



Christian Life Foundations

Welcome to year two in Christian Life Foundations! We are glad you are a part of our program. These lessons have been designed to give you a "Firm Foundation" in the basics of Christian beliefs. It is our desire that these lessons will be more than an assignment to you. We hope they will become a part of your life and build a closer relationship between you and the Lord. For this to happen it will take time. We suggest that you complete one section of the lesson outline per day (perhaps as your devotions for the day). Also please notice the reminder at the beginning of most lessons indicating how long the Life Application section of each lesson will take. Application of what we are learning is essential and really, the whole purpose of Bible study. Be sure to start soon enough to complete this properly. May God bless you as you explore His Word!

THE BIBLE: GOD'S RICHES FOR MY USE

In this lesson, we look briefly at the importance and value of the Bible and conclude by seeing how we may learn more from it by personal study.

SECTION 1

I. First, we will see what comparisons the Bible makes with itself.

A. Beside each reference, write what common thing the Bible compares itself to in that passage:

1. Psalm 119:105
2. Jeremiah 23:29 (two things)
3. Luke 8:11
4. Hebrews 4:12
5. James 1:23

B. Now take at least THREE of these things and write briefly what it is about the Bible that makes it like those things.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

II. Several passages in the Bible indicate its importance.

A. For example, Deuteronomy 6:6-9 give the importance of God's words in the life of the family.

1. In verse 6, where were the commands to be kept?
2. What are parents specially told to do?
3. In what four situations were family members to talk about God's Word?
4. Where was God's Word to be seen?



B. Deuteronomy 17:18-20 give instructions for anybody who becomes what over Israel?

List the ways verse 19 shows how important God's Word is to be to him.

C. According to Joshua 1:8 (referring to the upcoming time of the Israelites' conquest of their promised land), what was the way to be successful and prosperous?

D. Finally look at Psalm 1:1-3.

1. Verse 1 tells how not to find blessing; then how does verse 2 say we can be "blessed"?

2. How does verse 3 describe the results?

3. What do you think the comparison (tree, fruit, leaf) means? (verse 3 again)

III. The effect of God's Word on the people's lives

A. Read the story of Josiah in 2 Chronicles 34:14-31. Briefly summarize how the king and people here reacted to the Bible.

B. Now read Nehemiah 8:1-12. As you did just above, briefly write down what this passage says about the people's reaction to hearing God's Word.

IV. The Bible was also very important to Jesus Himself

A. Luke 2:46 & 47 give us the only glimpse we have of His life between birth and 30 years of age. What is He doing here? (Though it does not definitely say so, we can safely assume that God's Word was the subject here.)



B. Luke 4:4, 8, 12 - What words began the answers Jesus gave to each of the three temptations, indicating that their source was God's Word?

C. Luke 4:16-21 - When Jesus wanted to prove His Person and Work, how did He do it?

D. In Matthew 5:17-20:

1. What did Jesus say He had come to do with reference to God's Word?
2. In verse 18, how did He show the importance of God's Word?
3. And what does verse 19 say about the importance of obeying God's Word?

E. In Luke 16:29-31, along with the parable this is a part of, Jesus said that the Scriptures are sufficient to do what?

F. And in John 5:37-40, Jesus appealed to the Scriptures in proof of what?

V. What is the use of the Old Testament for us living today?

A. Read Luke 24:25-27 and 44-47.

1. How did Jesus use the O.T. here?
2. Therefore, we should read the Old Testament in order to learn more about...
3. Romans 15:4 says that the O.T. was written to _____ us and that we can gain what from it? (Write at least two things.)

B. Now turn to 1 Corinthians 10:1-13.

1. What does it say here, especially in verses 6 & 11, about the value of the Old Testament for us?
2. Verse 13 is the main Bible verse on temptation. How can knowing the O.T. help us in overcoming temptation according to this whole passage?

VI. One more time: More about the value and importance of the Bible.

A. Mark 13:31 - What does this verse say about the permanence of God's Word?

B. Acts 17:11

1. Why are these people of Berea commended?
2. How would the action they took help them?

C. Romans 10:17 - How does saving faith in Christ come according to this verse?

D. 2 Timothy 3:16 & 17

1. What is the source of all (true) Scripture?

2. And in the same verses, how is Scripture useful (profitable) for us?

E. 1 Peter 1:23-25

1. By what means, stated in these verses, are we born again?

2. What is the main quality of God's Word emphasized here?

F. And how does 2 Peter 1:21 describe the way Scripture was given to us?

SECTION 2

Since, therefore, the Bible is such a very important Book - in a sense, even our being born again depends on it - we ought to make Bible study a very important part of our lives. This means, not just Bible reading or even memorization, but real study, trying to "dig out" what is there that we can use in our own lives. The rest of this lesson will focus on the "how" and "what" of personal Bible study, with the hope that it will become a regular "habit" with you!

