

FOLLOW ME



later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named levi sitting at his tax collector's booth.

"Follow me and be my disciple,"

Jesus said to him. So levi got up, left everything, and followed him. luke 5:27-28

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INTRODUCTION

Take a moment and think about one or two significant people in your life, who came alongside you and helped teach you to follow Jesus. It might have been a roommate, parent, mentor, or even an author who had impacted you and oriented your direction in life toward Christ.

You are now stepping into that very role for a few others. It's amazing that we get to be involved in centuries of a spiritual legacy. Jesus taught and loved his initial disciples who then went on and made disciples who made disciples who made disciples... And on and on until this very moment when you are about to begin lovingly building the next generation of disciple makers. You will impact their future marriages, children, neighbors, and many more people through your time, prayers, and nurturing you faithfully give to these students.

The heart behind this discipling journey is to regularly take several students to God and His Word to help shape their hearts, minds, and actions to look more like the beloved Son. **We are not making followers of us; we are making followers of Jesus.** And along the way, the beauty is that we, too, become more conformed into the image of His Son. Discipleship groups are meant for fellow-travelers in life to journey together in community, helping one another to grow in Christ.

Another benefit of the communal style of discipleship (that is, group discipleship like Jesus modeled) is that disciples over time not only form strong bonds of friendship with each other, but they begin to learn how to disciple by encouraging each other and taking one another to God and His Word. This is powerful when it begins to happen.

We ask that you meet with your students each week and that you make it an unwavering priority to open God's Word at every meeting. Even if a conversation takes up most of the time, make sure you tie in a passage of Scripture and look at it together. The heart behind this is that we want to emphasize and model our value of God's Word over our opinions.

May you be blessed in the journey and may the Lord's grace allow you to make disciples that will go on and make disciples.

— The Cru Staff Team at Texas State

VALUES & PRINCIPLES

1: You are the group facilitator but **you are all co-disciples** growing and learning to follow Christ.

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought. (Rom 12.3)

2: At Texas State we **disciple in community**. Each discipleship group is made up of 3 to 4 people.

3: **We value God's Word as authoritative**. Therefore, we intend to look at God's Word every time we meet together as a discipleship group.

4: Do not merely be hearers of God's Word, **but doers also.**" (James 1.22) We make it a priority to end our time in God Word by stating at least one application we will incorporate into our lives that week.

If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples. (John 8.31)

5: To be **in life with one another**, being honest and real.

6: To **meet weekly**. This communicates intentionality and purpose. It takes effort and planning to grow and learn. Be faithful to be there each week. (Perhaps say sometime: "This is one of my favorite times of the week and I am committed to you guys/girls and will be here every week.")

7: To live as friends. This means that although we see one another each week, we also connect and enjoy fellowship/friendship outside of that time. In essence, **discipleship is friendship**. Make time on occasion to do things outside the weekly discipleship group time. (i.e. have them over for dinner, go shop together, run an errand to Austin together, go with a disciple to a Dr. appointment, exercise together, run in a race together, go for a walk, go to a play/show/movie, cook together, serve together, invite them over for a holiday like Thanksgiving or Easter, etc.

No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends. (John 15.15)

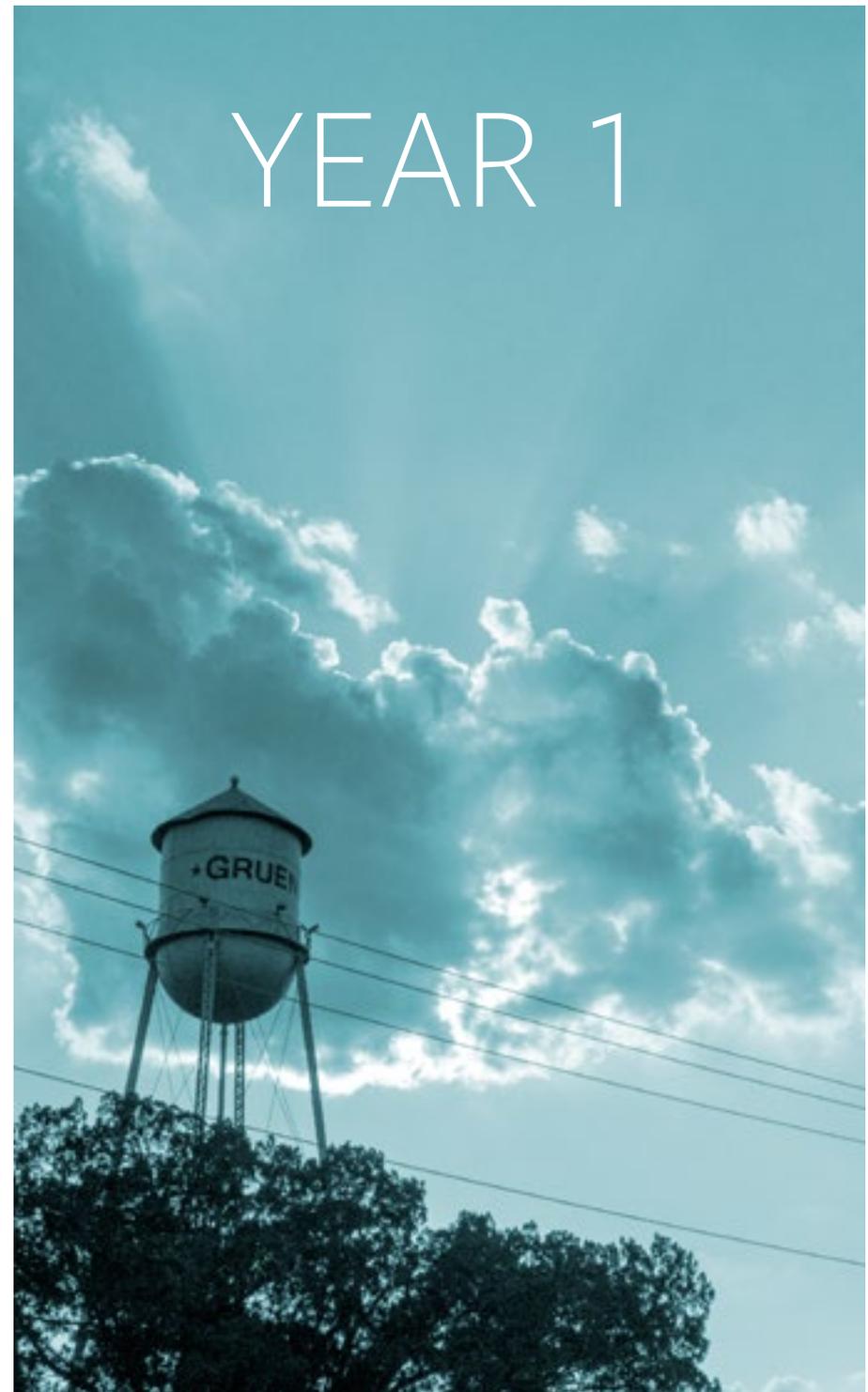
8: Be courageous to **lovingly correct or rebuke a disciple that is choosing to live in sin**. Do not remain silent or timid. Show the love of a brother or sister in Christ by caring enough to say something. It may be hard initially but chances are they will thank you one day for loving them that much. And make sure to have that initial conversation in private.

9: We recommend **moving from discipler to coach after 2 years of discipleship**. We want disciples to begin making disciples. This also means that we will free their time up to do this by no longer meeting weekly. Instead we will meet up with them monthly and encourage and support them as they make disciples. (It is also common to be discipling students who are also discipling others. This is a transition period of finishing the discipleship journey with the disciple while they are beginning to disciple others.)

10: Pray regularly for one another.

11: Pray regularly for lost friends.

12: **Love each other deeply** as God has called you.



YEAR 1

WEEK 1: TELLING YOUR STORY

Note: Below is information on how to facilitate the sharing of backstories with discipleship candidates. Of course, if you are meeting with students who have already committed, you can be more straightforward in this process.

You may have already heard a student's backstory. However, at this point, it is likely that you have set up a meeting for coffee or lunch with two or three other students, and none of the three may know much about the others. Say something like, *"Hey, I thought it would be good to get to know one another. So let's each take a little time to tell about ourselves. One way is just to share about your highlights, hard times and heroes. After you finish, the rest of us will take some time to ask questions to help us know you better. Are you willing to do that?"*

Because your group will probably only have time for one, or maybe two, stories, say, *"Hey, time is running short and I know you've got things to do. Would y'all be willing to meet up again next week at this same time to continue? I really value being in life with you guys and going farther than just 'sup?"* This now allows you to get a second meeting with them at the same time. You are already beginning to carve out a spot in their schedule for a consistent meeting. Sometimes it takes three weeks to share these backstories and that's okay.

WEEK 2: TELLING YOUR STORY

Allow the last student(s) to share their backstory with appropriate follow-up questions from the group. After these two or three weeks are over, friendships are already beginning to form, even if they are shallow. Cool! This is a great start.

Note: You might end this time by taking them to a passage in the Bible and talking.

Note: Finally, wrap it up by sharing how much you appreciated hearing their stories. Then add something like this:

"Hey. Now that we have gotten to know each other some, let's meet up again next week to look at a passage of Scripture together and start encouraging one another to grow in our relationships with Christ. Sound good? Bring your bible next week."

WEEK 3: SALVATION

Introduction: If a person is not sure of their salvation they can experience a great deal of doubt, insecurity and anxiety. This lack of assurance often moves a person to pursue good works in order to feel they are “good enough” for God’s love and approval. This solution never works. Instead, people working for God’s approval tend to experience a joyless life of legalism, self-loathing and eventually despair. [Note: If you aren’t sure that the people you’re getting to know are Christians, feel free to use the Salvation: Knowing God Personally lesson to more fully share the gospel.]

Opener: There is no better place to begin our spiritual journey together than the gospel. Everything in our relationship with God and all of life revolves around this gospel story of God seeking to redeem and renew what is broken and lost. Our faith hinges on this story and we should never tire of it nor grow dull in learning new and wonderful aspects of the gospel.

Big Idea: A person is saved through no other means than faith in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Jesus our Savior has paid for our sins in full and offers all people new life and a relationship with God.

Passage(s): Titus 3.3-7; End the lesson by reading 2.Cor 5.17

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity’s brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

WEEK 4: BEING & MAKING DISCIPLES & DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

Introduction: Note: You can skip this step if your students have already agreed to a formal discipleship relationship. However, either way, this step can be useful in clarifying and deepening commitment.

It’s now time to talk about moving ahead with this discipleship group. In this important lesson, you will talk about what it means to be a disciple, and what it means to make a disciple. This lesson will end with a challenge to moving forward with this discipleship group. This is important to set a strong challenge so that they understand that there is a cost and expectations involved.

Big Idea: To make official your discipleship relationship, teach the Biblical basis for discipleship and make the expectation of this relationship clear.

Passage(s): [The documents “Being & Making Disciples” and “Discipleship Challenge” can be found in the Appendix]

Note: It is critical to have a formal introduction and invitation into continuing this weekly Cru discipleship group. This **Discipleship Lesson** and **Discipleship Challenge** in the Appendix are excellent ways to do this. Make sure you are prepared in advance with this lesson. You can read through the Challenge page together so it is clear to them what you are inviting them to.

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Introduction: If a person is not confident of their salvation they can experience a great deal of doubt, insecurity and anxiety. This lack of assurance often moves a person to pursue good works in order to feel they are finally “good enough” to be accepted. But...it never does. The result tends to be a joyless life of legalism, self-loathing and eventually despair.

Opener: Have you ever been in a relationship where you felt like you were “on pins and needles”, needing to be careful with every word and action? Maybe you felt this with a parent, teacher, or coach. Maybe you even felt this way with a so-called “friend”, someone you liked, but they did not treat you with compassion or unconditional love. It’s an “I can never do anything right” feeling with them because they are so critical. Tell about this relationship. Over time, how did you begin to behave around them? How would you summarize your relationship with that person?

Big Idea: A Christian can have assurance that they have eternal life based on the trustworthiness of God and His Word.

Passage(s): 1 John 5:9-13 or use Life Concept 1 (Assurance)

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity’s brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.



*and what you have heard
from me in the presence of
many witnesses entrust to
faithful men, who will be
able to teach others also.*

—2 Timothy 2:2

PRAYER

Introduction: Connecting with God through prayer allows us to see Jesus more clearly and grow in our relationship with him. Jesus himself took time to pull away from the crowds and spend time with his father. Now, we share in that same privilege.

Opener: There are few greater privileges we have as believers than having direct access to God at any moment of this life. And moreover, God desires our presence and relationship with Him.

Big Idea: As believers in Jesus, we can confidently come to God as our Father. Furthermore, Jesus models to us this relationship of talking with God.

Passage(s): Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 6:12

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity's brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on these truths this week?

Suggested Practice: Share with the group an area about which you feel that feels like God is ignoring in your life with the group. Pray each day this week that God would let you see this area of your life as He sees it. Try praying in the following the A.C.T.S. pattern:

Adoration (what is lovely and worthy about God)

Confession (sinful thoughts or acts to bring before God)

Thanksgiving (gratitude for His mercy and goodness)

Supplication (requests to the Father for yourself or others)

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

CONFESSION IN COMMUNITY

Introduction: True fellowship isn't just eating a meal together. It's about being honest with yourself, God, and others. That It includes admitting your sin and bringing it into the light.

Opener: People naturally want friendships. What are some of the differences between a surface friendship and deep friendship?

Big Idea: Being vulnerable, admitting we have sinned, and sharing that reality with God and others brings our sin to the light so that we can more fully experience both God's faithfulness and justice in forgiveness.

Passage(s): 1 John 1:5 – 2.2 or use Life Concept 2 (Forgiveness); End the lesson by reading James 5.16

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity's brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

Suggestion: Have everyone in the group contemplate one confession they need to share with someone, either 1) a personal sin they have done or 2) a forgiveness to ask of someone for a wrong done. This could be to a parent, roommate, professor, someone in this group, or someone else.

MISSIONAL COMMUNITY: JOINING GOD'S MISSION

Introduction: Christians often speak about and organize ministry in ways that segments community and mission as if they were independent realms from one another. Biblically, the two are intertwined. The community of Father, Son and Spirit are on mission from the opening chapters of Genesis (even before Genesis: Read Eph.1.4). Those rescued from sin because of His mission, become a community of God's people—who are in turn sent out to labor with Him in His worldwide mission. Each enriches and is an inextricable part of the other.

Opener: People have long asked the question, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" Here's a spin on that with regard to following Christ. Which do you think came first, the mission of God, or godly community? How does each relate to the other?

Big Idea: You cannot have biblical mission without community. Nor can you have biblical community without mission.

Passage(s): John 13:34-35

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity's brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE: STEWARDSHIP

Introduction: Biblical realism requires a grasp of the brevity of our sojourn on earth. It's the understanding that our hope is fixed not on the prospects of this passing world but on the promises of the everlasting God. A growing realization of our mortality, and that of others, should cause us to treasure present opportunities, while fueling a sense of urgency in reaching out to others.

Opener: Suppose your doctor tells you, after a routine examination, that you have a terminal illness—that at best you have one year to live. How would this news affect your vision of life, your roles, and your investments of time or energy during your remaining year?

Big Idea: Every life, system or culture that is not built upon Christ and His Kingdom will pass away.

Passage(s): Intro: Ps 39:4-7 and Ps 90:12; Main: Lk 12:13-34; End with: 2 Pet 3:10

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity's brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach. Suggestion: Next week do a field trip to the San Marcos Cemetery. (See Appendix in Discipleship Training for more thoughts on this suggestion.)



SHARING THE GOSPEL

Introduction: The most effective way to share Knowing God Personally is to simply read through it completely with the person you are witnessing to. Fold the booklet in half and point along with your finger or pen as you read the words. No extras are needed. Just read the booklet. With this in mind, the **Big Six Questions** can be found online and serve only to clarify what is already in the booklet. It's ok if this lesson needs a couple weeks to cover it all. You want this to be a discussion and allow the others to ask questions along the way that they have had for years.

Opener: One great skill we can develop in being effective evangelists is the art of asking good questions and listening well. Today we are going to learn 6 simple questions that help clarify the Knowing God Personally booklet. You can memorize them in 5 minutes. These questions will let you know if the person you're witnessing to really understands the message in the booklet. They have to tell you what the booklet means – that's the secret. They will understand the Gospel because you will give them three opportunities to review the Biblical message of the booklet.

