapters, we will thoroughly examine what it means to now be followers of Jesus.

## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

# 2 LORDSHIP AND OBEDIENCE

"If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it."

DEUTERONOMY 30:16

<sup>46</sup>"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? <sup>47</sup>Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: <sup>48</sup>he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built."

LUKE 6:46-48

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

JOHN 14:15

To say that Jesus is Lord is to say that He is not only the Son of God, but that He is God Himself in the flesh. Realizing this shows the greatness and grandeur of God's love—that He would become a man and die for us. This revelation changes our hearts and minds forever. Christ's Lordship also means that His words are truly God's words—and must be trusted and obeyed.

To say we must trust and obey Christ doesn't mean salvation depends on our being perfect. Rather, following Jesus as Lord is the **attitude** of complete surrender and obedience to Jesus Christ.

## LESSON 1

### JESUS IS LORD

1. What did Peter (one of Jesus' disciples) proclaim about Jesus?

Acts 2:36

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*Lord* is another word for "master." *Christ* means "anointed one" and is a special term for Jesus, indicating that He's the deliverer God had promised to send.

2. What did Paul write about Jesus? Philippians 2:6-11

v. 6

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v. 7

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v. 8

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v. 9

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v. 10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v. 11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does Paul say we should do after we receive Jesus?

Colossians 2:6 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Jesus say was the result of not obeying Him?

Luke 6:46-49 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. According to Jesus, who will enter the kingdom of heaven?

Matthew 7:21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 2

### THE NARROW DOOR

The Bible teaches that we are saved by God's grace, not by our own good deeds. We cannot earn eternal life by good behavior. We must receive the gift of Jesus' work on the cross. However, when true salvation occurs, the evidence of our changed lives should be obvious.

Read Matthew 7:13-20 to find out what Jesus had to say about what it means to be His true follower.

1. What does Jesus say about entering the kingdom of God?  
Matthew 7:13,14 \_\_\_\_\_
2. How can we tell who is a real follower of Jesus and who is not?  
Matthew 7:16 \_\_\_\_\_
3. According to Jesus, what is the destiny of those who bear bad fruit?  
Matthew 7:19 \_\_\_\_\_

*Bad fruit* is a metaphor for a sinful lifestyle. Sin is lawlessness. It's breaking God's commands.

4. Centuries before Jesus was born, God gave His people the Law—summed up in the Ten Commandments. What are God's Ten Commandments? Exodus 20:1-17
  - v. 3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - w. 4-6 \_\_\_\_\_
  - v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_
  - w. 8-10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - v. 12 \_\_\_\_\_
  - v. 13 \_\_\_\_\_
  - v. 14 \_\_\_\_\_
  - v. 15 \_\_\_\_\_
  - v. 16 \_\_\_\_\_
  - v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Jesus say about those who disregard these laws?  
Matthew 5:17-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Bible declares that Jesus Christ is the source of our righteousness (right standing with God). Yet God's laws have not been done away with. There is still such a thing as right and wrong. When we break these laws it is still called "sin." The difference is that now as Christians we not only can be forgiven, but we also have a new ability to say no to sin.

6. How did Jesus say we could sum up all of God's law?

Matthew 7:12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the difference between those who love Jesus and those who do not?

John 14:15,23,24 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What does Paul say must not be in our lives as believers?

Ephesians 5:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What did Paul warn would happen to those who practice such things?

Galatians 5:19-21 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the reason people live in sin and still think they are Christians?

1 Corinthians 6:9,10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

These warnings remind us that we are not just new people in theory, but that we are called to live in a new way. As humans, we certainly won't be perfect, but because of Christ, we are on a journey that will lead to greater and greater victories over the sins and weaknesses that previously dominated our lives. This process is called "sanctification".

*And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

1 CORINTHIANS 6:11

Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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LESSON 3

**LORDSHIP AND RELATIONSHIPS**

The Bible talks a lot about "fellowship." Fellowship is more than hanging out with others; it's **sharing life** with them. It's opening our lives to other followers of Jesus and living in community with them. While God doesn't want us to abandon our relationships with unbelievers and isolate ourselves from the world, authentic fellowship is something that is experienced in its fullest with other believers.

1. According to the Bible, what kind of people should we avoid altogether?

1 Corinthians 5:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. In one of his letters, Paul mentions a particularly disturbing case of immorality. What did Paul say the church should have done?

1 Corinthians 5:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

3. What did Paul say about “fellowship” with unbelievers?

2 Corinthians 6:14-16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does God command?

2 Corinthians 6:17 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What does He promise in return?

2 Corinthians 6:18 \_\_\_\_\_

To “be separate” doesn’t mean we should cut ourselves off from the rest of the world. After all, Jesus also tells us to be *salt and light* to the world (Matthew 5:13-16). We can’t be salt and light from a distance. Jesus Himself was criticized for being a friend of sinners (Luke 15:1,2). But like Jesus, God wants us to have a transforming influence on the world around us—not the other way around.

6. How does John say we know we *have passed out of death into life*?

1 John 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many times did Jesus say we should forgive our brothers and sisters?

Matthew 18:21,22 \_\_\_\_\_

8. As we live in love and unity with one another, what did Jesus promise would be the world’s response?

John 17:23 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What is a key to having this kind of unity?

Philippians 2:3,4 \_\_\_\_\_

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The quality of our relationships with other believers is a crucial testimony to an unbelieving world. We should be able to forgive and love not just our friends, but even our enemies. We must realize that we are in a spiritual battle, and we must be trained and determined not to allow bitterness and unforgiveness to push us into darkness.

### Application & Reflection

What do you think it means to be **in** the world but not **of** the world? (See John 17:15-18.)

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## LESSON 4

### CAN YOU PASS THE TEST?

The book of 1 John describes how we can evaluate the real condition of our lives. Deception is a very powerful force. The devil is the master deceiver. Many have fallen under the influence of his deception. Many have prayed prayers, attended Bible studies, or even joined a church—but their lives have not been truly changed by Jesus.

This lesson underscores the Bible's teaching that as Christians saved by grace, we are expected to live in a new way—in relation to God and to each other.

1. What is the message that John proclaimed?  
1 John 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does John say about those who claim to have fellowship with God and yet continue to walk in darkness?  
1 John 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the Bible say about people who claim to be Christians but do not follow God's commands?  
1 John 2:3,4 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does God command?  
1 John 3:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 22:34-40 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does John say about those who claim to love God but hate their fellow believers?  
1 John 2:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_
6. How can we know the difference between *children of God* and *children of the devil*?  
1 John 3:7-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. If we say we love God yet hate a brother or sister,  
we are \_\_\_\_\_ . 1 John 4:20

This may seem hard to us, but if we embrace the truth, we will be changed. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price for our sin. His resurrection broke the power of sin and death. In light of the power of the cross and resurrection, why would we want to accept a gospel that does not transform our lives and liberate us from sin?

In the next chapter, we will examine the necessary response to the message of Jesus' Lordship.

## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES



# 3 REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM

And Peter said to them, “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.”

ACTS 2:38

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out . . .”

ACTS 3:19

Read Luke 15:11-24.

One of the most gripping stories in the Bible concerns a relationship crisis between a father and a son. Jesus told this story of a son who took his inheritance and went away and squandered it with *reckless living*. He ended up losing everything and living in despair. The Bible says he eventually *came to himself* and determined to get up and return to his father. This is a picture of what is meant by repentance—in essence, being truly sorry for our sins and desperate to restore our relationship with God, our Heavenly Father.

## LESSON 1

### WHAT SHALL WE DO?

1. What did the prodigal son say to his father?

Luke 15:21 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the response of the father?

Luke 15:22-24 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Jesus say causes heaven to celebrate?

Luke 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Repentance produces a real change in our hearts and is the fruit of God's grace truly working in our lives.

Read Acts 2:36-46.

4. Who did Peter declare Jesus to be?

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

5. What did the people say in response to Peter's preaching?

Acts 2:37 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did Peter say they should do?

Acts 2:38 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What did Peter say they would receive if they would *repent and be baptized*?

Acts 2:38 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Who did this promise apply to?

Acts 2:39 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What else did Peter say?

Acts 2:40 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What happened to those who *received his word*?

Acts 2:41 \_\_\_\_\_

11. Once they were added to the local body of believers, what did they do?

Acts 2:42-46 \_\_\_\_\_

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Peter preached the message of the cross—that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. The result? The people were *cut to the heart*. They responded by asking, “*What shall we do?*” The answer to their question was fourfold:

1. Repent.
2. Be baptized.
3. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
4. Be added to the church—the community of believers.

In this chapter, we will study repentance and water baptism. The Holy Spirit and the church will be covered in separate chapters.

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 2

### REPENTANCE: TURNING FROM SIN

1. What message did Jesus preach?

Mark 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What are the first two foundational truths of the Christian faith?  
Hebrews 6:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What message should be preached in all nations?  
Luke 24:47 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What happens when we repent and turn to God?  
Acts 3:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The word “repentance” often brings to mind scary images of people on a street corner with signs reading, “Repent, for the end is near!” Actually, the possibility of repentance offers great hope for us. It means to “turn around.” Regardless of how bad things have gotten or how far away you may **feel** from God, when you repent (turn), you instantly find God’s love and mercy waiting for you.