First, a few simple pointers for personal Bible study:

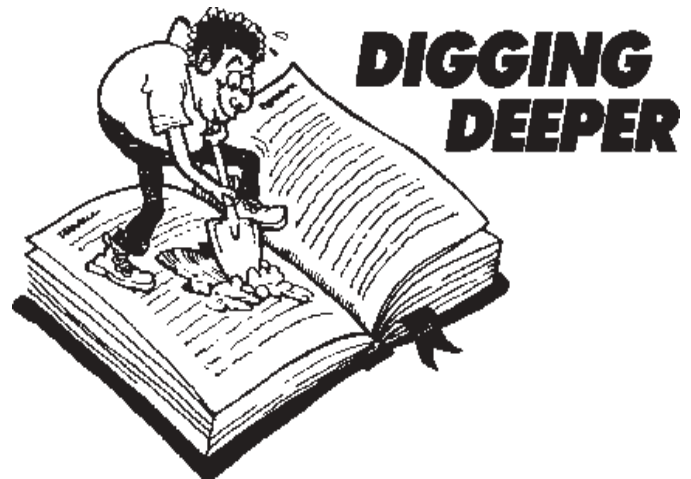
A. Always look at a verse or passage in connection with its context - that could put a different meaning on it from what it appears by itself!

B. Learn to see how the part fits into the whole - how does the verse fit into the whole chapter, the whole book or the message of the Bible as a whole?

C. Always aim for application. This goes beyond what the Bible says, and even beyond what it means, to see how it applies to your own life, and what action you need to take to obey it.

D. Every passage will have only one interpretation (what it actually means), but it may have many applications.

E. Usually the plain sense of a passage is the sense in which it was meant to be taken. Do not try to read too much into it unless you have clear direction for doing so, from comparing other Scripture passages, for example.



Now let's try some methods of studying the Bible which you can use. As we do this, we should emphasize another very important part of Bible study: WRITE IT DOWN! This helps you to clarify what you have learned and helps you to remember it for future reference.

I. CHAPTER/PASSAGE STUDY

1 John 1

1. What is said here about a SIN I must avoid?
2. What is one PROMISE here which I can claim?
3. Is there an EXAMPLE for me to follow here?
4. What COMMAND can I find that I must obey?
5. In a short sentence or a few words, how can I give a SUMMARY of this chapter?
6. **How will I APPLY this chapter to my life? Be specific! Use examples.**

II. THEME STUDY

(Here we are looking for whatever the chapter or passage says about a given theme.)

John 1:1-18

1. What can I learn from this passage about GOD?
2. What can I learn about MANKIND?
3. What can I learn about SIN?
4. What can I learn about RELATIONSHIP between God and man?
5. What is the main theme of this passage?
6. **What can I APPLY here to my own life? How will I do that?**

III. CHARACTER STUDY

2 Chronicles 20: Jehoshaphat

1. What kind of person was this man (as to his character, spiritually, etc.)?
2. What happened to him in this chapter?
3. How did he react to circumstances?
4. What kind of relationship did he have with God and what difference did it make in his life?
5. What lessons can I learn and APPLY from his life?

IV. CHRIST STUDY

(Here we are looking specially for anything in the chapter or passage that might point to Christ or tell something about Him.)

Psalm 17

1. As David wrote this psalm, what are some things he said which could only be true because of what Christ would do? Clue: Look specially at verses 3, 6, 13-15.
2. Can you find anything else in this psalm which points to Christ?

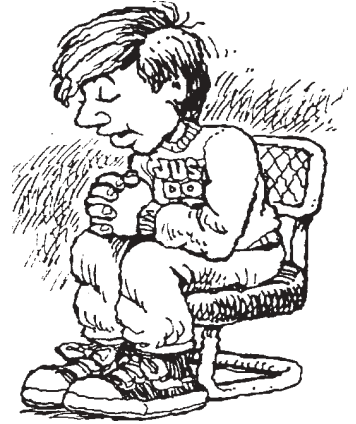
These are only a few of many methods of studying the Bible; and, of course, any of these methods may be varied according to your desire and need. The important thing is to get into the Word; let it get into you! Listening to sermons and other things are okay, but nothing replaces personal study of the Bible.