Big Idea: These six simple questions will let you know if the person you're witnessing to really understands the message in the booklet.

Passage(s): Introduction to Lesson: Romans 1.16-17 and 10.9-14

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach. Suggestion: Take disciples to share their faith next week. Either break into a couple groups of 2 and go share, or invite someone that is new to Cru (VIP) to join you guys that week so you can discern where they are spiritually (see "Spiritual Journey" chart in Appendix of Discipleship Training) and then share the gospel. It is essential that your disciples see you walk through the gospel – perhaps using the KGP – so they can best learn through a real life situation.



QUESTION 1: How would you define sin?

This can be answered in one hundred different ways. In fact, there's no wrong answer. Anything that's not pleasing to God is sin. The person you're witnessing to is defining sin in their own words by giving you one example.

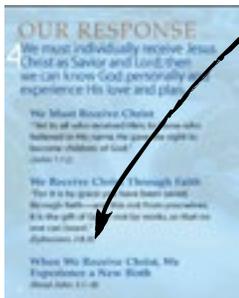
QUESTION 2: Have you ever sinned before?

This question on the surface sounds too simple, but it is perhaps the most significant in the booklet. To clearly and honestly admit that one has sinned, shows one's need for forgiveness. God's requirement to get into heaven is perfection, so because there's no humanly possible way to work back to perfection, the person you're talking to will be in a dilemma after they've answered this question.



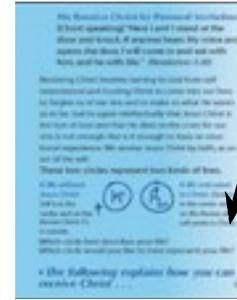
QUESTION 3: Why did Christ die on the cross?

Don't answer this question for the person. Let them tell you first. The answer is found in the first five words of the next verse you'll read in 1 Corinthians 15:3-6. "Christ died for our sins..." That's the Gospel message — the good news. You will review this point again.



QUESTION 4: What do you think this verse is saying? (Eph. 2:8-9)

This is the big clarifying question. It allows you to see if they fully understand the first three points in the booklet. Go back and review by simply asking, "What is it that separates one from God?" Look at point three of the booklet and ask, "Once again, why did Christ die on the cross?" Ask, "Is there anything in our own power that we can do to get rid of our sin?" You've just reviewed the key points.



QUESTION 5: What is the main difference between the circle on the left and the circle on the right?

Again, give the person the opportunity to think about it and answer first. The answer is "the cross." In the circle on the left, Christ is outside of the life. In the circle on the right, Christ is in the life. Ask, "If Christ forgives someone of their sin, is there anything that would stand between them and God?" (Answer: no, Christ did it all on the cross.)



QUESTION 6: What is the main thing that this prayer is saying?

Yes, this is the third opportunity to let the person verbalize the message of the Gospel. (Answer: the third full line of the prayer; "I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord.")

COMMUNION WITH GOD: SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW

Introduction: Helping your disciples develop a love of Scripture is one of the most important things you can do for them. If they fall in love with this book and begin to read it hungrily, it will change their lives.

You have two objectives in this lesson: 1. to explain the overall structure of the Bible so it's not so overwhelming, and 2. to motivate them to begin reading the Bible on their own.

Opener: Prayer is not the only way we connect with God. Prayer is how we speak to Him, but He also desires to speak to us. One of the most important ways He does this is through His Word, the Bible. The Bible is not a collection of religious stories, but the “inspired” Word of God, spoken and written through human servants through His Spirit.

Psalm 138 says that God has exalted His Word above all things. Since He values it so highly, it's imperative that we also exalt it. However, the Bible is pretty huge and can be quite intimidating. You may hear passages quoted from Habakkuk or Jude, but unless you have some context, those labels have very little meaning. Yet with just a little explanation of the structure and flow of the Bible, you will find that it is much less intimidating. What follows the big picture of the Bible. These points can serve as “hooks” upon which to hang the passages you read and messages you hear in the future.

Big Idea: All of Scripture is God's Word to us and is beneficial for every part of our lives.

[Open up your Bible with them, show them the table of contents and flip through the Word to explain the information below.]

A Book of Books: The Bible is actually a library of 66 books, written by around 40 authors in 3 different languages and on 3 different continents over a period of more than 2500 years. Yet the Bible has one central theme: God's rescue of His creation from sin through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Structure: The Bible divides into two basic sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. “Testament” is another word for covenant or promise. Thus, the Bible is a book about God's promises to us.

Old Testament: There are 39 books written from about 2500 BC till about 400 BC. They are broken into 4 sections in this order: **1) Law [5 books], 2) History [12 books], 3) Poetry [5 books], and 4) Prophets [5 major, 12 minor]**. The first section is the story of God forming His own people and nation. The second section continues the story of Israel's entrance, exile and return to their land. The third section is various poetic books of wisdom, prayer, praise, and lament. Finally, the fourth section is the prophets who spoke and wrote oracles of God to warn Israel to turn from their rebellion and to offer hope of a coming King and Kingdom that would set things alright.

New Testament: There are 27 books which were all written between about AD 40 and AD 90. These are also broken into 4 sections in this order. **1) Narratives [4 Gospels of Jesus and the 1 Acts of the Apostles], 2) Letters from Paul [9 to churches, 4 to individuals], 3) Letters from Others [9 letters], and 4) Prophetic [1]**. The 4 Gospels (Matthew-John) tell of Jesus becoming King through the story of His birth, life, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension to His throne by the Father. Acts continues the story of Jesus' Kingdom through the birth and spread of the Church, His people of the new covenant or promise. The letters of Paul usually address certain problems or needs of the early churches or church leaders. The next nine letters do the same, but are written by other early church leaders and apostles. Finally the Biblical story ends with Revelation, the apocalyptic story of how history comes to an end and gives way to a renewed heaven and earth.

Let's look at a couple of passages real quick from two different letters in the New Testament.

Passage(s): 2 Tim. 3:16-17

[Focus on points that every part of the Bible is: 1) “breathed” by God, His revealing of Himself; and 2) “profitable” or a great benefit to our lives. They will study this passage more in depth in a later lesson.]

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity's brokenness?

Grace: How do these passages point toward the redemptive work of Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Practice: Let's develop a pattern of regular devotional time ("quiet times") with the Lord—dialoging with Him through Scripture and prayer. We will continue the A.C.T.S. pattern of prayer, but now insert a time in Scripture in the middle so that your devotional time might look something like this:

Talk to God

Adoration: "Lord, I praise you for ... (some quality of attribute of God)."

Confession: "Lord, forgive me for ... (for some sin or shortcoming)."

Listen to God

Prayerfully read a **passage**. What does it say?

Prayerfully reflect on its **meaning**. What does it mean?

Prayerfully apply it to **life**. What does it mean for me?

Talk to God

Thanksgiving: "Lord, I thank you for ... (some specific blessing)"

Supplication: "Lord, I ask you for ... (requests for self & others)."

Talk to God, listen to God, and then talk to God again. It's that easy.

If you get used to this basic template and meeting with God every day, you'll be feeling closer to God, living in his grace, growing in holiness, maturing in your understanding of his Word, experiencing his forgiveness—rewarding stuff. But, remember, the key to all of this is creating the habit and being intentional. Make time each day when this routine can take place.

[Challenge them to choose a Gospel or letter in the New Testament and read one chapter a day over the next week.]

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

GOD'S STORY & OUR STORY: WITNESSING

Introduction: The mission of God goes forward only to the extent His people are faithful to testify who Jesus is and what He has done. He has entrusted us with His message, and with sharing what He has done for us, what He continues to do in us, and what He will do. Every follower of Jesus is able and obligated to do this, yet only in the power of His Spirit within us.

[Feel free fill out together the worksheets in the Appendix taken from Cru-press Green on witnessing and the Holy Spirit.]

Opener: What is something that only you possess, that grows more powerful the more you give it away, and has the power to change the course of other's lives? [Let them guess.] It your story, or—more specifically—God's story in and through you. We often call it your "testimony."

Big Idea: Being a witness is not an option, but how we witness is (i.e. our unique manner and story in the power of the Spirit).

Passage(s): Acts 1:1-9 (esp. 8)

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity's brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

*i don't want to
be loved or have a
purpose for my life*

—no one ever

BIBLE STUDY SKILLS 1 — OBSERVATION: LETTING THE TEXT SPEAK FOR ITSELF

Introduction: Please take a few weeks to work through this together. By and large, we are not good at listening. We often don't even grant the God of the universe the common courtesy of listening. He has spoken to us through His Word. As we learn to study the Bible such that the Scripture is allowed to "speak for itself," we grow in our ability to listen attentively to our Creator. We don't want to miss a word He has to say.

Opener: Today's lesson will help you become a better observer of Scripture, and not merely a reader. The better you are at observing God's Word, the better opportunity you will have to truly hear what He has to say to you. We want to give you **3** helpful tools to add to your Bible study toolbox: **context; emphasis; structure**. But first, let's have a little observation competition.

Big Idea: Better observation of God's Word enables better hearing of what He has to say to us.

Passage(s): 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Turn to 2 Timothy 3, verses 16 and 17. For 5 minutes (somebody time it) write down as many observations about 2 Timothy 3:16-17 as possible. No cheating or sharing thoughts yet. See who comes up with the most observations.

[Take a few minutes to hear from each person. Maybe "the winner" gets a soft drink. Discuss what makes for good observation and what might have surprised them about the exercise.]

In an earlier lesson, we looked at these verses and highlighted the point that Scripture—all of it—is "profitable," or helpful, to us because it is the very Word of God on a page. Every passage of the Bible is "God-breathed."

Today we are going to zero in on the first way Scripture profits the ones who

avail themselves to it—“teaching.” All Scripture is profitable for teaching. In other words, when we read a passage of Scripture, God wants to reveal something to us. Every time we open the Bible, we are encountering God’s Word to us. Developing your skills of observation will help you better discern God’s Word, or Revelation, to you.

There are a few tools of observation that are essential to begin your observation repertoire. From there you can continue adding more tools over time.

3 Tools of Observation:

#1: Context

In literature, and certainly in the study of God’s Word, context is king! What is context? Context is what comes with or around (“con”) the text in mind. Particularly, we are thinking about the words surrounding the word or verse or passage you are studying.

Why is context so important? The meaning of a text is determined by the text surrounding it.

Here is a simple (and goofy) example. The Bible says, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” But if you begin to quote that about yourself, you get locked up in a padded dorm with no furniture. But you were only quoting and applying Scripture. What would be so wrong? The obvious answer is that the two words just before this phrase make all the difference. “Jesus said...” Jesus is the Way, not you or anyone else. (John 14:6).

A word or phrase is within the context of a sentence. That sentence is within the context of a paragraph. That paragraph is within the context of a scene or, poem or chapter. And that chapter is within the context of the entire book or letter.

Content Practice: Take 5 minutes again to make observations, but instead of reading 2 Timothy 3:16-17 alone. Look over the whole chapter (or beyond) and make some contextual observations about what surrounds 3:16-17.

[Take a few minutes to discuss what they saw and what they think are some significant points of context. What do they believe is the biggest idea the author is trying to communicate here and why?]

#2: Emphasis

A significant question would be to ask if there is something the author is

trying to emphasize in 2 Timothy 3. The fact is, we might all have different ideas about what that is, but is there any evidence we can observe to get at what the author (and God through him) is trying to say in any portion of Scripture?

Absolutely! The answer is **emphasis**. How do writers give emphasis to their main ideas so the readers don’t miss them? There are several ways, but we will focus on two: repetition and proportion.

Repetition: This can simply be a word or phrase that is repeated (e.g. “love” through 1 John, “one” in John 17, or “strong and courageous” in Joshua). Sometimes it is not the exact word, but similar words or ideas. (e.g., the idea of “authority” pops up throughout the entire Gospel of Luke; similar ideas like “knowledge,” “wisdom,” “revelation” and “insight” in Ephesians 1).

Proportion: Sometimes it is not so much the repetition of a thought, but the amount of space given to a thought (as compared to the rest of the chapter or book) that is significant. For instance, why would Luke take so much space to list a genealogy after Jesus’ baptism in Luke 3 and before His temptation in the wilderness in Luke 4? Hmmm. It seems he wants to emphasize something.

Emphasis Practice: Take another 5 minutes look over 2 Timothy 3 and see if you can spot what the Apostle Paul (the author) seems to be emphasizing.

[Take a few minutes to discuss what they saw and what they believe Paul is emphasizing in 2 Timothy 3. Make sure they point to the text to show their “evidence.”]

#3: Structure

Structure is what gives order and movement to any medium of art or communication. For example, the structure of a movie is its plot, and we’ve all suffered through shows that seem to be missing one. Structure is what holds any work together including God’s Word.

Structure has many elements and can vary depending on whether it is a narrative, a letter or poetry, etc. We will limit ourselves to **2** main categories: **connectors** and **pivot points**.

Connectors: These are words and phrases that connect a line of thought. They reveal important relationships. Below are a few of the main categories of structure and typical words for each.

Reason or Cause: for, because, therefore, for this reason

Contrast: but, rather, instead, on the contrary

Comparison: like, as

Purpose: so that, to, in order to, (sometimes also, “for this reason”)

Pivot Point: A pivot point is when there is an abrupt shift in subject, scene or tone. It may be a shift within a few verses, like the shift between Psalm 1 verses 3 and 4. It also can be a larger turn in the direction of a whole book, such as Romans 12:1. Often connectors such as “Therefore,” “But” or “However” highlight a major pivot point, but not always. Keep your eye out for these because they truly help you understand what God is trying to say.

Structure Practice: One last time, take another 5 minutes look over 2 Timothy 3, but this time do it together. As one of you reads out loud the others point out significant connectors and see whether there is a pivot point in this chapter or not. (There will not always be a pivot point.)

Practice: This week everyone should take some time to read through the New Testament letter of 2 Timothy.

It is a relatively short book (letter). The first time, try to read it in one sitting without making any particular observations. Notice who is writing the letter. To whom is it written? Do we know (or have any clues) why he is writing this letter? This will help you get an overall idea of the context.

Each day afterward, try to read a chapter and make observations. We recommend you use a Bible you don't mind marking up with colored pencils or pens using symbols to indicate your observations. Here are some suggested symbols.

Repetition: Circle key words, phrases, or ideas that are repeated in order to identify what is being emphasized. Use different colors as there may be more than one repeated element in a passage. Sometimes there are several!

Proportion: You can simply draw a bracket down the margin indicating where the “them” or subject began and where it ends.

Connectors: Draw a box with a pen around connecting words to highlight the structure and flow of the passages.

Pivot Points: Draw a diamond in the margin next to pivot points to indicate a major shift in subject, scene or tone. (Note: There are rarely more than one or two pivot points, and sometimes there are none in a whole book.)

Important: Don't be content to simply make observations about the text, but ask God how He wants you to respond to what you are observing—and thus, hearing—from Him.

[Next week share with one another what you “heard” God say to you through this intensely personal letter.]

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

BIBLE STUDY SKILLS 2 — INTERPRETATION: HEARING THE MUSIC OF THE GOSPEL

Introduction: Our tendency sometimes is to approach the Bible as a “how-to” manual for life. Clearly the Bible has a great deal to say about good and wise living, but that is not its main purpose. Scripture is intended to show both our need for and the beauty of our Savior. It draws us to Jesus.

Big Idea: If we would live Gospel-centered lives, then we must learn to “hear the music of the Gospel” every time we encounter God’s Word.

[Feel free to read together the excerpt in the Appendix taken from “HEARING THE MUSIC OF THE GOSPEL Christ-Centered Bible Study” by Keith E. Johnson, Ph.D.; Crupress Green]

Passage(s): 2 Timothy 3:16-17

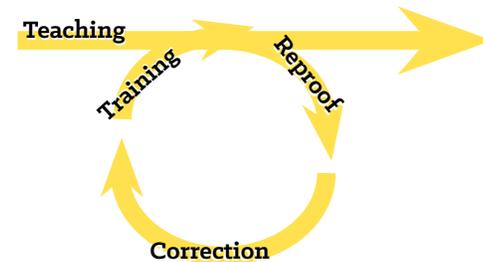
Let’s return to the passage we looked at before, 2 Timothy 3:16-17. To review, we have considered initially how all Scripture is “profitable” because every passage of the Bible is “God-breathed.” It is from Him to us.