5. What did Jesus say would happen if we don't repent?  
Luke 13:2-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who does God command to repent?  
Acts 17:30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 26:18-20.

7. What did the Apostle Paul say he was sent to do?  
Acts 26:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What message did Paul say he preached?  
Acts 26:19,20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. How did Paul tell his listeners they could demonstrate their repentance?

Acts 26:20 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What should we do about our sins?

Proverbs 28:13 \_\_\_\_\_

11. True repentance involves confession of sin, turning away from sin, and turning to God. What else is involved?

Exodus 22:5,6 \_\_\_\_\_

“Restitution” is defined as “a restoration of something to its rightful owner” and “a making good of . . . for some injury” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, eleventh edition).

Read Luke 19:1-10 for a story about repentance and restitution.

12. Zacchaeus was a corrupt tax collector. Yet the opportunity of a relationship with Jesus inspired him to repent and make restitution for his sins. How did he propose to make restitution?

Luke 19:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. How did Jesus respond to Zacchaeus?

Luke 19:9 \_\_\_\_\_

14. What leads us toward repentance?

Romans 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_

15. Part of repentance is *grieving over* our sins. What are the two types of grief, and what do they produce?

2 Corinthians 7:10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Besides repentance, what else does godly grief produce?

2 Corinthians 7:11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

According to the Scriptures, repentance involves conviction of sin, grief over sin, turning from sin, and a willingness to make restitution. However, repentance is still not complete without faith.

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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### LESSON 3

#### REPENTANCE: TURNING TO GOD

True conversion is like the two sides of a coin. One side is repentance; the other side is faith. We cannot turn from something without turning to something else. All of this is a *gift of God* (Ephesians 2:8).

1. What did Paul say we must turn to when we *turn from darkness*?

Acts 26:18 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the result of the miraculous healing of a paralyzed man?

Acts 9:35 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the evidence that the *hand of the Lord* was with those who proclaimed Christ?

Acts 11:21 \_\_\_\_\_

Probably the most quoted Scripture of all is John 3:16:

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

Believing in Christ means more than merely saying the right words or accepting certain facts. It means that we have put our trust completely in Him. In essence, real faith implies that we have rejected all other alternatives and have fixed our attention on Him.

4. Is simply saying you believe in God enough?

James 2:19 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does the Bible say about faith without any corresponding works?

James 2:26 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the promise for those who truly believe?

John 6:47 \_\_\_\_\_

7. What does the Bible say overcomes the world?

1 John 5:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_

The hope of every believer is that Christ's work in us is more powerful than our past or our current struggles and temptations. The picture of salvation the Bible paints is not just a glorious deliverance, but God's Spirit empowering us to live new lives. The next important step in our journey is to follow Christ in baptism.

## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 4

### WATER BAPTISM

If you take a trip to Israel and tour the ancient land where Jesus lived and ministered, you'll discover that the world of the Bible included the concept of ritual bathing. Men and women would wash ceremonially to cleanse themselves from the dirt and defilement of the outside world. Jesus and His disciples came preaching and calling people to be baptized in water to symbolize the cleansing that takes place through their faith. In the Great Commission, Jesus would command His disciples to *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ."* (Matthew 28:19).

1. What happened to those who accepted Peter's message?

Acts 2:41 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did the men and women who believed Philip's message do?

Acts 8:12 \_\_\_\_\_

3. After hearing the good news about Jesus, what did the Ethiopian eunuch want to do?

Acts 8:35,36 \_\_\_\_\_



4. Jesus told His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. What did He say to do with those disciples? Matthew 28:19,20

v. 19 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 20 \_\_\_\_\_

The New Testament uses four different illustrations to help us understand the significance of water baptism:

- Burial and resurrection (Romans 6:4,5)
- The Israelites crossing the Red Sea when they escaped from Egypt (1 Corinthians 10:1,2)
- Circumcision (Colossians 2:11,12)
- The flood (1 Peter 3:20,21)

Read Romans 6:1-4.

5. Paul compares Christian baptism to a burial. In order to be buried, a person must first die. What have we died to?

Romans 6:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. When we undergo baptism, what are we identifying with?

Romans 6:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What will we walk in now that we are in Christ?

Romans 6:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. The Israelites' passing through the Red Sea is a picture of baptism for us. Why were the Israelites fleeing from the Egyptians?

Exodus 2:23; 3:7,9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What happened to the Egyptians?

Exodus 14:22-28 \_\_\_\_\_

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In the same way the Israelites were in slavery to the Egyptians, we were all slaves of sin. The Israelites were freed from their bondage by passing through the Red Sea. Baptism pictures the freedom from sin that Jesus purchased for us on the cross.

10. Paul says baptism is like a circumcision not done by human hands, but a circumcision done by Christ. What is put off during this spiritual circumcision?

Colossians 2:11,12 \_\_\_\_\_

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11. What did Peter say the flood water symbolized?

1 Peter 3:21 \_\_\_\_\_

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12. What is baptism an *appeal to God* for?

1 Peter 3:21 \_\_\_\_\_

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Peter teaches that it is not the *removal of dirt from the body* that saves us. In other words, it is neither the **act** of baptism nor the **water** of baptism. Rather, it is *the resurrection of Jesus Christ* that saves us. Once again we see the Scriptures teaching that we are saved by what Jesus did (His death and resurrection), not by what we do (water baptism). Peter goes on to say that baptism is *an appeal to God for a good conscience*.

Each of the Bible's pictures of baptism shows the old life being put away and a new life emerging. In baptism we publicly display what Jesus did through His death and resurrection. We also show that we have identified with this. By obeying His command to be baptized, we identify with the power of the cross and resurrection to deliver us completely from the power and authority of sin.

*“And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.”*

ACTS 22:16

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

# 4 THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

MATTHEW 3:11

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

JOHN 14:26

And Peter said to them, “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.”

ACTS 2:38

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told His disciples to go back to Jerusalem and wait. They were about to receive an amazing gift: the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4,5).

A few days later, during the Jewish festival of Pentecost, the Spirit came . . . and He didn't come quietly. He arrived in wind and fire. Suddenly the believers began speaking in other tongues. Jews from all over the Roman Empire had gathered in Jerusalem for the festival—and each of them heard the believers speak to them in their own language (Acts 2:1-12).

Then Peter got up to speak. He reminded the crowd that hundreds of years earlier, the prophet Joel had predicted that God's Spirit would come. Peter proclaimed Jesus' death and resurrection. The crowd, *cut to the heart*, responded, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:14-37)

Peter said the proper response would be to repent, be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38,39). In other words, it is impossible to live the Christian life apart from the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. From the moment we are born again, God's Spirit supplies the power we need to be a consistent witness for Christ.

## LESSON 1

### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

John 14:16 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:17 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps the believer?

Matthew 10:19,20 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:26 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

John 16:13,14 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:26,27 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 1:14 \_\_\_\_\_

When we receive Christ as Savior and Lord, we are born again—that is, we are *born of the Spirit* (John 3:8).

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 2

### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Read John 15:1-8.

Fruitfulness is an important theme in the Bible. The picture of how a grapevine is maintained is at the heart of Christ's teaching on our spiritual lives. These vines were not left alone on the ground to be trampled and to grow wild. A fruitful vine was lifted off the ground and constantly cared for by an attentive gardener. It would be absurd to think of a branch growing that was separate from the vine or a vine being fruitful and beautiful without constant help from the gardener.

1. How can we bring glory to the Father?  
John 15:8 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What happens to the branches that do not bear fruit?  
John 15:2 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What happens to the branches that bear fruit?  
John 15:2 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why does the Father prune fruitful branches?  
John 15:2 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Can we bear fruit by ourselves?  
John 15:4 \_\_\_\_\_
6. What must we do to bear spiritual fruit?  
John 15:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What does it mean to *abide in the vine*?  
John 15:4-7 \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said that if we *abide* in Him, we will *bear fruit*, but what does this mean? Not long after Jesus' resurrection, the Apostle Paul described what kind of "fruit" a Spirit-led, obedient life produces.

8. List the fruit of the Spirit.  
Galatians 5:22,23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Which is the greatest?  
1 Corinthians 13:13 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Where does the Holy Spirit dwell?  
1 Corinthians 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_



God's Holy Spirit no longer dwells in buildings of brick and stone; He dwells in people! **We** are God's temple, and we show that we are His temple when we practice the fruit of the Spirit. The *you* in 1 Corinthians 3:16 is plural. Maybe that's because it's hard to practice virtues like love, peace, patience, and kindness on our own.

### Application & Reflection

Do you see evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in your life? Which ones do you have? Which ones do you still need to develop?

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### LESSON 3

#### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The **fruit** of the Spirit puts God's **character** on display (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.). The **gifts** of the Spirit put God's **power** on display. As His representatives on earth, we need to develop both. The fruit and the gifts of the Spirit were given for the common good—so that each of us can help build up the body of Christ.

1. List the spiritual gifts Paul mentions in Romans.

Romans 12:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. List the leadership gifts God has placed in the church.

Ephesians 4:11,12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. List the *manifestations of the Spirit* that are given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What attitude should we have regarding spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 14:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What should be our motivation for desiring and using our spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 13:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read 1 Corinthians 14.