LIFE APPLICATION - THE BIBLE

Choose one of the study methods listed below or one of the 4 you just completed and do your own study for the next 3 weeks. Send the notes of what you learned with this lesson.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| a. Book Study (taking a complete book of the Bible in a survey) | f. Verse Study |
| b. Subject Study (looking at a whole subject, such as Love, Redemption, Heaven, Angels, Faith, Glory, Shepherd & Sheep, etc.) | g. Prophecy Study |
| c. Parable Study | h. Study of the Holy Spirit |
| d. Psalm Study | |
| e. Proverb Study | |

LEARNING MORE ABOUT PRAYER



I. What really is prayer?

A. What three words are used in Matthew 7:7 for prayer?

B. Hebrews 4:16 shows prayer as coming to _____
to receive _____.

C. Revelation 5:8 describes prayer as _____. What do you think is meant by this comparison?

II. How do we pray?

A. What does Matthew 6:6 say about the place of prayer?

B. On the other hand, what do Acts 1:14 and 2:42 suggest about the place of prayer?

C. What does Matthew 6:7 say prayer should not be?

D. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:17 say about the times of prayer?

E. What does Romans 8:26 & 27 say about prayer?

F. In Philippians 4:6, what does prayer replace?

III. What are the kinds of prayer?

The acrostic **ACTS** has been used to give the various forms of prayer. The letters mean:

Adoration - Recognizing God's greatness and worshipping Him for Who He is.

Confession - Admitting we've sinned and calling for His forgiveness for that sin.

Thanksgiving - Giving thanks to God for what He has done for us.

Supplication - Requesting help for our own needs and the needs of others.

A. Read each of the following passages, and tell which form of prayer is mainly used.

Psalms 51 _____

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 _____

Acts 12:5 _____

Revelation 4:11 _____

Hebrews 13:15 _____

Daniel 9:4-11 _____

Ephesians 6:18 & 19 _____

Philippians 1:3-6 _____

IV. For what should we pray?

- A. 1 Timothy 2:1 & 2 suggest we pray for what people in particular?
- B. What personal need should we pray for in James 1:5?
- C. What other personal need is suggested for prayer in Luke 22:40?
- D. What two things are suggested in the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:11 & 12 that we should pray for?
- E. Romans 15:30 & 31 implies that we should pray for whom?

V. What are the results of prayer?

- A. Proverbs 15:8 mentions a result for God. What is it?
- B. John 14:13 gives another result for God. Write it here.
- C. In John 16:24, what is the result for us?
- D. Philippians 4:7 shows a great result for us. What is it?

VI. Why are our prayers sometimes unanswered?

- A. Psalm 66:18 and Isaiah 59:1 & 2 suggest what possible reason?
- B. Mark 11:25 says we may have done what?
- C. James 4:3 suggests that we often ask in what wrong way?
- D. But, besides these reasons for unanswered prayer, what may God be trying to teach us according to 2 Corinthians 12:7-10?

VII. Jesus and the Apostle Paul teach us much about prayer.

- A. Read Mark 1:35 and Luke 6:12. What do they teach us about the prayer habits of the Lord Jesus?
- B. Jesus also taught some important things about prayer in some of His parables. Read the following, and then write down what you learn from these parables about prayer.

Luke 11:5-13

Luke 18:1-8

Luke 18:9-14

- C. Look over the following prayers which the apostle Paul wrote down, and list at least one thing from each which you learn and can apply to your own prayer life.

Ephesians 1:15-23

Ephesians 3:14-21

Colossians 1:3-14

LIFE APPLICATION - THE STUDY OF PRAYER

Read again what you have learned in this lesson about prayer. On the back of this page, write down any points which you specially want to make a part of your prayer life.

This month keep a "Prayer Journal". Each week, try to log the number of minutes you actually spent in prayer (per day). Keep track, also, of the content of your prayer - in other words, how much of it is spent in making requests for yourself or others, how much in adoration of God, in thanksgiving, etc. You could put it down as a percentage if that is helpful to you. Don't forget to write any answers to prayer you see.



Turn in this prayer journal when you hand in your lesson.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Week of November 10: Averaged 5 minutes spent in prayer - 50% requests, 25% thanksgiving, 25% adoration. I heard today that Uncle Joe was in an accident - needs prayer! I'm not including confession in prayer. I need to do this!

Week of November 17: Averaged 6 minutes in prayer - 80% requests, 20% thanksgiving. I need to make more time for prayer and include confession and adoration every time I pray. I'd also like to read some of Paul's prayers each day to help me in my praying - and later other Bible prayers. Uncle Joe is better. Praise the Lord!

THE CHURCH: ITS NATURE AND PRACTICES

Christians belong to many local churches, each of which is either independent or belonging to one of a variety of denominations. This lesson is a general look at the Church from the point of view of the Bible and is not meant to highlight any particular local church or denomination. First, we look at the church itself and then at two of its most important practices: baptism and communion.

I. The Church

A. The first time the church is mentioned is in Matthew 16:18. From this verse, answer the following:

1. Who will build the church?

2. Whose church is it?

3. How will it be built?

4. "This rock" is most probably the truth expressed by Peter in verse 16. What is this truth?