Last week we focused attention on the first way Scripture benefits us, namely through “teaching.” Every passage is an opportunity to have God’s Word revealed to us. Over the past week(s), you practiced some skills of observation to develop your ability to discern what God is saying in the text.

[Take a few minutes for each of you to share one or two observations that really opened up some part of the letter of 2 Timothy for you. As you share, be sure to name what kind of observation you made (i.e., context, emphasis or structure) and in which verse or passage you found it.]

Today we are going to continue the process mapped out in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. You might think of the profitable aspects of Scripture in verse 16 as just a list. But look again. Do you notice how that list progresses? First it teaches,

then it reproofs, then corrects, and finally it trains in righteousness. It’s helpful to think of it as a person walking a path.



The Bible is like a map for life. However, it is not simply about getting us through this life efficiently and as comfortable as possible. It points us to the Author of Life Himself and to know Him and His will. And... it helps us to walk with Him. It teaches the way. It reproofs us when we stray. It shows us how to return and so corrects us. And finally, it trains us to walk in the way of Christ.

Teaching. Reproof. Correction. Training. That is the process and benefit(s) of God’s Word.

Last week we looked at Teaching. Today we will look at the next two together—Reproof and Correction. They represent the two components of the Gospel that the author of the article above is encouraging us to see—our brokenness and God’s provision.

2 Parts to “Hearing the Gospel”:

#1 Brokenness (Fallen Condition)

The term gospel literally means “good news.” It is the good news of Jesus’ rescue of a people and (eventually) His creation from the presence and effects of sin. Yet it is often observed that the Gospel isn’t good news until one has first acknowledged the bad news of their own sin, guilt and powerlessness to address it. Until we see that, we will not cling to hope in Jesus.

God’s Word is always pointing us to the Gospel of Jesus. That means part of its purpose is to reveal our desperate need for Him and His grace. Therefore, the Word of God is designed, not merely to teach you, but to expose the sinful condition of your heart (Hebrews 4:12-13).

All of us continue to struggle with wrong beliefs, motives and actions, even after we first experience the grace of forgiveness of God through Christ. This is what theologians call our Fallen Condition (FC), though one day it will be finally removed when Jesus returns. God is already begun in that process now, and Scripture is one of the primary ways He reveals those areas in our lives that still need the redemptive healing of the Gospel.

Thus, after taking time to observe a passage carefully and to discern the main the God seems to be saying to you through the text, the next thing you should do is ask a couple of questions.

First, is the question of the (FC). What does this passage reveal about my (or humanity's) brokenness and sin that requires the grace of God? The answer to that question is the reproofing aspect of God's Word.

#2: Grace (Redemptive Solution)

Unfortunately, many Christians seem to stop there. They simply see the Bible as teaching some truths and telling us where we fall short. But wouldn't you expect the Father who sent His own Son for us to have a much greater purpose than that for His Word?

Scripture points us to Christ! If we miss this, then we have reverted back to religion and away from relationship. If we miss Christ, we step toward legalism and away from joy and life. Though Christ will not be explicitly mentioned in most of the passages of Scripture, Jesus Himself said they all point to Him (John 5:39). That is, all the Bible is continually pointing us to rely upon God's provision for our brokenness through Jesus Christ.

There fore, the second thing to ask regards the question of the Redemptive Solution (RS) in the passage (or surrounding context). How does this passage point me to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ?

[Take a few minutes to discuss how these questions might be answered from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and the surrounding context of Chapter 3. What brokenness or sin is stated or implied (FC)? Likewise, where do they see Paul pointing to Christ (or what He has provided) in these or the surrounding verse? Why do they think that?]

Practice: "Hearing the music of the Gospel" as you read Scripture is an art and skill you can cultivate over time, but it will take practice. We want you to begin reading Scripture with these two questions in mind: 1) what does

this passage reveal about my spiritual brokenness that requires the redemptive work of Christ?; and 2) how does this passage point me to Christ?

As a group, continue studying the letter of 2 Timothy together. Only now, take the observations you have already made into consideration as you move through each passage again. Each day you should keep a journal or notebook and write down: what passage you read (e.g., Galatians 1); what that passage revealed about your brokenness; and how it pointed you to Jesus.

Everyone should bring their journals next week and share some of the things the Lord is showing you.

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.



YEAR 2

KNOW, CARE, SERVE

Introduction: Relational needs are areas in which others can care for you in ways that you can't do for yourself. You can look in the mirror and say “thank you so much” but it will be empty and weird. You can give yourself a hug but it will be lacking and bitter. We were created for community and therefore we need community for our own sake and health. Likewise, others need us to care for them and meet their longings that they can only get through caring relationships.

Opener: It is very difficult to truly care for someone well without really knowing them. God made each of us in unique ways. For example, giving a gift to a homeless man may be an expedient way of feeling like you are helping, but it may not show care very well when words and a listening ear are what they are desperately needing. Have you ever experienced something similar where someone tried to do something nice for you, but missed what you were really needing?

Do: Take the Relational Needs test in the Appendix and read the information on those needs below. Photocopy the Relational Needs Inventory pages and bring them with you for your disciples to fill out.

Big Idea: To learn that before you can truly care for someone, you must get to know them. We are relational beings created for relationship. Therefore, many of our needs are met only through relational care, which requires that we really know that person and how they best received care from others.

10 Important Relational Needs

Acceptance: Looking beyond faults, differences, irritations to see worth. An unconditional commitment to an imperfect person.

Affection: Greeting with a handshake or kind hand on a shoulder. Verbalizing “I care for you”, “I’m here for you.” Hugging and appropriate touch. “I love you.”

Appreciation: Noticing the things that a person does, no matter how small, and being grateful or complimentary. Not taking things for granted.

Looking for the best rather than being ready to point out the flaws.

Approval: Recognizing the special things about a person and thanking him/her for being who they are. "You are a fine man." "I love the way you faithfully hold this place together."

Attention: Being together, doing things together. Taking time to listen, remembering to tell each other about the day. Interest without criticism.

Comfort: Sensitively showing concern at someone's disappointment or hurt. Taking feelings seriously. Hurting with and for another's pain.

Encouragement: Helping a person to keep going when enthusiasm has gone. Not rushing in to take over a task from a struggling partner when encouragement would result in the task being completed.

Respect: Honoring each other. Never putting each other down in front of others. Using humor sensitively; being willing to be serious when a joke would be hurtful and imply criticism.

Security: Knowing that security is found in strong, reliable relationships and making a priority of reminding a person of your long term commitment to them. Doing the "little things" with consistency.

Support: Giving the message to a friend that you can be counted on when needed. Noticing times of particular stress and offering help. Sharing tasks. Entering into "the trenches" with someone.

We all need the above in some measure and especially at particular times. However there will be certain needs that you will enjoy receiving over and above the others.

How to Meet My Needs:

Acceptance: Receive me unconditionally; look beyond my faults and irritations, respond positively to me (Rom. 15:7)

Affection: Communicate care and closeness through appropriate physical touch. Tell me you love me (Rom 16:16)

Appreciation: Verbalize your personal gratefulness for me, notice my achievements (1 Cor. 11:2)

Approval: Commend me for who I am. Speak well of me to others (Eph 4:29)

Attention: Show interest in and support for my concerns; enter my world with me (1 Cor. 12:25)

Comfort: Share in my pain by feeling the hurt with me, console me with tenderness (Rom. 12:15)

Encouragement: Urge me forward positively; help me persevere towards my goal (1 Thes. 5:11)

Respect: Value my ideas, give regard to my opinions; show me my worth to you (Rom. 12:10)

Security: Protect me from harm, pursue harmony, give me confidence when I am vulnerable (Rom 12:16a)

Support: Come alongside me to gently help me carry a load (Gal. 6:2)

The result of unmet needs

Selfishness: This is simply taking from others instead of giving. Within any relationship, people can tend to become preoccupied with their own needs, looking always to take what they consider to be their right to have, never focusing on giving first to the other. Taking for ourselves is never satisfying and such a relationship will crumble.

Self-reliance: Believing that all that is needed to survive and be happy can be found within oneself. Families can encourage self-reliance and discourage showing true feelings to others. The ability to stuff feelings down inside is then regarded as a virtue. Those who have experienced a lot of hurt or pain in childhood may have wrongly learned that to survive and that they mustn't let anyone see their hurt. "Big boys or girls don't cry". Sadly, it is also difficult to feel positive emotions, to feel loved by another, if self-sufficiency has been the priority.

Self-condemnation: This is believing that we are not really lovable, that we are unworthy, and responsible for everything, particularly the things that go wrong. Such a person feels guilty that they have needs and finds it very difficult to receive.

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Introduction: *Tell me... who are you?* To answer that, we often give a biography or a resumé of the accomplishments we have done. However, our core identity of who we are is actually based on being, not doing. As Christians, our lives are not our own but they have been bought by God with a price (1 Cor 6.19-20). The bible says we have died and that our lives are now hidden with Christ (Col 3.3). Therefore, our identity is Christ. (Christian means “little Christ”.) Jesus is our life (Col 3.4). So then, now we must learn to let all of what we do flow out of who we are. Who are you? You are “in Christ.” This is your identity it’s a fundamental truth that we must begin to embrace.

Opener: *Men:* If you were to sit down with your girlfriend’s dad in his “man cave” for a cold drink and he asked you, “So son, tell me, who are you?” how would you respond?

Women: If you were interviewing with a mom who was considering to hire you as a nanny and asked, “So, tell me, who are you?” What would you say? We often give a resumé of what accomplishments we have done in the past and what we do today. However, our core identity is based on being, not doing.

Big Idea: To be “in Christ” (our identity in Christ) means to share in Christ’s death and resurrection, and to be placed under the headship of Christ rather than Adam. This means that we now live with a completely different attitude toward everything we do. Everything we do should emanate from this reality of who we are.

Passage(s): Gal 2.20; Col 3.1-4

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity’s brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

Suggestion: Have the group read all of Colossians chapter 3. If Christ “is our life” (v3) then the rest of the chapter is practical living in light of that reality. In other words, the rest of the chapter is what we do (or do not do) based now of who we are: Positional Living (being) and Practical Living (doing).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction: While all Believers are indwelt by the Spirit, not all are empowered by the Spirit, not empowered equally. The concept of being empowered by the Spirit is often called, “being filled with the Spirit.” This terminology is fine as long as your disciple knows that he is indwelt by the Spirit no matter what, and that what you are talking about is how the Holy Spirit can greater influence his life.

Opener: Why do you think that some Believers seem to live lives that don't look any different from the rest of the world? What do you know about the role of the Holy Spirit?

Big Idea: Upon conversion to Christ, God the Holy Spirit makes His home with us. He convicts us of sin, guides us in truth, and he empowers us to live the “Christian life”. We now begin to “walk in the Spirit” by learning to depend on Him for the power to live the way God designed us to live.

Passage(s): Cover the Satisfied booklet together. This should shape their theology of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology) and train them how to share this concept with others. Or, you can use Life Concept 3 or 4 (The Holy Spirit)

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Introduction: As people reconciled to God, we are called to respond to conflict in a way that is different from the way the world deals with conflict. We also believe conflict provides opportunities to glorify God, serve other people, and grow to be like Christ.

Opener: What is an example of a time when you needed to have conflict? What would the end result of that situation have been if you never addressed it? If you had talked through it with that person?

Big Idea: Learn to see conflict as an opportunity. Conflict is not necessarily bad, but healing and God-glorifying. Also learn ways to have good conflict.

Passage(s): Matthew 18: 15-17

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity's brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

Pray for humility and wisdom (1 Peter 5:5).

Plan your words carefully—how would you want to be confronted (Prov. 15:1-2; 16:23).

Anticipate likely reactions and plan appropriate responses (Prov. 20:18).

Pick the right time and place – in person when possible (Prov. 16:21).

Assume the best about the other person until you have facts to prove otherwise (Prov. 18:17).

Listen carefully (Prov. 18:13).

Speak only to build others up (Eph. 4:29).

Ask for feedback from the other person (Prov. 18:2).

Trust God (Psalm 37:3).

ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE: SURRENDER

Introduction: One of the most transforming convictions a person can embrace is the realization that they do not own anything. Everything and everyone is the rightful possession of the Creator. Furthermore, we have been purchased by the blood of Christ. We are not our own. Therefore, we should not live for ourselves, but willingly submit ourselves to God's will and agenda for our lives.

Opener: What are a couple of your most prized possessions? How did each come be to yours? What makes each so valuable to you? How do the following passages relate to your preceding answer?

Big Idea: God only wants what's His—which is all you have and all you are.

Passage(s): Psalm 24:1; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:14-15

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity's brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

LORDSHIP: OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST

Introduction: All Christians like the word grace. They also like the words love, mercy, forgiveness, salvation, and so on. But one word they often don't like is obedience. In fact, some Christians will cry out that you are only being legalistic and reverting back to the law when you talk about obeying. But that sounds more like a diversionary tactic to avoid the issue of obedience so that person can keep sinning. Either Jesus IS or IS NOT Lord. Obedience is part of the sanctification process (growth process) toward holiness. (And God commands us in 1 Peter 1:16 and Leviticus 20:7: *Be holy for I am holy.*) As we grow through faith and obedience to our Lord Jesus, we begin to bear more of the image of our *Holy* God.

Opener: : If you had to eliminate one word from this list, what would it be and why? grace, faith, obedience, mercy, forgiveness. Why do we treat obedience to God not that high on our priority list as Christians? Possible answers: We want to keep sinning. We treat grace like a free pass to sin. We feel guilty for our poor effort to truly obey Christ. We think it's too legalistic.

Big Idea: It's an oxymoron to say, "No, Lord." Jesus either IS or IS NOT Lord. We either obey or disobey him. Also, there is great relief and joy when we live in obedience to Jesus.

Passage(s): Main: Lk 6:46-49; End the lesson by reading: 1 Samuel 15:22

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity's brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week?

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

NEXT STEPS: STUDY A BOOK

Congratulations for completing all of the lessons!

For the rest of the year, study first one book of the New Testament together and then one book of the Old Testament. This the a great opportunity to apply the Bible Study Skills sections of this book and sets the disciples up to be able to thoroughly study the entire Bible for the rest of their lives.

Recommendations for the New Testament: John, Ephesians, Galatians, or 1 Peter

Recommendations for the Old Testament: Daniel, Nehemiah, or 1 Samuel

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

FOLLOW JESUS

“Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

- Mt. 9.9

FORSAKE THIS WORLD

Then he said to them all: **“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves** and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but **whoever loses their life for me will save it.**

- Lk. 9.23

ABIDE IN CHRIST

“If you abide in (remain in) my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- Jn. 8.31-32

OBEY THE LORD

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

- Lk 6.46

BECOME LIKE HIM

A disciple is not greater than his teacher, but everyone **when fully trained will be like his teacher.**

- Lk. 6.40

MAKE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

Then Jesus came to them and said, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Mt. 28.18-20

1. BEING A DISCIPLE

“The one indispensable requirement for producing godly, mature Christians is godly, mature Christians.” – Kevin DeYoung, pastor/author

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) A Follower of Jesus | 1) Mt. 4.19; Mk. 8.34-35 |
| 2) A Fisher of Men | 2) Mt.4.19; Mk. 16.15 |
| 3) A Disciple-Maker | 3) Mt. 28.18-20; 2 Tim 2.2 |

Discipleship is dedication to a **1) lifelong process of being conformed to the image of Christ** (See Rom. 8:29; Lk. 6.40). This commitment leads to us doing the very things that we see Jesus and the disciples doing, namely, **2) sharing the good news of the kingdom** and **3) raising up more disciples.**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN (FOR YOU!) TO FOLLOW?

Matthew 4

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

- What are some observations you make with the above verses?

Read Luke 14.25-35

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

31 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

- List some things you compare between the Matthew and Luke passages

- Where do you need to conform to (look and live like) Jesus?

The bottom line is we are called to leave it all in order to have it all.

*“You can have all this world. Just give me Jesus.”
– line from a song by Fernando Ortega, “Give me Jesus”*

2. GOALS TO DISCIPLE-MAKING

1. **SPIRITUAL MATURITY.** Being and building mature followers of Christ that begin to look more like Jesus.
2. **SPIRITUAL MULTIPLICATION.** Leaving a legacy by making disciples that make disciples that make disciples...
3. **MAJESTY.** That God gets greater glory as more people reflect the image of God, worship Him, and expand his kingdom on earth.