6. What does Paul say about the gift of prophecy? 1 Corinthians 14

v. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 3 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 31 \_\_\_\_\_

vv. 39,40 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What does Paul say about the gift of tongues? 1 Corinthians 14

v. 2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 13 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 14 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 15 \_\_\_\_\_

vv. 39,40 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What are we warned not to do?

1 Thessalonians 5:19,20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:30 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What did Jesus promise would happen to the disciples when the Holy Spirit came on them?

Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

Have you experienced the Spirit's power in your life? How? What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 4

### THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. What did John the Baptist promise Jesus would do?

Matthew 3:11 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did Peter describe the Gentiles' encounter with the Holy Spirit?

Acts 11:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Jesus tell His disciples they were to do after He ascended to heaven?

Luke 24:49 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read the following five accounts of people who received the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts. How did they receive the Spirit? Describe what happened when the people in these accounts received God's Spirit.

Acts 2:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 8:14-19 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 9:17-19 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 10:44-48 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 19:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who does the Father give the Holy Spirit to? Luke 11:13

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## Application & Reflection

Have you asked to receive God's Holy Spirit? What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

# 5 SPIRITUAL HUNGER AND GOD'S WORD

<sup>97</sup>Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. <sup>98</sup>Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. . . . <sup>105</sup>Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. . . . <sup>114</sup>You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.

PSALM 119:97,98,105,114

But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

MATTHEW 4:4

The Bible is more than an instruction manual or a rule book. It is more than a random collection of stories, poems, and letters. It is the voice of God communicating with us. That is why the Bible is often referred to as "the Word of God."

In Psalm 119, the Israelite king David shows us how we should approach the Bible. David saw God's Word as his source of life and hope. He delighted in it. He continually meditated on it. He understood that God spoke to him through it.

The bottom line? We know the sound of God's voice in our lives when we read His Word.

## LESSON 1

### THE AUTHORITY AND POWER OF THE WORD

“The Word of God” is a big concept to grasp. And no simple, one-line definition will suffice. As you’ll see in this lesson, the Bible refers to “God’s Word” as the driving force behind the creation of the universe. It’s also a term Christians use to describe the Bible. Sometimes *the word of God* refers in a more general sense to God’s message of salvation that the very first followers of Jesus proclaimed to the world — for example, Acts 6:7 and 8:14. And sometimes *the Word* refers to a person, as it does in John 1:14. In this amazing passage we discover that **Jesus** is God’s Word to us.

The foundation of any healthy relationship is communication. God’s Word—in all its fullness—is His way of communicating with us.

1. How does the Bible say the world was created?  
2 Peter 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the first followers of Jesus—His disciples—devoted to?  
Acts 2:42 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What were the top two priorities for the early church leaders?  
Acts 6:4 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened as *the word of God* continued to increase?  
Acts 6:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was *the word of the Lord* doing in Ephesus while Paul was there?  
Acts 19:20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



6. How were the Scriptures originally given to us?

2 Timothy 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:20,21 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What does John say about *the Word*?

John 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Who is *the Word*?

John 1:14 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What do the following passages teach about God's Word?

Psalms 119:89 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 119:160 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 40:8 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Matthew 24:35 \_\_\_\_\_

John 17:17 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What does the writer of Hebrews say about God's Word?

Hebrews 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. On the last day, what does Jesus say we will be judged according to?

John 12:48 \_\_\_\_\_

## Application & Reflection

Spend some time thinking about what God's Word means to you.

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## LESSON 2

### THE BENEFITS OF THE WORD

1. What was God's command to Joshua, and what was His promise if Joshua obeyed?

Joshua 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Describe the person who meditates on God's Word.

Psalm 1:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What are the Scriptures profitable for?

2 Timothy 3:16,17 \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How did Jesus overcome temptation and defeat the devil?

Matthew 4:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

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The idea is not that having a few "magical" memory verses can get us out of any situation. It's that when we meditate on the Scriptures, turning to them for strength and guidance becomes second nature—as it was for Jesus when He was tempted by the devil.

5. How can God's people experience victory over sin?

Psalm 119:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:11 \_\_\_\_\_

6. List some of the ways God's Word benefits the believer.

Psalm 119:98-100 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:105 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:165 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 4:20-22 \_\_\_\_\_

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### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 3

### **SPIRITUAL HUNGER**

If someone is deprived of food and water for an extended period of time, their physical body will weaken and eventually die. There is a spiritual parallel. The Word of God is our spiritual food and water. As surely as we will die physically without food and water, we will die spiritually without God's Word.

1. What was David's greatest desire?

Psalm 119:81 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did the sons of Korah describe the condition of their souls?  
Psalm 42:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the psalmist's attitude toward God's presence?  
Psalm 84:1,2,10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who did Jesus say will be *satisfied*?  
Matthew 5:6 \_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you think it means to *hunger and thirst for righteousness*?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did David say about God's Word and its importance in his life?  
Psalm 119:72 \_\_\_\_\_  
Psalm 119:103 \_\_\_\_\_  
Psalm 119:127 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Describe Job's hunger for God's Word.  
Job 23:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What did Jeremiah say about God's Word?  
Jeremiah 15:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 4

### OBEDIENCE

Read James 1:22-25.

1. What happens if we are only *hearers* of the Word?

James 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How does James describe those who are only hearers of the Word and not doers?

James 1:23,24 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What happens to those who hear and act on the Word?

James 1:25 \_\_\_\_\_

4. How did the Jews in Berea respond to the preaching of Paul and Silas? How often did they read and study the Scriptures?

Acts 17:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Luke 6:46-49.

5. If we call Jesus our Lord, what should we do?

Luke 6:46 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Describe what happens to the man who hears Jesus' words and does them.

Luke 6:47,48 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Describe what happens to the man who hears Jesus' words but does not do them.

Luke 6:49 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. If we abide in Jesus' word, what will happen?

John 8:31,32 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What is the proof of our love for Jesus?

John 14:21,23,24 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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# 6 DISCIPLESHIP AND LEADERSHIP

<sup>27</sup>After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." <sup>28</sup>And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

LUKE 5:27,28

<sup>23</sup>And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

LUKE 9:23,24

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

Jesus calls us to "*go therefore and make disciples of all nations.*" This charge propelled the early followers of Christ into a strategic mission that turned the world upside down—not just by preaching the gospel, but by training the new believers as well. To be a Christian is to be a disciple—a lifelong learner and follower of Jesus.

# LESSON 1

## THE CALL: MAKE DISCIPLES

1. What did Jesus call His followers to do?

Matthew 28:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What specifically did Jesus say we must do after baptizing a new believer?

Matthew 28:20 \_\_\_\_\_

3. As the Word of God continued to increase in first century Jerusalem, what was the result?

Acts 6:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read 2 Timothy 2:2-6.

4. What did Paul command Timothy to do with the things he had been taught?

2 Timothy 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Paul compares the life of a disciple to the life of a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer. He then promises that if Timothy will reflect on these things, the Lord will give him understanding.

5. What do each of these illustrations teach you about discipleship?

Soldier: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Farmer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



6. What are the Scriptures profitable for?

2 Timothy 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. How did Jesus say we can know we are truly a disciple?

John 8:31 \_\_\_\_\_

8. How can disciples become like their teacher?

Luke 6:40 \_\_\_\_\_

9. How does Jesus describe the person who hears His words and does them?

Luke 6:48 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. How does He describe the person who hears His words and does not do them?

Luke 6:49 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus compares those who put His words into practice to a man who dug deep, then laid a foundation on the rock. This is the most critical part of any house. This is why, as a disciple, you must lay a strong spiritual foundation. These Bible studies are intended to do just that—to help lay the foundation for the Christian life. If you are discipling someone else, you have the opportunity to help them lay the foundation for a never-ending relationship with Jesus Christ.

11. What has Christ called us to? Why?

2 Timothy 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. What does the Bible say about those who are *in Christ*?

2 Corinthians 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We are called to a whole new life. We are not only forgiven of our sins; we are given new hearts. And our new hearts will yearn to follow Christ.

### Application & Reflection

Describe in your own words what you think it means to be a disciple.

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

## LESSON 2

### THE COST: ABSOLUTE SURRENDER

1. What three things did Jesus say all His disciples must do to go after Him?

Mark 8:34 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How often should someone who wants to be a disciple take up his or her cross?

Luke 9:23 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Taking up your cross is the ultimate act of surrender—a conscious choice to deny yourself and live for Christ. It means a willingness to follow and obey Christ to whatever end.

Read Luke 14:27-33.

3. Jesus once compared discipleship to a war. Why?

Luke 14:31,32 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What else did Jesus compare being a disciple to?

Luke 14:28 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What should we do before we start building?

Luke 14:28-33 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What does it mean to count the cost of being a disciple?

\_\_\_\_\_

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7. What has it cost you to follow Jesus? What are you willing to give up in order to follow Him?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. When it comes to discipleship, why is it so important to be able to finish what we start?

Luke 14:29,30 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Who cannot be a disciple?

Luke 14:27,33 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

It is very critical to understand what is being said here, as well as what is not being said. God has called us into His kingdom through His grace. Being *born again* (John 3:3) means that we have new life. Though salvation is a free gift, it costs us everything.