5. What does this verse (18) say about opposition to the church? (Who would oppose it and with what result?)



B. How the New Testament describes the church

Most of the answers in this section are found in the letter to Ephesians which is the main NT letter dealing with the church.

1. BODY (Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:15, 16)

a. What is Christ here?

b. What is our responsibility in this body? (4:15)

c. From 4:16, in your own words, tell how the body works when it is "healthy".

2. BUILDING (Eph. 2:20-22)

a. Who is the foundation here?

b. What kind of building is it (used for what purpose)?

c. Who is the Cornerstone?

d. From 1 Peter 2:5, what are we in this building?

3. BRIDE (Eph. 5:23-29)

a. Christ is _____ to the church. (v. 23)

b. The church is _____ to Christ. (v. 24)

c. Christ _____ and _____ the church. (v. 25)

d. Christ _____ and _____ the church. (v. 29)

e. In a sentence, write what this picture suggests about our personal responsibility to Christ.

4. BATTALION

Just before the closing of the last chapter of Ephesians, a warfare is described in which the church is to be involved.

a. In 6:12, who is this warfare against?

b. What phrase in Matthew 16:18 means the same as these terms?

c. What do these words suggest about the strength of the enemy?

d. What do these verses (Matthew 16:18 and these verses from Ephesians 6) suggest about the result of the battle?

e. How should all this encourage us?

f. One of these four ways of describing the church is also emphasized in 1 Corinthians 12. Which one is it?



C. Leadership of the church

The letters of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are called the "Pastoral Letters," since they deal with pastors and other church leaders.

1. From the following verses, give the names which our Bible gives to the various leaders.

You should find three different names. (1 Timothy 3:1, 8; 5:1, 17)

2. What are the qualifications of these church leaders? From 1 Timothy 3:2-4, 8 & 9, make a list of these qualifications.

3. What things are added to this list in Titus 1:8 & 9?

4. What is a major difference between these sets of qualifications and what may be expected of you in qualifications in today's world?

D. Names given to the people who make up the church

The New Testament gives several of these names, each suggesting something special about the people referred to. In the list below, when you are asked for the meaning of the term, you may find it in the dictionary or from the context or from your own knowledge and experience.

Acts 6:1 Disciples meaning:

Acts 9:2 The Way meaning:

Acts 9:32 meaning: ones who are separated or set apart for God

Acts 11:26 meaning:

Acts 15:3 Brothers meaning:
(brethren)

E. Other important facts about the church

1. Look up each verse and write what is asked for.

a. Acts 20:28 - What God has done for the church:

b. Romans 16:5 - Where the church often met:

c. Ephesians 3:10 - God's final plan for the church:

d. Colossians 3:11 - What does the church do about our human divisions:

e. 1 Timothy 3:15 - What the church is called here (two descriptions):

II. COMMUNION

A. Now we take a look at one of the most familiar practices of the church. The first passage we will look at is Matthew 26:17-30 where it all began.

1. In verses 26-28, what two common things did Jesus take?
2. What special meaning did He give to these things?
3. From verses 17-19, what special feast was being celebrated at this time?
4. What special event in Israel's history did this feast commemorate? Look it up in Exodus 12 if you need to.
5. How is Jesus' death like this great event? (Think about what God does for us through the death of Jesus.)
6. Particularly what part of the celebration refers to Jesus Himself? (See 1 Corinthians 5:7 for a clue to the answer.)

B. Now turn to 1 Corinthians 11:23-30 for Paul's instruction about communion.

1. What does communion proclaim (shew in KJV)?
2. What should we do as we celebrate communion? (v. 28)
3. When might judgment come on a person celebrating communion according to these verses?
4. How does our celebration of communion relate to the past?
5. How does our celebration of communion relate to the future?

III. BAPTISM

Another common church practice is baptism. It is done in different ways in different churches and some will argue strongly for one method over another. Here we will simply look at the basic facts as given in the New Testament which apply to all.

A. What is the meaning of baptism according to 1 Peter 3:21?

It is not _____ but _____.

Though some might incorrectly say that this verse teaches we can be saved from our sins by being baptized, the whole teaching of the Bible shows otherwise.

B. In Mark 16:16, what must come before being baptized?

C. Colossians 2:12 indicates another special meaning of baptism. What is it?

D. How do the following verses follow the same idea as Colossians 2:12?
Colossians 2:20, 3:3; Romans 6:6, 8, 11; Galatians 2:20

E. Matthew 28:18-20 gives the “marching orders” of the church. What is said here about baptism?

F. What great fact about God is stated here in connection with baptism?

G. The Book of Acts gives a number of examples of individuals and groups of people being baptized. Beside each reference, write who is being baptized and any notes of interest from the context which you may wish to add.

2:41

8:12

8:38

9:18 Saul (later Paul)

10:48

This was first time Gentiles were baptized.