MATURITY. Helping brothers and sisters in Christ to:

1. 1. Know and love God through the Scriptures and prayer.
2. 2. Grow in Christ-likeness.
3. 3. Walk (live) in dependence on God the Holy Spirit.
4. 4. Surrender more of their idols (dying to self to live for Christ).

MULTIPLY.

1. Invest wisely in teachable, Spirit-filled believers who will go and teach others. (2 Tim. 2.2)
2. Teach them to share their faith by taking them with you to share the gospel. (Set up VIP lunches and bring your disciples.)
3. On the 4th week's lesson (discipleship), and from then after, cast vision to them that they will one day (in the near future!) make disciples. Let this be an invitation for them to decide to continue ahead or abort the adventure. Invest wisely!

MAJESTY. God gets greater glory that is His alone when:

1. There are more people who worship Him.
2. People grow more to look like Jesus.
3. Christians love God and love others.
4. Followers surrender more of their lives under his Lordship.
5. Believers are Spirit-Filled.
6. Disciples make disciples that make disciples.

3. HOW TO START A DISCIPLEMAKING GROUP: FAQs

What is the best way to find people that I can disciple?

Great question. The very best way is to share your faith as often as possible!! I am not joking. Discipleship begins with evangelism. There is nothing more sacred and joyous than to disciple some peers that you got to lead to Christ.

What is the best way to have opportunities to share the gospel, with the hope of eventually discipling them?

There are two answers here.

First, just learn to naturally begin having spiritual conversations with people. People that lead the most people to Christ are not those who are best trained. They are people who share their faith often.

Second, VIP meetings (lunches, coffees, socials, etc.) can be the best way in Cru to naturally have an opportunity to share the gospel. (See section on VIP Meetings.) These are typically very interested students because they came to our events (e.g. Weekly Dinner, Converge, etc.) With VIPs, you can literally get a discipleship group up and going within a couple weeks.

Should I wait to invite someone into my discipleship group after I have had some time getting to know them?

This is certainly helpful but definitely not necessary! You can invite someone into your group once you sense that person is teachable, is serious about wanting to grow in their relationship with God, and is available to meet regularly. (See "Wise Investing" in Lesson #10.)

How long should I wait before inviting someone into my discipleship group (or bible study)?

You can invite them after your first VIP meeting when you share the gospel and see where they spiritually stand in relationship to God. But again, be discerning to invite people that seem like God is at work in their lives.

Should I call it a “discipleship group” at the onset of meeting with someone?

It depends, but probably not. If the student is a more mature believer, then you can explain what a Cru discipleship group is, using that terminology. But if it is a young believer, saying “discipleship” might conjure up strange perceptions. It’s not a common word we use. But eventually it will become a familiar term the longer they are in Cru.

Then when should I use this phrase “discipleship”.

It’s really not that important right away to communicate what this time is called. For some students, calling it a small group bible study makes the most sense. The first time to introduce this concept is Week 4. (See “The First 4 Weeks.”) This is the introductory lesson to discipleship (Mt 28.18-20; 2 Tim 2.2). It’s during this bible study that you can explain what we believe we are called to do (i.e. make disciples) and you can invite them to continue meeting each week to keep encouraging one another to follow Christ (i.e. be disciples who make disciples).

Once the group is started, do I need to keep reminding them to show up for our weekly discipleship time?

YES! I cannot stress this enough. It just isn’t part of their normal routine yet so I highly recommend you text them the day before -- or the morning of -- the day you meet. And do this EVERY week... at least for the first semester until closer relationships are forged. Trust me, freshmen need this reminder every week. However, I think even more valuable is that by texting each week you are communicating that your time with them is a priority to you and that you are committed to them.

How would you define my role as a discipler?

Friend. You are to love them with the love of God, doing what is needed to help them follow Jesus and die to self. Early on in the relationship, take the initiative often to convey care. Especially for millennials, it takes effort and time to build trust. Encourage them. Appreciate them. Gently correct them. Help them know that they matter.

4. THE FIRST MEETING WITH A POTENTIAL DISCIPLE

NOTE: This is basically a lesson on Follow-Up with an interested student (a VIP or someone that filled out a contact form).

GOALS FOR THAT FIRST MEETING:

1. Genuinely get to know them.

A. Ask to hear their life story. (Highlights, hard times, heroes)

i. Ask about their family, travels, experiences, important relationships, interests, etc.

B. Put your phone away and actively listen.

C. Ask follow up questions along the way.

2. Discern where they are on their spiritual journey.

A. Ask if church or some religious aspect was part of their upbringing. If so, what kind (denomination) of church?

B. Ask them questions to gauge if they know the gospel. (See Discipleship Journey Scale in the Appendix)

C. Examples:

i. “If you were to die tonight, how sure are you that you would spend eternity with God in heaven?” (I typically only ask this IF they have a church background.)

ii. “If God asked you why you thought you should be in heaven with him, how would you answer that?”

iii. “If someone were to pull up a chair and say, ‘I couldn’t help but overhear your conversation. I am searching for some answers to life. Let me ask, what does it mean to be a Christian and how does someone become one?’ What would you tell that person?”

D. **NOTE:** If you do not hear the words sin, Jesus, faith, then please take the initiative to share the gospel.

E. **NOTE:** Nice things that you might hear BUT you STILL should share the gospel:

- i. I grew up in the church.
- ii. I was born into a Christian home.
- iii. I got baptized when I was younger.
- iv. I've always been a good person. I'm not perfect but I never did drugs or killed anyone.
- v. I had a huge experience at a church camp.
- vi. I have a bible and sometimes read it.
- vii. I've been in bible studies.
- viii. I was a student leader in my youth group.

3. Share the gospel!!!

A. **Be bold** to share the good news. "I am not ashamed of the gospel. For it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." (Rom. 1.16)

B. **Be burdened** for their spiritual condition. "We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor 5.21)

C. **Invite them to believe in Jesus.** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (Jn 3.16)

4. Let them know how they can connect into Cru.

- A. Converge
- B. Weekly Dinner
- C. Discipleship groups (small group bible studies)
- D. Retreats, conferences, socials

5. NEW LIFE! WHAT IF THEY COME TO FAITH? NOW WHAT?

The first few minutes of New Life!

Recall Phrase: Caring For God's People Today

1. CELEBRATE. Celebrate with them.

A. Maybe have them read a portion of chapter Luke 15 tonight. Or you can read this verse to them.

- i. The Lost Sheep - Lk 15.7
- ii. The Lost Coin - 15.10
- iii. The Lost Son - 15.20

B. In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Lk 15.7

2. FAMILY.

A. Help this new believer understand that because of what Jesus has done for us, we are now brothers (or sisters) in Christ.

B. God has adopted us into his family and he is our good Father.

C. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. – John 1.12-13

D. For you are all sons [and daughters] of God through faith in Christ Jesus. – Gal 3.26

3. GROW. Invite to meet again for new believer "follow up".

A. So, now what? It's important to help this new believer to begin growing and to understand more about this new relationship with God. Ask this new believer right now to meet up again to do a bible study together over some foundational truths about his/her new relationship with God. Maybe you are able to also invite another student or two for that bible study.

B. Example of what to say:

i. “I know this is all brand new, but there are some important aspects of this new relationship with God that are helpful to know. What if we meet up again (tomorrow or this time next week) to do a few bible studies together to look at some of the amazing benefits of what God has done for us.”

C. Discipled, remember Jesus’ Parable of the Soils (Mt. 13.1-23). He talks about how people some receive the Word with joy but then the things of this world choke them (hinder them or distract them) and keep them from growing. It is vital to help the newborn Christian begin to grow right away before the enemy seeks to undermine what has begun.

4. **PRAY.** You might pray for him or her aloud before you leave. They should experience the body of Christ loving and encouraging them.

A. Keep it brief and heartfelt.

B. Thank God for this new brother or sister in Christ.

C. Pray for their spiritual growth as a new Christian.

5. **TELL.** Ask them to tell 2 people **today** what Jesus has done for him/her.

A. Example: “Hey, I’d like to ask you to consider something before we go. **I’d like you to share with two people today what God has done for you**, how he saved you by dying on the cross for your sins, and how you placed your faith in Jesus Christ today.”

B. Remind this new believer again of the gospel to help him have language to share.

i. “Jesus loves me so much that he took my place on the cross to pay for my sin.

C. Ask them two people that might be coming to mind right now that he/she can share this good news with.

D. Read *Win Send Build* in the Appendix.

6. FOLLOW UP: “DISCIPLING A NEW BELIEVER”

This is the first meeting since the person received Christ. This is an important next step for this young believer. Remember don’t do any ministry alone! Make sure you have another person with you.

Although this meeting time is biblical discipleship, that is you are helping a new believer learn to know and follow Jesus, don’t call it a discipleship meeting. I suggest calling it a Bible study for new Christians.

LIFE CONCEPTS. During this time, you will use the first of a series of six lessons for new believers that we call Life Concepts. Become familiar with these. You can even use some of all of these lessons in your discipleship groups. (You will find all 6 Life Concepts in your Discipleship Notebook.)

1. **CONNECT.** Ask how he/she is doing.

2. **RECAP.** Review the gospel. Better yet, ask them to explain the gospel, the good news, of Christ. (Love, sin, Jesus, faith)

3. **BIBLE.** Go over the first Life Concept: Assurance of Salvation

A. Use material from the Discipleship Notebook and treat it like a bible study. Allow the material to facilitate a discussion. Ask good questions and listen well.

B. Keep going over the Life Concepts Lessons as long as they are willing to meet. There are 6 lessons in all.

4. **MISSION.** After the lesson, help this new believer understand the DNA of being sent by God. (To understand why we do this, look over the next couple pages.)

A. Example: “When we accept Christ into our life, we were adopted into a new family where God is now our heavenly Father (dad). Along with being a part of this new family, we also take on the family business, which is missions. When we become a Christian, we also take with a new purpose as missionary. The gospel (good news) has come to us so that we can take it to others.

B. Read: “Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.’” – Mt 4.19

C. Encourage them that God can use their life to impact the world and eternity. He has a plan for us that is much bigger than our own.

5. **SHARE.** Ask who they can share Christ with. This is so important to instill the DNA of a Christ-follower from the very beginning. It is the essence of a spiritual movement.

A. Example: “Who’s someone that God might be placing on your heart right now that you can share this message of what Jesus has done for them?”

B. Discipler, I suggest that you pray aloud for those people by name. Let this new believer hear you pray for his friends/family.

i. i. The following week ask the new believer to pray for them.

6. **REPEAT.**

A. Joyfully encourage the person to meet up again next week.

B. Work hard (text, call, personally invite) this new believer to get into in the bigger Christian community (Fall Getaway, socials, Weekly Dinner, Converge, summer mission, church, etc.). A critical component of good discipleship is getting that new Christian around other Christians. The best discipleship happens when a person grows and learns from the whole body of Christ.

7. HERE WE GO: THE FIRST 4 WEEKS OF A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Ideally, you want to have 2 to 3 students meet with you for that first informal gathering.

WEEKS 1 & 2

“OK. I want us to get to know each other. Perhaps we might continue meeting and it’s a good place to start by hearing each others’ stories. So, here’s how we are going to do this. You share your life story (hard times, highlights, heroes) and then afterward we get to ask any questions we want. Deal?”

NOTE: You will likely only get through one or two stories. So then, you will end the time (just keep it to 1 hour this first meeting) by saying, let’s meet up next week and share the other stories (your’s included). At the end of week two, end the time by saying that you would like to meet up again next week to do a bible study.

WEEK 3

Take them through the “Know God” booklet or a couple passages of scripture. Suggestions: Titus 3.4-7 or 2 Cor. 5.11-21. I like the 2 Corinthians passage because it communicates the gospel as well as the priority to share the gospel.

NOTE: Remember, as a discipler, you want them to understand that they are to help introduce Jesus to their lost friends. Have them pray for a couple friends that don’t know Jesus. Also encourage them to share with them. End with Romans 1.16

WEEK 4

Introduce them to disciple-making. Matt. 28.18-20 and 2 Tim 2.2. Help them see that is what y’all are doing in this group. Cast vision for them discipling others. Invite them to continue meeting up with you weekly to encourage and support each other to follow Jesus. It’s their decision to continue on.

8. HERE WE GO: A TYPICAL DISCIPLESHIP MEETING IN CRU

1. **PERSONAL LIFE: Check in & Confession**

- A. Normal stuff. Just connect and ask how they are doing.
- B. Confession.

“Hey. We want this group to be a safe place for being known and knowing one another. That includes sharing encouraging things God is doing in our lives as well as areas of sin struggles that we can pray for. James 5.16 says ‘Confess your sins to one another so that you may be healed.’ It’s through be authentic that we begin to experience freedom and healing: ‘Anyone want to share something? And what is said here stays here.’”

2. **GOD’S WORD: Know & Do**

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. – James 1

- A. **Know:** Observation and Interpretation
- B. **Do:** Application and Prayer

3. **UNBELIEVING FRIENDS: Prayer, Care, Share**

A. Write down in your discipleship book the names of people that your disciples are going to pray for. You too!

4. **FAITH STEPS: Challenge and Encourage Your Disciples...**

- A. To go to Winter Conference with you.
- B. To go on a Cru Summer Mission.
- C. To Learning about Leadership.
- D. To start a discipleship group in the near future.

NOTE: These experiences are very significant to helping them grow and follow Jesus in ways you may not be able to help.

9. THE CONTENT: DISCIPLESHIP NOTEBOOK

Things we are asking our disciplers:

1. **Please use this notebook.** To be good stewards and spiritual shepherds, we want to ensure that we lay a strong foundation of the spiritual life. These lessons are fundamental truths of our faith. Therefore, we recommend that you do not create your own material or use another curriculum with new disciples.
2. **Please bring your notebook with you to your discipleship times.** It will help the students in your group see that you are 1) taking them somewhere, 2) intentionally preparing for that time, and 3) modeling for them how to facilitate a discipleship time so that they will one day do what you did with this Cru discipleship content.
3. **Open your bible at every discipleship gathering.** Even if you have to scrap your lesson that week because one of your disciples needed to talk about something weighty, we still ask that you take them to a passage of scripture that is relevant to that discussion, even if it’s as you are getting ready to leave. Our desire is to communicate that we hold God’s Word as authoritative for all of life. (2 Tim 3.16-17)
4. **Be familiar with all other resources in that notebook.** There might be things that you may need later in the semester.
5. **Once you have covered most or all of the lessons, you can study a short book of the bible** (i.e. Nehemiah, Titus, Galatians, 1 Peter, Philippians, and the like.) But you will need to prepare well each week and will also need to give them reading assignments.
 - A. Don’t lecture them!
 - B. Study the passages together.
 - C. Ask good questions.
 - D. End with each person forming a personal application.

10. OTHER VALUABLE CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

1. **WISE INVESTING** – Be discerning. What to look for:

- A. Evidence of Holy Spirit at work (conviction of sin, desire to know God and His Word, understands the gospel, desires to take steps of faith)
- B. Teachable and willing to grow and learn God's Word.
- C. Available with their time.
- D. A part of the Cru community. (This is so important because it allows the disciple to experience discipleship from the entire family of God. It also allows you to naturally connect with him or her at regular Cru gatherings. There are other benefits.)
- E. Seems to grasp spiritual multiplication (maybe not right away) but aware that they will one day soon begin making disciples. (See 2 Tim. 2.2)

2. **FRIENDSHIP**

- A. Firstly, your role is a friend. You are not just a teacher, or mentor. You are not a "hired hand." Your friendship is fundamental to this discipleship relationship. It's through sacrificial love, care, time, and even gentle correction that you communicate that you are FOR them. (Jn. 15.15-17)
- B. Considering meeting up a couple times a semester away from the normal, weekly meet-up.
Examples: Invite them over for dinner, go shopping, go to the rec. center or river, do a trip to Enchanted Rock,...

3. **JUST SHOW UP! (THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU SHOW UP.)**

- A. Try hard not to cancel any appointments, especially the day of. It sets a trend for the disciples to cancel too.
- B. I tell my disciples, "Meeting with you guys is one of the highlights of my week. You can count on me being here."

4. **SHARING THE GOSPEL**

- A. Share your faith with your disciples at least once a semester. Options for this:
 - i. Share with a random student on campus that seems available with their time.
 - ii. Set up a follow-up appointment from a Cru contact form and take a disciple to share the gospel.
 - iii. Set up a VIP and take a disciple(s) to share the gospel.