Make no mistake: we cannot buy God's love and forgiveness. But Jesus doesn't beat around the bush: it will cost us everything to follow Him. If we want to be Jesus' disciples, we can have no other gods before Him.

Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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LESSON 3

**DISCIPLESHIP AND THE CROSS**

There is a difference between the cross of Christ and the cross we pick up when we become His disciples. Because of Christ's victory on the cross, we are freed from sin and made *slaves of righteousness* (Romans 6:17,18). He gives us the power to pick up our cross and follow Him.

1. What happened at the cross?

Colossians 2:13-15 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How did Paul describe his message to the Corinthians?

1 Corinthians 2:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What is the message of the cross to the perishing? What about to those who are being saved?

1 Corinthians 1:18 \_\_\_\_\_

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The cross is *folly* because it destroys self-effort. We marvel at the greatness of God's work in paying our debt of sin and delivering us from the power of evil.

4. What did Paul boast in?

Galatians 6:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Paul previously bragged about his religious accomplishments. After encountering the cross, he could only brag about what Christ did for him, not what he supposedly did for God.

5. What happened in Paul's life as a result of Jesus' death on the cross?

Galatians 6:14 \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What do you think Paul meant when he said, *I have been crucified with Christ*?

Galatians 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What did he mean by the phrase, *It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me*?

Galatians 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_

## Application & Reflection

What do you think it means for you to be crucified with Christ?

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## LESSON 4

### CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Those who are disciples will show it. It is critical that we cultivate the fruit of a godly life as we follow Christ in discipleship.

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11.

1. What has God granted to us by His divine power?

2 Peter 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How are we able to become *partakers of the divine nature*?

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

3. What can we escape as a result?

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

The most important mark of a disciple of Jesus Christ is not charisma, but godly character. We should never minimize the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, yet it is the fruit of the Spirit that identifies the true follower of Jesus. When Jesus was teaching His disciples how to identify false prophets, He said, "*Thus you will recognize them by their fruits*" (Matthew 7:19,20).

Many are gifted, yet the real test is a person's character, habits, and lifestyle. Though every disciple is given gifts for the benefit of the entire body of Christ, it is the fruit of a godly life that we must cultivate if we are to bear the marks of a true follower of Jesus.

Charisma is important. Character is essential.

4. What is the foundational "ingredient" to which everything else needed for a godly life is added?

2 Peter 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the necessary "additives" that Peter lists?

2 Peter 1:5-7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the promised result of having these qualities *increasing* in your life?

2 Peter 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Describe the condition of those without these character qualities.

2 Peter 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the promise to those who practice these Christian qualities?

2 Peter 1:10,11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Why should we rejoice in suffering?

Romans 5:3,4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why did James say we could count trials as *all joy*?

James 1:2,3 \_\_\_\_\_

11. What results in our lives when *steadfastness* has its full effect?

James 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

The process of spiritual maturity and Christian character development can be summarized as follows:

James 1:2-4	Trials and testing of faith → Steadfastness → Perfect, complete, lacking in nothing
Romans 5:3,4	Suffering → Endurance → Character → Hope

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 5

### DISCIPLESHIP AND LEADERSHIP

Jesus' original disciples became great leaders. Their lives and message made an impact on the world. But they didn't start out as leaders.

They started as disciples. Anyone who wants to lead first has to learn how to follow (Luke 22:26,27).

Read Matthew 4:19,20.

1. What did Jesus tell His first disciples to do?

Matthew 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_



2. What did Jesus promise He would do for His followers if they responded?

Matthew 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_

3. How did the first disciples respond to Jesus' command and promise?

Matthew 4:20 \_\_\_\_\_

After a season of intense personal discipleship, Jesus sent His followers out on their own to practice what they had watched Him do.

4. What did Jesus give His disciples authority over and to do?

Matthew 10:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did they do with that authority?

Mark 6:7,12,13 \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Did Jesus want His disciples just to follow Him and watch Him minister, or did He want them to watch, learn, and do all they saw Him do?

\_\_\_\_\_

The central call to discipleship is learning to follow Jesus ourselves, as well as helping others in this process.

7. Are you in a Victory group? Who is the leader? When and where does the group meet?

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\_\_\_\_\_

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

8. What did Jesus tell His discipleship group before He left earth?

Matthew 28:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What are we to teach the people we are discipling?

Matthew 28:20 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the difference between teaching facts and teaching someone to observe God's commands?

Matthew 28:20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. What was Jesus' final promise to all who attempt to make disciples? Matthew 28:20

\_\_\_\_\_

Discipleship is foundational to Christianity, but at its core, it's a very simple concept. In fact, it's so simple that two thousand years ago, Jesus explained it to a group of fishermen in one sentence: *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matthew 4:19). To be a disciple is to follow Jesus, reach the lost, and engage in this process with other believers.

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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# 7 SPIRITUAL FAMILY AND CHURCH LIFE

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

MATTHEW 16:18

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

ACTS 2:42-47

<sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—<sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

EPHESIANS 4:4-6

Peter preached the very first sermon of the New Testament church. He called his listeners to repent, to be baptized and to receive the Holy Spirit. All who responded were then added to the local body of believers—called the church. Everyone who is saved, baptized, and filled with the Holy Spirit today should also become part of a church—a local community of believers.

Why? Because we were not made to live the Christian life alone. We were not meant to follow God by ourselves. As you'll discover in this study, the early church did nearly everything in community. They didn't just meet together once a week; they shared life together. They taught one another, encouraged one another, and met each other's needs.

Just as God determines our parents and other family members, He has also chosen the spiritual family that we are born into. The church is God's instrument for advancing His kingdom. He has no "plan B." The church is the only legitimate setting for living the Christian faith. No long-term "lone ranger" can be a true disciple of Christ. All who truly desire to follow Christ must find their place in a church family.

## LESSON 1

### THE VICTORIOUS CHURCH

1. What did Jesus say about His victorious church?

Matthew 16:18 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Who is the *Rock*?  
1 Corinthians 10:4 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who is the *cornerstone*?  
Ephesians 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does Paul compare the love Christ has for the church to?  
Ephesians 5:25-28 \_\_\_\_\_
5. How does Paul describe the ultimate destiny of the church?  
Ephesians 5:26,27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 2:42-47.

6. What were the first church members devoted to?  
Acts 2:42 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Briefly describe early church life. Acts 2  
v. 43 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
v. 44 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
v. 45 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
v. 46 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
v. 47 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Comment on the generosity of the early church.

Acts 4:32-37 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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### Application & Reflection

Are you part of a church community? If so, how is your church similar to the one described in Acts 2:43-47 and 4:32-37? How is it different? What can you learn from the early church?

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## LESSON 2

### THE BODY OF CHRIST

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27.

1. What does Paul call the people of God?

1 Corinthians 12:27 \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible says the church is the *body of Christ* and that each person is like a different part of the body, with something unique to offer. That's why belonging to a church community is such a vital part of following Jesus. When we "go at it alone," we're not only hurting ourselves, we're hurting the body of Christ. It's like cutting off a finger or pulling out an eye.

2. What does Paul say about the importance of each part of the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 12:14-20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who decides how each part of the body should function?

1 Corinthians 12:18 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does Paul say to those who think they do not need the rest of the body?

1 Corinthians 12:21 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does Paul say about the parts of the body *that seem to be weaker*?

1 Corinthians 12:22-24 \_\_\_\_\_

6. How should the different parts of the body treat each other?

1 Corinthians 12:25,26 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Bible puts a lot of importance on the diversity of the church—many different people from all walks of life who bring different gifts and talents to the body of Christ. Yet equally important is an unshakable unity that comes from having Jesus Christ as our common foundation.

7. List the seven “ones” mentioned in Ephesians 4:4-6.

One \_\_\_\_\_

One \_\_\_\_\_

One \_\_\_\_\_

One \_\_\_\_\_

One \_\_\_\_\_

One \_\_\_\_\_

One \_\_\_\_\_

8. What should we do to maintain the *unity of the Spirit*?  
Ephesians 4:3 \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Jesus pray for regarding the unity of His disciples?  
John 17:20,21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What does the Bible call someone who *spreads strife*—that is, who causes **dis**unity?  
Proverbs 16:28 \_\_\_\_\_
11. Proverbs lists seven things that are *an abomination* to the Lord.  
What is the seventh?  
Proverbs 6:16-19 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What role do you believe God is calling you to serve in His church?  
How has He gifted you? Try asking a Christian friend who knows you well what he or she thinks your gifts may be.

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## LESSON 3

### CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The early church was not merely an organization but a living organism powered by God's Holy Spirit. That's the way the church today should be. Still, without some organization and structure, even a Spirit-led movement can turn into chaos.



The early church in Jerusalem gives a perfect example of this truth in Acts 6:1-7. Every day the believers distributed food to the widows in their community. (In the first century world, widows had little or no means of support.) But some of the widows were being overlooked. The twelve apostles—the leaders of the early church—knew they could not address important logistical issues while keeping their focus on *preaching the Word of God*. So they appointed several others to care for the widows. This is a compelling picture of different people with different gifts serving the body of Christ in different ways.

Read Ephesians 4:11-16.

1. What five roles of authority and leadership did God place in the church?

Ephesians 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the job of these leaders?