16:15 Lydia and family

They were first in Europe to be baptized.

16:33

18:8

19:5

LIFE APPLICATION - THE CHURCH

Select one of the following options and write a one page report about the topic. Please use scripture to support your statements.

- A. Using Section I of this lesson, write a report on what you believe “The Church’s” role is today. Since you are a part of the church, what is your role in these responsibilities now?
- B. Write a report on the history of your denomination/church. How did it originate? What obstacles did it face? What did the church see as it’s main purpose? Is it still the same?
- C. Get a copy of your church’s or Camp Joy-El’s statement of faith. Using scripture, write a report stating why you agree or disagree with this statement of faith.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: HIS GIFTS AND HIS FRUIT

The New Testament emphasizes the fact that the Holy Spirit has given certain gifts to Christians to help them serve God. In the first part of this lesson, we will look at what is said about them and where you fit into the picture!



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I. Before we look at what the gifts are, let's see why they are given:

A. Ephesians 4:12 gives us a clue as to what God has in mind when He gives these gifts.

1. What does it say about God's people (saints in the King James Version)?

2. What does it say about the "Body of Christ"?

B. If you used the King James Version for the last question, you probably used the word "edifying." That means "building up." In your own words, give an example of something that builds up (or edifies) another person.

C. 1 Peter 4:10, 11 tells us how we should use our gifts.

1. According to verse 10, why do we receive these gifts?

2. What does verse 11 say about the end result of our using our gifts in relation to God?

D. Most of the times the gifts are mentioned, it is in connection with the "Body of Christ," which is another way of saying the Church as a whole. Look again, for example, at Ephesians 4:12; Romans 12:4, 5 & 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. Think of this illustration of a human body as you answer the following questions:

1. Can you serve God completely alone, without any help from anyone else?

2. Why or why not? (Answer by referring to the Body.)

3. Should your "gift" be exactly the same as everyone else's?

4. Why or why not? (Again, answer by referring to the Body.)

5. What special word is used in Romans 12:4 & 5 to show what you are in the Body? (This word, found in both the NIV and KJV, is the same as "parts" of the Body.)

II. Now, let us look at the actual lists given of some of these gifts.

- A. Find their names in the following verses: (Some are repeated in each list.)

Romans 12:6 (one gift) -

Romans 12:7 (two gifts) -

Romans 12:8 (four gifts) -

1 Corinthians 12:8 (two gifts) -

1 Corinthians 12:9 (two gifts) -

1 Corinthians 12:10 (four or five gifts) -

1 Corinthians 12:28 (eight gifts) -

- B. Someone has divided these gifts into several main categories. Below each description, write the name of one or two gifts which are examples of that category.

Administration: leadership of others in the church

Communication: speaking to others about the messages of God

Teaching: helping others learn more about God

Helps: serving and helping others

- C. In which of the above four categories do you think your gift(s) might be?

Perhaps the following questions can help you answer that:

What do you really enjoy doing?

What do you feel you are good at doing?

Most important of all, what do you feel God has given you the ability to do, which can help others to know God better?

- D. Before we leave the subject of the gifts of the Holy Spirit...

1. What does 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 say is absolutely necessary for us to have along with the gift itself?

2. If we do not have this "ingredient," what do these verses say about us? (Find three answers if you can.)
3. In your own words, tell why you think this is so important.

III. This brings us to the other subject we want to consider: the fruit of the Spirit.

A. In John 15, write briefly in your own words what each of the following verses say about our need to be "fruitful" as Christians:

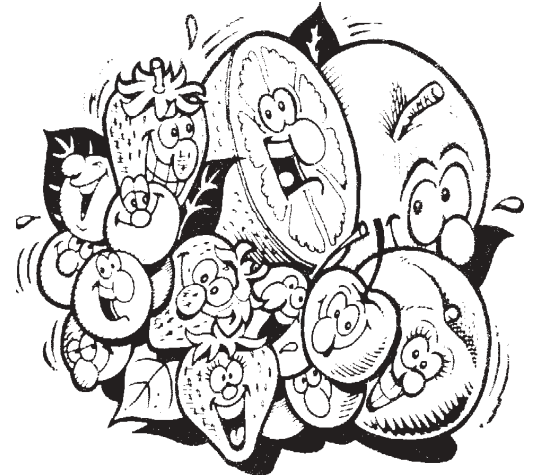
Verse 2 -

Verse 4 -

Verse 5 -

Verse 8 -

Verse 16 -



B. Now turn to Galatians 5:22, 23 to see what the fruit is that we are to bear. Listed below are the nine words used to describe this fruit. (We have used the NIV list here, but where the King James uses a different word, it is in parenthesis.) Beside each word is a verse reference. LOOK UP that verse, then WRITE DOWN what the verse says about how we are to produce that fruit. The exact word may not always be found in that verse in your Bible, but the idea is the same. The first one is done for you.