5. **CHALLENGE THEM OFTEN**

- A. To go to Winter Conference (October)
- B. To go on Summer Mission (Govenber!)
 - i. Communicate that you'll be their first supporter!
 - ii. Encourage them to go Stateside if they are young in their faith. Getting them on a stateside might be the very best thing you could do for them as a discipler.
- C. To Learning about Leadership (Nov-Dec)
 - i. Encourage them toward spiritual leadership. Share what character qualities you see in them and why they should consider this. LaL is just a "next step" toward understanding and being in Cru leadership. We do take into strong consideration for leadership those who go to all LaL classes.
- D. To consider leading a disciple-making group in near future.

6. **FIELD TRIPS**

- A. Don't stress about this. Just try to do one a semester.
- B. There are some ideas located in Appendix or in certain discipleship lessons.
- C. These tend to be the most memorable lessons by far.

7. **PRAY FOR THEM REGULARLY!**

- A. This is essential for true spiritual discipleship.
- B. Have a weekly routine when you pray for each disciple.

APPENDIX

DISCIPLESHIP INTRODUCTION: BEING AND MAKING DISCIPLES

Big Idea: To understand what it means to be a disciple, why discipleship is important, and offer a challenge to the people you are beginning to connect with to enter into a discipleship group for the purpose of becoming a life-long disciple (follower) of Christ who makes life-long disciples of Christ.

Optional Opener: Let me ask you a question. What does it mean to be a disciple? The bible talks about it. What is a disciple? What does the bible say about this concept called discipleship?

Content: A disciple is a learner. It doesn't take long to see how little kids are disciples. They do what their mom and dad do, whether good or bad. Kids pick up loving acts of kindness as well as curse words. They will learn to say "sorry" or they will learn never say it. They will learn to talk through conflict, to yell, or perhaps to give the "silent treatment". We listen. We observe. We learn. We do.

Even today as adults, every time we are influenced by a person, action or our culture, it is evidence of who/what we are following, or who/what is discipling us. It's that simple. Let's look at a couple places in the bible that introduce this idea of discipleship.

Let's start with Jesus' first encounter(s) with his would-be disciples.

Passage(s): Luke 5:1-11, 27-28

1. What does it require to follow Jesus? (Have their answers come from what they observe in the text.)
 - a. Repentance (turning away from my former life and turning to Jesus henceforth). (v.8)
 - b. There is recognition that He is the Lord. (Peter switches terms from "Master" or "Teacher" to "Lord.")
 - c. There is trust in Him. Jesus says, "Do not be afraid." (v. 10)

d. There is new purpose. We live to save other's lives. (v. 10)

e. We leave everything. All of life is now under His control and authority. We are no longer our own, but God's possession, purchased with the blood of Christ. (vv. 11, 28)

f. (Recommended: Read Lk 9.23-25). These verses talk about following Jesus and how it requires that we lose our lives (for the sake of saving others) and about leaving everything behind for whatever God's has prepared for us.

2. Personal Reflection: What would it take for you to be a truer Christ-follower?

Now let's look at his last words with his disciples.

Passage(s): Matthew 28:18-20

1. From this passage, how do we make followers (disciples) of Jesus?

a. By bringing them into a relationship with God (baptism is a picture of a change of identity and essence). More than water baptism, this passage likely refers to an immersion (Greek "baptizo") into a new way of life and identity.

b. Also, we make disciples by teaching them to follow God ("and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded"). God's Word must be an essential aspect of a Christ-follower. The believer hears from God through His revealed words and obeys His Words.

c. Lastly, from simply observing Jesus' way of making disciples, it is most effective when done in community.

2. How is someone equipped to do this?

a. Every Believer has the Holy Spirit (sometimes referred to as the Spirit of Christ) who is with them wherever they go. God is always with us.

b. Also, as we better know the Holy Scriptures, we can grow and teach others what God wants for their lives.

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

[Discipler, do understand you can communicate all of this in your own words without reading from this page. It's up to you and your style of communicating. You may even want to add any other additional requirements or goals to the lists below.]

In Cru, we have clusters of guys or girls (3 to 4) that meet regularly and are committed to spurring one another to follow Christ. Without others pointing us to Jesus and loving us despite our flaws, it is extremely difficult to grow in Christ. We are designed to be in community with other Christian brothers and sisters.

Here is what I am offering:

1. *Spiritual Formation.* This concept to build upon our foundation in Christ by learning aspects of godly character, our purpose in living, truths of this relationship with God, opportunities to step out in faith, and much more. Therefore, each discipleship group will meet weekly and look at God's Word together. We will learn together what God has to say to us, as well as learning to live it out. The goal, again, is to help each other fully become followers of Jesus Christ.

2. *Be in life together.* Not only will a regular meeting time be essential to intentionally knowing/obeying God and His Word more, but also relationally connecting outside of that time. There is no formal or set time for this. It is simply a value to develop true and lasting friendships that form inside those weekly meeting times, as well as outside of them.

What it will require (cost) from you:

1. That you make your decision between you and God. This is not a Cru thing. It is a choice every Believer is faced with: whether they will follow Jesus with their whole life or not. And make no mistake, Jesus says there is a cost to following Him. Make your decision about this discipleship opportunity by talking with God about it.

2. That you commit to faithfully participating in our weekly times

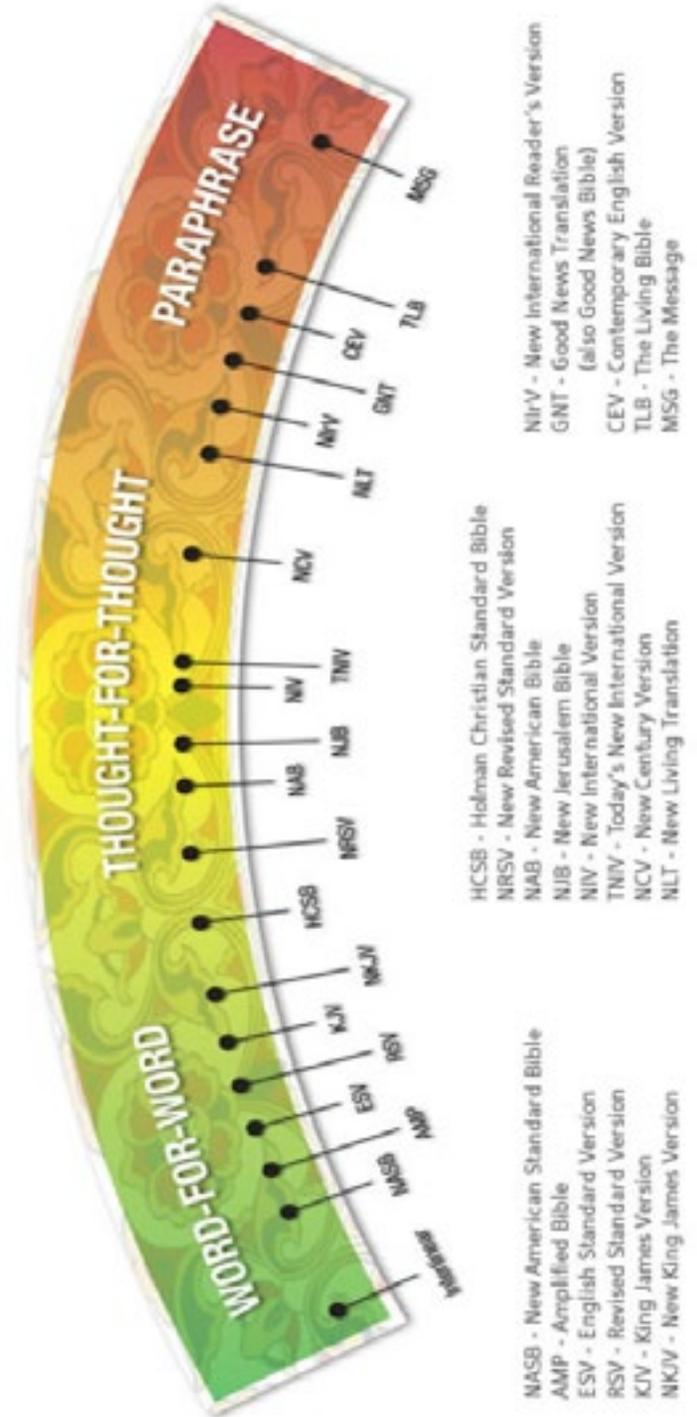
each week. Of course something may come up, but please plan ahead to make the time important. Meeting up for discipleship is one of my favorite times of my week. I place a premium on this time. I grow and am encouraged as we look at God's Word together and pray for one another. Knowing that our time is precious, let's be committed.

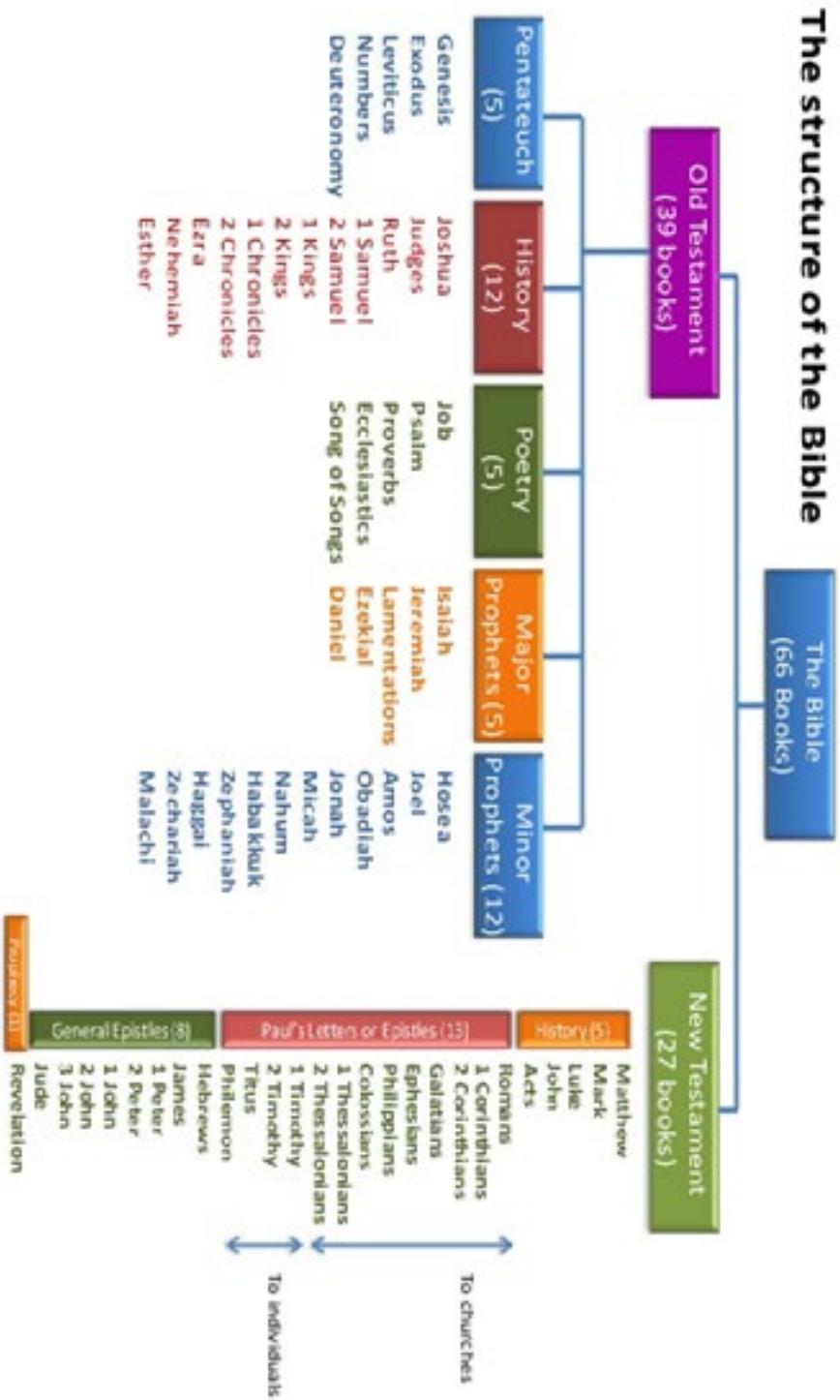
3. That you participate in any action steps we decide based of the passage of Scripture we read. For example, if we decide to read a few chapters before our next meeting or we decide to initiate a spiritual conversation with an unbelieving friend or we decide to ask forgiveness from a parent,... that you (we) follow through and do it. Remember, we do not want to merely hear or read God's Word, but to do what it says.

4. That you have a teachable, humble, and willing attitude. Little, if any, fruit will grow and reach maturity if the heart is hard and proud. But furthermore, be prepared to trust God to do more in your life than you imagine.

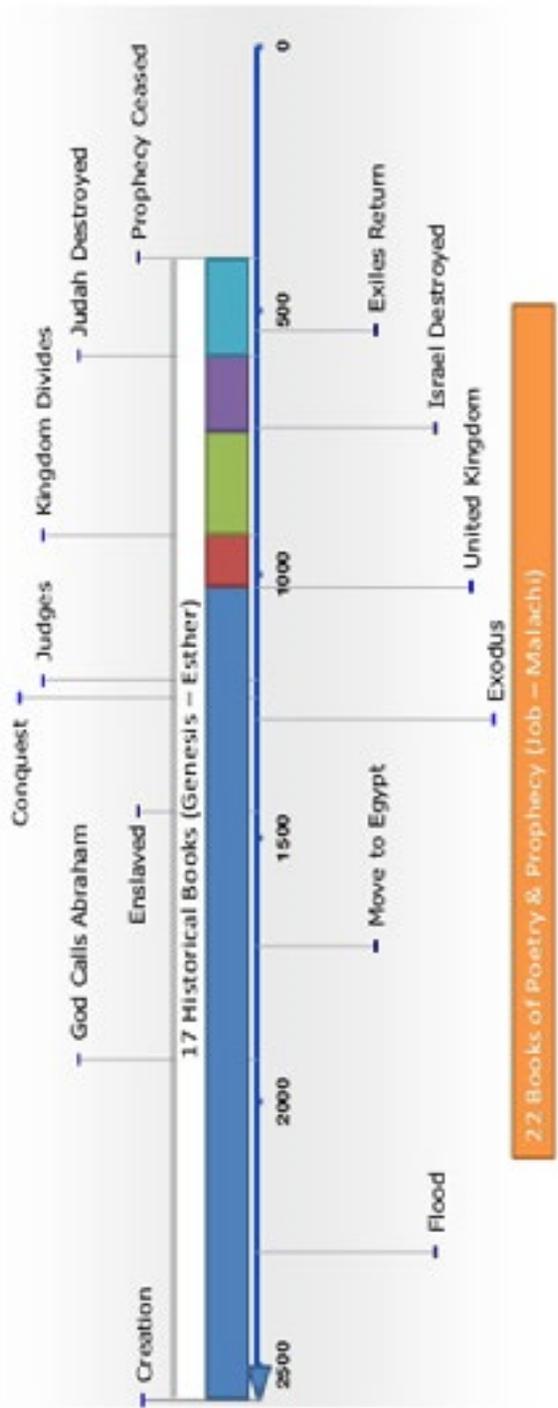
*And [Jesus] said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and **follow me.**" — Luke 9:23*

Types of Bible Translations





Old Testament Timeline



SUPPLEMENT TO GOD'S STORY & OUR STORY: WITNESSING

[From CruPress Green]

WITNESSING AND THE SPIRIT

Big Idea: To understand and trust in the Holy Spirit's leading as you witness.

Memorize: John 15:26-27; Read: Ephesians 5:18

Self-consciousness and fear of what others will say are great foes to our witness. Stephen as a table waiter (Acts 6:2-5), not as an apostle, was put before Christianity's most skilled and wicked opponents. Though he might have retreated, conscious of his inadequacy, he yielded to the Holy Spirit's control of his life. By so doing, he became the first Christian martyr, mightily moved the unbelievers and laid the basis for Saul's conversion. The purpose of this lesson is to demonstrate how the power of the Holy Spirit relates to our witness.