Ephesians 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

3. How long will these gifts operate in the church?

Ephesians 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the result of being in a church where these five ministries are operating?

Ephesians 4:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. How does the body of Christ grow?

Ephesians 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

6. Why was Titus left in Crete?

Titus 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Describe the qualifications for being an elder.

Titus 1:6-9; 1 Timothy 3:2-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What do these passages teach about an elder's marriage, children, and home life?

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

9. What was Peter's exhortation to the elders?

1 Peter 5:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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

## LESSON 4

### CHURCH DISCIPLINE

1. What are some of the responsibilities of pastors, elders, and spiritual leaders?

John 21:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:28 \_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel 33:1-9 \_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel 34:2-5 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How should church members relate to their pastors, elders, and spiritual leaders?

1 Thessalonians 5:12,13 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 5:25 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 5:17,18 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 13:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 13:17 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is the *head* of the church?

Ephesians 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the *foundation* of the church?

1 Corinthians 3:10,11 \_\_\_\_\_

Church is meant to be a community of people who are helping each other grow closer to God. In other words, the process of sanctification, which was covered in Chapter 2, is not something we can do on our own.

In any community, people will eventually offend one another or let one another down. The church is no exception. The good news is that the Bible offers a road map for responding to offense, sin, and division within the church. Sometimes this road map is referred to as "church discipline" or "accountability." The goal is always the same: to encourage repentance, healing, and restoration.

5. What should we do if we know a brother or sister has something against us?

Matthew 5:23,24 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What three steps should be taken to deal with sin in the church?  
Matthew 18:15-17

v.15 \_\_\_\_\_

v.16 \_\_\_\_\_

v.17 \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What should happen to the church member who is consistently wicked and immoral?

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 \_\_\_\_\_

Read Hebrews 12:8-11.

8. If we are left without discipline, what are we?

Hebrews 12:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What will we share in as a result of this discipline?

Hebrews 12:10 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What will this discipline ultimately yield?

Hebrews 12:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 5

### HOLY COMMUNION

The night before He was executed, Jesus shared one last meal with His disciples. During the meal, He took some bread, tore it into pieces, and passed it around the table. He told His disciples to take and eat the bread: “. . . *this is my body*,” He said. Moments later He passed around a cup, telling them each to drink, saying, “*this is my blood of the covenant . . .*” (Matthew 26:26-29).

Jesus told His disciples to eat and drink in remembrance of Him. This “communion,” as it is often called, represents Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross—as well as our new life, our new relationship with Him. To this day, followers of Jesus observe “communion” in obedience to Him.

1. What were the early disciples devoted to?

Acts 2:42 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.

2. What is proclaimed when we have communion?

1 Corinthians 11:26 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What happens when we receive communion *in an unworthy manner*?

1 Corinthians 11:27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What should we do as we receive communion?

1 Corinthians 11:28 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What happens to us if we continue to receive communion without discerning the body and do not turn from sin?

1 Corinthians 11:29 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What has happened to many as a result of this?

1 Corinthians 11:30 \_\_\_\_\_

7. How can we avoid being judged?

1 Corinthians 11:31 \_\_\_\_\_

8. When God judges or disciplines His children, what is His motive?

1 Corinthians 11:32 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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# 8 PRAYER AND WORSHIP

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-6

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling . . .

1 TIMOTHY 2:8

. . . The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

JAMES 5:16

Christianity is more than just a religion. It is a relationship between God and humanity. All relationships grow through communication. The better the communication, the better the relationship will be. Communication is a two-way process involving both talking and listening. God talks to us in many ways but primarily through His Word. We talk to Him through prayer and worship. We listen to Him as we read the Bible. He listens to us when we pray and worship. We respond to His Word with action. He responds to our prayers and worship with action.

## LESSON 1

### PERSONAL PRAYER

By observing Jesus' personal prayer life, we find two keys to effective prayer: a specific time and a private place.

1. When and where did Jesus pray?

Mark 1:35 \_\_\_\_\_

Read Matthew 6:5-13.

2. Where do the hypocrites pray?

Matthew 6:5 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where did Jesus teach His followers to pray?

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

To the hypocrites of Jesus' day, prayer was a form of spiritual one-upmanship, a way of showing off in front of others. Jesus taught that prayer should be an intimate time of connection with the Father, not a time for impressing others with our religious vocabulary.

4. To whom did Jesus say we should pray?

Matthew 6:6,8,9 \_\_\_\_\_

The fact that we can call God our "Father" when we pray is nothing short of amazing. The Old Testament taught that God was a Father to His people (Deuteronomy 32:6; Isaiah 63:16; Malachi 2:10), but before Jesus, virtually no one addressed God as their "Father" when they prayed. Jesus brings us into a new level of relationship with God; through Jesus, God adopts us and becomes our Father.

5. What do the Gentiles think about prayer?

Matthew 6:7 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What should we pray for? Matthew 6:9-13

v. 9 \_\_\_\_\_



v. 10 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 11 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 12 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 13 \_\_\_\_\_

## Application & Reflection

Think about the role prayer plays in your own life. Do you have specific time set aside for daily prayer? When? Do you have a private place for prayer? Where?

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## LESSON 2

### THE POWER OF PRAYER

1. What does Jesus promise to those who ask, seek, and knock?

Matthew 7:7-11 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What does Jesus say we must do for our prayers to be answered?

Mark 11:24 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What can we receive if we pray and have faith?

Matthew 21:22 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What might be a reason we don't receive what we ask for?

James 4:3 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does Jesus teach about prayer in the parable of the persistent widow? Why did He tell the parable?  
Luke 18:1-8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What can hinder our prayers?  
Psalm 66:18,19 \_\_\_\_\_  
James 1:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Peter 3:7 \_\_\_\_\_
7. In whose name should we pray?  
John 14:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_
8. To whom should we let our requests be known?  
Philippians 4:6 \_\_\_\_\_
9. How do we get to God?  
John 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many mediators are there between God and us? Who is the mediator?  
1 Timothy 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the confidence we have in prayer?  
1 John 5:14,15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What were the results of the disciples' prayers?  
Acts 4:31 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What were Paul and Silas doing while in prison?  
Acts 16:25 \_\_\_\_\_

14. What were the results of their prayers?

Acts 16:26-34 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. What was Elijah's prayer request and God's answer?

James 5:17,18 \_\_\_\_\_

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### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson about the power of prayer?

How has God answered your own prayers?

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## LESSON 3

### **CORPORATE PRAYER**

In the first lesson, we learned the importance of personal prayer and were cautioned about praying in public simply to be seen by others as "spiritual." However, we are encouraged to pray together as Christians.

1. What were the disciples doing as they waited for the day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

Acts 1:13,14 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did the believers do when they heard of Peter and John's arrest and persecution at the hands of the Sanhedrin?

Acts 4:24 \_\_\_\_\_

3. In the midst of persecution, what were their prayer requests?

Acts 4:29,30 \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What was the church doing while Peter was in prison?

Acts 12:5,12 \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How did God answer their prayers?

Acts 12:7-12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What were the Antioch church leaders doing when God called Saul and Barnabas to the mission field?

Acts 13:2 \_\_\_\_\_

7. What did they do before sending them off?

Acts 13:3 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What is essential in corporate prayer?

Matthew 18:19 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What did Jesus promise?

Matthew 18:20 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life? Do you have a community of believers with whom you can pray regularly?

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## LESSON 4

### A BIBLICAL PRAYER LIST

1. What was Paul's prayer for the disciples in Ephesus?

Ephesians 1:17

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Ephesians 1:18

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Ephesians 3:16

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Ephesians 3:17-19

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2. What was Paul's prayer for the Philippian church?

Philippians 1:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What was Paul's prayer for the Colossians?

Colossians 1:9-12 \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What did Paul instruct the Colossians to pray for?

Colossians 4:3,4 \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What was Epaphras always doing for the Colossians?

Colossians 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What was Paul's prayer request to the Thessalonian believers?

2 Thessalonians 3:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What was Paul's prayer for Philemon?

Philemon 6 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?  
What does your prayer list look like compared to the lists of Paul and the early believers?

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## LESSON 5

### WORSHIP

1. What kind of people is God seeking?

John 4:23 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How should we worship God?

John 4:24 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Our worship is to be in spirit and in truth. What does God say about the use of carved images, physical idols, and statues in worship?

Deuteronomy 5:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What are we encouraged not to neglect?

Hebrews 10:24,25 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What internal attitudes make our worship acceptable to God?

Hebrews 12:28,29 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What are some external expressions of worship encouraged in Scripture?

Psalm 47:1,5,6 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 96:8,9 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 98:1,4-6 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 149:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 150:3-6 \_\_\_\_\_

7. In what two places did the early church meet for worship and prayer?

Acts 2:46 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:20 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life? In what ways do you express your love for God?

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# 9 FAITH AND HOPE

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

HEBREWS 11:1

<sup>5</sup>And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

GENESIS 15:5,6

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

ROMANS 1:17

In Chapter 1, we learned that we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). But that's only the beginning. Once we become followers of Jesus, we continue to live each day by faith in the One who saved us.

## LESSON 1

### WHAT IS FAITH?

Hebrews 11 paints an extraordinary picture of faith, telling story after story of men and women who put their faith in God and demonstrated their faith by obeying Him, often at great cost to themselves.