Love: John 15:12 - We are to love one another as Christ loved us.

Joy: 1 Peter 1:8 -

Peace: Philippians 4:6, 7 (What are we to do in these verses in order to have God's peace?) -

Patience (Longsuffering): James 5:7,8 -

Kindness (Gentleness): Titus 3:2 -

Goodness: Galatians 6:10 -

Faithfulness (Faith): Matthew 25:21 -

Gentleness (Meekness): Ephesians 4:2 -

Self-control (Temperance): 1 Corinthians 9:24, 25 (Clue: Why is self-control (temperance) important to someone running a race or taking part in any sport?) -

Life Application

Which one or ones of this fruit studied do you feel you are already showing in your life, at least as well as you can?

From that list of the fruit of the Spirit, choose one that you need to work on developing in your own life as a personal project.

Work out a plan along these lines:

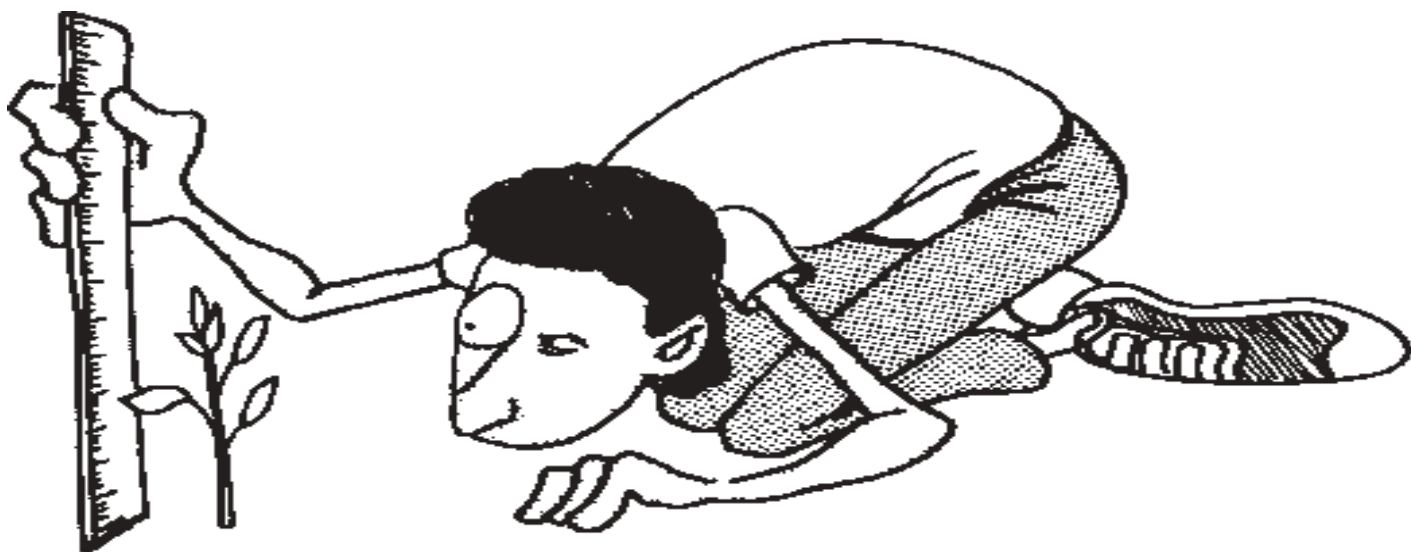
What you would like to see yourself doing in that area (goals).

How you plan to accomplish it (action).

How you will test your progress in accomplishing it. (The best way is to ask someone to help you and work with you on it.)

Keep a brief written record of how you are doing. Be specific.

Send in with your lesson at least a summary of what you are working on.



THE BIBLICAL GUIDE FOR CHRISTIAN SEPARATION AND MORAL STANDARDS

I. The Choice

Read Matthew 6:24 about the choice we have between two masters. This choice suggests that we are _____

to whichever master we choose.

"Serving" here implies giving to the Master our total:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

II. Our relationship to the "world" around us

A. According to Romans 12:2:

1. What should not be our relationship to the world?
2. What should this relationship be instead?
3. How are we to be transformed?

B. Now read 1 John 2:15-17 to answer the following questions.

1. When we "love the world", on what do we miss out?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. What three things in verse 16 are included in "the world"?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. What added reason does verse 17 give for not "loving the world"?
4. In your own words, what do you think "loving the world" means, as used in these verses?



III. "Be separate...", but WHY?

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 is a strong passage about separation. Use it to answer these questions.

- A. What is the command given in verse 14?