Work of the Spirit in witnessing

1. What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 15:26; 16:13-14)?

2. How is it accomplished in a person who witnesses of Christ (Acts 1:8; 6:10)?

3. What will the Holy Spirit do for the witnessing person (Acts 8:29, 4:31)?

4. What will God's Spirit do for the person being witnessed to, according to 1 Corinthians 2:10-12?

5. How would you compare that to 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4?

It is the Holy Spirit who brings a man face-to-face with the facts regarding his condition and his need. This action is called "convicting, reproofing, exposing, bringing to light." If we were to witness on our own, we would accomplish nothing, but when the Spirit uses our witness, He brings a man face-to-face with important facts — presenting them so forcefully that these facts must be acknowledged and considered.

6. What are these three basic facts (John 16:7-11)?

7. What final result is the full responsibility of the Holy Spirit to bring about in the hearer (John 3:5, 6)?

Ask the Holy Spirit of God to prepare individuals to whom you can witness. Ask Him to free the minds of specific individuals (2 Corinthians 4:3,4) so that they can see the issues at stake (John 16:8-11) and be able to make a logical, rational, and intelligent choice to receive Christ as Lord and Savior. Record the names of at least three persons you feel God would have you speak to about Christ within the next week.

Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to these individuals at the proper time, and to speak through you in confronting them with the message of Christ. As you witness, be conscious of the fact that it is the Holy Spirit who is penetrating the mind of the other person, revealing spiritual truth.



SUPPLEMENT TO BIBLE STUDY SKILLS 2

[Excerpt taken from “HEARING THE MUSIC OF THE GOSPEL Christ-Centered Bible Study” by Keith E. Johnson, Ph.D.; Crupress green]

Imagine yourself in a large house in which those who are deaf and those who can hear are living together. In one of the rooms, you see a guy sitting in a chair and listening to music on his iPod. Rhythmically, he’s tapping his foot, drumming his thighs, jutting his chin out, swaying to the beat, and pursing his lips like Mick Jagger or someone. His entire body moves in response to what his ears are hearing. It’s obvious that he’s enjoying himself and listening to a pretty good song.

A few minutes later, one of the deaf persons enters the room. Seeing the guy listening to the music and impersonating Mick Jagger, he thinks, “That looks like fun. I think I’ll try that.” So he sits down next to him and begins to imitate him. Awkwardly at first, he tries drumming his thighs, jutting his chin out, and swaying to the music just like the guy with the iPod. With a little practice, he begins to catch onto it. By watching and trying, he begins to mirror the other guy’s actions pretty closely. But although he eventually gets better at keeping time, he concludes that it’s not as much fun or as easy as it initially seemed (especially the chin jut—very difficult to do when you’re not actually hearing the music).

After a while, a third person enters the room and watches this scene. What does he see? Two people apparently doing the same thing, apparently listening to the same thing. Is there a difference? Absolutely. The first

guy hears the music and his actions are a natural response to the music’s rhythm and melody. The second guy is merely imitating the outward actions. Being deaf, he’s not listening to anything.

There’s an important spiritual parallel here. The dance (outward actions) represents the Christian life, while the music represents the grace of the

gospel. Though we have come to know Christ through grace, we are often like the deaf man in the story who tries to perform the dance without hearing the music. Our spiritual life is reduced to a series of dance steps— external behaviors and activities—devoid of God’s animating and transforming power. God’s desire is not to get us to do the dance but to get us to hear the music of the gospel, with the dance (godly actions, character, and activities) flowing naturally from it.

The term gospel literally means “good news.” In the New Testament, the gospel encompasses not only the forgiveness of sins but also everything else that God has done for us in Christ (adoption, reconciliation, justification, and so forth).

What follows in this article is a brief reflection on how to tune in to the music of the gospel, listening for its rhythm as you read the Scriptures.

Understanding the Redemptive Focus of Scripture

We all have a proclivity to perform—to act in ways we are expected to act in order to receive the affirmation we crave. We also, perhaps through years of schooling, have come to believe that what matters most is not the process of growth or learning but what we get for grades, how well we perform on SATs, what we produce. Whatever the baggage, whatever its origins, it’s there. And it can lead us to look to the Bible and see nothing more than a collection of ethical directives instructing us in how to live. But to read Scripture in this way is to reduce it to dance steps—the dos and don’ts of the Christian life—and to miss the melody entirely. To hear the music of the gospel, we need to understand how God intends his Word to function in our lives.

The writer of Hebrews gives us a push in the right direction. In chapter 4 he urges his readers not to harden their hearts and miss the rest that God has provided in Christ (Hebrews 4:1-11). He closes with the following statement: “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (verses 12-13, ESV).

Notice how the writer describes the role of Scripture in our lives, likening it to the sharpest sword imaginable—a sword that penetrates to the deepest recesses of our soul. As a result, we are “naked and exposed” before God.

What the writer wants us to see is that Scripture, first, is designed to expose the sinful condition of our heart, not simply to prescribe a new behavior.

I realize that what I have said so far about Scripture is not particularly upbeat and something you’d want to dance to (nothing like hearing how wretched and loathsome we are to get those toes tapping!). But the choreography of grace cannot be directly accessed; you must first waltz through brokenness and repentance. Those who seek to move directly to the upbeat and eliminate the downbeat destroy the tune entirely.

Graciously, Scripture does not leave us on the downbeat: naked, exposed in our sin. Notice how the writer of Hebrews continues: “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:14-16).

The writer of Hebrews does not point us toward a program of behavior modification but instead to a person. The remedy for our brokenness is not in corrective dance steps but in Christ.

Most New Testament scholars believe that the original readers of the book of Hebrews were Jewish Christians (thus the name of the book). A number of them had experienced persecution because of their faith and some were tempted to walk away from Christ. In this context the writer paints

a portrait of Christ as one who fundamentally understands the readers’ problems because, in his human nature, he experienced the same temptations they were experiencing.

Through this and other portraits of Christ, the writer of Hebrews is attempting to woo the hearts of his readers to the love and beauty of Christ.

This highlights a second role of Scripture—pointing our hearts to our Savior. We tend to limit this dimension of Scripture to those who are outside the Christian faith. That is, we assume that the primary role of Scripture for the unbeliever is pointing his or her heart toward Christ. We often fail to recognize that our hearts constantly need to be pointed to Christ as well.

Here’s what I mean. If you were to explain the gospel to a non-Christian—

say, a non-Christian who swears like a dockworker—you would want him to acknowledge his sin (including profanity) and need for forgiveness, right? And, if he acknowledged that, you would then point him to Christ for forgiveness, acceptance, and grace. But what happens when we, as believers, have a swearing problem? We tell each other to stop swearing. Or we tell ourselves to stop swearing. And when we come to the Scriptures, what we read between every line is “Stop swearing! Christians don’t act that way!”

What happened to the gospel for us? How did our dynamic walk with Christ mutate into Christian Behavior 101?

Gospel-Centered Living

If we were to ask a group of Christians, “What was your greatest need prior to your conversion?” I imagine they would all answer, “The gospel.” However, if we were to ask that same group, “What is your greatest need following your conversion?” we would elicit a wide variety of answers.

I am suggesting that the answer remains unchanged following our conversion. We still need the gospel. We still need to humbly lay bare the roots of our sin. We must continue to acknowledge our inadequacy and impotence to live righteously before God. And we must continue to trust wholly in the sufficiency of Christ—his forgiveness, empowerment, and promises.

This is the process we went through when we came to faith, and it is the way we continue to live out our faith. “As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him” (Colossians 2:6). As Tim Keller points out, “The gospel is not just the ‘A-B-C’ but the ‘A-to-Z’ of the Christian life. The gospel is not just the way to enter the kingdom, but is the way to address every problem and is the way to grow at every step.”

Keith E. Johnson is director of theological education for the U.S. Campus Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

RELATIONAL NEEDS TEST

Directions: Enter your score into the box on the left from -2 to +2

Strongly Disagree: -2, Disagree: -1, Neutral: 0, Agree: 1, Strongly Agree: 2

- 1 It’s important that people receive me for who I am – even if I am a little “different.”
- 2 It is important to me that my world is in order.
- 3 I sometimes grow tired of trying to do my best.
- 4 It is significant to me that others ask my opinion.
- 5 It is important that I receive frequent physical hugs, warm embraces, etc.
- 6 I feel good when someone takes a special interest in the things that are important to me.
- 7 It is important for me to know “where I stand” with those who are in authority over me.
- 8 It is meaningful when someone notices that I need help and then offers to get involved.
- 9 When I feel overwhelmed, I especially need someone to come alongside me and help.
- 10 I feel pleased when someone recognizes and shows concern for how I’m feeling emotionally.
- 11 I like to know that who I am is significant and valued by others.
- 12 Generally speaking, I don’t like a lot of solitude.
- 13 I like it when my loved ones say to me, “I love you.”
- 14 I don’t like being seen only as a part of a large group – my individuality is important.
- 15 I am pleased when a friend calls to listen and encourage me.
- 16 It is important to me that people acknowledge me not just for what I do but for who I am.
- 17 I feel best when my world is orderly and somewhat predictable.
- 18 When I’ve worked hard on a project, I am pleased to have people acknowledge my work and express gratitude.

- 19 I am happy when others who enjoy my company are with me.
- 20 It is encouraging to me when I realize that others notice my efforts and accomplishments.
- 21 I sometimes feel overwhelmed and discouraged.
- 22 It's important to me to be treated with kindness and equality, regardless of my race, gender, looks, and status.
- 23 To have someone I care about touch me on the arm or shoulder or gives me a hug feels good.
- 24 I enjoy it when someone wants to spend time with just me.
- 25 It is meaningful when someone I look up to says, "Good job."
- 26 It is very important to me for someone to show concern for me after I've had a hard day.
- 27 While I may feel confident about what I "do" (my talents, gifts, etc.), I also believe that I need other people's input and help.
- 28 Written notes and calls expressing sympathy after the death of a loved one, health problems, or other stressful events are very meaningful to me.
- 29 I feel good when someone shows satisfaction with the way I am.
- 30 I enjoy being spoken well of or affirmed in front of a group of people.
- 31 I would be described as a "affectionate" person.
- 32 When a decision is going to affect my life, it is important to me that my input is sought and given serious consideration.
- 33 I am pleased when someone shows interest in current projects on which I am working.
- 34 I appreciate trophies, plaques, and special gifts, which are a permanent reminder of something significant I have done.
- 35 It is not unusual for me to worry about the future.
- 36 When I am introduced into a new environment, I typically search for a group of people to whom I connect with.
- 37 The possibility of major change (moving, new job...etc.) produces anxiety for me.
- 38 It bothers me when people are prejudiced against others just because they dress or act differently.
- 39 It is necessary for me to be surrounded by friends and loved ones who will be there "through thick and thin."

- 40 Receiving written notes and expressions of gratitude particularly please me.
- 41 To know that someone is often thinking of me is very meaningful.
- 42 People who try to control me or others annoy me.
- 43 I am pleased by unexpected and spontaneous expressions of care.
- 44 I feel important when someone looks me in the eye and listens to me without distractions.
- 45 I am grateful when people commend me for a positive characteristic I exhibit.
- 46 I don't like to be alone when experiencing hurt and trouble; it is important for me to have a companion who will be with me.
- 47 I don't enjoy working on a project by myself; I prefer to have a "partner" on important projects.
- 48 It is important for me to feel know I am "part of the group."
I respond to someone who tries to understand me emotionally
- 49 and who shows me caring concern.
- 50 When working on a project, I would rather work with a team of people than by myself.

Acceptance: Add up your responses to statements 1, 19, 36, 38, 48

Security: Add up your responses to statements 2, 17, 35, 37, 39

Appreciation: Add up your responses to statements 18, 20, 25, 34, 40

Encouragement: Add up your responses to statements 3, 15, 21, 33, 41

Respect: Add up your responses to statements 4, 14, 22, 32, 42

Affection: Add up your responses to statements 5, 13, 23, 31, 43

Attention: Add up your responses to statements 6, 12, 24, 30, 44

Approval: Add up your responses to statements 7, 11, 16, 29, 45

Comfort: Add up your responses to statements 10, 26, 28, 46, 49

Support: Add up your responses to statements 8, 9, 27, 47, 50

1. What were your three highest totals? Which needs do they represent?

2. What were your three lowest totals? Which needs do they represent?

Your total for:

Acceptance:	Appreciation:	Comfort:
Affection:	Approval:	Respect:
Security:	Encouragement:	Support:
Attention:		

APPENDIX to DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Spiritual Journey Scale

Win Build Send Win Send Build: Essential First Steps!

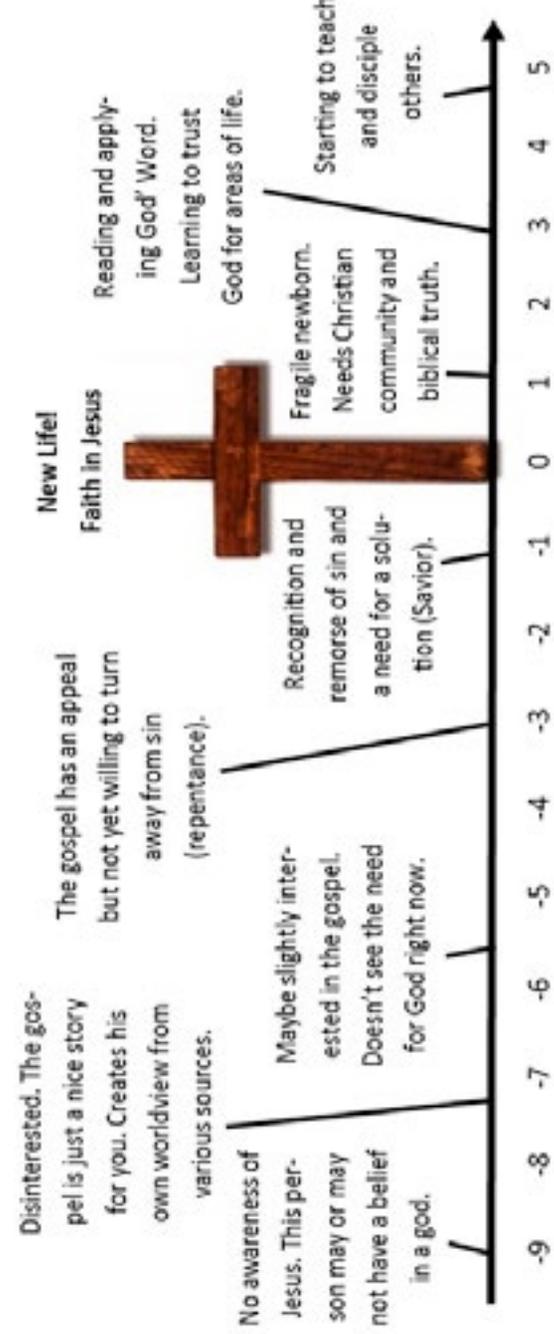
4 Essential Responsibilities of Discipleship

Ideas for Field Trips

Gospel Framework: How to See the Scriptures and Life

Spiritual Journey Scale

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them mocked, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." ...and some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. - Acts 17:32-34



~~WIN BUILD SEND~~ WIN SEND BUILD: ESSENTIAL FIRST STEPS

18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed. – Mk 5.18-20 (for more context, see vv 1-21)

Questions:

1. What was the healed man's natural desire?
2. Why didn't Jesus receive the man who begged to go with him?
3. What was the result of the man's return to his home?

We even see that later in the scriptures, Jesus returns to that location and the people receive him. One new convert helped lead a town to faith in Messiah.

The Family Business

Being in the family means you not take on the family business. This business is missions... telling others around us about the love and grace of God shown through Jesus Christ.

Christian = Missionary

Upon conversion, a new Christ-follower now carries the gospel with them to take to others.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." – Jn 20.21

Jesus was sent into the world to rescue men from their sins, and now He is

the Sender, sending us into the world to carry this message of salvation. And he is always with us, even unto the end of the age.

To share the good news, a brand new (newly-reborn) Christian does not need additional growth, or evangelism training, or a duration of time, or discipleship, or church involvement, or missions experience, or even Cru evangelistic materials. The new believer has the gospel and the Holy Spirit. He is equipped to go and share that message of hope and grace that radically and eternally impacted his life.

Relevant and Real:

We need to encourage new Christians to start sharing their faith immediately. Our research found that the key to winning a lot of people to Christ was not having more training, but sharing more frequently. Since new Christians usually have a lot more lost friends than people who have been Christians longer, they are actually in a better position to lead people to Christ. *Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World*, McNabb (185)

We need to empower new believers with the truth that they can and should immediately be witnesses for Christ. And we should encourage them with the reality that growth results from witnessing, not the other way around. (Ibid.)