1. Faith is one of the few words that the Bible defines for us.  
What is faith?

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

2. How does faith come to us?

Romans 10:17 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does faith work through?

Galatians 5:6 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do the following verses teach about faith?

Galatians 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 3:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 3:26 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the foundation that must be laid in the life of every believer who wants to go on to maturity?

Hebrews 6:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who are we to put our faith in?

Galatians 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_

After the resurrection, Thomas (one of the disciples) refused to believe Jesus was alive unless he saw it for himself. He stubbornly told the other disciples, *"Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe"* (John 20:25). Only when Jesus finally appeared did Thomas believe.

7. After Thomas finally believed, who did Jesus say would be blessed?

John 20:29 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What should we do when our senses contradict our faith?

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

### Application & Reflection

What are some things you are certain of but do not see (e.g., air, North Pole, God, etc.)?

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## LESSON 2

### SAVING FAITH

Read Acts 16:16-34.

1. What did Paul and Silas tell the jailer he had to do to be saved?

Acts 16:30,31 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What did Paul tell the Romans they needed to do to be saved?

Romans 10:9,10 \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Romans 5:1,2.

3. How are we justified?

Romans 5:1 \_\_\_\_\_

To be “justified” is to be made right with God. Our sin (and the punishment for it) is taken away, and God declares us to be “righteous”—that is, to be in a right relationship with Him.

4. What is the result of our justification?

Romans 5:1 \_\_\_\_\_

5. How can we obtain access to God’s grace?

Romans 5:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 3:21-28.

6. Are people justified before God through *works of the law* or by putting their faith in God?

Romans 3:28 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Who does God justify?

Romans 3:26 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Through what does the righteousness of God come?

Romans 3:22 \_\_\_\_\_

9. How do the righteous live?

Romans 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_

10. Paul spoke of a righteousness that did not come from the law. Where did it come from?

Philippians 3:8,9 \_\_\_\_\_

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11. How are we saved?

Ephesians 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Who has the right to become *children of God*?

John 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_

13. Who will *not perish but have eternal life*?

John 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 3

### FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

Faith is more than a one-time mental acknowledgment of who Jesus is and what He has done for us. God wants those who have been saved to continue to live by faith; that is, He wants our faith to lead to **faithfulness** (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 2:20; 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).

1. What does James say about faith that does not have works?

James 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is it enough to just say we believe in God?

James 2:19 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Christ's resurrection bring about?

Romans 1:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Abel do *by faith*?

Hebrews 11:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. God called Abraham to a place he had never seen. What did Abraham do *by faith*?

Hebrews 11:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. When God tested Abraham, what did he do *by faith*?

Hebrews 11:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. After growing up in the lap of luxury as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, what did Moses do *by faith*? What did he choose *by faith*?

Hebrews 11:24,25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read Hebrews 11:27-30.

8. What else did Moses do *by faith*?

Hebrews 11:27,28 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What did all the Israelites do *by faith*?

Hebrews 11:29 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What happened in Jericho because of the Israelites' obedient faith?

Hebrews 11:30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Is it possible to be a man or woman of great faith and die without receiving what was promised?

Hebrews 11:37-39 \_\_\_\_\_

Obedience does not lead to salvation, but the Bible does teach that salvation—putting our faith in Jesus—leads to obedience.

Read 1 John 5:1-5.

12. What does it mean to love God?

1 John 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_

13. Are God's commands *burdensome*? Why or why not?

1 John 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. How does John describe faith?

1 John 5:4 \_\_\_\_\_

15. Who overcomes the world?

1 John 5:5 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

How has your faith in God led to faithfulness? What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 4

### MOUNTAIN-MOVING FAITH

1. The disciples once failed to cast out a demon and asked Jesus, *"Why could we not cast it out?"* What was the reason they couldn't cast it out?

Matthew 17:20 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Even if we have small faith in a big God, what can we do?

Matthew 17:20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

There are two truths about God that serve as foundations for our faith. Abraham, the father of our faith (Romans 4:16,17), understood these faith foundations. To be men and women of faith we must hold tightly to these two truths about God:

God is powerful = God is able (Romans 4:18-21)

God is faithful = God is willing (Hebrews 11:11)

Read Romans 4:19-21.

3. What was Abraham fully convinced of?

Romans 4:21 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Some people ignore or deny the facts in a vain attempt to move in faith. What did Abraham do in regard to the physical facts?

Romans 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What facts did Abraham consider?

Romans 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



6. What did Abraham do concerning the promise of God?  
Romans 4:20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why were Abraham and Sarah able to become parents?  
Hebrews 11:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What promise had God made to Abraham?  
Genesis 15:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. In Ephesians 6:10-17, Paul calls believers to put on *the whole armor of God*. What can the *shield of faith* do?  
Ephesians 6:16 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Who should we have faith in?  
Mark 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
11. What must we do if we want our "mountain" to be *thrown into the sea*?  
Mark 11:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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### Application & Reflection

How have you seen the power of faith demonstrated in your own life?  
In the lives of others?

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## LESSON 5

### FAITH AND HOPE

Faith and hope are closely related in the Bible. But biblical hope is much more than simply longing for something that might happen. It is a confident assurance—rooted in faith—that God will do what He has promised to do.

1. What must we believe about God in order to come to Him?

Hebrews 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is impossible without faith?

Hebrews 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the connection between faith and hope?

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

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did the writer of Hebrews call hope?

Hebrews 6:19 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the purpose of an anchor in a boat?

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6. How does hope anchor our soul? What happens to a person who has no hope?

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Read 1 John 3:2,3.

7. Faith deals with today, hope with tomorrow. What are we now by faith?

1 John 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What will happen to us when Jesus appears—that is, what is our hope?

1 John 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_

9. How should this hope of seeing Jesus affect our lives?

1 John 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

# 10 BIBLICAL PROSPERITY AND GENEROSITY

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. . . . <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8,11

Literally thousands of passages in the Bible deal with the subject of money. Money is a powerful tool that, like most things, can be used either for great good or for great evil. In this chapter we will explore both the dangers and opportunities that money brings to a follower of Jesus. We will also examine our attitude toward money to see if we view money as means to an end or as an end in itself.

## LESSON 1

### THE DANGERS OF WEALTH

1. According to Jesus' parable of the sower, what can choke out God's Word and prove it to be unfruitful?

Mark 4:18,19 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are some ways that people are deceived by wealth?

\_\_\_\_\_

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3. What are some worries of life that choke out God's Word?

Matthew 6:25,28,31,34 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For most people in the first century, food, drink, and clothing were much more matters of life and death than they are for many today. So if Jesus told people back then not to worry about these things, how much more should we not succumb to the worries of life?

4. It is impossible to serve both God and \_\_\_\_\_ .

Luke 16:13

Jesus never made such a statement about anything else. He did not say, "You cannot serve God and power . . . God and sin . . . God and career . . . God and self." Why not? Because people know instinctively that they must serve God alone. But because of the deceitful nature of money and wealth, many people are convinced they are serving God when they have actually become slaves to money.

5. What can happen to those who desire to be rich and have this craving?

1 Timothy 6:9,10 \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Do you want to get rich? What are some potential dangers of this desire?

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7. What is a root of all kinds of evils?

1 Timothy 6:10 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What can deliver us from death—righteousness or riches?

Proverbs 11:4 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What happens to those who trust in riches?

Proverbs 11:28 \_\_\_\_\_

10. Does wealth last?

Proverbs 23:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_

11. What should we be on our guard against? Why?

Luke 12:15 \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Read Luke 12:16-21. What is the point of the parable of the rich fool?

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## Application & Reflection

What did you learn about the dangers of wealth?

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## LESSON 2

### **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF PROSPERITY**

Having established the dangerous nature of money, now we can look at some of the positive things the Bible says about money, abundance, and prosperity. Just because something is dangerous doesn't mean we should never use it. For example, cars are dangerous, but that doesn't mean we should stop driving and walk everywhere. It simply means we need to obey traffic rules. In the same way, the proper response to the dangers of money is not to be intentionally poor, but to handle the money God gives us according to His principles.

1. Who gives us the power to get wealth?

Deuteronomy 8:18 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Deuteronomy 30:8-10. What did Moses tell the Israelites God would do for them if they obeyed His commands?

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3. What do the following verses from Proverbs have to say about prosperity or God's provision?

10:3 \_\_\_\_\_

10:4 \_\_\_\_\_

10:22 \_\_\_\_\_

13:21 \_\_\_\_\_

13:22 \_\_\_\_\_

21:21 \_\_\_\_\_

22:4 \_\_\_\_\_

22:9 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What happens when we give? What if we give with small measure? What if we give with a large measure?

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

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Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11.

5. How does the law of sowing and reaping apply to money?

2 Corinthians 9:6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What kind of giver does God love?

2 Corinthians 9:7 \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is God able to do for the *cheerful giver*?

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

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8. Why does God make people rich?

2 Corinthians 9:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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When talking about prosperity, the question is not, "Will God prosper me?" The question is, "What will I do with God's abundant provision?"

### Application & Reflection

How has God blessed you with abundance? How can you use that abundance to bless others?