B. Summarize the reason for this command, as given in the five questions which follow it in verses 14-16.

C. What does verse 16 say about what we are?

D. What does verse 16 say about our relationship with God?

E. What would happen if we try to put together things that don't belong together?

F. What does verse 17 say about the reward of our separation from unclean things and practices?

G. In your opinion, honestly, is this a worthwhile reward?

H. Verse 18 suggests that we give up something when we fail to separate ourselves from "the world". What is it?

IV. It's your choice!

Read 1 Peter 4:2-5 to answer the following questions.

A. What two choices for living are given in verse 2?

- 1.
- 2.

B. Of the list in verse 3, what have you actually seen take place among your friends/classmates?

___debauchery (shameless conduct, no restraint)

___lust (evil desires especially in wrongful sex)

___drunkenness

___orgies (wild, drunken parties)

___carousing (more wild partying)

___idolatry (putting everything ahead of God as most important)

C. What "pressure" to do as others do is mentioned in verse 4?

D. What reason does verse 5 give for not giving in to this pressure?

E. How important is that reason to you?



V. One reason we make the wrong choice

A. According to John 12:43, what is the main reason that Christians often fail to keep God's standards?

B. Is this a valid reason? Why?

VI. Why we can make the right choice

Now turn to 2 Peter 1:3 & 4 and thoughtfully answer these questions:

A. What resources has God given us for right living?

B. What has God given to us for our reassurance?

C. What does God plan for us to participate (partake) in?

D. What do we escape by following God's plan?

VII. Don't Sacrifice Eternal Gain For A Little Temporary "Pleasure"!

Looking at 1 Corinthians 6:9-11:

A. On what do we miss out, if we follow the practices of the world named in these verses?

B. In real terms, what would that loss mean to you personally?

VIII. What does the Bible say about God's will for me in each of the following areas?

In each case, try to think of:

1. principles stated or implied
2. reasons for the command
3. alternative choices described or suggested (instead of the wrong ones), etc.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Taking the subject of Evil Talk, below, from the verse given you may discover the following:

A. Evil Talk (Ephesians 4:29)

1. The Principle - I must not allow anything unwholesome (corrupt) to escape from my mouth.
2. The Reason - I'm to build others up and encourage them. Evil talk does not accomplish this and can, in fact, have the opposite effect of doing harm to others. My talk should be considerate of others - another principle.
3. The Alternative Choice - I'm to emphasize a helpful, up-building type of talk.

B. Sex (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 & 1 Corinthians 6:13b-20)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C. Materialism (1 Timothy 6:6-11)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

D. Music (Colossians 3:16 & 17)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

E. Dress (1 Timothy 2: 9 & 10 & 1 Corinthians 10:31 & 32)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

F. Entertainment (Philippians 4:8, Ephesians 5:15-17, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Matthew 5:29,30)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



As you were doing this, did you sense that you may be caught in the trap of a habit in any of these areas? If so, you may be sure that the power of God Himself is available to you to break this habit and live a pure, Christ-honoring life. Read 1 John 1:9, Ephesians 6:10-18, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and Hebrews 4:15 & 16.

Life Application

For this month's record, think of areas in your life where there is a distinction between going the way of the world or living to please God. These areas may include all those given in section VIII (sex, evil talk, materialism, music) and any others you may wish to include. Keep a record of some choices you make in these areas during the month. Include even the choices you later felt were wrong ones. These are areas for you to work on. Whenever possible, give the reason why you made the choice you did. Be honest with yourself! For example, possible reasons for right choices might be: desire to glorify God, didn't want to waste time or money, desire to be a good example of a Christian, etc. Reasons for wrong choices might be: peer pressure, bad habit, strong desire for it, etc. **Turn this record in with your lesson.**

WHAT ABOUT WITNESSING?

As Christians, most of us know we should be witnessing to others about our faith and yet nearly all of us feel we don't know very much about really doing it. We don't know what to say, or we feel afraid, or it doesn't seem to be the right time and place, or... Well, in this lesson, we will look at what the Bible says about this difficult subject.



HOW TO GIVE AWAY YOUR FAITH

I. New Testament Examples

A. To get us started, let's look at some New Testament examples of witnessing. In each case, write who was witnessing, to whom they were witnessing and a brief summary of what they said.

<u>Verses</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>To Whom</u>	<u>What They Said</u>
1. John 1:40-41	_____	_____	_____
2. John 1:45	_____	_____	_____
3. Acts 8:26-35	_____	_____	_____
4. Acts 9:19-22	_____	_____	_____
5. Acts 26:26-29	_____	_____	_____

B. Now write down one lesson which you learned from these examples from the Bible.

II. God's Command to Witness

A. Mark 16:15

1. What does this verse say about the place of our witness?

2. About what we witness (the subject)?

3. And the people we witness to?

B. In Matthew 28:18-20, what three main elements are given as to what our witnessing should lead to?

C. In Luke 24:46-48, find four things which are to be a part of our message as we witness.

D. What does Luke 24:45 suggest as helpful for our witness?

E. And back to Matthew 28:20, what promise is given to encourage us?

III. But what if people don't want to hear my witness or make it hard for me?

A. In Luke 12:4-5, what did Jesus say about being afraid? He said, don't be afraid of _____; instead, we need to be afraid of _____.