We have made a terrible mistake by separating the convert from the worker. They are not two but one. Each new convert is a new worker. *The Organic Church*, Neil Cole

We are not to wait for a time as though the new convert is lacking anything. What are they missing? They are sealed in the Holy Spirit. They gain immediate and consistent access to Almighty God. They have the power of the Scriptures available. They inherit all that comes with being a child of God. They are washed clean of all sins and blights against heaven. Why do we think they need something more from us? What arrogance it is for us to add to all God has given them the need for our training? What blasphemy it is for us to tell people that they are not ready to be a worker until they have been through our curriculum! Ibid.

4 ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Do not forget these essential requirements of being a good discipler. But know this: you cannot do these without Jesus. You just can't. You need to fall on Jesus every day so He can build you into the person that can live these things out. Your disciples need you to first be a disciple of Jesus.

Essentials for Your Role as Discipler

TEACH – Have meaningful conversations together over the scriptures. Remember to always end with a point of application. Learn God's Word and then obey God's Word. (J's 1.22-25)

CORRECT – With grace AND truth, correct others about choices and errors they are making. Being a disciple means that you are inviting correction into your life. But you must fear God more than man by being willing to correct others when necessary—and risk their rejection of you for it.

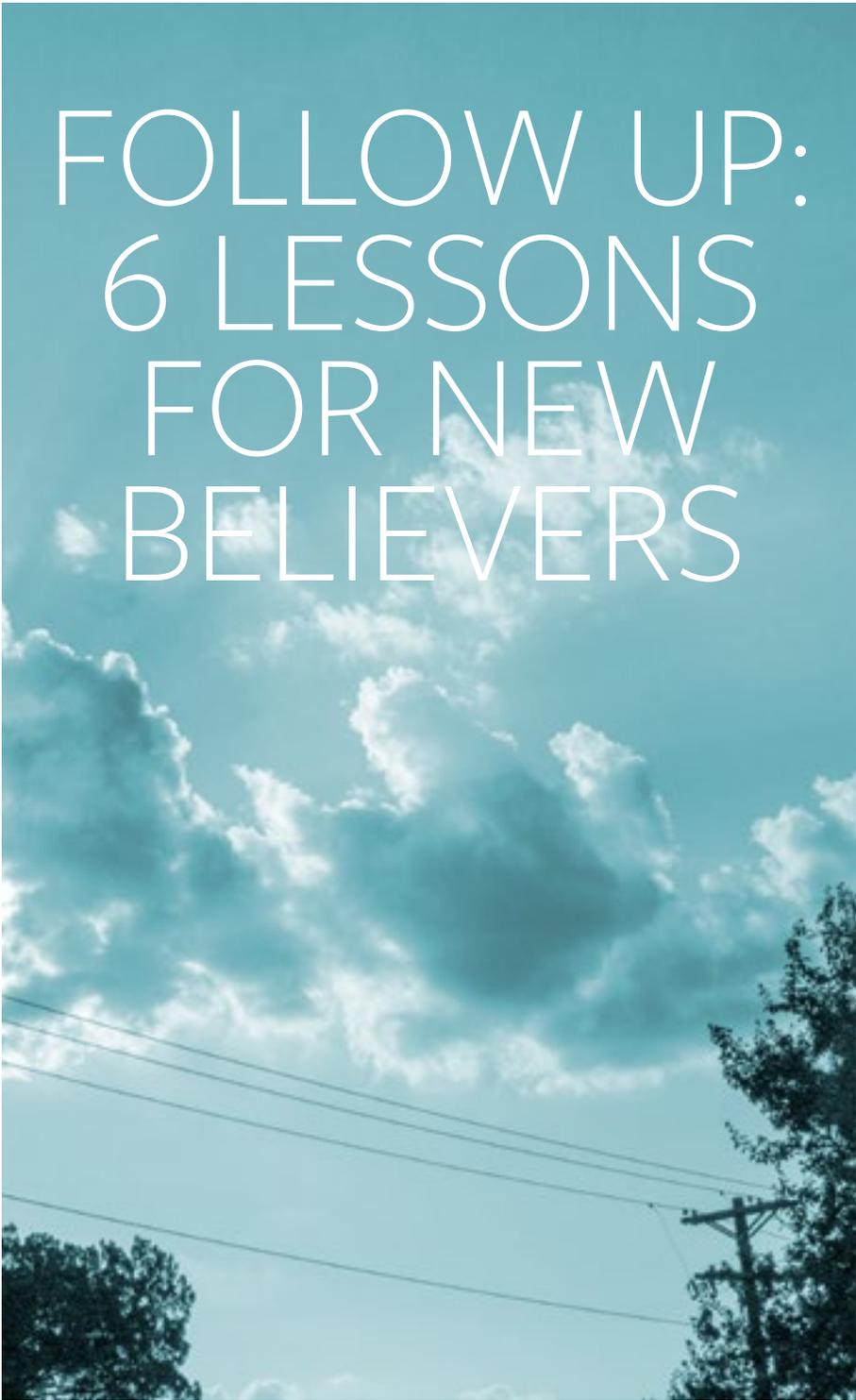
MODEL – “being examples to the flock.” (1 Pet 5.3) We communicate not merely with our words but by our whole lives.

LOVE - Hebrews 10:24–25: “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Love is what binds a discipleship relationship together. You are FOR that younger believer and you are willing to do whatever it takes to help them grow in Christ.

The reality, though, is that we have always been involved in disciple-making, even from birth — just not always disciple-making for Jesus. Firstly, you are a disciple. Who are you following? Secondly, how are you influencing the people watching you?

IDEAS FOR FIELD TRIPS

- ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE:** Go to the San Marcos Cemetery.
 - Have the disciples walk around for 10-15 minutes and make observations from gravestones they read.
 - Meet back at shaded pavilion. Ask questions about what they saw. Ask, “What is the most important part of the tombstone?” (i.e. name, date, phrase, etc.) Answer: The Dash. It signifies the life that was lived.
 - Idea: Sometimes I bring food or Sonic drinks.
 - Pick a passage to look over together:
 - Lk. 12.13-21; Mt. 6.19-21; Mt. 25.21-23
 - Decide on an application. Pray together.
 - Take a photo together. Print it off and frame it and give it to them as a gift at the end of semester.
- CARING FOR THE FORGOTTEN** (Phil. 2.3-4): Visit an elderly home.
 - Call ahead of time to ask permission to visit.
 - Goal: to hold the hand of an elderly person and just ask them questions and listen to stories of their younger years.
 - Learn to ask good question. Learn to listen. Learn to unhurriedly love a stranger.
- TAKING INITIATIVE TO SERVE** (Mk 10.42-45): Staff person or pastor.
 - Ask a staff person (mom, single, etc.) or a pastor if there is a way that your group could serve him/her (not serve the ministry). e.g. Babysit, Repair the house, Clean the garage
- PRAYER:** Take a prayer across walk on campus and downtown.
 - No more than two or three in a group.
 - Plan to go for 45 minutes.
 - Pray for God to help you and your disciples to see the spiritual needs in front of them.
- SACRIFICING FOR OTHERS:** The San Marcos Veteran's Memorial.
 - Passage: John 15.13 (laying down your life for your friends)
 - What does it look like to lay down your life for others?
 - What does it mean to give all for others? Give examples.



FOLLOW UP: 6 LESSONS FOR NEW BELIEVERS

FOLLOW UP LESSONS 1: LEADER'S GUIDE

You face one of the most important opportunities of any ministry – touching the lives of people. You have the extremely gratifying privilege of helping to establish a new Christian's faith in Jesus Christ. You will have the joy of helping this person begin growing toward maturity and fruitfulness in Christ. This was Paul's great burden:

"...we teach everyone we can all that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. This is what I am working at all the time with all the strength that God gives me..." (Colossians 1:28, 29 Phillips).

What a comfort to remember that the same Holy Spirit who draws men and women to Christ is the only One who is truly capable of enabling anyone to grow to maturity in Christ. In both cases, He generally uses human instruments. You must be confident of His powerful workings in and through lives as you do your best in follow-up. Take the initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit and always leave the results up to God.

The Goals of Follow-up

Effective follow-up means having a clear set of goals, a plan for accomplishing those goals, a warm relationship with the new Christian, and the assurance that God is in control of producing the growth. These materials are designed to be used in five separate sessions. They will help you communicate clearly and effectively the basic steps for beginning an exciting new life in Christ. The goals of these sessions are:

1. To establish the new Christian's confidence in Scripture as the basis for Christian faith.
2. To help the new Christian understand simple scriptural principles of spiritual growth.
3. To begin building a personal, Christian friendship that leads the new

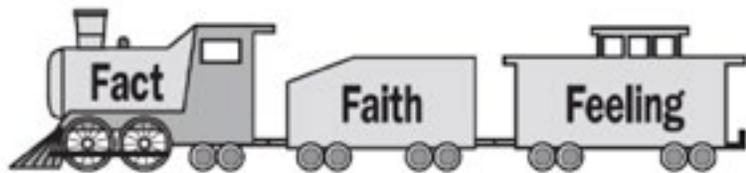
Christian into meaningful relationships and service with a group of fellow believers.

How to Set Up a Follow-up Appointment

These lessons can be used with anyone who wants to grow closer to God. The person may have just trusted Christ after you shared the *Would You Like To Know God Personally?* booklet, or the person may be a Christian interested in growth. To set up an appointment, begin by sharing a little of your own experience of receiving Christ. Tell how someone helped you, or how God enabled you to begin to grow in your relationship with Christ. Offer the person the same opportunity by meeting with you to learn more about Christ: “Could we meet again in a few days to go over some things that will help you grow in your new relationship with Christ?”

If the answer is yes, set up a convenient time and place. (You may prefer to arrange all five appointments now, or simply set them up one at a time depending on the person’s interest.)

If the answer is no, explain the Train Diagram from the *Would You Like To Know God Personally?* booklet.



After showing the “facts” part, ask if you can share a few more facts on which to base faith in Jesus Christ. Then briefly present the first follow-up sheet. *In any case, invite the person to an activity where Christians will be involved.*

How to Establish and Maintain a Good Relationship With a New Christian

To develop good rapport with this person, follow these suggestions:

1. **Be faithful to pray regularly** for this person (Philippians 1:7, 8).
2. **Show genuine personal interest.** The new Christian needs to feel impor-

tant and to know you are always available. People learn best when they feel the teacher cares for them. – Be sure to ask about the person’s life: “How are things going for you?” As you show interest, ask questions, and listen, you will become aware of real concerns in their life. Then you can sensitively share how Jesus is relevant to every detail of every human life. Remember, concern for the person is more important than getting through the materials. Be flexible as you walk in the Spirit!

3. **Extend your interest beyond the follow-up meetings.** Begin to build a friendship by doing things together, things you both enjoy. Offer an invitation to do something with other Christians.

4. **Share about things from your own personal life** as well as the message (1 Thessalonians 2:6, 7). – Be an example of worthy conduct (Philippians 4:9). – Be open about how you are also learning to apply the Bible in your life. Describe how the Lord is teaching you through His Word. – Be natural in talking to God about your concerns when you are together. – Respond with excitement at any new discoveries made by the new Christian. Be careful not to deflate interest by treating something as old, familiar material.

5. **Remember these tips:** – Accept the individual on the basis of love and trust, not performance. – Smile a lot, maintain eye contact, and use the person’s name. – Never laugh at a question or an answer. – Never be negative about any other person, group, or organization. – Approach follow-up on the basis of sharing rather than teaching (Philippians 2:3, 4; 2 Timothy 2:24). Admit when you don’t know an answer. Look it up together or find the answer later. – Be enthusiastic. Your attitude is contagious.

6. **Find out if the person has a Bible.** If not, contact your local Campus Crusade for Christ group, a local church, the Gideons or other Christian organizations, or buy one at a bookstore.

FOLLOW UP LESSON 2: YOUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Introduction: Bring a Bible and a *Would You Like To Know God Personally?* booklet as well as Follow-up Sheet #1. Become familiar with Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 1:12; Revelation 3:20; Hebrews 13:5; Colossians 1:13, 14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 5:11-13, and the Train Diagram. If you used a Four Spiritual Laws booklet to share with the person use that in this lesson instead.

Opener: Ask, "How are things going for you?" Talk for a few minutes about events in each other's week. Ask, "What have you been thinking about some of the things we talked about in our last meeting?" Answer any questions the person may raise. Lead a brief prayer, asking God's help in making this time meaningful.

Big Idea: You can be confident in your relationship with God because of Christ's death on the cross and your trust in Him; God has made many promises to you based on this relationship.

Passage(s): Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 5:9-13

Know: Ephesians 2:8-9 – 3 important words

1. Grace: unmerited favor
2. Saved: rescued from disaster
3. Faith: trust

Q: What role did you play in establishing your relationship with God?

Q: From what were you rescued, or "saved"?

Q: What does faith have to do with receiving Christ (i.e. what are you trusting)?

1 John 5:9-13

Q: On what is eternal life based?

Q: When does a person's eternal life begin, and when will it end?

Do: Answer these questions concerning yourself.

Q: If you died tonight, how sure are you that you would spend eternity with God?

0 . . . 25 . . . 50 . . . 75 . . . 100%

Q: Which of the truths we discussed is particularly meaningful to you now? Why?

Response: Throughout this week, begin to make these truths part of your life as you grow in Christ:

You are forgiven: Colossians 1:13, 14; 2:13

You are a child of God: John 1:12; Romans 8:15;

You are indwelt by Christ: Revelation 3:20; Galatians 2:20

You have a new life: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:4, 5

You have eternal life: John 5:24; 10:27-29

Take one truth each day and reflect on it. Read the verses listed by each truth. Thank God that this is now true of you.

Pray: Explain that prayer is simply talking to God. Each of you can thank Him for one truth you discussed today.

FOLLOW UP LESSON 3: YOUR NEW LIFE IN GOD'S LOVE

Introduction: You are forgiven through Christ's death on the cross by placing your trust in Him (relationship). You can experience this love and forgiveness moment by moment (fellowship) as you deal with your sin. Read 1 John 1:9. Be sure you are familiar with the distinction made in this session between relationship and fellowship, and that you are familiar with the material on confession. Ask about something the person told you in a previous meeting: "How did your meeting with your advisor come out?" A personalized question such as this shows that you cared enough to listen and remember

Opener: Recall the biblical truth the person selected at the last meeting. Ask, "What have you thought about that truth since the last time we got together?" Allow the person time to ask questions about last week's discussion. Lead in prayer, thanking God for His many benefits.

Then ask, who are you closest to in your family? Why is that? What would it be like for you if that closeness was interrupted?

Big Idea: You can experience God's love and forgiveness everyday.

Passage(s): 1 John 1:6-9, especially v9

Know: Make the distinction between relationship (children of God) vs. fellowship (close or far from God).

Relationship: Your relationship with God is secure because, through Christ, you are forgiven, accepted and adopted. God is now your Father, and you are a part of His family.

Fellowship: When we choose to sin, our relationship does not change, but our closeness is interrupted. Fellowship with God...

began when you received Christ. (Colossians 2:6)

can be hindered. (Psalm 32:3-5)

changes when we sin—i.e. do what we want instead of what God wants. (Psalm 66:18)

can be addressed by approaching God in confession. (1 John 1:9).

Q: What should you do if you feel guilty and distant from God?

Read 1 John 1:6-9 (Note: Confession = agreeing with God, that is, what He thinks about that sin)

Do: Discuss together any sin or distance you might have (or currently be) struggling with lately. This is a great opportunity for each of you to practice honesty. Describe what is wrong about that sinful act or attitude. Then describe how it has impacted your fellowship with God lately. Finally, pray short prayers together, confessing your sin to God, and asking His forgiveness. Share your desire to be closer with Him. Then thank Him for remaining your Father and being gracious to forgive. As an encouragement and statement of faith, tell one another afterward, "God forgives you."

Response: Memorize 1 John 1:9 this week. Practice experiencing His forgiveness by confessing and asking His forgiveness throughout the week.

Pray: : You already did! ;-)

FOLLOW UP LESSON 4: YOUR NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Introduction: [Note: This lesson will be longer than most, so schedule a little extra time if possible.] This week's lesson is vital for every believer, and especially for the one who is brand new in their faith. It will be easy, even natural, for them to feel like the Christian faith is either a new set of rules they must follow, or else, it was a decision for heaven, but doesn't have much to do with their day-to-day living. The fact that God's Spirit lives within each believer changes everything, and makes new life and conduct and desires possible through faith. Begin by sharing your own experience of God's grace last week through prayer and confession and receiving His forgiveness. Then ask how it went for them.