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## LESSON 3

### PUTTING GOD FIRST

1. What did the Israelites do with the firstfruits of all God provided for them?

2 Chronicles 31:5,6 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What part should we give to God?

Proverbs 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What happens as a result of giving the first part to God?

Proverbs 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Leviticus 27:30-32. Should we give a tithe of everything or of only our net pay? On the first part or the leftover part? Before or after taxes and other expenses?

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Read Malachi 3:8-12.

5. Why did Malachi tell God's people they were under a curse?

Malachi 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

6. How do people rob God?

Malachi 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_

7. How did God tell them to test Him?

Malachi 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What did God promise to do if His people would give Him the whole tithe?

Malachi 3:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 4

### EXTREME GENEROSITY

Luke 21:1-4 introduces the idea of extreme generosity—that is, sacrificial giving. Jesus is standing in the Jewish temple when a poor widow comes and gives two small copper coins—not much, but apparently all she had. Jesus' reaction is instructive.

1. According to Jesus, who put in the most? Why?

Luke 21:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.

2. Paul bragged about the generosity of the Macedonian believers. Describe their situation.

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

Here is the Macedonian formula for generosity:

severe test of affliction + extreme poverty + abundance of joy  
= wealth of generosity

3. How much did the Macedonians give?

2 Corinthians 8:3 \_\_\_\_\_

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Some people spend all they can afford to spend—they're the ones who are always broke. Others spend less than they are able to spend—they're the ones who are constantly saving their money. Then there is that category of people who actually spend more than they have—they're the ones who are enslaved in debt.

On the flip side, some people give less than they are able to give. According to the Bible, they are robbing God. Others give what they are able. This is called obedience. And still others sacrificially give beyond their ability. These extreme givers, like the widow in the temple, are considered heroes of the faith.

4. Did Paul have to pressure the Macedonian believers to give? What was their attitude toward giving?

2 Corinthians 8:4 \_\_\_\_\_

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### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

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What kind of giver are you?

- Less than you can afford
- As much as you can afford
- More than you can afford

FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

# 11 EVANGELISM AND WORLD MISSIONS

<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Before returning to heaven, Jesus promised to send His disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. But He also gave His followers a job to do. The message of salvation was meant to be shared with everyone in every nation. Jesus wants us to proclaim this message—that is, to share the gospel—with our words ("*teaching them . . .*") and our deeds ("*make disciples . . .*"). The good news is that God Himself has empowered us to be His representatives: "*Behold, I am with you always . . .*"

## LESSON 1

### EVERYONE IS A MINISTER

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.

1. What *ministry* has God given to each believer?

2 Corinthians 5:18 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What *message* has God committed to us?  
2 Corinthians 5:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does *reconciliation* mean, and why do people need to be reconciled to God?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is an “ambassador”?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does it mean for us to be *ambassadors for Christ*?  
2 Corinthians 5:20 \_\_\_\_\_
6. How will other people know that we are disciples of Jesus?  
John 13:35 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What was Paul's attitude toward sharing the gospel with non-Christians? Romans 1:14-16  
v. 14 \_\_\_\_\_  
v. 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
v. 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Paul, quoting the Old Testament prophet Joel, promises, *Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved* (Romans 10:13). But what must happen for people to *call on the name of the Lord*?  
Romans 10:14,15 \_\_\_\_\_
9. God sent Peter to preach the gospel to a Roman centurion named Cornelius. Who did Cornelius gather to hear Peter speak?  
Acts 10:24 \_\_\_\_\_



10. What happened to those who heard Peter preach in Cornelius's house?

Acts 10:44-48 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The story of Peter and Cornelius is amazing not just because of what happened when Peter preached, but because of who Peter's audience was. Cornelius was a Gentile—a non-Jew. In Peter's day, most Jews and Gentiles did not associate closely with each other. Even more startling, Cornelius was an officer in the Roman army that occupied the Jewish nation. In other words, Cornelius was Peter's natural enemy.

Jesus does not simply call us to share the gospel with our friends and loved ones; He goes further, teaching us to ". . . love [our] enemies and pray for those who persecute [us]" (Matthew 5:44).

Read Acts 20:20,21.

11. Where did Paul preach?

Acts 20:20 \_\_\_\_\_

12. To whom did Paul preach?

Acts 20:21 \_\_\_\_\_

13. What did Paul preach?

Acts 20:21 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life? To whom—friends, loved ones, or even enemies—is God calling you to preach the gospel?

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## LESSON 2

### **BOLDNESS**

For many believers in the first century (and many believers around the world today), preaching the gospel costs something—maybe a relationship with a friend or family member, maybe their livelihood. Many were imprisoned, physically abused, or even killed because they refused to be silent about their faith. In this lesson, we will explore how the early believers responded to such persecution.

1. Under the threat of persecution, what did the disciples pray for?

Acts 4:29 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What were the results of their prayer?

Acts 4:31 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. According to Barnabas, how did Saul (Paul) preach—even in the face of a plot to kill him?

Acts 9:22-28 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. After Saul's conversion, how long did he wait until he preached the gospel?

Acts 9:19,20 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Describe the difference between the righteous and the wicked.

Proverbs 28:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What does Proverbs say about the fear of man?

Proverbs 29:25 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Paul requested prayers that he might proclaim the gospel in what manner?

Ephesians 6:19,20 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life? Take a moment to ask God to give you boldness to share the message of salvation with others.

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## LESSON 3

### SPIRITUAL CONFLICT AND EVANGELISM

1. What has happened to unbelievers?

2 Corinthians 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How are people taken captive?

Colossians 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What did Jesus come to do?

Luke 4:18-21 \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why did the Son of God appear?

1 John 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible describes the church as the *body of Christ* (1 Corinthians 12:27). If we are Christ's body—His presence in the world today—then Jesus' mission is **our** mission. He has called us to proclaim good news to the poor, the captives, the blind, and the oppressed. He has called us to participate in destroying the devil's work. In other words, when we preach the gospel to lost people, we are engaging in spiritual conflict. Jesus came to set captives free. He frees people as we speak the truth.

5. Who are we wrestling against?

Ephesians 6:12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What happened when Paul preached?

Acts 16:14 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What must happen if people are to come to Christ?

John 6:44 \_\_\_\_\_

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 4

### MIRACLES, SIGNS, AND WONDERS

1. When the disciples stepped out in faith and boldly preached the gospel, what happened?

Acts 2:43; 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did the people in Samaria pay attention to Philip?

Acts 8:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signs and wonders were not just for apostles. Philip was a faithful servant in the church whom God used to proclaim the gospel with miraculous power.

3. What were Paul and Barnabas doing when the lame man from Lystra was healed?

Acts 14:5-10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Our part is to boldly preach God's salvation and pray for Him to act. As we do this, God will work powerful miracles in people's lives. In other words, we do the preaching; He does the healing.

4. What did James instruct the church to do for those who were sick?

James 5:14,15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Jesus promise to those who believe in Him?

John 14:12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How can we do *greater works*?

John 14:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How was the lame man at the Beautiful Gate healed?

Acts 3:6,7,16 \_\_\_\_\_

8. How much authority is in the name of Jesus?

Matthew 28:18 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What happens at the mention of Jesus' name?

Philippians 2:10,11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acting in Jesus' name isn't like using a magic word. It's much better than that. To act in Jesus' name is to acknowledge His authority over everything. When we submit ourselves to His authority, He gives us the power to advance His kingdom.

10. What did Jesus say would happen if we have faith in Him?

Mark 11:22-24 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. What did Jesus say about the power of faith?

Mark 9:23 \_\_\_\_\_

12. What pleases God?

Hebrews 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_

## Application & Reflection

How have you seen the power of God at work in your life? Think of a time when you boldly proclaimed the gospel. How did God act?

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## LESSON 5

### TO THE END OF THE EARTH

1. What did Jesus promise would happen when the Holy Spirit came on His followers?

Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is a witness?

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3. What does it mean to be Christ's witness?

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4. Where were Jesus' followers to be witnesses?

Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What was the first promise Jesus gave to His followers?

Matthew 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Matthew 28:19,20.

6. What was the last command Jesus gave His disciples?

Matthew 28:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*"Follow" and "go" are the foundational commands of discipleship. Jesus calls us to "follow" Him, becoming His disciples. But one key purpose of a disciple is to make more disciples—to "go."*

7. What are we to do with the disciples we make?

Matthew 28:19,20 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What did Jesus promise to everyone who will *"go therefore and make disciples of all nations"*?

Matthew 28:20 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What is the condition of the world in relation to the gospel?

Matthew 9:35-37 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 4:35,36 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What did Jesus say we should pray earnestly for?

Matthew 9:38 \_\_\_\_\_

11. Jesus died on the cross to ransom people from where?

Revelation 5:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?  
What part is God calling you to play in fulfilling His command to reach every nation with the gospel?

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FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

FOR STUDY  
PURPOSES

# 12 RESURRECTION AND JUDGMENT

<sup>7</sup>But the Lord sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, <sup>8</sup>and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.

PSALM 9:7,8

I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.

ECCLESIASTES 3:17

<sup>27</sup>And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

HEBREWS 9:27,28

According to the Bible, all of us have three inescapable appointments: death, resurrection, and judgment. We all will die one day. We all will be raised again—but not just as disembodied spirits. And we all will be judged at the throne of God.