B. In Luke 12:8-9, He gives us a powerful reason to witness. What is it?

C. "But I don't know what to say." How does Luke 12:11 & 12 answer that?

D. What principle can you find in Acts 4:18-20 to deal with situations where people might tell us not to witness?

E. 1 Peter 3:1 & 2 refers mainly to husbands and wives, but what general principle can we learn from these verses for when people don't want to hear our witness?

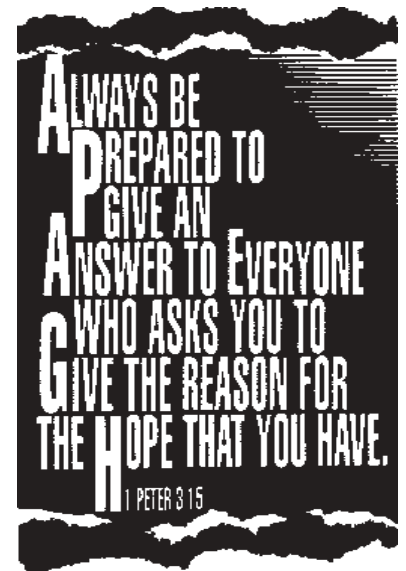
IV. Some more helpful hints about witnessing:

A. What does 1 Peter 3:15 say about being ready to witness?

B. In Acts 1:8, where does the power for our witness come from?

C. In what places are we to witness?

D. According to Acts 5:41, what should be our attitude if our witnessing may lead to suffering?



V. Does God hold me responsible for witnessing?

A. Turn to Ezekiel 33 and read especially verses 7-9.

1. What is Ezekiel called here?
2. What kind of message is he to give?
3. What happens to him if he doesn't give the message?
4. What happens to him if he does give the message but the other person does not respond?
5. Do you think God may hold you responsible for witnessing to certain people as He did Ezekiel?

B. From the following list, check those whom He might be holding you responsible for (those you should be reaching now):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> all people living in your country | <input type="checkbox"/> some of your classmates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> people living in China | <input type="checkbox"/> your closest non-Christian friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> your family members | <input type="checkbox"/> the President of the USA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> everyone you meet | <input type="checkbox"/> everyone in your school |

C. Write here the first names of three people you think it is most likely God is holding you responsible to witness to:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

VI. A Perfect Illustration of Witnessing

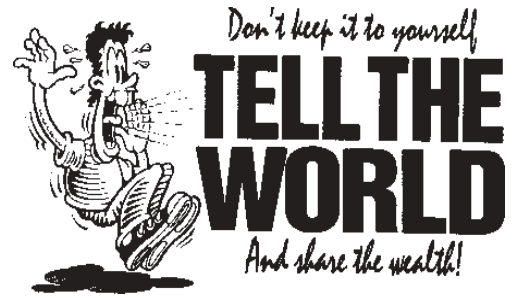
Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:3-42) is often considered as the perfect model for our witnessing. Let's study it as we conclude this lesson.

A. Can you think of three excuses Jesus could have used to not witness to this person? (Hints about two of them can be found in vs. 9 & 27.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B. How did Jesus begin the conversation? (v. 7)

C. How did Jesus raise the woman's interest? (vs. 10, 13, 14)



D. Study verses 16-18. How did Jesus deal with the sin in her life?

E. How exactly did Jesus make the "jump" from talking about material things to spiritual things?

F. Besides the fact that Jesus knew all about this woman's sinful lifestyle, can you find something in what Jesus said that attracted her to what He had to say?

G. Look over the whole story again and find one other lesson about witnessing which you find here. Write it down.

LIFE APPLICATION

Your "diary" or "journal" this month is not to be a daily one as in most previous months. Instead, follow and record this plan with the goal of completing it within a month.

1. Select one person whom you feel God will hold you responsible for witnessing to. It may be one of the three you named in the lesson or someone else.
2. Plan how you will witness to that person. It may require developing a deeper friendship with that person for this purpose or planning conversations with him/her and how you would guide the conversation, etc.
3. Record your progress on this witness through the month including what you might learn through your "mistakes", etc.
4. **Turn in the record of your plans and the progress you made with the person.**

A couple of very important pointers:

1. Always remember that **prayer** is a very vital ingredient in witnessing. "Never leave home without it!"
2. You are not being asked to "preach" to the person - just to **lovingly and naturally "share"** with them what Jesus means to you and what He can do for them!