Opener: Compare phones and share what features and apps you enjoy and/or use the most. Then ask them if they have ever been in a tough spot because their battery went out when they really needed their phone. (Share a story yourself if you have one.) Then explain: These phones are little computers with incredible potential that people could hardly imagine just a few decades ago. However, they are totally incapable of accomplishing anything unless they have their power source. The same is true of us as followers of Christ.

Big Idea: The Holy Spirit is the source of power to live the Christian life and every believer can appropriate this power by faith.

Passage(s): Ephesians 5:18 and others.

Know: The Holy Spirit is the "power source" of the Christian life. Who is He?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18.

Why did He come?

- To glorify Christ (John 16:14)
- To lead you into all truth (John 16:13)
- To dwell in you (Romans 8:9)

To convict the world of sin and justice (John 16:8)

What does He desire to produce in your life?

Read Galatians 5:22, 23.

How do you think these qualities of God's character (fruit of the Spirit) will grow in your life?

Read John 15:4, 5.

What does Jesus say we are to do in order to see this fruit produced in us?

Which of these qualities would you most like God to begin developing within you?

What does He desire to equip you to do?

Read Acts 1:8.

What is a witness? What does it mean to you to be a witness for Christ?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit's power is needed to be a witness?

Summary The degree to which these traits are manifested in one's life depends upon the extent to which the Christian trusts the Lord with every detail of his life, and upon his maturity in Christ.

MANY CHRISTIANS ARE NOT EXPERIENCING THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER

Though all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, not all Christians are filled with (directed and empowered by) the Holy Spirit.

Do: You can be filled with (directed and empowered by) the Holy Spirit

You can be filled with the Holy Spirit only by faith, by trusting God to produce in you the fruitful life He promised.

You must respond by faith, trusting the Holy Spirit to empower your life for Christ.

God has commanded you to be filled with His Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

God has promised to answer all your requests which are in accord with His will (1 John 5:14, 15).

You can be filled with the Holy Spirit by faith alone. This prayer is a good way to express that faith:

“Dear Father, I acknowledge that I have sinned against You. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ’s death on the cross. I now invite Christ to take His place on the throne of my life. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled, and as You promised that You would do if I asked in faith. I pray this in the name of Jesus. As an expression of my faith, I now thank You for directing my life and filling me with the Holy Spirit.”

How accurately does this prayer reflect the desire of your heart? If this is the desire of your heart, you can pray this prayer and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Response: You can be continually empowered by the Holy Spirit (This is sometimes called “Spiritual Breathing.”)

This week, if you find that you have retaken control of your life through sin – any definite act of disobedience – simply breathe spiritually (exhale the impure and inhale the pure). This important exercise will enable you to continue to experience Christ’s loving control in your life.

Exhale—Confess your sin (1 John 1:9; Hebrews 10:1-25).

Inhale—Yield control of your life to Christ (Romans 12:1, 2).

Claim, by faith, the fullness of the Spirit in your life (Ephesians 5:18).

Trust that He now directs and empowers you (1 John 5:14, 15).

Continue to spend 15 minutes alone each day in Bible reading and prayer.

Pray: In most cases, you will have prayed together to be filled with the Holy Spirit and/or practiced “spiritual breathing”.

FOLLOW UP LESSON 5: GROWING IN YOUR NEW LIFE

Introduction: Again, ask about things the person has already indicated are of interest and concern. Ask if there was an opportunity to apply “spiritual breathing.” Ask if they have questions about being filled with the Spirit

This session is crucial, for it is the springboard for the new Christian to become involved in four significant things:

1. small group Bible study
2. personal time of Bible reading and prayer
3. witnessing about their faith in Jesus Christ
4. a weekly meeting with other Christians

It is important to proceed with sensitivity on these issues, avoid giving the feeling of a sudden avalanche of activities and responsibilities. If you sense four things are too much, too soon, focus on just one or two. A discipleship group will provide continued growth and involvement with your ministry, which will lead to the other involvements if the person is not yet ready for them.

Opener: Can you remember a time where you, or someone close to you, tried to grow up too quick? What happened? [Each of you share stories.]

Maturity takes time. There are no shortcuts. The Holy Spirit can empower you to live a Christ-directed life. As you continue to breathe spiritually (exhale – confess your sin; inhale – yield control to Christ), you will experience a deepening fellowship with God enabling you to grow in Christian maturity.

Big Idea: Maturity takes time – there are no shortcuts.

Passage(s): Colossians 2:6-7

Know:

What does it mean to grow in Christ?

It means to increase in knowledge of Christ and love for Him.

- Read Philippians 3:7-10.
- Why did Paul count all things as loss?
- Read Matthew 22:37, 38.

7. There are more than 600 commands in the Old Testament. Why do you think Jesus singled this one out?

8. How would loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind affect your life?

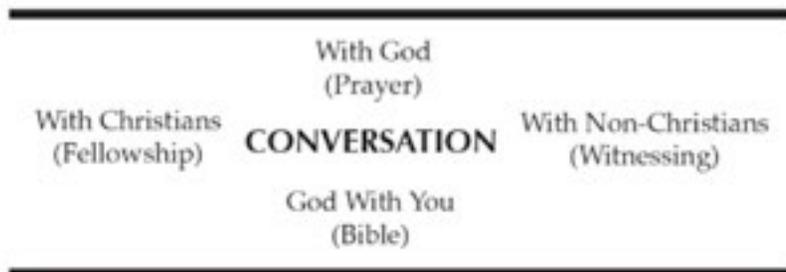
Just as it is a natural process for a child to grow in a loving relationship with a parent, so it is also natural for you to grow in your love relationship with God.

How can you grow in Christ?

If you met a guy or girl whom you enjoyed, what would you do to get to know that person better?

Communication is vital to any relationship, including your relationship with Christ. Since communication must be a two-way street, you need to let Him speak to you and you need to speak to Him.

Four principles of communication that will help you grow in your relationship with Christ as you walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.



1. God communicates with you through the Bible, revealing His character and His will.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

- How would you define each benefit described?
- Which of those uses of the Bible would be most helpful to you right now?
- How would you evaluate the helpfulness to your life of the Bible reading you have done so far?

2. You communicate with God through prayer, sharing your thoughts, your needs, and your desires to do His will.

Read Philippians 4:6, 7.

- Pray about everything.
- Pray specifically – so you can see God answer specifically.
- Pray honestly – share your needs and desires to do His will (1 John 5:14, 15).

3. You communicate with Christians (fellowship); gaining from their experience and helping them through yours.

Just as logs burn more brightly when placed together, so Christians need each other for warmth and encouragement.

Read Hebrews 10:24, 25.

- Why is it important to spend time with other Christians?
- How important would this be in your own life now?
- Where could you find supportive Christian fellowship on a consistent basis?

The Greek word for fellowship, koinonia, means “sharing in common.” We desperately need to share our Christian experience with others who love God and walk with Him, and likewise allow them to share with us. The church where we can meet other Christians and hear God’s Word is God’s appointed place for Christians to meet. Bible studies and meetings on campus are also extremely helpful. – Dr. Bill Bright

4. You communicate with non-Christians (witnessing); sharing your

relationship with Christ.

Read 1 Peter 3:15

- What would motivate you to tell another person about Christ?

SUMMARY: Read 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7. **God is the source of your growth.**

You cannot develop spiritual maturity just by “trying real hard.” As you read the Bible, pray, tell people about Christ, and spend time with other believers, God will be at work in you producing fruitfulness and maturity.

Do: What can you expect as you grow in Christ?

List some characteristics that you expect to occur as God produces growth in your life.

2 Peter 1:5-9 gives us a picture of growth.

Response: Where can you begin?

1. Try to set aside time for personal Bible study and prayer.

A good passage is John 15:1-17.

As you read, underline particularly meaningful verses.

When a verse speaks strongly to you, 1) copy the verse in a journal or notebook, 2) summarize what the verse means, and 3) write down how you can apply that verse to your life.

2. Join a Bible study group where you can enjoy fellowship with others who are also learning more about this new life in Christ.

3. Talk to someone about Christ.

- Who would you like to tell about the good news of God’s love and forgiveness?
- When would be a good time to call to set up a time to see this person?
- Who would you like to have help you share this good news?

FOLLOW UP LESSON 6: YOUR NEW LIFE IN RELATIONSHIPS

Introduction: Read the various references listed on this sheet. Since this topic is very personal and prevalent today, prayerfully ask God to make you very sensitive to this person’s need. When you meet, again begin with asking about things of interest or concern from last week. Inquire about a point of application.

Recall some of the changes the person expected to occur as God produced growth in their life (Point 3 from Session 4 “Growing in Your New Life”). Then ask, “Have you given any thought to how your relationship with God affects the way you relate to the opposite sex? Did you expect any changes in this area?”

Opener: A father will tell his son not to touch a hot stove top. He does so **not** because he wants to squelch his son’s curiosity or take away his fun. Rather, he gives the prohibition because he knows that the stove will burn his child. His motivation is to protect his son from harm as well as provide safety.

Our society places a strong emphasis on sexuality. Most people feel they have to live up to these unrealistic standards or, in other cases, mistakenly turn to sex in their search for intimacy. Like Paul, you will be helping this person “excel still more” in their walk with God as you help them understand what He has to say about physical intimacy (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

In using this sheet, there is a need to be vulnerable and transparent. Relate anything in your own life which might be helpful, but with discretion. Specifically, be willing to identify with the struggle and temptation in the moral area while choosing to be Spirit-filled. Remember, the more honest you are, the more responsive the person will be.

Even if a person has not sinned sexually they will learn why they should wait, how to restore fellowship with God if they do sin, and that God has

our best interests in mind when He gives commands.

Big Idea: God's will is that you wait for marriage to experience physical intimacy. If you have not waited, there is forgiveness and a new start available in Christ. His commands are given with your best interest in mind.

Passage(s): 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

WHY WAIT FOR SEX? BECAUSE GOD SAYS TO WAIT

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.

The apostle Paul was complimenting the Thessalonians on their walk with God. Because their desire was to walk with and please God, Paul was encouraging them "to excel still more." His emphasis was in the area of purity in relationships and, specifically, the sexual area.

- By whose authority is this commandment given?
- What is God's will?

Know: Key Points:

- God desires our comprehensive sanctification. In other words, it is His will that we develop His character in every area of our lives. Purity and holiness are part of God's character. **"For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality..." 1 Thessalonians 4:3**
- God desires Christians not to defraud each other in relationships. We defraud someone when we cause them to step outside the boundaries God has established. **"...See that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter..." 1 Thessalonians 4:6**

On the surface, the Bible appears to be full of negative commandments which seem imposing and dreary. However, we need to remember that God has only one motivation – love. When we understand that He always seeks what is best for us, these commandments become positive.

GOD'S COMMANDS: BOTH TO PROTECT YOU AND TO PROVIDE FOR YOU

Behind every negative command are two positive principles. One is to protect us, the other is to provide for us. In other words, when God says, "Thou

shalt not commit adultery," He is not being a cosmic killjoy, as we will see.

God's command to wait for sex until marriage is given in order to:

Protect	Provide
Your mind from images of the past	Freedom to enjoy your future spouse without detracting mental images
You from mistrust and suspicion in relationships	A foundation of trust for your current and future relationships
You from confusing the intensity of sex with the intimacy of love	You with intimacy: true knowledge of the other person outside the physical
You from the fear and consequences of sexually transmitted diseases	Peace of mind as you enter a marriage commitment
Your Christian testimony	Integrity in your Christian witness that ministers to others
Your fellowship with God	The abundant life

Why do you think God wants to protect and provide for you? Look at the following verses and answer in your own words: Romans 8:38, 39; Psalm 103:17, 18; Deuteronomy 10:12.

God protects us by giving us boundaries and limitations to our activities. They are an expression of His love and wisdom and they keep us from doing ourselves harm. Not only do His commands keep us safe from harm but they are also targeted to provide for us in specific ways.

Do: A clean heart for a new start

One of the greatest mistakes people can make is to command regarding sex, God wants nothing to do with them. This is simply not true. God is well aware of our sinful tendencies – that is why Jesus Christ came.

For King David, what began with a stare, led not only to adultery and an unwanted pregnancy, but also to a murder. David really blew it. But consider what happened next.

Read Psalms 51:1-17.

David admitted his sin and asked God for forgiveness. Like David, we can receive God's complete forgiveness and make a clean start.

Here are several important steps to take:

- Confess the sin. Specifically name your sin before God and ask His forgiveness. 1 John 1:9
- Forgive yourself. If you are not willing to forgive yourself, you are saying two things to God: (A) Christ's death was not enough for your sins; and (B) you are a higher judge of what can be forgiven than God is. God's grace is extended to you out of His heart of love. When you do not forgive yourself, you throw God's grace right back into His face. If God's grace can't cover your sin, it can't cover any sin. Romans 8:1
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Allow God's Spirit to fill you with His power to say no to future temptation. Ephesians 5:18
- Show fruits of repentance. Repentance means turning around, changing one's mind. Matthew 3:8 says, "bear fruits worthy of repentance." This might mean breaking off a relationship or perhaps making a decision not to be alone together. It might be something else. Whatever it is, your actions should show you have changed. The individual who professes to be a Christian but who continues to practice sin should realize that he or she may not be a Christian at all. John 14:21; 1 John 2:3

God's complete love and forgiveness enable us to make a clean start and to live a life pleasing to Him.

Response: Your new life in relationships

Our new life in relationships begins with a decision to live a life pleasing to Him. Read Daniel 1:8.

*"But Daniel **made up his mind** that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself."*

Key word: Defile: To become impure.

- What was Daniel's decision?
- What was the result? (Daniel 1:9-13)

Read Hebrews 13:4.

Starting today, is it your desire not to defile yourself and remain pure until marriage?

The following will help you maintain relationships that please God:

1. **Prayer and Bible Study** Regularly spending time with God will help you understand and live out His priorities for your life. Psalms 1:1-3; Ephesians 5:8-10; Jeremiah 9:23, 24
2. **Spirit-Filled Life** The Holy Spirit empowers us to live a life pleasing to God. Galatians 5:16
3. **Accountability** Our accountability to another person helps maintain our accountability to God. Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10; Proverbs 27:17; Ephesians 5:21
4. **Fellowship** Seek fellowship with godly people who support and strengthen your convictions. Hebrews 10:24, 25; 2 Timothy 2:22

As you grow in Christ, you will see how God's commandments are given with your best interest in mind. Because this is true, **choosing to wait** is the most rewarding decision we can make.

LESSON TEMPLATE

TOPIC (ONE WORD OR BRIEF PHRASE)

Introduction: (2-3 sentences helping the discipler understand why this subject is so significant)

Opener: (Brief statement or illustration to orient them, then a question to open discussion)

Big Idea: (What main thought should the disciple take from this lesson?)

Passage(s): 1 key (possibly longer) passage, or 2-3 short passages

Know: What is God saying in this passage?

Brokenness: What does this passage reveal about my/humanity's brokenness?

Grace: How does this passage point me/us to Christ?

Do: What is God wanting us to do?

Response: How will you act on that this week? (What are you going to do about it?)

Pray: Share updates and pray for 1-2 people you are trying to reach.

CHRIST-CENTERED BIBLE STUDY BOOKMARK

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

— 2 Timothy 3:16

God-breathed

Pray for God to open your eyes to His words.

WORD

Teaching

Make observations to discover the main thing God is saying through the text.

Context

Key Words/Ideas

Structural Markers

BROKENNESS

Reproof

What does this passage reveal about my (or humanity's) brokenness?

GRACE

Correction

How does this passage point me to good news of Jesus?

WALK

Training in Righteousness

What is God telling me between believe, cherish and do?

What can I do/begin this week to foster these changes?

Does this application move me toward greater love for, and dependence on Christ

PRAYER FOR UNBELIEVING FRIENDS

Disciple's Name: _____

Friend's Names: _____



PRAYER FOR DISCIPLES

Prayer Needs

Date



PRAYER FOR DISCIPLES

Prayer Needs

Date



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Please be very careful to not lose this book. If you do lose it, we will be glad to get you a replacement book at the cost of \$10.