## LESSON 1

### DEATH AND RESURRECTION

1. What is everyone appointed to do once? Hebrews 9:27

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2. Where will we all stand one day? Romans 14:10

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3. Did Paul fear death? Why not? Philippians 1:21

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Read 1 Corinthians 15.

There are three popular views of death, but only one of them is based on God's Word.

**Annihilationism** is the view that human beings cease to exist at the moment of physical death. This view denies the eternal existence of the soul and the justice of God.

**Reincarnation** is the view that upon death a person's soul passes into a new body of either the same or different species as punishment or reward. This view denies the biblical teaching of eternal judgment.

**Resurrection** is the biblical teaching that the dead shall all rise, be judged, and be given either eternal punishment or eternal rewards.

4. What did Paul say to those who said there is no resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:13 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What if Christ was not really raised from the dead?

1 Corinthians 15:14-19

v. 14 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 15 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 16 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Paul insisted that because Christ has been raised from the dead, we will be raised from death as well.

6. What is the last enemy Christ will destroy?

1 Corinthians 15:26 \_\_\_\_\_

7. How did Paul describe the resurrection body?

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

v. 42 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 43 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 44 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Paul did not relate to Jesus as if He was still on the cross. What did Paul want to know?

Philippians 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What did Paul hope to attain?

Philippians 3:11 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What was Paul's hope?

Acts 24:15 \_\_\_\_\_

11. How did Paul's belief in the resurrection affect the way he lived?

Acts 24:16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Where is our *citizenship*?

Philippians 3:20 \_\_\_\_\_

13. What will our Savior do to our bodies?

Philippians 3:21 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. To be *at home in the body* is to be \_\_\_\_\_ .  
2 Corinthians 5:6
15. To be *away from the body* is to be \_\_\_\_\_ .  
2 Corinthians 5:8
16. Where must we all appear one day?  
2 Corinthians 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read Hebrews 2:14,15.

17. Why did Jesus partake in our humanity?  
Hebrews 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. Who holds the power of death?  
Hebrews 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_
19. Who broke his power? How?  
Hebrews 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_
20. Is it possible to be set free from the fear of death? How?  
Hebrews 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 2

### THE JUSTICE OF GOD AND THE SINFULNESS OF HUMANITY

Many who don't know God and assume that people are basically good wonder, "How can a loving God send people to hell?" But as we saw in Chapter 1, the goodness of God's creation was scarred by humanity's sin. Once we see how sinful we are and how perfectly holy God is, we will wonder, "How can a holy God allow sinful people into heaven?"

1. What is the foundation of God's throne?

Psalm 89:14 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What if we claim to be a Christian yet *walk in darkness*?

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

3. What if we say we have no sin?

1 John 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Read Hebrews 10:26-31.

4. What if we go on sinning deliberately?

Hebrews 10:26,27 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What do you think it means to have *trampled underfoot the Son of God and outraged the Spirit of grace*?

Hebrews 10:28,29 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why is it a *fearful thing* to fall into the hands of the living God?

Hebrews 10:30,31 \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the person with the *hard and impenitent heart* doing?  
Romans 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What can those who do not obey God's truth expect from Him?  
Romans 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_
9. What do those who believe in Jesus have? What about those who do not obey Jesus?  
John 3:36 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How are those who believe in Jesus to speak and act?  
James 2:12 \_\_\_\_\_
11. What if we live a "pretty good life" and "do our best" to follow God but fail to keep the law in one point?  
James 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Read Romans 3:23-26.
12. What is the moral condition of every human?  
Romans 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_
13. How can we be justified before God?  
Romans 3:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. What did the sacrificial death of Christ show?  
Romans 3:25,26 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. God is not only just, but also the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Romans 3:26



## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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## LESSON 3

### THE JUDGMENT OF SINNERS

1. What comes after death?  
Hebrews 9:27 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who will enter the kingdom of heaven?  
Matthew 7:21 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What will Jesus say to those who called Him Lord but did not really live under His Lordship?  
Matthew 7:22,23 \_\_\_\_\_

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

4. On judgment day, Jesus will separate *the sheep from the goats*—that is, the righteous from the wicked. What are the only two eternal destinations after judgment?  
Matthew 25:46 \_\_\_\_\_
5. How is hell described in the following passages?  
Matthew 13:41,42 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 25:41 \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark 9:43 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 16:23,24 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Thessalonians 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who will be judged in hell?

Matthew 23:29-33 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 24:48-51 \_\_\_\_\_

John 3:36 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 20:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 21:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What do the following Scripture passages teach about the fear of God?

Deuteronomy 10:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes 12:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 8:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 10:28 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 1:50 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 10:35 \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible teaches that God is loving, kind, and compassionate. But He is also holy and just. That is why we are commanded to *fear* Him—that is, to treat Him with reverence and awe. We do not *fear* God because He is fickle or unreliable. Far from it! God's mercy is always for those who fear Him (Luke 1:50).

## Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?  
How do you *fear God* in your daily life?

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## LESSON 4

### THE JUDGMENT OF SAINTS

All who repent of their sins and put faith in Christ will be with Him in paradise forever. Because God is just and our justifier, we will not be judged with those who die apart from Christ. But our life work will be judged—not to determine our eternal destination, but to determine our eternal rewards.

1. What does Jesus do for us?

1 Thessalonians 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Paul tell the believers in Rome?

Romans 14:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Paul tell the believers in Corinth?

2 Corinthians 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_

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Read 1 Corinthians 3:9-15.

4. What will the fire test on judgment day?  
1 Corinthians 3:13 \_\_\_\_\_
  5. What will we receive if our work survives God's judgment?  
1 Corinthians 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_
  6. What if our life's work is burned up in judgment?  
1 Corinthians 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  7. What did James say about the judgment of spiritual leaders?  
James 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_
  8. What did David say about the death of the Lord's saints?  
Psalm 116:15 \_\_\_\_\_
  9. What did John say about the death of a believer?  
Revelation 14:13 \_\_\_\_\_
  10. What must we believe about God?  
Hebrews 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- In 1 Corinthians 9:24-26, Paul compares the Christian life to an olympic race, highlighting the need for endurance and discipline.
11. Athletes in ancient Rome competed for wreaths made of perishable leaves and vines. What kind of wreath does the Christian train for?  
1 Corinthians 9:25 \_\_\_\_\_

12. What were Paul's thoughts about the possibility of making it to heaven (by the grace of God) only to be disqualified from receiving *the prize*?  
1 Corinthians 9:26,27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What was Paul's *joy and crown*?  
Philippians 4:1 \_\_\_\_\_
14. What was Paul's *hope*, his *joy*, his *crown*?  
1 Thessalonians 2:19 \_\_\_\_\_
15. Who will be rewarded with the *crown of righteousness*?  
2 Timothy 4:7,8 \_\_\_\_\_
16. Paul says the *crown of righteousness* is for those who long for Jesus' return. According to Peter, how should those waiting for *the coming of the day of God* live?  
2 Peter 3:11,12 \_\_\_\_\_
17. What reward does God give those who remain *steadfast under trial*?  
James 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_
18. How faithful must we be to receive the *crown of life*?  
Revelation 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_
19. What must we do to receive the victor's crown?  
2 Timothy 2:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. What activities does God promise to reward?

Matthew 6:3,4 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Matthew 6:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_

21. Revelation 4 describes four living creatures who circle the throne of God, worshiping Him day and night. What do these heavenly beings do with their crowns?

Revelation 4:9,10 \_\_\_\_\_

22. Why is God worthy of our crowns?

Revelation 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_

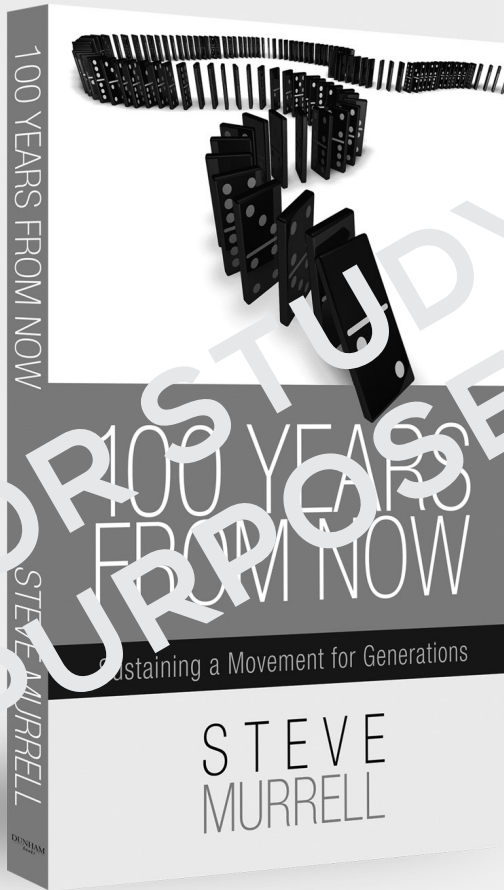
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Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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What will our movement look like  
100 years from now?



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# ESTABLISH

biblical foundations

- 1 Continue to read your Bible and do what it says.
- 2 Be part of a Victory group and be involved in your church community.
- 3 Attend a class on The Purple Book.

